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Dr. Pavel Zarubin
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Dear Pavel

Thank you for sharing your proposal with me. I think it clearly demonstrates that your techniques for studying fragmentation of relativistic nuclei using nuclear emulsions offer some significant possibilities to explore a number of phenomena of current interest. Certainly, tracing the possible existence of condensed states analogous to the Hoyle state in heavier nuclei is an exciting current topic and your method would seem to be ideal for an initial survey of such alpha-clustered states. That you can compete with very highly sophisticated (and very expensive) spectrometers and/or time projection chambers is quite impressive. Given your ability to study a wide range of such light nuclei, this project appears to me to be particularly well motivated.

The multi-fragmentation problem is one with a long history. Here again systematic investigations may reveal new correlations not previously recognized. To me the most interesting possibilities reside in the studies of the peripheral collisions and the possibility to observe the multi-fragmentation in the absence of a very complex collision dynamics. For the same reasons the muon induced fragmentations appear to offer some real advantages and comparing the peripheral interaction results with the muon induced results may offer some new insights into these processes.

It is abundantly clear from your discussion that this endeavor is a labor intensive one and that the requested upgrades to your technical capabilities are well motivated. I certainly hope that you will receive a positive response to this research proposal and that we will see some stimulating new results in the near future.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph B. Natowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

J. B. Natowitz
University Distinguished Professor, Emeritus