

Some Important Features of Relativistic Charged Particles Produced in ^{32}S -Emulsion Interactions at 200 AGeV/c

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Abstract

An attempt has been made to study the multiplicity, angular and pseudo rapidity distributions of relativistic charged particles emerging from the interactions between sulphur and nuclear emulsion nuclei at 200 GeV/nucleon. The distributions from 200 AGeV are compared to the corresponding distributions from the predictions of Monte Carlo code FRITIOF samples. The pseudo rapidity distributions in different N_h -intervals translate to the target fragmentation region with increasing target mass. Finally, the scaling of multiplicity distributions of shower particles successfully describes the consequences of KNO scaling.

Keywords

Nucleus-Nucleus Collisions, Multiplicity Distribution, Multiplicity Correlations, KNO Scaling, FRITIOF Model

1. Introduction

The advent of heavy ion beams at the CERN Super-proton Synchrotron (SPS) has opened a new field of ultrarelativistic heavy-ion collisions for systematic studies about the mechanism of particle production. The availability of heavy-ion beams at high energies has given an opportunity to detect the existence of new phase of hadronic matter, namely the Quark-Gluon-Plasma (QGP) [1] [2] in laboratory. It is important to achieve complete information regarding the mechanism of particle production in nucleus-nucleus collisions. When an energetic projectile collides with targets of nuclear emulsion, a number of charged and uncharged particles are produced. The

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emergence of these particles occurs in a very short time and after this the nucleus remains excited for quite a long time on nuclear scale. The nucleus then de-excites resulting in the emission of a large number of nucleons and other heavy fragments. The relativistic shower particles which are produced in the first stage of the collisions having specific ionization $g^* (=g/g_o) < 1.4$ and relative velocity $\beta > 0.7$ are considered to be most important parameter to understand the collision dynamics. The number of such tracks in an event is represented by " N_s ". Shower tracks producing particles are mostly pions, with small admixture of charged K-mesons and fast protons. The multiplicity of relativistic charged particles in high energy nucleus-nucleus interactions is an important parameter which indicates how many particles are produced in that interaction. The multiplicity distributions of produced particles or emitted particles help in learning the interaction mechanism.

The experimental results have been compared with the data generated with the computer code FRITIOF based on Lund Monte Carlo Model [3] [4] for high energy nucleus-nucleus collisions. The modified FRITIOF code used in present work is based on version 1.6 (10 June 1986) of authors B Nilsson-Almqvist and Evert Stenlund, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden [3] [4]. The modification was carried out by V. V. Uzhinskii, LIT, JINR, Dubna, Russia in 1995. A sample of 5000 ^{32}S -emulsion events has been generated using the code, where the proportional abundance of different categories of target nuclei present in the emulsion material has been taken into account. Short-lived particles are assumed to decay at the vertex, whereas K^0 and Λ are assumed to decay outside the observed region.

In this paper, special attention has been paid to different characteristics of relativistic charged shower particles that are produced in the interactions of ^{32}S projectile with the target nuclei in nuclear emulsion at 200 AGeV. Multiplicity distributions, correlations among various secondaries and pseudo rapidity distributions of relativistic shower particles have been discussed in detail. The experimental distributions are compared with corresponding distributions calculated from the FRITIOF model. The multiplicity scaling of these shower particles is also investigated in the framework of the KNO-scaling. A simple universal function has been used to represent the KNO-scaling at different energies.

2. Experimental Techniques

In this experiment two stacks of Ilford G5 nuclear emulsion plates exposed horizontally to a ^{32}S -beam at 200 AGeV from Super-proton Synchrotron (SPS) at CERN have been utilized for data collection. The scanning of the plates is performed with the help of Leica DM2500M microscope with a 10 \times objective and 10 \times ocular lens provided with semi-automatic scanning stages. The method of line scanning was used to collect the inelastic ^{32}S -Em interactions. The interactions collected from line scanning were scrutinized under an optical microscope (Semi-Automatic Computerized, Leica DM6000M) with a total magnification of 10 * 100 using 10 \times eyepiece and 100 \times oil immersion objective. The measuring system associated with it has 1 μm resolution along X and Y axes and 0.5 μm resolution along the Z-axis.

The tracks associated with the interactions are classified in accordance with their ionization, range and velocity [5] [6]. The tracks having specific ionization $g^* (=g/g_o) < 1.4$ and relative velocity $\beta > 0.7$ are taken as shower tracks, where g_o is the Fowler and Perkins parameter for plateau ionization of relativistic particles. The number of such tracks in an event is represented by " N_s ". Shower tracks producing particles are mostly pions, with small admixture of charged K-mesons and fast protons. The secondary tracks having specific ionization in the interval $1.4 < g^* \leq 10$ are known as grey tracks. The number of such tracks in a star is designated by " N_g ". This corresponds to protons with velocity in the interval $0.3 \leq \beta \leq 0.7$ and range ≥ 3.0 mm in emulsion. The present work is based on these shower tracks only. Grey tracks are associated with the recoiling protons and have energy range (30 - 400) MeV. The sum of the number of grey and shower tracks in such an interaction is known as compound particle multiplicity and their number in a collision is represented by $N_c = N_g + N_s$. Black tracks are mainly the fragments emitted from excited target. The secondary tracks having specific ionization $g^* > 10$ are classified as black tracks, which is represent by " N_b ". This corresponds to protons of relative velocity $\beta < 0.3$ having a range in emulsion $R < 3.0$ mm. The particles producing black tracks are mainly the fragments emitted from the excited target. This ionization corresponds to protons with energy range < 30 MeV.

