Research Opportunities with HELIOS

Ben Kay, Argonne National Laboratory Workshop on Nuclear Astrophysics Opportunities at ATLAS 2019



Overview

The HELIOS spectrometer as a tool for nuclear astrophysics

- Nucleosynthesis => Direct reactions with RI beams
- Why the solenoidal spectrometer solution?
- HELIOS at ATLAS, so far
- Challenges and opportunities

<u>www.anl.gov/phy/helical-orbit-spectrometer</u>





Nuclei involved in the rp-, p-, and s-process M. S. Smith and K. E. Rehm, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 51, 91 (2001)





Reaction studies

~10 MeV/u (3-20 MeV/u), >10⁴ pps (stable and <u>radioactive</u>)

<u>Reactions used as a tool in</u> <u>nuclear astrophysics:</u>

- Populate states / determine
 E, jⁿ
- Cross sections → rates
- Cross section → overlaps
- Exploit mirror systems





Kinematics: normal vs. inverse



In contrast to normal kinematics

- Particle identification, ΔE-E techniques at low energies
- **Energy dependence** with respect to laboratory angle
- **Kinematic compression** at forward c.m. angles
- Typically leading to poor resolution (100s of keV)
- ... and beams a few to 10⁶ orders of magnitude weaker



Kinematics: normal vs. inverse (resolution)









Forward endcap

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Argonne



If conditions are favorable ...



- Beam: 6 MeV/u, 1pnA (6.25×10⁹ pps)
- Target: 50 µg/cm²
- Highly idealized setup, afforded by very intense ²⁶Al beam at TRIUMF
- Place detectors far way
- Annular Si detectors











Transport through a solenoid



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- A simple *linear* relationship between energy and z, where the energy separation is (nearly) *identical* to the excitation energy in the residual nucleus.
- Removes kinematic compression.
- Factor of ~2-3 improvement in resolution
- ... and an MRI magnet seems ideal

$$E_{\rm cm} = E_{\rm lab} + \frac{m}{2}V_{\rm cm}^2 - \frac{mV_{\rm cm} z}{T_{\rm cyc}}$$



HELIOS



Left photo: unknown, right photo: A. H. Wuosmaa





New array and digital data acquisition



Daniel McNeel, Calem Hoffman, Ryan Tang, et al.



- •New DAQ implemented in FY17, used at CERN in FY18, running now [current run ²⁹Al(d,p)]
- •New sort routines for 'quasi' live feedback (appreciated by users)
- •New "complete system awareness" monitors





¹⁸F, isomers, rotation, "high" spin









Making an isomeric beam of ¹⁸F





Single-particle picture of ¹⁹F



D. Santiago-Gonzalez et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **120**, 122503 (**2018**)

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Excellent agreement with shell-model calculations (perhaps not surprisingly).

Powerful technique, many future possibilities ... with <u>AIRIS</u>













Related equipment









https://www.anl.gov/atlas



































Nuclei involved in the rp-, p-, and s-process M. S. Smith and K. E. Rehm, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. **51**, 91 (**2001**)











Challenges / opportunities

<u>Reactions</u>: often proton adding, He-induced, Li-induced reactions ... speaks to gas targets, low cross sections, etc.

Isomer beams:

²⁶Al, ¹⁸F, ... more to come? ... ³⁴Cl

Recoil detection: heavy beams, higher rates

Forward angle detection:

















Upgrades planned: HELIOS was a first, built on a shoe string budget, hope to install new more flexible supports system for targets, auxiliary detectors ... aided by lessons learned/new solenoidal spectrometers



Closing comments

- HELIOS is an outstanding instrument for studying direct reactions in inverse kinematics
- ... has a high degree of flexibility
- ATLAS provides (and will provide ever more) beams that overlap exquisitely with astrophysical interests
- in nuclear astrophysics, both via specific/key measurements and by systematic studies
- We welcome users, and would prosper significantly from high-level engagement in HELIOS and a strong astrophysics program

• ATLAS + HELIOS have significant potential to address some key questions





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Check the feasibility of a given experiment in seconds ... even astrophysics-y ones

Disclosure: Ryan Tang [<u>ttang@anl.gov</u>] has a slightly better version



