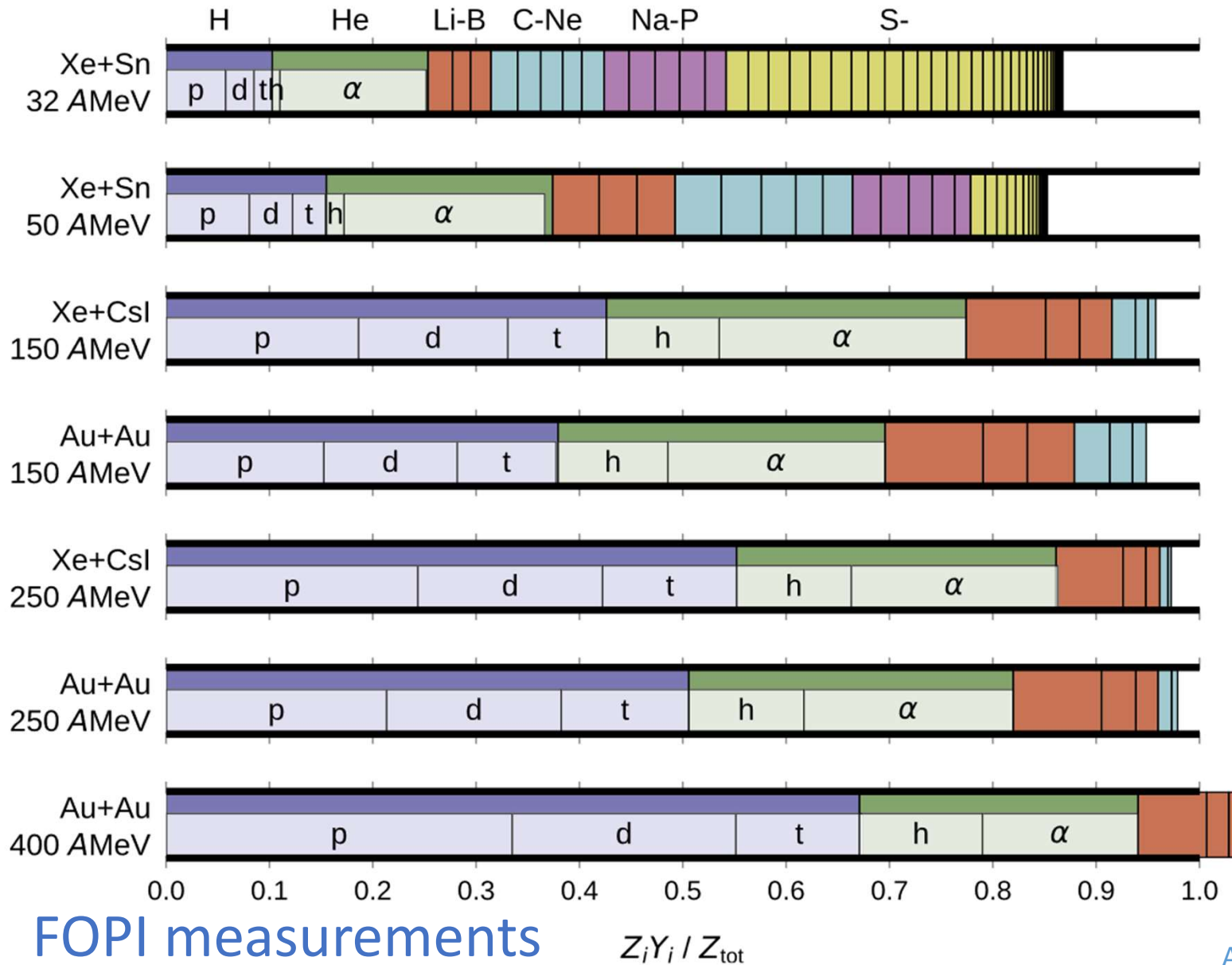


# Light clusters in transport models of heavy-ion collisions

Rui Wang (王睿 [rui.wang@ct.infn.it](mailto:rui.wang@ct.infn.it))  
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN)  
Sezione di Catania

TMEP discussion - NuSYM24  
Caen, France

# Fragments in heavy-ion collisions



FOPi measurements

Light nuclei (mass number  $\leq 4$ ) and large fragments (mass number  $> 4$ ) account for a large portion of the measured final-state charged particles

- Their production mechanism
- Their effects on the reaction dynamics and then on nucleon/pion observables

