

Influence of entrance channel on production cross sections of exotic actinides in multinucleon transfer reactions

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(Received 23 August 2022; accepted 14 October 2022; published 2 November 2022)

Within the framework of the dinuclear system model, the influence of mass asymmetry and the isospin effect on the production of exotic actinides have been investigated systematically. The isotopic yields populate in multinucleon transfer reactions of ^{48}Ca , ^{86}Kr , ^{136}Xe , ^{238}U bombarding on ^{248}Cm are analyzed and compared with the available experimental data. Systematics on the production of unknown actinides from Ac to Lr via the available stable elements on Earth (from Ar to U) as projectiles-induced reactions with ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm are investigated thoroughly. Potential-energy surface and total kinetic-energy distribution for the reaction system are calculated and can be used to predict the production cross-section trends. It is found that the heavier projectile leads to the wider isotopic chain distribution for the same target. The heavier target-based reactions prefer to produce plenty of exotic actinides through both mechanisms of deep-inelastic and quasifission reactions. Isospin relaxation plays a crucial role in the colliding process, resulting in an actinide isotopic distribution that tends to shift to the drip lines. Massive new actinides have been predicted at the level of nanobarn to millibarn. The optimal projectile-target combinations and beam energies are proposed for the forthcoming experiments.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevC.106.054601](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.106.054601)

I. INTRODUCTION

In past decades, a number of new exotic actinides have been identified in laboratories all over the world [1]. There are fifteen elements in the actinide region with the charge number $Z = 89\text{--}103$. In the actinide range, practically these nuclides were produced by methods such as [2] heavy-ion fusion-evaporation reactions (FE), projectile fragmentation (PF), light-particle reactions (LP), neutron-capture reactions (NC), heavy-ion transfer reactions (TR), deep-inelastic reactions (DI), thermonuclear tests (TNTs), and radioactive decay (RD). Up to now, the most neutron-deficient isotopes for each actinide from Ac to Lr are ^{205}Ac , ^{207}Th , ^{211}Pa , ^{214}U , ^{219}Np , ^{228}Pu , ^{223}Am , ^{233}Cm , ^{233}Bk , ^{237}Cf , ^{240}Es , ^{241}Fm , ^{244}Md , ^{250}No , and ^{253}Lr , in order. Among them, ^{223}Am and ^{233}Bk have been produced in multinucleon transfer reactions $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$. Apart from that, the rest of them have been synthesized by heavy-ion fusion-evaporation reactions. Hitherto, the most neutron-rich isotopes for each actinide from Ac to Lr are ^{236}Ac , ^{238}Th , ^{239}Pa , ^{242}U , ^{244}Np , ^{247}Pu , ^{247}Am , ^{251}Cm , ^{251}Bk , ^{256}Cf , ^{257}Es , ^{259}Fm , ^{260}Md , ^{260}No , and ^{266}Lr , in order. Among them, ^{238}Th , ^{239}Pa , ^{244}Np , ^{260}Md , and ^{260}No were produced through multinucleon transfer or deep-inelastic reactions. ^{236}Ac was produced in projectile fragmentation (PF) reactions. PF reaction products are still not so close to the drip line. ^{242}U , ^{247}Am , ^{256}Cf , and ^{259}Fm

were created via light-particle reactions. ^{247}Pu , ^{251}Cm , and ^{257}Es were produced in neutron-capture reactions. ^{260}No was identified in alpha decay chain based fusion-evaporation reactions. The synthesis information of the most neutron-rich and proton-rich actinide isotopes are listed in Table I, including the based method, laboratory, country, and year [3].

Above all, we can see that FE is still the most promising method to create new nuclides nearby the proton drip line [4]. Furthermore, multinucleon transfer (MNT) reactions also may approach the proton drip line, particularly after very proton-rich actinides ^{223}Am and ^{233}Bk were identified by Devaraja *et al.* at GSI. Actually, MNT reactions have been used to synthesize very-neutron-rich actinides, e.g., ^{238}Th in $^{18}\text{O} + ^{238}\text{U}$ with incident energy 60A MeV, ^{239}Pa in $^{18}\text{O} + ^{238}\text{U}$ with incident energy 50A MeV, and ^{244}Np in $^{136}\text{Xe} + ^{244}\text{Pu}$ with incident energy 835 MeV, based on the quasifission mechanism (nucleon transfer from target to projectile). ^{260}Md and ^{260}No were discovered in MNT reactions of $^{22}\text{Ne} + ^{254}\text{Es}$, $^{18}\text{O} + ^{244}\text{Pu}$, respectively, based on the deep-inelastic mechanism (nucleon transfer from projectile to target). Compared with the synthesis of proton-rich actinides, the neutron-rich actinides are more difficult to produce and identify because of the β^- decay, which is hardly distinguished and identified by the data capture and detection system state of the art. There are limitations of available projectile-target material in mechanisms of FE, LP, and PF reactions. With particle identification technique development, MNT reactions might be considered the only method that could be used to produce very-neutron-rich actinides, especially for the transuranium

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TABLE I. The most proton- and neutron-rich isotopes for each actinide element are listed in the table, which includes their production method, laboratory, country, and year. “FE” stands for heavy-ion fusion-evaporation reaction, “LP” stands for light-particle reactions, “NC” stands for neutron capture reactions, “TR” stands for heavy-ion transfer reactions, “PF” stands for projectile fragmentation, and “DI” stands for deep-inelastic reactions.

Z	Isotope	Method	Laboratory	Country	Year
Ac	²⁰⁵ Ac	FE [8]	Lanzhou	China	2014
Z = 89	²³⁶ Ac	PF [9]	Darmstadt	Germany	2010
Z = 90	²⁰⁷ Th	FE [10]	Lanzhou	China	2022
Th	²³⁸ Th	TR [11]	Lanzhou	China	1995
Z = 91	²¹¹ Pa	FE [12]	Helsinki	Finland	2020
Pa	²³⁹ Pa	TR [13]	Lanzhou	China	1995
Z = 92	²¹⁴ U	FE [14]	Lanzhou	China	2021
U	²⁴² U	PL [15]	Brookhaven	USA	1979
Z = 93	²¹⁹ Np	FE [16]	Lanzhou	China	2018
Np	²⁴⁴ Np	TR [17]	Darmstadt	Germany	1987
Z = 94	²²⁸ Pu	FE [18]	Dubna	Russia	1994
Pu	²⁴⁷ Pu	NC [19]	Dimitrovgrad	Russia	1983
Z = 95	²²³ Am	TR [20]	Darmstadt	Germany	2015
Am	²⁴⁷ Am	LP [21]	Los Alamos	USA	1967
Z = 96	²³³ Cm	FE [22]	Darmstadt	Germany	2010
Cm	²⁵¹ Cm	NC [23]	Livermore	USA	1978
Z = 97	²³⁷ Bk	TR [20]	Darmstadt	Germany	2015
Bk	²⁵¹ Bk	NC [24]	Argonne	USA	1967
Z = 98	²³⁷ Cf	FE [25]	Dubna	Russia	1995
Cf	²⁵⁶ Cf	LP [26]	Los Alamos	USA	1980
Z = 99	²⁴⁰ Es	FE [27]	Darmstadt	Germany	2017
Es	²⁵⁷ Es	NC [28]	Dimitrovgrad	Russia	1987
Z = 100	²⁴¹ Fm	FE [29]	Darmstadt	Germany	2008
Fm	²⁵⁹ Fm	LP [30]	Los Alamos	USA	1980
Z = 101	²⁴⁴ Md	FE [31]	Berkeley	USA	2020
Md	²⁶⁰ Md	DI [32]	Berkeley	USA	1989
Z = 102	²⁵⁰ No	FE [33]	Dubna	Russia	2003
No	²⁶⁰ No	DI [34]	Berkeley	USA	1985
Lr	²⁵³ Lr	FE [35]	Darmstadt	Germany	2001
Z = 103	²⁶⁶ Lr	FE [36]	Dubna	Russia	2014

elements. It was well known that the MNT reactions have such advantages that fragment with a wide mass region owing to broad excitation functions in the transfer process. Therefore, more insightful theoretical and experimental studies of the reaction mechanism are required to make precise predictions for the probability of MNT products in such reactions.

