Breakup coupling Effects on Near-Barrier 6Li, 7Be and 8B + 58Ni Elastic Scattering Compared

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New data for near-barrier ^{6}Li, ^{7}Be and ^{8}B + ^{58}Ni elastic scattering enable a comparison of breakup coupling effects for these loosely-bound projectiles. Coupled Discretised Continuum Channels (CDCC) calculations suggest that the large total reaction cross sections for ^{8}B + ^{58}Ni are dominated by breakup at near-barrier energies, unlike ^{6}Li and ^{7}Be where breakup makes a small contribution. In spite of this, the CDCC calculations show a small coupling influence due to breakup for ^{8}B, in contrast to the situation for ^{6}Li and ^{7}Be. An examination of the S matrices gives a clue to this counter-intuitive behaviour.

1. INTRODUCTION

Recent data [1] for near-barrier ^{6}Li, ^{7}Be and ^{8}B + ^{58}Ni elastic scattering allow some interesting comparisons for these weakly-bound nuclei. Optical model fits find much larger total reaction cross sections ($\sigma_{\rm R}$) for ^{8}B than for ^{6}Li or ^{7}Be, even when "reduced" [2]; while the reduced $\sigma_{\rm R}$ for other weakly-bound projectiles lie on a universal curve, those for ^{8}B and ^{6}He are significantly larger [1]. The low ^{8}B $\rightarrow$ ^{7}Be + p breakup threshold (0.1375 MeV) suggests a dominant contribution to the direct part of $\sigma_{\rm R}$. This is not automatic: for ^{6}He with an α + $2n$ breakup threshold of 0.973 MeV, $1n$- and $2n$-stripping are the main contributors to $\sigma_{\rm R}$ at near-barrier energies. However, the weakly-bound proton in ^{8}B experiences Coulomb barrier and charge polarisation effects tending to suppress transfer.

CDCC calculations [3] find that breakup does dominate the direct component of $\sigma_{\rm R}$ for ^{8}B: as the cross sections are large — of the order of 100 mb or more — one might expect an equally important coupling effect on the elastic scattering angular distribution. However, this is not the case [3]. We thus have an apparent paradox: ^{6}Li, with a relatively small breakup cross section, exhibits an important breakup coupling effect on the elastic scattering (see e.g. [4]) whereas ^{8}B, with a large breakup cross section, shows only a modest coupling effect. A comparison of S matrices obtained from CDCC calculations for ^{6}Li, ^{7}Be and ^{8}B + ^{58}Ni provides a clue to this behaviour. Preliminary dynamic polarisation potentials (DPPs) are also presented.

2. CALCULATIONS

Calculations were performed with the code FRESCO [5]: only a brief outline is given here. The ^{6}Li, ^{7}Be and ^{8}B nuclei were modelled as α + d, α + ^{3}He and ^{7}Be + p clusters, respectively. The ^{7}Be core was treated as inert but its non-zero spin was retained. Interaction potentials were obtained by Watanabe-type folding of global optical potentials, with a ^{6}Li potential as surrogate for ^{7}Be, the well-depths being adjusted to give the best fit to the data. The ^{6}Li and ^{7}Be calculations were similar to those in [4] and [6], but with finer continuum binning for ^{7}Be. The ^{8}B calculations included couplings to the $L = 0$, 1, 2 and 3 continuum and the 0.774 MeV 1^+ and 2.32 MeV 3^+ resonances. Good fits to all the data were obtained. Due to lack of space we show only results for the same values of $E_{\mathrm{c.m.}} - V_{\mathrm{B}}$ for each system, where V_{B} is the nominal Coulomb barrier, taking as our "benchmark" the ^{8}B data at E_{lab} = 29.26 MeV. This procedure yields values of E_{lab} = 19.04 and 24.12 MeV for ^{6}Li and ^{7}Be + ^{58}Ni, respectively. In this way effects due to differences in projectile charge should be minimised.

