

Effects of four-body breakup on ${}^6\text{Li}$ elastic scattering near the Coulomb barrier

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We investigate projectile breakup effects on ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ elastic scattering near the Coulomb barrier with the four-body version of the continuum-discretized coupled-channels method (four-body CDCC). The elastic scattering is well described by the $p + n + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ four-body model. Furthermore, we propose a reasonable $d + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ three-body model for describing the four-body scattering, clarifying four-body dynamics of the elastic scattering.

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Introduction. Plenty of nuclei are considered to have two-cluster or three-cluster configurations as their main components. Three-cluster dynamics is, however, nontrivial compared with two-cluster dynamics. Systematic understanding of three-cluster dynamics is hence important. There are many nuclei that can be described by three-cluster models. For example, low-lying states of ${}^6\text{He}$ and ${}^6\text{Li}$ are explained by $N + N + {}^4\text{He}$ three-body models [1–6], where N stands for a nucleon. The comparison of the two nuclei is important to see the difference between dineutron and proton-neutron correlations. Two-neutron halo nuclei such as ${}^{11}\text{Li}$, ${}^{14}\text{Be}$, and ${}^{22}\text{C}$ are reasonably described by a $n + n + X$ three-cluster model, where X is a core nucleus. Properties of these three-cluster configurations should be confirmed by measuring scattering of the nuclei and analyzing the measured cross sections with accurate reaction theories. The reactions are essentially four-body scattering composed of three constituents of the projectile and a target nucleus. An accurate theoretical description of four-body scattering is thus an important subject in nuclear physics.

The continuum-discretized coupled-channels method (CDCC) is a fully quantum mechanical method of describing not only three-body scattering but also four-body scattering [7–9]. CDCC has succeeded in reproducing experimental data on both three- and four-body scattering. The theoretical foundation of CDCC is shown with the distorted Faddeev equation [10–12]. CDCC for four-body (three-body) scattering is often called four-body (three-body) CDCC; see Refs. [13–25] and references therein for four-body CDCC. So far four-body CDCC has been applied to only ${}^6\text{He}$ scattering.

For ${}^6\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 19 and 22.5 MeV near the Coulomb barrier, the measured total reaction cross sections are largely enhanced in comparison with that for ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 29.9 and 32.8 MeV near the Coulomb barrier [26,27]. Keeley *et al.* [28] analyzed the ${}^6\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering with three-body CDCC in which the ${}^6\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$

system was assumed to be a $2n + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ three-body system; i.e., a pair of extra neutrons in ${}^6\text{He}$ was treated as a single particle, a dineutron ($2n$). The enhancement of the total reaction cross section of ${}^6\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering is found to be due to the electric dipole ($E1$) excitation of ${}^6\text{He}$ to its continuum states [29], i.e., Coulomb breakup of ${}^6\text{He}$. The three-body CDCC calculation, however, does not reproduce the angular distribution of the measured elastic cross section and overestimates the measured total reaction cross section by a factor of 2.5. This problem is solved by four-body CDCC [19] in which the total system is assumed to be a $n + n + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ four-body system.

${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering near the Coulomb barrier was, meanwhile, analyzed with three-body CDCC by assuming a $d + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ three-body model [28]. The three-body CDCC calculation could not reproduce the data without normalization factors for the potentials between ${}^6\text{Li}$ and ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$. This result indicates that four-body CDCC should be applied to ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering.

In this Rapid Communication, we analyze ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ elastic scattering at 29.9 and 32.8 MeV with four-body CDCC by assuming the $p + n + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ four-body model. The four-body CDCC calculation reproduces the measured elastic cross sections, whereas the previous three-body CDCC calculation does not. Four-body dynamics of the elastic scattering is investigated, and what causes the failure of the previous three-body CDCC calculation is discussed. Finally, we propose a reasonable $d + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ three-body model for describing the four-body scattering.

