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Cite as: AIP Conference Proceedings **1139**, 106 (2009); <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.3157787>

Published Online: 08 June 2009

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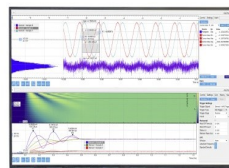
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Experimental Determination of the $^{6,7}\text{Li}$ Nucleon Densities

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Abstract. In this work we present optical model analysis of new near barrier-quasi-elastic experimental data, for the systems $^{6,7}\text{Li} + ^{120}\text{Sn}$. From the analysis it was possible to extract the ground state nucleon densities of the weakly bound $^{6,7}\text{Li}$ isotopes. The apparent discrepancies between the experimental densities, as compared with those based on Dirac-Hartree-Fock-Bougulibov (DHB) calculations were removed, considering in the reaction mechanism, the projectile break-up and a positive polarization from couplings of $^{6,7}\text{Li}$ states of the continuum.

Keywords: Nuclear Reactions, Optical Model, Nuclear Densities.

PACS: 21.10.Gv, 24.10.Ht, 25.70.Bc.

INTRODUCTION

It is well established that [1, 2, 3] from optical model (OM) data analysis of total quasi-elastic (elastic, inelastic and transfer processes), at near and sub barrier energies, it is possible to characterize the nuclear potential in the surface interaction region for a heavy-ion system. For a specific bombarding energy a reliable potential value can be defined at the *strong absorption radius* [1].

The Sao Paulo Potential (SPP) [4], is a parameter free folding-type potential: $V_F(R) = \int \rho_1(r_1) v_{12} \rho_2(r_2) dr_1$, with the normalization given by e^{-4v^2/c^2} , where v is the relative velocity between the partners of the collision. The experimental surface potential values cited above, are directly compared with those from the bare SPP, since the OM quasi-elastic data analysis approach of ref. [1] approximately removes the couplings effects. From this comparison, in the method proposed, it is possible to extract experimentally the nucleon density $\rho_1(r)$ for surface radii if ρ_r is assumed to be well known. In the SPP model, the nucleon densities of the partners of the collision are derived from DHB calculations [4]. In the present work, we have obtained the $^{6,7}\text{Li}$ densities for surface radius, using the method proposed, by measuring quasi-elastic

cross sections for the systems ${}^6,7\text{Li} + {}^{120}\text{Sn}$, at the near barrier energies $E_{\text{Lab}}({}^7\text{Li}) = 19.5, 20.5, 25 \text{ MeV}$ and $E_{\text{Lab}}({}^6\text{Li}) = 19.5 \text{ MeV}$. The Coulomb barrier for the systems above is around 20 MeV in the laboratory frame. These experimental densities were compared with those [4] from systematics based on DHB calculations, assuming a Fermi–Dirac

distribution shape:
$$\rho(R) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + e^{-\frac{R-R_0}{a}}}$$

EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

The experiments were performed in the 8-UD São Paulo Pelletron laboratory. A $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ isotopic enriched ${}^{120}\text{Sn}$ target, with a thin evaporated layer of Au for data normalization has been used in the experiments. A set of nine collimated silicon barrier detectors, separated 5 degrees apart, was used as the detector system. In figure 1 a typical energy spectrum for the system ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{120}\text{Sn}$ is shown.

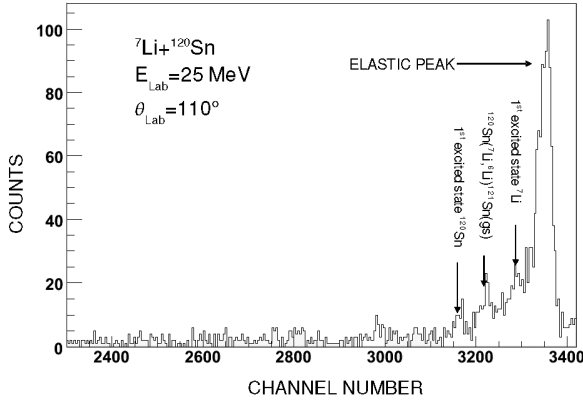


FIGURE 1. Energy spectrum for the system ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{120}\text{Sn}$ at $E_{\text{Lab}} = 25 \text{ MeV}$ and $\theta_{\text{Lab}} = 110^\circ$.

