LOW-ENERGY RADIOACTIVE BEAM EXPERIMENTS USING THE UM-UND SOLENOID RNB APPARATUS AT THE UND TANDEM: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Approximately ten years ago (1987) one of the first operational low-energy radioactive nuclear beam (RNB) facilities was put into place at the University of Notre Dame (UND) as a joint project between the University of Michigan (UM) and UND. The key elements to the success of the project were the installation of a largebore 3.5 Tesla superconducting solenoid (supplied by UM) to collect and focus secondary radioactive beams, combined with an upgrade of the UND FN Tandem, the latter including the addition of a high-intensity sputter ion source. The resulting secondary beams (⁸Li, ⁶He, ⁷Be, ⁸B, ¹⁸F^m, ...) are generally produced by selective, high-cross-section direct reactions. These beams are sufficiently intense (*viz.* 10^4 /s to 10^8 /s) to permit measurement of many low-energy reaction cross sectons of interest to nuclear astrophysics, nuclear reaction theory, and high-isospin nuclear physics. A review of past and recent RNB data obtained with this apparatus will be presented together with plans for a major upgrade using a pair of 6T solenoids (M.Y. Lee *et al.* - this conference).

INTRODUCTION

The low-energy radioactive nuclear beam (RNB) facility operated at the University of Notre Dame (UND) FN-tandem Van de Graaff as a joint project between the University of Michigan (UM) and UND was one of the first operational RNB facilities in the world (1987). Until recently (mid-1996), it still produced some of the most intense low-energy RNBs available, specifically beams of ⁶He, ⁸Li, ⁷Be, ⁸B, ¹⁸F, ¹⁸F^m (and others) with intensities $> 10^4/s$, with some beams (⁸Li) approaching 10^9 /s. These relatively high RNB intensities are generally needed to measure cross sections relevant to nuclear astrophysics (and other nuclear phenomena) since unlike projectile break up or elastic scattering, the cross sections are small (viz. mb vs. b). Thus, the success of the facility required the development of several high-intensity RNBs and related high-efficiency detection devices and techniques.

We'll now briefly describe some of these and then summarize the RNB experiments done with the facility (up to mid-1996) together with some of the more important discoveries made. Finally, we'll outline plans for a new, upgraded facility which will utilize two large s.c. solenoid magnets (additional information is available at UM Website http://www.physics.lsa.umich.edu/twinsol).

RNB PRODUCTION

The key developments (1985-96) were as follows:

- a) development and installation of a large air-core superconducting solenoid as the secondary RNB collection and focussing device (1987-89)
- b) utilization of selective, high-cross-section direct- or compound-nuclear reactions for the RNB production reactions (1987-)
- c) installation of a high-intensity SNICs-type sputter ion source and rotating production target (1990)
- d) improvements in the FN tandem accelerator (accelerator tubes; vacuum; strippers; time-of-flight beam pulser and sweeper; etc)

Although a rotating target mount was designed, built and installed, radiation damage still remains a problem for certain production targets, and to this day often limits the amount of primary beam which can be used (by x5 to x10). Most recently, a ³He gas cell has been used for the efficient production of a ⁸B beam via the ⁶Li(³He, n)⁸B reaction (Table I). This cell has Havar windows 2 microns thick and has been successfully run at 1 atm of ³He for a week with ca. 1 μ A of 30 MeV ⁶Li primary beam. (It has recently been tested to 10 atms.) Many future experiments will utilize this cell or a similar one.

