

LUIGI VANVITELLI UNIVERSITY OF CAMPANIA

DOCTORAL THESIS

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Correlation of the cluster configurations  
of weakly bound light nuclei in the direct  
nuclear reactions

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*A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements  
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*in the*

Department of Mathematics and Physics



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degli Studi  
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## Declaration of Authorship

I, Bakytzhan URAZBEKOV, declare that this thesis titled, “Correlation of the cluster configurations of weakly bound light nuclei in the direct nuclear reactions” and the work presented in it are my own. I confirm that:

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- I have acknowledged all main sources of help.
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*“Soon...”*



LUIGI VANVITELLI UNIVERSITY OF CAMPANIA

*Abstract*

Department of Mathematics and Physics

Doctor of Philosophy

**Correlation of the cluster configurations of weakly bound light nuclei in  
the direct nuclear reactions**

by Bakytzhan URAZBEKOV

Soon





# *Acknowledgements*

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*To my mother . . .*



## Chapter 1

# Introduction to nuclear reactions

In recent years, the study of light weakly bound nuclei has not lost interest due to the successful development of experimental technology. In particular, it should be noted a significant achievement in the field of production of secondary radioactive beams. It is known that in light nuclei nucleons tend to group into clusters, the relative motion of which mainly determines the properties and characteristics of the being explored nuclei. The cluster structure of the ground and low-lying excited states of light exotic nuclei is one of the priority areas of both experimental and theoretical nuclear physics.

Exotic states in most cases have a rarefied structure and an increased size, which are reflected in rms radii. Such peculiar properties are manifested in the second excited state of the  $^{12}\text{C}$  7.65 MeV nucleus ( $J^\pi = 0^+$ ), which in the framework of many well-known models has a cluster structure. A similar behavior is predicted for excited states in nuclei  $^{11}\text{B}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ , possibly also having Hoyle states. In the framework of the  $\alpha$ -condensate theory [4, 5], the radius of the Hoyle state is approximately 1.4–1.7 times the radius of the ground state, and the existence of states with a radius close to the radius of uranium nuclei is predicted in  $^{12,13}\text{C}$  and  $^{11}\text{B}$  nuclei.

In the framework of the cluster model, atomic nuclei can be formed from simple particles, such as ions: deuterium-2, tritium-3, helium-3 alpha and others. As an example,  $^6\text{He}$  and  $^6\text{Li}$  nuclei can be used. Based on the successful application of theoretical research within the framework of the hyperspherical harmonic model [6], as well as correlation gaussoids [7], it can be deduced that the  $^6\text{He}$  and  $^6\text{Li}$  nuclei are well described by three-body cluster models  $\alpha + n + n$  and  $\alpha + n + p$ , respectively. The clustering effect is manifested in many cases in unstable nuclei located on the border of the stability of the nuclear map. But there are stable atomic nuclei that clearly show the cluster structure as  $^7\text{Li}$ ,  $^9\text{Be}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$ , and  $^{16}\text{O}$ . The  $^9\text{Be}$  nucleus is of particular interest for research, since it is a stable, but at the same time weakly bound nucleus. For example, the binding energy of one neutron  $B_n(^9\text{Be}) = 1.7$  MeV in  $^9\text{Be}$  is less than the binding energy of one neutron  $B_n(^6\text{He}) = 1.9$  MeV in the unstable  $^6\text{He}$  nucleus. Moreover, the  $^9\text{Be}$  nucleus has a Borromian structure in which each pair combination in the triple  $\alpha + \alpha + n$  structure has no bound state.

The cluster configuration of the  $^9\text{Be}$  nucleus is also of interest in nuclear technology. In particular, this nucleus plays an important role in thermonuclear fusion. It is known that the larger the proton number in the atomic nucleus of the wall material, the more

the material mixture is formed. In [8] calculations show that with a low proton number the  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nucleus is the most suitable material for the wall of thermonuclear devices. Moreover, if one take into account that the  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nucleus is easily decomposed by electrons and gamma particles into two fast alpha particles, then their kinetic energy contributes to the burning of fuel in the active zone.

It is widely acknowledged that  $8\text{Be}$  and  $5\text{He}$  nuclei do not exist in nature. The lifetime of these nuclei is very short - approximately 10-20 seconds. However, the formation of new elements through these unstable nuclei exists. In particular, the formation of the  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nucleus based on  $8\text{Be}$  and  $5\text{He}$  nuclei is strongly suppressed. However, in [9] it was shown that under certain circumstances this synthesis is possible. It is interesting to note the properties of neutron-rich beryllium isotopes. The addition of three neutrons to  ${}^9\text{Be}$  leads to the filling of the neutron p-shell. Along with other beryllium isotopes, the  $12\text{Be}$  nucleus has a sufficient lifetime (21.3 ms) for registration and a binding energy of 3.17 MeV greater than the binding energy of the stable beryllium isotope. Therefore, the  $12\text{Be}$  core is a remarkable subject of study within the framework of both the shell and cluster models. The study of the structure of radioactive atomic nuclei within the framework of the shell model is interesting because it allows one to take into account all degrees of freedom of nucleons, use realistic effective NN interactions and take into account the contribution of three-nucleon forces when describing the structure of the nucleus [10]. The model describes well the ground states p, sd shell nuclei, but not resonant excitations in the continuous spectrum. To study the state of the continuum, it is necessary to use theoretical approaches that correctly take into account the asymptotic behavior of wave functions at large distances. Beryllium isotopes exhibit an exceptional  $\alpha$ -cluster structure — the ground and excited states form molecular structures with two  $\alpha$ -particles bound by additional neutrons. The configuration of this kind of light nuclei is manifested not only in the structure, but also in the mechanism of interaction with other nuclei. To a large extent, this is observed in the cross sections of the channels of the fusion and transfer reactions. It is also interesting to note that the clustering effect in light nuclei can manifest themselves during the interaction by means of exotic systems, such as  $2n$ ,  $8\text{Be}$ ,  $5\text{He}$ , etc. For example,  $8\text{Be}$  and  $5\text{He}$  nuclei are associated with a breakup as an intermediate channel for a stable  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nucleus. In this case, it is important to note the works [9, 11], which shows the path of the breakup of this nucleus. In this experimental work, it was proved that low-lying states of the  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nucleus up to an energy of 4 MeV have an  $n + 8\text{Be}$  configuration, and high-lying excited states from 4 MeV have a  $5\text{He} + \alpha$  structure. In addition to studying the cluster structure in breakup reactions, it is interesting to note the interaction of deuterons with clustered nuclei [12]. In [12] conducted experiments to study the interaction of deuterons with  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nuclei. In particular, the nuclear reaction  ${}^9\text{Be}(d,a){}^7\text{Li}$  should be noted. For this nuclear reaction, different reaction mechanisms were evaluated: direct deuteron transfer, contribution of evaporation residues, and transfer of the  $5\text{He}$  heavy cluster. The contribution of the mechanism through the compound nucleus, calculated in the framework of the

