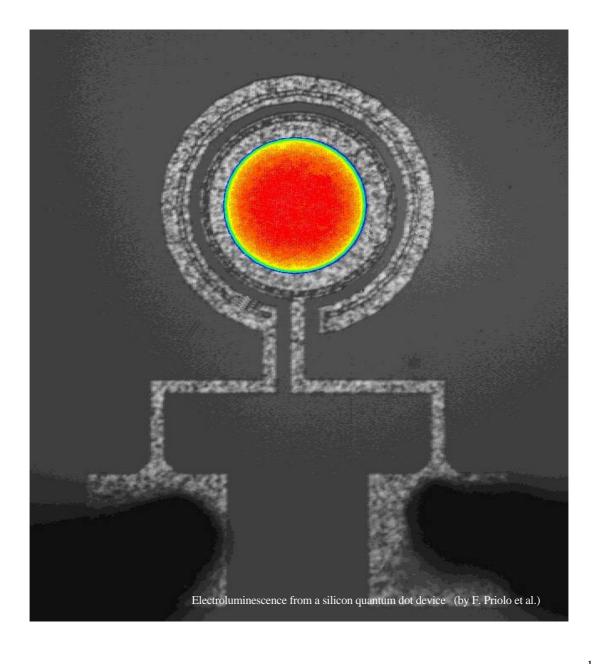
UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY ACTIVITY REPORT 2000



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^(*) Report edited by Profs. G. Belvedere and A. Rapisarda

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Physics and Astronomy is a methodologic one, where most of the research and teaching activities in the field of Physics conducted at University of Catania take place. Most Professors of the courses for the Degree ("Laurea") in Physics are members of the Department. Many of them teach courses for other Degrees of the Science Faculty and of other Faculties. Professors and Researchers of the Department are currently 75. Technicians and Administrative Personnel of the Department amount to 30.

The Department has a Library and its own Administrative and Technical Services.

The Department takes care of the PhD program in Physics.

The Department hosts:

- the local Section of INFN (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare), whose personnel work in close collaboration with Department members, in the fields of Nuclear and sub-Nuclear Physics
- 2 the local Section of INFM (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica per la Materia), for research in the field of Condensed Matter and Molecular Physics
- 3 the Sicilian Centre for Nuclear and Solid State Physics (CSFNSM), which sponsors research in interdisciplinary fields of Physics

In the year 2000 the Institute of Astronomy joined the Department of Physics and the name changed in Department of Physics and Astronomy. It was then formed the Astrophysics Section of the Department.

Several members of the Department have been instrumental in realizing the National Southern Laboratory (LNS) of INFN, which is located in Catania. They conduct research activity at this Laboratory.

Other Department members have a research collaboration with the CNR's Institute for Microelectronics Methodologies and Techniques, which operates in close collaboration with the research department of the ST Company, a microelectronics manifacturer whose plant is located in Catania.

Several members of the Department collaborate with the Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania (OAC).

For the purpose of organizing this report, the research activity of the Department has been divided into 5 sections: A) Applied Physics, B) Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics, C) Theoretical Physics, D) Solid State Physics, E) Astrophysics.

Each category includes several fields. Moreover, some researches belong to more than one category.

The publication list included in this report is only partial, as it does not include a large number of contributions to national and international Conferences and Schools, magazine reports, non-specialistic scientific papers, technical notes, etc.

DIRECTION

DIRECTOR

LO NIGRO Salvatore

Director Board [Giunta]

ARENA Nicolò Vice Director

BAERI Pietro

BARBERA Roberto

CUNSOLO Angelo

MAZZEO Carmela

PORTO Francesco

SCALIA Augusto

TERRASI Antonio

GIUDICE Nunzio

Responsible of the Astrophysics Section

BELVEDERE Gaetano

PROFESSORS

AGODI Attilio **ALBERGO** Sebastiano Nicolò **ARENA** Pietro **BAERI BARBARINO** Sebastiano **BELLIA** Giorgio **BELLINI** Vincenzo BELVEDERE Gaetano Carlo **BLANCO BURRAFATO** Giuseppe CATALANO Francesco **CATARA** Francesco **CAVALLARO** Salvatore **CAVALLARO** Sebastiano **CUNSOLO** Angelo Massimo DI TORO **EBERLE** Enrico **FARACI** Giuseppe **FAZIO** Rosario **FONTE** Giacomo **FOTI** Antonino **FOTI** Gaetano GIANSIRACUSA Giuseppe Roberto **GIORDANO GRIMALDI** Maria Grazia **GUTKOWSKI** Diego **IMMÉ** Giuseppina **INSOLIA** Antonio LATTUADA Marcello LOMBARDO Umberto LO NIGRO Salvatore MIGNECO Emilio **PAPPALARDO** Giuseppe Rosa **PARISI** PATERNO' Lucio

PENNISI Agata Raffaella Francesco **PORTO** Renato **POTENZA PRIOLO** Francesco **PUCCI** Renato **RACITI** Giovanni **RAPISARDA** Andrea **RIGGI** Francesco Emanuele **RIMINI** RODONO' Marcello

RUSSO Giovanni Valerio

RUSSO Giuseppe SAMBATARO Salvatore SCALIA Augusto STRAZZERI Andrea

TROJA Sebastiano Olindo

VINCIGUERRA Domenico ZAPPALA' Rosario Aldo

RESEARCHERS

BARBERA Roberto
CASTORINA Paolo
COSTA Salvatore
COSTANZO Evelina
GIUSTOLISI Francesco
LANZAFAME Alessandro
LO MONACO Luigi

MACCARRONE Gaetano Daniele

MUSUMECI Paolo PAPPALARDO Lorenzo **PAPPALARDO** Salvatore **PETTA** Catia **PICCITTO** Giovanni **POLITI** Giuseppe **REITANO** Riccardo **RIZZO** Francesca SIMONE Francesca Fabio **SIRINGO SPERDUTO** Maria Leda **TERRASI** Antonio **TOMASELLO** Pasquale TUVÉ Cristina ZUCCARELLO Francesca

RESEARCHERS AFFILIATED WITH OTHER AGENCIES

I.N.F.N. RESEARCH PERSONNEL - CATANIA

AIELLO Sebastiano BADALÀ Angela **BALDO** Marcello **BURGIO** Fiorella **CARDELLA** Giuseppe CONSOLI Maurizio DE FILIPPO Enrico **FONTE** Roberto

ITALIANO Antonino (Messina) LANZA Giuseppe Edoardo

LANZANÒ Gaetano
PAGANO Angelo
PALMERI Armando
PAPA Massimo

PAPPALARDO Giuseppe Salvatore

PIRRONE Sara
RANDAZZO Nunzio
SAMBATARO Michelangelo
SUTERA Concetta Maria

ZAPPALA' Dario

I.N.F.M. RESEARCH PERSONNEL - CATANIA

FRANZO' Giorgia

C.N.R. RESEARCH PERSONNEL

ALBERTI Alessandra **COFFA** Salvatore **IACONA** Fabio LIBERTINO Sebania LA VIA Francesco LIBERTINO Sebania LA MAGNA Antonino **LOMBARDO** Salvatore **MANNINO** Giovanni **PENNISI** Agostino **PRIVITERA** Vittorio **RAINERI** Vito

SPINELLA Rosario Corrado

O.A.C. RESEARCH PERSONNEL

ANTONUCCIO Vincenzo **BECCIANI** Ugo **BONANNO** Alfio **BONANNO** Giovanni **BARATTA** Giuseppe **CATALANO** Santo **COSENTINO** Rosario **CUTISPOTO** Giuseppe LANZA Antonino LANZAFAME Giuseppe **LEONE** Francesco **LETO** Giuseppe **MESSINA** Sergio **MARILLI** Ettore **PAGANO** Isabella

PAGANO Isabella
PALUMBO Maria Elisabetta
SCUDERI Salvatore
SPADARO Daniele
STRAZZULLA Giovanni
VENTURA Rita

NOTO CNR-VLBI RESEARCH PERSONNEL

TRIGILIO Corrado UMANA Grazia

C.S.F.N.S.M. RESEARCH PERSONNEL

FRISONE Fulvio

TECHNICIANS AND ADMINISTRATIVES

DEPARTMENT'S ADMINISTRATION

ANASTASI C. FORMICA L. MARINO E.

MAZZEO C. (Segretario Amministrativo)

SPAMPINATO C.

ACCOUNTING OFFICE

FORTUNA L.
NICOTRA N.
RAPICAVOLI M. R.
CIMINO M.

TEACHING SERVICES

AULINO G. FERLITO P. LA ROCCA A. TIMPANARO G.

GENERAL SERVICES

COSENTINO S.
D'AGUSTA A. (LSU)
LONGO N.

LABORATORIES

LEOTTA S.
MARINO N.
PARASOLE O.

SALEMI M. (INFN)

ELECTRONICS SERVICES

D'ANDREA M. (INFN) FICHERA F. (INFN) GIUDICE N. GUARDONE N.

LIBRIZZI F. (INFN)
NICOTRA D. (INFN)
REITO S. (INFN)
SACCÀ G. (INFN)
URSO S. (INFN)

LIBRARY

GIUFFRIDA G. MURÉ' G. PLUCHINO S.

COMPUTER CENTRE

BELLUOMO P. (INFN)
CANGIANO E. (INFN)
ROCCA C. (INFN)
SAVA G. (INFN)

TECHNICAL SERVICES

ARRIVA F. CONTI O. (INFN) LO FARO S. (INFN) MARINO E. MAZZEO M. PLATANIA В. (INFN) **RAPICAVOLI** A.

RAPICAVOLI C. (INFN) RIZZA G. (INFN)

SPAMPINATO C.

SPARTI V. (INFN)

SPECIAL TASKS

BRUNO G. (CNR)
CONNELLI V. (CNR)
POLI G.
SCUDERI V.

RECEIVING & STORES

LEOTTA S

PELLICANE M. (INFN)

C.S.F.N.S.M. ADMINISTRATION

D'ARRIGO A. M. SCOLLO M. R.

RESEARCH FELLOWS

ANDRONICO Giuseppe CRRNSM
ANGILELLA Giuseppe UNIVERSITÀ
CIRRONE Giuseppe CSFNSM
CAPUZZELLO Francesco CRRNSM
GUELI Anna Maria CNR

LATORA Vito UNIVERSITÀ

LO PRESTI Domenico **INFN** MARZO Fabio **CRRNSM MASTELLONE** Andrea **CRRNSM** MIRABELLA Salvatore **CSFNSM CRRNSM MORELLI** Daniela UNIVERSITÀ **ROMANO** Stefano PELLEGRITI Maria Grazia **CRRNSM PRIVITERA** Giuseppe **CRRNSM RICCOBENE** Giorgio **CRRNSM SABINI** Maria Gabriella **CSFNSM SCALESE** Silvia **INFM** SFIENTI Concettina **CRRNSM**

TRICOMI Alessia INFN- UNIVERSITÀ

TUDISCO Salvatore CRRNSM TUMINO Aurora CRRNSM

FOREIGN GUESTS

ALFORD T. -ISM di Grenoble, France

ANDRES M. V.- University of Sevilla, Spagna

AUBRY P. - Association CLAP 33, Pessac, France

BARAN V. - NIPNE Institut of Bucharest, Romania

BARRÈ J. – University of Lyon, France

BAUMBACH M. - University of Heidelberg, Germany

BAUER W. - MSU National Lab., USA

BENYAICH F. - Univ. Meknes - Morocco

BLANTER I. - Dep. of Theoretical Physics Univ. di Ginevra, Switzerland

BRANCHINA V. – Oberhausbergen, France

BRINK D.- University of Oxford, U.K.

CAMPI X. - Orsay, France

CHOI MAHN-SOO - Univ. Basilea Switzerland

CHOMAZ Ph. - GANIL, France

CHRISTIANSEN E. E. -Risø National Laboratory, Roskilde, Denmark

DELPRAT S. -Institut Universitaire de Technologie I.U.T. « B », Gradignan, France

DES COURTILS J. -University of Bordeaux 3, France

DAUXOIS T.. - University of Lyon, France

DEZHANG Z. -Institute of Nuclear res. Univ.Shanghai, China

DKAKI M. - Univ. Meknes, Morocco

DORSO C. - University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

ECKERN U. - Inst. of Für Physik Universität Augsburg, Germany

ELSKENS Y. - University of Marseille, France

EIZENBERG M. - Institute of Technology di Haifa - Israel

FIRPO M.C. – University of Marseille, France

GLAZMAN L. - Univ. Minneapolis, Usa

GORYUNOV O. YU. -Institute for Nuclear Research, Kiev, Ukraine

GREINER W. - Frankfurt University, Germany

GROSS D.H.E - HMI Berlin, Germany

GUIBERT P. – Centre de Recherche en Physique Appliquée à l'Archéologie (CRPAA), Talence, France

HATZOPOULOS M. - K.E.R.A., Athens, Greece

JURT J. - University of Freiburg, Germany

LU J. - Institute of Modern Physics, Academia Sinica, Lanzhou, People Republic of China

KUZANYAN K. - Department of Physics Mosow, Russia

MAKHTARI A. - Univ. di Meknes - Morocco

MARCH N. H. - Oxford University, Oxford, U.K., and University of Antwerp (RUCA), Antwerp, Belgium.

