Contents

Introduction 1

1 Probing halo nuclei with reactions 4
1.1 Halo nuclei . . . 4
1.1.1 Discovery of halo nuclei . . . 4
1.1.2 Simple model of one-neutron halo nuclei . . . 6
1.1.3 Single-particle approximation . . . 7
1.1.4 Description of ^{11}Be . . . 8
1.2 Experimental probes . . . 10
1.2.1 Experimental facilities . . . 10
1.2.2 Interaction cross sections . . . 11
1.2.3 Magnetic dipole and electric quadrupole moments . . . 12
1.2.4 Elastic- and inelastic-scattering cross sections . . . 12
1.2.5 Diffractive breakup . . . 13
1.2.6 Knockout cross sections . . . 15

2 Nuclear reaction theory 19
2.1 Two-body scattering . . . 19
2.1.1 Partial-wave expansion . . . 21
2.1.2 Eikonal approximation . . . 23
2.2 The optical model . . . 24
2.3 Three-body reactions . . . 26
2.3.1 Three-body model of the reaction . . . 26
2.3.2 Cross sections . . . 28
2.3.3 Solving the three-body Schrödinger equation . . . 29
2.3.3.1 Exact solution . . . 29
2.3.3.2 Continuum-Discretized Coupled Channels . . . 30
2.3.3.3 Dynamical Eikonal Approximation . . . 32
2.3.3.4 Usual eikonal approximation . . . 33
2.3.3.5 Coulomb-corrected eikonal approximation . . . 34
2.3.4 Comparison of models and motivations . . . 35

3 Extension of the eikonal model to low energies 37
3.1 Introduction . . . 37
3.2 Two-body interactions and numerical details . . . 39
3.3 Wallace's correction . . . 40
3.3.1 T-matrix expansion . . . 40
3.3.2 Two-body collisions . . . 42
3.3.3 Extension to three-body collisions . . . 45

3.4 Semiclassical correction . . . 47
3.4.1 Real distance of closest approach . . . 47
3.4.2 Complex distance of closest approach . . . 49
3.4.3 Extension to three-body collisions . . . 51
3.5 Exact continued S-matrix correction . . . 56
3.5.1 Derivation of the exact continued S-matrix correction . . . 56
3.5.2 Extension to three-body collisions . . . 58
3.6 Distorted-Wave Eikonal Approximation . . . 63
3.6.1 Theoretical derivations . . . 63
3.6.2 Analysis of the DWEA trajectories and Jacobian . . . 67
3.7 Summary and prospects . . . 70

4 Simplification to the Dynamical Eikonal Approximation 72
4.1 Introduction . . . 72
4.2 Theoretical developments . . . 73
4.3 Nuclear- and Coulomb-dominated breakups . . . 75
4.3.1 Two-body interactions . . . 75
4.3.2 Energy distributions . . . 76
4.3.3 Parallel-momentum distributions . . . 77
4.4 Asymmetry of parallel-momentum distributions obtained with the CCE and S-DEA . . . 80
4.5 Summary and prospects . . . 84

5 Sensitivity of knockout observables to the halo structure 86
5.1 Introduction . . . 86
5.2 Knockout cross sections . . . 87
5.3 Halo-EFT description of the projectile . . . 91
5.4 Sensitivity to the projectile's structure . . . 92
5.4.1 Optical potentials and numerical details . . . 92
5.4.2 Ground-state wave function . . . 93
5.4.3 Excited states . . . 95
5.4.4 Resonances . . . 100
5.5 Sensitivity to the optical potential . . . 102
5.6 Summary and prospects . . . 105

Conclusions 108

A Derivation of the DEA, eikonal and CCE cross sections 112
A.1 Elastic-scattering cross sections . . . 112
A.2 Diffractive-breakup cross sections . . . 114
A.3 Inelastic-scattering cross section . . . 118

B Coulomb first-order-perturbation approximation 120

C CDCC input for ^{11}Be-^{12}C collision at 10A MeV 122

D Coulomb and nuclear contributions to the diffractive breakup of ^{11}Be on ^{12}C at 10A MeV 124

E Sensitivity of the corrections to the optical potentials 126

List of publications 129

List of presentations at conferences, workshops and seminars 130

Bibliography 132