The black and grey tracks taken together are said to be heavily ionizing tracks. Thus these tracks correspond to $g^* \geq 1.4$ or $\beta \leq 0.7$. Their number in a star, $N_h = (N_b + N_g)$ is a characteristics of the target. There is a limitation with nuclear emulsion that the exact identification of target is not possible since the medium of the emulsion is heterogeneous and composed of H, C, N, O, Ag and Br nuclei. The events produced due to the collisions with different targets in nuclear emulsion are usually classified into three main categories on the basis of the multiplicity.

licity of heavily ionizing tracks in it [7] [8].

In the present work we have categorized the events on the bases of N_h multiplicity as: The events with N_h in range $2 \leq N_h \leq 7$ are classified as collision with group of light nuclei (CNO, $\langle A_T \rangle = 14$) and $N_h \geq 8$ are classified as collision with group of heavy nuclei (AgBr, $\langle A_T \rangle = 94$). And the events with all N_h values are classified as collision with emulsion.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Multiplicity Distribution of Relativistic Shower Particles

The shower tracks produced in nucleus-nucleus collisions consists of tracks due to the particles created in the collisions and the projectile fragments of charge $Z = 1$. Thus for calculating the mean multiplicity of produced relativistic charged secondaries, the contribution of the singly charged fragments should be subtracted from the observed number of showers. But it is difficult to identify single charged projectile fragments. The method proposed by Chernov *et al.* [9] has been used in the present work.

It is interesting to compare our multiplicity distribution of relativistic shower particles with the predictions from the Lund model for high-energy nucleus-nucleus interactions. The Lund nucleus-nucleus model is a generalization of the Lund hadron scattering model [10] [11]. The basic feature of the model is a long formation time where all cascading is neglected. The model exists in a Monte Carlo version called FRITIOF [4] [5].

The multiplicity distribution of relativistic shower particles produced in the interaction of ^{32}S projectile with nuclear emulsion at 200 AGeV is shown in Figure 1(a) along with the FRITIOF generated data for ^{32}S -Em at the same energy by the dotted lines. It is being observed from the figure that the experimental distribution shows a sharp peak whereas no such peak is observed in the FRITIOF data. Also the multiplicity distributions of relativistic shower particles produced in the interaction of ^{32}S -AgBr and ^{32}S -CNO along with the corresponding FRITIOF generated data shown by dotted lines have been presented in Figure 1(b) and Figure 1(c). From the results in Figure 1 it is clearly seen that the FRITIOF simulations cannot well reproduce the experimental results, especially for the results of ^{32}S -Em collisions. The shape of the experimental distribution in this case cannot be described by the model. The events in case of ^{32}S -Em and ^{32}S -AgBr interactions are distributed over much larger values of N_s in comparison to ^{32}S -CNO interactions.

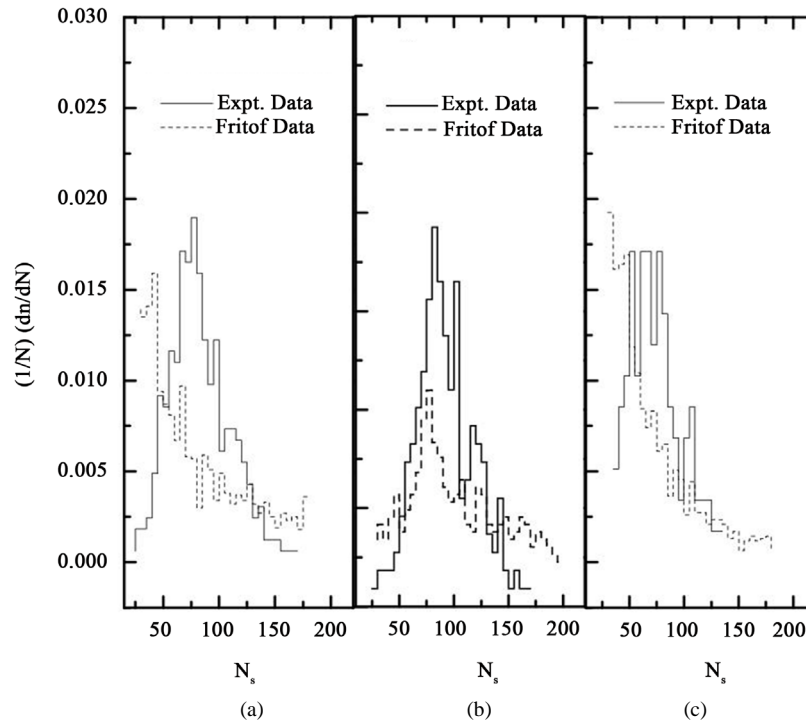


Figure 1. Multiplicity distributions of relativistic charged shower particles in (a) ^{32}S -Em (b) ^{32}S -AgBr and (c) ^{32}S -CNO at 200 AGeV/c along with FRITIOF data.

