



Direct triple- α process in non-adiabatic approach

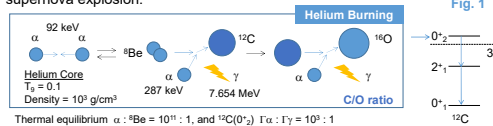
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Triple- α reaction rates have been determined well with the sequential process via the narrow resonances. However, direct triple- α process at off-resonant energies still remains in unsolved problems. In the present report, the direct process is estimated with non-adiabatic Faddeev HHR. In a result, the direct 3α contribution is found to be 10^{-15} – 10^{-3} pb order in photo-disintegration of $^{12}\text{C}(2^+_{1-} \rightarrow 0^+)$ for $0.15 < E < 0.35$ MeV. This is far below the predicted values of the recent adiabatic models. In spite of the large difference, the derived rates are illustrated to be concordant with NACRE at the helium burning temperatures.

1.1 Introduction

Triple- α reaction plays an important role in nucleosynthesis heavier than ^{12}C , because no stable nuclei exist in mass number $A=5$ and $A=8$ [1,2]. Followed by $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha,\gamma)^{16}\text{O}$ [3], triple- α reaction controls C/O ratio at the end of helium burning phase in stars, and it affects up to the nucleosynthesis in e.g. supernova explosion.



1.4 Present Report

I estimate **direct triple- α process** with non-adiabatic Faddeev HHR*, and I calculate the 3α reaction rates at the helium burning temperatures. After I review Faddeev HHR used in the present report, I discuss the difference between the non-adiabatic and adiabatic approaches. To show the long-range Coulomb coupling effects, I also demonstrate calculations without screening.

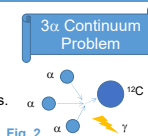
1.2 Sequential process

- Triple- α reaction via the resonances, (Fig. 1)
- In contrast to $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha,\gamma)^{16}\text{O}$, triple- α reaction is currently well-understood through the experimental studies of the 0^+ state in ^{12}C ($E_R = 0.379$ MeV). E_R is the c.m. energy with respect to the 3α threshold in ^{12}C .
- i.e. the reaction rates have been determined successfully with the **sequential process** via the narrow resonances. (e.g. [4,5])
- Pioneering work: CF88 [6], Nomoto (1985) [7]
- Standard Evaluated Reaction Rates
- NACRE (1999) [5]
- Experimental update from CF88, based on Nomoto (1985) [7], Langanke (1986) [8].
- Microscopic calculation of $J^\pi = 2^+$ by Descouvemont & Baye (1987) [9].
- ^8Be is assumed to be bound. The reaction proceeds via two resonances: $^8\text{Be}(0^+)$, $^{12}\text{C}(0^+)$.
- The adopted experimental values are
 - $^8\text{Be}(0^+)$: $E_R = 0.092$ MeV, $\Gamma = 5.6$ eV,
 - $^{12}\text{C}(0^+)$: $E_R = 0.379$ MeV, $\Gamma = 8.3$ eV, $\Gamma_\gamma = 3.7$ meV.

Recent experimental progress about the sequential process is found in [4].

1.3 Direct triple- α process

- Triple- α reaction from 3α continuum states
- Relax the continuum states of ^8Be
- Not via the resonances
- This direct 3α process is generally expected to be very slow, because three α -particles almost simultaneously collide and fuse into a ^{12}C nucleus.
- Adiabatic approach
 - Formulae in hyper-spherical coordinates have been applied to tackle the 3α continuum problem. (e.g. [10])
 - Recently, the Coulomb Modified Faddeev (CMF) method [11] and adiabatic channel function (ACF) expansion method [12] may have achieved the successful progress quantitatively.
- However, non-adiabatic quantum-mechanical description at off-resonant energies still seems to remain in unsolved problems.



