

## DirFis: A hybrid silicon and PPAC detector array for direct reaction and fission coincidence measurements

**Authors:** Zhu, Ms. Songxian, Jia, Dr. Huiming, Lin, Dr. Chengjian (Nuclear physics), feng, Prof. jing, Qiu, Dr. Yijia, Liu, Prof. shilong, yang, Dr. yi, Yang, Dr. Lei, Ma, Dr. Nanru, Yang, Dr. Feng, Wen, Mr. Peiwei, Luo, Mr. Tianpeng, chang, Mr. Chang, Duan, Ms. Hairui, Zhang, Dr. Huanqiao, Jia, Dr. Huiming

**Date:** 2026-04-24T13:44:34+00:00

### Abstract

To further study the heavy-ion nuclear reaction mechanisms and fission of actinide nuclides by using the surrogate reaction method, a compact and efficient hybrid detector array for coincidence measurements of the beam-like particles and fission fragments has been developed and tested online. This detector array consists of four silicon strip detector telescopes and two parallel-plate avalanche counters. For the near-barrier ( ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{238}\text{U}$ ) reaction, the fission fragments correlated with the beam-like ( ${}^6\text{He}$ ) particles originating from the transfer reaction were confirmed by analyzing the folding angle. The fission barrier height for the short-lived actinide nucleus ( ${}^{239}\text{Np}$ ), produced in the (1p) stripping channel, was extracted from its fission probability. The deduced value shows a good agreement with the existing literature data.

### Full Text

#### Preamble

DirFis: A hybrid silicon and PPAC detector array for direct reaction and fission coincidence measurements\* S.X. Zhu,<sup>1</sup> H.M. Jia,<sup>1</sup> † C.J. Lin,<sup>1, 2</sup> ‡ J. Feng,<sup>1</sup> Y.J. Qiu,<sup>1</sup> S.L. Liu,<sup>1</sup> Y. Yang,<sup>1</sup> L. Yang,<sup>1</sup> N.R. Ma,<sup>1</sup> F. Yang,<sup>1</sup> P.W. Wen,<sup>1</sup> T.P. Luo,<sup>1</sup> C. Chang,<sup>1</sup> H.R. Duan,<sup>1</sup> and H.Q. Zhang<sup>1</sup>

Department of Nuclear Physics, China Institute of Atomic Energy, Beijing 102413, China College of Physics and Technology, Guangxi Normal University, Guilin 541004, China

To further investigate heavy-ion reaction mechanisms and the fission of actinide nuclei using the surrogate reaction method, a compact and efficient hybrid detector array for coincidence measurements of beam-like particles and fission fragments has been developed and tested online. This detector array consists of four silicon strip detector telescopes and two parallel-plate avalanche counters. For the near-barrier  $7 \text{ Li} + {}^{238} \text{ U}$  reaction, the fission fragments correlated with the beam-like  $6 \text{ He}$  particles originating from the transfer reaction were confirmed by analyzing the folding angle. The fission barrier height for the short-lived actinide nucleus  ${}^{239} \text{ Np}$ , produced in the  $1p$  stripping channel, was extracted from its fission probability. The deduced value is in good agreement with the existing literature data.

## Keywords

Hybrid detector array; Coincidence measurement; Transfer-induced fission; Fission barrier height; Fission fragment folding angle

## INTRODUCTION

from the half-life restriction or uncertainty in  $\gamma$ -decay branching ratio, the coincidence with FF has the advantage of covering a wide excitation energy range and yielding more reliable quantitative results [26, 28].

In addition to reaction mechanisms, fission-related studies are also of considerable interest. Nuclear fission, since its discovery about 90 years ago, remains one of the most challenging subjects in nuclear physics both experimentally [29–31] and theoretically [29, 32, 33]. Fission is also widely utilized in power reactors, which currently generate approximately 11% of the world's electricity [34]. It also holds significant application value in interdisciplinary fields such as nuclear astrophysics, nuclear medicine and environment [35]. The fission barrier height, introduced by Bohr and Wheeler [36], is one of the most fundamental quantities describing nuclear fission. To date, information on fission barriers in actinide nuclei has been mainly obtained through direct neutron induced fission and indirect transfer surrogate methods, including  $(t, d)$  [37],  $(d, p)$  [38–40],  $(t, p)$  [41, 42],  $(\text{He}, d)$  [41–49] and  $(O, x)$  [44] reactions. Compared to neutron-induced reactions, transfer-induced fission offers a significant advantage of studying short-lived unstable nuclides, wherein the natural decay not only makes sample handling difficult but also generates intense background signals in measurements, posing substantial challenges for neutron-induced reaction studies.

To further investigate reaction mechanisms and fission related physics, a compact hybrid setup, named DirFis, consisting of silicon strip detectors and parallel-plate avalanche counters (PPACs) has been built and tested. The importance of  $\text{Np}$  fission, which is a key intermediate nuclide in the nuclear fuel cycle and has accumulated extensive experimental data on

its fission barrier [42–44], makes it a suitable candidate for validating the reliability of the present detector array.