The mean multiplicities of the relativistic shower particles produced by different projectiles at different energies [9] [12]-[15] are given in Table 1 along with the present data and the corresponding FRITIOF data. It has been found from the table that the mean multiplicity of relativistic shower particles increases with increasing projectile mass and energy. It has been found from the table that as the target size increases the multiplicity of shower particles increases. It has also been found from the table that the experimental data are not comparable with the FRITIOF data. However, the mean multiplicities of shower particles of the generated FRITIOF data are smaller for ^{32}S -CNO and ^{32}S -Em interactions than the corresponding experimental data, whereas it is larger in case of ^{32}S -AgBr interactions.

3.2. Multiplicity Correlations

Multiplicity correlations among the secondary charged particles produced in hadron-nucleus and nucleus-nucleus collisions have been widely studied which help to investigate the mechanism of particle production. According to the existing representation, shower particles characterize the first stage of the inelastic collision between the two nuclei. Multiplicity correlations of the type $\langle N_i(N_j) \rangle$ have been extensively studied and the following linear relationship has been found:

$$\langle N_i(N_j) \rangle = A_{ij} + B_{ij}N_j \quad (1)$$

where $N_j = N_g, N_b, N_h$, and N_{ch} with $i \neq j$. The values of A_{ij} and B_{ij} depend on the incident energy and mass of the projectile. Also, N_{ch} is the total charged secondary particles given as: $N_{ch} = N_b + N_g + N_s$.

The multiplicity correlations among various secondary particles produced in ^{32}S -Em interactions at 200 AGeV have been studied and are shown in Figure 2 along with the linear fits which exhibit linear relations. The values of inclination coefficients have been found which are given in Table 2.

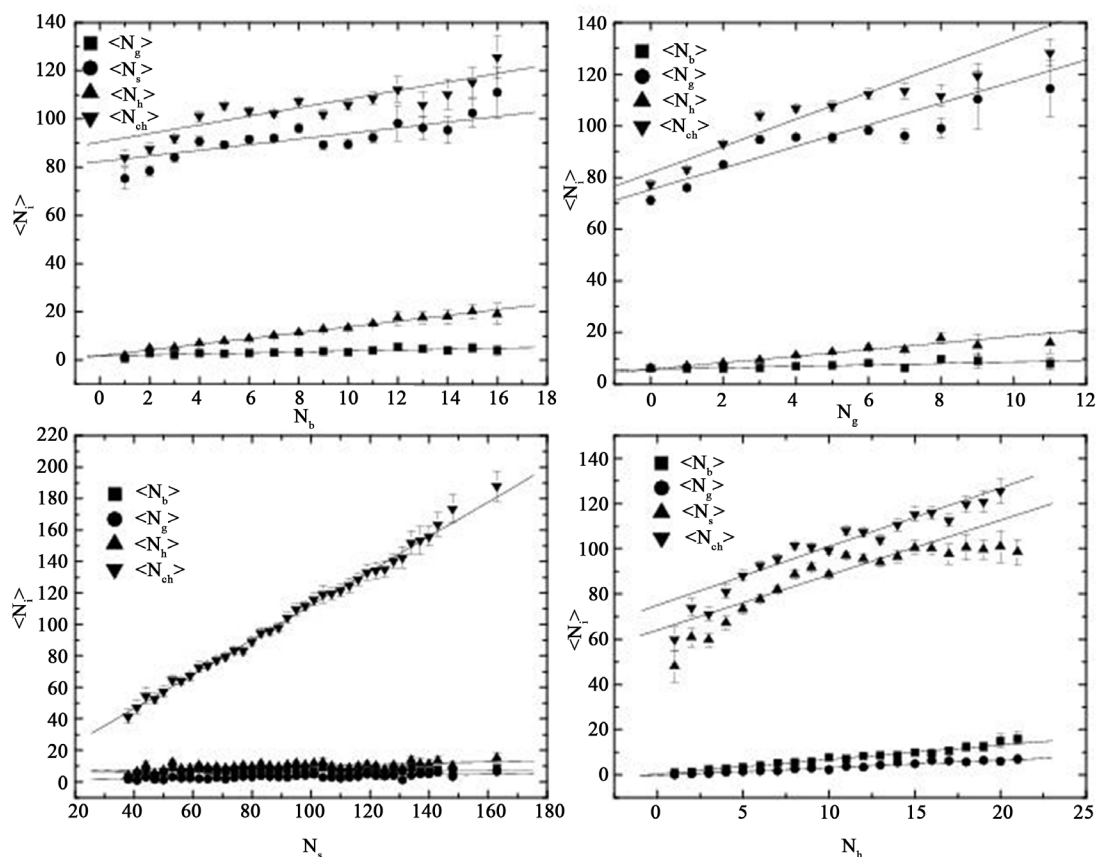


Figure 2. Multiplicity correlations among various secondaries in ^{32}S -Em collisions at 200 AGeV/c.