MAYER JAMS W. - Arizona State University - Tempe, Usa.

MIDDENDORF H. D. - Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford University, Oxford, U.K., and ISISE, Oxford, U.K.

MILIN M.- Institut R. Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia

MORETTO L. – L.B.L., Usa

OLKOVSKY V. -Istituto Ricerche Nucl. Acc.Naz.Sc. Kiev, Ucraina

OSTASHKO V. V. – Institute for Nuclear Research, Kiev, Ukraine

PANEA N. - University of Craiova, Romania

POLONYI J. A. - Università di Strasburgo, France

POMMIER P. – University of Bordeaux 3, France

ROLFS C. - Ruhr Universitaet, Bochum, Germany

REUTER M. - Inst.f.Physik – Univers.Mainz, Germany

RUEDIGER G.- Potsdam Astrophisikalische Institut, Potsdam, Germany

SANTRA A. B. - Bhabha Research Centre, Mumbai, India

SIERRA G. - Istituto de Matem. Fisica Fundamental, CSCI, Madrid, Spain

SKORUPA W. - Forschungszentrum Rossendorf di Dresda, Germany

SOIC N. - Ruder Boscovic Institute di Zagabria, Croatia

SOURANI E. - University of Thessaloniki, Greece

STEPANOV A. - Université d'Aix-Marseille III, Marseille, France

SCHULZE H.J. - Liegi, Belgium

SCHUCK P. - Orsay, France

TSALLIS C. - Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Fisicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

VAN DER WAL C. - TU-Delf, The Netherlands

VAN GIAI Nguyen - Orsay, France

VON OERTZEN W.- Hahn - Meitner Institut, Berlin, Germany

WOLTER H. - University of Munchen ,Germany

ZUO WEI - Inst. Modern Physics Academia Sinica - Univ. Lanzhou - China

ZVEREV M. - Kurchatov Institute Moscow, Russia

ITALIAN GUESTS

BALLONE P. - Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Messina, Messina

BERNARDINI C. - Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma La Sapienza, Roma

CONIGLIO A. - Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Napoli, Napoli DRIGO A. - Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Padova, Padova FUBINI A. - Dipartimento di Fisica Università di Firenze, Firenze

GIANSANTI A.- Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma La Sapienza, Roma

INGUSCIO M.- Dipartimento di Fisica Università di Firenze, Firenze
MIGLIO L.- Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano
MANTEGNA R.- Dipartimento di Ingeneria, Università di Palermo, Palermo
RUFFO S.- Dipartimento di Energetica, Università di Firenze, Firenze
TORCINI A.- Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma La Sapienza, Roma

VALISA P. - SIRGEMMA Laboratory, Milano

VARLAMOV A. - Istituto Nazionale per la Fisica della Materia, Roma

ZATELLI G. - Az.Osp."Careggi", Firenze

COURSES HELD IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2000/2001

"LAUREA" IN PHYSICS PROGRAMME (equivalent to MASTER OF SCIENCES)

ANALISI MATEMATICA I

ANALISI MATEMATICA II

ASTROFISICA

ASTRONOMIA

CALCOLO ELETTRONICO

CAMPI ELETTROMAGNETICI

CHIMICA

ELETTRONICA APPLICATA

ESPERIMENTAZIONI DI FISICA I

ESPERIMENTAZIONI DI FISICA II

ESPERIMENTAZIONI DI FISICA III

FISICA DELL'AMBIENTE

FISICA DEI DISPOSITIVI ELETTRONICI

FISICA DEI MATERIALI

FISICA DEI SEMICONDUTTORI

FISICA DELLO SPAZIO

FISICA DELLO STATO SOLIDO

FISICA GENERALE I

FISICA GENERALE II

FISICA MOLECOLARE

FISICA NUCLEARE

FISICA SOLARE

FISICA STELLARE

FISICA SUPERIORE

FISICA TEORICA

FISICA TERRESTRE

GEOMETRIA

ISTITUZIONI DI ASTROFISICA

ISTITUZIONI DI FISICA NUCLEARE E SUBNUCLEARE

ISTITUZIONI DI FISICA TEORICA

LABORATORIO DI ASTROFISICA

LABORATORIO DI ELETTRONICA

LABORATORIO DI FISICA DELL'AMBIENTE

LABORATORIO DI FISICA DELLA MATERIA

LABORATORIO DI FISICA NUCLEARE

MECCANICA RAZIONALE

MECCANICA STATISTICA

METODI MATEMATICI DELLA FISICA

METODOLOGIE FISICHE PER I BENI CULTURALI

RADIOASTRONOMIA

RADIOATTIVITÀ

REAZIONI NUCLEARI

SPETTROSCOPIA NUCLEARE

STORIA DELLA FISICA

STRUTTURA DELLA MATERIA

TEORIA DEI CAMPI

COURSES HELD IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2000/2001

FOR OTHER KINDS OF "LAUREA" (DEGREE)

CORSO INTEGRATO DI FISICA PER MEDICINA E CHIRURGIA I

CORSO INTEGRATO DI FISICA PER MEDICINA E CHIRURGIA II

CORSO INTEGRATO DI FISICA PER MEDICINA E CHIRURGIA III

DISPOSITIVI ELETTRONICI PER INGEGNERIA ELETTRONICA

ESERCITAZIONI DI FISICA SPERIM. PER CHIM. E CHIM. IND.

FISICA GENERALE I PER MATEMATICI

FISICA GENERALE II PER MATEMATICI

FISICA PER SCIENZE NATURALI

FISICA PER FARMACIA

FISICA PER CHIMICA E TECN. FARM. (CTF)

FISICA I PER SCIENZE GEOLOGICHE

FISICA II PER SCIENZE GEOLOGICHE

FISICA I PER SCIENZE DELL'INFORMAZIONE

FISICA II PER SCIENZE DELL'INFORMAZIONE

FISICA PER SCIENZE BIOLOGICHE

FISICA GENERALE I PER CHIMICA

FISICA GENERALE II PER CHIMICA

FISICA I PER ING. MECCANICA

FISICA II PER INGEGNERIA ELETTRICA

FISICA PER MEDICINA - ODONTOIATRIA -

LABORATORIO DI FISICA PER SCIENZE BIOLOGICHE

LABORATORIO DI FISICA PER CHIMICA

MICROONDE

DOTTORATO DI RICERCA (equivalent to Ph.D.) IN PHYSICS PROGRAM

The Physics Department is the main hub for the activities of the PhD in Physics at University of Catania. Available PhD majors are:

- [1] Nuclear and Particle Physics
- [2] Solid State Physics
- [3] Theoretical Physics
- [4] Astrophysics

Although funds granted by University of Catania have been particularly meager, a consistent part of the funds were given by the European Community. An intense activity has been organized, including lecture courses and special seminars, held also by foreign Scholars. The possibility for students to conduct part of their research at foreign Universities or Laboratories has been granted.

Collaboration with other local research Institutions helps students fulfill their research goals. These Institutions include the Institute of Physics of the Engeneering Faculty, the Astrophysics Observatory, The Institute of Astronomy, all belonging to the University of Catania, as well as INFN and CNR.

PhD Activities

XIII CYCLE

Coordinator: F.Catara

Teacher Staff: A. Agodi, G. Belvedere, C. Blanco, A. Cunsolo, M. Di Toro, G. Faraci, G. Giaquinta, S. Lo Nigro, M. Rodonò, C. Spitaleri, S.O. Troja.

The students of XIII cycle are:

P. CASSARO Blazar e schemi di unificazione (Tutor: Prof. A. Zappalà)

V. COSTA A new approach to the problem of the light p isotopes under production in type ii supernovae

(Tutor: A. Zappalà)

G. GAROZZO PhD Thesis will be defended next year (Tutor: Prof. E. Rimini)

A. GRASSO PhD Thesis will be defended next year (Tutor: Dr. M. Baldo)

M. GRASSO A microscopic study of particle-hole and particle particle correlations in finite fermion system

(Tutor: Prof. F. Catara)

S. MACCARONE Effetti di correlazione nella dinamica delle collisioni tra ioni pesanti (Tutor: Prof. M. Di Toro)

A. MASTELLONE Superconducting correlations in ultrasmall metallic grains (Tutor: Prof. G. Giaquinta)

M.G. PELLEGRITI The á-12 celastic scattering studied via the trojan horse method (Tutor: Prof. C. Spitaleri)

G. RAGUNÌ Laboratory synthesis of molecular hydrogen on water ice surfaces in condition of astrophysical

Relevance (Tutor: Prof. V. Pirronello)

A. G. S. SAIJA PhD Thesis will be defended next year (Tutor: Prof. G. Immè)

XIV CYCLE

Coordinator: F. Catara

Teacher Staff: A.Agodi, G.Belvedere, C.Blanco, A.Cunsolo, M.Di Toro, G.Faraci, G.Giaquinta, S.Lo Nigro, M.Rodonò, C.Spitaleri, S.O.Troja.

The students of XIV cycle are:

A. DI LORENZO

A. FIASCONARO

E. GERACI

V. GRECO

A.L. MELITA

C. NOCIFORO

R.G. PIZZONE

S.M.S. PRIVITERA

P. VENTURA

XV CYCLE

Coordinator: F. Catara

Teacher Staff: A.Agodi, G.Belvedere, C.Blanco, A.Cunsolo, M.Di Toro, G.Faraci, G.Giaquinta, S.Lo Nigro, M.Rodonò, C.Spitaleri, S.O.Troja.

The students of XV cycle are:

- M. CHIORBOLI
- L. CONTARINO
- C. IACONO MANNO
- A. LAZZARO
- D. LO PRESTI
- G. LO RE
- F.D. MAMMOLITI
- D. MORELLI
- S. MIRABELLA
- A. MURABITO
- P. ROMANO

XVI CYCLE

Coordinator: F. Catara

Teacher Staff: A.Agodi, G.Belvedere, C.Blanco, A.Cunsolo, M.Di Toro, G.Faraci, G.Giaquinta, S.Lo Nigro, M.Rodonò, C.Spitaleri, S.O.Troja.

The students of XVI cycle are:

- D. PACIFICI
- E. LA GUIDARA
- C. DISTEFANO
- G. PALAZZO
- M. SPADAFORA
- A. PULVIRENTI
- M. ALESSANDRINO
- A. GIUSA
- G. CIRRONE

A. SCIUTO M. VENTURA

XVII CYCLE

Procedures to operate this cycle will start at the beginning of 2001.

DOTTORATO DI RICERCA (equivalent to Ph.D.) IN MATERIAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

The activity is organized in collaboration with the Department of Chemistry of the Catania University and the Dipartments of Physics and Chemistry of the Padua University.

XIII CYCLE

Coordinator: I. Fragalà

Teacher Staff: R.Bozio(Pd), S.Di Bella (Ct), A.Drigo (Pd), I.Fragalà (Ct), G.Marletta (Ct), P.Mazzoldi (Pd), G.Montando (Ct), F.Priolo (Ct), R.Pucci (Ct), O.Pugliesi (Ct), E.Rimini (Ct), E.Tondello (Pd)

The students of XIII cycle are:

M. RE Epitassia da fasci molecolari per micro ed opto elettronica integrata in silicio

(Tutor: Prof. E. Rimini)

C. SADA Erbium duping of Lithium niobate crystals by the ion exchange process

(Tutor: Prof. P. Mazzoldi)

C.SOTRIANO Cells, liposomes and proteins adsorption onto surfaces modified by irradiation

(Tutor: Prof. G. Marletta)

B. PIGNATARO Ordered molecular assembles on solid surfaces: forces, structures and properties on

nanometric scale

(Tutor: Prof. G. Marletta)

V. VINCIGUERRA Silicon nanostructures and their interaction with Er³⁺ions

(Tutor: Profs. F. Priolo, E. Rimini)

XIV CYCLE

Coordinator: I. Fragalà

Teacher Staff: R.Bozio(Pd), S.Di Bella (Ct), A.Drigo (Pd), I.Fragalà (Ct), G.Marletta (Ct), P.Mazzoldi (Pd), G.Montando (Ct), F.Priolo (Ct), R.Pucci (Ct), O.Pugliesi (Ct), E.Rimini (Ct), E.Tondello (Pd)

The students of XIV cycle are:

A. BAERI A. COATI

F. GIANNAZZO

XV CYCLE

Coordinator: I. Fragalà

Teacher Staff: R.Bozio (Pd), S.Di Bella (Ct), A.Drigo (Pd), I.Fragalà (Ct), A.Grassi (Ct), A.Licciardello (Ct), G.Marletta (Ct), P.Mazzoldi (Pd), F.Priolo (Ct), R.Pucci (Ct), O.Pugliesi (Ct), E.Rimini (Ct), E.Tondello (Pd)

The students of XV cycle are:

- P. SCHIAVUTA
- E. SCIACCA

XVI CYCLE

Coordinator: F.Priolo

Teacher Staff: R.Bozio (Pd), S.Di Bella (Ct), A.Drigo (Pd), I.Fragalà (Ct), A.Grassi (Ct), A.Licciardello (Ct), G.Marletta (Ct), P.Mazzoldi (Pd), F.Priolo (Ct), R.Pucci (Ct), O.Pugliesi (Ct), E.Rimini (Ct), E.Tondello (Pd)

The students of XVI cycle are:

- A. AUDITORE
- A. IRRERA
- I. CRUPI
- S. PADOVANI
- S. DAL TOÈ
- N. ARGIOLAS
- M. VITICOLI
- B. MECHERI
- G. BOTTARO

XVII CYCLE

Procedures to operate this cycle will start at the beginning of 2001.