2.1 Faddeev HH expansion

- Three-body Schrödinger equation: $(H_{3\alpha} - E)\Psi = 0$ (1)
- Faddeev equations, consisting of three components,

$$\begin{cases} T_1 \psi_1 + (V_1 + V_{23} - E)\psi_1 = -V_1 \psi_2 - V_1 \psi_3 \\ T_2 \psi_2 + (V_2 + V_{13} - E)\psi_2 = -V_2 \psi_1 - V_2 \psi_3 \\ T_3 \psi_3 + (V_3 + V_{12} - E)\psi_3 = -V_3 \psi_1 - V_3 \psi_2 \end{cases}$$
 (2)
- Three identical sets of equations are found, because the symmetric 3α system. Third component is rewritten as

$$\left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r_{12}^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu_{12}} \nabla_{12}^2 + V_{12} \right] \psi_{31} = E \psi_{31}, \quad V_{31} = \sum_{i=2,3} V_{\alpha\alpha}(r_{i1}) + V_{\alpha\alpha}(r_{i2})$$
 (3)

Coupled-channel (CC) equations with hyper-radial wavefunctions:
 Translate Jacobi coordinates into hyper-spherical coordinates
 $T_r + U_r(r) - \epsilon = -\sum_{\alpha\beta} U_{\alpha\beta}(r) \chi_{\alpha\beta}(r)$
 $T_r = \frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \frac{K(K+3/2)}{r^2}$
 $U_r = \frac{2m_N}{\hbar^2} V_{\alpha\alpha}(r)$
 $\epsilon = -\frac{2m_N E}{\hbar^2}$ (4)
 The coordinates are different from CMF.

- Introducing hyper-angular momentum K , I obtain the ordinary CC equations for inelastic scattering. e.g. [16,17] (if $L=K+3/2$).
- Basiss functions:** Functions of n and Ω_n are separated.
 - Hyper-harmonic functions
 - Hyper-radial wave functions
 - Normalization
 - Jacobi polynomials
- The final results are independent of the adopted $\psi_{\alpha\beta}^n(r)$, if a large number of basis functions are used so as to expand well the wave functions.

2.2 R-matrix expansion

- Expansion by the linearly-independent waves:

$$\chi_{\alpha\beta}^n(k, \rho) = \sum_{\gamma} C_{\gamma\alpha\beta}(k) \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k, \rho)$$
 (16)
- The coefficients are obtained by matching to the asymptotic form of w.f.,

$$\chi_{\alpha\beta}^n(k, \rho) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} [I_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k) e^{i\gamma(\rho)} - S_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k) I_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k) e^{-i\gamma(\rho)}]$$
 (17)
- Coupled-Coulomb waves [17]: $O_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k, \rho) = \alpha_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k) H_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k, \rho)$, $I = 0^+$ (18) + screening, $\alpha_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma} \rightarrow \delta_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}$. Effective, if the off-diagonal part of Coulomb coupling potentials is relatively small at a matching radius ρ_m compared with E . (e.g. [16])
- Interior scattering waves including long-range Coulomb couplings are obtained as

$$\chi_{\alpha\beta}^n(k, \rho) = \sum_{\gamma} C_{\gamma\alpha\beta}(k) \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k, \rho) \leftarrow E_{\alpha\beta}(10) D_{\alpha\beta}(k) \equiv \sum_{\gamma} C_{\gamma\alpha\beta}(k) A_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k)$$
 (19)
 - Continuum states
 - Arbitrary orthogonal functions
 - Eigenfunctions, $E_{\alpha\beta}(10)$
- B(E2) strength between 0^+ continuum states and 2^+ are calculated with Eqs. (8), (16) and (19). Quadruple precision is required to execute stable calculations.

$$B(E2; 0^+ \rightarrow 2^+) = \frac{3e^2}{4\pi} \sum_{\alpha\beta} \sum_{\gamma} M_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k) \left(f_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma} + f_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma} \right)^2$$
 (20)
 - Hyper-angle part
- Internal component,

$$M_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k) = \int_0^{\rho_m} D_{\alpha\beta}(k) \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k, \rho) \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k, \rho) \rho^2 d\rho$$
 (22)
- External component,

