

Nuclear Reaction and Structure Databases of the National Nuclear Data Center

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We discuss nuclear data resources of the National Nuclear Data Center (NNDC) of relevance to nuclear astrophysics applications. These resources include databases, tools and powerful web service at www.nndc.bnl.gov. Our objective is to provide an overview of nuclear databases, related products and demonstrate nuclear astrophysics potential of the ENDF/B-VII beta2 library. A detailed discussion on the Maxwellian neutron capture cross sections obtained from the ENDF/B-VII beta2 library is presented.

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1. Introduction

Access to nuclear data is crucial for both basic science and applied nuclear technology communities, including nuclear structure physics, astrophysics, reactors, accelerator design, nonproliferation and safeguards, radiation protection and medicine as well as homeland security applications.

The mission of the National Nuclear Data Center (NNDC) includes collection, evaluation, and dissemination of nuclear physics data for basic nuclear research and applied nuclear technologies [1, 2]. The NNDC maintains and contributes to the nuclear reaction (ENDF, CSISRS alias EXFOR), nuclear structure (ENSDF) and bibliography (NSR) databases along with several other databases (NuDat, CapGam). The Center produces several publications such as Atlas of Neutron Resonances [3] and nuclear model codes.

2. Nuclear Databases

Recently, nuclear data services were substantially improved to provide better access to reaction data evaluations and compilations [2]. New Web interfaces for the Evaluated Nuclear Data File (ENDF) and the nuclear reaction experimental data (CSISRS/EXFOR) provide a wide range of options for data retrievals and analysis using standard and interpreted text formats as well as graphic tools. New nuclear structure and bibliography Web services (ENSDF, NuDat, NSR) distinguish themselves the simple manner of creating on-line database queries and the extensive use of plots. A front page of the NNDC nuclear data Web services is shown in Figure 1 and a brief description of the nuclear databases is presented below.

National Nuclear Data Center
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June 27, 2006

Atlas of Neutron Resonances
Chart of Nuclides
New ENDF/B-VII beta2

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| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| AMDC Atomic Mass Data Center, Q-value Calculator | Atlas of Neutron Resonances Parameters & thermal values | CapGam Thermal Neutron Capture γ -rays | Chart of Nuclides Basic properties of atomic nuclei |
| CINDA Computer Index of Nuclear (reaction) Data | CSEWG Cross Section Evaluation Working Group | CSISRS alias EXFOR Nuclear reaction experimental data | Empire Nuclear reaction model code |
| ENDF Evaluated Nuclear (reaction) Data File | ENSDF Evaluated Nuclear Structure Data File | IRDF International Reactor Dosimetry File | MIRD Medical Internal Radiation Dose |
| NMMSS & DoE NMIRDC Safeguards & inventory decay data standards | NSR Nuclear Science References | Nuclear Data Sheets Nuclear structure & decay data journal | Nuclear Wallet Cards Ground & isomeric states properties |
| Nuclear Wallet Cards for Homeland Security | NuDat Nuclear structure & decay Data | USNDP U.S. Nuclear Data Program | XUNDL Experimental Un-evaluated Nuclear Data List |

Figure 1. Front page of the NNDC Web Services (www.nndc.bnl.gov). All elements of the page, including graphic images, are hyperlinked.

2.1 Nuclear Science References

Nuclear Science References database (www.nndc.bnl.gov/nsr) is a starting point for nuclear physics research and application developments. It covers more than 80 journals and offers some 180,000 references, providing an extremely effective way of searching scientific literature on a broad range of nuclear physics topics. In 2004, NSR usability was improved by the addition of 35,000 new digital object identifier (doi) links that allow users to access actual publications directly from the Web.

2.2 Experimental Nuclear Reaction Data

Cross Section Information Storage & Retrieval System (CSISRS), alias EXFOR (EXchange FORmat) data library [1, 2] contains experimental nuclear reaction data for incident neutrons, charged particles, and photons. It includes more than 15500 compiled experiments and covers nearly all of neutron-induced reaction experimental data up to the pion threshold. The library is less complete for charged particle induced reactions (in general $A < 12$) and photon experiments. The content of the CSISRS database (www.nndc.bnl.gov/exfor), serves as a principal input for ENDF nuclear data evaluations.

2.3 Evaluated Nuclear (reaction) Data File

The ENDF reaction database contains evaluated data from the United States ENDF/B-VI.8 library. At the present time ENDF nuclear reaction database is under new development. The latest version of the library ENDF/B-VII beta2 was released on April 25, 2006 for CSEWG members (www.nndc.bnl.gov/endl2). It contain neutron cross sections for 393 materials (isotopes) relevant to nuclear technology, including capture in the keV region of interest to astrophysics. This library also includes 8 nuclear data standards, 20 thermal scattering kernels, 48 proton, 163 photo-nuclear, 3830 decay and 10 charged-particle evaluations. We expect that final version of ENDF/B-VII library and a new Web application will be publicly available in 2006.

Nuclear astrophysics applications of the ENDF nuclear data library include neutron capture cross sections which can be applied for s-process nucleosynthesis [4]. The ENDF/B-VII beta2 library contains the latest neutron evaluated data from 10^{-5} eV to 20 MeV. Nuclear astrophysics s-process calculations require Maxwellian average neutron capture cross sections [5]:

$$\langle \sigma_{\gamma} \rangle = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\int_0^{\infty} \sigma_{\gamma}(E) E \exp\left(-\frac{E}{kT}\right) dE}{\int_0^{\infty} E \exp\left(-\frac{E}{kT}\right) dE},$$

where $\sigma_{\gamma}(E)$ is the pointwise capture cross section, E is the thermal energy and kT is the peak energy of the Maxwellian distribution.

