Density distributions and form factors of the exotic ⁸B nucleus

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Abstract

Key words

Results of charge, neutron and matter densities and related form factors for one- proton halo nucleus ⁸B are presented using a twofrequency shell model approach. We choose a model space for the core of ⁷Be different from that of the extra one valence proton. One configuration is assumed for the outer proton to be in $1p_{1/2}$ - shell. The results of the matter density distributions are compared with those fitted to the experimental data. The calculated proton and matter density distributions of this exotic nucleus exhibit a long tail behavior, which is considered as a distinctive feature of halo nuclei. Elastic electron scattering form factors of the exotic nucleus are also studied. The effects of the proton halo on the electron scattering form factors of the exotic unstable ⁸B nucleus are compared with those of the stable ¹⁰B nucleus. The differences between the results of unstable ⁸B and stable ¹⁰B nuclei come from the long tail in the density distribution of the last proton.

Proton-rich exotic nuclei, Shell model calculations, Nucleon density distributions of halo nuclei.

Article info

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توزيعات الكثافة النووية وعوامل التشكل لنواة B⁸ رعد عبد الكريم راضي، عادل خلف حمودي، وسن زهير مجيد قسم الفيزياء، كلية العلوم، جامعة بغداد

الخلاصة

استخدم أنموذج القشرة المعتمد على متذبذبين توافقيين لحساب توزيعات كثافة الشحنة، النيوترون والمادة النووية للنواة الهالة 8B . تم اختيار فضاء لنواة القلب 7Be مختلف عن فضاء البروتون الخارجي في القشرة 8B . تم اختيار فضاء لنواة المادة النووية بان هناك امتداد لتوزيع الخارجي افترض ان يكون البروتون الخارجي في القشرة 8B . تم اختيار فضاء لنواة المادة النووية بان هناك امتداد لتوزيع الكثافة يختلف عنه لنواة القلب 7Be ، مما يؤكد بان البروتون الخارجي في القشرة $^1p_{1/2}$. الظهرت نتائج كثافة المادة النووية بان هناك امتداد لتوزيع الكثافة يختلف عنه لنواة القلب 7Be ، مما يؤكد بان البروتون الخارجي في التشرة الخارجي يشكل هالة حول نواة القلب. هذه النتائج قورنت مع النتائج المحسوبة من القيم العملية . كذلك تم دراسة عوامل التشكل الخارجي يشكل هالة حول نواة القلب. هذه النتائج قورنت مع النتائج المحسوبة من القيم العملية . كذلك تم دراسة عوامل التشكل للاستطارة الالكترونية المرنة لهذه النتائج قورنت مع النتائج المحسوبة من القيم العملية . كذلك تم دراسة عوامل التشكل للاستطارة الالكترونية المرنة لهذه النواة من خلال ربط توزيعات الكثافة النووية للقلب 8B مع عوامل التشكل للستظارة الالكترونية المرنة لهذه النواة من خلال ربط توزيعات الكثافة النووية للقلب 8B مع عوامل التشكل للاستطارة البروتون الهالة ومن ثم دراسة تأثير هذا البروتون على عوامل التشكل لنواة 8B مع عوامل التشكل للنواة الان المنتورة المستقرة 10 . الاختلاف بين نتائج النوى الغريبة والمستقرة ياتي من تأثير الامتداد في توزيع الكثافة للبروتون الاخير.

Introduction

Nuclear halo has been an interesting topic in nuclear physics since the discovery of the halo effect in ¹¹Li [1]. Halo nuclei have extraordinarily large radii and reaction cross sections, so they play an important role in nuclear structure and reactions. A lot of works have been devoted to study the

properties of halo nuclei [2-7]. From the theoretical point of view, nuclear halo is a quantum effect, and it arises from extraordinarily extended distribution of weakly bounded valence nucleons [8].

Many attempts were made to look for proton halo in proton drip line nuclei.

Calculations using different models [9, 10] demonstrate that there may be proton halo in the ground state of ²⁶⁻²⁷P, ⁸B, ¹⁷Ne and in the excited states of ⁶Li and ¹⁷F. One of the candidates for a proton- halo nucleus is ⁸B. The experimental results for its structure are somewhat controversial [11]. Depending on the experimental method and the energy of the incident beam different results are obtained. Measurements of the total interaction and reaction cross sections at energies above $\approx 140 \text{MeV/u}$ did not give evidence for an extended matter distribution in ⁸B [12-14], while later measurements of total reaction cross sections at 20-60MeV/u were interpreted as evidence for a long lowdensity tail in the density distributions [15]. The measurements of the momentum distributions of the break-up fragments show narrow peaks which also supports a halo structure [16, 17].

