Nuclear reaction codes in data evaluation - case of EMPIRE

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a passion for discovery



Why do we need reaction codes?



There are 4635 plots with experimental data for 56Fe+n; still:

- single data points only available for: (n,np), (n,d), (n,t), (n,3He), (n, 4n), ...
- ...and for (n,γ) above
 1 MeV
- DDX > 26 MeV: 60, 95, 150 MeV only

All nuclei, even the best measured, have gaps in data

Transport calculations require complete files

(these can be up to 30 Mb (~10⁶ numbers) without covariances)

Reaction codes provide complete and consistent set of observables calculated using reaction physics models and constrained by exp. data.



Reaction codes allow to:

- maintain physically sound energy, angle, spin, parity, and mass dependencies of observables
- ensure unitarity and energy conservation
- fill gaps in the exp. data
- obtain exclusive spectra of ejectiles
- discriminate between discrepant data

Reaction codes are indispensable tools in modern data evaluation

Why EMPIRE?



 234 U(n,f) cross section calculated considering complete damping for class-II vibrational states and different degrees of damping for class-III vibrational states.

- Provided ~120 evaluations in ENDF/B-VIII.0b3; 75% full fast neutron evaluations including ^{238,235}U, ²³²Th, ^{56,56,57,58}Fe, ⁹⁰⁻⁹⁶Zr, ⁵⁵Mn
- Used for isotope production cross sections, including proton ones measured on BLIP
- Generated covariances
 - ENDF/B-VII
 - COMARA
 - Low-fidelity project

The major asset: **EMPIRE team** - 15 developers over 20 years (mostly **voluntary work!**), active core of 8 (3 BNL) contributing 300-1000 commits/year

EMPIRE-3.2 (Malta) Nuclear Reaction Model Code





How big is EMPIRE?

- EMPIRE core: ~ 113 000 lines
- utility codes: ~ 159 000 lines
- 91 scripts: ~ 24 000 lines
- oparameter library: 560 Mb
- EXFOR library: 1 Gb

- <= physics core
- <= evaluation support
- <= 'framework'
- <= input RIPL-3+
- <= exp. data

For comparison: NJOY ~110 000 lines MCNP6.1 ~411 000 lines

What would EMPIRE benefit from?

Modernization

- Migration to Fortran90/95/...
- Implementation of unit-tests



Better physics

- Engelbrecht-Weidenmueller transformation (direct-compound interference)
- M1 scissor mode in γ-strength function (following T. Kawano)
- Direct-Semidirect capture
- K-dependent level densities (Grimes)



- Parallelization
- Adaptation to GPU



New features

- Support for the GND format
- Better parametrization for proton reactions - NNDC/BLIP collaboration in support of DOE isotope production
- MINUIT-based non-linear fitting and covariances