

Analytic expression of triple- α reaction rates by a non-adiabatic three-body model

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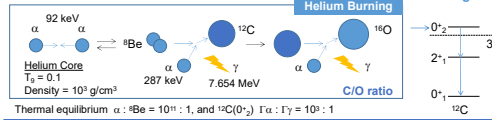


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Triple- α reaction rates have been determined well with the sequential process via the narrow resonances. However, direct triple- α process at off-resonant energies still remains in unsolved problems. In this poster, the direct triple- α process is described with a non-adiabatic Faddeev HHR expansion method. The direct 3α contribution is confirmed to be 10^{-15} – 10^{-3} pb order in photo-disintegration of $^{12}\text{C}(2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)$ for $0.15 < E < 0.35$ MeV. Using a three-body type of S-factors, the rates are given in a simple analytic expression. In addition, they are converted into REACLIB format. From composition ratio in NACRE, the non-resonant sequential process between α + bound ^8Be is found to dominate the NACRE rates for $0.03 < T_9 < 0.07$. I, therefore, find that the current evaluated rates could be reduced by about 10^{-4} at $T_9 = 0.05$, from the accurate description of ^8Be break-up.

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]. This reaction, followed by $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \gamma)^{16}\text{O}$ [3], 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 describe direct triple- α process with a non-adiabatic Faddeev HHR*, and I discuss the 3α reaction rates. After I review Faddeev HHR used in the present poster, I deduce a simple analytic form of the rates with introducing S-factors. The rates are also converted into REACLIB. I show that the evaluated rates could be reduced at $T_9 = 0.05$, because of an accurate description of ^8Be break-up.

1.2 Triple- α process

- Triple- α reaction via the narrow 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 $0^+_{2\text{nd}}$ state in ^{12}C ($E_0 = 0.379$ MeV). E_0 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].
- ^8Be is assumed to be bound. The reaction proceeds via two resonances: $^8\text{Be}(0^+)$, $^{12}\text{C}(0^+)$. Recent experimental progress is found in e.g. [4].

Triple- α reaction from ternary continuum states, (Fig. 2)

- Direct triple- α process.
- This process is generally expected to be very slow, because three α -particles almost simultaneously collide and fuse into a ^{12}C nucleus.
- The direct process is neglected or is treated in some approximations.

1.3 Theoretical studies of triple- α reaction

Adiabatic approximation of ^8Be continuum has been applied to tackle the 3α continuum problem.

- Formulae in hyper-spherical coordinates (e.g. [9])
- Coulomb Modified Faddeev (CMF) method [10]
- Adiabatic channel function (ACF) method [11]

However, quantum-mechanical description at off-resonant energies still seems to remain in unsolved problems.

Non-adiabatic approaches of 3α have also been performed, recently. [12,13] (Fig. 3)

- Relax the continuum states of ^8Be
- Faddeev Hyper-spherical Harmonics and R-matrix (HHR) expansion method [13,14,15].
- My calculation is labeled with HHR*.

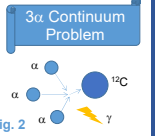


Fig. 2

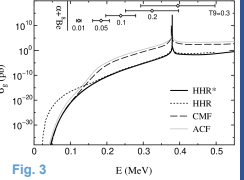


Fig. 3

2.1 Faddeev HH expansion

Three-body Schrödinger equation: $(H_{3\alpha} - E)\Psi = 0$ (1)

- Faddeev equations, consisting of three components,

$$\begin{cases} (T_{11} + (V_{31} + V_{21}) - E)\Psi_{11} = -V_{31}\Psi_{21} - V_{21}\Psi_{31} \\ (T_{21} + (V_{32} + V_{12}) - E)\Psi_{21} = -V_{32}\Psi_{31} - V_{12}\Psi_{11} \\ (T_{31} + (V_{13} + V_{23}) - E)\Psi_{31} = -V_{13}\Psi_{11} - V_{23}\Psi_{21} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