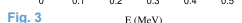
$$M_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k) = \int_{\rho_m}^{\infty} \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k, \rho) \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(k, \rho) \rho^2 d\rho$$
 (23)
- Photo-disintegration cross sections: $\sigma_{\alpha}(E) = \frac{4\pi^2}{75} \left(\frac{E_0}{E} \right)^3 \frac{dB(E2; 0^+ \rightarrow 2^+)}{dE}$ (24)
- Reaction rates: $R_{3\alpha}(E) = \frac{N_{\alpha}^3}{A} \frac{480\pi}{(k_0 T)^3} \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} R_{3\alpha}(E) E^2 e^{-E/(k_0 T)} dE$ (25)
- $(R_{3\alpha}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{(k_0 T)^3} \int_0^{\infty} R_{3\alpha}(E) E^2 e^{-E/(k_0 T)} dE$ (26)
- Reduced width amplitudes are defined as $\tilde{\gamma}_{\alpha i} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_N} \chi_{\alpha i}(a_i)}$ (15)
- To include long-range Coulomb couplings, CC equations in the external region are solved numerically from $\rho = a_i$ to $\rho = \rho_m$. $\chi_{\alpha\beta}^n(k, \rho) \rightarrow \chi_{\alpha\beta}^n(k, \rho)$. I use R-matrix propagation technique [13] to obtain the linearly-independent solutions.

3.1 B(E2; $0^+ \rightarrow 2^+$) strength

- The calculated results shown here are irrelevant to a group of [13]. To avoid confusion, my calculations are labeled with HHR* (Study of Triple- α Reaction)
- HHR*
 - Identical to [13] for $E > 0.15$ MeV.
 - Resonance at 0.3795 MeV
 - $\alpha+^8\text{Be}$, Sequential process (Fig.1)
 - Other off-resonant energies
 - 3α , no specific shape, Direct triple- α process (Fig.2)
 - I adopt two types of $\alpha+\alpha$ interaction. (Panel 4.1). However, the calculated results do not strongly depend on the interactions.
- Coulomb couplings for $\rho > 800$ fm seem to be negligible. (Table 1)
 - Screening: 800 fm
 - Matching: 3000 fm
- $E < 0.15$ MeV. Under consideration
 - Screening of 800 fm is adopted.

Table 1

E (MeV)	0.20	0.30	0.3795	0.40	0.50
$d_{\text{screen}}(\%)$	0.62	0.31	0.32	0.30	0.07



3.2 Photo-disintegration of $^{12}\text{C}(2^+_{1-} \rightarrow 0^+)$

- HHR*
 - The resonance, bound state, and continuum states are all expanded by the 3α basis functions.
 - $\alpha+^8\text{Be}$ feature is deduced without any assumption. (Panel 4.2)
 - Direct 3α process: σ_{α} are in 10^{-15} – 10^{-3} pb order for $0.15 < E < 0.35$ MeV. These are much smaller than CMF and ACF.
- CMF [11]
 - CMF has been developed below the three-body threshold, e.g. low-energy p+d reactions.
 - The internal motion of ^8Be in break-up channels is assumed to be localized within a certain range, and a cut-off procedure of non-local integral kernels is adopted.