PARTNERSHIPS, SPECIAL PROJECTS AND NETWORKS

- National CNR project on: "Studio di sistemi molecolari in condizioni estreme di temperatura e pressione". Institutions involved are Dip. Catania, Dip. Roma, Firenze, IEQ Firenze, ISM Roma.
- Agreement of scientific collaboration with Jaghellonic University of Cracovia and Silesian University of Katowice.
- Contract with CORIMME CT on the projects:
 - "Impianti ad alta energia di B e di Al in campioni strutturati",
 - "Caratterizzazione elettrica e strutturale di strati SIPOS",
 - "Controllo della vita media di portatori minoritari tramite impianti di Pt".
- Contract with ST Microelectronics Agrate Brianza (MI) for the projects "Studio degli impianti ad alta energia", "Microscopia elettronica".
- Agreement with CNR IMETEM, for the SCOOP Project.
- Agreement with Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare
- Agreement with Istituto Nazionale di Fisica per la Materia.
- Agreement with Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare for the CATANA project
- Agreement with Provincia Regionale di Ragusa .
- Agreement with Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania in order to ensure an effective and competitive
 development of astrophysical research in the Catania area.
 The funding is provided by: Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica (MURST),
 Consiglio Nazionale in the delle Ricerche (CNR), Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI), Regione Sicilia.
- Agreement of Scientific, technological and administrative collaboration with Consorzio Interuniversitario per la
 Fisica Spaziale (CIFS) for carrying out the space astrophysical projects in which the Section scientific staff
 operates, also through a local CIFS research unit. Associated universities are: Firenze (Dip. di Astronomia e
 Scienza dello Spazio), L'Aquila (Dip. di Fisica), Milano (Dip. di Fisica), Roma La Sapienza (Dip. di Fisica),
 Roma Tor Vergata (Dip. di Fisica), Torino (Dip. di Fisica), Trieste (Dip. di Astronomia). The funding is provided
 by Agenzia Spaziale Italiana.
- Contract with Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricercheon the subject Discovery and observation of asteroids orbiting
 in the Earth's vicinity, in the framework of ITANET project. Partners: Università di Padova (Dip. Astronomia),
 Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (MI), Università di Pisa (Dip. Matematica), Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale
 CNR (Reparto di Planetologia), Osservatorio Astronomico di Torino.
 Funding: CNR.
- Contract with Agenzia Spaziale Italiana with the Purpose: Co-ordinated research on asteroids, in the framework
 of the space project "Esplorazione del Sistema Solare", with a special interst in ESA-ROSETTA mission.
 Partners: Università di Pisa (Dip. Matematica), Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (MI), Osservatorio
 Astronomico di Torino. Funding: Agenzia Spaziale Italiana.

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EMSPS European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students

Our Department is involved in the EMSPS, the European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students. An explanatory note to the history and aims of the convention is given below.

- Youth exchange and mobility of students in particular are now generally recognized as a promising means to further international understanding. For Europe, with its recent epoch-making political developments, it will represent an important element in the promotion of cooperation and integration. It also takes into consideration the aspiration of the young generation open to the world.
- Several supranational organizations, notably the Council of Europe and UNESCO, have established conventions
 with a view to encourage the mobility of students in Europe. The European Community (EC) has adopted its
 pioneering programme ERASMUS, which recently has been extended to the European Free Trade Association
 (EFTA) countries. EC has also set up its programme TEMPUS with the aim to further student mobility with
 regard to Central/Eastern Europe (C/EE).
- A certain number of physics students in Europe benefit right now from these programmes, mainly in the framework of Inter-university Cooperation Programmes (ICP) of ERASMUS. Exchange is however limited to students from those institutions which are involved in ICP's in physics. The overall fraction of students who have access to such programmes is therefore rather small.
- For this reason, and in view of the political developments mentioned above, it SEEMED timely to envisage a mobility scheme that will, in principle, be open to physics students from all institutions from all of Europe. The European Physical Society (EPS) has decided to propose to European institutions giving an academic degree in physics (universities and equivalent institutions) to set up together such a scheme. EPS has long-standing experience in promoting cooperation among European physicists, including those from C/EE countries.
- After the preliminary proposal of April 1991, EPS has consulted the relevant institutions in October 1991 in more detail, sending them a draft convention and a questionnaire. More than 150 positive replies have been returned, confirming thus the substantial interest among institutions from all of Europe for such a scheme. The Mobility Working Group has then adapted the Convention, taking into account the comments received. This new version of the Convention, dated 28 March 1992, has been approved by the Council of EPS who at the same time has taken the formal decision to launch the scheme.
- The aim of the mobility scheme is the following:
 - a) to allow physics students of all of Europe to spend, if they desire, and under certain conditions, a "mobility period" of study in another institution, called the "host institution", and
 - b) to ensure that such a period will be recognized when the student comes back to his "home institution", subject of course to the student's satisfactory performance. Other key elements of the scheme are its openness to all institutions who desire to participate, and from all of Europe. It is intended as a permanent scheme, governed by a Convention to which the institutions are committed. The scheme is based on mutual trust regarding all academic aspects. It requires no adaptation or harmonization of the curricula, nor of the courses given or of their content.
- One essential element of the scheme is that the full academic responsibility for the student remains with the home institution. It is therefore only from this home institution that the student will get his final degree. In view of this responsibility, it is up to the home institution to select the students which may benefit from the scheme and to establish the relevant conditions. The role of the host institution, on the other hand, is to offer its courses (i.e. the courses it gives anyhow for its own students) and to assess the performance of the student according to the established programme. Participating institutions must also be prepared to take a number of practical measures in order to facilitate the exchange of students, notably regarding counselling, language preparation, housing, and mobility grants.

- Each institution may determine the number of students it is willing to accept in a given year, and it may impose particular requirements. As a corollary, each institution shall not send out more of its own students than it is willing to accept. However a precise balanced flow is not strived for, and not probable to take place anyhow.
- The practical functioning of the scheme relies heavily on the devotion of the "coordinators", in both the home and the host institutions. They advise the students on all academic and practical aspects and help to solve the arising problems. Coordinators also play an important role on the level of the overall scheme: a Mobility Committee has been formed, having coordinators as its members, which decides on the practical organization, in particular the flow of information and the deadlines.
- In view of the choice of the host institution, and the preparation of the study programme, students and coordinators must have access to the relevant information (on academic and practical matters) regarding all participating institutions. This documentation is available through a remote-access computerized database, located at the Physics Department of the University of Manchester.
- "Mobility grants" for students (meant to cover additional expenses) are essential for promoting mobility. Applications for such grants to ERASMUS and TEMPUS have been filed. Hopefully, institutions will ask for and obtain complementary means on a national or local basis.
- The scheme has been realized as follows:
- a) In April 1992 the Convention was sent to all institutions having expressed their interest in the scheme, asking them to return a "request of adherence letter".
- b) In June 1992 the Mobility Committee was formed by enlarging the former Working Group so as to achieve a balanced representation of the various countries participating in the scheme. The Mobility Committee has advised EPS on the acceptance of the institutions for participation in the scheme, elaborated the guidelines for the flow of information, and called on the help of Coordinating Institutions for the applications to ERASMUS and TEMPUS.
- c) In October 1992 the institutions having applied have been informed on the acceptance in the scheme and were asked to provide the relevant academic and practical information regarding their institution. For the academic year 1993/94 122 institutions from 25 countries all over Europe are involved in the scheme.
- d) In October 1992 an application has been filed with ERASMUS for funding of the scheme as an Inter-University Cooperation Project (ICP) and it was accepted; altogether 94 institutions from 16 EC and EFTA countries are involved. A similar request has been submitted in January 1993 to TEMPUS for a Joint European Project (JEP); here, besides the EC countries, only Hungary and Latvia could participate in 1993/94.
- e) Work on the preparation of the database has continued so that it has been ready for input from participating
- f) institutions and fully operational since January 1993.
- g) In spring 1993 interested students were able to consult the database, choose their host institution, and establish the study programme to which the Coordinator was to give his approval. The student's file has then been transmitted to the host institution which has the obligation to rapidly inform the student on acceptance or refusal. Around 100 students take part in this exchange programme during the academic year 1993/94.
- h) In autumn 1993 accepted students began studies abroad and the scheme became operational.
 - Further information on the scheme may be obtained from Dr. Catia Petta.

Since the year 1997 the Program Erasmus has been changed in the Program Socrates.

AREA A: APPLIED PHYSICS

Defects and Diffusion in silicon-based materials

G. Franzò, M.G. Grimaldi, F. Iacona, F. Mammoliti, G. Mannino, S. Mirabella, E. Moreira, F. Priolo, S. Privitera, V. Privitera, M. Re, E. Rimini, S. Scalese, C. Spinella, A. Terrasi, V. Vinciguerra

The interaction between B and point defects during ultra low energy ion implantation has been studied. In particular the role of the B clustering in presence of super-saturation of interstitial was investigated, showing that there are two main sources determining the transient enhanced diffusion of B: self-interstitial clusters and clusters made of B and Si interstitials. The electrical activation of dopants in ultra shallow juctions obtained by B implantation has been related to these phenomena, showing that the best conditions are produced by rapid thermal annealings.

Silicides

G. Franzò, M.G. Grimaldi, F. Iacona, F. Mammoliti, G. Mannino, S. Mirabella, E. Moreira, F. Priolo, S. Privitera, V. Privitera, M. Re, E. Rimini, S. Scalese, C. Spinella, A. Terrasi, V. Vinciguerra

The C49-C54 phase transition in $TiSi_2$ has been studied. In particular the investigations have been performed on pure $TiSi_2$ and on Ti/Ta/Si systems, both on blank and micro-patterned substrates. The kinetics of the process has been determined separating the contribution of nucleation from that of grain growth. Activation energies as well as the nucleation site density have been calculated from the experimental data. Moreover, a new phase of $TiSi_2$ has been observed (C40). The same transition has been investigated in nanoclusters of $TiSi_2$ embedded in polycrystalline Si. The optical and structural characterization β -FeSi $_2$ precipitates obtained by ion implantation has been concluded. The intense photoluminescence signal has been attributed to indirect transitions within the precipitates having a bulk-like structure. Precipitates smaller than 20 nm do not shown optical activity at 1.54 microns

CATANA project

M.G. Sabini, G.A.P. Cirrone, G. Cuttone, S. Lo Nigro, L. Raffaele A. Rovelli, A. Reibaldi, V. Salamone

In the framework of the CATANA project we have studied and developed dosimetric techniques on proton beams. Particularly we have studied absolute dosimetry with ionization chambers, either cylindrical and parallel plate. These chambers have been successfully intercompared at PSI and CCO representing the first detectors available in Italy to access absolute dose delivered with proton beams. Moreover detectors for relative dosimetry have been characterized too. In particular silicon diode, radiographic and radiochromic films, thermoluminescent dosemeters (TLD) have been kindly studied to be employed in lateral and longitudinal dose distribution reconstructions. Effects of radiation and thermal damage on TLD have been deeply studied in order to get informations about the LET dependence in TL response. Montecarlo simulations have been carried out to study the effects of the nuclear interaction of proton beams with tissue-equivalent material. The CATANA treatment beam line has been studied and designed in order to get a proton beam suitable for medical applications in radiotherapy.

Physical methodologies applied to the study, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage

S.O. Troja, G. Barbagallo, F. Bonaccorso, G. Burrafato, A.M. Gueli, F. Marzo and E. Turrisi

The research activity concerns in the *dating* of pottery sherds or terracotta and in the crono-sedimentary reconstruction of archaeological and geological stratigraphies through the absolute dating of totally bleached sediments using thermally (TL) and/or optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) methodologies. Many pottery sherds of archaeological origin, taken from numerous Sicilian and foreign sites, and sediments have been dated. It is the first group in Italy to have performed coarse-grain TL and OSL dating of pottery and geological sediments from very different periods. In co-operation with Italian and foreign researches, the group participate in many programmes regarding methodologies of thermally and optically stimulated luminescence for archaeometric and dosimetric applications. In the last year the *characterization* of minerals and pigments by Raman Spectroscopy to

study frescoes and paintings was applied and developed. Imaging methodologies based on IR, UV and VIS reflectometry are also setted. These techniques are very important for the non-invasive diagnostic pre-restoration of works of art. The group takes part also to researches in the domain of dosimetric characterization of detectors used for relative *dosimetry* of conventional and hadronic beams in radiotherapy. In this field the activity regards the 2D and 3D dose distribution determination in proton beam radiotherapy with GafChromicTM film detectors

Radon as precursor of earthquakes

G. Immè, E. Fontana, S. Lo Nigro, D. Morelli, G. Patané (Dip di Scienze Geol.)

In the framework of the Cluster-11 MURST project, in the year 2000 we started with the investigation on the possibility to use Radon as precursor of seismic – geodynamic activities. Radon variations, in fact, would seem to be a good precursor of crustal motion resulting in earthquakes. This fact encourages to find a way of using this phenomenon for earthquakes and eruptions prediction. The origin and the mechanisms of radon anomalies and their relationship to earthquakes is yet poorly understood, although there are several evidences of a correlation between radon anomalies and seismic activity. Mount Etna, owing to its geophysical position, is a good laboratory to study this kind of phenomena. Two sites were chosen in the Etna area for continuous measurements of soil gas Radon concentration at 1 meter deep simultaneously with seismic activity continuous monitoring and, because radon concentration also depends on atmospheric conditions, continuous measurements of temperature, atmospheric pressure and wind speed are performed.