Theoretical framework. One of the most natural frameworks to describe ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering is the $p + n + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ four-body model. The dynamics of the scattering is governed by the Schrödinger equation

$$(H - E)\Psi = 0 \quad (1)$$

for the total wave function Ψ , where E is a total energy of the system. The total Hamiltonian H is defined by

$$H = K_R + U + h \quad (2)$$

with

$$U = U_n(R_n) + U_p(R_p) + U_\alpha(R_\alpha) + \frac{e^2 Z_{\text{Li}} Z_{\text{Bi}}}{R}, \quad (3)$$

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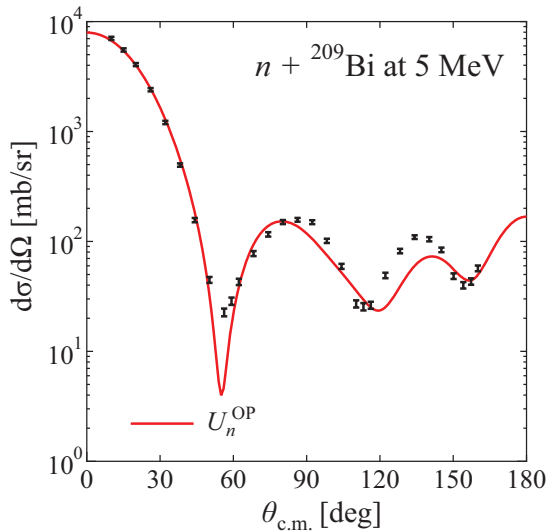


FIG. 1. (Color online) Angular distribution of elastic cross section for $n + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 5 MeV. The solid line is the result with the neutron optical potential U_n^{OP} . The experimental data are taken from Ref. [31].

where h denotes the internal Hamiltonian of ${}^6\text{Li}$, \mathbf{R} is the center-of-mass coordinate of ${}^6\text{Li}$ relative to ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$, K_R stands for the kinetic energy operator associated with \mathbf{R} , and U_x describes the nuclear part of the optical potential between x and ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$ as a function of the relative coordinate R_x . As U_α , we adopt the optical potential of Barnett and Lilley [30]. The parameters of U_n are fitted to reproduce experimental data [31] on $n + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ elastic scattering at 5 MeV, where only the central interaction is taken for simplicity. As shown in Fig. 1, the neutron optical potential U_n^{OP} thus fitted is consistent with the data. The resultant parameter set is the same as that in the global optical potential of Koning and Delaroche [32], except that parameters a_V , W_V , and W_D are changed into 0.55 fm, 0 MeV, and 4.0 MeV, respectively. The proton optical potential U_p is assumed to be the same as U_n .

In the $d + {}^4\text{He}$ two-cluster model, the dipole strength of ${}^6\text{Li}$ is zero, since the mass ratio between the two clusters is equal to the charge ratio between them. In the $n + p + {}^4\text{He}$ three-cluster model, we have confirmed numerically that the dipole strength is still negligibly small, because the ${}^6\text{Li}$ ground state is dominated by the $d + {}^4\text{He}$ component. This property strongly suppresses Coulomb breakup processes in ${}^6\text{Li}$ - ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering. Hence we can approximate the Coulomb part of p - ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$ and α - ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$ interactions as $e^2 Z_L Z_{\text{Bi}}/R$, as shown in Eq. (3), where Z_A is the atomic number of the nucleus A.

The internal Hamiltonian h of ${}^6\text{Li}$ is described by the $p + n + {}^4\text{He}$ orthogonality condition model [33]. The Hamiltonian of ${}^6\text{Li}$ agrees with that of ${}^6\text{He}$ in Ref. [19], when the Coulomb interaction between p and ${}^4\text{He}$ is neglected. Namely, the Bonn-A interaction [34] is taken in the p - n subsystem and the so-called KKNN interaction [35] is used in the p - α and n - α subsystems, where the KKNN interaction is determined from experimental data on low-energy nucleon- α scattering. In order to reproduce the measured binding energy of ${}^6\text{Li}$, we

TABLE I. Calculated spin-parity (I^π), energy (ϵ_0), and matter radius (R_{rms}^m) of the ${}^6\text{Li}$ ground state. The experimental data are taken from Refs. [36,37].

	I^π	ϵ_0 (MeV)	R_{rms}^m (fm)
Calc.	1^+	-3.68	2.34
Exp.	1^+	-3.6989	2.44 ± 0.07

introduce the effective three-body interaction defined by

$$V^{\text{3body}}(y_1, y_2) = V_3 e^{-\nu(y_1^2 + y_2^2)}, \quad (4)$$

where y_1 (y_2) is the relative coordinate between a valence neutron (proton) and ${}^4\text{He}$. The optimum values of V_3 and ν are -5.1 MeV and 0.1 fm^{-2} , respectively. The calculated results for the ${}^6\text{Li}$ ground state are summarized in Table I.