Karataglidis et al. [18] studied the elastic electron scattering form factors, longitudinal and transverse, from the He and Li isotopes and from ⁸B. Large space shell model wave functions have been assumed. They emphasized that the effect of the proton halo, in the case of ⁸B, is very evident with the decrease in the form factor with momentum transfer reflecting the more extensive charge distribution.

The current experimental techniques for recognizing neutron halo and proton halo are mostly based on the measurement of reaction cross sections of the nucleusnucleus collision and of the momentum distributions of nucleus breakup. There are complex processes where the strong and electromagnetic interactions among nucleons play a role. Despite the fact that this type of experiment has achieved most important success for halo phenomena, it is motivating to look for a new probe to refine the study of neutron halo in neutron richnuclei. Electron-nucleus scattering has been confirmed to be tremendous tool for the

study of nuclear structure, particularly for the study of electromagnetic properties of nuclei. It has given much consistent information on proton density distributions of stable nuclei. The electron-nucleus scattering is a better technique for the accurate study of the long tail behavior in the nucleon density distribution of the exotic rich nuclei.

There has been no detailed study of elastic electron scattering, in terms of the two frequency shell model, on unstable proton- rich exotic nuclei. Thus, in the present work, form factors of exotic ⁸B nucleus are studied with PWBA corresponding to the density distributions obtained by the two-frequency shell model. Effects of the long tail behavior presented in the proton density distribution on the form factors of ⁸B are investigated.

Theory

The form factors for electron scattering between nuclear states J_i and J_f involving angular momentum transfer J are expressed as [19]

$$F_{J_{t_z}}(q) = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2J_i + 1}} \frac{1}{N_{t_z}} \left\langle J_f \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t_z}} \hat{T}_{J_{t_z}}(q, i) \right\| J_i \right\rangle, \quad (1)$$

where the normalization factor N_{J,t_z} is defined as

$$N_{t_z} = \begin{cases} Z \text{ for } t_z = 1/2 \text{ (protons)} \\ N \text{ for } t_z = -1/2 \text{ (neutrons)} \end{cases}, \qquad (2)$$

and q is the momentum transfer. The longitudinal (Coulomb) multipole operator $\hat{T}_{l,t}$ is given by [20]

$$\hat{T}_{J,t_{z}}(q,i) = \int d^{3}r j_{J}(qr) Y_{JM}(\Omega) \hat{\rho}_{t_{z}}(\vec{r},i), \quad (3)$$

where $j_J(qr)$ is the spherical Bessel function and $\hat{\rho}_{r_z}(\vec{r},i)$ is the protons/neutrons density operator which is given by

$$\hat{\rho}_{t_z}(\vec{r},i) = \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i) \quad , \tag{4}$$

Equation (3) reduced to

$$\hat{T}_{J,t_{z}}(q,i) = j_{J}(qr_{i})Y_{JM}(\Omega_{i}), \qquad (5)$$

The reduced matrix element in Eq.(1) can be written as a sum over elements of the one-body density matrix (OBDM) elements and the corresponding reduced singleparticle matrix element [21]

$$\left\langle \mathbf{J}_{f} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t_{z}}} \hat{\mathbf{T}}_{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{t}_{z}} \right\| \mathbf{J}_{i} \right\rangle = \sum_{a, b} \mathbf{OBDM}(\mathbf{J}_{i}, \mathbf{J}_{f}, a, b, \mathbf{J}, \mathbf{t}_{z}) \left\langle a \right\| \hat{\mathbf{T}}_{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{t}_{z}} \left\| b \right\rangle$$
(6)

where *a* and *b* label the single particle states $(a \equiv n_a \ell_a j_a \text{ and } b \equiv n_b \ell_b j_b)$. The OBDM is defined as [21]

OBDM(J_i, J_f, a, b, J, t_z) =
$$\frac{\left\langle J_{f} \left\| \left[a_{a,t_{z}}^{+} \otimes \widetilde{a}_{b,t_{z}} \right]^{(J)} \right\| J_{i} \right\rangle}{\sqrt{2J+1}}$$
, (7)