Table 1. Mean multiplicities of relativistic shower particles produced in heavy ion collisions at high energies along with the FRITIOF data given in parenthesis.

Energy/nucleon (A GeV)	Collision Type	$\langle N_s \rangle$	Ref.
2.1	$^{14}\text{N-Em}$	8.85 ± 0.28	[9]
2.1	$^{56}\text{Fe-Em}$	14.07 ± 1.08	[12]
3.7	$^{32}\text{S-Em}$	13.08 ± 0.47	[12]
4.5	P-Em	1.63 ± 0.02	[13]
4.5	$^{12}\text{C-Em}$	7.24 ± 0.89	[13]
4.5	$^{28}\text{Si-Em}$	15.64 ± 1.23	[14]
14.6	$^{28}\text{Si-Em}$	21.34 ± 0.16	[14]
60	$^{16}\text{O-Em}$	34.12 ± 2.30	[15]
200	$^{16}\text{O-Em}$	57.30 ± 3.10	[15]
200	$^{32}\text{S-Em}$	88.47 ± 0.52 (74.23 ± 0.68)	Present Work
200	$^{32}\text{S-CNO}$	57.78 ± 0.92 (37.35 ± 0.35)	Present Work
200	$^{32}\text{S-AgBr}$	94.53 ± 0.66 (114.98 ± 1.45)	Present Work

Table 2. Values of inclination coefficients.

N_i	$\langle N_b \rangle$	$\langle N_g \rangle$	$\langle N_h \rangle$	$\langle N_s \rangle$	$\langle N_{ch} \rangle$
N_b		0.19 ± 0.03	1.19 ± 0.04	1.16 ± 0.31	1.78 ± 0.36
N_g	0.29 ± 0.07		1.27 ± 0.07	4.18 ± 0.67	5.20 ± 0.64
N_h	0.63 ± 0.02	0.33 ± 0.01		2.43 ± 0.28	2.59 ± 0.24
N_s	0.006 ± 0.001	0.02 ± 0.04	0.04 ± 0.009		1.09 ± 0.01

3.3. Angular Distributions

The angular distributions of relativistic shower particles produced in the collisions of $^{32}\text{S-Em}$ at 200 A GeV along with the data obtained by other workers [16]-[18] at 14.6 and 4.5A GeV in the interactions of $^{28}\text{Si-Em}$, $^{12}\text{C-Em}$, $\alpha\text{-Em}$ and P-Em respectively are shown in **Figure 3**. It may be noticed from the graph that the angular distributions of relativistic hadrons are almost similar and prominent peaks are observed at smaller emission angles. The angular distributions of shower particles having $\theta \leq 8^\circ$ for our data have been plotted in the **Figure 4**. It may easily be seen from the figure that prominent peaks are observed at very small angles, which may be attributed to the well known phenomenon of proton stripping, superimposed over the uniform distributions. The detailed discussion regarding the contributions of singly charged projectile fragments and truly created relativistic charged secondaries may be found elsewhere [19]. We may also get an indication of limiting fragmentation hypothesis. In addition to this the front ($\theta_s < 90$) to back ($\theta_s > 90$) ratio for charged relativistic shower particles have been calculated and shown in **Table 3**. A strong dependence of the F/B ratio in case of relativistic shower particles gives an indication that these are closely associated with the projectile nucleons, whereas a weak dependence of F/B ratio on the mass of the projectile is observed in the distributions of target fragments [16]-[18].

3.4. Pseudo Rapidity Distributions

One of the fundamental experimental distributions in high energy heavy-ion collisions is the pseudo rapidity distributions of produced shower particles. The pseudo rapidity, η , of a particle is defined as $\eta = -\ln \tan \theta_s / 2$,

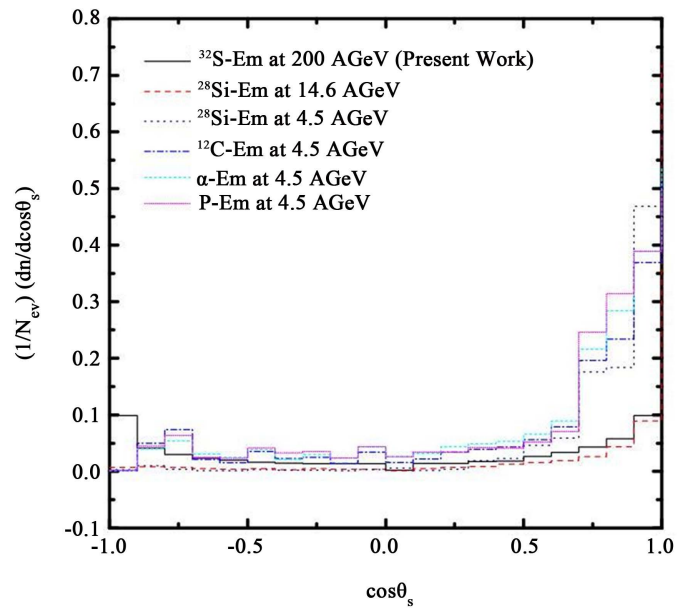


Figure 3. Angular distributions of relativistic shower particles produced at various energies.

