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The status of new fragment separator ACCULINNA-2 project and the first day experiments

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Abstract. The new facility fragment separator ACCULINNA-2 will be put into operation at the beginning of 2015 in FLNR JINR. The new separator is destined to add considerably to the studies of drip-line nuclei performed with the use of variety of direct reactions known to be distinctive to the 15 – 50 MeV/amu exotic secondary RIBs. Intense beams provided by the U-400M cyclotron will ensure the achievement of this objective. In addition to the RIB separation accomplished by means of the dipole-wedge-dipole selection, the addition of a zero-degree dipole magnet setup is foreseen. A long (13 m) straight section will provide precise time-of-flight measurements.

1 Fragment separator ACCULINNA-2

FLNR JINR project ACCULINNA-2 [1] is a new facility – fragment separator, producing secondary RIBs for nuclear physics experiments. High intensity, DC mode primary beam of U-400M cyclotron hits the solid beryllium, rotated liquid-cooled production target. Warm magnets including sextupole and octupole elements are used to form the ion-optical separator line. RIB separation is accomplished by means of dipole-wedge-dipole selection. Low intensity secondary part of separator is placed outside the accelerator closed area providing good background conditions in the experimental area.

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ACCULINNA-2 will upgrade the system of ACCULINNA to a new quality of secondary beams: rising of the RIB intensities is 10 times and more; beam purity will be higher, especially for proton-rich RIBs; quite precise ToF measurement will be provided by a 13-m flight base; zero-degree spectrometer for registration of beam-like reaction products will be added soon after the startup of the main separator. Primary beams provided by the U-400M cyclotron could produce the following RIBs, as shown in Table 1.

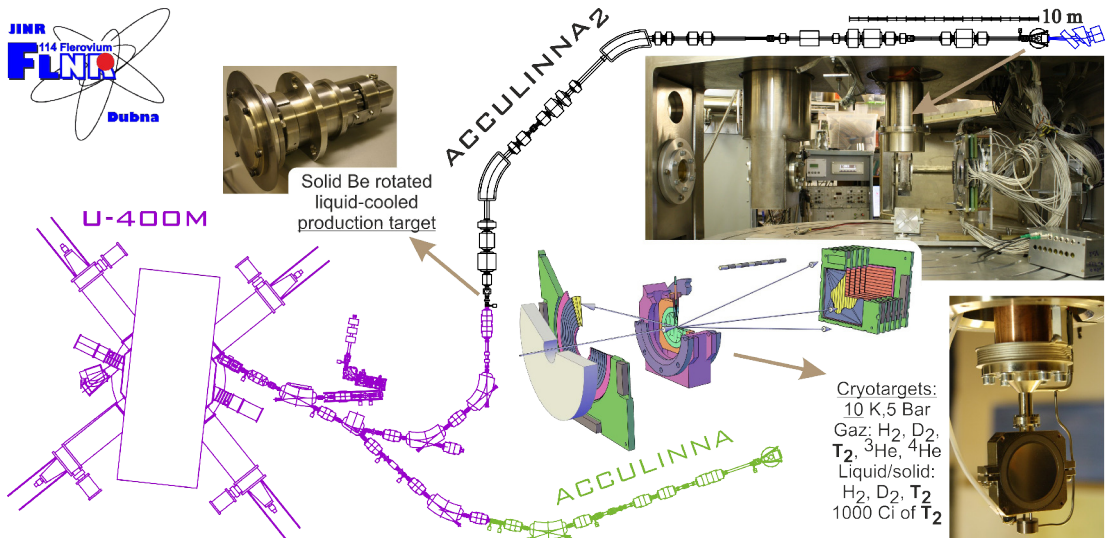


Figure 1. ACCULINNA, ACCULINNA-2 layout and experimental setup

Zero-degree spectrometer should be included into start version. The developed spectrometer will cover $\pm 2.8^\circ$ acceptance for the beam-like reaction products with a 1 mm in/out position accuracy and with ToF identification. The commissioning of the separator is planned in 2014, the first experiments are to be carried out in 2015.