We generally select a direct nuclear reaction to form the RNB of interest via a specific nuclear state having a high production cross section (viz. > 10 mb/sr at lab angles $\theta < 10^{\circ}$). Additionally, the production reaction is done, if possible, on a high-melting-temperature target in reverse kinematics (heavy beam on a light target) so that one gains a large forward-angle enhancement from the c.m. to the lab system. Unlike fragmentation reactions, which are typically used at higher energies, the use of a more selective direct reaction is much more efficient in terms of the RNB yield for a given RNB energy spread (phase space). This is important for producing useable RNBs having a good energy resolution, as an example to resolve final nuclear states which typically require δE (FWHM) $\lesssim 1$ MeV. Also, we have exploited production-reaction selectivity to produce short-lived, excited nuclear isomer beams, specifically ${}^{18}F^{m}(J^{\pi} = 5^{+}; E_{x} = 1.12 \text{ MeV}; T_{1/2} = 163 \text{ nsec}).$ The mechanism for producing ¹⁸F^m at low energies [via the ¹²C(¹⁷O, ¹⁸ F^m) reaction] has also proved effective at higher energies (see Tables). Details of specific RNB production reactions and their yields may be found in the references given in Tables I and II.

After RNB production at the primary-beam target, it is then desirable to collect, separate and then refocus the selected RNB as efficiently as possible. Since, even with kinematic focussing the RNB production "cone" can be fairly large at low energies, the best device to refocus the beam is one with a large, axi-symmetric acceptance. Large, superconducting solenoids appear to be well-suited for this task¹) owing to their simple yet "fast" optics *i.e.* their good "f/#" (the ratio of aperture to focal length) which is a measure of the collection efficiency.

We discovered, rather serendipitously, the advantages of using such devices as RNB collectors during a set of experiments done in 1984-86 at the ATLAS facility at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). As part of a Ph.D. thesis project, a 3.5 T, 20 cm bore, 40 cm long air-core, superconducting solenoid (obtained surplus by UM from the DoE laser-fusion program) was installed and configured for use as a large solid angle, "zero-degree" reactionproduct spectrometer¹). This concept was based on the work of Schapira *et al.* at IPN-Orsay who had used an iron-yoked s.c. solenoid for this purpose²).

In the ANL-ATLAS experiments, which used a ca. 100 MeV ¹⁸O beam on various targets, a major limitation was pulse pile up at the solenoid focal-plane detector due to "unwanted" reaction products such as ^{16,17}O, ¹⁹F, *i.e.* stable ions, as well as the radioactive ions (RNBs) ^{15,19}O, ^{17,18,20}F, where the latter were often at the 10² to 10³/s level. At that point it was realized that the solenoid magnet could be utilized as a simple but effective RNB collector. It was therefore subsequently moved to UND for this purpose³) as part of a joint UM-UND project (Fig. 1). Recent improvements at UND now permit operation to ca. 10 MV terminal voltage with primary beams up to A ~ 40, with μ A's of intensity, with variable pulse width ($\delta t \sim 1$ nsec) and beam-pulse spacing.

In the course of operating the RNB apparatus, we've developed other axi-symmetric ion-optical systems⁴) which we plan to utilize in future work. These include an $\overrightarrow{E} \otimes \overrightarrow{B}$ system using a radial electric field lens, and systems based on focussing and *defocussing* solenoids. In addition, funding from DoE and UM was obtained to build a large-bore 7T system for use at NSCL⁵⁾. A dual solenoid system⁶⁾ which can utilize time-of-flight for improved RNB energy resolution was also developed.

RNB REACTIONS STUDIED, 1987–1996

A summary of the RNB reactions studied with the 3.5T apparatus is given in Table I. Appropriate references for this table and related work are given in Table II. A number of these studies were the first of their type done with an RNB, and they revealed a number of important properties. Specifically, due to the nature of the unstable projectile RNB-induced nucleon transfer reactions and fusion-evaporation reactions are often *highly* exothermic (Q > 0). Hence we find:

- 1) large cross sections to *excited* states, even at low energies (Fig. 2), due to
- 2) a favorable reaction "Q-window"; and hence
- 3) RNB n-tunneling at low energies is favored, and
- 4) very energetic neutrons and α particles can be produced in low-energy RNB fusion-evaporation (CN) reactions.
- We also observe:
- 5) large BE2 \Uparrow for certain RNB excitations,
- 6) with ⁸Li elastic scattering and optical-model (OM) potentials similar to ⁶Li and ⁷Li elastic scattering (and OMs) but ⁶He is *not* similar to ⁴He elastic scattering and its OM (Instead, ⁶He \approx ⁶Li, ⁷Li and ⁸Li elastic scattering and OM-see Fig. 3).