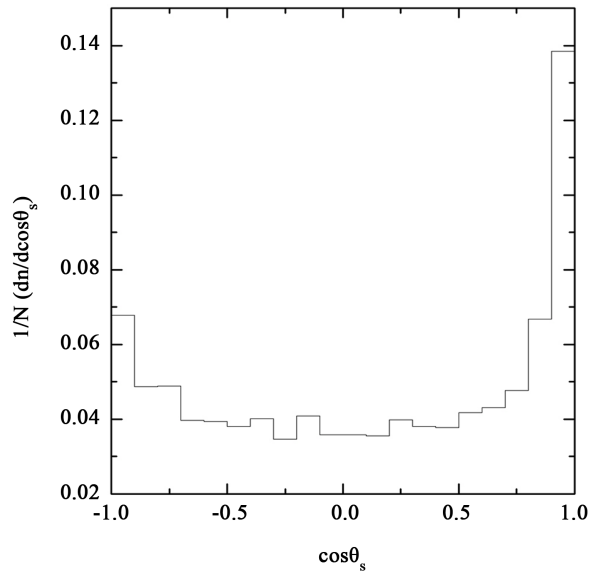


Figure 4. Angular distributions of relativistic shower particles having $\theta \le 8^\circ$ for our data.

Table 3. Values of F/B ratio.

Beam	Energy (AGeV)	F/B	References
^{32}S	200	14.88 ± 0.84	Present Work
^{28}Si	14.6	18.06 ± 0.57	[16]
^{28}Si	4.5	39.08 ± 2.39	[17]
^{12}C	4.5	38.93 ± 3.21	[17]
α	4.5	11.50 ± 0.66	[18]
p	3.0	10.15 ± 1.40	[18]

where θ_s is the space angle of produced particles with respect to primary direction of the incident beam. The pseudo rapidity distributions of relativistic charged particles emitted in ^{32}S -Em interactions at 200 AGeV is shown in **Figure 5**. Also the results obtained from the interactions of ^{28}Si -Em at 14.6 and 4.5 AGeV and ^{12}C -Em at 4.5 along with P-Em at 4.5 AGeV [14] [15] [20] [21] respectively have been shown for the comparison. It has been found that the η distributions for each case, in the region of smaller values of η and are found to be independent of the mass of the incident beam, whereas weak energy dependence has been found in this region. It has also been found that the distribution is broader for higher mass as well as beam energy. The height of the centroid increases many times in case of nucleus-nucleus collisions with respect to the proton-nucleus collisions [21].

The variations of probability distributions of relativistic charged shower particles produced per unit rapidity, $P(N_s, \eta) = (1/N_s)(dn/d\eta)$, with pseudo rapidity, η , have been shown in **Figure 6** for the collisions of ^{32}S -Em at 200 AGeV along with interactions [14] [16] [17] of ^{28}Si -Em at 14.6 AGeV ^{28}Si -Em, ^{12}C -Em and ^{16}O -Em at 3.7, 60 and 200 AGeV respectively. The distributions are normalized for total number of hadrons produced in each sample. From this figure one may notice that the distributions are almost completely scaled for the entire region of η except for large η -values where a mild projectile dependence is seen.

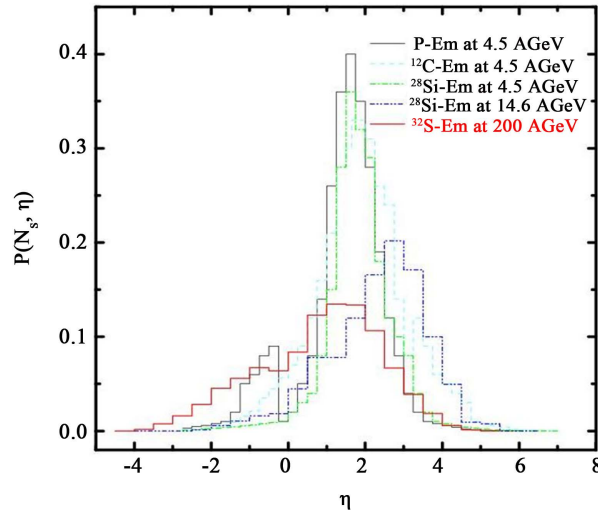


Figure 5. Pseudorapidity distributions of relativistic charged particles produced at various energies.

