

Pavel Zarubin "Overview of new exposures of nuclear track emulsion in the BECQUEREL experiment"



Preserving a status of a universal and inexpensive detector, the nuclear track emulsion (NTE) with unrivaled resolution and completeness ensures the observation of tracks beginning with fission fragments and down to relativistic particles.

Development of a study of formation of triplets of alpha particles in the Hoyle's state arising in dissociation of relativistic ¹²C nuclei in a nuclear track emulsion is presented.

The analysis of layers transversely irradiated by muons with an energy of 160 GeV at CERN and about 2.5 GeV in the "muon torch" of the U-70 IHEP accelerator is in progress.

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Crystal of silver-bromide - 0.2 μm Atom - 10⁻⁴ μm Proton - 10⁻⁹ μm



Human hair superposed on a nuclear star produced by relativistic sulphur nucleus



The foundations of methods of measurements were laid at the beginning of studies on the physics of cosmic rays and, then, used widely beams of relativistic nuclei became available. For these purposes microscopes KSM-1 manufactured by Carl Zeiss (Jena) about half of century ago and still functioning well are applied in JINR.





Exposures of nuclear track emulsion (NTE) to newly formed beams of relativistic nuclei, which began in the 1970s at the JINR Synchrophasotron of and LBL Bevalac (Berkeley, USA), since the early 2000s have found a continuation at the JINR Nuclotron in the BECQUEREL Experiment. A topical application of the NTE technique consists in studying the structure of light nuclei including radioactive ones on a basis of advantages of the relativistic approach. Distributions of peripheral interactions of studied nuclei over channels of dissociation into relativistic charged fragments convey features of their structure. This possibility is lacking in electronic experiments. The NTE makes it possible to observe the breakdown of nuclei up to a coherent dissociation, in which the target nuclei are not visibly destroyed in an obvious way.

Channel	¹² C	¹¹ C	¹⁰ C	°C
$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{H}$		6 (5%)	1 (0.4 %)	15 (14 %)
Be + He		18 (13 %)	6 (2.6 %)	
Be + 2H				16 (15 %)
3He	100 (100 %)	25 (17 %)	12 (5.3 %)	16 (15 %)
2He + 2H		72 (50 %)	186 (82 %)	24 (23 %)
He + 4H		15 (11 %)	12 (5.3 %)	28 (27 %)
Li + He + H		5 (3%)		
Li + 3H			1 (0.4 %)	2 (2 %)
6H		3 (2%)	9 (4 %)	6 (6 %)



Events of this kind, called "white" stars, account for several percent of a total number of interactions. They are the most valuable for interpreting the structure, since in them distortion of an initial state of a nucleus that experiences dissociation can be considered minimal. Among the key results of the BECQUEREL experiment is determination of contribution of unstable ⁸Be and ⁹B nuclei in dissociation of relativistic nuclei ^{10,11}C and ¹⁰B. Meaning of this fact is as follows. As is known, nucleosynthesis involving ⁸Be and ⁹B is suppressed due to absence of the bound ground states. Nevertheless, this circumstance does not prevent the substantial contribution of ⁸Be and ⁹B.



$E_{\rm x}$ (MeV \pm keV)	J^{π} ; T	$\Gamma_{\rm cm}$ (keV)	Decay
g.s.	0+;0	5.57 ± 0.25 eV $^{\rm i}$	α
$3.03\pm10^{ m i}$	$2^+; 0$	$1513\pm15^{\rm \ i}$	α
i,j	2^{+}		
		araab	
$11.35 \pm 150^{\text{ i}}$	$4^+; 0$	$\approx 3500^{\rm b}$	α
1		I	I

Decay

р

p, (α) p, α

р

p, α

р

n

	$E_{\rm x}$ ^a (MeV \pm keV)	$J^{\pi}; T$	$\Gamma_{\rm c.m.}~({\rm keV})$
	g.s.	$\frac{3}{2}^{-}; \frac{1}{2}$	0.54 ± 0.21
_ ··· ·	≈ 1.6 $^{\rm b}$		
$2,75,2.788, \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}; \frac{1}{2}$	2.361 ± 5	$\frac{5}{2}^{-}; \frac{1}{2}$	81 ± 5
2.361 $\frac{5}{2};\frac{1}{2}$	2.75 ± 300 °	$\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{1}{2}$	3130 ± 200
≈1.6////////////////////////////////////	2.788 ± 30	$\frac{1}{2}^{-}; \frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{5}{2}^{+}; \frac{1}{2}$	550 ± 40
$^{5}Li + \alpha$	$4.3\pm200~{\rm ^d}$		1600 ± 200
[-0.45]	6.97 ± 60	$\frac{7}{2}^{-}; \frac{1}{2}$	2000 ± 200
3-10.1851	$11.65 \pm 60^{\circ}$	$(\underline{7}) - \cdot \underline{1}$	800 ± 50
$9p$ $\frac{1}{2}: 1 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{8}Be + p$			
D			