Eigenstates of h consist of a finite number of discrete states with negative energies and continuum states with positive energies. In four-body CDCC, the continuum states of the projectile are discretized into a finite number of pseudostates by either the pseudostate method [13–21,23–25] or the momentum-bin method [22]. The Schrödinger equation (1) is solved in a model space \mathcal{P} spanned by the discrete and discretized-continuum states:

$$\mathcal{P}(H - E)\mathcal{P}\Psi_{\text{CDCC}} = 0. \quad (5)$$

In the pseudostate method, the discrete and discretized-continuum states are obtained by diagonalizing h in a space spanned by L^2 -type basis functions. As the basis function, the Gaussian [14–16,19,23–25] or the transformed harmonic oscillator function [13,17,18,20,21] is usually taken. In this paper, we use the Gaussian function. The model space \mathcal{P} is then described by

$$\mathcal{P} = \sum_{nIm} |\Phi_{nIm}\rangle \langle \Phi_{nIm}|, \quad (6)$$

where Φ_{nIm} is the n th eigenstate of ${}^6\text{Li}$ with an energy ϵ_{nI} , a total spin I , and its projection on the z axis, m .

The CDCC wave function Ψ_{CDCC}^{JM} , with total angular momentum J and its projection on the z axis, M , is expressed as

$$\Psi^{JM} = \sum_{\gamma} \chi_{\gamma}^J(P_{nI}, R) / R \mathcal{Y}_{\gamma}^{JM} \quad (7)$$

with

$$\mathcal{Y}_{\gamma}^{JM} = [\Phi_{nI}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \otimes i^L Y_L(\hat{\mathbf{R}})]_{JM} \quad (8)$$

for the orbital angular momentum L with respect to \mathbf{R} . Here $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ is a set of internal coordinates of ${}^6\text{Li}$ and the expansion coefficient χ_{γ}^J , where $\gamma = (n, I, L)$, describes a motion of ${}^6\text{Li}$ in its (n, I) state with linear momentum P_{nI} relative to the target. Multiplying the four-body Schrödinger equation (5) by $\mathcal{Y}_{\gamma'}^{*JM}$ from the left and integrating it over all variables except R , one can obtain a set of coupled differential equations for χ_{γ}^J :

$$\left[\frac{d^2}{dR^2} - \frac{L(L+1)}{R^2} - \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} U_{\gamma\gamma}(R) + P_{nI}^2 \right] \chi_{\gamma}^J(P_{nI}, R) = \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} \sum_{\gamma' \neq \gamma} U_{\gamma'\gamma}(R) \chi_{\gamma'}^J(P_{nI'}, R) \quad (9)$$

with the coupling potentials

$$U_{\gamma'\gamma}(R) = \langle \mathcal{Y}_{\gamma'}^{JM} | U_n(R_n) + U_p(R_p) + U_\alpha(R_\alpha) | \mathcal{Y}_\gamma^{JM} \rangle + \frac{e^2 Z_{\text{Li}} Z_{\text{Bi}}}{R} \delta_{\gamma'\gamma},$$

where μ is the reduced mass between ${}^6\text{Li}$ and ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$. The elastic and discrete breakup S -matrix elements are obtained by solving Eq. (9) under the standard asymptotic boundary condition [7,38].

In order to obtain Φ_{nIm} , we assume $I^\pi = 1^+, 2^+$, and 3^+ states with isospin zero and diagonalize h with 10 Gaussian basis functions for each coordinate in which the range parameters are taken from 0.1 to 12 fm in a geometric series. As shown in Table I, the calculated binding energy and the matter radius of the ${}^6\text{Li}$ ground state are in good agreement with the experimental data. The Φ_{nIm} with its eigenenergy $\epsilon_{nI} > 20$ MeV are excluded from \mathcal{P} . The resulting numbers of discrete states are 64 (including the ground state of ${}^6\text{Li}$), 56, and 57 for 1^+ , 2^+ , and 3^+ states, respectively. We have also confirmed numerically that other spin-parity states such as $I^\pi = 0^+$ and negative-parity states do not affect the present results. The model space thus obtained gives good convergence within 1% of the calculated elastic cross sections for the ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 29.9 and 32.8 MeV.

