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ETUDE QUANTIQUE DES TRANSFERTS INELASTIQUES DANS LES COLLISIONS ATOME-ATOME ET ATOME-MOLECULE

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à maman

à Brigitte et à Millard

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INTRODUCTION

En raison du développement de techniques expérimentales sophistiquées, tant sur le plan de la sélection que sur celui de la détection des états mis en jeu, les résultats des sections efficaces qui caractérisent un processus collisionnel ont atteint un niveau de très haute résolution. Beaucoup des phénomènes observés dans les collisions moléculaires ne peuvent plus être interprétés de manière satisfaisante par un traitement classique voire semi-classique et l'utilisation d'un traitement quantique de la dynamique de la collision apparaît souvent d'une importance décisive.

Les travaux présentés dans ce mémoire s'inscrivent, précisement, dans le cadre de l'étude quantique du transfert d'énergie dans les collisions atomiques et moléculaires et sont des exemples concrets de l'intérêt d'un dialogue théorie-expérience dans les processus collisionnels.

Puisque les moyens d'approche des problèmes exposés dans ce travail reposent sur le formalisme des calculs quantiques de diffusion, il nous a paru indiqué de rappeler dans le premier chapitre les grandes lignes de ce formalisme.

Le deuxième chapitre est consacré à l'étude des transferts entre les composantes de structure fine d'un atome alcalin dans un état électronique ²P induits par collision avec un gaz rare. Ces transferts ont, dans le passé, été largement étudiés. Sur le plan expérimental, l'association des techniques de faisceaux croisés et d'excitation par laser (MESTDAGH et collaborateurs, DUREN et collaborateurs) conduit à des résultats de haute résolution. Parallèlement, pour ces systèmes simples, le traitement théorique n'offre pas de difficulté d'ordre numérique majeure et les sections efficaces sont déterminées de façon précise. En général, l'accord théorie-expérience est bon. Toutefois, pour un atome alcalin donné, l'analyse des résultats révèle un comportement différent, selon l'atome de gaz rare, dans la dépendance en énergie des sections efficaces intégrales. A notre connaissance, aucune explication satisfaisante de cet effet n'a encore été donnée. Nous verrons que cette différence est la manifestation d'un important mécanisme de couplage qui apparaît à grande distance internucléaire. Ce mécanisme est mis en évidence dans notre étude grâce à une interprétation totalement adiabatique de la dynamique de la collision. De plus, ce même mécanisme contribue à l'assymétrie σ^*/σ^- observée dans la diffusion d'atomes alcalins (² P) orientés sur des atomes de gaz rare (DUREN et HASSELBRINK).

Grâce, d'une part à l'apparition récente d'ordinateurs puissants, d'autre part au développement d'algorithmes efficaces, les calculs quantiques du transfert d'énergie dans les collisions mettant en jeu une molécule, connaissent, actuellement, un essor considérable. Nous présentons dans le troisième chapitre, l'étude quantique des collisions $N_2({}^1\Sigma_q^+)$ -Ne et Li₂(${}^1\Pi_u$)-He,Ne.

La première de ces études trouve sa motivation dans les expériences récentes réalisées en Italie à l'Université de Pérouse (BENEVENTI et collaborateurs). L'analyse des résultats expérimentaux et plus particulièrement des mesures des oscillations de diffraction dans la section efficace différentielle totale donne des informations quantitatives sur l'anisotropie du potentiel d'interaction. Ces informations sont obtenues dans l'approximation "Infinite-Order-Sudden" (IOS). Notre but, dans cette étude, est précisément de sonder le domaine de validité de cette approximation et d'apporter une justification a posteriori des méthodes expérimentales employées pour déterminer les surfaces de potentiel de systèmes simples de type Van der Waals.

Les transferts rotationnels dans les dimères alcalins $({}^{1}\Pi_{\mu})$ induits par collision avec un gaz rare sont marqués par d'intéressants effets d'assymétrie observés initialement par OTTINGER et collaborateurs (Li₂) et BERGMANN et DEMTRODER (Na₂). Ces études sont plus particulièrement consacrées à une comparaison des sections efficaces d'excitation $(j \rightarrow j+1)$ et de désexcitation $(j \rightarrow j-1)$. En utilisant l'approximation de Born du premier ordre, certains de ces auteurs ont démontré que les effets d'assymétrie sont une manifestation d'interférences quantiques. Très récemment, DEROUARD et collaborateurs ont repris l'étude expérimentale du système Li₂ ($^{1}\Pi_{u}$)-Ne. Cette étude est actuellement en cours de réalisation mais les résultats préliminaires indiquent, en accord avec les travaux antérieurs que les effets d'assymétrie dans les sections efficaces : 1- n'existent que pour les transitions à Δj impair ; 2- dépendent de la composante de dédoublement-A du niveau de rotation initial.

Motivés par ces résultats, nous avons entrepris l'étude quantique du transfert d'énergie dans les collisions $\text{Li}_2({}^1\Pi_u)$ -He,Ne, étude basée sur les potentiels modèles proposés par POPPE. Dans une première étape, nous déterminons les sections efficaces dans le formalisme "Close-Coupling" (CC). Cette étude est particulièrement intéressante puisqu'elle constitue, à notre connaissance, la première étude quantique exacte d'une collision mettant en jeu une molécule à couche ouverte dans un état électronique ${}^1\Pi_u$. D'autre part, nous explorons le domaine de validité des approximations "Coupled-States" (CS) et IOS. Dans le cadre de cette dernière approximation, plus générale que l'approximation de Born du premier ordre, nous effectuons une analyse quantique complète des effets d'interférences, origine des assymétries observées expérimentalement et confirmées par notre calcul

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<u>CHAPITRE I</u>:

GENERALITES SUR LE TRAITEMENT QUANTIQUE

DES COLLISIONS MOLECULAIRES

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I - INTRODUCTION

Le traitement quantique du transfert d'énergie dans les collisions moléculaires passe par la résolution de l'équation de SCHRODINGER. Si on utilise l'approximation de Born Oppenheimer, c'est-à-dire la séparation des fonctions d'onde électronique et nucléaire, cette résolution se fait en deux étapes :

- la première consiste à trouver les solutions de l'équation de SCHRODINGER électronique ; c'est à cette première étape que sont consacrés les calculs <u>ab initio</u>^{1,2} et les calculs de pseudopotentiel³⁻⁵ dont le but est, précisément, de déterminer, pour chaque valeur de la distance entre particules, les énergies propres ou surfaces d'énergie potentielle et les fonctions propres moléculaires.