Digital Radiology: (MARE Collaboration)

L.Caponetto, L.LoNigro, D.LoPresti, L.Pappalardo, C.Petta, N.Randazzo, S.Reito, G.V.Russo

We are developing a digital radiological apparatus. It uses electronic dedicated devices. The main aim is a very good resolution and a reduction of the total dose for each radiological investigation. The detector used is an array of GaAs pixels (200 micron pitch). The readout is a set of VLSI chip developed by the collaboration. The foreseen result can be obtained exploiting the capability to select X-rays energy. A 8 channel preamplifier-shaper has been designed and it is just under test.

The new portable PIXE-á-system

G.Pappalardo, G.Calvi, C. Marchetta, L.Pappalardo, F.Rizzo, F.P. Romano

A new portable PIXE-á-system has been recently designed and realised in collaboration between the CEA/DAMRI (Saclay-France), the LNS/INFN (Italy) and the CNR-Progetto Finalizzato Beni Culturali (Italy). The system allows to perform a non destructive analysis of ancient pigments and pottery gloss since PIXE analysis is sensitive to light elements and concerns only the surface layers. The PIXE- á-system consists of a 1 m Ci sealed ²¹⁰ Po source emitting alpha particles of about 5 MeV; ²¹⁰Po is electroplated on a silver baking evaporated on a Mylar annular support. A 0.2 im layer of aromatic epoxy resin is deposited on the ²¹⁰Po layer to further ensure the confinement. Two 2 im thin Kapton foils are glued on the faces of the source. The diameter of the spot is about 1 cm. Due to the á particles energy the analysed depth is about 15 im and the elemental analysis is limited to the surface of the sample. Experimental results show that K lines of light and medium atomic number elements, from Na to Zn and L and M lines of heavy elements such as Pb, Hg, Au and Ba can be easily analysed at concentration of some percent.

AREA B: EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR AND PARTICLE PHYSICS

NEMO Experiment

S. Aiello, L.Caponetto, R.Coniglione, L.LoNigro, D.LoPresti, E. Migneco, L.Pappalardo, C.Petta, P.Piattelli, N.Randazzo, S.Reito, G.Riccobene, G.V.Russo and P.Sapienza

The NEMO Collaboration (Bari, Cagliari, Catania, Genova, Messina, Roma La Sapienza, INFN LNS) proposes to construct a large area water Cherenkov detector in the deep Mediterranean Sea, near Sicilian shores, optimised for the detection of muons from high-energy astrophysical neutrinos. The observation of high energy neutrinos will open a new window on the universe. The primary aim of the experiment is to use neutrinos as a tool to study particle acceleration mechanisms in energetic astrophysical objects such as active galactic nuclei and gamma-ray bursts, which may also shed light on the origin of ultra-high-energy cosmic rays. At somewhat lower energies, nonbaryonic dark matter (WIMPs) may be detected through the neutrinos produced when gravitationally captured WIMPs annihilate in the cores of the Earth and the Sun. The characteristics of the proposed site are an important consideration in detector for the construction and deployment of the detector. The role of Catania in the collaboration concerns three primary items: 1) low power, low size front-end detector, 2) R&D of the Optical modules and 3) design, realisation and use of a Deep Water Light Scatter meter. As regard the first item a set of high speed AMS .35 m chips are designed and are actually under test. These chips are dedicated to the trigger and sampling of the signals coming from the optical sensors. For the R&D of the Optical modules two equipments has been designed ed realised: a) an Hyperbaric Camera to test devices at 350 Atm. And b) a big Dark Room tho characterise the basic properties of optica detectors (ECLAP). Besides and complicated instrument (DEWAS) has been designed and realised to measure, in the deep ocean the scattering effect of the water to the light.

Neutrino's detection using an undersea detector: ANTARES Experiment

S. Aiello, L.Caponetto, L.LoNigro, D.LoPresti, L.Pappalardo, C.Petta, N.Randazzo, S.Reito, G.V.Russo

The ANTARES Collaboration proposes to construct a dimostrator for a large area water Cherenkov detector in the deep Mediterranean Sea, near Toulone, optimised for the detection of muons from high-energy astrophysical neutrinos. It surface is foreseen to be $0.1~\rm km^2$. The construction of this dimostrator is very importan in view of the realisation of a large volume $(1~\rm km^3)$ neutrino underwater detector. The role of Catania in the collaboration is the construction, and the qualification test of 300 Local Control Modules. The latter are the containers with the most part of submarine electronics for the whole detector.

ALICE Experiment

A.Badalà, R.Barbera, G. Lo Re, A.Palmeri, G.S.Pappalardo, F.Riggi

The ALICE Collaboration is building a dedicated heavy-ion detector to exploit the unique physics potential of nucleus-nucleus interactions at the largest energies of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. The ALICE Collaboration includes at present about 1200 researchers from 87 Institutes and 27 countries. The aim of such experiment is the study the physics of strongly interacting nuclear matter at extreme energy densities, where the formation of a new phase of matter, the Quark-Gluon-Plasma (QGP), is expected. The main challenge of heavy-ion physics is recording the enormous number of particles which emerge from the collisions. While at CERN's present day energies, about 1500 particles are produced in each collision, at the LHC, the multiplicity will go up to about 50000 particles. A large fraction of these must be tracked and identified. Only then can a clear picture emerge, and key signals be found pointing to different stages in the evolution from ordinary matter to QGP. The experiment has just entered the construction phase, after a research and development period over the last years. The detector will be completed in 2004. The local group of researchers in Catania, together with the technical staff is involved in the construction of the two innermost layers of the vertex detector, which are based on the silicon pixel technology, as well as in the reconstruction software for all the Inner Tracking System. Significant progresses have been made this last year in the set-up of a suitable test laboratory for the electronic read-out chips in a clean room environment, and

in the overall organization of the tracking algorithms wich make use of object-oriented technologies. A large contribution is also being devoted to the development of the GRID technologies for the required simulation and off-line computing in ALICE.

NA57 Experiment

A.Badalà, R.Barbera, A.Palmeri, G.S.Pappalardo, F.Riggi

The study of relativistic heavy-ion collisions provides a unique opportunity to search for a new predicted state of matter, the Quark-Gluon-Plasma (QGP). A number of experimental signatures of the transition to the QGP phase have been proposed and are currently studied in several experiments at the BNL AGS and CERN SPS. The enhancement of strange and (multi)strange particles produced in heavy-ion collisions with respect to the proton-nucleus case are an important signature of such a phase transition. The NA57 Collaboration, which includes about 100 physicist from several countries has built a dedicated detector at CERN for the measurement of strange and multistrange baryons and antibaryons (K0, Lambda, Xi and Omega) produced in proton-nucleus and nucleus-nucleus collisions at the SPS energies (40-160 GeV/nucleon). The detection technique makes use of a silicon pixel telescope (about 1.1 million channels), together with microstrip detectors. Measurements at 40 and 160 GeV/nucleons have been carried out, both for the p-Be and p-Pb systems, as well as for the heavy-ion system Pb-Pb. The results have pointed out a strong enhancement in Pb-Pb (up to a factor 15 for the Omega baryons) with respect to the proton-nucleus case, thus suggesting evidence for a different regime.

CMS experiment

S.Albergo, V.Bellini, S.Costa, M.Chiorboli, R.Potenza, M.L.Sperduto, C.Sutera, A.Tricomi, C.Tuvè

CMS is a general purpose proton-proton detector designed to run at the highest luminosity at the LHC of CERN. It is also well adapted for studies at the initially lower luminosities. The CMS Collaboration consists of almost 1900 scientists and engineers from 152 institutes in 32 countries. The main design goals of CMS are: i) a highly performant muon system; ii) an electromagnetic and a hadron calorimeter; iii) a high quality central tracker; iv) a large volume superconducting magnet. The CMS detector has been designed to search clear signatures from new physical phenomena in p-p reactions and is particularly suited to search the Higgs boson in a wide mass range: a Standard Model (SM) Higgs boson with mass between 95 and 150 GeV would be discovered via its two photon decay after an integrated luminosity of about 3.10⁴ pb⁻¹. The same integrated luminosity gives a discovery range covering masses from 135 to 525 GeV in the four lepton channel, with only a small gap in the coverage around 2 m_w. An integrated luminosity of 10⁵ pb⁻¹ would allow discovery via these channels over the full range between 85 and 700 GeV. During 2000 the CMS group of Catania was mainly involved into radiation damage studies of silicon microstrips for the inner tracker and also in the construction of the planned milestones for the CMS microstrip detector. A collaboration between Bari and Catania (Regional Center) for CMS silicon microstrip production has been established. During 2000 Catania has produced parts (the vacuum control systems) of an authomatic assembly system of microstrip detectors. The parts produced in Catania have been delivered in 7 different laboratories of the collaboration. The Catania group is also involved in the computing project for the CMS experiment, and a pc farm has been realized in Catania during 2000.

EOS Experiment

S. Albergo, Z. Caccia, S. Costa, A. Insolia, R. Potenza, G. V. Russo, A. Tricomi, C.Tuve`

The EOS experiment was performed at the LBNL Bevalac in 1992. Its goal is the exclusive study of nuclear collisions at relativistic energies with almost complete reconstruction of all charged particles and neutrons on an event by event basis. Beam ions from Ne to Au have been used on targets from C to U with incident energies ranging from 400 to 2100 MeV/nucleon. The data analysis began in 1993 and is still going on. It has established, between 1994 and 1999, very many important results. The analysis has continued in 2000. Although the LBNL involvement has nearly disappered, a quite fruitful collaboration between the Purdue group and our Catania group is continuing and keeps producing relevant results on the Multifragmentation and Liquid-Gas Phase Transition

subjects, as testified by the papers published in 2000, which have been led by either group. The inclusive light fragment (Z<7) yield data in Au+Au reactions, measured by the EOS Collaboration at the LBNL Bevalac, have been studied as a function of multiplicity. Moving from central to peripheral collisions the measured charge distributions develop progressively according to a power law which can be fitted, within errors, by a single exponent independently of the bombarding energy except for the data at 250A MeV. In addition, the location of themaximum in the individual yields of different charged fragments, for a given beam energy, shifts towards lower multiplicity as the fragment charge increases from Z = 3 to Z = 7. This trend is common to all six measured beam energies. Moments of charge distribution were also investigated. The universal features observed in the present Au + Au data are consistent with previous experimental findings in the Au + C multifragmentation reaction at 1A GeV.The dynamics of multifragmentation has been studied for the reverse-kinematics systems Au+Kr and Au+La, in addition to Au+C previously studied. Again, evidence has been found for a two-stage process, involving the emission of prompt light particles, followed by the disassembly of an equilibrated remnant in a later, slower stage. Universal features possibly exhibited by the three systems when suitably scaled for size have been sought, but no evidence of such an universal behaviour has been found. Deviations from scaling observed in the IMF multiplicity and in the size of the largest fragment suggest that the increasing Coulomb energy of heavier projectiles may lead tomore extensive multifragmentation. However, differences between the different projectiles do disappear when various quantities are plotted vs. reduced multiplicity m/Zproj. In this case the caloric curves also agree closely. For the same three systems a systematic search for signals of a continuous phase transition has been conducted. This analysis follows up on earlier (starting 1994) pioneering determination of critical exponents for Au+C. Several critical exponents, the critical point and the scaling function expected to be possessed by systems which possess a critical point, have all been extracted for all three systems. Moreover, it has been shown that the Fisher droplet model, percolation and nuclear multiframentation as measured by the EOS Collaboration share the common features of reducibility (stochasticity in multiplicity distributions) and thermal scaling (one-fragment production probabilities are Boltzmann factors).