We also perform three-body CDCC calculations by assuming a $d + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ model, following Refs. [28,29]. As an interaction between d and ${}^4\text{He}$, we take the potential of Ref. [39], which was determined from experimental data on the ground-state energy (-1.47 MeV) and the 3^+ -resonance state energy (0.71 MeV) of ${}^6\text{Li}$ and low-energy d - α scattering phase shifts. The continuum states between d and ${}^4\text{He}$ are discretized with the pseudostate method [14] and are truncated at 20 MeV in the excitation energy of ${}^6\text{Li}$ from the d - ${}^4\text{He}$ threshold. The d - ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$ optical potential (U_d^{OP}) [40] is taken as U_d , i.e., the distorting potential between d and ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$ in a $d + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ three-body Hamiltonian, whereas U_α is common between three- and four-body CDCC calculations.

Results. Figure 2 shows the angular distribution of elastic cross section for ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 29.9 MeV. The dotted line shows the result of three-body CDCC calculations with U_d^{OP} as U_d . This result underestimates the measured cross section [26,27]. The solid (dashed) line, meanwhile, stands for the result of four-body CDCC calculations with (without) projectile breakup effects. In CDCC calculations without ${}^6\text{Li}$ breakup, the model space \mathcal{P} is composed only of the ${}^6\text{Li}$ ground state. The solid line reproduces the experimental cross section, but the dashed line does not. The projectile breakup effects are thus significant and the present ${}^6\text{Li}$ scattering is well described by the $p + n + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ four-body model. This conclusion is true also for ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 32.8 MeV, as shown in Fig. 3.

Now we consider d breakup in the ${}^6\text{Li}$ scattering in order to understand four-body dynamics of the scattering. In the limit of no d breakup, the interaction between d and ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$ can be obtained by folding U_n and U_p with the deuteron density. This potential is referred to as the single-folding potential U_d^{SF} . In Figs. 2 and 3, the dot-dashed lines show the results of three-body CDCC calculations with U_d^{SF} as U_d . The results

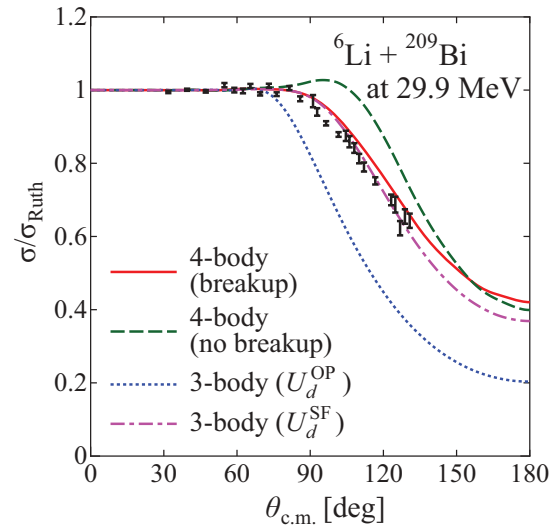


FIG. 2. (Color online) Angular distribution of the elastic cross section for ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 29.9 MeV. The cross section is normalized by the Rutherford cross section. The dotted (dot-dashed) line stands for the result of three-body CDCC calculations in which U_d^{OP} (U_d^{SF}) is taken as U_d . The solid (dashed) line represents the result of four-body CDCC calculations with (without) breakup effects. The experimental data are taken from Refs. [26,27].

well simulate those of four-body CDCC calculations, i.e., the solid lines. This indicates that d breakup is suppressed in ${}^6\text{Li}$ scattering. An intuitive understanding of this property is as follows. As a characteristic of the present ${}^6\text{Li}$ scattering, it is quite peripheral in virtue of the Coulomb barrier. The scattering is dominated by the configuration in which α is located between d and the target, because U_α is more attractive than U_d . In this configuration, d is out of the range of U_n and U_p , so that d breakup is suppressed. The ${}^6\text{Li}$ elastic scattering near the Coulomb barrier is thus well described by the $d + \alpha + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ three-body model, if U_d^{SF} is taken as U_d .