La seconde étape consiste à résoudre l'équation de Schrödinger purement nucléaire c'est-à-dire à déterminer le mouvement des noyaux sur les surfaces d'énergie potentielle en tenant compte des éventuels changements dans la structure interne des partenaires de collision. Les calculs quantiques de diffusion s'adressent à cette phase dynamique.

Dans la mesure où les collisions étudiées dans les chapitres suivants de ce travail mettent en jeu un atome de gaz-rare sans structure et un atome (chapitre II) ou une molécule diatomique (chapitre III), nous présentons ici les grandes lignes du formalisme⁶⁻⁸ pour ces deux types de collision.



Fig. (I-1) : Collisions atome (A) - gaz rare (GR) et molécule (M) - gaz rare (GR). R est le vecteur position relative des deux partenaires. Dans une collision avec une molécule, R est la distance du gaz rare au centre de masse de la molécule.





Fig. (I-2) : Diagramme de Newton pour une collision élastique. Les vitesses initiales et finales sont notées \vec{V}_i et \vec{V}'_i dans le système du laboratoire et \vec{W}_i et \vec{W}'_i dans le système du centre de masse. D et $\vec{V}_{\rm CM}$ représentent le détecteur et la vitesse du centre de masse dans le système du laboratoire. L'angle de diffusion $\Theta(\theta)$ est mesuré par rapport à \vec{V}_1 (\vec{W}_1) dans le système du laboratoire (centre de masse). \vec{k}_i et \vec{k}_i , sont colinéaires à \vec{W}_i et \vec{W}'_i respectivement. II - FORMALISME DES CALCULS QUANTIQUES DE DIFFUSION

II-1 - RESOLUTION DES EQUATIONS COUPLEES : MATRICE DE DIFFUSION

Le hamiltonien total du système s'écrit :

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_R^2 + V(\vec{R}, \vec{r_e}, \vec{r_M}) + H_{int}(\vec{R}, \vec{r_e}, \vec{r_M})$$
(I-1)

où \vec{R} est le vecteur position relative des deux partenaires de la collision, $\vec{r_e}$ caractérise les coordonnées électroniques et $\vec{r_M}$ désigne dans le cas de la collision gaz rare-molécule l'axe internucléaire de la molécule (fig. I-1). μ est la masse réduite et le premier terme de l'équation (I-1) représente l'énergie cinétique relative des deux partenaires. $V(\vec{R}, \vec{r_e}, \vec{r_M})$ désigne le hamiltonien électronique :

$$V(\vec{R}, \vec{r_e}, \vec{r_M}) = H_0(\vec{r_e}, \vec{r_M}) + W(\vec{R}, \vec{r_e}, \vec{r_M})$$
(I-2)

Ici, $H_0(\overrightarrow{r_e},\overrightarrow{r_M})$ représente le hamiltonien électronique des partenaires séparés. Le terme $W(\overrightarrow{R},\overrightarrow{r_e},\overrightarrow{r_M})$ décrit l'interaction électrostatique entre les deux particules et tend vers zéro lorsque la distance entre particules R tend vers l'infini.

Le dernier terme de l'équation (I-1), H_{int} , représente le hamiltonien interne de l'atome (A) ou de la molécule diatomique (M). Dans le cas de la collision gaz rare-atome, nous nous intéresserons plus particulièrement aux transferts entre composantes spin-orbite différentes dans un état électronique donné de l'atome (A). $H_{int}(\vec{R},\vec{r_e})$ désigne dans ce cas le hamiltonien spinorbite de l'atome (A). Pour ce qui est de la collision gaz raremolécule, nous nous limiterons à l'étude des transferts rotationnels dans un état électronique et vibrationnel donné de la molécule (M) ; Dans ce cas, en plus du hamiltonien spin-orbite, $H_{int}(\vec{R},\vec{r_e},\vec{r_M})$ contient le hamiltonien de rotation de la molécule (M). Dans la suite, afin de simplifier les notations, les indices se rapportant à l'état électronique et à l'état vibrationnel dans le cas de la collision gaz rare-molécule, seront donc omis sauf lorsqu'ils seront explicitement nécessaires.

D'une façon générale, nous pouvons représenter la collision sous la forme :

$$GR(^{1}S_{0}) + P(i) \rightarrow GR(^{1}S_{0}) + P(i') + \Delta E \qquad (I-3)$$

où GR et P désignent respectivement le gaz rare et le partenaire de collision. Les indices i et i' caractérisent l'état interne initial et l'état interne final du partenaire P :

(A)
$$\begin{cases} i = (j) \\ i' = (j') \end{cases}$$
 (M)
$$\begin{cases} i = (j,\Omega,\varepsilon) \\ i' = (j',\Omega',\varepsilon') \end{cases}$$
 (I-4)

Dans ces équations, les nombres quantiques j et Ω représentent respectivement le moment cinétique total (\vec{j}) de l'atome (A) ou de la molécule (M) et la valeur absolue de la projection de \vec{j} sur l'axe internucléaire de (M). L'index ε distingue, le cas échéant, les deux composantes de dédoublement- Λ^{9-10} dans l'état électronique donné de la molécule (M). Dans l'équation (I-3), ΔE représente l'écart d'énergie entre l'état final et l'état initial du partenaire (P).

Pour résoudre l'équation de Schrödinger il convient de développer la fonction d'onde sur une base donnée. Dans la mesure où, au cours de la collision, le moment cinétique total du système \overrightarrow{J} et sa projection (M) sur un axe fixe Z de l'espace sont conservés, il est judicieux d'utiliser comme base de développement, des états du système qui soient vecteurs propres de $\overrightarrow{J^2}$ et de J_2 :

 $|i\ell JM \rangle = \sum_{m_{\ell}, m_{j}} (j m_{j} \ell m_{\ell} | JM) | i m_{j} \rangle | \ell m_{\ell} \rangle$ (I-5)

où (....) est un coefficient de Clebsch-Gordan¹¹.