Results are presented in Fig. 1: the coupling effect is much stronger for ^{6}Li and ^{7}Be, with ^{6}Li $\rightarrow \alpha + d$ and ^{7}Be $\rightarrow \alpha$ + ^{3}He breakup thresholds of 1.47 and 1.59 MeV, respectively, an order of magnitude larger than the ^{8}B $\rightarrow$ ^{7}Be + p threshold. The ^{6}Li $\rightarrow \alpha + d$ process

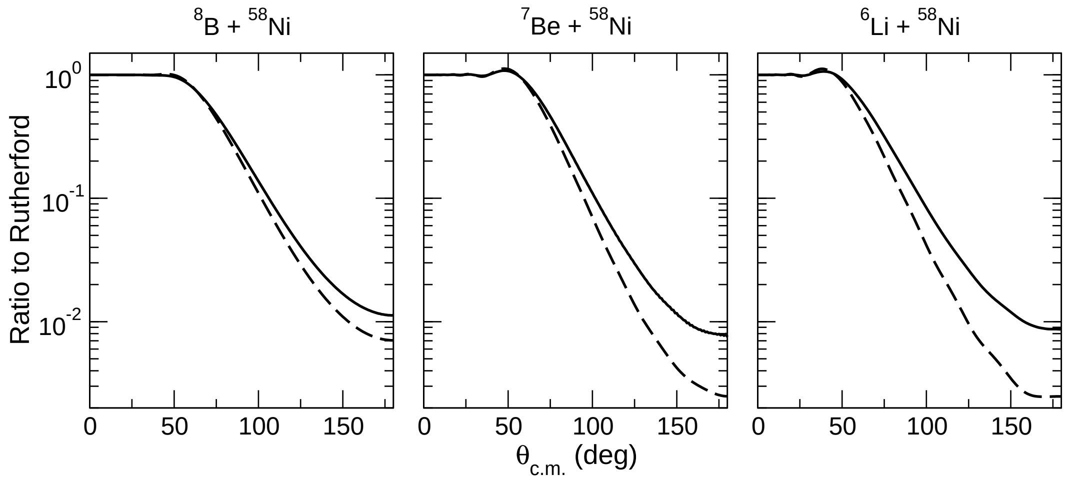

Figure 1. CDCC calculations for ^{8}B, ^{7}Be and ^{6}Li + ^{58}Ni at E_{lab} = 29.26, 24.12 and 19.04 MeV. Solid and dashed curves denote full and no-coupling results, respectively.

has the additional peculiarity that it cannot proceed via dipole breakup. If we include population of the bound $1/2^-$ state in ^{7}Be (considering breakup as an inelastic excitation) the total breakup cross sections for both ^{6}Li and ^{7}Be are about a factor of three smaller than for ^{8}B. To obtain a clue to this apparent paradox, we show in Fig. 2 the modulus and argument of the J-weighted S matrices [7] obtained from full and no-coupling calculations. The coupling effect on |S| is almost negligible for ^{8}B and largest for ^{6}Li, but qualitatively

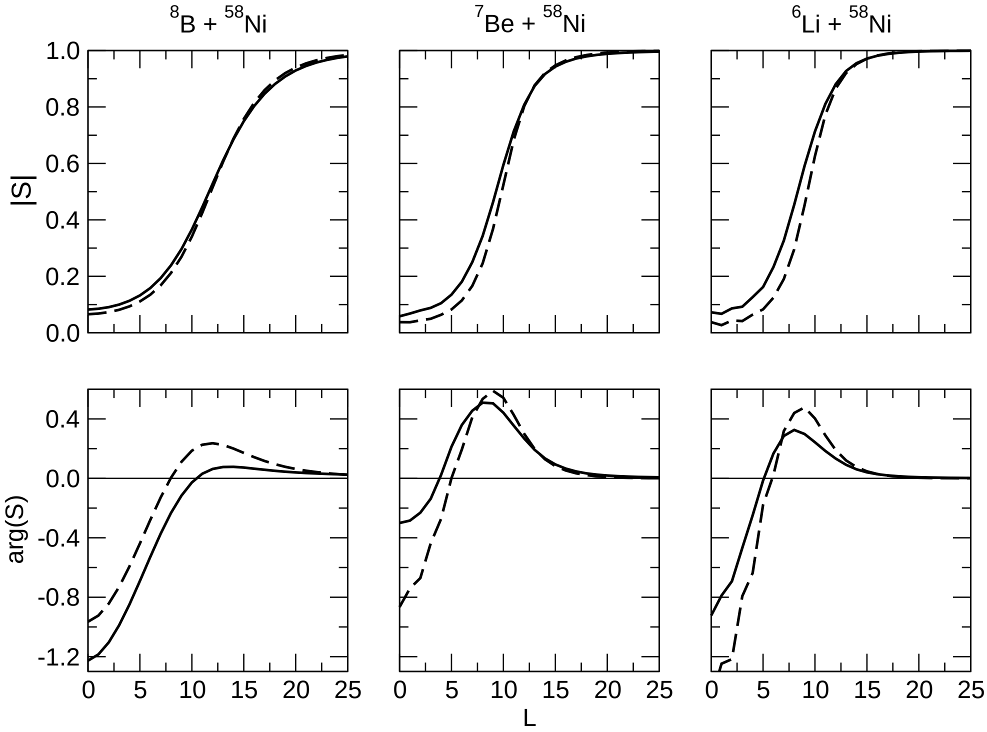

Figure 2. |S| and arg(S) from CDCC calculations for ^{8}B, ^{7}Be and ^{6}Li + ^{58}Ni at $E_{\rm lab}$ = 29.26, 24.12 and 19.04 MeV. Solid and dashed curves denote full and no-coupling results, respectively.