- Three identical sets of equations are found, because of the symmetric 3α system. Third component is rewritten as

$$\left[\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{12}} \nabla_{12}^2 - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{13}} \nabla_{13}^2 + V_{31} \right] \Psi_{31} = E \Psi_{31} - \sum_{i=1}^2 V_{3i} \Psi_{i1} + V_{31} \Psi_{11} \quad (3)$$

Coupled-channel (CC) equations with hyper-radial wavefunctions:

$$\begin{cases} [T_{\alpha} + U_{\alpha}^{\alpha} - \epsilon] \chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha} = - \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} U_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha} \chi_{\beta}^{\alpha} \\ T_{\alpha} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{\alpha}} (K + 3/2)(K + 5/2) \\ U_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha} = - \frac{2m_{\alpha}}{\hbar^2} V_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha}(\rho, \theta) \\ \epsilon = - \frac{2m_{\alpha}}{\hbar^2} E \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Translate Jacobi coordinates into hyper-spherical coordinates
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 ρ and Ω_{α} are separated.

$$\begin{cases} \Psi_{lm} = \rho^{-5/2} \sum_{\alpha} \chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(\rho) \phi_{lm}^{\alpha}(\Omega_{\alpha}) \\ \chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(\rho) = \sum_{\beta} \chi_{\beta}^{\alpha}(\rho) \phi_{\beta}^{\alpha}(\Omega_{\alpha}) \\ \phi_{lm}^{\alpha}(\Omega_{\alpha}) = \phi_{lm}^{\alpha}(\theta_{\alpha}) Y_{lm}(\hat{\alpha}) \otimes Y_{lm}(\hat{\alpha})_{lm} \\ \phi_{lm}^{\alpha}(\theta_{\alpha}) = N_{lm}^{\alpha} (\sin \theta_{\alpha})^{l-m} (\cos \theta_{\alpha})^{l+m} G_{lm}(\alpha, \beta, \sin \theta_{\alpha}) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

- The final results are independent of the adopted $\chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(\rho)$, if a large number of basis functions are used so as to expand well the wave functions.

2.2 R-matrix expansion

CC equations of Eq.(5): $(T + U)X = \epsilon X$ (7)

- Matrix diagonalization, matrix size: (8,800 x 8,800) for 0^+ in ^{12}C

$$E_l^{(1)} = - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{\alpha}} \epsilon_l \quad \chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(\rho) = \sum_{\beta} \chi_{\beta}^{\alpha}(\rho) \phi_{\beta}^{\alpha}(\Omega_{\alpha}) \quad (8)$$

- $E_l^{(1)} < 0$, Bound states, $\chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(\rho) \rightarrow N_{\alpha}^{\alpha} W_{-K+3/2}(2\rho)$
- N : normalization constants, W : Whittaker functions
- $E_l^{(1)} > 0$, Resonances corresponding to low-lying levels & mathematically orthogonal states without specific interpretation in physics.

R-matrix expansion: Continuum states with scattering boundary condition are expanded by the resultant eigenfunctions.

Expansion of interior scattering waves: $\chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(\rho, k) = \sum_{\beta} A_{\beta\alpha}(k) \chi_{\beta}^{\alpha}(\rho, k)$ (10)

$$A_{\beta\alpha}(k) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{\alpha}} \frac{1}{E_l^{(1)} - E} \sum_{\gamma} \chi_{\gamma}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha) H_{K-3/2}^{\alpha}(\eta_{\gamma}; k, \rho) S_{\beta\gamma}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha) H_{K+3/2}^{\alpha}(\eta_{\beta}; k, \rho) \quad (11)$$