FOPi Collaboration, Nuclear Physics A 848 (2010) 366–427

A. Ono, Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 105 (2019) 139–179

# Clusters in heavy-ion collisions

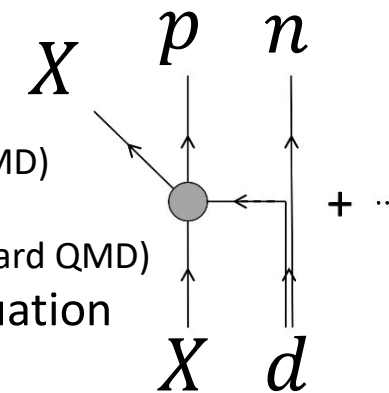
## Mean fields (potential) versus **few-body correlation between nucleons**

- Spinodal instability  
(Intermediate mass fragments, IMF)  
Fluctuations, SMF, Boltzmann-Langevin  
Talk by Maria
- Spectator nuclei

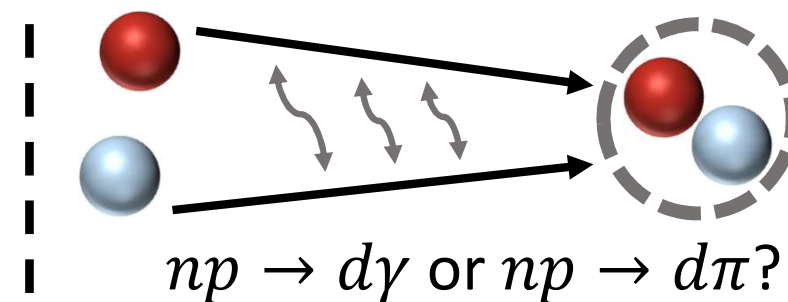
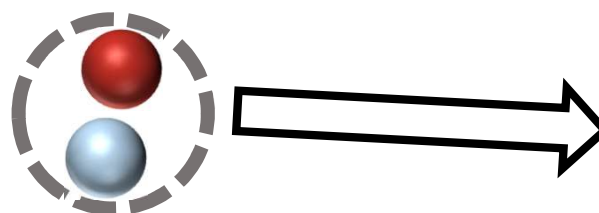
- Particle recognition
  - Minimum spanning tree  
[J. Aichelin, Physics Reports 202, \(1991\) 233-360](#)
  - Simulated Annealing Clusterization Algorithm, FRIGA (binding energies)  
[R. K. Puri, et. al, Physical Review C 54, R28 \(1996\)](#)  
[A. Le Fèvre, et. al, Physical Review C 100, 034904 \(2019\)](#)

Heavy fragments can decay to light cluster (SMM or GEMINI)

- Many-body scatterings like  $NNN \leftrightarrow Nd$ 
  - Quantum/antisymmetrized molecular dynamics  
[A. Ono, Journal of Physics: Conference Series 420 \(2013\) 012103](#) (AMD)  
[G. Coci, et. al, Physical Review C 108, 014902 \(2023\)](#) (PHQMD)  
[H.-G. Cheng and Z.-Q. Feng, Phys. Rev. C 109, L021602 \(2024\)](#) (standard QMD)
  - Kinetic approach/Boltzmann–Uehling–Uhlenbeck equation  
Light nuclei d, t,  $^3\text{He}$ ,  $^4\text{He}$  have been included.  
[P. Danielewicz and G. F. Bertsch, Nuclear Physics A 533, \(1991\) 712-748](#) (pioneer work)  
[D. Oliinychenko, et. al, Physical Review C 99, 044907 \(2019\)](#) (SMASH)  
[R. Wang, Y.-G. Ma, L.-W. Chen, et.al, Physical Review C 108, L031601 \(2023\)](#) (up to  $\alpha$ )  
[K.-J. Sun, R. Wang, et. al, Nature Communication 15, 1074, \(2024\)](#) (hadronic afterburner)



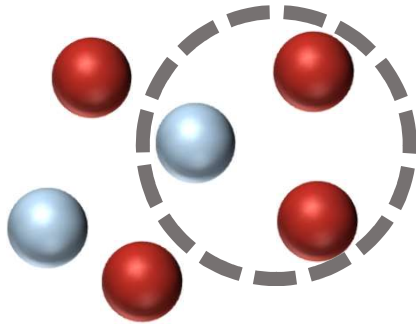
- Final-state interactions? Coalescence? Femtoscopy?  
Clusters form before kinetic freeze-out, or form after kinetic freeze-out?