As shown in figure 1, we have detected as the main quasi-elastic reaction channels: ${}^{120}\text{Sn}({}^7\text{Li}, {}^7\text{Li}^*(\text{Ex}=0.477 \text{ MeV})){}^{120}\text{Sn}$, ${}^{120}\text{Sn}({}^7\text{Li}, {}^7\text{Li}){}^{120}\text{Sn}^*(\text{Ex}=1.171 \text{ MeV})$, ${}^{120}\text{Sn}({}^7\text{Li}, {}^6\text{Li}){}^{120}\text{Sn}(\text{gs})$. The first of these reactions is the main channel coupling, due to the large ${}^7\text{Li}$ ($\frac{1}{2}^-$) deformation parameter, as reported earlier [5, 6].

DATA REDUCTION, ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

In figure 2 the corresponding angular distributions for the total quasi-elastic processes for the systems ${}^6,7\text{Li} + {}^{120}\text{Sn}$ are shown. The dash lines in the figure correspond to OM

data analysis, using the SPP, with the ground state nucleon density for the inert ($N=82$ and super fluid for protons) ^{120}Sn target nucleus obtained from the systematics based on DHB calculations[4], and for $^6,7\text{Li}$ a Fermi–Dirac shape has been assumed with fit parameters R_0 and the diffuseness a .

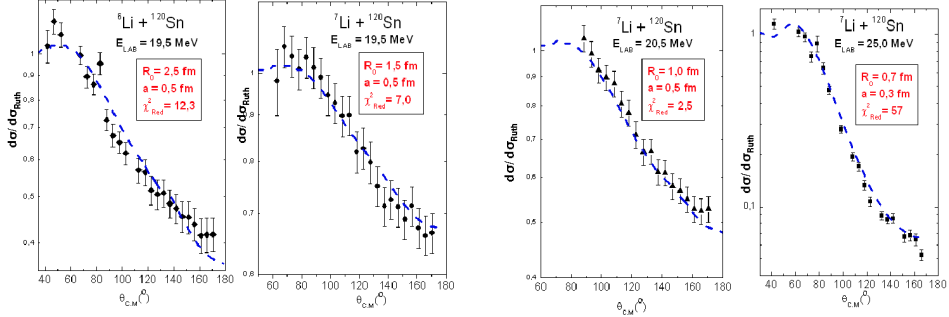


FIGURE 2. Total quasi-elastic angular distributions for the systems $^6\text{Li} + ^{120}\text{Sn}$ ($E_{\text{lab}}= 19.5$ MeV) and $^7\text{Li} + ^{120}\text{Sn}$ ($E_{\text{lab}}= 19.5, 20.5$ and 25 MeV). The dash–lines, in the figure, correspond to SPP OM data analysis with R_0 and a as the $^6,7\text{Li}$ nucleon density fit parameters, and considering in the imaginary part of the interaction, only an internal absorption (fusion).

In this case, there is a family of equivalent data fits (see Fig. 1), with different (R_0, a) fit parameters. The corresponding Li nucleon densities cross in a less ambiguous density value ρ_s (see fig. 3) at a special surface radius R_s (strong absorption radius).

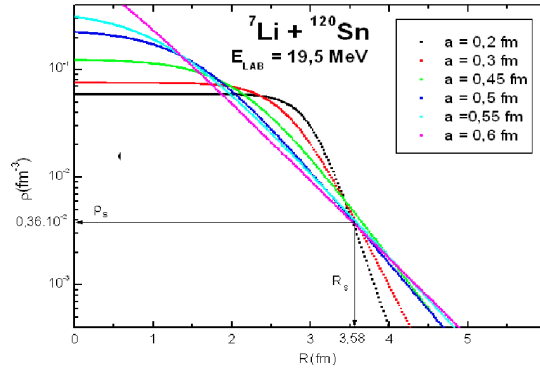


FIGURE 3. Different ^7Li nuclear densities which give equivalent fits to the quasi-elastic angular distribution, for the system $^7\text{Li} + ^{120}\text{Sn}$ at $E_{\text{lab}}= 19.5$ MeV. The strong absorption radius R_s and the corresponding well defined density value are shown in the figure.

Considering that the strong absorption radius is energy dependent [7], by considering quasi-elastic OM data analysis at different near barrier energies, it is possible to characterize the nucleon density at the surface. This is illustrated in figure 4 for the ^7Li

+ ^{120}Sn system through OM data analysis of the total quasi-elastic near barrier angular distribution measurements.