Also,

- 7) measurements of many of the ⁸Li S-factors needed for accurate input to Big-Bang nucleosynthesis and the "missing mass" problem were done including, recently,
- 8) measurements of low-energy ⁸B break-up cross sections (Fig. 4) related to the solar neutrino problem (too few solar ν 's).

(While the latter measurements have helped to clarify both the "missing mass" and the solar neutrino problems, they unfortunately have not provided "solutions" to these problems.)

Finally, we have

9) demonstrated the feasibility of producing highintensity isomeric, high-spin, excited RNBs for new types of nuclear-reaction studies using "γ-tagged" RNBs.

THE FUTURE

The 3.5T RNB apparatus has been removed from its original beam line and will be re-installed elsewhere at UND. In its place a pair of 30 cm bore 6T solenoids have been installed (funded by the US-NSF, UND and UM) and are presently being tested. This new system will provide a wider variety of RNBs including higher-mass, higher-energy (to 10 MeV/u), and higher-purity beams. (The latter will be accomplished via. a radial \vec{E} electrode and/or absorber placed between the two magnets; see M. Lee *et al.*, this conference).

We also intend to use fast timing of certain RNBs to provide an energy-compensated beam. This should permit high-resolution (viz. $\delta E \lesssim 100$ keV) RNB measurements for Coulomb excitation, transfer reactions and other phenomena. The dual system will also permit lowbackground $\gamma - \gamma$ and γ -particle RNB measurements, lowenergy RNB total reaction cross section measurements⁷, and radioactive-ion trapping. We also plan to extend some of our previous measurements (Table I) to higher energies (and other nuclei) as well as pursue several new aspects of RNB research at both the nuclear and atomic levels.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work has been funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Michigan (Office of Vice-President for Research and the Department of Physics). We also gratefully acknowledge the post-doctoral scholars, Ph.D. students, and other UND and UM personnel who have participated in major aspects of this project, specifically W. Liu, R. Stern, R. Smith, J. Brown, D. Roberts, A. Morsad, K. Lamkin, L. Lamm, and E. Berners.

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Figure 1. Top and side view of the UM-UND 3.5T RNB apparatus (1987-1996; from [Li89], Table II)