Since the 1970s, MNT reactions of actinide-based targets with projectiles O, Ca, Kr, Xe, U, and Cm have been used to synthesize massive unknown actinides with available cross-section, in the laboratories at GSI [5] and Berkeley [6,7]. These experimental data motivate us to explore how mass asymmetry and isospin affect the production cross section of exotic actinides in MNT reactions.

In this work, the selection of projectiles as Ar to U induced MNT reactions with the combination of targets ²³²Th, ²³⁸U, ²⁴⁸Cm are calculated with the dinuclear system (DNS) model. The aim of this paper is to investigate the entrance channel effect and isospin relaxation on the production cross sec-

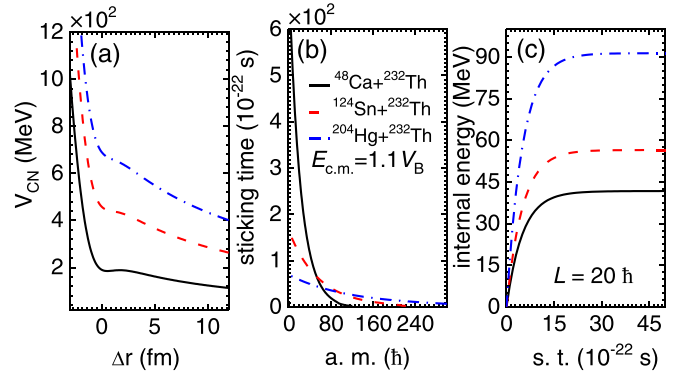


FIG. 1. (a) Solid black, dashed red, and dash-dotted blue lines stand for the reactions of $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{232}\text{Th}$, $^{124}\text{Sn} + ^{232}\text{Th}$, and $^{204}\text{Hg} + ^{232}\text{Th}$, respectively. These lines indicate the interaction potential of head-on collisions as a function of surface distance for these three reactions, respectively. (b) These lines are the sticking time distribution to angular momentum. (c) These lines are the internal excitation energy distributions of ^{48}Ca , ^{124}Sn , ^{204}Hg on ^{232}Th to reaction time at $E_{c.m.} = 1.1V_B$ for the given impact parameter $L = 20 \hbar$.

tions of actinide products in actinides-based MNT reactions. The article is organized as follows: In Sec. II we give a brief description of the DNS model. Calculated results and discussions are presented in Sec. III. The summary and conclusion are in Sec. IV.

II. MODEL DESCRIPTION

The cross sections of the survival fragments produced in MNT reactions and fusion-evaporation residue cross sections are evaluated as follows:

$$\sigma_{\text{sur}}(Z_1, N_1, E_{c.m.}) = \sum_{J=0}^{J_{\text{max}}} \sigma_{\text{cap}} \int f(B) \times P(Z_1, N_1, E_1, J_1, B) W_{\text{sur}}(E_1, J_1, s) dB. \quad (1)$$

The equation for computing the cross section of primary fragments is the above formula without $W_{\text{sur}}(E_1, J_1, s)$. J_{max} is the maximal angular momentum for grazing collisions. The capture cross section is evaluated by $\sigma_{\text{cap}} = \pi \hbar^2 [(2J+1)/(2\mu E_{c.m.})] T(E_{c.m.}, J)$. $T(E_{c.m.}, J)$ is the transmission probability of the projectile-target nuclei overcoming the Coulomb barrier to form a composite system and calculated by the Hill-Wheeler formula in Refs. [37]. μ is the reduced mass of relative motion.

The dynamical multinucleon transfer reactions are described as a diffusion process in which the resulting distribution probability is obtained by solving a set of master equations numerically in the potential-energy surface of the DNS. Here, we do not include the decay term of quasifission and fission in the master equation below because the sticking time is so short and the quasifission barrier vanishes for very heavy collision partners. The time evolution of the distribution probability $P(Z_1, N_1, E_1, \beta, t)$ for fragment 1 with proton number Z_1 , neutron number N_1 , excitation energy E_1 ,

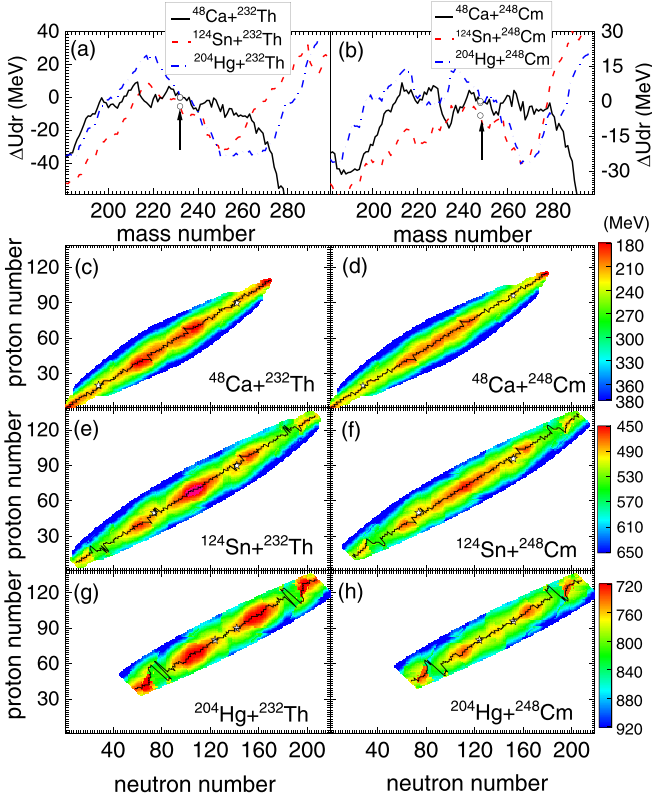


FIG. 2. (a), (b) Comparison of the driving potentials of ^{48}Ca , ^{124}Sn , and ^{204}Hg on ^{248}Th , ^{248}Cm , where solid black, dashed red, and dash-dotted blue lines correspond to ^{48}Ca -, ^{124}Sn -, and ^{204}Hg -induced reactions. (c), (e), (g) Potential-energy surfaces (PESs) of ^{48}Ca , ^{124}Sn , ^{204}Hg on ^{248}Th . (d), (f), (h) The same but for target ^{248}Th . The open stars indicate the injection points. The solid black lines are minimum-value trajectories in two-dimensional potential-energy surfaces.

