Contents

Introduction 1

Chapter I: The ratio method 8
1 Halo nuclei . . . 9
1.1 The halo structure . . . 9
1.2 Experimental probes of the halo structure . . . 13
1.3 Summary . . . 19
2 Model the reactions of one-nucleon halo nuclei . . . 21
2.1 Elastic scattering and breakup of two-body projectiles . . . 21
2.2 Continuum Discretised Coupled Channel method (CDCC) . . . 25
2.3 The Dynamical Eikonal Approximation (DEA) . . . 28
2.4 The Recoil Excitation and Breakup model (REB) . . . 31
2.5 Interaction potentials . . . 33
3 The ratio method . . . 36
3.1 The ratio observable . . . 36
3.2 Neutron halos at low energy . . . 39
3.2.1 Numerical details for reactions involving ^{11}Be . . . 39
3.2.2 Sensitivity to the projectile structure . . . 40
3.2.3 Analysis of the ratio method at low energy . . . 43
3.3 Proton halos . . . 49
3.3.1 Numerical details for reactions involving ^{8}B . . . 50
3.3.2 Analysis of the ratio for proton halos . . . 52
3.3.3 Sensitivity to the projectile structure . . . 57
3.3.4 Sensitivity to the choice of continuum energy . . . 59
3.3.5 Extension to other proton-rich nuclei: ^{17}F, ^{25}Al and ^{27}P . . . 61
3.3.5.1 Numerical details . . . 61
3.4 Summary and prospects of the analysis . . . 69

Chapter II: The neutral-pion photoproduction as a tool to measure the neutron skin 72
4 State of the art in neutron skin measurements . . . 73
4.1 Hadronic probes . . . 74
4.2 Parity-violating electron scattering . . . 76
4.3 Electric dipole resonances . . . 77
4.4 Coherent neutral-pion photoproduction (a primer) . . . 79
4.5 Summary . . . 80
5 Experiments on neutral-pion photoproduction . . . 82
5.1 The recent measurement at the MaMi facility . . . 82
5.2 GEANT4 simulation and random event generator . . . 85

5.2.1 Random number distributions . . . 86
6 Nuclear densities . . . 90
6.1 One- and two-nucleon densities . . . 90
6.2 Mean field and shell model calculations . . . 91
6.2.1 Relativistic mean-field calculations (FSU model) . . . 92
6.2.2 Shell model and harmonic oscillator . . . 93
6.3 Phenomenological and experimental densities . . . 94
6.3.1 Fermi-Dirac shape (São-Paulo group) . . . 94
6.3.2 Experimental density . . . 95
6.4 Removal of the center-of-mass motion . . . 96
6.5 Comparison of the different densities . . . 98
7 Pion-nucleus interaction in the Kerman-McManus-Thaler formalism . . . 104
7.1 The Kerman-McManus-Thaler formalism . . . 104
7.1.1 The impulse approximation . . . 107
7.2 Elementary pion-photoproduction . . . 110
7.3 Pion-photoproduction on a nucleus . . . 113
7.3.1 Plane Wave Impulse Approximation (PWIA) . . . 115
7.3.2 Energy of the active photon-nucleon system . . . 121
7.3.3 Distorted Wave Impulse Approximation (DWIA) . . . 124
8 Modeling the final state interactions . . . 127
8.1 Elementary pion-nucleon interaction . . . 127
8.2 Interaction of a pion with a nucleus . . . 130
8.2.1 First order of the interaction . . . 130
8.2.2 Second order of the interaction and absorption . . . 133
8.2.3 MSU total potential . . . 135
8.3 Resolution of the Lippmann-Schwinger equation . . . 137
8.3.1 Partial wave decomposition . . . 138
8.3.2 Numerical resolution . . . 140
8.3.3 Comparison to pion-nucleus elastic scattering data . . . 146
9 Detailed analyses of experimental π^0-photoproduction . . . 148
9.1 Comparison to previous data: ^{12}C, ^{40}Ca and ^{208}Pb . . . 148
9.2 Recent experiments: Sn isotopic chain and ^{48}Ca . . . 157
9.3 Summary and prospects of this model . . . 162

Conclusion **166**

Appendices **172**
A The completeness relation of the REB form factor . . . 173
B Fresco . . . 174
B.1 Input file . . . 174
B.2 Output files . . . 177
C KMT . . . 178
D Photoproduction of a pion on a single free nucleon . . . 180
E Kinematics and change of frame . . . 183
F Random number generation . . . 186
F.1 The inversion method . . . 186
F.2 Box-Muller transforms for normal distributions . . . 187
G The treatment of the Coulomb interaction in momentum space . . . 188
H Development of the second order potential in the $t\rho$ approximation . . . 195

H.1 General form of the second-order potential 195
H.2 Particularisation to ^{12}C in the HO model 200
I Some mathematical developments for the second order of the interaction . 204
I.1 The integral I_0 204
I.2 The integral I_1 206
I.3 The integral I_2 209
J The Hilbert Transform and the Dawson integral 212

Bibliography **228**