La base, définie par l'équation précédente couple le moment cinétique total \vec{j} du partenaire (P) et le moment cinétique orbital $\vec{\ell}$ du mouvement relatif :

$$\vec{J} = \vec{j} + \vec{\ell}. \tag{I-6}$$

Dans l'équation (I-5), m_j et m_ℓ sont les projections de \vec{j} et de $\vec{\ell}$ sur Z et

$$|\ell \mathbf{m}_{\ell} \rangle = \mathbf{Y}_{\ell \mathbf{m}_{\ell}} (\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\mathbf{R}} \boldsymbol{\varphi}_{\mathbf{R}})$$
 (1-7)

 $Y_{\ell m_{\ell}}$ est une harmonique sphérique¹¹ et θ_{R} et φ_{R} sont les angles polaire et azimuthal qui décrivent l'orientation de \vec{R} dans le système de coordonnées fixé dans l'espace (XYZ) (fig. I-1).

Lorsque la fonction d'onde totale Ψ est développée sur la base définie par l'équation (I-5) :

$$\Psi = \sum_{i \ell JM} \frac{1}{R} C_{i \ell}^{JM}(R) | i \ell JM \rangle, \qquad (I-8)$$

les coefficients du développement $(C_{i\,\ell}^{JM}(R))$ sont les solutions d'un jeu d'équations différentielles couplées radiales :

$$\sum_{\mathbf{i}'\ell'} \left[\delta_{\mathbf{i}\mathbf{i}}, \delta_{\ell\ell}, \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \frac{d^2}{dR^2} + E \right) - U_{\mathbf{i},\ell',\mathbf{i}\ell}^{\mathbf{j}}(\mathbf{R}) \right] C_{\mathbf{i},\ell}^{\mathbf{j}\mathbf{M}}(\mathbf{R}) = 0 \quad (\mathbf{I}-\mathbf{9})$$

où E est l'énergie totale et où U^J est une matrice qui caractérise la somme de toutes les interactions:

$$U_{i,\ell,i\ell}^{J}(R) = \langle i'\ell' JM | V(R,\beta) + H_{int}(R,\beta) + H_{rel}(R) | i\ell JM \rangle (I-10)$$

où H_{rel} définit le hamiltonien rotationnel du mouvement relatif dont les éléments de matrice s'écrivent :

<
$$i'\ell'JM|H_{rel}(R)|i\ell JM > = \delta_{ii}, \delta_{\ell\ell}, \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu R^2}\ell(\ell+1)$$
 (I-11)

Notons que dans l'équation (I-10) obtenue après intégration sur les variables électroniques et vibrationnelles, V et H_{int} ne dépendent que de R et de l'angle $\beta = (\vec{R}, \vec{r_{H}})$ (fig. (I-1)).

Dans l'équation (I-9), la sommation s'étend à tous les états internes de (P) et à toutes les valeurs possibles du nombre quantique ℓ pour une valeur J donnée. En d'autres termes, la sommation s'étend à tous les canaux ou voies possibles.

Bien que le hamiltonien interne H_{int} de l'atome ou de la molécule dépende explicitement de la distance entre particules R il est souvent possible de négliger cette dépendance. Les éléments de matrice de H_{int} (Eq. I-10) deviennent alors indépendants de R et ne sont autres que les énergies internes des différents canaux d'entrée.

Le problème d'un calcul quantique réside dans la résolution des équations couplées radiales¹² et consiste à trouver les solutions particulières de ces équations correspondant à un flux unité dans chaque canal d'entrée.

Lorsque la distance entre particules devient suffisamment grande pour que les éléments de matrice du potentiel d'interaction (V) soient faibles devant le terme centrifuge $\frac{\ell (\ell+1)}{2\mu R^2}$ (Eqs. I-10, I-11), les solutions des équations couplées radiales se mettent sous la forme^{6-8,12} :

$$\lim_{R \to \infty} C_{i\ell}^{JM}(R) = \delta_{ii}, \delta_{\ell\ell}, e^{-i(k_i R - \ell \pi/2)} - (k_i, /k_i)^{1/2}$$

S^j, l, if e^{+i(k_i, R - \ell / \pi/2)} (I-12)

où k; désigne l'amplitude du vecteur d'onde dans le canal i :

$$k_{i} = \left[\frac{2\mu}{\hbar^{2}} (E-E_{i})\right]^{1/2}$$
 (I-13)

avec E_i l'énergie interne du canal i. Dans l'équation (I-12), les termes $S_{i,\ell,j\ell}^{J}$ sont les éléments de la matrice de diffusion **S**. Ce sont ces éléments que l'on peut extraire de la résolution des équations couplées radiales.

II-2 - SECTIONS EFFICACES

Les quantités mesurées au cours d'une expérience de collision sont les sections efficaces. Mais ces quantités dépendent bien évidemment du type d'expérience réalisée et particulièrement de la sélectivité de la source et du détecteur utilisés.

* Section efficace différentielle

La section efficace différentielle est définie^{8,13} par le rapport entre le flux de particules diffusées par unité d'angle solide et le flux incident de particules. Dans cette définition, l'angle solide est centré sur l'angle de diffusion θ mesuré dans le système du centre de masse^{8,13} (fig. I-2). L'angle θ correspond à l'angle défini par le vecteur d'onde initial $\vec{k_i}$ et le vecteur d'onde final $\vec{k_i}$. Si, au cours de l'expérience, les sous niveaux magnétiques m_j et m'_j ne peuvent être résolus, l'intensité diffusée correspond à la section efficace différentielle moyennée sur m_j et intégrée sur m'_i :

$$\frac{d\sigma_{i \to i}, (\theta)}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{2j+1} \frac{k_{i}}{k_{i}} \sum_{\mathfrak{m}_{j} \mathfrak{m}_{j}'} \left| f_{\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{m}_{j} \to \mathfrak{i}'\mathfrak{m}_{j}'}(\theta) \right|^{2}$$
(I-14)

où f $\operatorname{im}_{j} \rightarrow i' \operatorname{m}'_{j}$ (0) est l'amplitude de diffusion :

$$f_{im_{j} \to i'm_{j}'}(\theta) = \sum_{J \ell \ell'} (i)^{\ell - \ell'} [(2\ell + 1)\pi]^{1/2} [2J + 1] \begin{pmatrix} j & J & \ell \\ m_{j} & -m_{j} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\times \begin{pmatrix} j' & J & \ell' \\ & & \\ m'_{j} & -m_{j} & m'_{\ell} \end{pmatrix} T^{J}_{i\ell, i'\ell'} Y_{\ell'm'_{\ell}} (\Theta).$$
 (I-15)

où $\begin{pmatrix} \cdots \\ \cdots \end{pmatrix}$ est un symbole $3j^{11}$.