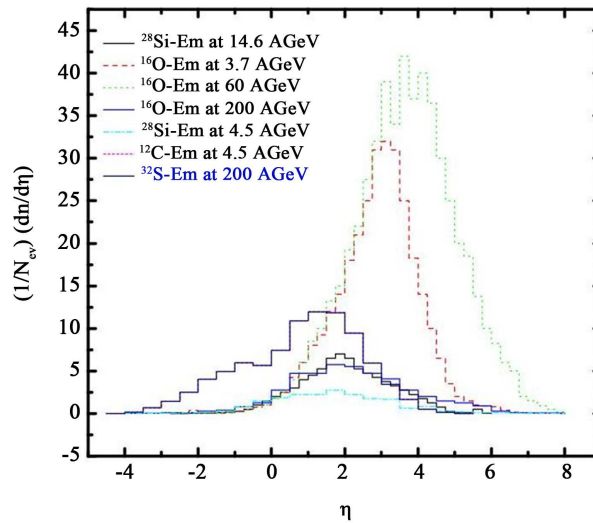


Figure 6. Variation of probability distribution of hadrons produced in various interactions at high energies.

The pseudo rapidity distribution of relativistic shower particles in different N_g intervals is shown in **Figure 7**. It is revealed from the figure that the height of η distributions increases with higher values of N_g . From the figure one may notice that the distributions are completely scaled for the entire regions of η for all N_g intervals. It may further be noticed that the position and height of the centroid remains almost the same in all cases. It is also inferred that the central region is believed to be enriched by the particles produced in the collisions of the participant nuclei and is independent of either of fragmentation regions (*i.e.* projectile and target fragmentation regions).

In order to study the dependence of η -distribution for the same sample of the data on different N_h -bins pertaining to different target nuclei involved in the collisions, we have divided the data based on N_h -intervals as: 1) $N_h = 0, 1$ (H) 2) $2 \leq N_h \leq 7$ (CNO) and 3) $N_h \geq 8$ (AgBr). **Figure 8** shows the η -distribution in different N_h -in-

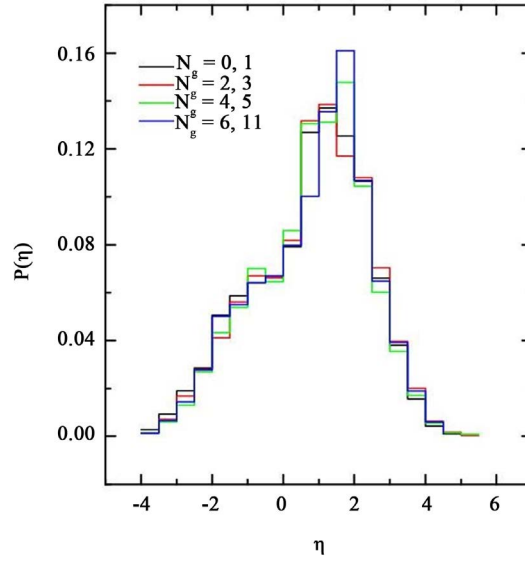


Figure 7. Pseudorapidity distributions of relativistic charged particles produced in ^{32}S -Em interactions in different N_g intervals.

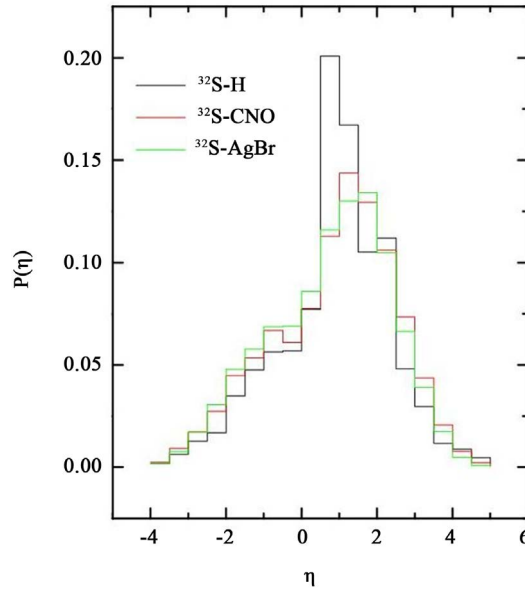


Figure 8. Pseudorapidity distributions of relativistic charged particles produced by ^{32}S projectile with different emulsion targets.

tervals. A common feature observed in these figures is that the distributions translate to the target fragmentation region (smaller η) with increasing target mass. Thus, one may conclude that the mechanism responsible for the particle production is essentially similar in these interactions, only the mean angle of production that is the centroid of the distribution is shifted to the larger emission angles for heavy targets.

