

# Hands-on session on capture cross sections

## Excel program talent\_cap.xlsm

The excel programme contains two sheets

1. *Coul*: computes Coulomb and Whittaker functions
2. *Potential*: computes (numerically, with the Numerov algorithm) the wave functions from the Schrödinger equation

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left( \frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} \right) u_\ell + (V_C(r) + V_N(r)) u_\ell = E u_\ell$$

The nuclear potential is parametrized by a Gaussian form factor

$$V_N(r) = V_0 \exp(-(r/r_0)^2).$$

The capture cross sections are determined from the wave functions of bound and of scattering states.

### Inputs:

- masses, charges (B1, D1, B2, D2).
- rmax and step (G1 and G2) are used to compute the wave functions by the Numerov algorithm.  
Typical values: rmax=20 fm, step=0.1 fm.
- Angular momentum  $\ell$  (row 5), range  $r_0$  (row 7) and depth  $V_0$  (row 6).
- For bound states: the number of radial nodes (B8).  
For scattering states: energies (G8,H8,I8, etc). Several energies can be considered simultaneously (row 8, from column G).
- For radiative capture: order of the multipole  $\lambda$  (J1).

### Outputs

For bound states:

- Energy (negative) in B10.
- Total potential (nuclear + Coulomb + centrifugal) and wave functions  $u_\ell(r)$  from B15 and C15.

For scattering states

- Phase shifts in radians (G10, H10, etc).
- Capture cross section in fm<sup>2</sup> (G11,H11, etc).
- S factor in MeV-b (G12, H12, etc).
- Potential and wave functions  $u_\ell(r)$  (from F15 and G15).

## Questions

Consider the  ${}^3\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma){}^7\text{Be}$  reaction. The ground state is  $J_f = 3/2^-$ ,  $\ell_f = 1$ , and is bound by -1.59 MeV (see spectrum).

1. By using the sheet "Potential" and  $r_0 = 2.5$  fm (Nradial=1), determine the depth  $V_0$  to reproduce the experimental binding energy. Plot the corresponding wave function, and check (by a numerical integration) the normalization  $\int_0^\infty u_\ell(r)^2 dr = 1$ .

2. The Asymptotic Normalization Constant (ANC) of a bound state is defined by

$$u_f(r) \rightarrow CW_{-\eta_B, \ell+1/2}(2k_B r)$$

where  $W_{-\eta_B, \ell+1/2}(x)$  is the Whittaker function, and where  $k_B$  and  $\eta_B$  refer to the bound state.

With the exact wave function and the Whittaker function given by sheet "Coul", determine the ANC of the  ${}^7\text{Be}$  ground state.

3. What is the expected dominant multipolarity  $\lambda$ ? Which partial wave is expected to be the most important? Check that the electromagnetic selection rules are satisfied.
4. Using the same potential, determine the scattering wave function at  $E = 0.1$  MeV (for  $\ell = 0$ ), and plot the integrant  $u_i(r)u_f(r)r^\lambda$ . Give an estimate (in %) of the external contribution.  
Increase and decrease the binding energy (by modifying the depth of the potential), and see how this maximum moves.
5. Compute and plot the S factor up to 1 MeV. Compare with experiment (see figure below, the data are given in sheet he3ag). Use different discretizations for the initial and final wave functions, and check the stability of the S factor.