and quadrupole deformation β are described by the following master equations:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{dP(Z_1, N_1, E_1, \beta, t)}{dt} \\ &= \sum_{Z'_1} W_{Z_1, N_1, \beta; Z'_1, N'_1, \beta}(t) [d_{Z_1, N_1} P(Z'_1, N_1, E'_1, \beta, t) \\ & \quad - d_{Z'_1, N_1} P(Z_1, N_1, E_1, \beta, t)] \\ &+ \sum_{N'_1} W_{Z_1, N_1, \beta; Z_1, N'_1, \beta}(t) [d_{Z_1, N_1} P(Z_1, N'_1, E'_1, \beta, t) \\ & \quad - d_{Z_1, N'_1} P(Z_1, N_1, E_1, \beta, t)]. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$W_{Z_1, N_1, \beta; Z'_1, N'_1, \beta}$ ($W_{Z_1, N_1, \beta; Z_1, N'_1, \beta}$) is the mean transition probability from the channel (Z_1, N_1, E_1, β) to (Z'_1, N_1, E'_1, β) [(Z_1, N_1, E_1, β) to (Z_1, N'_1, E'_1, β)], and d_{Z_1, N_1} denotes the microscopic dimension corresponding to the macroscopic state (Z_1, N_1, E_1) . The sum is taken over all possible proton and neutron numbers that fragment (Z'_1, N'_1) may take, but only one nucleon transfer is considered in the model with the relations $Z'_1 = Z_1 \pm 1$ and $N'_1 = N_1 \pm 1$. The transfer probability is smoothed with the barrier distribution, which is taken

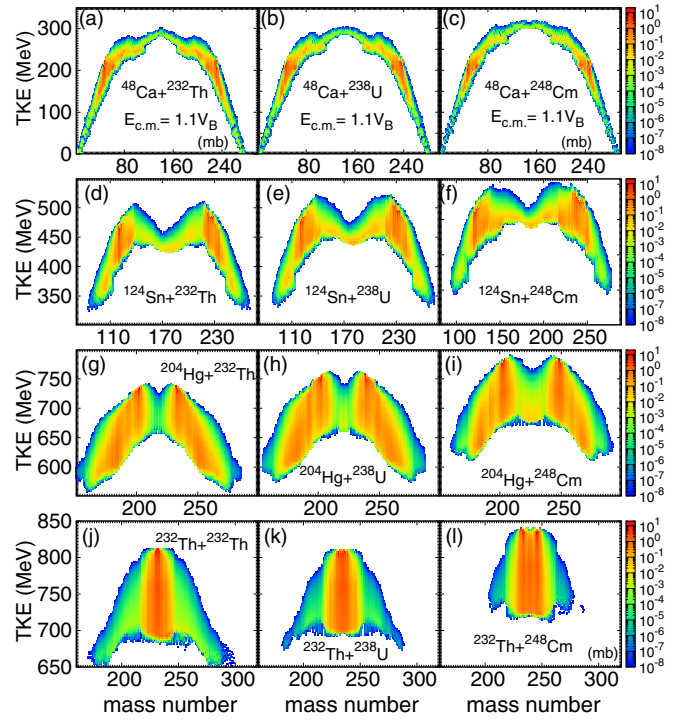


FIG. 3. Total kinetic energy (TKE) distribution of primary MNT products in the collisions of ^{48}Ca , ^{124}Sn , ^{204}Hg , and ^{232}Th bombardment on ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm at $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_B$.

as the asymmetric Gaussian form of $f(B) = \frac{1}{N} \exp\{-[(B - B_m)/\Delta]^2\}$ with the normalization constant satisfying the unity relation $\int f(B)dB = 1$. The quantities B_m and Δ are evaluated by $B_m = (B_C + B_S)/2$ and $\Delta = (B_C - B_S)/2$, respectively. B_C and B_S are the Coulomb barrier at waist-to-waist orientation and the minimum barrier upon varying the quadrupole deformation parameters of colliding partners.

The motion of nucleons in the interacting potential is governed by the single-particle Hamiltonian. The excited DNS opens a valence space in which the valence nucleons have a symmetrical distribution around the Fermi surface. Only the particles at the states within the valence space are actively for nucleon transfer. The transition probability is related to the local excitation energy and nucleon transfer, which is microscopically derived from the interaction potential in valence space, as described in Refs. [38,39]:

$$\begin{aligned} W_{Z_1, N_1, \beta; Z'_1, N'_1, \beta'} &= \frac{\tau_{\text{mem}}(Z_1, N_1, \beta, E_1; Z'_1, N'_1, \beta', E'_1)}{d_{Z_1, N_1} d_{Z'_1, N'_1} \hbar^2} \\ &\times \sum_{ii'} |\langle Z'_1, N'_1, E'_1, i' | V | Z_1, N_1, E_1, i \rangle|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The memory time τ_{mem} and interaction element V can be seen in Ref. [38]. A similar approach is used for the neutron transition coefficient.

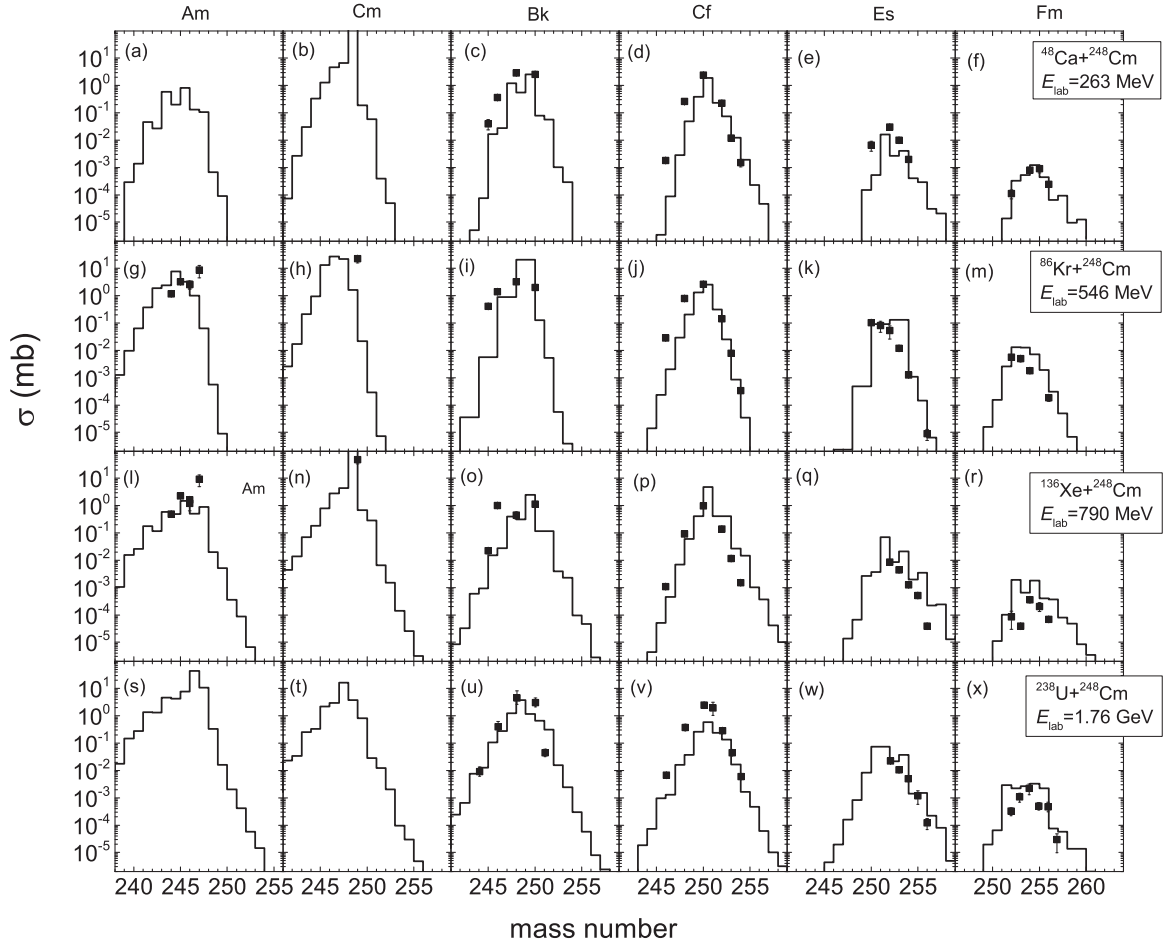


FIG. 4. Predicted secondary cross sections of actinides in the reaction of $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 263$ MeV, $^{86}\text{Kr} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 546$ MeV, $^{136}\text{Xe} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 790$ MeV, and $^{238}\text{U} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 1.76$ GeV (solid lines) compared with experimental data [5–7] (solid square symbols with error bars).

