

MECHANISMS OF  $\alpha$ -PARTICLE PRODUCTION  
IN THE  $^{16}\text{O}_p$  COLLISIONS AT 3.25 A GeV/s

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New experimental data on the kinematic characteristics of  $\alpha$ -particles produced in the interactions of relativistic oxygen nuclei with protons are presented. It is shown that the statistical model of Goldhaber is not able to describe the momentum characteristics of light fragments and that the role of the evaporation mechanism can be neglected. The indication is obtained that a certain part of excited systems can execute a full  $2\pi$  rotation before fragmentation.