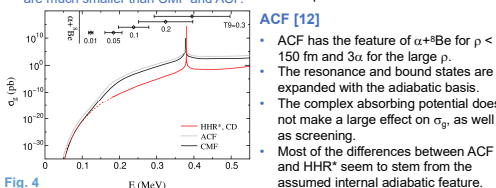


Fig. 4

3.3 Comparison between reaction rates

- The derived reaction rates are consistent with NACRE for $0.08 < T_0 < 3$, including the important helium burning temperatures. (Figs. 5 and 6)
- In contrast, the rates below $T_0 = 0.07$ may have to be studied further.
- The present result is reduced by 10^4 at $T_0 = 0.05$, because σ_{α} are reduced from ACF and CMF with the sequential process at $E = 0.18$ MeV in Fig. 4.
- Due to the strong influence of 0^+ , the difference in σ_{α} for $E > 0.2$ MeV cannot be found in the reaction rates.
- Astrophysical impact of the difference in the theoretical rates has been expected to be small, because the difference is found before helium burning temperatures.

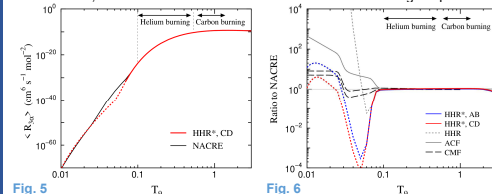


Fig. 5

Fig. 6

4.1 $\alpha+\alpha$ interaction & ^8Be

- $V_{\alpha\alpha}^N(\vec{x}_i) = (V_{\alpha 0} P_0 + V_{\alpha 2} P_2) e^{-(\rho/\lambda)^2} + V_{\text{Coul}}(\vec{x}_i/\lambda)^2$ (28)
- Table 2: Pauli repulsion and Nucl. attraction parameters for AB and CD models.
- AB: shallow [18,10,13]
- CD: core/deep, folding potentials [19,20], reproducing phase shifts & α -width of 0^+

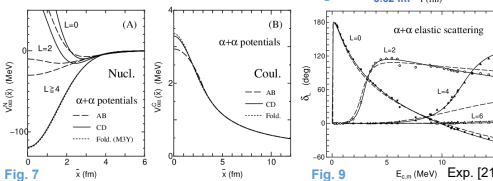


Fig. 7

Fig. 9

4.2 Density distribution function of ^{12}C

- Three peaks in 0^+ (HHR^* , CD) and Equilateral triangle in 2^+ (HHR^* , CD)
- (a) prolate triangle, (b) equilateral triangle, (c) oblate triangle
- Table 3: Parameters for HHR*(AB), HHR*(CD), HHR, CMF, ACF, and Exp. [22]

Table 3

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5. Summary

- In the present report, I have estimated the contribution of the direct triple- α process with non-adiabatic Faddeev HHR*, and I have shown the derived reaction rates at the helium burning temperatures.
- Described Faddeev HHR* expansion method.
- Discussed the difference between the non-adiabatic and adiabatic calculations.
- Demonstrated the calculations without screening.
- HHR*
 - Direct triple- α contribution is found to be 10^{-15} – 10^{-3} pb order in the photo-disintegration cross sections of $^{12}\text{C}(2^+_{1-} \rightarrow 0^+)$ for $0.15 < E < 0.35$ MeV. This is far below the values predicted by ACF and CMF that include the assumed long resonant tail of 0^+ , i.e. the sequential process. In spite of the large difference between the non-adiabatic and adiabatic cross sections, the derived reaction rates are found to be concordant with NACRE at the helium burning temperatures.
 - The 0^+ state in ^{12}C is confirmed to have the dominant $\alpha+^8\text{Be}$ configuration in the density distribution function. i.e., $\alpha+^8\text{Be}$ feature of the sequential process is deduced without any assumption. The calculated α - and γ -decay widths of 0^+ are comparable to the experimental data.
 - The calculated results do not strongly depend on the adopted interactions.
 - Coulomb couplings for $\rho > 800$ fm seem to be negligible at the energies corresponding to the helium burning temperatures.
- Astrophysical impact of the direct triple- α process seems to be small, because of the strong influence of 0^+ in ^{12}C . It would have been, however, important for theoretical nuclear physicists to understand the off-resonant cross sections, non-adiabatically, and to examine how slow the direct process is at the temperatures relevant to stellar evolution.