The local excitation energy is determined by the dissipation energy from the relative motion and the potential-energy surface of the DNS as

$$\varepsilon^*(t) = E^{\text{diss}}(t) - [U(\{\alpha, t\}) - U(\{\alpha_{\text{EN}}\})], \quad (4)$$

$$E^{\text{diss}}(t) = E_{\text{c.m.}} - B - \frac{\langle J(t) \rangle [\langle J(t) \rangle + 1] \hbar^2}{2\zeta} - \langle E_{\text{rad}}(J, t) \rangle. \quad (5)$$

The entrance channel quantities $\{\alpha_{\text{EN}}\}$ include the proton and neutron numbers, quadrupole deformation parameters, and orientation angles being $Z_P, N_P, Z_T, N_T, R, \beta_P, \beta_T, \theta_P, \theta_T$ for projectile and target nuclei with the symbols of P and T , respectively. The symbol α denotes the quantities of fragments of $Z_1, N_1, Z_2, N_2, R, \beta_1, \beta_2, \theta_1, \theta_2$. The interaction time τ_{int} is obtained from the deflection function method [40]. The energy dissipated into the DNS increases exponentially [37].

The potential-energy surface (PES) of the DNS is evaluated by

$$U_{\text{dr}}(t) = Q_{\text{gg}} + V_{\text{C}}(Z_1, N_1; \beta_1, Z_2, N_2, \beta_2, t) + V_{\text{N}}(Z_1, N_1, \beta_1; Z_2, N_2, \beta_2, t) + V_{\text{def}}(t), \quad (6)$$

with

$$V_{\text{def}}(t) = \frac{1}{2}C_1[\beta_1 - \beta'_T(t)]^2 + \frac{1}{2}C_2[\beta_2 - \beta'_P(t)]^2, \quad (7)$$

$$C_i = (\lambda - 1)(\lambda + 2)R_N^2\delta - \frac{3}{2\pi} \frac{Z^2 e^2}{R_N(2\lambda + 1)}, \quad (8)$$

where the Q_{gg} derived by the negative binding energies of the fragments (Z_i, N_i) were calculated by the liquid drop model plus shell correction [41]. θ_i denotes the angles between the collision orientations and the symmetry axes of the deformed nuclei. V_{C} and V_{N} were calculated by the Wong formula [42] and the double-folding potential [43], respectively. Recently, the driving potential based on Skyrme energy-density functional theory has been discussed [44]. $V_{\text{def}}(t)$ is the deformation energy of the DNS at the reaction time t . The evolution of quadrupole deformations of projectile-like and target-like fragments evolves from the initial configuration as

$$\begin{aligned} \beta'_T(t) &= \beta_T \exp(-t/\tau_\beta) + \beta_1[1 - \exp(-t/\tau_\beta)], \\ \beta'_P(t) &= \beta_P \exp(-t/\tau_\beta) + \beta_2[1 - \exp(-t/\tau_\beta)], \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

with the deformation relaxation $\tau_\beta = 4 \times 10^{-21}$ s.

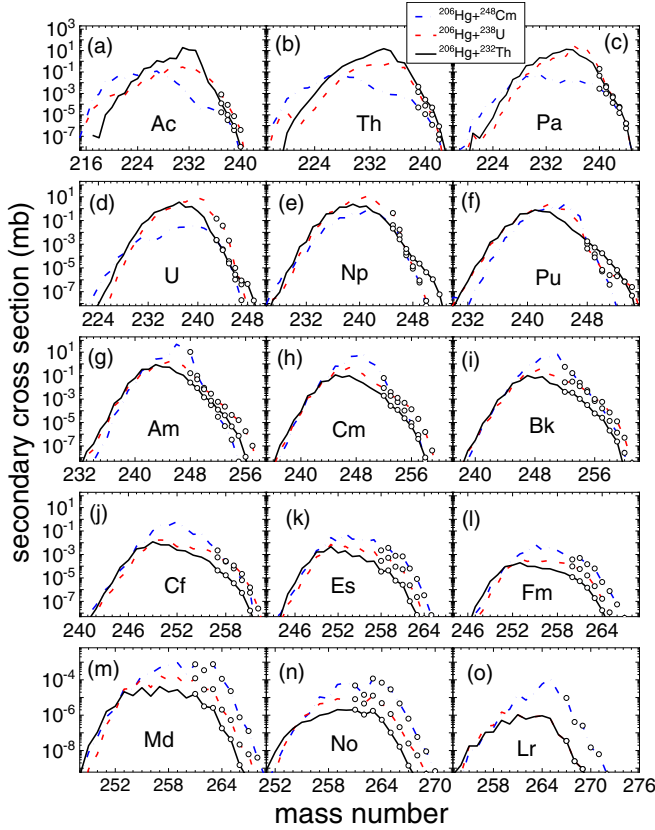


FIG. 5. Predicted secondary production cross section of target-like fragments with $Z = 89-103$ in the collisions of ^{206}Hg bombardment on ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm , indicated by solid black, dashed red, and dash-dotted lines, respectively. Unknown actinides are shown as open circles.

The total kinetic energy (TKE) of the primary fragment is evaluated by

$$TKE(A_1) = E_{c.m.} + Q_{gg}(A_1) - E^{\text{diss}}(A_1), \quad (10)$$

where $Q_{gg} = M_P + M_T - M_{PLF} - M_{TLF}$ and $E_{c.m.}$ being the incident energy in the center-of-mass frame. The mass M_P , M_T , M_{PLF} , and M_{TLF} correspond to projectile, target, projectile-like fragment, and target-like fragment, respectively. E_1 and J_1 are the excitation energy and the angular momentum for the fragment (Z_1, N_1). The survival probability W_{sur} of each fragment is evaluated with a statistical approach based on the Weisskopf evaporation theory [45], in which the excited primary fragments are cooled in evaporation channels $s(Z_s, N_s)$ by γ rays, light particles (neutrons, protons, α , etc.) in competition with the binary fission.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In heavy-ion damping collisions, colliding partners overcome the Coulomb barrier, and kinetic energy of relative motion transforms rapidly dissipates into internal excitation of a dinuclear system at contact configuration. The interaction potential distribution to distance, sticking time to impact parameter, and internal excitation energy to reaction time for

three different mass asymmetry systems of $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{232}\text{Th}$ ($\eta = 0.171$), $^{124}\text{Sn} + ^{232}\text{Th}$ ($\eta = 0.348$), and $^{204}\text{Hg} + ^{232}\text{Th}$ ($\eta = 0.468$) at incident energy $E_{c.m.} = 1.1 V_B$ are presented in Fig. 1. η is the mass asymmetry with respect to $\eta = (A_T - A_P)/(A_T + A_P)$, where the A_T and A_P are the mass number of projectile and target, respectively. The interaction potential is a combination of Coulomb potential and nuclide-nuclide potential, which is calculated as a function of the nuclear surface distance between two heavy partners. In Fig. 1(a), One can see that Coulomb barriers of head-on collision systems are about 185, 445, and 650 MeV, corresponding to $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{232}\text{Th}$ (solid black line), $^{124}\text{Sn} + ^{232}\text{Th}$ (dashed red line), and $^{204}\text{Hg} + ^{232}\text{Th}$ (dash-dotted blue line), respectively. The potential pocket locates nearby contact points almost.