In this work, coincidence measurements between fission fragments and beam-like particles were performed for the weakly bound  ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{238}\text{U}$  system at the near-barrier energy  $E_{\text{Lab}} = 36.8$  MeV. The variation of the fission probability

Nuclear reactions with heavy-ions at energies around the Coulomb barrier are of great significance for studying the interplay between nuclear structure and reaction dynamics. Weakly bound nucleus induced reactions, owing to their low separation energy thresholds [1] and cluster structures [2–4], exhibit complicated reaction mechanisms of breakup, incomplete fusion and cluster transfers in the near-barrier energy region. Over the past three decades, to thoroughly investigate the reaction mechanisms induced by weakly bound nuclei, many silicon strip detector arrays have been developed worldwide, such as MUST [5], LEDA [6], EXPADES [7], GLORIA [8], MITA [9] and STARE [10]. These detector arrays have greatly advanced the experimental research in this field.

However, several key issues in weakly bound nuclear systems still remain.

Among them, the competition between breakup-incomplete fusion and transfer reactions, as well as the controversy over their relative contributions, has persisted for decades [11–16]. From an experimental perspective, since both breakup and transfer processes can produce the same beam-like particles (BLP), it is difficult to effectively distinguish between these two reaction mechanisms from an inclusive measurement. To address this, various experimental techniques have been developed over the years, including  $\alpha$  decay measurements of target-like particles (TLP) [13, 15, 17], coincidence of BLP- $\gamma$  [12, 16, 18–28], and BLP-fission fragment (FF) [26–28]. Compared to the coincidence measurements with  $\alpha$ -decay or  $\gamma$ , which suffer

Supported by the National Key R&D Program of China (Contract Nos. 2023YFA1606402 and 2022FYA1602301), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant Nos. 12235020, 12275360, U2167204 and 12175314), Platform Stable Support Projects of CNNC-PTWZ-202506 and the Continuous-Support Basic Scientific Research Project. † Corresponding author, jiahm@cnnemail.cn ‡ Corresponding author, cjlin@ciae.ac.cn

of the target-like nucleus  ${}^{239}\text{Np}$  with excitation energy was 124 at  $57^\circ$  and  $96^\circ$  respectively, based on the folding angle determined from the emitting BLP  ${}^6\text{He}$  originating from  $1p$  tribution. The forward-angle PPAC detector (PPACF) was  $71^\circ$  stripping, and the fission barrier height of  ${}^{239}\text{Np}$  was extracted at a distance of 187 mm from the target center, while the backward-angle one (PPACB) was placed at a distance of 73 mm. Section II. Section III presents the offline test results. Section IV discusses the in beam test results followed by the summary.

and from 52.5 to 140.2°, respectively. The total solid angle covered by the two PPAC detectors ( $\Omega_{PPAC}$ ) amounts to 75% in Section V. 131 to  $0.85\pi$ .

Four PIN silicon detectors were placed at fixed forward angles of  $\pm 15^\circ$  and  $\pm 20^\circ$  relative to the beam direction as II. THE HYBRID DETECTOR ARRAY monitors 134 detectors. They were used to monitor the beam direction and The detector array is illustrated in Fig. 1 [Figure 1: see original paper], where the arrow indicates the beam direction. Four  $\Delta E$ -E silicon strip detectors

telescopes Si0–3 were placed at backward angles of  $112^\circ$  and  $155^\circ$  relative to the beam direction to identify the 81 beam-like particles. Each telescope consists of three layers of  $50 \times 50$  mm silicon detectors: the first layer is a single-sided silicon strip detector (SSSD) with a nominal thickness of 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , the second layer is an SSSD with a thickness of 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the third layer is a quadrant silicon detector (QSD) with a thickness of 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ . Each SSSD is segmented into 16 strips with the strip orientations of the first two layers perpendicular to each other, forming 256 pixels with areas of  $3.0 \times 3.0$  mm<sup>2</sup>. All the SSSDs and QSDs were manufactured by the Micron Semiconductor Ltd [45]. The first and second layers are used to detect heavier particles such as Li and He isotopes, while the second and third layers are used to detect lighter particles like p, d and t.

The distances from the target to the detectors are 162.7 mm for Si0,1 and 167.5 mm for Si2,3, with an angular coverage of  $\pm 0.55$  per pixel. The total solid angle covered by the four silicon detectors is 97%. A 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  thick Mylar film was installed in front of each silicon telescope to minimize the influence of low-energy electrons on the first layer silicon detectors during online experiments. All silicon detectors mainly consisting of four  $\Delta E$ -E silicon strip detector telescopes and 101 tubes were coupled with self-made integrated charge-sensitive two PPAC detectors. The long arrow indicates the beam direction. 102 preamplifiers [46] in vacuum, working in a cooled condition to optimize the energy resolution and ensure performance stability. These preamplifiers have been applied in several experiments and exhibit excellent and stable performance [10, 47–III. OFFLINE TESTS 106 50].