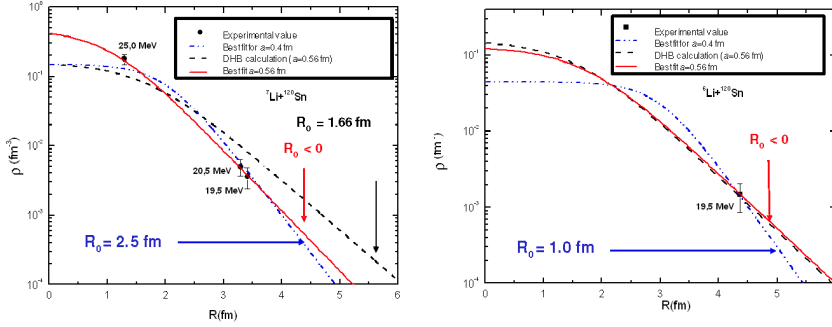


FIGURE 4. Experimental nuclear density values (closed symbols) for the systems $^7\text{Li} + ^{120}\text{Sn}$ (left side) and $^6\text{Li} + ^{120}\text{Sn}$ (right side). The lines in the figure correspond to different ^7Li nucleon densities, assuming different Fermi–Dirac distributions.

In the case of ^7Li isotope, the predicted nucleon density, from systematics based on DHB calculations are defined by Fermi–Dirac distribution parameters: $R_0 = 1.66$ fm and $a = 0.56$ fm. This density is represented by a short–dash line in the figure 4 (left-side) and is in disagreement with the corresponding experimental points. The solid and dash-dot-dot lines in the figure correspond to Fermi–Dirac distributions that are in a better agreement with the data. Nevertheless, these ones present R_0 parameters far away in relation to that obtained from the DHB calculations, considering $a \approx 0.5$ fm. We mention also that $R_0 < 0$ has no physical meaning. For the ^6Li case, there is only one experimental density value, in apparent agreement with the corresponding ^6Li nucleon density from DHB calculations but, in this case, we cannot say much more.

It is important to mention that the apparent disagreement between theoretical and experimental values for ^7Li nucleon density could be related to other reaction mechanisms, not included in the OM data analysis. For weakly bound nuclei, like ^7Li , break-up is known to occur at near barrier energies. In order to take into account such kind of dissipative process, we have developed [8] an imaginary potential with system and energy independent normalization. This potential is based on high-energy nucleon-nucleon interaction, and it is related to the SPP:

$$W(R) = 0.6i V_{\text{SPP}}(R) \quad (1)$$

In figure 5 quasi-elastic SPP optical calculations (solid-lines), using the imaginary potential given by expression 1, for the system $^7\text{Li} + ^{120}\text{Sn}$, are shown. In this case, the ^7Li nucleon density is that from the systematic [4] based on DHB calculations with the Fermi–Dirac parameters $R_0 = 1.66$ fm and $a = 0.56$ fm. The deviation between predictions and data (from $E_{\text{Lab}} = 20.5$ MeV), for back scattering angles ($\theta_{\text{cm}} \geq 140^\circ$) can be understood as an effect of the couplings of the continuum, which gives rise to a positive polarization, as discussed in details in reference [9]. In order to take into

account this effect (dash-dot lines in figure 5), it is necessary to renormalize the real potential (SPP) by a factor 0.6 (see reference [9] for details)

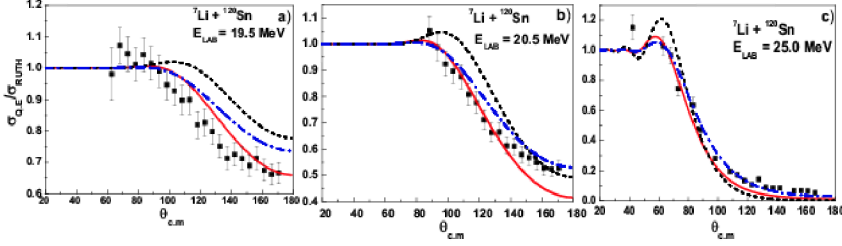


FIGURE 5. SPP optical model calculations for the quasi-elastic angular distributions for the system ${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{120}\text{Sn}$, as compared with experimental data, considering: (i) internal and surface (break-up) dissipative processes (Eq.1 – solid); (ii) only internal absorption (dash); (iii) the same as (i) but, taking into account a positive polarization (dash-dot).

As shown in Fig. 5, there is very good agreement (Fig. 5b, Fig. 5c) between the predictions (dash-dot lines) and the data if the effect of a positive polarization is included. On the other side, the theoretical predictions (dash-lines) are in disagreement with the data if only internal absorption (fusion) is included.

CONCLUSIONS

In this work we present experimental values for the ${}^6\text{Li}$ nucleon densities, as obtained from SPP OM quasi-elastic data analysis for the systems ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{120}\text{Sn}$. The apparent discrepancies, particularly for ${}^7\text{Li}$ isotope, between the experimental values and those from DHB calculations, were removed by introducing the ${}^7\text{Li}$ break-up process and a positive polarization of the continuum in the reaction mechanism.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was partially supported by FAPESP and CNPq, Brazil.

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