Les éléments de la matrice de transition T sont reliés à ceux de la matrice de diffusion S par la relation :

$$T_{i\ell,i,\ell}^{J} = \delta_{ii}, \ \delta_{\ell\ell}, \ - S_{i\ell,i,\ell}^{J}, \ (I-16)$$

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* Section efficace intégrale

La section efficace intégrale s'obtient par intégration sur toutes les orientations finales possibles des deux partenaires c'est-à-dire par intégration sur Ω :

$$\sigma_{i \to i} = \frac{\pi}{(2j+1)k_{i}^{2}} \sum_{J \ell \ell'} (2J+1) |T_{i \ell, i', \ell'}^{J}|^{2}$$
 (I-17)

Par opposition à la section efficace différentielle (Eq. I-14), pour laquelle le carré de l'amplitude de diffusion fait apparaître des termes d'interférence (Eqs. I-14, I-15), la section efficace intégrale s'exprime par une simple sommation sur J de contributions d'ondes partielles.

III - DIMENSION DU PROBLEME NUMERIQUE : APPROXIMATIONS

III-1 - CALCULS "CLOSE-COUPLING" (CC)

La difficulté d'un calcul quantique exact provient du nombre N d'équations différentielles qu'il faut résoudre simultanément. Comme, même dans les algorithmes les plus efficaces, le temps de calcul varie proportionnellement à N^{3-12} , il paraît important de réduire le nombre de ces équations c'est-à-dire de limiter le nombre de canaux à prendre en compte.

Dans un calcul "Close-Coupling" (CC), dont le formalisme a été développé dans la section précédente, la réduction du nombre de canaux se fait :

1 - Par le choix de la base des vecteurs propres de J² comme base de développement des fonctions d'onde (Eq. I-5). On peut, dans ce cas, partager les équations couplées en jeux indépendants, un jeu pour chaque valeur de J.

2 - En limitant le nombre de canaux par des tests sur la convergence de la matrice de diffusion S. Dans la pratique, il est quelquefois nécessaire d'utiliser tous les canaux ouverts plus un, voire plusieurs canaux fermés. Notons qu'un canal est dit ouvert (fermé) si, à l'infini, l'énergie interne de ce canal est inférieure (supérieure) à l'énergie totale de collision.

Si dans les collisions atome-atome, le nombre de canaux est alors suffisamment limité pour permettre une résolution numérique précise et rapide, le problème prend une toute autre dimension lorsque l'un des partenaires est une molécule même si celle-ci est considérée comme un rotateur rigide^{6,8,12}. En effet, dans les collisions atome-molécule, le couplage entre le moment cinétique total de la molécule (\vec{j}) et le moment angulaire ($\vec{\ell}$) associé au mouvement relatif du projectile atomique conduit pour chaque valeur de J à un nombre de canaux égal à :

$$\begin{split} N_{\Omega \epsilon} &= (j_{max} + 1)^2 - \Omega & (j_{max} \text{ entier}) \\ N_{\Omega \epsilon} &= (j_{max} + 1/2) (j_{max} + 3/2) - 2 (\Omega - 1/2) & (j_{max} \text{ demi-entier}) \end{split}$$

où j_{max} est égal à la valeur maximum du nombre quantique de rotation pris en compte. Cette valeur dépend du système considéré et plus particulièrement de l'énergie totale de collision et de la constante de rotation de la molécule.

La dimension du problème est encore accrue s'il existe, pour l'état moléculaire mis en jeu, plusieurs composantes spin-orbite et par la nécessité de prendre en compte, le cas échéant, pour chaque niveau de rotation de la molécule, deux composantes de dédoublement- Λ :

$$N = \sum_{\Omega \varepsilon} N_{\Omega \varepsilon}$$
 (I-19)

Cependant, en raison de la conservation de la parité totale, les N équations couplées peuvent être séparées en deux jeux indépendants. Enfin, dans le cas d'une molécule homonucléaire, la symétrie de la molécule permet de partager chaque jeu en deux blocs indépendants.

III-2 - APPROXIMATION "COUPLED-STATES" (CS)

Encore appelée "Centrifugal Sudden Approximation", cette approximation¹⁴⁻¹⁹ consiste à remplacer dans les équations couplées (Eqs. I-9, I-10 et I-11) le terme centrifuge par une valeur moyenne $\hbar^2 \overline{\ell} (\overline{\ell}+1)/2\mu R^2$. Physiquement, cette approximation est justifiée lorsque l'énergie cinétique relative est assez élevée pour que la valeur exacte du terme centrifuge ne soit pas importante. C'est une approximation raisonnable tant que le potentiel est à courte portée.

L'emploi de l'approximation CS permet grâce à un changement de base de diagonaliser par blocs la matrice du potentiel d'interaction. La nouvelle base est définie par la relation :

$$|i\nu JM\rangle = (-1)^{\nu} \sum_{\ell} (2\ell+1) \begin{pmatrix} \ell & j & J \\ 0 & \nu & -\nu \end{pmatrix} |i\ell JM\rangle \rangle (I-20)$$

Dans cette base, les équations couplées sont aussi diagonales par bloc, chaque bloc correspondant à une valeur particulière de l'index ν qui varie de $-j_{max}$ à $+j_{max}$. Dans l'approximation CS, pour chaque valeur de ν , le nombre N des équations à résoudre se réduit à :

$$\begin{split} N_{\Omega \epsilon} &= 2 \left(j_{\max} + 2 - |\nu| - \Omega \right) & (j_{\max} \text{ et } \nu \text{ entiers}) \\ N_{\Omega \epsilon} &= 2 \left(j_{\max} + 1 - |\nu| - \Omega + \frac{1}{2} \right) & (j_{\max} \text{ et } \nu \text{ demi-entiers}) \end{split}$$

La section efficace intégrale s'exprime alors en termes des éléments de la matrice de transition CS indicés en ν et $\overline{\ell}$:

$$\sigma_{i \rightarrow j}, = \frac{\pi}{(2j+1)k_i^2} \sum_{\overline{\ell}\nu} (2\overline{\ell}+1) |T_i^{\nu}\overline{\ell}_{i,j}|^2 \qquad (I-22)$$

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III-3 - APPROXIMATION "INFINITE-ORDER-SUDDEN" (IOS)

Dans le cas où l'approximation CS est applicable et si, de surcroît, l'énergie de collision est grande par rapport aux écarts d'énergie interne, les équations CS peuvent être totalement découplées¹⁶⁻²² en remplaçant l'amplitude du vecteur d'onde de chaque canal k_i par une valeur moyenne \bar{k} . Dans le cadre des collisions atome-molécule (chapitre III) le formalisme de cette approximation sera développé et appliqué à deux exemples concrets.