Two PPACs, each with an active area of  $296 \times 200$  mm<sup>2</sup>, Good energy and position resolutions are essential for kinetic energy measurements to detect the fission fragments. Both the entrance and exit windows are 2.0- $\mu\text{m}$ -thick Mylar film. Both PPACs adopt a conventional three-electrode structure, consisting of a cathode, an X anode, and a Y anode. Therefore, offline performance tests were conducted using a three-component  $\alpha$  Cf fission source for 112 from the anode plane to the cathode plane is 3.0 mm. The source for the silicon detectors and a detectors, order obtain their performance and anode wires are 20- $\mu\text{m}$ -diameter gold-plated tungsten wires determine optimal operating conditions. 114 with a spacing of 1.0 mm between every two wires and coupled to delay

lines. Two adjacent wires in the X direction 116 were read out together as one channel, while three adjacent A. Silicon detector performance with a three-component  $\alpha$  117 wires in the Y direction were read out together as one. There- 145 source 118 fore, each PPAC has 146 position information in X direction 119 and 66 position information in Y direction. More detailed 120 description of the PPAC can be found in [51]. The electron- 147 The three-component  $\alpha$  source consists of 239 Pu, 241 Am 121 ics system was used to acquire TDC time signals and ADC 148 and Cm. The 20- $\mu\text{m}$  thick silicon layer is too thin for com122 energy signals.

To maximize the detection efficiency with 149 plete energy deposition of these  $\alpha$ s, and the  $\alpha$  particles will 123 appropriate counting rates, the two PPACs were positioned 150 hit the 300- $\mu\text{m}$  layer. A typical E1 -E2 energy spectrum of  $\alpha$

particles detected in a pixel of Si0 is shown in Fig. 2 Figure 2: see original paper. The 166 of 4.5 Torr and a high voltage of  $-550$  V for both PPACs. large variation in the energy loss observed in the first silicon 167 A typical result obtained for 252 Cf fission fragments under 153 layer is mainly attributed to the thickness non-uniformity of 168 these conditions is shown in Fig. 3 [Figure 3: see original paper]. Panels (a) and (b) show 154 the thin silicon detector. The total energy E1 +E2 spectrum 169 the typical position resolution spectra of PPACB in the X 155 is shown in Fig. 2(b). The three separate groups correspond 170 and Y directions, respectively. The position calibration was 156 to the three components. A Gaussian fit to the peak of 5.486 171 obtained from the linear proportional relationship between 157 MeV  $\alpha$  particles emitted from Am yields an energy reso- 172 the time signal difference and the geometric position. From 158 lution of 1.2% for the total energy E1 +E2 , as shown by the 173 Gaussian fits to the position peaks, the average FWHM of 174 the detector in the X and Y direction are  $0.94 \pm 0.03$  mm and 159 solid line. 175  $2.21 \pm 0.08$  mm, respectively. It can be seen that good position 176 resolution was achieved from both the X and Y directions.

(MeV)

Counts

X (mm)

E (MeV)

Counts

Counts

Y (mm)

source. (a) Position spectrum in the X direction. (b) Position spectrum in the Y direction.

FWHM =

67(2) KeV

E +E (MeV)

IV. IN BEAM TEST tector telescope tested with a three-component  $\alpha$  source. (a) E1 -E2 spectrum of the  $\alpha$  particles from the decay of the three-component The experiment was conducted at the HI-13 tandem accel $\alpha$  source. (b) Total energy E1 +E2 spectrum. The Gaussian fitting 178 (solid line) for the middle group gives an energy resolution of 1.2% 179 erator of the China Institute of Atomic Energy. The 238 U for the 5.486 MeV  $\alpha$  peak. 180 target was selected considering the high fissility of its target-

like particles after transfer reactions. The 238 U target with a 182 thickness of 370  $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}$  was sandwiched between a 33 nm 183 aluminum foil and a 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}$  carbon backing. The target 184 was fixed at the center of the hybrid detector array with a B. PPAC position resolution with a 252 Cf source 185 normal angle of 30 relative to the beam direction, in order to 186 minimize the energy loss of fission fragments in the target and The position resolution of the PPAC detector mainly de- 187 the dead area caused by the target frame. The reaction energy U is  $E_{\text{lab}} = 36.8$  MeV. The irradiation time was 162 pends on the nature of the incident ions, the working gas, 188 for Li + 163 and the applied high voltage.

Isobutane gas with a purity 189 20 hours with a beam intensity of 10 enA. The low-energy Br + 238 U elastic scattering was selected to calibrate the 164 of 99.99% was used as the working gas of PPAC detectors. 190 165 The optimal operating conditions were achieved at a pressure 191 geometrical alignment of the two PPACs.

Calibration of the PPACs by using 79 Br + 238 U elastic scattering

Elastic scattering of 79 Br + 238 U at a beam energy 170 195 MeV was used to calibrate the geometry of the two PPACs. 196 The obtained folding angle distribution of the Br + 238 U 197 elastic scattering is shown in Fig. 4 [Figure 4: see original paper]. The red solid line repre198 sents the scattered beam component, while the green dashed 199 line represents the recoiled target nucleus component. The 200 good agreement of the experimental data with the kinematic 201 calculations confirms the good position calibration and instal202 lation geometry.

$E = 36.8$  MeV

E (MeV)

(degree)

E +E (MeV)

E (MeV)

= 155°

(degree)

E (MeV)

U elastic scattering at 170 MeV. The X-axis shows the  $\theta$  coverage angle of the PPACs, and the Y-axis shows the folding angle of the two simultaneously emitted fragments. The lines represent kinematic calculations, where the red solid line corresponds to the scattered beam component (Sc), and the green dashed line corresponds to the recoiled target nucleus component (Rc).

charged particles in  ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{238}\text{U}$  at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 36.8$  MeV and  $\theta_{\text{lab}} = 155^\circ$ . (a) Identification of the heavier particles using the first and second layers. (b) Identification of the lighter particles using the second and third layers.