statistical method, has a small contribution for this reaction at a laboratory energy of 7 MeV. It turned out that a large contribution to the cross section for the (d,a) reaction on the  $^9\text{Be}$  nucleus is mainly due to the mechanism of  $^5\text{He}$  cluster transfer at backward scattering angles. However, [13] concluded that the nuclear reaction  $^9\text{Be}(d, a)^7\text{Li}$  goes through the mechanism the compound nucleus. One of the main arguments in favor of this mechanism is that the energy of the nuclear reaction at 12 and 14 MeV lies precisely in the range of giant resonance in the excitation spectrum of the  $^{11}\text{B}$  compound nucleus. In addition, in the work [12], theoretical calculations for the cross section (d, a) of the reaction underestimate the experimental data at the front scattering angles, which suggests the presence of two more direct mechanisms: sequential transfer of the  $n + p$  system. Nevertheless, one more experiment should be carried out, and the data should be analyzed in a different energy range. It is assumed that on the basis of a new set of experiments in the framework of the proposed Project, it will be possible to answer the question which mechanism has the greatest contribution to the reaction cross section  $^9\text{Be}(d,a)^7\text{Li}$ . In Ref. [14 - 16] theoretically studied the reactions of elastic and inelastic scattering, as well as single-nucleon transfers in the interactions of d and  $^3,^4\text{He}$  and with the  $^9\text{Be}$  nucleus. The interaction potential of light d and  $^3,^4\text{He}$  particles with  $^9\text{Be}$  was calculated in the framework of the folding model using the wave function of the  $^9\text{Be}$  ground state in the three-particle  $2\alpha + n$  approximation. Within the framework of the coupled channel method and the distorted wave Born approximation method, the differential cross sections of inelastic scattering and the reactions of single nucleon transfer were calculated using the folding potential. The obtained angular distributions are in good agreement with experimental data. Thus, it was concluded that the three-cluster approximation  $^9\text{Be} = 2\alpha + n$  constructed on the basis of the multicluster dynamic model taking into account the Pauli principle, provides an adequate description of the internal structure and properties of the  $^9\text{Be}$  nucleus. In particular, interesting information about the properties of exotic nuclei is manifestation of their cluster structure, which can also be obtained from experiments on elastic scattering. The study of exotic states in light nuclei is a priority in the development of nuclear physics in recent decades. Exotic conditions in most cases have a rarefied structure and increased size. Of particular interest is the second excited  $^{12}\text{C}$  state, the Hoyle state, which in many models has a cluster structure and increased dimensions [17, 18]. A similar increase is predicted for states in nuclei  $^{11}\text{B}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  [19, 20], possible analogues of the Hoyle state. As mentioned above, in the framework of the  $\alpha$ -condensate theory, the radius of the Hoyle state is 1.4–1.7 times the radius of the ground state and the existence of states which has a radius close to the radius of the uranium nucleus are predicted in the  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{11}\text{B}$  nuclei. Hoyle's state plays an important astrophysical role in the synthesis of  $^{12}\text{C}$  in the Universe. The formation of elements heavier than carbon goes through this state. If it would not exist, the rate of carbon formation reaction was 7 orders of magnitude lower. This state is interesting from the hypothesis describing it as a gas of interacting alpha particles, which can be represented as a Bose condensate. Despite numerous studies, the properties

of this state, lying above the threshold of decay into three alpha particles, are still poorly understood. To study the theory of nuclear reactions and its use to describe experimental data a method the Distorted Wave Born Approximation (DWBA) has been successfully applied. The distorted wave method is a good tool for describing nuclear reactions with products registered in the ground state. For transfer channels with excited states, calculations using the DWBA method in many cases give disagreement with the experimental data. In this case, the disagreement is explained by the fact that the wave function of the bound state for the output channel corresponds to a discrete eigenvalue, while the state of this excited nucleus in the experimental data has a resonance with a certain width in the order of several MeV. An adequate theoretical analysis of such problems requires other approaches and methods that require taking into account the degrees of freedom associated with the dynamics of the movement of three clusters and its influence on the mechanisms of nuclear reactions. The consideration of the continuum in the processes of nuclear reactions is used in the Continuum Discretized Coupled Channels (CDCC) approach [21]. According to the name of the method, the essence of the method consists in discretizing the continuum and in coupling the reaction channels. As in the DWBA method, CDCC requires data which take into account the internal structure of colliding nuclei. The structure is determined by calculations of spectroscopic amplitudes, which strongly depend on the theoretical models under consideration. To date, a well-developed approach for studying the internal structure of the light nuclei of the ground state is *ab initio*. The *ab initio* method, which uses realistic NN forces, differs from the shell model in independence from model spaces. There is another method developed on the basis of the CDCC method, this is XCDCC [22]. The addition to the name “X” means taking into account the excited state of the target nucleus. Recently, a continuum discretization method was proposed based on imaginary correlated gaussian functions [23]. This approach successfully describes the displacement phases of elastic scattering of the  $p +$  system and reproduces well the real Coulomb functions. The aim of this project are: an adequate description of the properties and characteristics of  ${}^9\text{Be}$  and  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  nuclei using the above methods, obtaining new experimental data on the scattering of light particles by  ${}^9\text{Be}$  and  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  nuclei, extraction of experimental differential cross sections for elastic, inelastic, single-nucleon and cluster transmission channels. It is expected that the features of the experimental methodology, the latest equipment and modern theoretical approaches will provide an opportunity to better understand the properties and characteristics of the studied nuclei. Research on this topic is one of the rapidly developing areas of modern nuclear physics of all major scientific centers of the world. Kazakhstan scientists also conduct intensive research in these areas, and work closely with renowned scientists, major research centers, and the results are quite competitive internationally. This is evidenced by the scientific publications of Project managers in international journals with a high impact factor, and thereby show the high importance of this project. New data on the cross sections of nuclear reactions, reliable parameters of the optical potential, and spectroscopic characteristics of the