E896 Experiment

S.Albergo, D. Boemi, Z. Caccia, S. Costa, A. Insolia, R. Potenza, A. Tricomi, C. Tuve`

The E896 experiment is dubbed the definitive search for the elusive 6 quarks particle (uuddss) named H0, postulated by Jaffe on basis of the MIT bag model. The H0 would be copiously formed in central collisions between heavy ions at sufficiently high energies, such as the Au+Au at 11.6 GeV/c, affordable at the Brookhaven AGS. The H0 is sought in E896 by looking for characteristic topologies of its expected decay modes in aptly designed tracking detectors. The Catania group's contribution to E896 consists of the neutron spectrometer Muffins, which had been built and used for previous experiments at the LBNL Bevalac and was slightly modified for use in E896. The purpose of Muffins was to aid in recognizing the characteristic decay topology exepcted for the H0 decay channel H0 -> Sigma- + p -> n + pi- + P by identifying at least in some events the neutron which would escape from detection in the other charged-particle tracking devices (A Silicon Drift Deterctor and a Drift Chamber). E896 took beam for 30 days in April 1998. This run went technically very well. We recorded on tape about 100 million events with central trigger. These data are all of excellent quality, with a typical track multiplicity in the Drift Chamber of only 20. Despite many analysis efforts, discovery of the H0 cannot yet be claimed. Possible candidates have all vanished after closer scrutiny with refined calibrations and improved analysis software. To check the overall reconstruction chain those events have been studied in which the decay vertex reconstructs to a Lambda particle.Lambda yields and polarization are now well understood so results on the Lambda production will follow soon, and will be reported here next year. The whole E896 apparatus, including the Muffins detector was fully dismanteled in December 2000.

Using thermal photons to probe nuclear dynamics

R. Alba, C. Agodi, C. Maiolino, A.Del Zoppo, M.Colonna, G.Bellia, M. Bruno, N. Colonna, R. Coniglione, M. D'Agostino, M.L.Fiandri, P.Finocchiaro, F.Gramegna, I.Iori, K. Loukachine, P.M.Milazzo, G.V.Margagliotti, P.F.Mastinu, E.Migneco, A.Moroni, P.Piattelli, R.Rui, D.Santonocito, P.Sapienza, G.Vannini

Experimental data and theoretical calculations on hard photon (Eγ≥ 25 MeV) production at intermediate energy indicate that they are mainly emitted as bremsstrahlung radiation in individual first chance neutron-proton collisions occurring in the interaction zone just at the beginning of the reaction. Additionally, in the energy range 25-50 MeV, photons also come from a later and more equilibrated phase of the reaction when the system, after an expansion phase, undergoes a second compression leading to the formation of a heavy system (HS) . This picture evidences the interest of this photons as probes to study the dynamical evolution of the collision since their production is strongly influenced by processes inhibiting the formation a HS surviving the density oscillations. At intermediate energy the most interesting competing process is the dynamical multifragmentation of a fast expanding source. To study this interplay, a set of experiments has been performed at the Laboratori Nazionali del Sud with the Superconducting Cyclotron beams. High energy photons and IMF's have been detected in ⁵⁸Ni + ¹⁹⁷Au at 30A and 45A MeV reactions using the coupled MEDEA MULTICS multidetector arrays. The experimental correlation factors between thermal photons and IMF's have been deduced, for both the incident energies, as a function of centrality. The observed trend is different: in the 30A MeV data the two nuclear species are always uncorrelated; in the 45A MeV data, instead, central collisions show a significant degree of anticorrelation when IMF's with small (around the nucleus-nucleus c.o.m.) parallel velocity are selected. This evidences that the emission of this subset of IMF's actually prevents the second compression. The dynamical character of such effect is supported by simulations of the collision dynamics. On the other hand, the lack of correlation in the 30A MeV data indicates that at this lower bombarding energy the bulk of fragment emission comes from statistical deexcitation of the HS.

First results on characterization of the MACISTE detector

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The characteristics of gas ionization detectors as, e.g., their ability to localize particle trajectories to less than one millimeter even on a wide detection surface, their ease of operation and maintainance, their resonable cheapness along with the increasing interest in this kind of detectors tempted us to make use of the structure of the LNS User Support Service to build gas ionization position detectors, by following the design of the wire chambers of MACISTE. Two MACISTE telescopes, one of the old type and one of the new type, were assembled on their supports into the vacuum chamber for an in-beam testing comparison. The elastic scattering of a 40 MeV/amu ⁵⁸Ni beam, delivered by the LNS SCC, on a Au target was used to study the response functions of each stage of the telescopes. The signal from the cathode plane was used to measure the time of flight of the particles relative to the radiofrequency of the cyclotron and was also used to trigger the events. Time of flight information allowed to separate the elastic scattering events from the reactions. The impact point on the detector was determined by collecting the charge at both ends of each delay line. The preamplifier output signals were sent to a CFD discriminator whose output was used as a stop to a TDC started by the signal from the cathode. The sum of the left and right signals of the delay line represents the length of the wire chamber and it was used as a condition to select the events giving clean signals out of the detector. The impact point was then calculated only among the events fulfilling the previous condition. A rough preliminary analysis of the data from the two telescopes was performed. The first thing to be checked was the difference in the response of the two wire chambers. The comparison of the data between the two detectors shows no difference and therefore the newly built wire chambers perform correctly from both mechanical and electronic points of view. A rough calibration of the sum of the signals from both ends of the delay lines was performed and a resolution (FWHM) of about 3 mm in the x direction and about 5 mm in the y direction was deduced. The response of the drift chambers shows a dependence on the impact point in both x and y directions; this effect can be clearly observed in the E -vs-x and E -vs-y matrices, and it has been interpreted as due to a combination of charge recombination, space charge effects and non linearity of the electric field near the chamber edges. Similarly, a position dependence response was observed for the scintillation detector confirming a previous measurement of the response function of the scintillation detector; this dependence on the impact point is due to an incomplete light collection. The analysis is still in progress in order to deduce the full response functions of the three elements of each telescope.

Dilepton spectrometry with HADES

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At energies around 1A GeV several authors have argued a possible partial chiral symmetry restoration, precursor of a new phase transition: from hadron matter to quark-gluon plasma and several models have been proposed and developed throughout the last years, in order to try to foresee the behaviour of hadronic matter at higher and higher temperature and density. The most frequently faced problem concerns the mass of mesons, mainly because their structure is intrinsically simpler than barions. Nearly all the proposed models do not foresee relevant variations in the mass of ð, ç and k, while concerning ñ, ù and ö the subject is somewhat intricate. As direct measurements of vector mesons are not possible, as their mean lifes are about 10⁻²³ s, a possible alternative solution is to measure their decay products, in order to reconstruct the original mass by exploiting the invariant mass method. A decay channel, though extremely rare, consists of its transformation into a virtual photon which, in its turn, decays into an e⁺e⁻ pair, which represents an ideal undisturbed probe with respect to their preferentially hadronic decay channels which information is washed out by the final state interaction. Nevertheless many different processes can lead to an e⁺e⁻ pair in the final state, and these will represent a consistent background noise in the mass spectrum and these processes have therefore to be taken into account, if we want to extract significant informations from the measured data. The experiments so far performed shown the need an e⁺e⁻ spectrometer with large geometrical acceptance and capable of operation at high counting rates, in order to achieve invariant mass and momentum resolution around 1%. This is the reason why the HADES (High Acceptance Di-Electron Spectrometer) collaboration has been formed, with the precise issue of studying hot and dense nuclear matter by exploiting the di-electron decay channel. An additional important entrance channel is represented by pion-nucleus collisions, and to this purpose a pion beam facility has been recently developed at GSI. The detector is made up of several cascaded detection systems in hexagonal symmetry. Moving along the same direction as the particles to be detected, there are respectively a ring imaging Cherenkov detector (RICH) allows to uniquely identify the leptons and accurately measure their emission direction; two layers of multi-drift chambers (MDC), followed by six superconducting solenoids, producing a toroidal field, and by other two layers of MDC: this system can determine with a very high precision the particle momenta, by measuring the trajectory displacement induced by the magnetic field within a position error of <100um; a time of flight wall (TOF), made of 320 rods of BC408 scintillator, covering the polar angles between 44° and 88°, to measure the event-by-event multiplicity that is an indication of the centrality of the collision, and the time of flight and direction of each detected particle; a pre-shower detector (SHOWER), placed on the polar range 13°-45°, made of three gas chambers intermixed with two lead converter layers, in order to operate the lepton/hadron discrimination; in front of the SHOWER a 24- slab low-granularity tof wall (TOFINO) furtherly helps in lepton/hadron discrimination. Several tests and commissioning runs have been performed throughout last years, mainly using C beams at 1-2A GeV, finally showing that the spectrometer is capable of fulfilling all the design requirements.

Pre-equilibrium emission and cooperative effects in heavy ion reaction around the Fermi energy

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The 58 Ni + 58 Ni reaction at 30A MeV was investigated at Laboratori Nazionali del Sud with the MEDEA and MULTICS apparatus. Energetic protons were detected in coincidence with photons, light charged particles (Z=1,2) (LCP) and intermediate and heavy fragments on an event by event basis. Protons with energy extending up to almost 20 % of the total available energy,namely much larger than expected by coupling the relative motion with a sharp nucleon Fermi momentum distribution (kinematical limit), were measured. We have also investigated the average proton multiplicity as a function of the number of partecipating nucleons A_{part} (b) and a striking behaviour with increasing proton energy is found. Indeed, the experimental proton multiplicity displays the expected linear dependence on A_{part} (b) for energy close to the kinematical limit (60 E $_p^{NN}$ 80 MeV), while the multiplicity of extremely energetic protons (130 E $_p^{NN}$ 150 MeV) exhibits an almost quadratic increase with A $_{part}$. The

comparison with dynamical calculations which include the momentum dependence in the effective potential shows that the features of the energetic proton emission are well reproduced up to 110 MeV while this approach fails to explain the almost quadratic dependence on the number of participant nucleons of the yield of very energetic protons (E_p^{NN} 130 MeV). So, the observed behaviour calls for the introduction of mechanisms beyond the mean field and two body nucleon-nucleon collisions such as cooperative effects. In conclusions, these results shed some light on the emission of extremely energetic protons and can improve the understanding of the mechanism responsible for deep subthreshold particle production. Moreover, the detailed comparison with dynamical calculations allows to get a deeper insight on the first non equilibrated stage of the reaction where the highest temperatures and densities are reached.

Multifragmentation and nuclear phase transition at intermediate and relativistic energies.

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The liquid-gas phase transition continues to act as a major motivation for studying multifragmentation processes in order to answer, in particular, the question of how fragments are formed and of identifying the dominant mechanisms. Break-up temperatures and excitation energies of the fragmenting system were measured and correlated in the resulting caloric curves. But temperatures and excitation energies are only two of the thermodynamical quantities of interest that characterize the break-up states. Among the other break-up parameters the density is of particular importance because an expansion to low density is a basic ingredient of the multifragmentation scenario. Low densities in agreement with model expectation were recently reported for spectator decays following 197Au on 197Au reactions at 1000 MeV per nucleon. Proton-proton correlations and correlations of p-alpha, d-alpha, and t-alpha from spectator decays have been measured with an highly efficient detector hodoscope (HODO-CT). In particular, we constructed correlation functions for pairs of particles detected at backward angles and we selected protons with E>20 MeV, so little affected by sequential feeding. Comparing the results with MonteCarlo simulations within the Koonin-Pratt interferometry formalism freeze-out radii of R=8 fm (larger than the ground state radii of target spectators) were deduced and emission times of ô=10-15 fm/c were surprisingly short. The results are found to be consistent with low breakup densities with values close to those assumed in the statistical multifragmentation models and short emission time differences with values close to those predicted for volume breakup. Because the times between the emission of protons result to be in the order of passing time of the projectile through the target, we cannot exclude that the protons come from the fireball, which grows with the centrality of the reaction, in agreement with the observed variation of the source extension with impact parameter. A reaction where the partners are diluting each other by scattering out the fireball nucleons would explain the large radii without substantial amount of expansion

Nuclear polymers and cluster states.

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The study of deformed cluster configurations in light nuclei has been extended to the so called *nuclear polymers*, exotic chains made of á-particles bound by neutrons, which play the same role of valence particles as electrons do in atomic molecules. The existence of such structures is mainly due to the nature of the \acute{a} – \acute{a} potential which is attractive at large distances and shows a repulsive core at small distances as an effect of the Pauli principle. The valence neutrons are expected to increase the binding energy of an \acute{a} chain and to stabilize it. An experiment was performed at the tandem accelerator of the Laboratori Nazionali del Sud , with the aim of studying such *polymeric* structures formed in the interaction of a 120 MeV ¹⁸O beam on a ⁹Be target. The analysis of data is still in progress.

Nuclear reactions in the astrophysical context and the electron screening effects.

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The Trojan Horse Method (THM) allows the indirect measurement of nuclear reaction cross sections in the region of ultra low interaction energy (around the Gamow peak) that is typical of nuclear processes in the astrophysical context. The method has been applied to the experimental study of some nuclear processes relevant for the understanding of the element abundances in the universe. A set of experiments performed at the Laboratori Nazionali del Sud, at the Dynamitron Laboratorium of the Bochum University and at the Tandem Laboratory of the R. Boskovic Institute has allowed for the measurement of the astrophysical factors at zero interaction energy S(0). From the same experiments an evaluation of the screening potential due to the presence of atomic electrons has been deduced. Moreover a preliminary study has been recently performed on the production of a secondary ⁸Li beam at the Laboratori Nazionali del Sud. It will be used to measure the cross section of the ⁴He(⁸Li,n)¹¹B reaction, that is a key process in the description of the synthesis of metals in the Inhomogeneous Big Bang Model.