Evaluated neutron capture cross sections for the entire ENDF/B-VII beta2 nuclear data library were processed with ENDF utility code INTER [1]. As an illustration, results for $^{151}\text{Sm}(n,\gamma)$ reaction below 200 keV are shown in Figure 2.

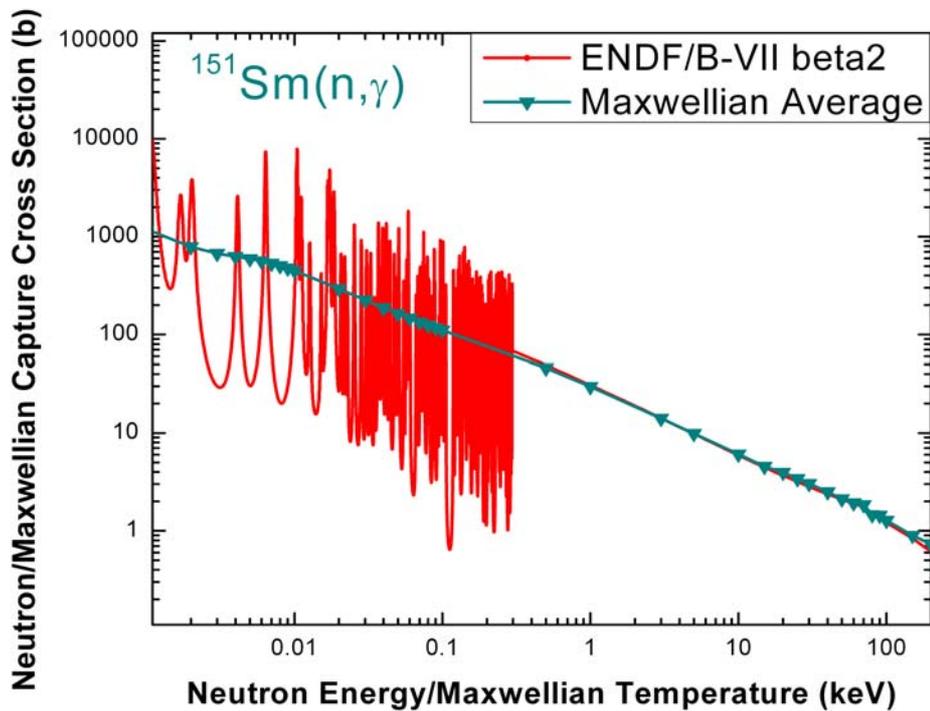


Figure 2. Results of the ENDF utility code INTER for $^{151}\text{Sm}(n,\gamma)$ reaction. Maxwellian average neutron cross sections are shown in green while original ENDF/B-VII beta2 data are in red.

The calculated here Maxwellian average capture cross section at 30 keV for $^{151}\text{Sm}(n,\gamma)$ reaction is 3045 mb, which is in excellent agreement with 3031(82) mb and 3100(160) mb measured by Wisshak *et al.* [6] and Abbondanno *et al.* [7], respectively.

2.4 Chart of Nuclides

Chart of Nuclides (www.nndc.bnl.gov/chart) is based on Evaluated Nuclear Structure Data File (ENSDF), and Nuclear Wallet Cards data and represents enormous resource for nuclear astrophysics. It provides information on almost all-known nuclei (2,932), including some 140,102 levels, 204,017 γ -rays and 22,376 β^- and ε/β^+ transitions. Related database NuDat 2.2 and highly popular Web service offer extensive options for data retrievals and nuclear level structure graphic capabilities.

3. Publications

Atlas of Neutron Resonances reference book (www.nndc.bnl.gov/atlas) represents the neutron data for 98 elements and 486 isotopes (381 isotopes with resonance data). In addition to individual resonance parameters and thermal cross sections, it also includes evaluated (n, γ) cross sections for 186 isotopes at 30 keV. The cover of Atlas of Neutron Resonances is shown in Figure 3.

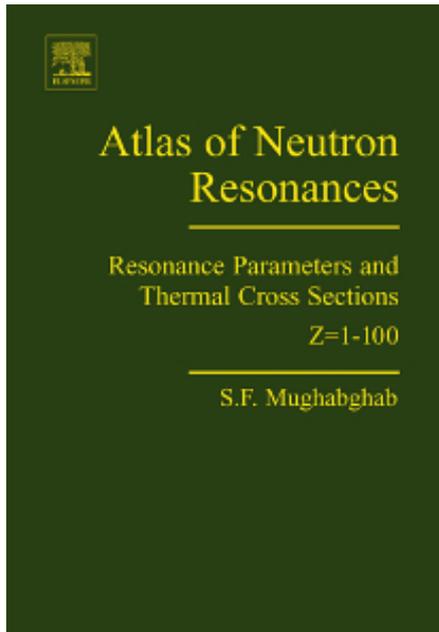


Figure 4. Atlas of Neutron Resonances reference book [3].

4. Conclusion

The National Nuclear Data Center products and nuclear data services (www.nndc.bnl.gov) provide powerful resources for nuclear astrophysics community. These data can serve as principal input for s-process nucleosynthesis calculations. Such effort is currently underway for 393 ENDF/B-VII materials in the 10^{-5} eV to 20 MeV energy range.

Acknowledgements

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