- S-matrix is defined by R-matrix. Incoming Coulomb function Outgoing Coulomb function

$$S_{\beta\alpha}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha) = [Z_{\beta\alpha}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha)]^{-1} Z_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha) \quad (12)$$

$$Z_{\beta\alpha}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha) = H_{K-3/2}^{\alpha}(\eta_{\beta}; k, \rho) S_{\beta\alpha}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha) H_{K+3/2}^{\alpha}(\eta_{\alpha}; k, \rho) \quad (13)$$

$$R_{\beta\alpha}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha) = \sum_{\gamma} \frac{\chi_{\gamma}^{\alpha}(E, \alpha)}{E_l^{(1)} - E} \quad (14)$$

- Reduced width amplitudes are defined as $\gamma_{\alpha i} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{\alpha} \epsilon_i}} \chi_{\alpha i}^{\alpha}(a_c)$ (15)

- To include long-range Coulomb couplings, CC equations in the external region are solved numerically from $\rho = a_c$ to $\rho = \rho_{\text{max}}$. $\chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(\rho, k) \rightarrow \chi_{\alpha}^{\alpha, \text{ext}}(\rho, k)$. I use R-matrix propagation technique [13] to obtain the linearly-independent solutions.

3.1 Analytic form of reaction rates

- Three-body type of S-factors: If S-factors are defined by Eq. (27), Eq. (26) is given as Eqs. (28), (30).
- Coefficients are adjusted so as to fit the results from HHR* (Fig. 4, Table 1)

Non-resonant contribution: $T_0 = (k_B T)/(1 + a_k T)$ (28)

$$\langle R_{3\alpha} \rangle_{NR} = N_{3\alpha}^2 \frac{45\pi^2 \hbar^3}{2m_{\alpha}^2} \frac{(\pi\hbar)^{1/3}}{c^2} (k_B T)^{1/3} (1 + a_k T)^{-1/2} S(T_0) \exp \left[- \frac{3(\pi\hbar)^{2/3}}{L^{1/3}} \right] \quad (29)$$

$$\tilde{S}(T_0) \approx s_0 \left[\left(1 + \frac{5T_0}{36E_0} \right) + s_1 E_0 \left(1 + \frac{35T_0}{36E_0} \right) + s_2 E_0^2 \left(1 + \frac{89T_0}{36E_0} \right) \right], E_0 = (\pi\hbar T_0)^{1/3}. \quad (30)$$

Resonant contribution:

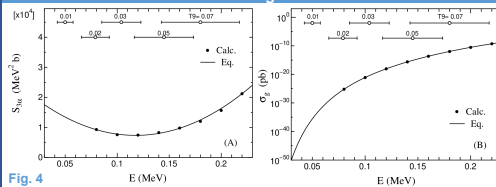
$$\langle R_{3\alpha} \rangle_R = \frac{9\sqrt{3}\pi^2 \hbar^3 \Gamma_0 \Gamma_1}{4 m_{\alpha}^2 (k_B T)^2} \exp \left(- \frac{E(0^+)}{k_B T} \right) \quad (31)$$

$$\approx 7.605 \times 10^{-9} \frac{\Gamma_0 \Gamma_1}{T_9^2} \exp \left(- \frac{11.605 E(0^+)}{T_9} \right) \quad (32)$$

REACLIB [18]: The coefficients are listed in Table 2.

$$\langle R_{3\alpha} \rangle = \sum_i \exp(a_{0i}/T_9 + a_{1i}/T_9^{1/3} + a_{2i} T_9^{1/3} + a_{3i} T_9^{2/3} + a_{4i} \ln(T_9)) \quad (33)$$

3.2 S-factors and σ_{α} for $E < 0.22$ MeV



- Compared with the cross sections in Fig.4(B), the energy dependence of the S-factors in Fig.4(A) is quite weak.
- The reaction rates below $T_9 = 0.02$ are generated from the extrapolated S-factors.
- However, I do not think that the derived rates have large uncertainties, because the S-factors do not seem to have the considerable variation to energies.

Table 1 Coefficients, obtained from HHR* with the CD potential.