The reduced single-particle matrix elements of the Coulomb operator in equation (6) become:

$$\left\langle a \right\| \hat{\mathbf{T}}_{J} \left\| b \right\rangle = \int_{0}^{\infty} dr r^{2} j_{J} (qr) \left\langle j_{a} \right\| \mathbf{Y}_{J} \left\| j_{b} \right\rangle \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{n}_{a}\ell_{a}} (r) \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{n}_{b}\ell_{b}} (r)$$
(8)

where $R_{n\ell}(r)$ is the harmonic oscillator radial wave function.

The Coulomb form factor given in Eq.(1) becomes:

$$F_{J,t_{z}}(q) = \frac{1}{N_{t_{z}}} \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2J_{i}+1}} \sum_{a,b} \text{OBDM}(J_{i}, J_{f}, a, b, J, t_{z}) \langle j_{a} \| Y_{J} \| j_{b} \rangle_{0}^{\infty} drr^{2} R_{n_{a}\ell_{a}}(r) R_{n_{b}\ell_{b}}(r) j_{J}(qr)$$
(9)

and can be written as

$$F_{J,t_z}(q) = \frac{4\pi}{N_{t_z}} \int_0^\infty dr r^2 j_J(qr) \rho_{J,t_z}(r), \qquad (10)$$

where $\rho_{J,t_z}(r)$ is nucleon density distribution and is given by [21]

$$\rho_{J,t_{z}}(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2J_{i}+1}} \sum_{a,b} \text{OBDM}(J_{i}, J_{f}, a, b, J, t_{z}) \langle j_{a} \| Y_{J} \| j_{b} \rangle R_{n_{a}\ell_{a}}(r) R_{n_{b}\ell_{b}}(r), \qquad (11)$$

As the model space wave functions have good isospin, it is appropriate to evaluate the OBDM elements by means of isospinreduced matrix elements. The relation between the triply reduced OBDM and the proton or neutron OBDM is [21]

OBDM(t_z) = (-1)^{T_t-T_z}
$$\sqrt{2} \begin{pmatrix} T_{f} & 0 & T_{i} \\ -T_{z} & 0 & T_{z} \end{pmatrix}$$
OBDM(T = 0)/2
+ 2t_z(-1)^{T_t-T_z} $\sqrt{6} \begin{pmatrix} T_{f} & 1 & T_{i} \\ -T_{z} & 0 & T_{z} \end{pmatrix}$ OBDM(T = 1)/2 (12)

where the triply reduced OBDM(T) elements are given by [21]

$$OBDM(J_i, J_f, \alpha, \beta, J, T) = \frac{\left\langle \Gamma_f \left\| \left[a_\alpha^+ \otimes \widetilde{a}_\beta \right]^{J, T} \right\| \left\| \Gamma_i \right\rangle}{\sqrt{2J + 1}\sqrt{2T + 1}}, (13)$$

Here, Greek symbols are utilized to indicate quantum numbers in coordinate space and isospace

$$(\alpha \equiv at_a, \beta \equiv bt_b, \Gamma_i = J_i T_i \text{ and } \Gamma_f = J_f T_f)$$

The OBDM elements contain all the information about transitions of given multi polarities which are embedded in the model space wave functions. Shell model

calculations are performed using the code OXBASH [22] with specified model space and effective interaction to generate the OBDM elements.

For the ground state J=0 density distribution, we have $J_i = J_f$ and $\ell_a = \ell_b$, $j_a = j_b$.

The ground state density distribution takes the form

$$\rho_{t_z}(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2J_i + 1}} \sum_{a,b} OBDM(J_i, J_i, a, b, J = 0, t_z) \sqrt{2j_a + 1} R_{n_a l_a}(r) R_{n_a l_a}(r),$$
(14)

The normalization condition of the above ground state density is:

$$4\pi \int_{0}^{\infty} dr r^{2} \rho_{t_{z}}(r) = N_{t_{z}}, \qquad (15)$$

and the elastic J=0 form factor at q=0, is equal to one.