The sticking time of the collision system is derived from the deflection function, shown as a function of angular momentum (impact parameter), which decreases exponentially with increasing angular momentum, shown in Fig. 1(b). Generally, the mass asymmetry of collision systems is smaller and their sticking time is longer due to the small mass asymmetry system having smaller potential energy and potential pocket. The internal excitation energy dissipating in the dinuclear system increases exponentially with increasing evolution time, as shown in Fig. 1(c). The existence of the pocket in the entrance channel is crucial for the compound nucleus formation in fusion reactions, which is the input physical quantity in calculating the capture cross section. According to Fig. 1, it was found that there are few MeV potential pockets for the heavy systems, because of the strong Coulomb repulsion between two colliding partners with $Z_1 Z_2 = 1860$. The lighter collision systems own the deeper potential pocket relatively. The deeper potential pocket collision system led to a longer reaction time relatively.

Nucleons are transferred between the collision partners resulting in the internal degree of freedom characterizing the nuclear states encountering a rapid rearrangement along the valley line in potential-energy surface (PES) as well as dissipating kinetic energy and angular momentum. The calculation of multidimensional adiabatic PES for the heavy nuclear system is a quite complex physical problem, until now it is still an open problem. PES and driving potential of head-on collisions of ^{48}Ca , ^{124}Sn , and ^{204}Hg bombardment on ^{232}Th and ^{248}Cm are calculated by Eq. (6) as a diabatic type with the fixed surface distance, shown in Fig. 2. The solid black, dashed red, dash-dotted blue lines, open circles are the valley lines in the PES of ^{48}Ca -, ^{124}Sn -, and ^{204}Hg -induced reactions with ^{232}Th and ^{248}Cm , injection points in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b), respectively. The valley trajectories in PES are shown as a function of proton number and neutron number in Figs. 2(c)–2(h). To make a comparison with collision systems with different mass asymmetry, we use $\Delta U_{\text{dr}}(Z, N) = U_{\text{dr}}(Z, N) - U_{\text{dr}}(Z_T, N_T)$ to represent the driving potential change trend. For $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{232}\text{Th}$ and $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$, the pockets locate at $A_1 = 240 (Z_1 = 94, N_1 = 146; Z_2 = 42, N_2 = 64)$, at $A_1 = 254 (Z_1 = 100, N_1 = 156; Z_2 = 16, N_2 = 24)$, targets pick up four protons and four neutrons. For $^{124}\text{Sn} + ^{232}\text{Th}$, a pocket locates at $A_1 = 250 (Z_1 = 98, N_1 = 152; Z_2 =$

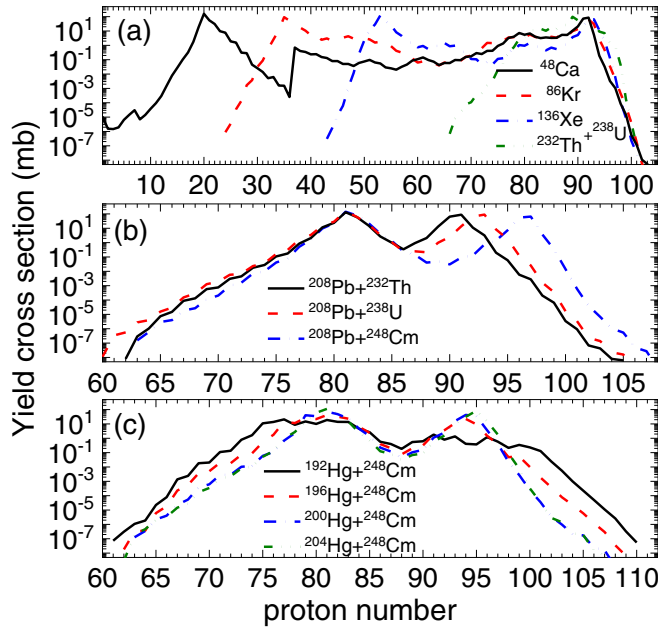


FIG. 6. Yields-charge distributions of survived fragments formation in the ^{48}Ca -, ^{86}Kr -, ^{136}Xe -, $^{192,196,200,204}\text{Hg}$ -, ^{208}Pb -, and ^{232}Th -induced reactions with ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm at incident energies $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_B$. (a) Solid black, dashed red, dash-dotted blue, and dash-dot-dotted olive lines are for ^{48}Ca -, ^{86}Kr -, ^{136}Xe -, and ^{232}Th -induced reactions with ^{238}U , respectively. (b) Solid black, dashed red, and dash-dotted blue lines stand for ^{208}Pb -induced reactions on targets ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm , respectively. (c) Solid black, dashed red, dash-dotted blue, and dash-dot-dotted olive lines represent $^{192,196,200,204}\text{Hg}$ -induced collisions with ^{248}Cm , respectively.

42, $N_2 = 64$), and the target gets four protons and four neutrons. For $^{204}\text{Hg} + ^{232}\text{Th}$, the pocket locates at $A_1 = 250 - 266$ ($Z_1 = 98 - 104$, $N_1 = 152 - 162$; $Z_2 = 72 - 66$, $N_2 = 114 - 104$), and the target gets 8–14 protons and 10–20 neutrons. For $^{124}\text{Sn} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$, two pockets locate at $A_1 = 250$ ($Z_1 = 98$, $N_1 = 152$; $Z_2 = 42$, $N_2 = 64$) and 266 ($Z_1 = 104$, $N_1 = 162$; $Z_2 = 36$, $N_2 = 54$). For $^{204}\text{Hg} + ^{232}\text{Cm}$, the pocket appears around $A_1 = 266$ ($Z_1 = 104$, $N_1 = 162$; $Z_2 = 66$, $N_2 = 104$), and the target picks up 14 protons and 20 neutrons. Neutron subshell numbers ($N = 152, 162$) play a crucial role in PES. The DNS fragments towards mass-asymmetric location release negative energy, which combined with interaction potential contribute to nucleons transfer. From a purely Coulomb perspective, the removal of protons from the target to the projectile is unfavorable. The spectra exhibit a Gaussian-like distribution for potential value belonging to each atomic number. The valley trajectory in the PES is close to the β -stability line. Therefore, we solve the master equations with the PES to get the all-formed fragments probability for these collision systems with different mass asymmetry and dynamical quadrupole deformations. From these PESs, we can roughly predict the trend of fragment probability diffusion.

