

List of Figures

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1.1 | Pictorial representation of heavy ion interactions | 5 |
| 1.2 | Plot of effective potential as a function of relative separation between the interacting partners for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at different values of angular momentum (ℓ) | 7 |
| 1.3 | A qualitative picture of various types of reaction mechanism as a function of entrance channel angular momentum | 8 |
| 1.4 | A typical representation of compound nucleus (CN) formation and its decay via complete fusion (CF) process. The CN first decays by evaporation of neutrons, protons and/or α -particles. Eventually, it may lose the rest of its excitation energy and almost all of its initial angular momentum by emission of γ -rays | 10 |
| 1.5 | A typical representation of incomplete fusion (ICF) process. The incompletely fused composite system de-excites in the similar way as the compound nucleus (CN) decay in complete fusion (CF) process | 12 |
| 2.1 | Schematic diagram of the experimental setup used for target Irradiation VECC, Kolkata | 28 |
| 2.2 | Full view of General Purpose Scattering Chamber (GPSC) along with in vacuum transfer facility, used for target irradiation at IUAC, New Delhi | 29 |
| 2.3 | Typical target-catcher foils arrangement for EFs measurement for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system | 30 |
| 2.4 | Characteristic γ -rays spectrum of ^{152}Eu source at distance 2 cm | 31 |
| 2.5 | Typical geometry dependent efficiency curves of HPGe detector at different source-detector distances. Solid line represents the best polynomial fit | 34 |
| 2.6 | Typical γ -ray energy spectrum obtained after the irradiation of the ^{55}Mn target with ^{20}Ne -ion beam at ~ 117 MeV energy | 35 |

| | | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 2.7 | Typical γ -ray energy spectrum obtained after the irradiation of the ^{159}Tb target with ^{20}Ne -ion beam at energy ~ 149 MeV | 35 |
| 2.8 | Typical γ -ray energy spectrum obtained after the irradiation of the ^{156}Gd target with ^{16}O -ion beam at energy ~ 93 MeV | 36 |
| 2.9 | Excitation functions for ERs ^{70}Se , ^{72}As , ^{71}As and ^{70}As produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{55}\text{Mn}$ reaction. Solid and Hollow circles represent the experimental data. The Solid, dotted and dash-dotted lines correspond to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for different values of K | 52 |
| 2.10 | Excitation functions for ERs ^{69}Ge , ^{67}Ge , ^{66}Ge and ^{67}Ga produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{55}\text{Mn}$ reaction. Solid and Hollow circles represent the experimental data. The Solid line corresponds to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for K = 10 | 55 |
| 2.11 | Excitation functions for evaporation residues ^{66}Ga , ^{65}Ga , ^{63}Zn and ^{61}Cu produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{55}\text{Mn}$ reaction. Solid and Hollow circles represent experimental data. Solid line corresponds to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for K = 10 | 57 |
| 2.12 | Excitation functions for evaporation residue ^{60}Cu produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{55}\text{Mn}$ reaction. Solid circles represent experimental data. Solid line corresponds to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for K = 10 | 58 |
| 2.13 | Excitation functions for ERs ^{174}W , ^{175}Ta , ^{173}Ta and ^{172}Ta , produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$. Solid and Hollow circles represent the experimental data. The Solid, dotted and dash-dotted lines correspond to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for different values of K | 62 |
| 2.14 | Excitation functions for ERs ^{173}Hf , ^{164}Yb , ^{166}Tm and ^{165}Tm , produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$. Solid and Hollow circles represent the experimental data | 64 |
| 2.15 | Excitation functions for ERs ^{163}Tm and ^{161}Er , produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$. Solid and Hollow circles represent the experimental data. The Solid line corresponds to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for K=10 | 66 |
| 2.16 | Excitation functions for evaporation residues ^{168}Hf , ^{166}Hf and ^{167}Lu produced in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ reaction. Solid and hollow circles represent the experimental data. Solid, dotted and dash-dotted lines correspond to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for different values of K | 71 |

| | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 2.17 | Excitation functions for evaporation residues ^{167}Yb , ^{164}Yb , ^{162}Yb and ^{166}Tm produced in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ reaction. Solid circles represent the experimental data. Solid line corresponds to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for $K=10$ | 73 |
| 2.18 | Excitation functions for evaporation residues ^{165}Tm , ^{163}Tm , $^{162}\text{Tm}^g$ and ^{161}Er produced in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ reaction. Solid and hollow circles represent the experimental data. Solid line corresponds to theoretical predictions of the code PACE-2 for values of $K=10$ | 75 |
| 2.19 | Excitation functions for evaporation residues ^{159}Er , $^{162}\text{Ho}^m$, $^{159}\text{Ho}^g$ and ^{157}Dy produced in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ reaction. Solid and hollow circles represent the experimental data | 76 |
| 2.20 | Deduced ICF contribution of various evaporation residues produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{55}\text{Mn}$ system as a function of projectile energy. Open crossed squares represent the sum of all incomplete fusion channels ($\Sigma\sigma_{\text{ICF}}$) | 79 |
| 2.21 | Deduced ICF contribution of various evaporation residues produced in $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$ and $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ systems as a function of projectile energy. Open crossed squares represent the sum of all incomplete fusion channels ($\Sigma\sigma_{\text{ICF}}$) | 80 |
| 2.22 | Total fusion cross-section (σ_{TF}) along with the sum of complete fusion cross sections (σ_{CF}) and sum of incomplete fusion cross-sections (σ_{ICF}) at different projectile energy for $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{55}\text{Mn}$ system | 81 |
| 2.23 | Total fusion cross-section (σ_{TF}) along with the sum of complete fusion cross-sections (σ_{CF}) and sum of incomplete fusion cross-sections (σ_{ICF}) at different projectile energy for $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$ and $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ systems | 82 |
| 2.24 | ICF fraction as a function of projectile energy for $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{55}\text{Mn}$ | 83 |
| 2.25 | ICF- fraction as a function of projectile energy for $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$ and $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ systems | 84 |
| 2.26 | Variation of the ICF-fraction as a function of mass-asymmetry between projectile and target at a constant value of $V_{\text{rel}} = 0.044c$ for different systems | 85 |
| 3.1 | Typical arrangement of target ^{156}Gd with Al-catcher foils used for forward recoil range distribution (FRRD) measurement | 91 |

| | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 3.2 | Typical γ -ray energy spectrum of ^{159}Tb sample irradiated by ^{20}Ne -ion beam at ~ 164 MeV energy, between 200-1100 channels. The peaks have been assigned to different reaction products populated via CF and/or ICF | 94 |
| 3.3 | Typical γ -ray energy spectrum of ^{156}Gd sample irradiated by ^{16}O ion beam at ~ 93 MeV energy, between 400-1600 channels. The peaks have been assigned to different reaction products populated via CF and /or ICF | 95 |
| 3.4 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residues ^{174}W , ^{175}Ta , ^{173}Ta and ^{172}Ta , produced via CF and/or ICF, for $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$ system at energy, $E \sim 164$ MeV | 99 |
| 3.5 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residues ^{173}Hf , ^{164}Yb , ^{166}Tm and ^{165}Tm , produced via ICF, for $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$ system at energy, $E \sim 164$ MeV | 101 |
| 3.6 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue ^{163}Tm , produced via ICF, for $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$ system at energy, $E \sim 164$ | 102 |
| 3.7 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue ^{168}Hf , produced via CF, for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at three different energies, $E \sim 72, 82$ and 93 MeV | 109 |
| 3.8 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue ^{167}Lu , produced via CF, for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at three different energies, $E \sim 72, 82$ and 93 MeV | 110 |
| 3.9 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue ^{167}Yb , produced via CF and ICF, for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at three different energies, $E \sim 72, 82$ and 93 MeV | 115 |
| 3.10 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue ^{162}Yb , produced via ICF, for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at three different energies, $E \sim 72, 82$ and 93 MeV | 116 |
| 3.11 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue ^{165}Tm , produced via CF and ICF, for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at three different energies, $E \sim 72, 82$ and 93 MeV | 119 |

| | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 3.12 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue ^{163}Tm , produced via ICF, for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at three different energies, $E \sim 72, 82$ and 93 MeV | 120 |
| 3.13 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue $^{159}\text{Ho}^g$, produced via ICF, for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at two different energies, $E \sim 82$ and 93 MeV | 121 |
| 3.14 | The experimentally measured forward recoil range distributions (FRRDs) of evaporation residue ^{157}Dy , produced via ICF, for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{156}\text{Gd}$ system at two different energies, $E \sim 82$ and 93 MeV | 122 |
| 4.1 | The side view of Gamma Detector Array (GDA) at IUAC | 132 |
| 4.2 | A schematic layout of the scattering chamber housing Charged Particle Detector Array (CPDA) | 133 |
| 4.3 | A typical sectional view of detectors arrangement in CPDA + GDA configuration | 136 |
| 4.4 | The block diagram of the electronics used for α -particle multiplicity spectra | 138 |
| 4.5 | The block diagram of the electronics used for charged particle multiplicity spectra | 138 |
| 4.6 | A typical γ -ray spectrum in singles mode (without gating condition) for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{160}\text{Gd}$ system at energy, $E \sim 5.6$ MeV/ nucleon. Peaks have been assigned to different neutrons channels, which are populated via CF process | 141 |
| 4.7 | A typical γ -ray spectrum in coincidence with fast α -particle in forward direction (10^0 - 60^0). The peaks have been assigned for the identification of fast α -emitting channels, which populated via ICF reaction dynamics | 142 |
| 4.8 | A typical γ -ray spectrum in coincidence with evaporation α -particle in backward direction (120^0 - 170^0). The peaks have been assigned for the identification of evaporation (slow) α -emitting channels, which populated via CF reaction dynamics | 142 |
| 4.9 | A typical γ -ray spectrum in coincidence with particle in forward direction (10^0 - 60^0). The peaks have been assigned for the identification of α pxn channels, which populated via ICF reaction dynamics | 143 |

| | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 4.10 | A typical γ -ray spectrum in coincidence with particle in backward direction (120^0 - 170^0). The peaks have been assigned for the identification of α pxn channels, which populated via CF reaction dynamics | 144 |
| 4.11 | The experimentally measured spin distributions of ERs ^{167}Yb , ^{168}Yb , ^{164}Er , (from α -gated spectra in forward direction), ^{167}Tm and ^{163}Ho (from P-gated spectra in forward direction) populated via ICF channels in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{160}\text{Gd}$ system at energy, $E \sim 5.6$ MeV/nucleon | 147 |
| 4.12 | The experimentally measured spin distribution of ERs ^{172}Hf , ^{171}Hf and ^{170}Hf (from Singles spectra) populated via (fusion evaporation) CF channels in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{160}\text{Gd}$ reactions at energy, $E \sim 5.6$ MeV / nucleon | 148 |
| 4.13 | The experimentally measured spin distributions of ERs populated via CF channels in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{160}\text{Gd}$ system at energy, $E \sim 5.6$ MeV / nucleon; (a) ^{168}Yb , ^{167}Yb and ^{165}Er (from α -gated spectra in backward direction); (b) ^{166}Tm and ^{167}Tm (from P-gated spectra in backward direction) | 150 |
| 4.14 | The typical plot shows the dependence reaction mode on mean input angular momentum for $^{16}\text{O} + ^{160}\text{Gd}$ system at energy, $E \sim 5.6$ MeV/nucleon | 152 |
| 4.15 | Side-feeding intensities in the yrast band for all CF channels (identified from singles spectra, α and P-gated spectra in backward direction) populated via CF channels in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{160}\text{Gd}$ at energy, $E \sim 5.6$ MeV / nucleon | 153 |
| 4.16 | Side-feeding intensities in the yrast band of ERs ^{167}Yb , ^{168}Yb , ^{164}Er , (deduced from spin distribution of α -gated spectra in forward direction) ^{167}Tm and ^{163}Ho (deduced from particle gated spectra in forward direction) populated via ICF channels in $^{16}\text{O} + ^{160}\text{Gd}$ system at energy, $E \sim 5.6$ MeV / nucleon | 154 |