En particulier, nous verrons qu'il est nécessaire de développer le potentiel sur une base de polynômes de Legendre. L'appellation "Infinite-Order" signifie que tous les ordres du développement en polynômes de Legendre peuvent être conservés par opposition aux premières approximations d'énergie soudaine pour lesquelles ce même développement devait être limité.

IV - INTERPRETATION TOTALEMENT ADIABATIQUE DE LA COLLISION

Dans la formulation "Close-Coupling" présentée dans la section II, l'équation de SCHRODINGER est résolue dans la base lilJM > (Eq. I-5). Le choix de cette base est approprié, puisqu'elle diagonalise les interactions à l'infini, les équations CC devenant alors totalement découplées et que les effets de la collision sont, précisement, détectés lorsque la distance entre particules devient très grande. Cette base indépendante de R est encore appelée base <u>diabatique</u>.

Il est toutefois possible de travailler dans une base <u>tota-lement adiabatique</u>²³⁻²⁶ choisie pour diagonaliser à chaque valeur de R, la matrice d'interaction totale U^J dont les éléments sont définis par l'équation (I-10). La base <u>totalement adiabatique</u> est obtenue par une transformation orthogonale **A** agissant sur la base <u>diabatique</u> :

$$\ln JM > = \sum_{i\ell} A_{n,i\ell}^{J}(R) | i\ell JM >$$
 (I-23)

avec

 $\mathbf{A}^{J}(\mathbf{R}) \quad \mathbf{U}^{J}(\mathbf{R}) \quad \mathbf{A}^{J^{T}}(\mathbf{R}) = \wedge^{J}(\mathbf{R}) \quad (\mathbf{I}-\mathbf{24})$

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Dans l'équation (I-24) la matrice $\wedge^{J}(R)$ est une matrice diagonale dont les éléments $\wedge_{n}^{J}(R)$ sont les valeurs propres associées aux états <u>totalement adiabatiques</u> |nJM >.

La fonction d'onde totale peut être développée dans cette nouvelle base :

$$\Psi = \sum_{nJM} \frac{1}{R} D_n^{JM} (R) | nJM >$$
 (I-25)

et les équations couplées relatives aux nouvelles fonctions radiales $D_n^{J,M}(R)$ deviennent :

$$\sum_{n} \left\{ \delta_{nn}, \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \frac{d^2}{dR^2} - \Lambda_n^j, (R) + E \right) D_n^{JM}(R) + \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left(2G_{n,n}^J(R) \frac{d}{dR} D_n^{JM}(R) + F_{n,n}^j(R) D_n^{JM}(R) \right) \right\} = 0 \qquad (I-26)$$

où les deux matrices de couplage G^J et F^J sont définies par :

$$\mathbf{G}^{\mathsf{J}}(\mathsf{R}) = \mathbf{A}^{\mathsf{J}^{\mathsf{T}}}(\mathsf{R}) \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mathsf{R}} \; \mathbf{A}^{\mathsf{J}}(\mathsf{R})$$

$$\mathbf{F}^{\mathsf{J}}(\mathsf{R}) = \mathbf{A}^{\mathsf{J}^{\mathsf{T}}}(\mathsf{R}) \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}}{\mathrm{d}\mathsf{R}^{2}} \; \mathbf{A}^{\mathsf{J}}(\mathsf{R})$$

$$(\mathbf{I}-\mathbf{27})$$

et peuvent être, dans la pratique, déterminées par différentiation numérique de la matrice de vecteurs propres $\mathbf{A}^{J}(\mathbf{R})$. Il est bien connu ^{8,27} dans la théorie des processus nonadiabatiques, que les éléments de la matrice dérivée seconde \mathbf{F}^{J} sont beaucoup plus petits que les éléments de la matrice dérivée première \mathbf{G}^{J} . En général on pourra négliger les éléments de \mathbf{F}^{J} .

Dans la base <u>diabatique</u>, les couplages apparaissent par l'interaction électrostatique W (Eq. I-2). Par contre, dans la base <u>totalement adiabatique</u>, ils interviennent par la partie radiale de l'opérateur énergie cinétique c'est-à-dire par des dérivées (Eq. I-27). Dans ce dernier cas, il est clair, que les éléments de couplage ne seront importants que lors d'une brusque variation des vecteurs propres exprimés dans la base <u>diabatique</u>. En d'autres termes, les couplages dans la <u>base adiabatique</u> sont localisés.

Si, dans un problème donné, on cherche plutôt une interprétation qualitative de la collision que des résultats quantitatifs, l'intérêt d'une base <u>adiabatique</u> est alors évident.

Toutefois comme nous l'avons déjà noté (section III-1), pour un système atome-molécule, le traitement CC de la collision fait en général, intervenir un très grand nombre de canaux. En plus de la difficulté numérique de résolution des équations CC qui en découle, un grand nombre d'éléments $G_{n,n}^{J}(R)$ sont nécessaires pour caractériser une transition donnée i \rightarrow i' (de l'ordre de $(2j+1)\times(2j'+1)/2$ éléments $G_{n,n}^{J}(R)$ pour chaque valeur de J). Ainsi dans certains cas, l'interprétation adiabatique devient confuse alors que son objectif est au contraire de clarifier les mécanismes de la collision.

Dans le cas où l'approximation CS est applicable, le problème se simplifie beaucoup puisque pour chaque valeur de v, un maximum de deux éléments de couplage suffit à décrire la transition $i \rightarrow i'$.

Le formalisme <u>totalement adiabatique</u> dans l'approximation CS est tout à fait similaire à celui présenté précédemment. Les états <u>totalement adiabatiques</u> s'écrivent :

$$\ln \nu JM > = \sum_{i\nu} A^{\nu}_{n,i} (R) | i\nu JM >$$
 (I-28)

Les matrices de valeurs propres Λ^{ν} et de vecteurs propres \mathbf{A}^{ν} sont ici indicées en ν et sont indépendantes de J. D'autre part les résultats de l'interprétation adiabatique seront semblables quelle que soit la valeur de $\overline{\ell}$.