excited states of  ${}^5\text{He}$ ,  ${}^8\text{Be}$ ,  ${}^{10,11,12}\text{B}$ , and  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  nuclei will be useful for testing various cluster nuclear models and for carrying out model calculations of nucleosynthesis reactions for astrophysical and thermonuclear applications. The project is expected to obtain a number of new and relevant results. The new experimental technique will allow, firstly, to conduct experiments at high energies, and secondly, to experimentally measure cross sections at large scattering angles. In the first case, it is important to note that in the scientific world there are still not enough data on the scattering of  ${}^3\text{He}$  and  $\alpha$  particles by  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nuclei above energies of 35 MeV. It is very important to conduct an experiment at such energies, since they make it possible to measure the cross sections of relatively heavy reaction products, which reflect direct evidence of cluster transfer. In the second case, modern devices provide a great opportunity to extract information from nuclear reactions at the backward scattering angles. The available information from world-famous databases on the cross section for the  ${}^3\text{He} + {}^9\text{Be}$  reactions for today, unfortunately, has limitations due to poor resolution of detectors. Therefore, the realization of this project, which is not only of academic interest, but also of great practical importance, is highly desirable.

## 1.1 Nuclear reactions

### 1.1.1 Elastic scattering

### 1.1.2 Inelastic scattering

### 1.1.3 Transfer reactions

## 1.2 Mechanisms of nuclear reactions

## 1.3 Cluster phenomenon





## Chapter 2

# Theoretical model

### 2.1 Optical model

The theoretical calculations of the deuteron elastic scattering on  $^9\text{Be}$  at 19.5 and 35 MeV energies have been performed in the framework of the OM with the OM potential given by:

$$U(R) = -V^V(R) - iW^V(R) + V^{SO}(R)(\mathbf{1} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}) + V^C(R), \quad (2.1)$$

where  $V^V, W^V, V^{SO}$ , and  $V^C$  are real volume, imaginary volume, spin-orbit and Coulomb potentials, respectively. In this work, the real part of the OM potential was obtained by means of the double-folding (DF) model

$$V^V(R) = N_R V^{DF}(R) \quad (2.2)$$

with normalization factor  $N_R$ . For convenience, in the OM and CC (CRC) calculations the potential can be fitted by means of the sum of three Woods-Saxon potentials:

$$V^V(R) = \sum_{i=1}^3 V^i f^{R_i, a_i}(R), \quad f^{R_V, a_V}(R) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp \frac{R - R_V}{a_V}}. \quad (2.3)$$

The DF potential was calculated using the effective M3Y-Paris nucleon-nucleon potential and the nuclear-matter-densities of projectile and target nuclei. In order to calculate the  $^9\text{Be}$  matter distribution we applied the  $\alpha + \alpha + n$  three-body model (for more details, see Ref. [urazbekov2016]), while the matter density distribution of the deuteron projectile was chosen to be of the form

$$\rho\left(\frac{1}{2}r\right) = \int |\Psi(\mathbf{r})|^2 d\Omega_r. \quad (2.4)$$

The spin-orbit term of the OM potential has standard form

$$\begin{aligned} W^D(R) &= -4a_D W_0^D \frac{d}{dR} f^{R_D, a_D}(R), \\ V^{SO}(R) &= V_0^{SO} \left(\frac{\hbar}{m_\pi c}\right)^2 \frac{1}{R} \frac{d}{dR} f^{R_{SO}, a_{SO}}(R). \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

The Coulomb term has been taken as the interaction of a point-charge with a uniformly charged sphere

$$V^C(R) = \begin{cases} \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{2R_C} \left(3 - \frac{R^2}{R_C^2}\right), & \text{for } R \leq R_C, \\ \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{R}, & \text{for } R > R_C. \end{cases} \quad (2.6)$$

## 2.2 Distorted wave Born approximation

## 2.3 Coupled reaction channel method

## 2.4 Double folding model

## 2.5 Wave function of scattering and bound state

The model [Kukulin1977] uses three pair pseudo-potentials to describe the three-body system, taking into account forbidden states by the Pauli principle:

$$\tilde{V}_{ij} = V_{ij} + \Delta_{ij}, \quad (2.7)$$

where  $V_{ij}$  is an interaction potential of  $(ij)$  subsystem and  $\Delta_{ij} = \lambda \Gamma$  is a orthogonalizer with the  $\lambda$  constant and with  $\Gamma$  projector, which for forbidden  $f$  state is as follows:

$$\Gamma = \Gamma(f) = \sum_{m_f} |\phi_{f m_f}(\mathbf{x})\rangle \langle \phi_{f m_f}(\mathbf{x}')| \delta(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{y}'). \quad (2.8)$$

