

Contents

Abstract	1
1 Introduction	8
1.1 Nuclear physics and fundamental goals	8
1.2 Phase transition of nuclear matter	8
1.3 Importance of heavy-ion collisions at intermediate energies	10
1.4 Isospin physics and various radioactive ion beam facilities	11
1.5 The concept of nuclear equation of state	13
1.6 Nuclear matter equation of state of symmetric and asymmetric nuclear matter	14
1.7 Different phenomena affected by the nuclear matter equation of state at intermediate energies	14
1.7.1 Collective flow	15
1.7.2 Nuclear stopping	16
1.7.3 Particle production	18
1.7.4 Multifragmentation	19
1.8 Symmetry energy of nuclear matter	22
1.9 Experimental features: In particular, 4π detectors	23
1.9.1 Event selection	24
1.9.2 Event trigger	24
1.9.3 Physical data storage	24
1.9.4 Detector filters	25
1.9.5 Impact parameter determination	26
1.10 Review of experimental attempts to study multifragmentation	29
1.11 Review of theoretical attempts to study multifragmentation	32

1.12	Organization of the thesis	36
2	Methodology	38
2.1	Introduction	38
2.1.1	The intranuclear cascade (INC) model	39
2.2	Various models used to investigate the heavy-ion collisions without isospin effects	41
2.2.1	Quantum Molecular Dynamics model	41
2.2.2	Initialization	42
2.2.3	Propagation	45
2.2.4	The nucleon-nucleon binary collisions	50
2.2.5	Other versions of the Quantum Molecular Dynamics model	52
2.3	Models used in the investigation of heavy-ion collisions with isospin effects	56
2.3.1	Isospin-dependent Boltzmann-Uehling-Uhlenbeck (IBUU) model . .	56
2.3.2	Isospin-dependent Quantum Molecular Dynamics (IQMD) model .	57
2.4	Numerical tests for the stability of nuclei generated in the IQMD model . .	60
2.5	Secondary models for clusterization	64
3	Multifragmentation in nearly symmetric and asymmetric reactions: A detailed study and comparison with experimental measurements	66
3.1	Introduction	66
3.2	Details of key experimental facilities	68
3.2.1	FOPI detector	68
3.2.2	INDRA detector	70
3.2.3	ALADiN spectrometer	72
3.2.4	MSU 4 π -array	73
3.3	Results and discussions	74
3.3.1	Symmetric (or nearly symmetric) reactions	75
3.3.2	Asymmetric reactions	78
3.4	Summary	94
4	A microscopic analysis of isospin effects on the onset of multifragmentation in light and heavy charged systems via Coulomb forces	95
4.1	Introduction	95

4.2	The momentum-dependent interactions	97
4.2.1	Momentum-dependent interactions and the yield of fragments in nearly symmetric and asymmetric reactions	101
4.3	Coulomb forces: an introduction	106
4.4	Results and discussions for the onset of multifragmentation	108
4.4.1	Onset of multifragmentation in light charged system	108
4.4.2	Onset of multifragmentation in heavily charged system	116
4.5	Comparison with experimental data	121
4.6	Summary	124
5	Asymmetric reactions as a probe for density dependence of symmetry energy in intermediate energy heavy-ion collisions: A detailed investi- gation	126
5.1	Introduction	126
5.2	Density dependence of symmetry energy	127
5.3	Different observables used to pin down the density dependence of symmetry energy	128
5.3.1	Observables in sub-saturation density region	129
5.3.2	Observables in supra-saturation density region	130
5.4	Results and discussions	132
5.4.1	Effect of spatial and momentum correlations at freeze-out time . . .	132
5.5	Different nucleon-nucleon scattering cross-sections	135
5.5.1	Isospin effects via nucleon-nucleon cross-section	136
5.5.2	Isospin effects via density dependence of symmetry energy	139
5.5.3	Isospin effects via nucleon-nucleon cross-section and density depen- dence of symmetry energy on momentum spectra	140
5.5.4	Soft and stiff form of symmetry energy: comparison with data in asymmetric reactions	140
5.6	Summary	144
6	Study of the role of some of model ingredients in asymmetric reactions induced by neutron-rich nuclei	146
6.1	Introduction	146

6.2	Results and discussions	148
6.2.1	Role of isospin degree of freedom via symmetry energy and NN cross-section on the yield of fragments	149
6.2.2	Effect of n/p ratio of the target on the yield of fragments in neutron- rich asymmetric reactions	154
6.2.3	Effect of density dependence of symmetry energy on the asymmetric reactions induced by the neutron-rich nuclei	160
6.3	Summary	162
7	Summary of the thesis and outlook	163
7.1	Summary	163
7.2	Outlook	166
	Bibliography	167