<u>CHAPITRE II</u>:

COLLISION ALCALIN (2 P)-GAZ RARE

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I - INTRODUCTION

Le transfert d'énergie entre les composantes de structure fine d'un atome alcalin dans le premier état excité (² P) par collision avec un gaz rare a fait l'objet, ces dernières années, de nombreuses études, tant sur le plan théorique qu'expérimental.

Trois raisons, au moins, permettent d'expliquer l'intérêt porté aux couples alcalin-gaz rare :

* Ce sont des systèmes simples à un seul électron de valence. Les courbes d'énergie potentielle sont bien déterminées par des calculs <u>ab-initio</u> ou par des méthodes pseudo-potentiel.

* La multiplicité de ces systèmes est faible (2S+1 = 2). Il en résulte un nombre restreint de canaux (2 jeux indépendants de trois canaux). Ainsi, les calculs quantiques de diffusion peuvent être effectués rapidement, éventuellement sur mini- ou micro-ordinateurs.

* C'est le processus de collision inélastique le plus simple qu'on puisse envisager puisqu'une transition inélastique unique $({}^{2}P_{1/2} \rightarrow {}^{2}P_{3/2})$ caractérise la collision.

Dans ce chapître, nous présentons une étude théorique des collisions Na-He et Na-Ar. Dans une première étape, nous avons cherché à reproduire les résultats déjà publiés qui concernent la dépendance en énergie de la section efficace d'excitation ${}^2P_{1/2} \rightarrow {}^2P_{3/2}$. Mais, au delà d'une connaissance quantitative du processus de collision, notre étude vise à une interprétation détaillée des résultats. L'originalité de notre travail réside dans une description <u>totalement adiabatique</u> de la dynamique de la collision qui a permis de compléter la connaissance des mécanismes mis en jeu dans les transferts entre composantes de structure fine d'un atome dans un état 2P par collision avec un gaz rare.

II - INTERPRETATION TOTALEMENT ADIABATIQUE DES TRANSITIONS ENTRE LES COMPOSANTES DE STRUCTURE FINE DES ATOMES ALCALINS DANS DES ETATS ELECTRONIQUES ² P PAR COLLISION AVEC UN GAZ RARE (ARTICLE PARU DANS J. PHYS. B <u>21</u>, 1007 (1988)) Fully Adiabatic Interpretation of Fine-Structure Changing Transitions in Collisions of Alkali Atoms in ²P Electronic States with Noble Gas

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Running Title: Adiabatic Interpretation of $P_{1/2}$ + $P_{3/2}$ Transition

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Abstract

We present in detail a fully adiabatic description of the Na(3²P)-He and Na(3²P)-Ar collisions. Our study reveals the presence in the long-range region of a strong non-adiabatic parity-dependent coupling. This parity-dependent coupling (1) makes an important contribution to the intramultiplet transition cross section; (2) is the origin of the dissimilar energy dependence of the Na-He and Na-Ar cross sections; and (3) contributes to the σ^+/σ^- asymmetry observed in the scattering of oriented alkali ²P atoms with noble gases.

I. Introduction

During the last years, extensive experimental and theoretical studies have been devoted to fine structure transitions in collisions of alkali atoms in the first excited ²P state with rare gas. [Nikitin (1975.1984), Anderson (1982), Mestdagh (1982), Pascale et al. (1984) and references therein]. A qualitative insight into the mechanisms of these transitions can be obtained within an adiabatic formulation of the dynamics, an approach due to Nikitin (1965) and coworkers [Dashevskaya et al. (1970)]. They have defined and discussed, in detail, the two mechanisms-radial and angular (Coriolis) couplings-involved in fine structure transitions. Since then, there has been numerous papers devoted to the study of the role of non-adiabatic effects in atomic collisions [Preston et al. (1974), Pascale and Olson (1976), Aquilanti et al. (1980), Alexander et al. (1983), Pascale et al. (1984), Pouilly et al. (1985) and Pouilly and Alexander (1987)] and in collisional redistribution of light [Julienne (1982), Kulander and Rebentrost (1984), Vahala et al. (1986) and Julienne and Vahala (1987)].

In alkali (²P)-rare gas collisions, the regions of strong nonadiabatic coupling are generally well localized. The first region of coupling (radial coupling) occurs at large interatomic distance where the spin-orbit splitting between the two atomic fine structure levels becomes equal to the difference (W_{Σ} - W_{Π}) between the two electronic states ($^{2}\Sigma^{+}$ and $^{2}\Pi$) which correlate asymptotically to the ^{2}P state of the alkali atom. When the two atoms approach closer, the rapid rotation of the interatomic axis mixes the two spin orbit components $^{2}\Pi_{1/2}$ and $^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ which, asymptotically, correlate to the $^{2}P_{1/2}$ and $^{2}P_{3/2}$ fine structure levels of the ^{2}P atomic state, respectively. This mixing gives

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rise to the second region of non-adiabatic coupling (Coriolis coupling) localized at short internuclear distance. Frequently, these nonadiabatic effects are discussed in terms of different Hund's case representations [Nikitin (1965), Masnou-Seeuws and MacCaroll (1974), Aquilanti and Grossi (1980), Aquilanti <u>et al</u>. (1980) and Mestdagh (1982)]: each region of coupling corresponds to the passage from one Hund's case to another. The region of radial coupling is localized at the transition between the asymptotic region where the spin-orbit splitting dominates the electrostatic interaction and a Hund's case (c) representation is appropriate, and a region where the electrostatic interaction becomes dominant and a Hund's case (a) representation is appropriate. The Coriolis coupling region marks the transition between the Hund's case (a) representation where the rotational interaction is weak and the Hund's case (b) limit where it dominates the electrostatic interaction.