The principle plays a huge role in the structure of the nucleus, which does not allow overlapping of two constituent particles. Thus, the three body pseudo-Hamiltonian including kinetic energy and pseudo potentials looks like this

$$\tilde{H} = H_0 + \sum_{i < j} \tilde{V}_{ij}. \quad (2.9)$$

The trial function is given in the form:

$$\Psi_{JM_J TM_T} = \sum_{i=1}^N C_i \varphi_i^\gamma(1, 23) \quad (2.10)$$

with expansion coefficients  $C_i$  and dimension  $N$ . A basis function  $\varphi_i^\gamma(i, jk)$  is taken by a product of space, spin and isospin parts

$$\varphi_i^\gamma(i, jk) = [\Phi_L^{\lambda, l}(i, jk) \times \chi_S^s(i, jk)]_{JM_J} \tau_{TM_T}^t(i, jk), \quad (2.11)$$

where  $\gamma$  is a set containing all of moments. Spatial part  $\Phi_L^{\lambda, l}(i, jk)$  is constructed with the Gaussian

$$\Phi_L^{\lambda, l}(i, jk) = x_i^\lambda y_i^l \exp(-\alpha x_i^2 - \beta y_i^2) [Y_\lambda(\hat{x}) \times Y_l(\hat{y})]_{LM_L}, \quad (2.12)$$

where  $\lambda$  is a orbital moment of the  $jk$  pair conjugated to the  $x$  Jacobi coordinate, while  $l$  is the moment of  $i$  spectator conjugated to the  $y$  relative coordinate (see Fig. 1) and  $\alpha, \beta$  are non linear parameters.

The basis function (2.11) is convenient for the ability to convert into other sets of relative Jacobi coordinates. In particular, in the spatial part a transformation of the set  $i$  set into the set  $j$  is

$$\Phi_L^{\lambda,l}(i, jk) = \sum_{\tilde{\gamma}} A_{\Omega}^{j \leftarrow i} \Phi_L^{\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{l}}(j, ki), \quad (2.13)$$

where the sum is constrained by  $\lambda + l = \tilde{\lambda} + \tilde{l}$  condition. A recouple coefficient  $A_{\Omega}^{j \leftarrow i}$  with rotation matrix  $\Omega_{j \leftarrow i}$  is

$$A_{\Omega}^{j \leftarrow i} = (-1)^{\lambda+l} \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, l_1, l_2} \Omega_{11}^{\lambda_1} \Omega_{12}^{\lambda_2} \Omega_{21}^{l_1} \Omega_{22}^{l_2} \sqrt{\frac{[\lambda]![l]![\tilde{\lambda}][\tilde{l}][\lambda_1][\lambda_2][l_1][l_2][\tilde{\lambda}][\tilde{l}]}{[\lambda_1]![\lambda_2]![l_1]![l_2]!}} \times \quad (2.14)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \lambda_2 & \lambda \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} l_1 & l_2 & l \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \lambda_2 & \lambda \\ l_1 & l_2 & l \\ \tilde{\lambda} & \tilde{l} & L \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $[x] = 2x + 1$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} j_1 & j_2 & j_3 \\ m_1 & m_2 & m_3 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} j_1 & j_2 & j_3 \\ j_4 & j_5 & j_6 \\ j_7 & j_8 & j_9 \end{pmatrix}$  are the Wigner 3-j and 9-j symbols consequently.

## 2.6 Matter density distribution

An operator of matter density distribution of the three body system takes the sums of all three clusters and brings it from the center of system mass

$$\rho(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_{cluster=i,j,k} \rho_{cluster}(\mathbf{R}). \quad (2.15)$$

In particular, nucleon cluster is treated as point like particle, while in alpha cluster one takes into account its internal structure (see Fig.2)  $\rho_{\alpha}(r_{\alpha}) = \rho_0 \exp(-\gamma_0 r_{\alpha}^2)$  with parameters  $\gamma_0 = 0.7024$ ,  $\rho_0 = 0.4229$  [SATCHLER1979]. So corresponding matrix elements for both nucleon cluster and alpha cluster are

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{N_i}(\mathbf{R}) &= \langle \varphi^{\gamma}(i, jk) | \delta(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{y}_i) | \varphi^{\gamma}(i, jk) \rangle \\ \rho_{\alpha_i}(\mathbf{R}) &= \langle \varphi^{\gamma}(i, jk) | \rho_{\alpha}(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{y}_i) \delta(\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{r}_{\alpha}) | \varphi^{\gamma}(i, jk) \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

In the case of the cluster is in another set of coordinate, one can express taking the equation (2.11)

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{N_j}(\mathbf{R}) &= \sum_{\tilde{\gamma}} A_{\Omega}^{j \leftarrow i} A_{\Omega}^{j \leftarrow i} \langle \varphi^{\tilde{\gamma}}(j, ki) | \delta(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{y}_j) | \varphi^{\tilde{\gamma}}(j, ki) \rangle \\ \rho_{\alpha_j}(\mathbf{R}) &= \sum_{\tilde{\gamma}} A_{\Omega}^{j \leftarrow i} A_{\Omega}^{j \leftarrow i} \langle \varphi^{\tilde{\gamma}}(j, ki) | \rho_{\alpha}(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{y}_j) \delta(\mathbf{y}_j - \mathbf{r}_{\alpha}) | \varphi^{\tilde{\gamma}}(j, ki) \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Using the well known expansion of exponent function

$$\exp(-\rho_0 \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{y}) = 4\pi \sum_k \sqrt{2k+1} i_k(\rho_0 R y) Y_{00}^{kk}(\hat{R}, \hat{y})$$

and an analytical expression of integral kind of

$$\int_0^{\infty} y^{2l+k+2} \exp(-\beta y^2) i_k(\mu y) dy = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{(2l)!! (\mu)^k}{(\frac{1}{2}\beta)^{l+k+3/2}} \exp\left(\frac{\mu^2}{\beta}\right) L_l^{k+\frac{1}{2}}\left(-\frac{\mu^2}{\beta}\right)$$

one able to obtain equation (2.16) analytically for both nucleon and alpha clusters as follows

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{N_i}(R) &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{R}{y_0}\right)^{2l+2} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\lambda}{2}\right) \sum_{ij} C_i C_j \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{(\beta_i + \beta_j) R^2}{y_0^2}\right)}{(\alpha_i + \alpha_j)^{\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\lambda}{2}}} \\ \rho_{\alpha_i}(R) &= (2\pi)^{\frac{3}{2}} \rho_0 \sum_{ij} C_i C_j \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \lambda\right) (2l)!! L_l^{1/2}\left(-\frac{(\gamma_0) R^2}{\beta_i + \beta_j + \gamma_0}\right)}{(\alpha_i + \alpha_j)^{\frac{3}{2} + \lambda} (\beta_i + \beta_j + \gamma_0)^{\frac{3}{2} + l}} \times \\ &\quad \exp\left(\left(-\gamma_0 + \frac{\gamma_0^2}{\beta_i + \beta_j + \gamma_0}\right) \left(\frac{R}{y_0}\right)^2\right)\end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

where  $y_0 = \frac{m_j + m_k}{m_i + m_j + m_k}$ ,  $i_k(x)$  - modified spherical Bessel function of the first kind,  $L_l^{k+1/2}(x)$  - associated Laguerre polynomial and  $\Gamma(x)$  - Gamma function.