He-gated fission fragment folding angle distribution

The  ${}^6\text{He}$  exit channel in the  ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{238}\text{U}$  system was firstly selected to test the performance of the detector array consisting of 203 B. Identification of beam-like particles brings its following advantages: 1) For measurement, the energy loss of scattered Li particles in PPAC is small, which A typical inclusive  $\Delta E$ -E particle identification spectrum reduces the counting rate of PPAC especially in the angular region measured by the silicon strip detector telescope Si0 in  ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{238}\text{U}$  system with small  $\theta$  relative to the beam direction and hence U at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 36.8$  MeV and  $\theta_{\text{lab}} = 155^\circ$  is shown in Fig. 5 [Figure 5: see original paper]. 2) For the emitting  ${}^{207}\text{Po}$  in Fig. 5(a), E1 is the energy loss in the first layer, and E1 + E2 channel, the origin of He from 1p stripping should be dominant is the sum of the energy loss in the first layer and the residual energy compared to the breakup mechanism due to the large Li. 3) For  ${}^6\text{He}$ , the energy deposited in the second layer. He and Li isotopes proton separation energy of 9.97 MeV for  ${}^{210}\text{Po}$  are well identified in this spectrum. The band corresponding to  ${}^{210}\text{Po}$  has no bound excitation states, thus avoiding the ambiguity relating to He is prominent, and these particles are completely associated with excitation energy partition in the exit channel. 212 stopped in the second layer. Specifically, the observation of  ${}^{232}\text{Th}$  indicates the occurrence of the 1p-stripping process in complementary fission fragments obtained from the cathodes of the Li-induced reaction. In Fig. 5(b), E2 is the energy loss of the two PPACs in  ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{238}\text{U}$  at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 36.8$  MeV, where E2 is in the second layer, and E3 is the residual energy deposited in the third layer. In this spectrum, the hydrogen isotopes p, d,  ${}^3\text{He}$  and  ${}^4\text{He}$  are well identified. The d and t particles are completely identified. The heavy fragments produced in the reaction are mainly concentrated in the channel range of 1000-3000. Consequently, the  ${}^{218}\text{Po}$  stopped in the third layer.

E (Channel)

considering that the measured  ${}^6\text{He}$  particles emitted in the backward angular region will transfer larger linear momentum to the target nucleus compared to situation in CF events.

He-gated

Counts

E (Channel)

complementary fission fragments measured by PPACF and PPACB in  $7 \text{ Li} + 238 \text{ U}$  at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 36.8 \text{ MeV}$ . The red dashed contour indicates the selected fission events used for further analysis.

(degree)

triangles) obtained in  $7 \text{ Li} + 238 \text{ U}$  at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 36.8 \text{ MeV}$ . The doubleGaussian fitting curve is for the total fission, where the higher peak corresponds the CF components in accordance with the arrow position calculated by assuming Viola kinematics [52], and the lower peak corresponds to the non-complete momentum transfer components. The solid line is the summed one. The fitting for 6 Hecoincident one is shown as the dash-dotted line.

clean fission events selected for subsequent analysis are enclosed within the red contour.

The folding angle distribution is a sensitive probe to select the non-complete momentum transfer events. The folding angle distribution for all events in which both fission fragments were detected by PPACF and PPACB in  $7 \text{ Li} + 238 \text{ U}$  at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 36.8 \text{ MeV}$  is shown in Fig. 7 [Figure 7: see original paper] as solid circles. These events correspond to the total fission (TF) yield, including both complete-fusion fission and fission following direct recombination. Fission probability of  $239 \text{ Np}$  as a function of excitation energy obtained from the  $238 \text{ U}(7 \text{ Li}, 6 \text{ He})239 \text{ Np}$  reaction. A double-Gaussian fitting, shown as the solid line, was used to roughly fit the shape. The main component concentrating at  $173^\circ$  agrees with the Viola systematics [52] assuming the fission barrier height corresponds to the excitation energy from the complete fusion (CF) with full-momentum transfer where the fission probability is half of the maximum of the first-chance fission probability [53]. Experimentally, the method based on the variation of the fission probability with complete fusion events.

A total of 1790 triple coincidence events of 6 He particles excitation energy has been widely used to obtain the fission with both fission fragments detected by PPACF and PPACB barrier height of a nuclide [41, 43, 44, 54]. 258 were obtained, yielding the folding angle distribution shown in the present case, the measured 6 He particles can only be seen in Fig. 7 as the solid triangles. It can be seen that the peak at  $173^\circ$  populate the ground state, so all the excitation energy in the position of the He correlated fission fragments shows obvious deviation from the peak position of  $173^\circ$ . It is roughly the exit channel is imparted to the TLP Np. By measuring the energy and emission angle  $\theta$  of He, the excitation energy of Np can be unambiguously

determined by applying the 262 reproduced by the single Gaussian fitting with a smaller peak 281 of 263 angle compared to the CF, shown as the dash-dotted line in 282 conservation laws of energy and momentum [54]:

$$E_a (M_a - M_B) - E_b (M_b + M_B) + 2 M_a M_b E_{lab} E_b \cos \theta E = Q_{gg} -$$