# Light nuclei in kinetic approach

## BUU-like

1. Find possible groups of test particles in a given cell



2. Calculate the scattering possibility based on the  $\sigma_{X-LN}$ , the **impulse approximation** and the detailed balance relation

3. Check whether the produced cluster is allowed in the sense of the medium (Mott) effect

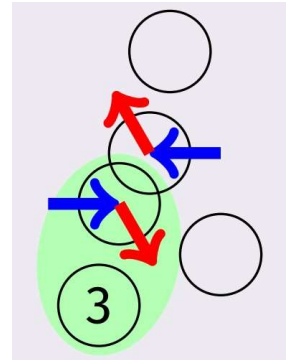
$$\langle f_N \rangle_i(\vec{P}) \equiv \int f_N^{\text{tot}} \left( \frac{\vec{P}}{A_i} + \vec{p} \right) |\phi_i(\vec{p})|^2 d\vec{p} \leq F_{A=A_i}^{\text{cut}}$$

light-nuclei internal wave function

A larger  $F_{A=A_i}^{\text{cut}}$  corresponds to a weaker Mott effect

## AMD/QMD-like

1. Include correlated states in the set of the final states of each NN collision.



2. Scattering possibility based on  $\sigma_{NN}$  and the overlap between nucleon and correlated states

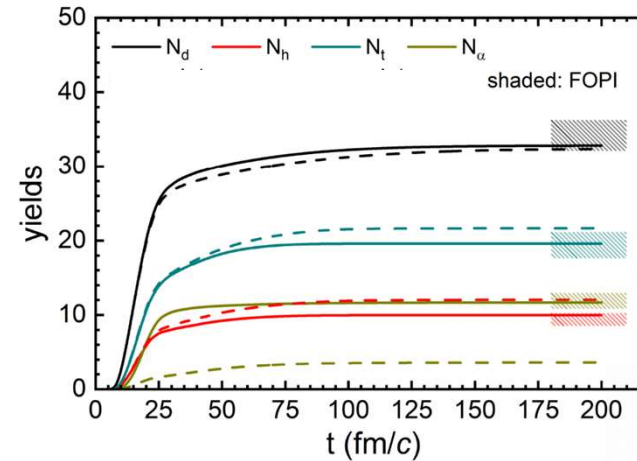
Phase-space density  $\rho_i < \rho_c$

$$\rho_i^{(\text{ini}/\text{fin})} = \left( \frac{2v}{\pi} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sum_{k(\neq i)} \theta(p_{\text{cut}} > |\mathbf{P}_i^{(\text{ini}/\text{fin})} - \mathbf{P}_k|) e^{-2v(\mathbf{R}_i - \mathbf{R}_k)^2}$$

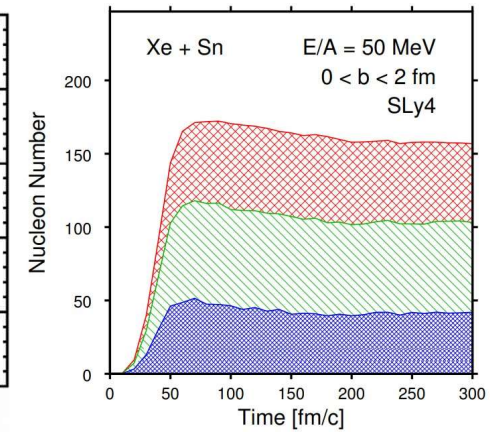
$$p_{\text{cut}} = (375 \text{ MeV}/c) e^{-\epsilon_{\text{cm}}/(225 \text{ MeV})}$$

# Potential homework

1. Box calculation of free Boltzmann gas consisted by nucleons and light nuclei. Compare with the thermal distribution.
2. Box calculation with Mott effect, compare the results from BUU-type and AMD/QMD-type.
3. Check the sensitivity of certain quantities in terms of different treatments of the Mott effect (e.g., in-medium binding energy, light-nuclei internal wave function)
4. ....



RW, Y.-G. Ma, L.-W. Chen, et.al,  
Physical Review C108, L031601 (2023)



A. Ono, Journal of Physics:  
Conference Series 420 (2013) 012103

Non-  
clustered

(2N)

(3N)

(4N)

- Both AMD/QMD-type and BUU-type calculations show that **light nuclei or correlation states are formed starting from the early stage of the reaction**. Their impact on the reaction dynamics and nucleon/pion observables need to be tested.

N. Ikeno, A. Ono, Y. Nara, et. al, Physical Review C93, 044612 (2016) (Pion yields)

R. Wang, S. Burrello, M. Colonna, et.al., arXiv:2405.02157 (Unstable mode growth)

## Potential contributors:

1. Akria (AMD)
2. Pawel? (BUU-type)
3. Rui Wang & Zhen Zhang (BUU-type)
4. Hui-Gan Cheng and Zhao-Qing Feng (QMD-type)