## Chapter 3

# Results and discussions

### 3.1 The $d+{}^9\text{Be}$ nuclear reactions

The cluster structure of nuclei arises from a correlated motion of nucleons inside a nucleus. In this regime, a simple subgroup of nucleons can be considered as a single particle. This kind of behaviour can give insights into and better understanding of certain characteristics of the nucleus, as well as affect the processes of nuclear reactions. Investigation of the cluster structure in nuclei is still a priority in modern nuclear physics strongly driven by intensive developments of experimental devices.

There are many stable nuclei in the  $p$ ,  $sd$  and  $pf$  shells exhibiting a cluster structure, but  ${}^9\text{Be}$  is particularly worthy of attention due to the following reasons:

- a stable nucleus with low binding energies of neutron  $S_n=1.665$  MeV, and  $\alpha$ -particle  $S_\alpha=2.462$  MeV [**separationneutron**];
- the deformed shape reflected in the nuclear quadrupole moment,  $Q= +52.9$  mb [**quadrupole**];
- the Borromean structure of the ground state;

These aspects led to take  ${}^9\text{Be}$  as a subject for fundamental as well as applied research studies.

Regarding nuclear technologies,  ${}^9\text{Be}$  is a good wall material in thermonuclear devices [**kukulin2010**, **seksembayev2018**]. For instance, for fusion-type devices a value of some dozens of percent of  ${}^9\text{Be}$  is expected in the soft wall material [**seksembayev2018**]. The  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nucleus has been chosen as it represents the best compromise based on its characteristic to split by using  $\gamma$ 's and  $e^-$ 's into two energetic  $\alpha$ -particles, which are efficient promoters of thermonuclear burning since they can be confined by electromagnetic fields and their energy affects the temperature of the burning zone.

Scattering of the simplest projectiles, such as  ${}^1,2\text{H}$  or  ${}^3,4\text{He}$ , off a target is a standard tool for fundamental study of the structure of nuclei. This method involves measuring the angular distributions of the nuclear reaction products. It is well known that the energies and angular distributions of projectile-like particles give information about the internal structure of target-like nuclei.

In our previous works [lukyanov2014, lukyanov2015, janseitov2018], the  $^3\text{He}$  interaction with  $^9\text{Be}$  was studied and angular distributions of the reaction products in the following exit channels:  $^3\text{He}+^9\text{Be}$ ,  $^5\text{He}+^7\text{Be}$ ,  $^5\text{Li}+^7\text{Li}$ ,  $^6\text{Be}+^6\text{He}$ , and  $^6\text{Li}+^6\text{Li}$ , were measured. The obtained data were analysed within the framework of the optical-model (OM), the coupled-channel (CC) and the distorted-wave Born approximation (DWBA) approaches. The performed analysis of the experimental data showed sensitivity of the cross sections on the potential parameters in the exit channels. Moreover, these experiments were designed to study the breakup reactions with  $^9\text{Be}$  in an attempt to determine contributions of the channels with the  $^8\text{Be}+n$  and  $^5\text{He}+\alpha$  structure to the inclusive measurements. It was found that these two channels contribute in the ratio of 2.7 to 1, respectively. The determined value justifies that the  $^5\text{He}+\alpha$  breakup channel plays an important role as well.

Based on the Borromean structure of  $^9\text{Be}$ , special attention was focused on the breakup processes resulting from the  $^9\text{Be}(^6\text{Li}, ^6\text{Li}')^9\text{Be}^*$  nuclear reaction [brown2007, papka2007]. The excited nucleus  $^9\text{Be}^*$  can decay either directly into the  $\alpha + \alpha + n$  three-body system or through one of the unstable nuclei, such as  $^5\text{He}$  and  $^8\text{Be}$ . These relatively recent experimental studies explicitly confirm the cluster structure of  $^9\text{Be}$ . The calculated branching ratios show that the low-lying excited states, at  $E_x < 4.0$  MeV, are mostly populated with the  $^8\text{Be}+n$  configuration. In other conditions, the  $^5\text{He}+\alpha$  configuration plays a significant role.

Another aspect of finding the cluster structure is its effect on the nuclear reaction mechanisms. Indeed, since the papers of Detraz *et al* [detraz1970, detraz1974], the multi-particle-multi-hole structures have been expected at rather low excitation energies in nuclei. In such a case, it can be understood that the correlated nucleons are transferred as a whole strongly correlated cluster, which has the internal quantum numbers of a free particle.

The interaction of deuteron and alpha particles with  $^9\text{Be}$  was studied with regard to the cluster structure [urazbekov2016, urazbekov2017]. The interaction potential of colliding nuclei was built within the framework of the double-folding model using the three-body wave function. Tests of the double-folded potential were carried out within the OM and DWBA at laboratory energies 10-30 MeV/nucleon. The good agreement obtained in comparison of theoretical cross sections with experimental data led to application of the double-folding potential based on the three-body wave function to study of reactions on  $^9\text{Be}$ .

### 3.1.1 $d+^9\text{Be} \rightarrow d+^9\text{Be}$

The parameters of the imaginary part of the optical potential were obtained by fitting the theoretical cross sections to the experimental data at 19.5 MeV and 35 MeV incident energies. As a starting point, the same parameterizations of the real part were used. The obtained potential parameters after fitting are listed in Table ?? for both 19.5 MeV and 35.0 MeV incident energies.