where a, b and B represent the beam, beam-like and target- 288 emitting particles. like particles, respectively.  $M_i$  represents the mass of each 289 The fission probability  $P_{Fis}$ , extracted from the double co286 nucleus involved in the reaction,  $Q_{gg}$  is the Q-value of the 290 incidence between the BLP and either FF, is defined as the 287 transfer reaction populating the ground states for the two 291 ratio of the fission cross section  $\sigma_{Fis}$  to the reaction cross

section  $\sigma_r$  for forming the compound nucleus in the specific transfer channel [44, 54]. For PPACi, the corresponding 294 quantity  $P_{Fis}$  is given by

where NBLP is the count of the outgoing beam-like 6 He par297 ticles detected by the silicon strip detectors, corresponding 298 to TLP events; NBLP-FFi is the count obtained from coinci299 dence between BLP and any fission fragment detected by ei300 ther PPAC detector, corresponding to events where the TLPs 301 undergo fission;  $\epsilon_i$  is the fission detection efficiency defined 302 as [41]

$$2\Omega PPAC_i$$

$$NBLP-FF_i(E^*) NBLP(E^*) \epsilon_i(E^*)$$

$$P / 0.3 \text{ MeV}$$

$$(E^*) =$$

$$= 5.81(13) \text{ MeV}$$

$$E \text{ (MeV)}$$

The factor of 2 in the numerator is due to producing two fission fragments in a fission event. This is the so-called as a function of the excitation energy  $E^*$  for 239 Np by using the 306 geometrical efficiency.

This definition has been widely U(7 Li,6 He)239 Np at  $E_{lab} = 36.8 \text{ MeV}$ . The solid circles represent 307 used [41, 43, 44] and confirmed reliable within a deviation the experimental data, and the solid line is the fitting curve by using 308 of 10%-level recently for Am(3 He,t)243 Cm within an exEq. 4. 309 citation energy range of 5.5-15.0 MeV by comparing with a 310 Monte Carlo simulation result based on a high statistical meamax 311 surement of the fission fragment angular distribution [54]. In and BFis for 239 Np from 312 addition, corrections for both the intrinsic efficiency and the U(7 Li,6 He)239 Np reaction channel by using coincidence with random 313 random coincidence efficiency ( $P$ ) were applied. The PPACF or PPACB . random 314 intrinsic efficiency was determined by comparing the number Method PFis 315 of backward fission fragments identified in coincidence with BLP-FFF 0.01 0.57(4) 5.81(13) 316 the forward PPAC within a confined angular region expected BLP-FFB 0.01 0.63(4)

5.82(12) 317 to be covered by the backward PPAC, and was found to be a random 318 proximately 99.6% in the present experiment. P 319 estimated from the correlation between elastically scattered 345 nuclei typically exhibit a complex double-humped fission barrier Li particles and fission fragments, for which no real fission 346 barrier structure, it is well known that the use of a single-humped 347 Hill-Wheeler approximation allows for a consistent derivation 321 is expected, and was found to be approximately 0.01.

The experimentally extracted fission probability  $P_{\text{fission}}$  of the barrier height corresponding to the higher one determined from coincidence with PPACF as a function of excitation energy  $E^*$  for the target-like nucleus  $^{239}\text{Np}$  is shown in Fig. 8 [Figure 8: see original paper] as solid circles, where the error bars represent only statistical uncertainties. The measurement covers a wide excitation energy range below 12.5 MeV, and the obtained  $P_{\text{fission}}(E^*) = \exp[-2\pi(B_{\text{fission}} - E^*)]$  327 tion energy range below 12.5 MeV, and the obtained  $P_{\text{fission}} + \exp[-2\pi(B_{\text{fission}} - E^*)]$  328 0.57(4), averaged over all pixels of the silicon detector telescope 329 scopes. The result obtained from coincidence with PPACB 352 where  $P_{\text{fission}}$ ,  $B_{\text{fission}}$ , and  $\omega$  are adjustable parameters representing 330 is similar, giving  $P_{\text{fission}} = 0.63(4)$ . A significant discrepancy 353 senting the maximum fission probability for the first-chance 331 is observed between the present ( $P_{\text{fission}}$ ) result and the literature 354 fission, fission barrier height, and fission barrier curvature, 332 value reported by JAEA [44]. The lower value reported 355 respectively. 333 by JAEA is attributed to the strong horizontal tail of elastically 356 Using Eq. 4, the fit was carried out over the sub-barrier and 334 elastically scattered particles produced in the above-barrier O + 357 first-chance fission energy region. The fitting result, shown in Fig. 8, reproduces the rising part 336 fission probability in the excitation energy region near the fission 359 of the fission probability curve well, and the extracted fission 337 fission barrier, as well as to the use of a relatively large 0.8 MeV 360 barrier heights  $B_{\text{fission}}$  are listed in Table 1. As shown in the 338 bin width, resulting from poor energy resolution. 361 table, the extracted values of  $P_{\text{fission}}$  and  $B_{\text{fission}}$  are consistent. For the fitting to the fission barrier, it should be pointed out 362 for different fission fragment emission angles. This provides 340 that due to the fact that the rising part of the fission probability 363 experimental evidence that the effect of angular anisotropy on 341 its curve in Fig. 8 contains only a few data points, this limited 364 the extracted results is minor [54]. 342 energy resolution precludes the observation of any resonance 365 The comparison of the average value of the extracted fission 339 343 (class-II) sub-barrier structures, which are sensitive to both 366 fission barrier height  $5.82 \pm 0.13$  MeV for  $\text{Np}$  from this work 344 the inner and outer barrier heights [55]. Although actinide 367 with the literature data [42-44] is shown in Table 2. It can be