The dependence on the internuclear separation of the ${}^{2}\pi$ and ${}^{2}\Sigma^{+}$ molecular potential curves is qualitatively the same for all the alkali $({}^{2}P)$ -rare gas pairs (Fig. 1). Because the p orbital of the alkali atom lies along the internuclear axis in the Σ state, the repulsion due to the rare gas is more important than in the π state where the p orbital is perpendicular to the internuclear axis. Therefore, the Σ state is more repulsive than the π state at short range. On the other hand, the attraction due to long-range forces, stronger in the case of a p orbital lying along the interatomic axis than in the case of a p orbital perpendicular to the molecular axis, places the Σ state below the π state at long range. Thus, the Σ and π curves will always cross. The location of this crossing depends on the depth of the wells at long-range (Fig. 1) which is a sensitive function of the polarizability of the noble gas atom.

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By means of a fully adiabatic description of the Na($3^{2}P$)-He and Na($3^{2}P$)-Ar collisions, we show that at long-range, more precisely in the region where the π and Σ molecular states cross, there exists a strong non-adiabatic coupling region. Although the contribution of this coupling to the intramultiplet transition cross section is implicitly contained in the previous quantum calculations, this coupling region has never been considered, until now, in the physical interpretation of the results. Yet, this coupling, which occurs only for one particular parity of the molecular states, makes an important contribution to the intramultiplet transition cross section. Additionally, this new coupling mechanism can explain the dissimilar energy dependence of the intramultiplet cross sections in Na-He and Na-Ar collisions. Furthermore, we will see that it underlies the σ^{+}/σ^{-} asymmetry observed in the scattering of oriented alkali ^{2}P atoms with nohle gases [Düren and Hasselbrink (1986)].

Several authors have previously reported adiabatic studies of collisions of atoms in ²P state with noble gases [Preston <u>et al</u>. (1974), Pascale and Olson (1976) and Pascale <u>et al</u>. (1984)]. However, these works are restricted to radial coupling and did not treat rotational interactions.

The organization of this paper is as follows: In the next section we review the relevant details of the fully adiabatic formulation of the collision dynamics for a $^{2}P^{-1}S$ system. The close-coupled calculations of the integral cross sections for fine-structure transitions in Na-He and Na-Ar collisions have been reported elsewhere [Reid (1973), Wilson and Shimoni (1974,1975), Pascale and Olson (1976) and Saxon <u>et al</u>. (1977)]. Therefore, only a brief description of the results of these calculations is given in Section III. We present in Section IV our new adiabatic interpretation and discuss the effects of the parity-dependent coupling on the intramultiplet cross sections. A brief conclusion follows.

II. Fully Adiabatic Analysis of the Mechanisms for Intramultiplet Transitions in ²P-¹S Collisions

The fully adiabatic description of a collision involving an atom in P state has been presented in detail elsewhere [Alexander <u>et al</u>. (1983), Pouilly <u>et al</u>. (1985) and Pouilly and Alexander (1987)]. Only the main features will be summarized here.

The total Hamiltonian for the diatomic system is given by:

$$H(\hat{R}, \hat{r}) = \frac{\pi^2}{2\mu R^2} \frac{d}{dR} R^2 \frac{d}{dR} + H_{rot}(\hat{R}) + V(\hat{R}, \hat{r}) + V_{LS}(R, \hat{r}) , \qquad (1)$$

where μ is the reduced mass, \hat{r} designates the electronic coordinates, and $V_{LS}(R, \hat{r})$ designates the spin-orbit Hamiltonian. Here $H_{rot}(\hat{R})$ is the Hamiltonian for the orbital motion of the two nuclei, namely

$$H_{rot} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu R^2} \vec{t}^2 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu R^2} (\vec{J} - \vec{L} - \vec{S})^2 , \qquad (2)$$

where $\vec{L}, \vec{S}, \vec{\ell}$, and \vec{J} denote, respectively, the electronic orbital and spin angular momenta, the orbital angular momentum of the two nuclei, and the total angular momentum. In Eq. (1) $V(\vec{R}, \vec{r})$ designates the total electronic Hamiltonian, namely

$$V(\vec{R}, \vec{r}) = H_0(\vec{r}) + W(\vec{R}, \vec{r})$$
, (3)

where $H_0(\vec{r})$ represents the electronic Hamiltonian of the isolated atoms (minus spin-orbit terms). The term $W(\vec{R},\vec{r})$ is the electrostatic interaction between the alkali atom and the rare gas atom.

Asymptotically, at distances where $W(\vec{R}, \vec{r})$ goes to zero, the Hamiltonian becomes diagonal in a Hund's case (e) basis [Mies (1973), Aquilanti and Grossi (1980), and Aquilanti <u>et al</u>. (1980)] with good quantum numbers L,S,j,g,J,M. Here \vec{j} denotes the total angular momentum in the alkali atom and M the projection of the total angular momentum J along a space-fixed axis. In the case of a ^{2}P atom, L=1. We will assume here, as it has been often assumed in previous studies of intramultiplet transitions involving atom in P state, a pure precession limit [Reid (1973), Mies (1973), Alexander <u>et al</u>. (1983) and Pouilly <u>et al</u>. (1985)]. In a pure precession limit, L remains equal to 1 during the collision. Thus, for simplicity, this quantum number will now be suppressed.

In a case (e) basis, the rotational and spin orbit Hamiltonians are diagonal and the off diagonal elements of the total Hamiltonian matrix are due to the electrostatic interaction which vanishes at infinity.

In the molecular region (small R) a Hund's case (a) basis is appropriate. The case (a) wavefunctions are written as:

$$|\Lambda S_{\Sigma} \Omega_{\varepsilon} JM\rangle = 2^{-1/2} (|\Lambda S_{\Sigma}\rangle |JM_{\Omega}\rangle + \varepsilon |-\Lambda S_{-\Sigma}\rangle |JM_{-\Omega}\rangle)$$
(4)