3.5. KNO Scaling

Asymptotic scaling of multiplicity distributions in hadron collisions was predicted in 1971 by Koba, Nielsen and Olesen [22] by assuming the validity of Feynman scaling [23]. Koba, Nielsen and Olesen have predicted that the multiplicity distributions of the produced particles in high-energy hadron-hadron collisions should obey a simple scaling law known as KNO scaling when expressed in terms of the scaling variable Z ($= N/\langle N \rangle$). If $P_n(s)$ represents the probability for the production of n charged particles in an inelastic hadron-hadron collision at a centre of mass energy \sqrt{s} , then the multiplicity distributions in high energy collision obey a scaling law:

$$P_n(s) = \frac{\sigma_n(s)}{\sigma_{inel}(s)} = \frac{1}{\langle N \rangle} \Psi\left(\frac{N}{\langle N \rangle}\right) = \frac{1}{\langle N \rangle} \Psi(Z) \quad (2)$$

where $\sigma_n(s)$ is the partial cross-section for the production of n charged particles, σ_{inel} is the total inelastic cross-section and $\langle N \rangle$ is the average number of charged particles produced. The KNO scaling thus implies that the multiplicity distribution is universal and is an energy independent function at sufficiently high energies when expressed in terms of scaling variable Z .

It has been found by various workers that the empirical expression for $\psi(z)$ in hadron-hadron and hadron-nucleus interactions obeys the semi-inclusive KNO scaling starting from few GeV. It is desirable to make similar studies in nucleus-nucleus collisions as it is expected that nucleus-nucleus collisions (A-A) at these energies can be visualized as superposition of nucleon-nucleon collisions. In the present work an attempt has been made to study the KNO scaling for the multiplicity distribution of relativistic shower particles produced in ^{32}S -emulsion collisions at 200 AGeV. A plot of $\psi(z)$ as a function of the scaling variable Z ($= N/\langle N \rangle$) for these relativistic charged particles is shown in Figure 9. The experimental points for ^{12}C and ^{28}Si at 4.5 AGeV, ^{28}Si at 14.6 AGeV and ^{16}O at 3.7 AGeV and 60 AGeV [14] [17] [24] [25] respectively are also shown in the same figure. The solid curve in the figure is well represented by Equation (3).

It has been shown [26] [27] that the multiplicity distributions of produced shower particles obtained from the events of different projectiles over a wide range of energies in nucleus-nucleus collisions can be described by a KNO scaling law. These distributions can be represented by a universal function of the following form:

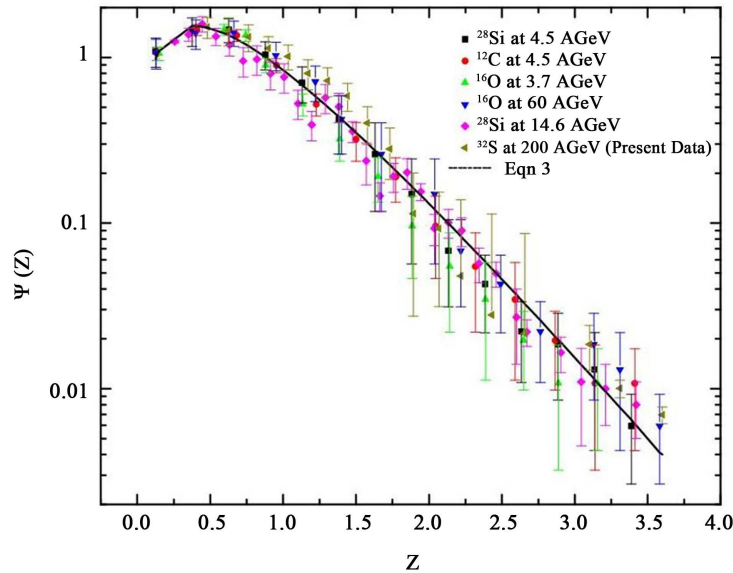


Figure 9. Shower particle multiplicity distribution in terms of KNO scaling in various interactions at different energies.

$$\Psi(Z) = AZ \exp(-BZ) \quad (3)$$

where A and B are constants.

It is easily noticed from the figures that the multiplicity distributions of relativistic shower particles in nucleus-nucleus collisions at different energies are well described by Equation (3) for the different projectiles and seem to satisfy the scaling function. The best values of A and B used in Equation (3) are found to be 8.73 ± 1.40 and 2.35 ± 0.07 respectively. The values of corresponding χ^2/DOF are found to be 0.32 which indicates that the fitting is good for different projectiles at different energies in case of relativistic shower particles and seems to confirm the validity of the universal scaling function. Further, it is investigated that the scaling violations are small and data exhibit KNO scaling within experimental errors.

To test the validity of KNO scaling, the normalized moments, C_k , of multiplicity distributions is defined as:

$$C_k = \langle N^k \rangle / \langle N \rangle^k \quad \text{for } k = 2, 3, 4 \quad (4)$$

where, $\langle N^k \rangle = \sum N^k \sigma_n / \sigma_{inel}$.