The comparison of the results of the theoretical calculations with the measured data for elastic scattering at 19.5 MeV and 35.0 MeV energies are plotted in Fig. ?? . The cross sections obtained in the framework of the OM with the DF potential are shown as solid curves. Theoretical results obtained by means of the OM give an excellent agreement,  $\chi^2 \approx 2.5$ , with the experimental data. The parameters of parameterized double-folding potential are listed in Table ?? .

### 3.1.2 $d+{}^9\text{Be} \rightarrow d+{}^9\text{Be}^*$

The CC and DWBA approaches have been applied to analyse the measured inelastic scattering data corresponding to the  ${}^9\text{Be}(5/2^-, 2.43 \text{ MeV})$  excitation. Calculations were performed employing the FRESKO code [fresco] and the DWUCK5 code [kunz] which are available in the NRV knowledge-base [nrw].

In order to describe the measured experimental data one has to consider the  ${}^9\text{Be}$  target having a quadrupole deformation. Thus, the  ${}^9\text{Be}$  spectrum consists of the rotational band including the  $3/2^-$  ground state,  $5/2^-$  state at 2.43 MeV and  $7/2^-$  state at 6.38 MeV. Couplings to these states were taken into account within the coupled-channel approach. The spin reorientations were also taken into account. The coupling interaction has the usual form:

$$V_\lambda(R) = -\beta_\lambda R_V \left| \frac{dV^V}{dR} \right| - i\beta_\lambda R_W \left| \frac{dW^D}{dR} \right|, \quad (3.1)$$

where  $\beta_\lambda$  is the deformation parameter of  $\lambda$  multipole describing the target-nucleus form. Here, we neglect as usual the contribution of the Coulomb interaction.

The calculated cross sections for inelastic scattering to the  $5/2^-$  state at 2.43 MeV are shown in Fig. ?? . The solid curves correspond to the results obtained within the CC approach, while the dashed and dotted curves were obtained within the DWBA approach using different values of the deformation parameter  $\beta_2$ . The used potential parameters are listed in Table ?? .

All the results in Fig. ?? are in good agreement with the experimental data, except for the cross sections around  $60^\circ$  at 19.5 MeV incident energy. The quadrupole deformation parameter  $\beta_2 = 0.64$  extracted within the coupled-channel model is consistent with the previous studies [lukyanov2014, harakeh1980].

In the case of DWBA calculations, one uses the DF potential (see Table ??) for both the entrance and the exit channels. The DWBA angular distributions very well reproduce the structure of experimental data but clearly underestimate them when the deformation parameter  $\beta_2 = 0.64$  is used (see the dotted curves in Fig. ??). In order to get the best fit the deformation parameter must be increased up to  $\beta_2 = 0.93$ , which is quite close to the values reported in previous studies (see, for example, [bodek1989, votava1973]).

Thus, one may confirm that channel coupling and the effects of spin reorientation enhance the cross section that results in the reduction of the deformation parameter. However, the DWBA approach takes into account only first-order contributions to the

transition amplitude. In particular, it also describes only general features of the angular distributions and overestimates the deformation parameter in order to compensate the difference between the experimental data and the DWBA cross sections.

### 3.1.3 $d+{}^9\text{Be} \rightarrow p+{}^{10}\text{Be}$ and $d+{}^9\text{Be} \rightarrow t+{}^8\text{Be}$

The one-neutron pick-up  ${}^9\text{Be}(d, t){}^8\text{Be}$  and stripping  ${}^9\text{Be}(d, p){}^{10}\text{Be}$  reactions were analyzed here within the framework of the Coupled Reaction Channels (CRC).

The double-folding potential given in Table ?? was used in the CRC calculations for the entrance channel and the global optical parameterizations from Ref. [globalProton, globalTriton] were used for the exit channels. The coupling schemes of target and daughter nuclei for the  ${}^9\text{Be}(d, p){}^{10}\text{Be}$  and  ${}^9\text{Be}(d, t){}^8\text{Be}$  reactions are illustrated in Fig. ?. The states of  ${}^{10}\text{Be}$ ,  $2_1^+$  and  $2_2^+$ , as well as the low-lying excited states of  ${}^8\text{Be}$ ,  $2^+$  and  $4^+$ , were included in the coupling scheme. Also, the schemes take into account the spin reorientations of states on the condition  $J \neq 0$ .

In order to construct the bound-state wave functions of the transferred particle in the entrance and exit channels, the common method, i.e. fitting the depth of the corresponding Woods-Saxon potential to the known binding energy, was employed. The reduced radius and diffuseness in this case are set to be  $r = 1.25$  fm and  $a = 0.65$  fm, respectively. If the transfer takes place to a final unbound state, the depth of the potential for this state was adjusted to yield a binding energy equal to  $-0.1$  MeV in accordance with the procedure used in Ref. [harakeh1980].

If the core and the composite nuclei have internal excitation energies, a renewed binding energy  $BE^*$  of the transferred particle is expressed by the formula:

$$BE^* = BE - E_{com}^* + E_{core}^* \quad (3.2)$$

where  $BE$  – the binding energy of the transferred particle,  $E_{com}^*$ ,  $E_{core}^*$  – excitation energies of the composite and core nuclei, respectively.

The spectroscopic amplitude  $\mathcal{S}$  for the addition of a particle to a core with angular momentum  $J_{core}$  to form a composite with  $J_{com}$  is related to the matrix element of the creation operator  $\hat{a}^\dagger$ :

$$\mathcal{S}_{Nlj} = \frac{\langle J_{com} || \hat{a}_{Nlj}^\dagger || J_{core} \rangle}{\sqrt{2J_{com} + 1}} \quad (3.3)$$

where  $Nlj$  is the set of particle quantum numbers. The spectroscopic amplitudes for one particle states were calculated by means of the *ANTOINE* code [antoine] using the effective Cohen-Kurath interaction for  $p$ -shell nuclei [cohen1965]. The calculated spectroscopic amplitudes for the one-nucleon transfer reactions are listed in Table ??.