similar for all three nuclei: a decrease of |S| at small L and an increase at large L. By contrast, for arg(S) the coupling effect is greatest for ^{8}B, smallest for ^{7}Be and intermediate for ^{6}Li.

3. DISCUSSION

For protons and other light particles, changes in |S| correspond to changes in the imaginary part of the potential, while changes in arg(S) correspond to changes in the real part. While this simple picture is not so clear-cut in the presence of strong absorption (as here) it provides a useful guide. Thus, the coupling effect on |S| suggests *reduced* absorption at small L, switching to increased absorption at large L. The effect on arg(S) suggests repulsion at small L and attraction at large L. These effects are qualitatively similar for all three nuclei. The fact that the coupling effect on both the elastic scattering and |S| is so small for ^{8}B suggests that, paradoxical as it may seem for a coupling producing such a large cross section, its effective imaginary potential is small.

DPPs may be obtained by inversion of the S matrix, see e.g. [8]. In Fig. 3 we show the results of such a procedure for ^{8}B and ^{7}Be. Those for ^{7}Be are preliminary; we expect the final DPPs to be somewhat smoother. While the DPPs are qualitatively similar, short-range repulsion and long-range attraction combined with surface absorption (this behaviour seems to be universal, see e.g. [9]), the details are very different. The small

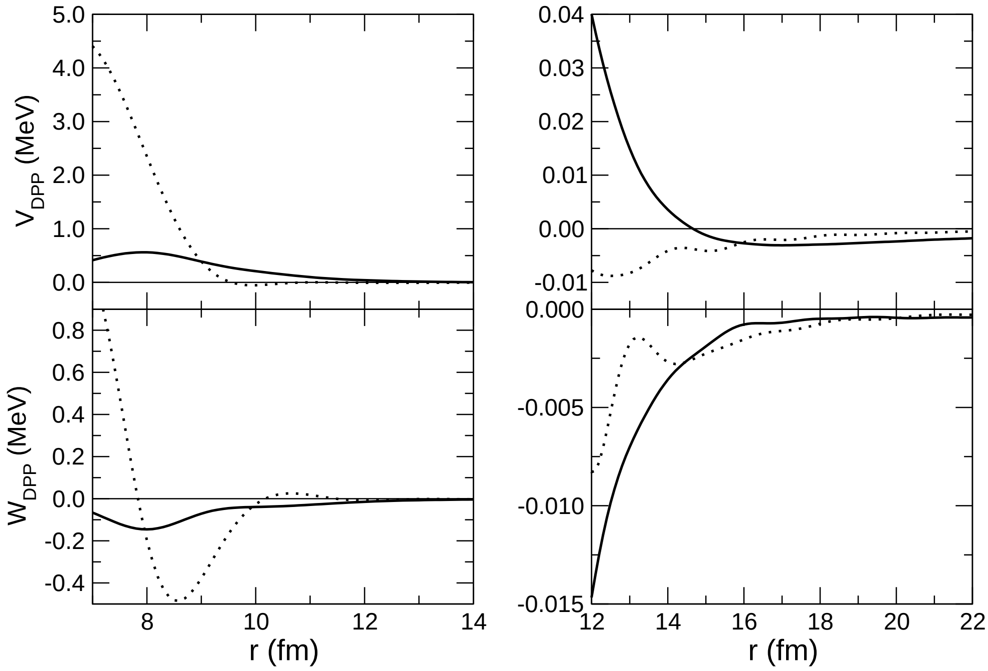

Figure 3. DPPs from CDCC calculations for ^{8}B (solid curves) and ^{7}Be (dotted curves).

imaginary DPP for ^{8}B is particularly striking, confirming the conclusions inferred from the S matrices. The surface repulsion for ^{8}B is also much smaller than for ^{7}Be, although for radii larger than about 9 fm it is significantly larger than for ^{7}Be, having a longer, more repulsive tail. Our results show that a large cross section is no guarantee of a large coupling effect. The S matrices and DPPs shed some light on this, but it remains to be explained at a more fundamental level.

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