S_0 (MeV ² b)	S_1 (MeV ⁻¹)	S_2 (MeV ⁻²)	η_0 (MeV ^{1/2})	α (MeV ⁻¹)	$E(0^+)$ (MeV)	$\Gamma_1(0^+)$ (meV)
2.570×10^4	-12.12	51.46	4.153	5.0	0.3796	3.908

3.3 Comparison between reaction rates

- The derived rates are consistent with NACRE for $0.08 < T_9 < 3$, (Figs. 5 and 6).
- In contrast, the reaction rates are reduced by 10^{-4} at $T_9 = 0.05$.
- This is caused by the non-adiabatic description of ^8Be break-up & continuum states.
- σ_{α} is reduced from that of ACF and CMF with the sequential process at $E = 0.18$ MeV (Fig. 3). Due to the strong influence of $0^+_{2\text{nd}}$, the difference in σ_{α} for $E > 0.2$ MeV cannot be found in the reaction rates.
- Astrophysical impact of the direct triple- α process is expected to be small, because the difference is found before helium burning temperatures.

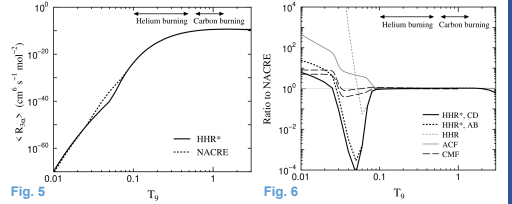


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

3.4 Translation into REACLIB

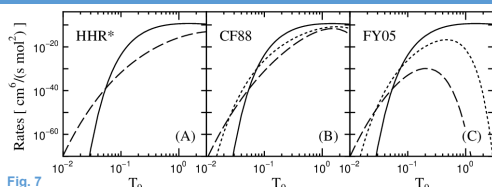


Fig. 7

- The reaction rates are defined in Eq. (33). HHR* does not have a component of non-resonant sequential process between $\alpha + ^8\text{Be}$ (dotted curves in Fig.7).
- This means that the statistically generated ^8Be is broken-up immediately by the third α -particle before its lifetime at $T_9 = 0.05$.
- To update the rates in [18,6,19], this contribution may be eliminated by hand.

i	a_{0i}	a_{1i}	a_{2i}	a_{3i}	a_{4i}	a_{5i}	a_{6i}	α_{6i}	α_{6i}
1	2.296	0.	-37.25	0.	-1.4	0.	-13/6	19%	
2	-17.33	-4.405	0.	0.	0.	0.	-3.	n/a	

4. Three components in NACRE

In NACRE, the rates are given by

$$\langle R_{3\alpha} \rangle = \frac{24\hbar^3 N_{3\alpha}^2}{\pi \mu_{12} \mu_{13} (2\pi k_B T)^2} \int_0^\infty dE_1 \int_0^\infty dE_2 \frac{\sigma_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(E_1) \sigma_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(E_2) E_1 E_2 \exp \left(- \frac{E_1 + E_2}{k_B T} \right)}{\Gamma_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(E_1) \Gamma_{\alpha}^{\alpha}(E_2)} \quad (34)$$

The integrals of E_1 and E_2 in Eq. (34) can be divided into four terms. They are interpreted as (1) double resonances, (2) non-resonant sequential process, (3) ^{12}C resonance, (4) non-resonant component.

The composition ratio is shown in Fig. 8.

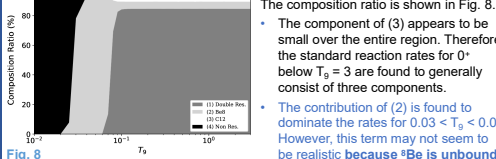


Fig. 8

- The component of (3) appears to be small over the entire region. Therefore, the standard reaction rates for 0^+ below $T_9 = 3$ are found to generally consist of three components.
- The contribution of (2) is found to dominate the rates for $0.03 < T_9 < 0.07$. However, this term may not seem to be realistic because ^8Be is unbound.

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