The values of C_k -moments for $k = 2$ and 3 of shower particles produced in the interactions of ^{28}Si , ^{24}Mg , and ^{12}C ions in emulsion at various energies are presented in **Table 4**. It is clear that the values of C_2 and C_3 -moments are found to be independent of masses and energy of the projectiles within the experimental errors. The other consequence of the KNO scaling predicts that the central moments of the distribution is defined as:

$\sqrt[k]{\mu_k} = \sqrt[k]{\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^k \rangle}$. The distribution should have a linear relation with the average multiplicity, $\langle N \rangle$ of the reaction, which leads to a generalization of a linear relation between the dispersion, $D(N_s)$, and the average values of $\langle N_s \rangle$. The linear variation of $D(N_s)$ $\left(D = [\langle N_s^2 \rangle - \langle N_s \rangle^2]^{1/2} \right)$ of shower particles as a function of $\langle N_s \rangle$ is illustrated in **Figure 10** for present work along with the other results [9] [13] [16] [18] [28]. The best linear fit is represented by:

$$D(N_s) = (2.79 \pm 0.64) + (0.29 \pm 0.02) \langle N_s \rangle \quad (5)$$

The value of the slope is similar in case of proton-nucleus interactions reported by Gurtu *et al.* [29]. The values of $\langle N_s \rangle / D$ for our data along-with other results are also given in **Table 4**. An interesting observation can be seen from the table that the values of $\langle N_s \rangle / D$ for different projectiles and targets are approximately equal to

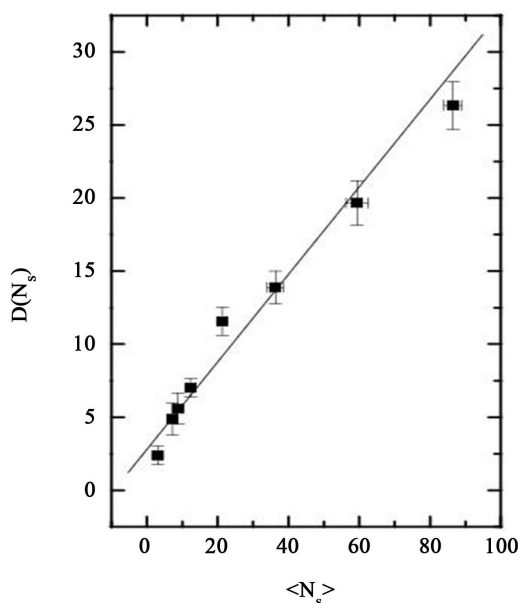


Figure 10. Variation of dispersion $D(N_s)$ as a function of $\langle N_s \rangle$ at various energies.

Table 4. Values of $\langle N_s \rangle$, $D(N_s)$, $\langle N_s \rangle / D$ and the normalized moments for shower particles produced in various collisions.

Collisions	Energy (A GeV)	$\langle N_s \rangle$	$D(N_s)$	$\langle N_s \rangle / D(N_s)$	C_2	C_3	Ref.
$^{12}\text{C-Em}$	4.5	7.24 ± 0.89	4.88 ± 0.38	1.48 ± 0.12	1.46 ± 0.01	2.66 ± 0.03	[17]
$^{24}\text{Mg-Em}$	4.5	12.37 ± 0.22	7.02 ± 0.02	1.76 ± 0.03	1.32 ± 0.08	2.11 ± 0.28	[27]
$^{28}\text{Si-Em}$	4.5	15.64 ± 1.23	11.91 ± 0.63	1.31 ± 0.07	1.57 ± 0.02	3.18 ± 0.13	[17]
$^{28}\text{Si-Em}$	14.6	21.34 ± 0.15	11.56 ± 0.97	1.85 ± 0.16	1.29 ± 0.09	2.10 ± 0.02	[16]
$^{32}\text{S-Em 200}$	200	88.47 ± 0.52	26.34 ± 2.12	2.35 ± 0.65	1.18 ± 0.03	2.28 ± 0.05	Present Work

that observed in hadron-nucleus interactions [29]. This feature may indicate that essentially there is a similarity for the production mechanism of two types of collisions. Furthermore, the agreement between hadron-nucleus and nucleus-nucleus collisions results suggests that A-A collisions can be explained as the superposition of many nucleon-nucleon (N-N) interactions, which is predicted by superposition models [30].

4. Conclusion

In summary, the predictions of FRITIOF model have been found in good agreement with the experimental data for $^{32}\text{S-AgBr}$ and $^{32}\text{S-CNO}$ interactions. However, it deviates from the experimental data in case of $^{32}\text{S-Em}$ interactions. The mean multiplicities of relativistic shower particles have been found to increase with increasing projectile mass and energy. The experimental values are less comparable with the FRITIOF data. The multiplicity correlations among various secondary particles have been found to show linear relations. In the angular distributions of relativistic hadrons the prominent peaks are observed at smaller angles. The study of the η -distribution in different N_h -intervals reveals that the mechanism responsible for particle production is essentially similar in these interactions, only the centroid of the distribution is shifted to the larger emission angles for heavy targets. Finally, the scaling of multiplicity distributions of relativistic shower particles is observed to obey KNO scaling law.

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