Table 1. Expected secondary beams of ACCULINNA-2 without RF-kicker. Acceptance: $\Delta B\rho/B\rho = \pm 2\%$, $\Delta\theta_x = \Delta\theta_y = \pm 30$ mrad, F3-Slit = 10 mm

Primary beam	E_{beam} , AMeV	I_{beam} , μA	RIB	E_{WRIB} , AMeV	I_{RIB} , pps	Purity %
${}^7\text{Li}^{2+}$	34.0	4	${}^6\text{He}$	28	3.5×10^7	99
${}^{11}\text{B}^{3+}$	33.0	10	${}^8\text{He}$	24.5	2.8×10^5	99
-	-	-	${}^9\text{Li}$	23.5	1.5×10^7	99
${}^{15}\text{N}^{5+}$	47.0	10	${}^8\text{He}$	35	1.4×10^5	99
-	-	-	${}^{11}\text{Li}$	38	2.0×10^4	93
${}^{18}\text{O}^{6+}$	51.0	10	${}^{11}\text{Li}$	40	2.5×10^4	90
-	-	-	${}^{14}\text{Be}$	42	5.8×10^3	98
-	-	-	${}^{15}\text{B}$	41	1.6×10^6	97
${}^{36}\text{S}^{11+}$	40.6	10	${}^{24}\text{O}$	23	7.7×10^3	9
-	-	-	${}^{17}\text{B}$	21.5	2.2×10^3	10
${}^{10}\text{B}^{3+}$	40.0	10	${}^8\text{B}$	26.5	3.6×10^7	45
${}^{20}\text{Ne}^{7+}$	54.5	10	${}^{13}\text{O}$	31.5	3.0×10^6	8

Primary beam	E_{beam} , AMeV	I_{beam} , μA	RIB	E_{WRIB} , AMeV	I_{RIB} , pps	Purity %
-	-	-	^{14}O	34.0	7.1×10^7	45
-	-	-	^{17}Ne	32.5	1.2×10^7	75
$^{32}\text{S}^{11+}$	51.4	10	^{24}Si	25.0	5.9×10^4	1.2
-	-	-	^{27}S	23	1.3×10^3	0.5

With its quite a short ion-optical line ACCULINNA-2 will allow to detect short-lived (down to 150 ns) exotic nuclei emerging straight from the production target. The RIB energy range 15 – 50 MeV/amu is not wide spread, but well suited for the production and study of drip-line nuclei obtained in charge-exchange and transfer reactions taking place in bombardments of light targets (e.g. hydrogen, deuterium, tritium, helium-3 etc.) with the ACCULINNA-2 secondary beams.

2 Instrumentation

Various kinds of instruments are being developed and/or are already applied in the current experiments performed at the RIBs of the working ACCULINNA separator. A typical setup consists of the RIB diagnostic ToF and Multi Wire Proportional Chambers (MWPC), cryogenic gas/liquid target, charged particle telescopes, and, optionally, neutron detectors wall, γ -ray detectors around the target.

Two identical ToF detectors, placed on both ends of the straight beam line (ACCULINNA: 8 m/ ACCULINNA-2: 13 m), provide for the RIBs the energy-loss and time-of-flight measurements, event-by-event. The dE-ToF method and time measurements with amplitude correction and absolute calibration provide energy resolution not worse than 0,5% (FWHM) and robust ion identification at count rate up-to 5 MHz.

Each detector consists of thin organic scintillator, typically 100 – 250 μm thick and 2 or 4 PMTs, placed perpendicular to the beam and catching the light coming out from the scintillator. The signals are split to leading edge discriminator and QDC with fast amplification if needed.

Beam tracking done by two MWPCs grants the determination of the hit position of individual RIBs on the physics target with a 2-mm accuracy and limited count rate of 1 MHz.

Cryogenic physics targets have been successfully used in all key experiments at ACCULINNA, for example, a unique tritium target device is described in [2]. Target cells with thin stainless steel foil windows $\text{\O}20$ mm have good ratio of active/dead material and in/out aperture not less $\pm 45^\circ$, working temperature down to 10 K for rising density and changing state of matter.