Angular distributions of the  ${}^9\text{Be}(d, p){}^{10}\text{Be}$  nuclear reaction at  $E_d=19.5$  MeV are shown in comparison with the theoretical curves calculated in the framework of the CRC method in Fig. ??.



In order to study the couplings of the input channels, the outputs were fixed using the deformation parameter of  $^8\text{Be}$  from Ref. [rocca2018], and for  $^{10}\text{Be}$  from Ref. [harakeh1980]. The direct transition from the ground state is indicated by the dotted line (DWBA). The contributions of the transitions from excited states (CC), and from spin reorientations (SR) are indicated by dashed and solid lines, respectively. During the analysis, it was found that spin reorientation has a significant contribution in the  $p + ^{10}\text{Be}_{gs}$  channel, especially in the range of 40-60 degrees. It is interesting to note that we managed to describe within the CRC method the differential cross section of the  $^9\text{Be}(d,p)^{10}\text{Be}_{gs}$  reaction at all scattering angles, including the range  $40^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ , where they were not covered in Refs. [galanina2012, bodek1989].

An appreciable contribution of the  $3/2^- \rightarrow 2_1^+$ ,  $5/2^- \rightarrow 2_1^+$ ,  $7/2^- \rightarrow 2_1^+$  transitions was observed in the  $p + ^{10}\text{Be}_{3.37}$  channel in the entire range of scattering angles. In the cross section of the  $p + ^{10}\text{Be}_{5.96}$  channel, the theoretical calculation underestimates the experimental data starting from  $70^\circ$ . Possibly, other higher excited states of  $^9\text{Be}$  should be taken into account.

Figure ?? displays the cross sections of the  $^9\text{Be}(d,t)^8\text{Be}$  nuclear reaction at both 19.5 MeV and 35 MeV incident energies. As in the case of the  $(d,p)$  reactions, the  $(d,t)$  reactions also show the strong channel-coupling effects. We see a manifestation of spin-reorientation effects in the  $t+^8\text{Be}_{gs}$  channels and a significant contribution of the  $3/2^- \rightarrow 2^+$ ,  $5/2^- \rightarrow 2^+$ ,  $7/2^- \rightarrow 2^+$  transitions in the  $t+^8\text{Be}_{3.03}$  channel. Disagreements around  $30^\circ$  in the  $t+^8\text{Be}_{gs}$  channel for both 19.5 MeV and 35 MeV incident energies and around  $60^\circ$  in the  $t+^8\text{Be}_{3.03}$  channel for 19.5 MeV incident energy are possibly caused by the uncertainty in the  $t+^8\text{Be}$  interaction potential.

Theoretical calculations made within the CRC method show, in general, good agreement with the experimental data for both  $(d,p)$  and  $(d,t)$  reactions. The analysis showed strong coupling effects in both entrance and exit channels. The effects of such couplings were also emphasized in Refs. [harakeh1980, rudchik2016].

### 3.1.4 $d+^9\text{Be} \rightarrow \alpha + ^7\text{Li}$

Differential cross sections for the nuclear reaction  $^9\text{Be}(d,\alpha)^7\text{Li}$  are of particular interest. This is due to the specific behaviour of the cross section at large scattering angles, which indicates a  $^5\text{He}$  cluster transfer. In addition, the cross section calculated within the DWBA approach underestimates the data even at forward scattering angles. Therefore, in order to understand the difference between theory and experiment, the following transfer mechanisms are suggested (see Fig. ??):

- direct transfer of heavy clusters  $d$  and  $^5\text{He}$ ;
- sequential two-step transfer of  $n-p$ ,  $p-n$ ,  $n-\alpha$  and  $\alpha-n$ ;

The resulting differential cross section for the  $^9\text{Be}(d,\alpha)^7\text{Li}$  reaction has the form of a coherent sum of two amplitudes

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\theta) = |f_I(\theta) + f_{II}(\theta)|^2, \quad (3.4)$$

where the amplitude

$$f_I(\theta) = f_{^5\text{He}}(\pi - \theta) + f_{n-\alpha}(\pi - \theta) + f_{\alpha-n}(\pi - \theta) \quad (3.5)$$

describes the transfer of the heavy  $^5\text{He}$ -cluster and sequential two-step transfer of  $n-\alpha$  and  $\alpha-n$ , and the amplitude

$$f_{II}(\theta) = f_d(\theta) + f_{n-p}(\theta) + f_{p-n}(\theta) \quad (3.6)$$

corresponds to the deuteron pick-up and sequential two-step transfer of  $n-p$  and  $p-n$ .

The DF potential (see Table ??) for the entrance channel and global optical potential parameterizations from Refs. [**globalTriton**, **globalAlpha**, **global6Li**] for intermediate and exit channels were used in the analysis. The prior form for the first coupling and the post form for the second coupling were chosen for two-step transfer reactions in order to avoid the non-orthogonal terms in the calculations of transition amplitudes.

The spectroscopic amplitudes of the  $d$  and  $^5\text{He}$  clusters were taken from Ref. [**fiveSA**], while the alpha-cluster spectroscopic amplitudes given in Table ?? were provided by Dr. A. Volya within the method reported in Ref. [**volya2017**].

The calculated cross sections are shown in Fig. ?? with the  $\alpha$ -particle angular distributions formed in the  $^9\text{Be}(d,\alpha)^7\text{Li}^*$  reaction at incident energies of 19.5 and 35 MeV and corresponding to the low-lying excitation of the  $^7\text{Li}$  nucleus in the exit channels. The transfer of the deuteron (dash-dotted curve) provides the dominant contribution in all the channels. Despite the fact that the spectroscopic amplitude of the deuteron  $\mathcal{S}_{1D_3} = 0.558$  in the  $^9\text{Be}$  nucleus is not of great importance, a noticeable cross section is due to the large value of the deuteron spectroscopic amplitude  $\mathcal{S}_{1S_1} = 1.732$  of  $^4\text{He}$ .