Fusion cross section measurements in reaction induced by nuclei halo.

A.Di Pietro, P.Figuera, A.Musumarra, F.Amorini, G.Cardella, S.Cherubini, J.Lu, M.Papa, M.Pellegriti, F.Rizzo, S.Tudisco

Controversial effects on the fusion cross-section have been predicted by different theoretical models in reactions induced by halo nuclei at low bombarding energies. These models agree that the larger spatial extent of halo nuclei, and the coupling with possible low lying resonant states, would increase fusion cross-section. However different models disagree about the role played by the break-up of the loosely bound halo nucleons on the fusion crosssection. Break-up in fact can be considered either as a loss of flux for fusion decreasing the cross-section, or as an additional channel which enhances the cross-section. The systems studied so far are ⁶He+²⁰⁹Bi, ⁶He+²³⁸U, ¹¹Be+²⁰⁹Bi . In these experiments controversial results were obtained. In the reactions induced by ⁶He beams a strong enhancement of the fusion cross-section below the Coulomb barrier was observed but this was not seen in the ¹¹Be induced reaction. To try to resolve this controversy we recently studied at the CRC laboratory of Louvain la Neuve the reaction ⁶He+⁶⁴Zn at 9.1 MeV end 12.4 MeV beam energies. To overcome the difficulty to detect directly the evaporation residues (E.R). produced in the fusion reactions because of their low recoil energies, the fusion cross section was measured through the off-line X-ray activity of the radioactive E.R. produced in the reaction. The reaction ⁶He+⁶⁴Zn produces infact E.R. decaying by Electron Capture (E.C.) which then emit low energy X-rays that were measured by a Si(Li) detector surronded with a lead shield to suppress background.. The fusion excitation function was performed at fixed beam energy using the activation technique. As a comparison but also to check the normalisation procedure, the reaction ⁴He+⁶⁴Zn was investigated at the same centre of mass energy.

Using an array of highly segmented large solid angle Silicon strip detectors with a total solid angle $\dot{U}=2\eth$ and covering the angular range $0=\ddot{o}=2\eth$ and $0=\ddot{o}=2\eth$ an

Limiting excitation energy for GDR gamma decay.

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The region around 15 MeV in the \tilde{a} -ray energy spectra produced in heavy ion reactions is dominated by the GDR decay. Indications on the GDR disappearance at excitation energy above 250 MeV were observed for systems around mass 110. The GDR disappearance is a signature of the loss of collectivity of the nuclear matter. Recently a connection between this disappearance and the liquid-gas phase transition of nuclear matter has been proposed. The limiting excitation energy (2.5 MeV/A) resulting from the used $E^*_{\text{cut-off}}$ seems too low with respect to the energy at which the phase transition is expected. However the statistical analysis performed up to now suffers from some inaccuracy. In fact the statistical code CASCADE used accounts only for neutron (n), proton (p) and \acute{a} -particle decays. More complex fragments that can be evaporated at this high excitation energy are neglected. The main aim

of our work is to improve the reliability of the statistical calculations at high excitation energy in order to extract more precise information on the maximum excitation energy at which we still observe collective excitations in nuclear matter. We studied the systems 40 Ca+ 48 Ca, 46 Ti at 25 A MeV. The experiment was performed at the Superconducting Cyclotron of the Laboratori Nazionali del Sud (LNS) Catania. We analysed the gamma spectra taken in coincidence with the evaporation residues produced in fusion-like reactions. The comparison of experimental spectra with theoretical predictions was obtained taking properly into account the bremsstrahung contribution and introducing in the CASCADE code the dependence of isospin and the Reisdorf parameterization for the level density. Moreover we added the deuteron decay channel to the CASCADE code because such particles have, for the investigated systems, an emission probability similar than -particles. From this comparison the extracted excitation energy per nucleon at which we still have GDR excitation is 4.6 MeV and 3.8 MeV respectively for 48 Ca and 46 Ti. They represents the lower limit energy at which a collective behavior persists. In fact, in case an increasing \tilde{A}_{GDR} is assumed, a higher excitation energy (5.6 MeV/A for the 48 Ca target) is obtained.

The CHIMERA detector and its first experiment: REVERSE.

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The CHIMERA (Charged Heavy Ion Mass and Energy Resolving Array) multielement detector was designed in order to detect and identify light charged particles and fragments emitted in heavy ion collisions, to investigate many topics of the heavy ion physics at intermediate energies. CHIMERA is an array of 1192 telescopes, covering 94% of the total solid angle. Each telescope is made of a 300 mm thick silicon detector and a CsI(Tl) crystal coupled to a photodiode. Its shape and dimensions allow also TOF technique measurements and therefore a mass identification of the detected particles. During the 2000 the forward part of CHIMERA, made of 688 telescopes covering the polar angular range 1°-30° has been used in the CICLOPE vacuum chamber at the LNS of Catania in the mainframe of the REVERSE experiment, supported by an international collaboration of physicist from China, France, Poland and Rumenia. This experiment intend to study the multifragmentation, and the effect of the isospin degree of freedom on this mechanism, in some heavy ion collisions in reverse kinematics, (112,124 Sn + 58,64 Ni and 27 Al at 25 and 35 MeV/A), where the reaction products are focused in the forward direction, well covered by this part of the detector. Some of the proposed reaction have been performed and the experimental program will be completed in 2001. The performances claimed in the project presentation have been totally fulfilled, and the data analysis is now in progress. All the remaining (504) modules and the related electronics have been acquired during 2000 and they will be mounted in the dedicated reaction chamber at LNS as soon as the relative beam line will be ready.

CICLOFUS Experiment

N. Arena, Seb. Cavallaro, E. Geraci, G. Lanzalone, S. Pirrone, G. Politi, F.Porto, S. Sambataro.

The CICLOFUS experiment is supported by the INFN from 1997 to 2001. In this experiment we put forth the study of complete and incomplete fusion of heavy ions in light systems ($A_P + A_T < 50$) at cyclotron energies, i.e. at projectile energies higher than 10 MeV/A. The interest in the fusion reactions and competing processes at energies higher than 10 MeV/A, is due to the controversial question about the fusion cross section in this energetic region. For this reason we proposed the measurements for the asymmetric systems³²S + ¹²C,²⁸Si + ¹²C and ³⁵Cl + ¹²C at energies between 15 and 30 MeV/A. We performed a first measurements in November 1998, with a beam of ³²S on a ¹²C target at 20 MeV/A, and in 2000 we submitted the results that are now in press. The experiment was realized at the Laboratori Nazionali del Sud with The Gas detector system, an experimental apparatus that allowed us a complete identification in charge, mass and energy of the reaction evaporation residues. The inclusive velocity spectra of each identified evaporation residue indicates different reaction components. The separation of these is possible with complex deconvolution techniques, that show a complete fusion, an incomplete fusion and a direct reaction contribution. The discrimination of the different reaction components allows us to obtain the cross sections for the processes. The

results are in a good agreement with the theoretical systematics. Besides we studied the trend of the critical angular momentum for the fusion versus the excitation energies. Our results show a saturation at high energy, that could be consistent with the hypothesis that the limitation of fusion cross section is due to compound nucleus effects. In 2001 the experimental program will be completed with the study of the two reactions 28 Si + 12 C and 35 Cl + 12 C at 20 MeV/A.

AREA C: THEORETICAL PHYSICS

Theoretical physics of fundamental interactions

A. Agodi and G. Andronico

Studies have been carried out and are in progress on alternative definitions of relativistic quantum field theories in connection with the equivalence problem and with the structure and degeneracy of the physical vacuum for generalized free fields. Special attention is given to the Higgs sector of the Standard Model, involving a critical analysis of the data from lattice calculations, the conditions for dynamical mass generation in a renormalizable scale invariant theory and the constraints from neutrino oscillations.

Spontaneous symmetry breaking, phenomenology of the Higgs particle, lattice simulations of \ddot{o}^4 theory

M. Consoli, P. Cea (Bari Univ.), L. Cosmai (Bari Univ.) and P.M. Stevenson (Houston Univ.)

According to renormalization-group improved perturbation theory, the `triviality' of ö⁴ theories implies the scalar sector of the Standard model to be just an effective theory, i.e. valid up to some cutoff scale. Without a cutoff, the argument goes, there would be no scalar self-interactions and without them, no spontaneous symmetry breaking. The validity of this interpretation has been questioned by us in a series of theoretical papers. The key-argument is that spontaneous symmetry breaking is a many-body effect involving an infinite number of degrees of freedom. In the infinite cutoff limit, an infinitely increasing density of particles in the condensate compensates for the vanishing strength of the elementary 2-body processes (`triviality') thus producing a non-vanishing and negative energy density. Recent, precise lattice tests seem to confirm this picture of the phenomenon with potentially important consequences for the phenomenology of the Higgs particle.

Models and phenomenology of unconventional superconductors

G. G. N. Angilella, R. Pucci and N. H. March (Oxford Univ.)

For unconventional heavy fermion superconductors, typified by UBe_{13} , the superconducting transition temperatures T_c have been shown to correlate with a characteristic energy $^2/m^*\xi^2$, m^* being the effective mass, and ξ the coherence length. For four of the six materials for which T_c , m^* , and ξ are available, $k_BT_c\approx 20$ $^2/(m^*\xi^2)$. One heavy fermion material, UPd_2Al_3 , reveals a tendency for the above linear behavior to saturate at substantially larger $^2/(m^*\xi^2)$ than for UBe_{13} . The sixth material considered, URu_2Si_2 , falls between UBe_{13} and UPd_2Al_3 . To embrace d-wave pairing in cuprates, a log-log plot reveals that $k_BT_c\approx ^2/(m^*\xi^2)$, but more materials for which m^* and ξ are measured will be required to substantiate the correlation in these high- T_c substances.

Wilsonian Renormalization Group and flow equations

A. Bonanno, D. Zappalà

Some properties of the differential Renormalization Group equations, derived according to the blocking procedure originally introduced by Kadanoff and Wilson, have been investigated. Specifically, the dependence on the approximation scheme and on the infrared regulator employed has been studied. The critical exponents of the scalar theory in three dimensions at the non-gaussian fixed point have been numerically evaluated for a particular regulator introduced using the Schwinger proper time formalism and an excellent agreement with the epsilon-expansion determinations is found. The Renormalization Group equations of the linear sigma model of scalar mesons coupled to fermions have also been considered with particular attention to the wave-function renormalization of the meson fields.

Neutron star structure

M. Baldo G.F. Burgio and H.J. Schulze

The nuclear matter equation of state is the fundamental input for building models of neutron stars according to the Einstein's general theory of relativity. In fact typical properties like masses and radii depend strongly on the equation of state at densities 8-10 times larger than the nuclear matter saturation point. For this purpose we have developed a microscopic equation of state for nuclear matter using the Brueckner-Bethe-Goldstone many-body theory, including modern nucleonic two and three-body forces. If we assume a conventional description for the stellar core, e.g. mainly composed by nucleons and leptons, we find an upper limit for the mass equal to 1.8 solar masses and a radius of about 10 km, in good agreement with the observational data. However, at those high densities, strange particles like \$\Sigma^-\\$ and \$\Lambda\\$ may appear, leading to a softening of the equation of state. This decreases the value of the maximum mass to about 1.25 solar masses, below the observational data (1.44 solar masses). On one hand, this addresses the question of a complete, microscopic study of the three-body nucleonic forces. On the other hand, it calls for the need of more experimental data on the nucleon-hyperon and hyperon-hyperon interaction.

Hybrid stars structure

M. Baldo and G.F. Burgio

Neutron stars can reach values of the central densities up to 8-10 times normal nuclear matter density. Therefore quark matter can be present in the stellar core. Those stars are called hybrid stars. If we assume a description of quark matter in terms of a free Fermi gas according to the MIT bag model and exploiting the experimental data obtained at CERN on a possibile quark-gluon phase transition, we have calculated the maximum mass for those stars. This falls in a range between 1.5-1.6 solar masses, no matter how one describes the hadronic phase. Therefore, the existence of a star with larger mass (as claimed by some groups) could indicate that: a) quark-quark interaction plays an important role, hence disproving partially the MIT bag model; b) the correct theory for describing gravitation could not be the general theory of relativity.

Nuclear matter hole spectral function in the Bethe-Brueckner-Goldstone approach.

M. Baldo and L. Lo Monaco

The hole spectral function is calculated in nuclear matter to assess the relevance of nucleon-nucleon short range correlations. The calculation is carried out within the Brueckner scheme of many-body theory by using several nucleon-nucleon realistic interactions. Results are compared with other approaches based on variational methods and transport theory. Discrepancies appear in the high energy region, which is sensitive to short range correlations, and are due to the different many-body treatment more than to the specific N-N interaction used. Another conclusion is that the momentum dependence of the G-matrix should be taken into account in any self consistent approach.

Average energy of quark matter in a cluster mode.

