

Understanding the interplay between sub–barrier breakup of ${}^{6,7}\text{Li}$ and above-barrier suppression of complete fusion

D.H. Luong,¹ D.J. Hinde,¹ M. Dasgupta,¹ and M. Evers¹

¹*Department of Nuclear Physics, The Australian National University, ACT 0200, Australia*

With the discovery of halo nuclei, and recent intensive development of radioactive ion beams (RIBs) around the world, there is renewed interest in studying interaction of weakly-bound light nuclei as a basis for understanding interactions of halo nuclei and RIBs. Using a novel experimental approach [1], reactions of the weakly-bound nuclei ${}^9\text{Be}$ and ${}^{6,7}\text{Li}$ with heavy targets consistently showed suppression of complete fusion by $\sim 30\%$ [2, 3]. The low threshold energies for breakup of Li and Be are widely associated with their observed suppression of complete fusion [1–5], with breakup described as cluster decay from unbound states independent of the mechanism that populates it [6–12]. However, knowing the reaction processes leading to breakup is not sufficient to understand the interplay between breakup and suppression of fusion [3]. It is critical to also know the timescale of each process [13], whether the breakup occurs before or after the projectile reaches its point of closest approach to the target nucleus.

From our recent sub–barrier coincidence measurements for the reactions of ${}^{6,7}\text{Li}$ with ${}^{207,208}\text{Pb}$ and ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$, breakup mechanisms and their timescale are identified. The probability for sub–barrier breakup processes fast enough ($\sim 10^{-22}\text{s}$) to affect fusion are extracted and used to predict above-barrier suppression of complete fusion using the classical trajectory model PLATYPUS [14]. The results of this study will be presented.

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