

Low energy nucleus-nucleus reaction treatment in radiation transport codes: the BME-FLUKA interface.

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The accurate description of radiation propagation into the matter turns out to be crucial for practical purposes in many applicative fields. A valuable tool is represented by Monte Carlo codes able to simulate the transport and interaction of different particles in any complex geometry consisting of various materials. Reliable nucleus-nucleus event generators are an essential ingredient in order to assure the needed prediction capability when heavy ions play a significant role, for instance in case of hadrontherapy and space radiation protection. Nevertheless, especially at low and intermediate energies (below 1 GeV/n), our knowledge of nuclear dynamics, reflecting the poor collection of experimental information, is far from being comprehensive and systematic.

Our group developed a theoretical approach to heavy ion reactions at few ten MeV/n based on the Boltzmann Master Equations (BMEs), describing the thermalization of the composite system produced by complete or incomplete fusion, and a binary fragmentation model. The validity of this approach has been confirmed through the analysis of a large set of data (varying from double differential particle spectra to residue excitation functions) for asymmetric and, more recently, light systems.

Its coupling with FLUKA, planned to cover nucleus-nucleus reactions below 100 MeV/n, implies the capability of fast treating any projectile-target combination over an energy range in which different mechanisms may occur. This requirement excludes the too time-consuming numerical integration of the suitable set of coupled BMEs on an event by event basis. The presently adopted solution will be presented together with the first examples of its validation and the outline of possible improvements.