Table 2. Available physical targets for ACCULINNA/ACCULINNA-2

Working gas	Phase	Cell thickness, mm	Windows, SS foils	Pressure, bar	Max thickness, atoms/ cm^2
$\text{H}_2, \text{D}_2, ^3\text{He}, ^4\text{He}$	Gas	4-6	$2 \times (6 - 13) \mu\text{m}$	5	2×10^{21}
H_2, D_2	Liquid / solid	0.4-0.6	$2 \times 6 \mu\text{m}$	0.5-1.5 / 0.2	2.5×10^{21}
T_2	Gas / Liquid	4-6 / 0.4-0.6	$4 \times 9 \mu\text{m}$	0.9 / 0.5-0.9	1×10^{21}

Two geometries for charged particle detector telescopes are being used: coaxial with hole in center and square shaped. For both geometries a wide range of detectors is available for covering full path of lightest particles with the accessible energy, see Table 3. A few telescopes can be combined on the axis and/or in plane to accept the necessary angles.

The study of neutron-rich nuclei can be completed with neutron detection provided by an array of 32 monocrystal scintillator stilbene detectors. Crystals $\text{\O}80 \times 50 \text{ mm}^3$ with PMT and related electronics are packed in compact, $\text{\O}107$ mm, steel shield. The threshold for n- γ discrimination 400 keV in

neutron scale (55 keV for electrons) is obtained in total vs. slow QDC integrals comparison. Time resolution better 1 ns allows to reduce ToF base for neutrons to 1.5-2 m.

Data acquisition system combines typically 200 parameters of ToF, MWPC, Si and CsI(Tl) for charged particles, neutron and γ -ray detectors in VME standard with 3 kHz accepted triggers. This solution is described in [3].

Table 3. Available detectors for charge particles

Geometry	Active size, mm	Strip structure, Front/Back	Thickness, μm	Array CsI(Tl)
coaxial	$\varnothing 84 / \varnothing 33$ hole	32 sectors / 1	1000	$\varnothing 86 / \varnothing 31$ hole 16 sectors Thickness: 18 or 25 mm
		32 sectors / 32 rings	300, 1000	
	1/8 (45°) of $\varnothing 70 / \varnothing 26$ hole	1 / 1	40-45	
square	62x62	32 X / 1	1000	65 x 65 mm ² 4 x 4 square Thickness: 30 mm
		32 X / 32 Y	300, 1000	
	58x58	16 X / 1	22, 65	
	40x40	40 X / 40 Y	65	

3 Experimental program

New results obtained in continuation of a recent ^{10}He study [4] show the potential of the (t,p) and (d,p) type reactions for precise study of heavier nuclei nearby the neutron drip line. The excitation spectra of $^{11-13}\text{Li}$, $^{13-16}\text{Be}$, $^{16-19}\text{B}$, and $^{19-22}\text{C}$ will be a first-priority task for ACCULINNA-2. The search for the few-neutron radioactive decays is a challenging task requiring also application of novel experimental approaches. Quite sufficient intensities of the ^{24}O , $^{26,27}\text{F}$, $^{28-30}\text{Ne}$ RIBs offered by ACCULINNA-2 will be admissible for the study of resonant states of respective nuclei (e.g. $^{24-26}\text{O}$) lying near and beyond the drip line.

The choice of ACCULINNA-2 RIBs will offer especially favorable conditions for the study of nuclei beyond the proton drip line carried out with the use of the (p,d), (p,t) and (^3He ,n) reactions. Recently, the ACCULINNA group performed a dedicated search for the drip line nucleus ^{26}S produced in fragmentation of a 50.3 MeV/amu ^{32}S beam [5]. An upper half-life limit of $T_{1/2} < 79$ ns was set for ^{26}S in this study. Any dedicated search has not been performed yet for the neighbor nuclei ^{21}Mg , ^{30}Ar , and ^{34}Ca , which could exist with half-lives shorter than 100 ps. The properties of these nuclei (including also ^{26}S) could be ascertained well with the ACCULINNA-2 RIBs.

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