D. M. Brink (Oxford Univ.)and L. Lo Monaco

The idea is to calculate the mean energy of quark matter where the quarks are collected into white-colour clusters by using a model analogous to the alpha particle model of light nuclei. We have a number of sites and 3 quarks on each site with the same orbital wave-function and some colour-flavour wave function. If the nucleons are quark clusters there should be no exchange between them at large distance and no divergence in the colour potential at large distances.

Dynamics and statistical mechanics of a system with long-range forces

V. Latora, A. Rapisarda and S. Ruffo (Univ. Firenze)

In the framework of the Hamiltonian Mean Field model, a model of classical fully coupled spins, we have studied the connection between microscopic chaotic dynamics and second-order macroscopic phase transition. A direct link between the Lyapunov exponent and the Kolmogorov-Sinai entropy with the fluctuations in kinetic energy has been found. The model has been studied in detail both analytically and numerically and very general features have been found. A very slow relaxation to equilibrium and the existence of quasi-stationary states has been found. In correspondence one gets also superdiffusion and Lèvy walks. This very interesting effect is sensitive on the size of the system. The cross-over time from anomalous to normal diffusion corresponds to the equilibration time.

Non-Gaussian equilibrium in a long-range Hamiltonian system

V. Latora, A. Rapisarda and C. Tsallis (CBPF, Brazil)

In the framework of the Hamiltonian Mean Field model we also showed that, when the thermodynamic limit is taken before the infinite-time limit, the system does not relax to the Boltzmann-Gibbs equilibrium, but exhibits different equilibrium properties, characterized by stable non-Gaussian velocity distributions and dynamical power-law correlation in phase-space. Our results are in agreement with the non-extensive thermodynamic formalism proposed recently by C. Tsallis. The first paper on the subject is in press on Physical Review E.

Nuclear multifragmentation

V. Latora and A. Rapisarda

Nuclear fragmentation has been investigated within the framework of classical molecular dynamics. We have focused on the importance on non-equilibrium effects on the variables measured (caloric curves, specific heat) to extract information on the critical behavior of nuclear systems.

Boltzmann entropy and Kolmogorov-Sinai entropy

V. Latora and M. Baranger (MIT, Usa)

It has been studied the relationship between the entropy for a thermodynamical system S (the one of Boltzmann and Clausius) and the Kolmogorov-Sinai entropy K used for dynamical systems, which measures the degree of chaoticity of a system. We have found that the linear rate of increase with time of S gives exactly K for conservative systems. A first paper has been published in Physical Review Letters in 1999 and a second one is in progress.

Non-estensive thermodynamics and the logistic map at the edge of chaos

V. Latora, A.Rapisarda, M. Baranger (MIT, Usa) and C. Tsallis (CBPF Brazil)

We have studied the connection between the Boltzmann entropy and the Kolmogorov-Sinai one for dissipative maps, extending a formalism already found in conservative systems. We have also applied with success the nonextensive Tsallis entropy to the logistic map at the edge of chaos, i.e. at the critical point between order and chaos. Our results confirm the importance of the nonextensive formalism for systems with fractal phase space and long-range correlations.

Diffusion in chaotic systems with low dimensionality

A. Rapisarda, M. Robnik (Maribor, Slovenia) and T. Prozen (Ljubliana, Slovenia)

Diffusion in strongly chaotic systems with low dimensionality has been investigated. The numerical dyanmical simulations for strong chaos have been compared with success with a probabilistic model. We have also been working on a model to describe diffusion in the case of a mixed (regular and chaotic) regime.

Small-World Networks

V. Latora and M. Marchiori (W3 and MIT, Usa)

The connection topology of many biological, technological and social networks is neither completely regular nor completely random. These networks are named small-worlds. We have formulated a new theory of small-worlds based on the concept of efficiency in theinformation transport over the network. Our formalism is valid both for topological (unweighted) and metrical (weighted) networks, and can be applied to all such systems where the the physical distance between points is of fundamental importance. We have published a first paper and a second one with new applications to real neural systems, communications and transport networks has been submitted to PRL.

Time Series Analysis and Modeling of Geophysical Systems

V. Latora, A. Rapisarda and S. Vinciguerra (UCL London)

Critical behavior are ubiquitous in nature and the geophysical systems are systems where chaos, fractals and dynamical aspects are very important. Since few years we have a close collaboration with a group of geophysicists. This year we have published a new paper on the clustering properties of seismic data sets of Mt. Etna Volcano (Italy).

Study of DNA Sequences

V. Latora and P. Grigolini (Univ of North Texas, USA)

DNA can be considered as a long message written in a 4-letters alphabet. By using a new entropic method we are studying the information contained in this message, the regularities and its statistical properties. A first paper has been recently submitted for publication.

Definition of chaos in quantum dynamics.

P. Falsaperla, G. Fonte, G Salesi

We have introduced a definition of chaos in quantum dynamics, which is based only on elements of the theory of chaos in dynamical systems.

Variational methods in field theory and condensed matter: mass and ground state of the Higgs boson

F. Siringo

The mass and the decay width of a Higgs boson in the minimal standard model are evaluated by a variational method in the limit of strong self-coupling interaction. The non-perturbative technique provides an interpolation scheme between strong-coupling regime and weak-coupling limit where the standard perturbative results are recovered. In the strong-coupling limit the physical mass and the decay width of the Higgs boson are found to be

very small as a consequence of mass renormalization. Thus it is argued that the eventual detection of a light Higgs boson would not rule out the existence of a strongly interacting Higgs sector. The possible existence of Higgs-Higgs bound states is explored using the variational method. Within the conventional scenario, where a not-too-large cutoff is invoked to avoid ``triviality," we find, as usual, an upperbound on the Higgs mass. Bound-state solutions are only found in the very strong coupling regime, but at the same time a relatively small physical mass is required as a consequence of renormalization. For d=3 the results are relevant in the framework of the Ginzburg-Landau description of superconductivity in presence of the electromagnetic field.

Nontrivial extension of the Higgs model and molecular ordering

F.Siringo

A recently proposed molecular model is discussed as a non-trivial extension of the Ising model. For d=2 the two models are shown to be equivalent, while for d>2 the molecular model describes a peculiar second order transition from an isotropic high temperature phase to a low-dimensional anisotropic low temperature state. The general mean field analysis is compared with the results achieved by a variational Migdal-Kadanoff real space renormalization group method and by standard Monte Carlo sampling for d=3. By finite size scaling the critical exponent has been found to be equal to 0.44, thus establishing that the molecular model does not belong to the universality class of the Ising model for d>2.

Extension of RPA

F.Catara, M.Grasso and M.Sambataro

In the last few years we have studied possible extensions of RPA. One such extension is based on the equations of motion method but avoiding the Quasi Boson Approximation used in deriving the RPA equations. This method, as other extensions of RPA, presents the problem that it violates the Energy Weighted Sum Rules. We have shown that this problem can be eliminated by enlarging the space of the elementary modes beyond the the particle-hole ones. This enlarged version of the approach has been applied to a solvable 3-level model. Work is in progress in order to apply it to realistic nuclei.

Multiphoton excitations in heavy ion collisions

F.Catara and E.G.Lanza

Recently heavy ion inelastic scattering experiments have clearly shown the existence of states in the high excitation energy region of states which can be described as a Giant Resonance (GR) built on top of another GR. The systematics on the energies and widths is in qualitative agreement with the harmonic picture. However, the inelastic cross sections are almost always smaller than the measured ones, the discrepancy ranging from 30% up to a factor 2. In order to eliminate this discrepancy, corrections to the harmonic approximation have been included, like anharmonicities in the internal hamiltonian and non-linearities in the external field. Good agreement with the experimental Coulomb excitation cross section for the ²⁰⁸Pb+²⁰⁸Pb system has been found.

A new class of phonon operators for RPA-like calculations

M. Sambataro

We have investigated the use of a phonon operator different from the standard RPA one. As a major feature, this new phonon operator has a vacuum carrying only a limited number particle-hole excitations and so with a form well different from the exponential one of RPA. In addition, multiphonon excitations have a particle-hole structure never exceeding in complexity that of this vacuum, no matter how large is the number of phonons involved. We have examined advantages and disadvantages of using this new form of phonon operator in two cases: the standard two-

level Lipkin model and the Na_8 metal cluster. In both cases we have made comparisons between exact and approximate calculations.

Transverse Flow

A. Insolia

Exclusive transverse flow in Au + Au reactions, has been calculated within the BNV transport model with a momentum dependent microscopic mean field + phase space coalescence model. The results have been compared with the data from the EOS experiment, taken at LBNL Bevalac. The mean field has been obtained in the framework of the Brueckner theory up to the third order in the G - matrix. The calculated exclusive flow for protons, deuterons and alphas follow the observed experimental trend versus the energy and the fragment mass.

Nuclear Dynamics under extreme conditions and effective interactions

V. Baran , L. Bo (IHEP Beijing), A. Bonasera , M. Cabibbo, M. Colonna, M. Di Toro, V. Greco , U. Lombardo , S. Maccarone, T. Maruyama (JAERI Japan), S. Terranova

The aim is to develop new trends in nuclear dynamics of large interdisciplinary interest, like the competition between regular and chaotic motion in correlated systems, the nuclear collective response in stable and unstable regions, the thermodynamics of finite systems, the nuclear equation of state under extreme isospin and density conditions and related compact star problems. Of course the starting point is the problem of the effective nuclear interactions in the medium, in non-relativistic and relativistic approaches. In the last year some attention has been also focussed on the transition to a deconfined nuclear matter, in particular at high baryon densities. At the same time a great effort is put in maintaining always a close connection to experimental groups, not only at the LNS. In particular we note the nice results obtained in the last year working with the collaborations Medea-Multics, Chimera and Trasma at the LNS, Indra at Ganil and Miniball at MSU. Some members are also actively participating in NuPeCC working groups, in particular in the discussion of the new European Radioactive Beam Facilities.

In the following the main results obtained in the last year are listed:

- 1) Hot nuclei.
- Formation: entrance channel effects, in particular charge and mass symmetry; The Dynamical Dipole.
- Hot collective response. Possibility of the observation of a transition zero-to-first sound.
- 2) Nuclear fragmentation and liquid-gas phase transition.
 - Dynamical mechanisms based on the spinodal decomposition
 - Mid-rapidity emissions and neck instabilities
 - Fluctuations in transport approaches
 - Critical phenomena in finite systems
 - Chaos in quantum field theories
 - Volume and shape instabilities: quantum vs semiclassical predictions
- 3) Asymmetric nuclear matter.
 - Collective response and new mechanical plus chemical instabilities
 - Density dependence of the symmetry term: critical observables in fragmentation and collective flows
 - Nucleon-Nucleon cross sections in nuclear matter
 - Pairing correlations in dilute asymmetric NM
 - Microscopic approaches and predictions for stellar evolution and neutron star properties
 - Effective Field Theories: the role of Fock terms on the symmetry energy
- 4) Quark-Gluon Plasma and Chiral Symmetry Restoration
- In medium meson modifications
- Color molecular dynamics for high baryon density matter
- Relativistic hadron and string cascade models
- Hadronization features: bag models and kinetic approaches

Cold Fusion

F. Frisone

Apart from my unaltered interest in the mechanism which tends to lower the Coulomb barrier, I am researching into the amplification of the tunnelling effect within crystalline lattices subjected to thermodynamic stress, and I am attempting to calculate this effect in a microcrack as a function of lattice deformation. I am also studying the influence that temperature can have on the phenomenon of deuteron fusion within metal lattices with CFC or EC structure, hypothesising that a kind of chain reaction, catalysed by the microcracks which arise as a result of thermodynamic variations or for other motives, can favour the process.

AREA D: SOLID STATE PHYSICS

Si based optoelectronics

G. Franzò, M.G. Grimaldi, F. Iacona, F. Mammoliti, G. Mannino, S. Mirabella, E. Moreira, F. Priolo, S. Privitera, V. Privitera, M. Re, E. Rimini, S. Scalese, C. Spinella, A. Terrasi, V. Vinciguerra

The research on the Si-based optoelectronics has been focused on the study of structural, electrical and optical properties of epitaxial Si films doped with Er and O, grown by MBE. The O/Er ratio has been varied in the range 0-20, showing as this parameter is the main responsible for the electrical and optical response of the material. In particular has been demonstrated that a ratio O/Er = 6 produces the highest photoluminescence signal at 1.54 μ m at low temperatures (18 K), while for room temperature the best signal is obtained for O/Er = 2.

The optoelectronics activity has also regarded the light emission from Si nanocrystals embedded into SiO_2 matrix, doped with Er. It has been shown that these nanostructures strongly emit around 800 nm because of the quantum confinement. Moreover, nanocrystals prepared by ion implantation have shown for the first time optical gain, which is one of the technical need for the fabrication a Si-based laser. Si nanocrystals have also been fabricated by high temperature thermal annealing of Si/SiO_2 super-lattices. The introduction of Er in the Si nanostructures causes a preferential energy transfer from Si to the Er ion, with the consequent light emission at 1.54 μ m. This emission is two orders of magnitudes higher than that observed in SiO_2 doped with Er, being a very promising results for the fabrication of optical amplifiers.