$1 A \text{ GeV}^{10}\text{B} \rightarrow 2\text{He} + \text{H}$



In general, energy of a few-particle system Q can be defined as difference between the invariant mass of the system M^* and a primary nucleus mass or a sum of masses of the particles M, that is, $Q = M^* - M$. M^* is defined as the sum of all products of 4-momenta $P_{i,k}$ fragments $M^{*2} = (\Sigma P_i)^2 = \Sigma (P_i P_k)$. Subtraction of M is a matter of convenience and Q is also named an invariant mass. Reconstruction of Q makes possible to identify decays unstable particles and nuclei.

For the most part, fragments of a relativistic nucleus are contained in a narrow cone of the polar angle θ , which is estimated as $\theta = 0.2/P_0$, where the factor 0.2 GeV/*c* is determined by the spectator-nucleon transverse momentum, while P_0 is the momentum of the accelerated-projectile nucleon. The fragment 4-momenta $P_{i,k}$ in the cone can be determined in assumption of conservation of momentum per nucleon by fragments of a projectile (or its velocity). This approximation is well grounded when primary energy above 1 *A* GeV.



Example of restored directions in event ${}^{10}B \rightarrow 2He + H$ over vertical and planar planes.



Distributions of residuals Δy and Δz of fitting of coordinates of H and He tracks in events ${}^{10}B \rightarrow 2He + H$.





Distribution of errors in determining dip (α) and planar (ϕ) angles for fragments He (solid) and H (dotted) in events $^{10}B \rightarrow 2He + H$.

Reconstruction of values $Q_{2\alpha p}$ and $Q_{2\alpha}$ for the ¹⁰B and ¹¹C fragmentation is presented in the range which is relevant for ⁹B. In these cases the ⁹B decays serves as source of ⁸Be. The distribution mean values (RMS) $\langle Q_{2\alpha p} \rangle = 265 \pm 14$ (100) keV and $\langle Q_{2\alpha} \rangle = 91 \pm 7$ (53) keV match the accepted values and expected resolution. The condition 200 keV $\langle Q_{2\alpha} \rangle$ is a practical cut-off for ⁸Be identification.



Distributions of triples 2*ap* over invariant mass Q_{2ap} (a) for fragmentation ${}^{10}B \rightarrow 2He + H$ at 1.6 *A* GeV/*c* (solid) and ${}^{11}C \rightarrow 2He + 2H$ at 2.0 A GeV/*c* (added, dashed) and Q_{2a} of *a*-pairs in the range 400 keV < Q_{2ap} identified in these events (b); statistics of 99 events ${}^{10}B \rightarrow 2He + H$ and 212 events ${}^{11}C \rightarrow 2He + 2H$.

Nucleus	<Θ _{2α} > (RMS), 10 ⁻³ rad	< Q _{2α} > (RMS), keV
$(\mathbf{P}_0, A \text{ GeV}/c)$	$(Q_{2\alpha} < 300 \text{ keV})$	
$^{12}C(4.5)$	$2.1 \pm 0.1 (0.8)$	109 ± 11 (83)
¹⁴ N (2.9)	2.9 ± 0.2 (1.9)	119.6 ± 9.5 (72)
⁹ Be (2.0)	4.4 ± 0.2 (2.1)	86 ± 4 (48)
¹⁰ C (2.0)	4.6 ± 0.2 (1.9)	63 ± 7 (83)
¹¹ C (2.0)	$4.7 \pm 0.3 (1.9)$	77 ± 7 (40)
$^{11}C(2.0) \rightarrow {}^{9}B \rightarrow {}^{8}Be$		94 ± 15 (86)
¹⁰ B (1.6)	5.9 ± 0.2 (1.6)	101 ± 6 (46)
$^{10}B(1.6) \rightarrow {}^{9}B \rightarrow {}^{8}Be$		105 ± 9 (47)
$^{12}C(1.0)$	10.4 ± 0.5 (3.9)	107 ± 10 (79)