U system at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 36.8$  MeV. Benefiting from the good

work in comparison with the literature data [42-44]. 385 for He, a good excitation

tion energy resolution for the excitation Reaction BFis (MeV) Refs. 386 energy of Np was obtained. The folding angle distribu238

U(7 Li,6 He)239 Np  $5.82 \pm 0.13$  This work Np(18 O,16 O)239 Np  $5.86 \pm 0.09$   
 U(3 He, d)239 Np  $5.85 \pm 0.30$  U(3 He, d)239 Np  $5.70 \pm 0.20$

tion gives further support for incomplete momentum transfer in the beam-like 6 He emitting channel. Furthermore, the

### 389 BFis of

Np was extracted from the dependence of fission 390 probability on excitation energy. The result is in good agree391 ment with the available results. The reliability of extraction 392 of the fission barrier height based on nucleon transfer reac368 seen that the present experimental result is in good consis393 tions induced by light projectiles by using the present setup 369 tence with the available data [42-44], validating the feasibil394 has been validated. This opens up the possibility of supple370 ity of determining fission barrier heights via transfer-induced 395 menting experimental fission data for more short-lived and 371 fission using the present detector array. 396 highly radioactive actinide nuclides. On the other hand, the 397 quantitative extraction of breakup- or transfer-induced fission 398 in the  $\alpha$ - and t- emitting channels by using the obtained data V. SUMMARY 399 is in progress.

In this work, a hybrid detector array for coincidence measurements of the direct reaction products and the fission AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS 375 fragments has been designed and fabricated. The combina376 tion of large-area silicon strip detectors and large-sensitiveAll authors contributed to the study conception and design. 377 area PPAC detectors provides a large solid-angle coverage of 401 378  $0.95\pi$  for the detector array, significantly improving the coin- 402 Material preparation was performed by C.J. Lin, H.M. Jia, J. 379 cidence detection efficiency and hence enabling the extension 403 Feng, and Y.J. Qiu. Data analysis and the first draft of the 404 manuscript were prepared by S.X. Zhu.

All authors com380 to the reaction channels with smaller cross sections.

The present hybrid detector array has been applied to FF- 405 mented on previous versions of the manuscript and approved 382 BLP coincidence measurement for the weakly bound Li + 406 the final version.

## REFERENCES

- [8] G. Marquínez-Durán, L. Acosta, R. Berjillos et al., GLORIA: A compact detector system for studying heavy ion reactions us436 ing radioactive beams, Nucl. Instr. Meth. A 755, 69-77 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2014.04.002>
- [1] L.F. Canto, P.R.S. Gomes, R. Donangelo et al., Fusion and Ma, L. Yang, C.J.

Lin et al., MITA: A Multilayer breakup of weakly bound nuclei, Phys. Rep. 424, 1-111 (2006).

Ionization-chamber Telescope Array for low-energy reactions with exotic nuclei, Eur. Phys. J. A 55, 87 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physrep.2005.10.006>

[2] R. Kaur, B.B. Singh, M. Kaur et al., Investigating  $6,7\text{ Li}$ -induced reactions on U through a collective cluster, Eur. Phys. J. A 55, 235 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1140/epja/i2019-12765-7>

[10] Y.S. Wu, G.L. Zhang, C.J. Lin et al., STARE: a new detectorization approach for exploring the breakup reaction mechanisms of weakly bound nuclei, Nucl. Sci. Tech. 36, 214 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.108.034611>

[3] W.V. Oertzen, M. Freer, Y. Kanada-En'yo, Nuclear clusters and nuclear molecules, Phys. Rep. 432, 43-113 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41365-025-01783-4>

[11] L. Yang, C.J. Lin, H.M. Jia et al., Experimental investigation of near-barrier reactions with weakly-bound nuclei at the

[4] K. Wei, Y.L. Ye, Z.H. Yang, Clustering in nuclei: progress and perspectives, Nucl. Sci. Tech. 35, 216 (2024). (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1140/epja/s10050-025-01598-2>

[12] V.V. Parkar, S.K. Sharma, R. Palit et al., Investigation of complete and incomplete fusion in the  $7\text{ Li} + 124\text{ Sn}$  reaction near Coulomb barrier energies, Phys. Rev. C 97, 014607 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.97.014607>

[13] M.

Dasgupta, P.R.S. Gome, D.J. Hinde et al., Experimental investigation of breakup on the fusion of  $6\text{ Li}$ ,  $7\text{ Li}$ , and  $9\text{ Be}$  with heavy nuclei, Phys. Rev. C 70, 024606 (2004). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.70.024606>

[14] L.