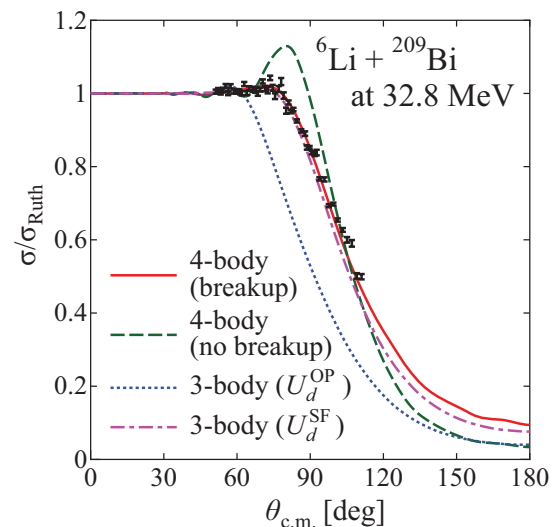


FIG. 3. (Color online) Same as in Fig. 2 but for ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 32.8 MeV.

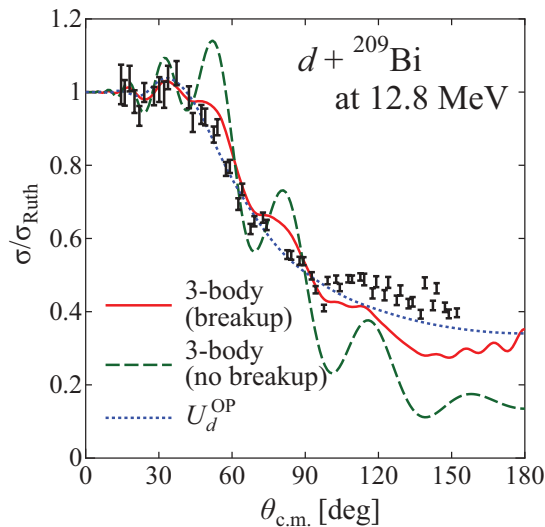


FIG. 4. (Color online) Angular distribution of the elastic cross section for $d + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 12.8 MeV. The solid (dashed) line stands for the result of three-body CDCC calculations with (without) deuteron breakup, whereas the dotted line is the result of the deuteron optical potential U_d^{OP} . The experimental data are taken from Ref. [40].

Figure 4 shows the angular distribution of elastic cross section for $d + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 12.8 MeV. The solid and dashed lines stand for the results of three-body CDCC calculations with and without d breakup, respectively, in which the $p + n + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ model is assumed and both Coulomb and nuclear breakup effects are taken into account. In this calculation, the discretized-continuum states of d , obtained by the pseudostate method, are truncated at 30 MeV in the excitation energy from the n - p threshold. As the relative

angular momentum ℓ between n and p , we take up to $\ell = 4$. The resulting number of discretized states is 13 (14) for $\ell = 0$ and 1 ($\ell = 2, 3$, and 4). The model space gives good convergence of the calculated elastic cross sections within 1%. The solid line reproduces the data fairly well, but the dashed line does not. Thus d breakup is significant for deuteron scattering. The deuteron optical potential U_d^{OP} (dotted line) yields fairly good agreement with the data, but the radius of U_d^{OP} is larger than that of U_d^{SF} . This is the reason why three-body CDCC calculations with U_d^{OP} as U_d cannot reproduce the measured elastic cross section for ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering. The difference between U_d^{SF} and U_d^{OP} mainly comes from the fact that U_d^{OP} includes d -breakup effects, whereas U_d^{SF} does not.

Summary. ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 29.9 and 32.8 MeV near the Coulomb barrier is well described by four-body CDCC based on the $p + n + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ model. In ${}^6\text{Li}$ scattering, d breakup is strongly suppressed, suggesting that the $d + {}^4\text{He} + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ model becomes good, if the single-folding potential U_d^{SF} with no d breakup is taken as an interaction between d and the target. For $d + {}^{209}\text{Bi}$ scattering at 12.8 MeV, meanwhile, d breakup is significant, so that the deuteron optical potential U_d^{OP} includes d -breakup effects.

Four-body CDCC is applicable also for $n + {}^6\text{Li}$ scattering, which is a key reaction in nuclear engineering. In the scattering, ${}^6\text{Li}$ breakup into $n + p + \alpha$ is considered to be not negligible for emitted neutron spectra [41]. We will discuss this point in a forthcoming paper.

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