Nucleus	<q<sub>2ap>, (RMS), keV</q<sub>
	$(Q_{2\alpha p} < 400 \text{ keV})$
¹⁰ B	249 ± 19 (91)
¹⁰ C	254 ± 18 (96)
¹¹ C	273 ± 18 (82)



z [fm]

ON NUCLEAR REACTIONS OCCURRING IN VERY HOT STARS. I. THE SYNTHESIS OF ELEMENTS FROM CARBON TO NICKEL



The second excited state of the ¹²C nucleus is is named after the astrophysicist F. Hoyle who postulated its existence to explain the prevalence of the ¹²C isotope. Following an accurate prediction of the HS energy it was experimentally confirmed that the ¹²C nucleus has the excited state located at only 378 keV above the mass threshold of the three α particles. Although it is unstable, its width is only 8.5 eV. Such a value indicates that the HS lifetime is comparable with the values for ⁸Be or π^0 -meson. Observation of HS at a contrast of relativistic energy and the minimum possible energy stored by 3 α -ensembles can demonstrate HS as a nuclear-molecular object similar to ⁸Be. First of all it is necessary to establish the very possibility of HS appearance in the relativistic fragmentation.



The current material for the HS search is a set 200 μ m NTE pellicles on 2 mm glass of size 9 to 12 cm which is irradiated longitudinally ¹²C nuclei at initial momentum P₀ = 1 A GeV/c. This exposure was performed recently in the medical-biological beam of the Institute of High Energy Physics (Protvino). This ¹²C beam has energy of about 400 A MeV and used for medical and biological studies. 2% irradiation homogeneity is provided by application of two rotating electrostatic wobblers. The steps taken in December 2016 and April 2017 resulted in the controllable irradiation with a particle density at the area of irradiation of 2000–4500 nuclei/cm².



Consecutive frames of coherent dissociation ${}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha$ at 1 *A* GeV/*c* ("white" star); arrow indicate interaction vertex; grain sizes are about 0.5 µm. Accelerated search for 3α -events the developed pellicles is carried out by scanning along bands that are transverse to the beam direction. By May 2018, 86 ${}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha$ events, including 36 "white" stars, are found and measured in exposure at IHEP (Protvino).

Measurements made in the 90s in NTE layers exposed to ¹²C beam at momentum $P_0 = 4.5 A \text{ GeV/c}$ at the JINR Synchrophasotron are available for 72 (G.M. Chernov's group, Tashkent) and 114 "white" stars ¹²C $\rightarrow 3\alpha$ (A.Sh. Gaitinov's group, Alma-Ata) as a legacy of the emulsion community. At that time, the HS problem was not set. Fig. shows jointly distributions of α -particles at both momentum values over the polar emission angle θ_{α} . They are described by the Rayleigh distribution with the parameters $\sigma_{\theta\alpha}$ equal to 27 ± 3 (1.0 A GeV/c) and 6.5 ± 0.6 (4.5 A GeV/c) corresponding to a simple inverse relationship between P_0 H $\sigma_{\theta\alpha}$. In addition, Fig. shows data on He fragments for the 2.0 A GeV/c ¹¹C dissociation where the ⁴He isotope dominates.



Distribution over polar angle θ_{α} of relativistic He fragments in exposures at 4.5 (dashed) and 1 A GeV/c (solid) ¹²C and 2.0 A GeV/c ¹¹C (dotted).



Dependence of calculated invariant masses of α -pairs $Q_{2\alpha}$ over opening angles in them $\Theta_{2\alpha}$ in events of dissociation of ¹²C, ¹¹C and ¹⁰B nuclei; momentum values are indicated in parentheses (A GeV/c).

The $Q_{2\alpha}$ distributions obtained on a basis of angular measurements of events ${}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha$ at two values P_0 are presented jointly. Both are distributions do not differ within statistics. The region $Q_{2\alpha} < 200$ keV contains a peak pressed to the origin which corresponds to decays of ⁸Be. Although the ⁸Be signal is present the $Q_{2\alpha}$ distribution appears to be significantly wider.



Distribution of α -pairs over invariant mass $Q_{2\alpha} < 1$ MeV in the dissociation ${}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha$ at 4.5 (solid) and 1 A GeV/c (added).