The angular distribution of deuteron transfer has a significant cross section also at the backward scattering angles, which is mainly caused by the contribution of the  $D$  wave. This symmetrical behaviour of the cross section of  $D$  waves is very similar to the cross section of evaporation residues. Tanaka *et al* [**tanaka1978**] analyzed the role of the compound process in  $^9\text{Be}(d,\alpha)^7\text{Li}$  reaction and claimed the domination of the compound nucleus channels at the energies of 12.17 MeV and 14.43 MeV. However, in Ref. [**bodek1989**] the negligible contribution of the compound-nucleus mechanism was shown at 7 MeV using the DWBA analysis. In this regard, our theoretical results based on the CRC method show that there is no need to take into account the mechanism through the compound-nucleus formation at energies of 19.5 and 35.0 MeV.

Starting from scattering angle  $\theta_{c.m.} = 120^\circ$ , the transfer of the  $^5\text{He}$  cluster, labeled as  $^5\text{He}$  in Fig. ??, has a predominant contribution in all channels. It should be noted that a similar result was reported earlier in Ref. [**bodek1989**]. One-step transfer of the  $^5\text{He}$  cluster was also indicated as a dominant process by Jarczyk *et al* [**jarczyk1996**] in studying the  $^{12}\text{C}(^{11}\text{B}, ^6\text{Li})^{17}\text{O}$  and  $^{12}\text{C}(d, ^7\text{Li})^7\text{Be}$  reactions.

Using the CRC method, we are able to estimate the contribution of the sequential transfer of  ${}^5\text{He}$ , which was not studied before. Corresponding cross sections are shown in Fig. ?? as curves labeled  $n\alpha$  and  $\alpha n$ . It turned out that the  $n\alpha$  and  $\alpha n$  transfer processes provide indeed a contribution more than one order of magnitude smaller in comparison with the one-step  ${}^5\text{He}$  transfer. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the contribution of the  $n\alpha$  and the  $\alpha n$  transfer channels increases with the increase in the  ${}^7\text{Li}$  excitation energy, where they should not be ignored.

The two-step  $n-p$  transfer is another mechanism providing a noticeable contribution to the cross section. It is due to the prominent cluster structure of the  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nucleus having the weakly bound neutron. This structural feature explains also the weakness of the  $p-n$  sequential transfer contribution to the cross section corresponding to the  ${}^7\text{Li}(\text{g.s.})$  in the exit channel. However, with increasing the  ${}^7\text{Li}$  excitation energy these two mechanisms are interchanged in the significance of their contributions, as depicted by the curves in Fig. ??, and the  $p-n$  transfer begins to play a leading role, providing, in particular, almost 10 times larger contribution in the case of reaction at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 35$  MeV with  ${}^7\text{Li}^*(7.46 \text{ MeV})$  in exit channel.

In Fig. ??, the possible scenarios for the  $n-p$  and  $p-n$  sequential transfer for the reaction under consideration are shown in respect to the  $Q$ -values. One may see that all the steps of the  $n-p$  sequential transfer have positive  $Q$ -values, while the  $p-n$  transfer goes through the intermediate channel  ${}^8\text{Li} + {}^3\text{He}$  that has a considerably negative  $Q$ -value. Together with the large values of the spectroscopic amplitudes (shown near to the arrows in Fig. ??), this explains the leading role of the  $(d, t; t, \alpha)$  mechanism in populating the ground state of  ${}^7\text{Li}$  in the exit channel.

The situation becomes quite different in the case of the  ${}^7\text{Li}^*(5/2^-)$  in the exit channel. First, the population of this state through the  $n-p$  transfer involves the  ${}^9\text{Be} = {}^8\text{Be}^*(2^+) + n$  intermediate configuration where the  ${}^8\text{Be}$  cluster has to be in the  $2^+$  excited state. Note that the  ${}^8\text{Be}(0^+)$  ground state is inappropriate because of angular-momentum-coupling mismatch in the entrance and exit configurations. Second, the extremely small spectroscopic amplitude of the  ${}^8\text{Be}^*(2^+) = {}^7\text{Li}^*(5/2^-) + p$  configuration, which is  $\mathcal{S} = 0.079$ , influences the transfer amplitude. These two factors lead to the suppression of the contribution of  $(d, t; t, \alpha)$  mechanism in population of the  ${}^7\text{Li}^*(5/2^-)$  state in the exit channel. Therefore, the  $p-n$  sequential transfer prevails over the  $n-p$  one.

Figure ?? shows the contributions of all the mechanisms mentioned above to the total cross section of the  ${}^9\text{Be}(d, \alpha){}^7\text{Li}_{\text{g.s.}}$  reaction (see Fig. ??) as a function of the deuteron energy. One may conclude that mainly four mechanisms contribute to the cross section of this reaction. The transfer of the deuteron-cluster is the predominant channel at all collision energies. The sequential  $n-p$  and  $p-n$  transfers play a significant role at the high energies. The  ${}^5\text{He}$ -cluster transfer gives almost 20% of the cross section at low energies and outdoes the sequential  $p-n$  transfer in this energy domain. This allows us to claim that the configurations  $n+{}^8\text{Be}$  and  $\alpha+{}^5\text{He}$  provide noticeable contributions to the ground-state wave function of the  ${}^9\text{Be}$  nucleus. These conclusions

agree well with the previous experimental studies [brown2007, papka2007].

## **3.2 The $\alpha+{}^9\text{Be}$ nuclear reactions**

### **3.2.1 $\alpha+{}^9\text{Be} \rightarrow \alpha+{}^9\text{Be}$**

### **3.2.2 $\alpha+{}^9\text{Be} \rightarrow \alpha+{}^9\text{Be}^*$**

## **3.3 The $\alpha+{}^6\text{He}$ nuclear reaction**

## **3.4 The $\alpha+{}^6\text{Li}$ nuclear reaction**

## Chapter 4

# Conclusion



## Appendix A

# Parameters of the three body wave function

A.1 Helium-6

A.2 Lithium-6

A.3 Berillium-9