Using the numerical solution to deal with the master equation, we obtain the primary fragments with production probability and excitation energy. The total kinetic energy

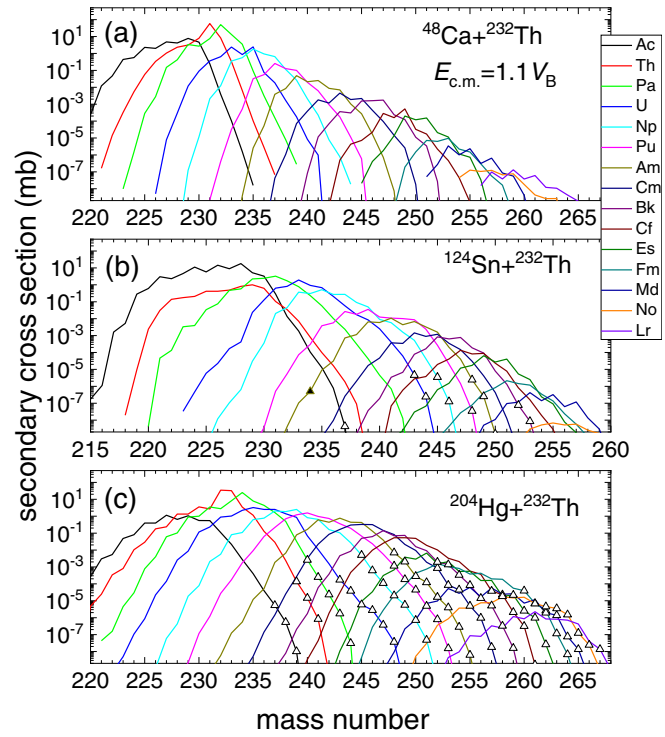


FIG. 7. In the above panels, solid black, red, green, blue, cyan, magenta, dark yellow, navy, purple, wine, olive, dark cyan, royal, orange, and violet lines indicate survived actinium, thorium, protactinium, uranium, neptunium, plutonium, americium, curium, berkelium, californium, einsteinium, fermium, mendelevium, nobelium, lawrencium isotopic cross-section distribution, respectively. Isotopes yields in panel (a)–(c) correspond to ^{48}Ca -, ^{124}Sn -, and ^{204}Hg -induced reactions with ^{232}Th at incident energy $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_B$, respectively. Open-up triangles stand for unknown actinide isotopes.

(TKE) of the DNS is listed as a function of the mass number of all formed fragments. Figure 3 shows the calculation of TKE-mass distributions of the MNT primary products for ^{48}Ca -, ^{124}Sn -, ^{204}Hg -, and ^{232}Th -induced MNTs on targets ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm with different mass asymmetry at incident energy $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_B$. This calculated TKE and mass of $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ agrees roughly with available experimental data [46]. The TKE-mass distribution is highly dependent on driving potential and mass asymmetry. Cross sections from TKE-mass distributions prefer to populate in pockets of driving potential. For the same target, the projectile is heavier and the TKE-mass distribution is wider. For the same projectile, targets with small mass variation have limited influence on the shape of the TKE distribution. From the TKE-mass distributions, it was found that the tendency will be for mass to flow toward the trans-target fragments. The shapes of TKE-mass show strong relevance with the impact parameter, which corresponds to the sticking time of the DNS. For damped collisions, the sticking time is quite short (about 10^{-21} s). These fast events correspond to grazing collisions with intermediate impact parameters, which are shown by the areas around injection points. A large amount of kinetic energy is dissipated very fast at relatively low mass transfer (more than 45 MeV during several 10^{-21} s). The other events correspond to much

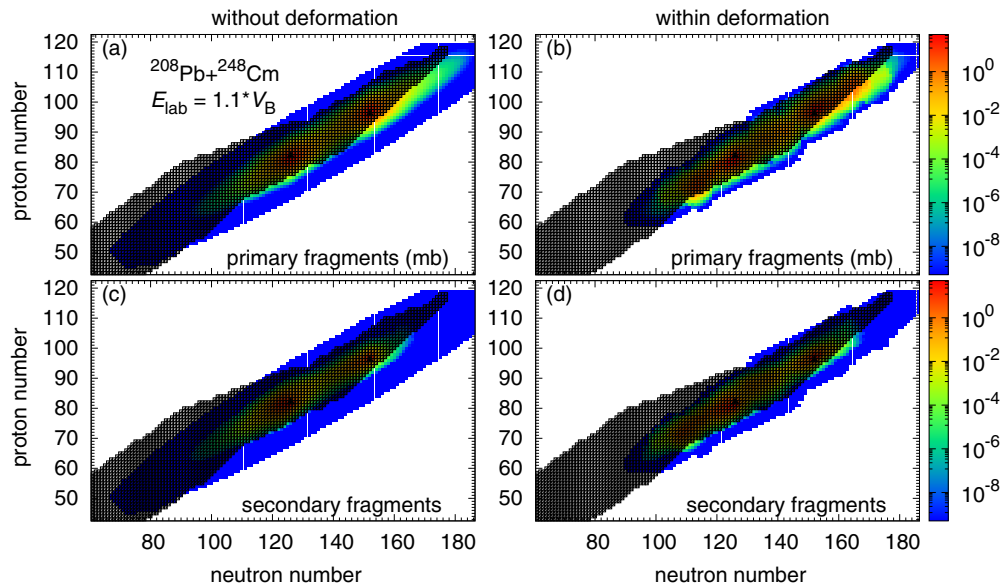


FIG. 8. For collisions of $^{208}\text{Pb} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_B$, the calculation cross sections of primary and secondary fragments with and without dynamical deformation are shown in panels (a)–(d), respectively. Solid triangles stand for projectile-target injection points.

slower collisions with a large overlap of nuclear surface and significant nucleon rearrangement.

Predicted and experimental isotopic cross sections of Am, Cm, Bk, Cf, Es, and Fm in ^{48}Ca -, ^{136}Xe -, ^{204}Hg -, and ^{232}Th -induced reactions on ^{248}Cm are shown in Fig. 4. The experimental data have been obtained at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL) and Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung (GSI) in the 1980s, which correspond to solid squares with error bars. The solid step lines are calculation results that were listed with experimental data used to make a comparison. Our calculations are nicely consistent with the available experimental data of $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 263$ MeV [7], of $^{86}\text{Kr} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 546$ MeV [7], of $^{136}\text{Xe} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 790$ MeV [6], of $^{238}\text{U} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 1760$ MeV [5]. We found that collisions with lighter heavy ions showed production cross sections for the target-like actinides which were at least as large as those obtained using the very heavy projectiles ^{238}U . Strong enhancement in the production of Cf, Es, and Fm isotopes were produced when ^{238}U were applied to bombard ^{248}Cm as compared with ^{136}Xe projectiles. Reactions of $^{238}\text{U} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ were used to explore the probability of synthesis superheavy nuclei. Due to the limitation of detection technology, only these events of Md, Fm, Es, Cf, and Bk isotopes have been obtained, the cross sections have four orders of magnitude higher than in the $^{238}\text{U} + ^{238}\text{U}$ reactions. Targets of ^{248}Cm have been irradiated by beams of ^{136}Xe and ^{86}Kr at energies around the Coulomb barrier in the LBL's SuperHILAC. Production cross sections and excitation functions of Md, Fm, Es, Cf, Bk, Cm, Am, Pu, Np, U, and Pa isotopes have been obtained, in which neutron-rich actinides production and neutron-shell effects ($N = 82$ or $Z = 50$) have been discussed [7].

In reactions of $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ near Coulomb barrier energies, the TLFs and PLFs are dominant in all isotopic yields. In the 1980s, to explore the effect of neutron-rich ^{48}Ca on contributing to the yields of neutron-rich heavy actinides and

to determine what effect the eight fewer neutrons in ^{40}Ca have on the mass distribution, two series of experiments were performed at LBL and GSI [6]. Target-like fragments from Bk to Fm, and Rn, Ra, Ac, Th, U, and Pu have been observed in the reactions of $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at incident energies $E_{\text{lab}} = 223$ –239, 248–263, 247–263, 272–288, and 304–318 MeV. In the year 2000, reactions of $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{lab}} = 265.4$, 270.2 MeV have been performed in GSI [47]. In the experiment, MNT reaction products have been measured on SHIP. Due to the short detection time, a few transtarget isotopes have been obtained. They are $^{252,254}\text{Cf}$, $^{254,256}\text{Es}$, and $^{254,256}\text{Fm}$ with available cross sections. However, in our calculations, we could not reproduce the production cross sections of very-neutron-deficient isotopes.