In the $Q_{3\alpha}$ distribution over the invariant mass of the α -triples there is a peak in the region $Q_{3\alpha} < 1$ MeV where HS decays could be reflected. For events at 4.5 *A* GeV/*c* the mean value for the events at the peak $\langle Q_{3\alpha} \rangle$ (at RMS) is 441 ± 34 (190) keV, and at 1 A GeV/*c*, respectively, 346 ± 28 (85) keV. According to the "soft" condition $Q_{3\alpha} < 1$ MeV in the 4.5 *A* GeV/*c* exposure 30 (of 186) events can be attributed to HS and 9 (of 86) including 5 "white" stars (of 36) in 1 *A* GeV/*c* exposure.



Distribution of α -triples over invariant mass $Q_{3\alpha} < 2$ MeV in dissociation of ${}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha$. at 4.5 A GeV/c (solid) and 1 A GeV/c (added).

When selecting α -pairs from α -triples that correspond to the HS criterion $Q_{3\alpha} < 1$ MeV the $Q_{2\alpha}$ distribution acquires the form shown in Fig. The average value $\langle Q_{2\alpha} \rangle$ (RMS) is 210 ± 15 (156) keV. The distribution form becomes wider and separation of the ⁸Be peak in the region $Q_{2\alpha} < 200$ keV is impossible. This change is caused by the increased contribution of non-⁸Be-resonance α pairs of HS decays masking the ⁸Be signal. In turn, this circumstance makes unattainable a more detailed analysis of the HS inner structure. It characterizes a limitation of our approach to penetrate in the HS structure. Nevertheless, it is concluded that HS is observed in a relativistic dissociation ¹²C $\rightarrow 3\alpha$. with probability about 10-15%.



Distribution of α -pairs over invariant mass $Q_{2\alpha}$ in the HS like decays ($Q_{3\alpha} < 1$ MeV) in dissociation of ${}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha$. at 4.5 (solid) and 1 A GeV/c (added).

The angular measurements make it possible to conclude about the dynamics of the HS appearance according to the distribution of α -particle triples over their total transverse momentum P_{Tsum} . Its average value $\langle P_{\text{Tsum}} \rangle$ (RMS) is equal to 190 ± 19 (118) MeV/c corresponding to the nuclear-diffraction mechanism. In the case of electromagnetic dissociation on Ag and Br nuclei composing NTE the limitation is expected to be $P_{\text{Tsum}} < 100 \text{ MeV/c}$ [9]. It is surprising that such a "fragile" formation of three α -particles as HS can arise in relativistic collisions as an ensemble which is "bouncing off" with the transverse momentum P_{Tsum} characteristic for strong interactions rather than electromagnetic ones.



Distribution of α -triples of HS like decays ($Q_{3\alpha} < 1$ MeV) over total transverse momentum $\langle P_{Tsum} \rangle$ in dissociation ${}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha$ at 4.5 (solid) and 1 A GeV/c (added).

Conclusions

HS is identified at 4.5 and 1 *A* GeV/*c* on the basis of the most precise measurements in NTE performed by different researchers on different exposures that are separated in time by two decades. In itself, this fact demonstrates the thoroughness of the NTE method. As a result of the studies int can be concluded that HS is observed with a contribution of about 10-15%. However, the method does not allow one to investigate the features of the HS decay. Reconstruction of HS on the invariant mass of relativistic α -triples can be used to study processes with the HS formation as an integral object at large momenta and for other fragmenting nuclei, except for ¹²C.

It is possible that HS can not be reduced to only the excitation of ¹²C but can manifest itself as a universal object in the fragmentation of heavier nuclei, similarly to ⁸Be. In this respect, the closest source of HS is the ¹⁴N nucleus. Even more convenient are the ¹³N and ¹³C nuclei whose beams can be formed in the ¹⁴N fragmentation. It can be expected that the nuclear-molecular objects ⁸Be and HS will become reference points for the search for more complex states of sparse nuclear matter in the relativistic approach.