Jin, A.M. Moro, Unraveling the reaction mechanisms leading to partial fusion of weakly bound

[7] M. Romoli, E. Vardaci, A. Anastasio et al., EXPADES: A new detection system for charged particles in

experiments 460 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.123.232501> with RIBs, Nucl. Instr. Meth. B 266, 4637-4642 (2008).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nimb.2008.05.121>

[15] K.J. Cook, E.C. Simpson, L.T. Bezzina et al., Origins of In- 525

[31] A. Chatillon, J. Taïeb, H. Alvarez-Pol et al., Experimental complete Fusion Products and the Suppression of Complete 526 study of nuclear fission along the thorium isotopic chain: From Fusion in Reactions of  $^7\text{Li}$ , Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 102501 527 asymmetric to symmetric fission, Phys. Rev. C 99, 054628 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.122.102501> (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.99.054628> 466

[16] A. Shrivastava, A. Navin, A. Diaz-Torres et al., Role 529

[32] A. Bulgac, S. Jin, I. Stetcu, Nuclear fission dynamics: of the cluster structure of  $^7\text{Li}$  in the dynamics of 530 Past, present, needs, and future, Front. Phys. 8, 63 (2020). fragment capture, Phys. Lett. B 718, 931-936 (2013). 531 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fphy.2020.00063> <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2012.11.064> 532

[33] M. Bender, R. Bernard, G. Bertsch et al., Future of nuclear 470

[17] M. Dasgupta, D.J. Hinde, R.D. Butt et al., Fusion ver- 533 fission theory, J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 47, 113002 (2020). sus breakup: Observation of large fusion suppression 534 <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6471/abab4f> for  $^9\text{Be} + ^{208}\text{Pb}$ , Phys. Rev. Lett. 82, 1395 (1999). 535

[34] M.D. Mathew, Nuclear energy: A pathway towards mitigation <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.82.1395> of global warming, Prog. Nucl. Energy 143, 104080 (2022). 474

[18] D.R.

Zolnowski, H. Yamada, S.E. Cala et al., Ev- 537 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pnucene.2021.104080> idence for “Massive Transfer” in Heavy-Ion Reactions 538

[35] M. Eichler, A. Arcones, A. Kelic et al., The role of fission in on Rare-Earth Targets, Phys. Rev. Lett. 41, 92 (1978). 539 neutron star mergers and its impact on the r-process peaks, <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.41.92> Astrophys. J. 808, 30 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1088/0004478>

[19] S. Bottoni, S. Leoni, B. Fornal et al., Cluster-transfer 541  $^{63}\text{Zn}/^{80}\text{Zr}/^{130}\text{Xe}$  reactions with radioactive beams: A spectroscopic tool 542

[36] N. Bohr, J.A. Wheeler, The Mechanism of for neutron-rich nuclei, Phys. Rev. C 92, 024322 (2015). 543 Nuclear Fission, Phys. Rev. 56, 426 (1939). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.92.024322> <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRev.56.426> 482

[20] S.K. Pandit, A. Shrivastava, K. Mahata et al., Unrav- 545

- [37] H.C. Britt, J.D. Cramer, Fission-Fragment Angular Correlations and the Reaction Mechanism for Large  $\alpha$  Production in Reactions Involving Weakly Bound Stable Nuclei, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **820**, 136570 (2021). 548
- [38] J.A. Northrop, R.H. Stokes, K. Boyer, Measurement of the Fission Thresholds of  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{233}\text{U}$ ,  $^{235}\text{U}$ , and  $^{238}\text{U}$ , *Phys. Lett. B* **820**, 136570 (2021). 548
- [21] S.K. Pandit, A. Shrivastava, K. Mahata et al., Investigation of Large  $\alpha$  Production in Reactions Involving Weakly Bound  $^7\text{Li}$ , *Phys. Rev. C* **96**, 044616 (2017). 552
- [39] Q. Ducasse, B. Jurado, M. Aiche et al., Investigation of the  $^{\text{U}}(\text{d}, \text{p})$  surrogate reaction via the simultaneous measurement of  $\gamma$ -decay and fission probabilities, *Phys. Rev. C* **94**, 064606 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.94.064606> (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.83.064606> (2011). 556
- [22] M.K. Pradhan, A. Mukherjee, P. Basu et al., Fusion of  $^7\text{Li}$  at near-barrier energies, *Phys. Rev. C* **83**, 064606 (2011). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.83.064606> (2011). 556
- [40] P. Glässel, H. Rösler, H.J. Specht, Intermediate structure in  $^{239}\text{Pu}(\text{d}, \text{pf})$  reaction, *Nucl. Phys. A* **256**, 220-242 (1976). complete fusion in the  $\text{Li} + \text{Y}$  reaction up to 7.2 MeV/nucleon energy, *Phys. Rev. C* **103**, 034620 (2021). 559
- [23] R. Prajapat, M. Maiti, Probing the influence of the  $^{239}\text{Pu}(\text{d}, \text{pf})$  reaction, *Nucl. Phys. A* **256**, 220-242 (1976). complete fusion in the  $\text{Li} + \text{Y}$  reaction up to 7.2 MeV/nucleon energy, *Phys. Rev. C* **103**, 034620 (2021). 559
- [41] B.B. Back, O. Hansen, H.C. Britt et al., Fission of doubly even actinide nuclei induced by direct reactions, *Phys. Rev. C* **9**, 498
- [24] P.K. Rath, S. Santra, N.L. Singh et al., Complete fusion in  $^{\text{Li}} + ^{\text{Sm}}$  reactions, *Phys. Rev. C* **88**, 044617 (2013). 562
- [42] B.B. Back, H.C. Britt, O. Hansen et al., Fission of odd-A and doubly odd actinide nuclei induced by direct reactions, *Phys. Rev. C* **9**, 498
- [25] M.L. Wang, G.X. Zhang, S.P. Hu et al., Study on the reaction channels in the  $^6\text{Li} + ^{89}\text{Y}$  system with multi-angular proton and neutron- $\gamma$  coincidences, *Phys. Rev. C* **10**, 1948 (1974). 565
- [43] A. Gavron, H.C. Britt, E. Konecny et al.,  $\Gamma_n/\Gamma_f$  for actinide nuclei using  $(^3\text{He}, \text{df})$  and  $(^3\text{He}, \text{tf})$  reactions, *Nucl. Phys. A* **1049**, 122914 (2024). 567