We calculate production cross sections of actinides isotopes with $Z = 89$ –103 systematically in targets ^{232}Th -, ^{238}U -, and ^{248}Cm -based reactions with projectiles from Ar to U. It was found that $^{204,206}\text{Hg}$ as projectile is favorable to produce yet-unknown neutron-rich actinide isotopes. To investigate the dependence of actinides production on targets, production of actinides isotopes with $Z = 89$ –103 in reactions of $^{204,206}\text{Hg}$ bombard on ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm have been calculated systematically, correspond to solid black, red, and blue lines, respectively. Production of unknown neutron-rich actinide isotopes marked by open circles were added in Fig. 5. From Fig. 5, it was found that all three ^{232}Th -, ^{238}U -, and ^{248}Cm -based reactions could produce available cross sections of new actinide isotopes. We denote ^{232}Th -, ^{238}U -, and ^{248}Cm -based reactions as R1, R2, and R3, respectively. For actinium, R2 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{237,238,239,240}\text{Ac}$ as 810, 85, 8, and 0.4 nb. For thorium, R1 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{239,240,241,242}\text{Th}$ as 4140, 262, 47, and 0.8 nb. For protactinium, R2 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{240,241,242,243,244}\text{Pa}$ as 0.2 mb, 4870 nb, 533 nb, 55 nb, and 1.5 nb. For uranium, R1 and R2 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{243,244,245,246}\text{U}$ as 0.14 mb, 36 770 nb, 2030 nb, and 10 nb in R2, $^{247,248}\text{U}$ as 0.8 and

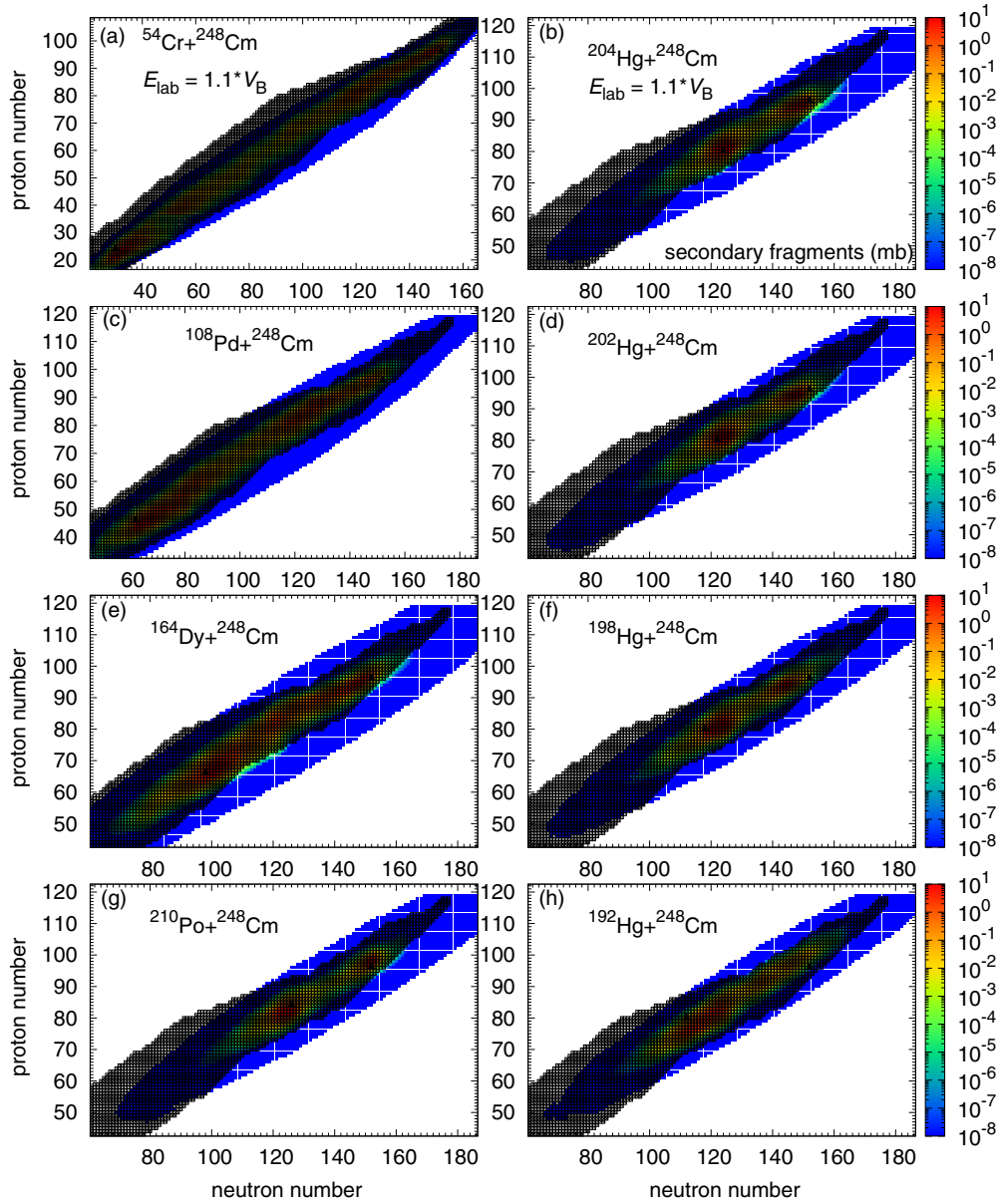


FIG. 9. The calculated yields of secondary fragments in collisions of ^{54}Cr , ^{108}Pd , ^{164}Dy , ^{210}Po , $^{192,198,202,204}\text{Hg}$ on ^{248}Cm at $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_B$ are shown in panels (a)–(h), respectively. Solid black triangles stand for projectile-target injection points.

0.4 nb for R1. For neptunium, R1 and R2 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{245,246,247}\text{Np}$ as 0.4 mb, 17110 nb, and 198 nb in R2, $^{249,250,251,252,253}\text{Np}$ as 65, 23, 4, 1, and 0.06 nb in R1. For plutonium, R1 and R2 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{248,249,250,251,252,253}\text{Pu}$ as 1760, 526, 174, 31, 7, and 0.7 nb in R1, ^{254}Pu as 0.3 nb in R2. For americium, R3 and R2 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{248,249,250}\text{Am}$ as 10 mb, 0.1 mb, and 9020 nb in R3, $^{251,252,253,254,255,256,257}\text{Am}$ as 2850, 585, 225, 43, 16, 2, and 0.1 nb in R2. For curium, R2 and R3 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{252,253}\text{Cm}$ as 61 450 and 3840 nb in R3, $^{254,255,256,257,258,259}\text{Cm}$ as 1270, 475, 134, 20, 1.5, and 0.04 nb in R2. For berkelium, R2 and R3 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{252,253,254,255}\text{Bk}$ as 0.55 mb, 0.16 mb, 24 490 nb, and 5520 nb in R3, $^{256,257,258,259,260}\text{Bk}$ as

0.2 mb, 985 nb, 572 nb, 70 nb, 12 nb, and 0.5 nb in R2. For californium, R3 and R2 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{257,258}\text{Cf}$ as 2180 and 245 nb in R3, $^{259,260,261,262}\text{Cf}$ as 114, 21, 1.5, and 0.02 nb in R2. For einsteinium, R3 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{258,259,260,261,262,263,264}\text{Es}$ as 2220, 3640, 759, 675, 63, 8, and 0.3 nb. For fermium, R3 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{260,261,262,263,264,265}\text{Fm}$ as 372, 493, 147, 63, 4.4, and 0.7 nb. For mendelevium, R3 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{261,262,263,264,265,266}\text{Md}$ as 756, 348, 763, 113, 23, and 0.7 nb. For nobelium, R3 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{261,262,263,264,265,266}\text{No}$ as 47, 14, 11, 7, 3, 4.5, and 0.6 nb. For lawrencium, R3 prefer to produce yet-unknown $^{267,268,269,270}\text{Lr}$ as 9 nb, 410 pb, 254 pb, 15 pb. It should be noticed that unknown

actinide products are highly dependent on target mass. They could not reach the unknown proton-rich actinides region.