Reaction Studied	E(MeV)	Measurement	References ^{a)}	Comments
8 Li(d,t) ⁷ Li	14.8	Limited $\sigma(\theta)$	BeC88, Be89, Li90, FaC91, Be93	CD ₂ target; inverse kinematics; large cross section observed; rele- vant to Big-Bang nucleosynthesis
$^{8}\mathrm{Li}(\mathbf{d},\mathbf{t})^{7}\mathrm{Li}$	6-14.8	Excitation function	FaC91, Ba93, Ba95	Degraded ⁸ Li beam; determination of astrophysical S-factors
$^{8}\mathrm{Li}(\mathrm{p}, \alpha)^{5}\mathrm{He}$	14.8	$\sigma(heta)$	Be92	Highly exothermic; large cross sec- tion; determination of astrophysical S-factors
⁸ Li(p,n) ⁸ Be	14.2	$\sigma(heta)$	F192, Ca93	RNB charge exchange; coincident detection ${}^{8}\text{Be}^{*} \rightarrow \alpha + \alpha$
⁸ Li(d, n) ⁹ Be	6-14	$\sigma(\theta)$ and excitation func- tion for ⁹ Be _{g.s.} and ⁹ Be [*]	Ba93, Ba95, La96	Utilized coincident detection ⁹ Be* $\rightarrow \alpha + \alpha +$
$^{8}\mathrm{Li}(lpha,\mathbf{n})^{11}\mathrm{B}$	1–14	Excitation function and limited $\sigma(\theta)$ for ${}^{11}B_{g.s.}$ and ${}^{11}B^*$	Gu95	Utilized gas-filled, multi-anode de- tector (MUSIC) as ⁴ He "target"; key reaction in Big-Bang nucleosyn- thesis; most of cross section is to <i>ex-</i> <i>cited</i> states; <i>i.e.</i> much larger than g.s. \rightarrow g.s. cross sections
⁶ He + ⁹ Be – Au ⁶ He + ¹² C, Ni, Au	7-9 10	Elastic scattering "	Sm91a Wa95	Deduced LE ⁶ He optical potentials; ⁶ He scattering resembles ^{6,7,8} Li scattering rather than ⁴ He
¹² C(⁸ Li, ⁸ Li) ¹² C	14.8	Elastic and inelastic scattering, $\sigma(E, \theta)$	Sm91b	Indicates large BE2 \Uparrow for ⁸ Li [*] (E _x = 0.98 MeV); ⁸ Li + ¹² C optical po- tential determined; ⁸ Li+ ¹² C similar to ^{6,7} Li + ¹² C scattering
⁸ Li + ² H, Be, ^{12,13} C, N, Al, Ni	13–20	Elastic scattering; RNB fusion-evaporation; RNB transfer reactions, $\sigma(E, \theta)$	Be93	Systematics of LE ⁸ Li-induced RNB reactions; deduced ⁸ Li op- tical potentials; very-high-energy α 's observed from (⁸ Li, α); exother- mic n-transfers observed with good Q-matching characteristics; FRD- WBA analysis and spectroscopic factors consistent with a direct transfer mechanism.
^{nat} Ni(⁸ Li, ⁸ Li [*])	14.8, 19.6	Coulomb excitation of ${}^{8}Li(E_{x} = 0.96 \text{ MeV})$	Br91	Large BE2 \uparrow for ⁸ Li [*] deduced; re- lated to solar-neutrino "problem"
⁵⁸ Ni(⁸ Li, ⁷ Li) ⁵⁹ Ni	14.8	Neutron transfer, $\sigma(\mathrm{E}, heta)$	Be96	$\sigma(\mathbf{E}, \theta)$ consistent with neutron tunneling; reaction favors excited states due to exothermic Q values (viz. $Q_{\text{opt}} \doteq 0$)
Ni(⁸ B, ⁷ Be p)	26	⁸ B breakup at low energy	Sc96	Set limits on E2 and E1 LE capture rates for ${}^{7}\text{Be}(\mathbf{p}, \gamma)$ as related to the solar neutrino problem
¹⁸ F ^m + ¹² C, Au	70	Limited scattering	Be90, Be91 Br93, Br95	Demonstrates feasibility of produc- ing short-lived, high-spin isomeric RNBs and scattering

^{a)}See Table II; early versions of most work are presented in [RNB1, 2, 3, 4] of Table II

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Figure 3. Elastic scattering of 10 MeV ⁶He from ¹²C compared with ⁴He, ⁶Li and ⁸Li OM predictions ([Wa95], Table II).



Figure 2. Cross section for ${}^{8}\text{Li}(\alpha, \mathbf{n})^{11}\text{B}^{*} + {}^{11}\text{B}_{g.s.}$ (top) compared with ${}^{8}\text{Li}(\alpha, \mathbf{n})^{11}\text{B}_{g.s.}$ (from [Gu95], Table II).

Figure 4. Plot of the ⁷Be(\mathbf{p}, γ) astrophysical S₁₇ factor extrapolated to solar energies, as a function of the *E*2 component of the breakup yield, for the recent UND work ([Sc96], Table II), the data of T. Motobayashi *et al.*, [Phys. Rev. Lett. **73**, 2680 (1994)] and the standard solar model.