The distribution on the charge configurations of relativistic fragments $\Sigma Z_{fr} = 6$ of
¹⁰ C fragmentation events for "white" stars N _{ws} and collisions with produced mesons, target
fragments or protons N _f

	2He+2H	He+4H	ЗНе	6H	Be+He	B+H	Li+3H	C+n
Nws	186	12	12	9	6	1	1	
(%)	(81.9)	(5.3)	(5.3)	(4.0)	(2.6)	(0.4)	(0.4)	
N _{tf}	361	160	15	30	17	12	2	30
(%)	(57.6)	(25.5)	(2.4)	(4.8)	(2.7)	(1.9)	(0.3)	(4.8)



2A GeV/ c^{9} Be $\rightarrow 2\alpha$ "white" star



Search for charge exchange ${}^{9}Be \rightarrow {}^{9}B$ (in progress)





The studies of light nuclei are only the first steps toward complex cluster-nucleon ensembles He - H - n produced in the dissociation of heavy nuclei. The question that has to be answered is what kind of physics underlies the "catastrophic" destruction shown in Fig. Events of multiple fragmentation of relativistic nuclei down to a complete destruction into the lightest nuclei and nucleons without visible excitation of target nuclei were reliably observed in NTE for Au and Pb and even U projectile nuclei. The existence of this phenomenon is certain. It is possible that it confirms the essential role of the long-range quantum electrodynamics interaction. The charges of heavy nuclei make possible multiphoton exchanges and transitions in many-particle states.

IL NUOVO CIMENTO	Vol. XL A, N. 2	21 Novembre 1	Event	Muon	Type of in-	Event	Muon	Type of in-	Event	Muon	Type of in-
			No.	deff.angle	teraction (a)	No.	defl, angle	teraction (d)	No.	defl. angle	teraction (d)
			1	degrees	$n_b + n_g + n_s$	10,	degrees	$n_b + n_g + n_s$	10.	degrees	$ n_b + n_g + n_s $
			1	< 0.3	3 + 2 + 2	41	< 0.3	2+0+0	81	0.8	3+1+1
			2	< 0.3	2 + 1 + 1	42	0.6	2+0+0	82	< 0.3	3+1+0
			3	> 10.0	16 + 3 + 2	43	1.1	1 + 1 + 0	83	0.4	5 + 0 + 0
Ine	lastic Muon Interactions		4	0.6	3 + 1 + 0	44	1.3	3 + 0 + 0	84	1.9	4 + 1 + 0
in Nuclear	Emulsion at 2.5 and 5.0 Ge	eV (*)	5	(a)	3 + 0 + 0	45	<i>(a)</i>		85	< 0.3	1 + 1 + 0
in Hubbar i		C • ().	6	0.9	3 + 1 + 1	46	1.2	3 + 1 + 2	86	< 0.3	3 + 0 + 0
J. A. KIRK, D. M.	COTTRELL, J. J. LORD and R. J	I PISERCUTO	7	0.3	1 + 1 + 1	47	< 0.3	2+0+0	87	3.9	4 + 1 + 0
			8	(a)	1 + 2 + 0	48	0.8	6+3+2	88	2.7 7	7 + 1 + 1
Department of Phys	sics, University of Washington - Sea	utte, Wash.	9	0.3	3 + 1 + 1	49	2.5	4+1+0	89		1 + 1 + 0
(ricevuto il 25 Maggio 1965)		10	< 0.3	2+1+0	50	1.1	1+1+0 3+1+0	90 91	< 0.3	2+1+0 2+0+0
1	neevino n 25 maggio 1905)		11	1.3	7 + 2 + 0	$51 \\ 52$	< 0.3 < 0.3	3+1+0 2+1+0	92	0.6 < 0.3	2+0+0 2+1+0
			12 13	2.2	2+0+1	52 53		2+1+0 3+0+0	93	0.3	5+1+0
30 GeV proton beam			13	(a) 5.5	$2+0+0 \\ 2+1+0$	54	$ < 0.3 \\ 0.9$	3 + 0 + 0 4 + 0 + 0	94	(*)	7+0+0
The second secon	deflecting	magnet	14		2 + 1 + 0 2 + 0 + 1	55	0.4	1+1+0	95	0.9	2+0+0
t OU GU		1	16	$ < 0.3 \\ 4.2$	3+0+0	56	1.8	3+0+1	96	3.2	2+0+0
1 Imba		emulsions	17	< 0.3	3+0+0 2+1+0	57	< 0.3	6+1+0	97	0.8	2+0+0
target 21			18	< 0.3	3+1+0	58	0.4	10 + 1 + 0	98	< 0.3	3+0+0
beam of pi	ions and muons	17 Tomas and the	19	2.8	5+1+0 5+1+0	59	0.5	3+1+0	99	(*)	2+1+0
	concrete pion absorb	10 <i>1</i>	20	0.8	5+3+0	60	(c)	2 + 1 + 0	100	< 0.3	2 + 3 + 0
	concrete providence		21	1.1	2+1+0	61	< 0.3	2 + 0 + 0	101	(*)	3 + 1 + 0
			22	> 10.0	2 + 1 + 0	62	0.4	3 + 0 + 0	102	0.8	1 + 1 + 0
			23	< 0.3	2 + 0 + 0	63	< 0.3	7 + 0 + 0	103	< 0.3	3 + 1 + 0
			24	0.6	2 + 1 + 0	64	(*)	2+0+0	104	0.8	1 + 1 + 0
			25	< 0.3	3+2+0	65	(*)	5+0+0	105	< 0.3	7+1+0
			26	< 0.3	1 + 0 + 1	66	1.2	5 + 0 + 0	106	0.3	1+1+0
			27	4.4	2+2+1	67	< 0.3	3+1+0	107	0.9	4 + 0 + 0
			28	(a)	4 + 0 + 0	68	0.8	5+0+0	108	4	6 + 0 + 0
			29	1.0	6 + 2 + 0	69	> 10	9+4+2	109	0.8	2+1+0
			30	< 0.3	1 + 1 + 0	70	3.4	4 + 0 + 0	110	< 0.3	4+2+0
			31	1.2	4 + 1 + 0	71	0.4	7+1+0	112	< 0.3	2+0+0
			32	0.4	1 + 2 + 0	72	< 0.3	3+0+1	111	< 0.3	2+0+0
			33	< 0.3	2 + 0 + 0	73	4.3	2 + 0 + 1	113	< 0.3	4 + 0 + 0
			34	1.0	2 + 1 + 0		2.8	7 + 1 + 0	114	< 0.3	2 + 0 + 0
			35	6.8	5+2+4	75	< 0.3	2 + 1 + 0		>10	13 + 4 + 1
			36	7.1	2 + 1 + 1		4.2	3 + 0 + 0		0.4	
			37	0.3	1 + 1 + 0		(b)	6+1+1		0.3	
			38	< 0.3	1 + 1 + 0		2.6	3 + 1 + 0		0.6	2 + 0 + 0
			39	< 0.3	1 + 1 + 0		1.3	1+1+1		1.4	
			40	9.1	4 + 2 + 0	80	< 0.3	4 + 0 + 0	120	4.8	5+3+0