As the halo nuclei are oversized and easily broken system consisting of a compact core plus a number of outer nucleons loosely bound and especially extended far from the core, it is suitable to separate the ground state density distribution of Eq. (14) into two parts, one is connected with the core nucleons and the other one with the hole nucleons, so the matter density distribution for the whole halo nucleus becomes:

$$\rho_m(r) = \rho_{p+n}^{core}(r) + \rho_{p(n)}^{halo}(r), \qquad (16)$$

The corresponding rms radii are given by[23]

$$\left\langle r^{2}\right\rangle_{g}^{1/2} = \frac{4\pi}{g}\int_{0}^{\infty} dr r^{4}\rho_{g}(r), \qquad (17)$$

where g represents the corresponding number of nucleons in each case.

The corresponding elastic scattering J=0 form factor (*C*0) is written in the following form [20]

$$F_{0,g}(q) = \frac{4\pi}{g} \int_{0}^{\infty} dr r^{2} j_{0}(qr) \rho_{g}(r), \qquad (18)$$

The average occupation number in each orbit $(n_{a,t_{a}})$ is given by

$$n_{a,t_z} = \sqrt{\frac{2j_a + 1}{2J_i + 1}} \text{OBDM}(J_i, J_i, a, a, 0, t_z), (19)$$

The total longitudinal form factor is given by

$$\left|F(q)\right|^{2} = \sum_{J} \left|F_{J}\right|^{2}, \qquad (20)$$

Results and Discussion

One of the candidates for a proton-halo nucleus is ⁸B, as its last proton has a binding energy of only 137 keV. The charge, neutron and matter densities for this nucleus can be calculated in the framework of the two frequency shell model, with two different oscillator size parameters b_{core} for

the core orbits and b_{halo} for the proton halo orbit. Also, electron scattering form factors can be calculated for this nucleus using PWBA.

The proton drip line ⁸B ($J^{\pi}T=2^{+}1$) has halo structure, which coupled a ⁷Be core $(J^{\pi}T=3/2^{-} 1/2)$ and outer one proton $(J^{\pi}T=1/2^{-}1/2)$ forming the ⁸B. We choose different model spaces for the core and the extra one proton. The configurations $(1s_{1/2})^4$, $(1p_{3/2})^3$ are used for ⁷Be. A value of b_{core} =1.68 fm is chosen for 7 Be, which gives the rms matter radius equal to 2.33 fm, which is consisting with the measured value 2.33 ± 0.01 fm [11]. The one proton halo is assumed to be in a pure $1p_{1/2}$ orbit. To reproduce the matter radius of ${}^{8}B$ (2.6±0.02 fm [11]), a value of $b_{halo} = 2.59$ fm is chosen for the extra one proton. This value of b_{halo} gives the matter radius of ⁸B equal to 2.618 fm, which is consistent with the measured value.

The matter density distributions $\rho_{\rm m}$ (r) (in fm⁻³) of ⁸B are displayed in Fig.1(a) as a function of r (in fm). In this figure, the solid line is the calculated matter density obtained when the outer one proton is in a pure $1p_{1/2}$ orbit. The filled circles are the fitted matter densities taken from ref. [11] for the Gaussian-Gaussian (G-G) parameterization. It is evident from this figure that the calculated matter density distribution is in an excellent accordance with the fitted data. A long tail behavior, which is a distinctive feature of the halo nuclei, is evidently revealed in these calculated distributions. Fig.1(b) shows the core (proton+ neutron) (dashed line) and one halo proton (dashdotted line) contributions to the matter density of ⁸B. Fig.2(a) shows the calculated proton and neutron density displayed as dashed and dash-dotted lines, respectively. The long tail behavior is noticeably seen in the distribution of the proton. This behavior is related to the existence of the outer proton of ⁸B in the halo orbit. The difference between the proton and neutron rms radii is $R_p - R_n = 2.805 \cdot 2.274 = 0.531$ fm, which provides an additional evidence for the halo structure of these nuclei. The calculated neutron density distributions shown in this figure demonstrate a steep slope behavior because there are no neutrons found in the halo orbit.