Dependence of charge distribution of surviving actinide production yields on the projectile mass (isospin) with a given target and target mass with given projectiles appear in Fig. 6. In Fig. 6(a), ^{48}Ca , ^{86}Kr , ^{136}Xe , ^{232}Th bombarding on ^{238}U are represented by solid black, red, blue, and olive lines, respectively. It was found that two peaks of charge distribution of MNT products are around the projectile-target positions. MNT products in lighter-projectile-induced reactions could cover a wider charge number region. The heaviest-projectile-induced MNT seems to produce the largest charge distribution yields for target-like elements. In Fig. 6(b), ^{208}Pb -induced MNT reactions with ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm are shown by solid black, red, and blue lines, respectively. It was found that ^{248}Cm -based reactions prefer to produce actinide isotopes with $Z \geq 95$ at larger cross sections. ^{238}U -based reactions prefer to produce actinide isotopes with $92 \leq Z < 95$ at larger cross sections. ^{232}Th -based reactions prefer to produce actinide isotopes with $89 \leq Z < 92$ at larger cross sections. In Fig. 6(c), ^{192}Hg , ^{196}Hg , ^{200}Hg , ^{204}Hg -induced MNT reactions with ^{248}Cm are shown by solid black, red, and blue lines. It should be noticed that neutron-deficient projectile ^{192}Hg -induced reactions do not have an obvious peak around injection points because the driving potential at its injection point is off the minimum valley trajectory, however, which is contribute to diffuse far beyond the target, even the superheavy nuclei region.

Dependence of survived actinide production cross section from $Z = 89$ – 103 in ^{48}Ca -, ^{124}Sn -, and ^{204}Hg -induced reactions with ^{232}Th at $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_{\text{B}}$ are shown in Fig. 7. All actinide isotopic distributions from Ac to Lr are marked by solid black, red, green, blue, cyan, magenta, dark yellow, navy, purple, wine, olive, dark cyan, royal, orange, and violet lines, in order. It was found that secondary actinide production is highly dependent on projectile mass, especially for projectile mass in a great shift. The more heavy projectile-induced MNT reaction seems to produce more new neutron-rich actinide isotopes, which consist of products in ^{206}Hg -induced reactions with ^{248}Cm . The heavier projectiles with excess nucleons could contribute to the wider target-like isotopic distributions and a larger production cross section. In our calculation, sticking time of the heavier collision partners is shorter, as shown in Fig. 1(b), which is unfavorable to diffuse massive nucleons. However, isospin relaxation and mass relaxation in the heavier-projectile-induced MNT reactions are beneficial to the wider isotopic distributions.

Figure 8 compares calculations for primary and secondary yields of $^{208}\text{Pb} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_{\text{B}}$ within and without quadrupole deformation. Open black squares stand for existing isotopes in the nuclide chart, which are added with the calculation to highlight the unknown isotopes. Solid black triangles represent the injection points. Compared with the calculation involving deformation, the calculation without deformation tends to the unknown neutron-rich region easily, which predicts more new isotopes. Yield distribution without deformation is more smooth than that with dynamical deformation because static deformation plays a crucial role in the calculation of PES. The yield based on dynamical

deformation prefers to accumulate in the symmetry region. From Fig. 8, it was found that primary yields cover the whole actinide region as very large formation cross sections. The deexcitation process depressed the formation of secondary cross section at four orders of magnitude level through fission, evaporating light particles, and γ rays.

Yields distributions in target ^{248}Cm -based reactions with mass asymmetries and different isospin projectiles are shown in Fig. 9. From Figs. 9(a) and 9(c) it was found that projectiles with lighter-mass-induced reactions diffuse more broadly, compared with heavy-projectile-induced reactions. In Figs. 9(b), 9(d), 9(f), and 9(h), yields of more-neutron-rich projectile-induced reactions tend to shift to the unknown neutron-rich side, especially in the actinide region. In Figs. 9(a), 9(c), 9(e), and 9(g), yields of heavier-mass projectile-induced reactions tend to shift to the unknown neutron-rich side, especially in the actinide region. For $^{164}\text{Dy} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ at $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_{\text{B}}$, production cross sections of neutron-rich fragments with $Z = 60$ – 80 have predicted magnitude levels around hundreds of nanobarns. The lighter projectiles with small atomic number could lead to the broader atomic number distributions because of the larger charge asymmetry.

IV. CONCLUSION

In summary, based on the DNS model, we perform systematic calculations for targets ^{232}Th -, ^{238}U - and ^{248}Cm -based reactions with projectiles from over the nuclide chart at incident energies $E_{\text{c.m.}} = 1.1V_{\text{B}}$. The formation probabilities of MNT fragments diffuse along PES, resulting in the occupation of the whole nuclide chart, especially covering the nuclei drip lines and unknown superheavy region. However, highly exciting fragments are rapidly fissile. Survival probabilities for these fragments in the unknown nuclide chart are quite low. Our calculations of ^{48}Ca -, ^{86}Kr -, ^{136}Xe -, and ^{238}U -induced reactions with ^{248}Cm at incident energies around Coulomb barriers have a good agreement with available experimental data. In this work, PES and TKE-mass distributions for selected reactions are exported from our calculations, which help us to predict the production cross-section trends. The influence of mass asymmetry and isospin effect on actinide products in these MNT reactions has been investigated thoroughly. In our calculations, MNT products are highly dependent on mass asymmetry. Heavier-projectile-induced MNT products gave wider isotopic chains and larger cross sections, showing a greater probability of synthesis of unknown actinides around the drip line. Dependence of actinide products on projectiles isospin effect has been studied by Ca-, Xe-, Sn-, Xe-, and Hg-isotopes induced MNT reactions with targets ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , and ^{248}Cm . It was found that the neutron-rich projectiles such as $^{204,206}\text{Hg}$ enhanced the production of the neutron-rich actinides. A projectile-target combination of an actinide-based target and a heavy neutron-rich projectile such as $^{204,206}\text{Hg} + ^{248}\text{Cm}$ were suggested to produce new neutron-rich actinide isotopes, and even could be used to produce new superheavy nuclei. In this work, formation cross sections of massive unknown actinides with $Z = 89$ – 103 nearby drip lines were predicted as the level magnitude from nanobarn to millibarn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC) (Grants No. 12105241, 12175072), NSF of Jiangsu Province (Grants No. BK20210788), Jiangsu Provincial Double-Innovation Doctor Program (Grant No.

JSSCBS20211013) and University Science Research Project of Jiangsu Province (Grants No. 21KJB140026). This project was funded by the Key Laboratory of High Precision Nuclear Spectroscopy, Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IMPKFKT2021001).

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