

# List of Figures

1.1	Evolution of nuclear reactor generations, with future projections for technological advancements [12]. . . . .	5
1.2	Nuclear processes in the Universe, systematically presented on the nuclide chart [22]. . . . .	7
2.1	A detailed flow-chart illustrating various nuclear reactions and the corresponding spectra of emitted particles [1]. . . . .	17
2.2	A schematic flow-chart illustrating the calculations performed by the TALYS model [3]. . . . .	18
2.3	A schematic flow-chart illustrating the calculations performed by the EMPIRE model [25]. . . . .	20
3.1	Diagrammatic representation of FOTIA accelerator Facility. . . . .	28
3.2	Diagrammatic representation of 14UD Pelletron Accelerator installed at BARC-TIFR Facility. . . . .	29
3.3	Schematic representation of the experimental setup for the sample irradiation. . . . .	38
3.4	Neutron flux energy spectra $\phi(E)$ produced from the EPEN code for (a) $E_p = 3.60 \pm 0.02$ MeV, (b) $E_p = 4.00 \pm 0.02$ MeV, and (c) $E_p = 4.60 \pm 0.02$ MeV. . . . .	39
3.5	Typical produced $\gamma$ -ray spectra for (a) $^{58}\text{Ni}(n, p)^{58}\text{Co}$ and (b) $^{115}\text{In}(n, n')^{115m}\text{In}$ . . . . .	41
3.6	Schematic drawing of the geometry of the setup for the sample w.r.t. the HPGe detector [25]. . . . .	42
3.7	Comparison of $^{115}\text{In}(n, n')^{115m}\text{In}$ cross-sections from EXFOR [13] data library and recommended values from the IRDFF-II library[26]. . . . .	43
3.8	Experimentally measured $^{58}\text{Ni}(n, p)^{58}\text{Co}$ reaction cross-sections compared with the existing literature data and various level density models available in the TALYS code [14]. . . . .	48
3.9	Experimentally measured $^{58}\text{Ni}(n, p)^{58}\text{Co}$ reaction cross-sections compared with the existing literature data and various evaluated data libraries such as ENDF/B-VIII.0 [15], JEFF-3.3 [16], JENDL-5.0 [17], and CENDL-3.2 [18]. . . . .	48

3.10	Experimentally measured $^{58}\text{Ni}(n, p)^{58}\text{Co}$ reaction cross-sections compared with the existing literature data, TALYS default calculations, and NLDs obtained using the SDM [30–36]. . . . .	50
3.11	Schematic representation of the experimental setup [28, 38] utilized for sample irradiation. . . . .	53
3.12	Neutron spectra generated by the $^7\text{Li}(p, n)$ reaction with the five distinct energies employed for the irradiations [57]. . . . .	55
3.13	Experimentally measured $^{115}\text{In}(n, n')^{115\text{m}}\text{In}$ reaction cross-section compared with the literature data and theoretical nuclear models of TALYS-1.95 [14] and EMPIRE-3.2.3 [51]. . . . .	57
3.14	Experimentally measured $^{115}\text{In}(n, n')^{115\text{m}}\text{In}$ reaction cross-section compared with the literature data and different evaluated data libraries such as ENDF/B-VIII.0[15], JEFF-3.3[16], JENDL-4.0[17] and CENDL-3.2[18]. . . . .	57
4.1	Systematic fitting of the $(n, p)$ reaction cross-sections for nuclei $Z \leq 45$ at the neutron energy of 14.5 MeV. . . . .	70
4.2	Systematic fitting of the $(n, p)$ reaction cross-sections for nuclei $Z > 45$ at the neutron energy of 14.5 MeV. . . . .	71
4.3	Systematic fitting of the $(n, \alpha)$ reaction cross-sections at the neutron energy of 14.5 MeV. . . . .	72
4.4	Systematic fitting of the $(n, 2n)$ reaction cross-sections for even-A nuclei at the neutron energy of 14.5 MeV. . . . .	73
4.5	Systematic fitting of the $(n, 2n)$ reaction cross-sections for odd-A nuclei at the neutron energy of 14.5 MeV. . . . .	73
4.6	Ratio of the experimental and calculated $(n, p)$ reaction cross-sections for the nuclei within the range $24 \leq A \leq 238$ . . . . .	78
4.7	Ratio of the experimental and calculated $(n, \alpha)$ reaction cross-sections for the nuclei within the range $26 \leq A \leq 181$ . . . . .	79
4.8	Ratio of the experimental and calculated $(n, 2n)$ reaction cross-sections for the nuclei within the range $45 \leq A \leq 238$ . . . . .	79
5.1	(a) Comparison of MB factor ( $e^{-E/kT}$ ; dotted line) and Gamow factor ( $e^{-2\pi\eta}$ ; dash-dotted line) versus energy for $^{92}\text{Mo}(p, \gamma)^{93}\text{Tc}$ reaction at $T=2$ GK. The product $e^{-E/kT}e^{-2\pi\eta}$ is referred to as Gamow peak is shown in shaded region, (b) The same Gamow peak is shown on a linear scale. . . . .	90
5.2	Variation of Gamow peak width and energy with respect to temperature for the case of $p + ^{92}\text{Mo}$ . Shaded region shows the temperature range for p-process. . . . .	91
5.3	Cross-section and S-factor for the $^{92}\text{Mo}(p, \gamma)^{93\text{g}}\text{Tc}$ reaction calculated using TALYS, compared with experimental data from EXFOR [22–25]. . . . .	98

5.4	Cross-section and S-factor for the $^{92}\text{Mo}(p,\gamma)^{93\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ reaction calculated using TALYS, compared with experimental data from EXFOR [24, 25]. . . . .	98
5.5	Cross-section and S-factor for the $^{94}\text{Mo}(p,\gamma)^{95\text{g}}\text{Tc}$ reaction calculated using TALYS, compared with experimental data from EXFOR [24, 25]. . . . .	99
5.6	Cross-section and S-factor for the $^{74}\text{Se}(p, \gamma)^{75}\text{Br}$ reaction calculated using TALYS, compared with experimental data from EXFOR [26–29]. . . . .	99
5.7	Cross-section and S-factor for the $^{76}\text{Se}(p, \gamma)^{77}\text{Br}$ reaction calculated using TALYS, compared with experimental data from EXFOR [27, 28]. . . . .	100
5.8	Cross-section and S-factor for the $^{82}\text{Se}(p, n)^{82}\text{Br}$ reaction calculated using TALYS, compared with experimental data from EXFOR [26, 28, 35]. . . . .	100
5.9	Theoretically simulated reaction rate for $^{92}\text{Mo}(p,\gamma)^{93}\text{Tc}$ reaction.	101
5.10	Theoretically simulated reaction rate for $^{94}\text{Mo}(p,\gamma)^{95}\text{Tc}$ reaction.	101
5.11	Theoretically simulated reaction rate for $^{74}\text{Se}(p,\gamma)^{75}\text{Br}$ reaction. .	102
5.12	Theoretically simulated reaction rate for $^{74}\text{Se}(p,\gamma)^{75}\text{Br}$ reaction. .	102