To seek out if the long tail behavior of the proton density distributions of ⁸B proton rich nucleus demonstrates noticeable effects in the process of elastic electron scattering, elastic form factors of unstable ⁸B nucleus and its stable isotope ¹⁰B nucleus (same number of protons) are calculated by means of PWBA. To compare the results of the form factor of ⁸B with that of the stable isotope, we first present the calculated (C0+C2) form factor of ¹⁰B (solid line). Same model space is used as for the ⁷Be core nucleus. We choose a size parameter for the harmonic oscillator radial wave functions b=1.724 fm for ¹⁰B to reproduce the matter radius, 2.4829 ± 0.0019 fm from a very precise muonic X-ray experiment [24]. These results are displayed in Fig.2(b), using effective charges equal to 1.35e and .35e, for the protons and neutrons, respectively, for C2 to account for the core polarization effects [21]. Also, center of mass and finite nucleon size corrections are introduced. The experimental data of ref. [25] are very well reproduced by our calculations. The decompositions of the form factor into C0 and C2 are shown in this figure by the dotted and dashed lines, respectively.



Fig.1: Matter density distributions of ⁸B nucleus.



Fig.2: (a) The contributions of proton and neutron density to matter density of ⁸B halo nucleus.



Fig.2: (b) Charge form factor of ¹⁰B (solid line) and its decompositions into C0 (dotted line) and C2 (dashed line) contributions in comparison with the experimental data (open circles) of ref. [25].

The charge density corresponding to C0form factor is displayed in Fig.3(a) as dashed line in comparison with that of ⁸B (solid line). It is seen from this figure that the charge density distributions of ^{8,10}B are different although the two nuclei have the same proton number. The proton form factors for ⁸B halo nucleus and ¹⁰B stable nucleus are shown in Fig. 3(b), as solid line and dashed line, respectively. For the sake of comparison, neither core polarization effects nor center of mass and finite nucleon size corrections are considered for those form factors. Comparing the result of ⁸B with that of ¹⁰B, shows that the form factor for ⁸B in the range of q > 2 fm⁻¹ is decreased from that of ¹⁰B which shows that the form factor in this range of q is sensitive to the charge density distributions near the center of the nucleus [26], while for $q < 2 \text{ fm}^{-1}$, the form factor is not sensitive to the modification of the charge distribution.

These behaviors are clearer for C0 form factors as shown in Fig. 4, since the ground state charge density is connected with C0form factor. These form factors are connected with the charge density distributions of ^{8,10}B, given in Fig. 3(a). The position of the minimum is sensitive to the charge density distribution around the center of the nucleus, while the form factor for low q values is insensitive to the density distribution around the center of the nucleus. The significant difference between the form factor of the exotic proton-drip line ⁸B and that of the stable ¹⁰B is attributed to the influence of the charge density distribution of the last proton in ⁸B. The *C*0 form factors in the range of momentum transfer $1.5 \le q \le 3 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ are sensitive to the change of the tail part of the charge density, while those at high momentum transfers to the change of the inner part of the charge distribution. These conclusions are

consisting with those of ref. [27] for ${}^{12}C$ and of ref. [26] for O and S isotopes. For C2 contribution, the form factors of ${}^{8}B$ and ${}^{10}B$

are almost identical, because the ground state charge density has nothing to do with C2 form factor.



Fig.3: (a) Charge density distribution of ⁸B halo nucleus (solid line) in comparison with that of its stable isotope ¹⁰B(dashed line).
(b) Charge form factor of ⁸B (halo) nucleus (solid line) in comparison with that of its



Fig.4: C0 and C2 form factors of ⁸B (halo) nucleus (solid lines) in comparison with those of ¹⁰B nucleus (dashed lines).

Conclusions

The ground state proton, neutron and matter density distributions of the unstable proton -rich ⁸B nucleus are investigated using the two-frequency shell model approach. Elastic electron scattering from this exotic nucleus are also investigated. The long tail behavior, considered as а distinctive feature of halo nuclei, is evidently revealed in the calculated proton and matter density distributions of this exotic nucleus. Besides, the noticeable difference that is found between the calculated overall proton and neutron rms radii also indicates a definite degree of halo structure. It is found that the structure of the halo proton for this nucleus has $1p_{1/2}$ configuration. Also, it is found that the difference between the form factors of ⁸B nucleus and stable ¹⁰B nucleus is mainly caused by the long tail behavior present in the proton density distributions of ⁸B. The C0 form factors in the range of momentum transfer $1.5 \le q \le 3 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ are sensitive to the change of the tail part of the charge density, while those at high momentum transfers to the change of the inner part of the charge distribution.

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