In order to study the origin of nuclear multiple fragmentation NTE plates were transversely exposed to muons of energy of 160 GeV in CERN (May 2017) and 2.5 GeV in the muon "torch" of the IHEP U-70 accelerator (Protvino, 12C April 2018). First of all, splitting $^{12}C \rightarrow$ 3 α will be studied.

μ





FIG. 1: Distribution of α -particles over ranges L_{α} .

FIG. 3: Distribution triples of α -particles over energy $Q_{3\alpha}$.





FIG. 2: Distribution of α -particles over energy E_{α} .

FIG. 4: Correlation over energy $Q_{2\alpha}$ and opening angles $\Theta_{2\alpha}$ in α -particle pairs.

Study of nuclear multifragmentation induced by ultrarelativistic μ -mesons in nuclear track emulsion

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Abstract. Exposures of test samples of nuclear track emulsion were analyzed. The formation of high-multiplicity nuclear stars was observed upon irradiating nuclear track emulsions with ultrarelativistic muons. Kinematical features studied in this exposure of nuclear track emulsions for events of the muon-induced splitting of carbon nuclei to three α -particles are indicative of the nuclear-diffraction interaction mechanism.



International Conference on Particle Physics and Astrophysics (ICPPA-2015)

5) IOP Publishing doi:10.1088/1742-6596/675/2/022022

Journal of Physics: Conference Series 675 (2016) 022022



72 stars containing only a triple of *b*-particles stopped in NTE are assigned to the disintegration $\mu + {}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha$ and compared with the case $n(14.1 \text{ MeV}) + {}^{12}C \rightarrow 3\alpha + n$.



Three stacks of 10 layers with an emulsion thickness 1000 μ m and 3 of 10 layers with a thickness of 200 μ m are irradiated perpendicular to the beam. Nearby monitor is 8 × 8 cm². The fluences are 9.3 × 10⁶, 45 × 10⁶, and 57 × 10⁶. The average energy of muons is 2.5 GeV on average.

3 stacks (2 of 10 layers 100 microns and 1 of 10 200 microns) are irradiated in the hadrons beam: pions - 60%, protons - 35% and kaons - 5%.