SiGe alloys grown by MBE

Epitaxial $\mathrm{Si}_{1\text{-x}}\mathrm{Ge}_x$ films have been grown by Molecular Beam Epitaxy, with 0< x<0.3 and thickness in the range of 50 to 800 nm. These films are strained if grown under appropriate conditions, but a post-growth thermal annealing can induce a partial or total release of the stress by the introduction of misfit dislocations. The relaxation of SiGe films have been studied as a function of several parameters, giving evidence of the role played by the substrate temperature during the SiGe deposition. In fact, sample deposited at 350 °C show a step-like relaxation with respect to samples deposited at 550 °C. The mechanism of relaxation in this case has not been yet clarified and further investigations will be necessary.

Another important research based on MBE SiGe layers has been performed in collaboration with the STMicroelectronics concerning the HBT (Heterojunction Bipolar Transistors). In this contest, SiGe layers have been deposited on micro-patterned 6 inches Si wafers, showing the great capability of our MBE system to growth good quality material also for practical industrial applications. Boron doped SiGe has also been deposited for the base region of a real HBT device, and the first attempt to fabricate a working HBT has been done with very promising results. Finally, studies on the thermal oxidation of SiGe alloys by RTO (Rapid Thermal Oxidation) have been performed, showing the unexpected formation of mixed oxides ($SiO_2 + GeO_2$) and the enhancement of the oxidation rate due to the presence of Ge.

Electrochromic Thin Films

A.Pennisi, F.Simone

Thin films electrodes of transition metals oxides having electrochromic properties, typically Vanadium, Nickel and Tungsten oxides, have been prepared and characterized in order to improve coloration efficiency and to get a rapid kinetic of ion insertion, when the electrodes are interfaced with a polymeric electrolite with opportune salts inserted. Chemical composition and morphology have been analyzed as a function of depostion parameters while electrochromic performances have been tested by cyclic voltammetry.

Cluster Physics

G. Faraci, A. R. Pennisi, R. Puglisi.

1) We studied the initial phases of Co precipitation in Ag, corresponding to lower Co concentrations, where smaller clusters start forming. We have recently initiated a study of the dose dependence of the different sites taken up by Co in Ag, starting from 0.05 at.% corresponding to a reference situation where essentially the substitutional site is populated. The nucleation of very small clusters sets in from about 1 at.%. These intriguing particles remain superparamagnetic for Mössbauer observation down to very low temperatures, below which they feature an interface magnetic hyperfine field, which is about 15 % lower than the bulk value. The latter observation deserved a deeper investigation. At the intermediate concentration range, around 0.5 at. %, we have observed an unexpectedly strong population, up to 75%, of the smallest aggregates, namely Co dimers. The complementary structural and lattice dynamical information that we extracted from EXAFS is of paramount importance.

A major challenge in this study consists in preparing a sample with a sufficiently high areal density of dimers. At the somewhat larger concentration range, we performed a full structural characterization of the nano-clusters in terms of the mean coordination number and nearest neighbor distances, in view of unraveling the interface structure as well as the crystal structure. Recent N.M.R. results on Co clusters in Ag point towards a h.c.p. structure, while there is also conflicting evidence favouring the f.c.c. structure. At the same time, we complemented the few (because of the very long times involved) experimental $\Theta_D(\text{CoAg})$ values and compared them to theoretical values which we could recently obtain in M.D. calculations. One of our goals was also to compare both the structural and dynamical information for this case of ion implanted samples to that of samples prepared by co-sputtering, where we observed important differences in the interface quality and therefore in the Θ_D values.

2) We also reported on a successful X ray Grazing incidence X ray diffraction investigation of Xe as-implanted Si: we obtained the X-ray structural characterization of Xe clusters (including nn distance and coordination) showing evidence of the formation of a Xe compressed fluid phase. Also the Si matrix was contemporarily checked and verified to be in an amorphous phase; here too, nn distance and coordination were detected. The simultaneous measurements both on the matrix and on the Xe inclusions were possible using a new X-ray diffraction method which combines the grazing incidence geometry, highly collimated, very intense Synchrotron Radiation beams and the two-dimensional detection. This method permitted to maximize the implanted thin layer contribution. The compressed fluid phase was simply explained in the frame of the Hard Sphere (HS) model.

Amorphous and crystalline Silicon Carbide

G. Foti, P. Baeri L. Calcagno, R. Reitano, P. Musumeci.

1. Amorphous Silicon-Carbon alloys

Amorphous Silicon-Carbon alloys has attracted a great deal of attention due to the possibility of tayloring the physical properties to specific needs by varying the alloy concentration. Indeed, both electrical transport properties and optical properties vary greately throughout the composition range. In particular, the possibility of fabbricating light emitting devices from the near infrared to the green-blue seems promising.

We studied the properties of these alloys deposited by Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapour Deposition in the carbon concentration range 0 -0.65. Vibrational (IR and Raman) and nuclear (RBS and ERDA) spectroscopies and luminescence (CW and time resolved) has been employed for the characterization. The effect of ion irradiation and of thermal annealing have been used as tools for the control of defect concentration and relaxation state of the material.

2. Crystalline Silicon Carbide

Silicon Carbide is by now the most promising large gap semiconducting material for high power and high temperature electronic aplllications. Nevertheless, many material issues are still to be solved. In particular, we have studied the formation of ohmic and rectifying contacts on 6H-SiC. Also, we explored the possibility of etero-epitaxy on silicon from possible integration of silicon carbide based devices with silicon electronics. The formation and characterization of point defects by ion irradiation has been started and will continue in the future.

AREA E : ASTROPHYSICS

Solar and stellar magnetic activity

Belvedere G., Busà I., Contarino L., Lanzafame A., Marino G., Paternò L., Rodonò M., Romano, Zappalà R.A., Zuccarello F.

This is the traditional research line of the former Institute of Astronomy, carried out for more than thirty years. The problem is approached from different points of view: observation, data analysis, data interpretation, theory. The comparison of activity phenomena in the Sun and stars allows us to understand the basic mechanisms that determine stellar variability and control activity cycles. While high resolution solar observations permit a detailed description of magnetic phenomena, on the other hand stellar observations describe a wide phenomenology in different physical conditions and timescales. In more detail, this research activity consists of:

- 1) Systematic patrol observation of photospheric and chromospheric phenomena by means of the Istituto and Osservatorio solar instrumentation (white light, H-alpha and Calcium K-line and onboard satellites (UV and X).
- 2) Simultaneous photometric, spectroscopic and multi-band radio observations of single and binary RS CVn type active stars, performed, in the framework of international collaborations, by Istituto and Osservatorio instrumentation, as well as available instrumentation at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and CNR Istituto di Radioastronomia (Noto radiotelescope). Also UV and X satellite data are used.
- 3) Development of data analysis techniques for different atmospheric level stellar observations, for an accurate mapping of surface dishomogeneities in active stars, differential rotation and activity cycle studies.
- 4) Development of non-linear dynamo models based on the interaction of rotation, convection and magnetic field in order to describe magnetic, cyclic or chaotic, activity.
- 5) Dynamical and kinematical effects of stellar activity in close binary and millisecond pulsars.

This research activity is done in collaboration with the universities of Cambridge (UK), Moscow (Russia), Potsdam (Germany), Strathclyde (UK), Utrecht (Nederlands), Yale (Usa), Padua (Italy) and OAC, VLBI, ESA, JOSO.

Chemically peculiar stars

Catalano F., Marino E.

The aim of this research is to develop appropriate observations in order to attain a clear phenomenological scenario, useful for understanding the mechanisms that determine anomalies in the surface elements abundances of some star types (CP). The research, both observational and theoretical, is carried out by means of observations performed by Istituto and Osservatorio instrumentation, as well as instrumentation of ESO and "El Leoncito" Observatory in Argentina. The following are the important points:

- 1) Accurate photometric determination of the rotational period of CP stars, in order to study the correlation among various types of observed variability. To this point, the continuous updating of the "Catalogue of Periods of CP-stars" is related.
- 2) Study of the infrared variability of CP-stars.
- 3) Analysis of high resolution spectra of CP-stars, and determination of abundances and photospheric parameters through atmospheric models.
- 4) Determination of the incidence of CP-stars among stars in the same spectral interval, by means of direct observations and the use of Hipparcos satellite catalogues.

This research activity is done in collaboration with the universities of San Juan (Argentina), Strasbourg (France) and OAC.

Structure and dynamics of the solar interior by means of helioseismology

Bonanno A., Paternò L.

The inversion of solar oscillations frequencies measured in the Sun with very high precision (helioseismology) is a powerful tool for the study of its internal structure and dynamics. This theoretical research uses data available from worldwide networks of solar stations (GONG, IRIS,...) and from SOHO satellite, where three instruments for measuring oscillations are operating. This research is carried out along three lines:

- 1) Elaborating a very high precision solar model, including the most recent physics related to the equation of state, the cross section of nuclear reactions and the inward diffusion of elements. This is the reference model to which the data inversion is to be compared.
- 2) Developing numerical codes for data inversion, both 1-D (sound speed, density, helium abundance) and 2-D (rotation).
- 3) Study of relativistic effects on oscillation frequencies. These effects could be important, since the level of precision of frequency measurements is quite high.

This research activity is done in collaboration with the universities of Saclay (France), Warsaw (Poland), Yale (Usa), Roma *Tor Vergata* (Italy) Pisa (Italy), OAC and GONG.

Nuclear Astrophysics

Cassaro P., Costa V., Pizzone G.R., Zappalà A.R.

Nuclear reactions of astrophysical interest are characterized by an energy of colliding nuclei much less than the Coulomb barrier, and so it is very difficult to study them in laboratory experiments. In order to overcome this limitation, an indirect method is used (Trojan Horse), by means of which the reactions [Li-6 (d, alpha) He-4] and [Li-7 (p, alpha) He-4] have been studied. These reactions are respectively obtained from the 3-body quasi-free reactions [Li-6 (He-3, 2 alpha) p] and [Li-7 (d, 2 alpha) n]. The cross sections measured this way, compared to the values extrapolated from direct measurements, allow us to get information about the computation of the electronic screening contribution, which is very important for reactions occurring at energies of astrophysical interest. This research activity is done in collaboration with LNS-INFN Catania (Italy).

Accretion disks onto collapsed objects

Belvedere G., Lanzafame G.

This research consists of 3-D numerical simulations of the formation, structure and dynamics of accretion disks in interacting binary systems with a collapsed primary (white dwarf or neutron star). Numerical simulations are very important in order to understand the physics of these systems, since analytical models are not able to describe the great complexity of the phenomenology of interacting plasmas in rotating systems. These simulations are performed in the framework of "Smooth Particle Hydrodynamics", an interpolating lagrangian "particle" numerical method, which has revealed faster and more flexible than traditional grid methods.

This research activity is done in collaboration with the universities of Kobe (Japan), Bangalore (India), Palermo (Italy), and LNS-INFN Catania (Italy).

Filaments and clusters of galaxies in N-body simulations.

V. Antonuccio, U. Becciani

Significant improvements in the parallel efficiency of our cosmological N-body code (FLY) have allowed us to perform numerical simulations of the formation of the Large Scale structure of the Universe with unprecedented dynamical range. Our simulations confirm the scnario where Clusters of galaxies form at the intersection of very long filaments of matter. The latter have tunred out to possess a coherent structure also in phase space. This demonstrates the role of large-scale tidal fields in determining the structural properties of dark matter halos within clusters. This work was conducted in collaboration with the Theoretical Atrophysics Center (TAC, Copenhagen, Denmark) and with the Royal Observatory Edinburgh (Scotland, UK).

Study of minor bodies in the solar system

Blanco C.

This research, carried out essentially by observations performed with instruments of Istituto and Osservatorio, is aimed to accurately determine the rotational axis orientation and aspect ratio of a statistically relevant number of asteroids. This is the substantial observational basis in order to define a collisional evolution model of these minor bodies of the solar system, thus allowing us to understand the spatial fragmentation of a hypothized original large body. This research activity is done in collaboration with OAC.

International programs

Ground-based observations

- European Working Group on Ap-stars
- Ground-based support to the COROT space mission
- GONG (Global Oscillations Network Group)
- ITANET (Italian Network for the discovery and tracking of "Near-Earth Objects")
- Noto VLBI (Very Large Baseline Interferometry)
- World Solar Data Center

Observations from space

- COROT (COnvection ROtation and planatary Transits, CNRS-ASI-ESA
- EUDOSSO (An experiment for measuring the solar diameter and oscillations onboard ISS (International Space Station)) NASA/ESA
- EUSO (ex AirWatch) Telescopio spaziale per lo studio degli EECR (Extreme Energy Cosmic Rays)
 ASI-ESA-NASA
- FUSE (Far Uv Satellite Explorer) NASA
- GOLF-SOHO (Global Oscillations at Low Frequencies onboard SOHO) NASA/ESA
- RXTE (Rossi X-ray telescope) NASA
- UVCS-SOHO (Ultraviolet Coronagraph Spectrometer onboard SOHO) NASA/ESA
- UVISS (UV telescope for the International Space Station)
- WSO-UV (World Space Observatory for the UV)

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