- ) reactions, Phys. Rev. C <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nuclphysa.2024.122914> 13, 2374 (1976). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.13.2374> 506
- [26] A. Pal, S. Santra, D. Chattopadhyay et al., Measure- 569
- [44] K.R. Kean, K. Nishio, K. Hirose et al., Validation of the method of incomplete fusion cross sections in  $6,7\text{ Li} + 238\text{ U}$  multinucleon transfer method for the determination of the  $6\text{ He} + 238\text{ U}$  reactions, Phys. Rev. C 99, 024620 (2019). 571 fission barrier height, Phys. Rev. C 100, 014611 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.99.024620> <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.100.014611> 510
- [27] R. Raabe, J.L. Sida, J.L. Charvet et al., No enhancement of 573
- [45] Micron Semiconductor Ltd., Royal Bldg, Marlborough Rd. fusion probability by the neutron halo of  $6\text{ He}$ , Nature 431, 823- 574 Lancing, Sussex, UK BN15 8UN, private communication. 826 (2004). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature02984> 575
- [46] D.X. Wang, C.J. Lin, L. Yang et al., Compact 16513
- [28] R. Raabe, C. Angulo, J.L. Charvet et al., Fusion and 576 channel integrated charge-sensitive preamplifier module for direct reactions around the barrier for the systems 577 silicon strip detectors, Nucl. Sci. Tech. 31, 48 (2020).  
Be,  $7\text{ Li} + 238\text{ U}$ , Phys. Rev. C 74, 044606 (2006). 578 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41365-020-00755-0> <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.74.044606> 579
- [47] H.M. Jia, C.J. Lin, B. Paes et al., No sub-Coulomb-barrier fu517
- [29] K.H. Schmidt, B. Jurado, Review on the progress in nuclear fis- 580 sion enhancement due to positive Q-value two-neutron strip518 sion—experimental methods and theoretical descriptions, Rep. 581 ping: The  $18\text{ O} + 58\text{ Ni}$  case, Phys. Rev. C 111, 034606 (2025).  
Prog. Phys. 81, 106301 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-582> <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.111.034606> 6633/aacfa7 583
- [48] H.R. Wang, C.J. Lin, N.R. Ma et al., The heavy-ion time521
- [30] A.N. Andreyev, K. Nishio, K.H. Schmidt, Nuclear fission: a 584 of-flight spectrometer HiToF, Nucl. Sci. Tech. 36, 53 (2025). review of experimental advances and phenomenology, Rep. 585 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41365-025-01819-9> Prog. Phys. 81, 016301 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-586>
- [49] L. Yang, C.J. Lin, H.M. Jia et al., Optical model po524 6633/aa82eb tentials for  $6\text{ He} + 64\text{ Zn}$  from  $63\text{ Cu}(7\text{ Li}, 6\text{ He})64\text{ Zn}$  reactions, Phys. Rev. C 95, 034616 (2017). 604
- [54] G. Kessedjian, B. Jurado, G. Barreau et al., Fission <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.95.034616> probabilities of  $242\text{ Am}$ ,  $243\text{ Cm}$ , and  $244\text{ Cm}$  induced 590

[50] L. Yang, C.J. Lin, H.M. Jia et al., Is the Disper- 606 by transfer reactions, Phys. Rev. C 91, 044607 (2015). sion Relation Applicable for Exotic Nuclear Sys- 607 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.91.044607> tems?

The Abnormal Threshold Anomaly in the 6 He 608

[55] S. Bjørnholm, J.E. Lynn, The double-humped fis593 + 209 Bi System, Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 042503 (2017). 609 sion barrier. Rev. Mod. Phys. 52, 725 (1980). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.119.042503> <https://doi.org/10.1103/RevModPhys.52.725> 595

[51] X.L. Wei, F.H. Guan, H.R. Yang, et al., Development of 611

[56] J.D. Cramer, J.R. Nix, Exact Calculation of the Penetrability Parallel Plate Avalanche Counter for heavy ion collision in 612 Through Two-Peaked Fission Barriers, Phys. Rev. C 2, 1048 radioactive ion beam, Nucl. Eng. Technol. 52, 575 (2020). 613 (1970). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.2.1048> <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.net.2019.08.020> 614

[57] D.L. Hill J.A. Wheeler, Nuclear Constitution and the Inter599

[52] V.E. Viola, K. Kwiatkowski, M. Walker, Systematics of fission 615 pretation of Fission Phenomena, Phys. Rev. 89, 1102 (1953). fragment total kinetic energy release, Phys. Rev. C 31, 1550 616 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRev.89.1102> (1985). <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.31.1550> 602

[53] R. Vandenbosch, J.R. Huizenga, Nuclear Fission (Academic, New York, 1973), p. 227.

*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

*Source: ChinaXiv – Machine translation. Verify with original.*