where Λ and Σ denote, respectively, the projections of \vec{L} and \vec{S} along \vec{R} and $\Omega = \Lambda + \Sigma$. The symmetry index ε in Eq. 4 can take on the values ±1. In conventional spectroscopic notation [Brown <u>et al.</u> (1975)] the three levels which have the total parity $(-1)^{J-1/2}[\Lambda=0,S=1/2,\Sigma=1/2,\varepsilon=+1]$; $\Lambda=1,S=1/2, \ \Sigma=\pm1/2,\varepsilon=+1$] are labelled <u>e</u> and the three levels which have the parity $-(-1)^{J-1/2}[\Lambda=0,S=1/2,\Sigma=1/2,\varepsilon=-1]; \ \Lambda=1,S=1/2,\Sigma=\pm1/2; \ \varepsilon=-1]$ are labelled <u>f</u>. In a case (a) basis, the electronic Hamiltonian is diagonal and the off-diagonal elements of the total Hamiltonian matrix are due to the rotational and spin-orbit Hamiltonians. Since parity is conserved, for each value of the total angular momentum, one can diagonalize the total Hamiltonian matrix, in a case (e) basis as well as in a case (a) basis, in two blocks corresponding to each parity. Note that for the interaction of a closed-shell atom and an atom in a np^{2p} electronic state, the parity of the case (e) wavefunctions is given by $-(-1)^{\ell}$ [Mies (1973)]. Therefore, there is no coupling between the three levels of parity $(-1)^{J-1/2}[S=1/2, j=1/2, \ell=J+1/2; S=1/2, j=3/2, \ell=J-3/2;$ $S=1/2, j=3/2, \ell=J+1/2$] which are the <u>e</u> labelled levels defined above and the three levels of parity $-(-1)^{J-1/2}[S=1/2, j=1/2, \ell=J-1/2, S=1/2, j=3/2, \ell=J-1/2; S=1/2, j=3/2, \ell=J+3/2]$ which are the <u>f</u> labelled levels. The total Hamiltonian matrices in the case (e) and in the case (a) bases are given in Appendix I and II.

After having defined the two correct bases at small R and large R one can pose several relevant questions concerning the dynamics. First, to what degree will an asymptotic state described by a single case (e) wavefunction correlate at short range with the case (a) state of π or Σ symmetry? Second, with what probability will an initially prepared state correlate with the other spin-orbit component of the ²P atomic state after the collision? A useful qualitative insight into these questions can be obtained within an adiabatic formulation of the dynamics.

Within an adiabatic framework [Mies (1980), Alexander <u>et al</u>. (1983), Pouilly <u>et al</u>. (1985) and Pouilly and Alexander (1987)], the sum of the electrostatic, spin-orbit, and rotational Hamiltonians is diagonalized at each value of R. For each total parity the resulting *fully adiabatic* states are linear combinations of the case (e) states. After transformation to an adiabatic basis the radial kinetic operator [Eq. (1)] is no longer diagonal. Insight into the collision mechanisms can be obtained by examination of the first derivative coupling matrix, whose elements are defined by [Alexander <u>et al</u>. (1983), Pouilly <u>et al</u>. (1985) and Pouilly and Alexander (1987)]

$$\hat{B}_{n'n}(R) = V A_{n'i}(R) \frac{d}{dR} A_{ni}(R)$$

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(5)

where the index n(n') labels the fully adiabatic states and i labels the case (e) states. The A_{ni} matrix elements describe the transformation from diabatic to fully adiabatic states. The matrix of A_{ni} coefficients becomes a unit matrix as $R_{+\infty}$. The $G_{n'n}(R)$ matrix elements can be determined by numerical differentiation of the matrix of eigenvectors. Usually, large non-adiabatic coupling corresponds to regions where the adiabatic wavefunctions, expressed in a diabatic basis, are changing rapidly.



Figure 2. - Dependence on total energy of the $j = 1/2 \rightarrow j = 3/2$ intramultiplet cross sections (\mathring{A}^2). Panel (a) : Na(3²P)-He collision. Panel (b) : Na(3²P)-Ar collision. Also displayed are the definite parity <u>e</u> and <u>f</u> cross sections [Eq. 6].

III. <u>Cross Sections for Intramultiplet Transition in Na-He and Na-Ar</u> <u>Collisions</u>

Before presenting our adiabatic interpretation it is worthwhile to examine first the results of close-coupling (CC) calculations for the two chosen alkali-rare gas pairs. The calculations were carried out by using the logarithmic derivative method of Johnson (1973,1979). The spin-orbit splitting ($\Delta \epsilon$) in the Na(3²P) atom was taken equal to 17.2 cm⁻¹ (Moore, 1971).

The dependence on total energy E of the j=1/2+j=3/2 intramultiplet cross section for the Na-He and Na-Ar systems is displayed in Fig. 2. In the case of Na-Ar, we have used the *ab initio* π and π molecular potential curves determined by Saxon <u>et al</u>. (1977). Our calculated intramultiplet cross sections agree with the values reported by these authors. For Na-He we have used the interatomic potential curves determined by an *e-dependent pseudo-potential* method [Pascale (1984)]. Our results reproduce exactly those obtained by Pascale (1985) and are in better quantitative agreement with the experimental results (Gay and Schneider (1976)) than the previous cross sections of Reid (1973) and Pascale and Olson (1976) based on different molecular potential curves.

If we compare the curves displayed in Fig. 2, we note, for the two systems, a different dependence on total energy. In fact, the total intramultiplet cross section can be expressed as a sum of the two definite-parity cross sections:

$$\sigma_{1/2+3/2} = \sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e)} + \sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(f)}$$
(6)

These definite-parity cross sections are also displayed in Fig. 2. For

Na-He, their energy dependence is qualitatively the same. By contrast, for Na-Ar, the energy dependence of the definite-parity cross sections is qualitatively and quantitatively different in the region where the total energy is greater than about 0.01 eV. This difference between $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e)}$ and $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(f)}$ cross sections was previously pointed out by Reid (1973) and Nikitin (1984). It is also evident from the curves displayed in Fig. 2 that, for the two systems, it is always the contribution due to the e levels which predominates.

In close-coupling calculations, each definite-parity cross section is obtained by a sum of definite-parity partial cross section:

$$\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e/f)} = \sum_{J} \sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e/f)} (J) \qquad (7)$$

Figure 3 and 4 illustrate the parity-definite partial cross sections at a total energy E=0.06 eV which, for the case of Ar as collision partner, corresponds to the pronounced maxima in the energy dependence of both the $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}$ and $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e)}$ cross sections (Fig. 2). It is obvious, in Figs. 3 and 4 that the difference between the $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e)}$ and $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(f)}$ cross sections is due primarily to the contribution of the high-J partial cross sections.

The minimum which occurs around 0.02 eV in the energy dependence of the $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e)}$ cross section in the case of Na-Ar and which gives rise to a small minimum in the intramultiplet cross section (Fig. 2) is due to the fact that the π and Σ molecular potential given by Saxon <u>et al</u>. (1977) are not quite degenerate at long-range (R=30 bohr). If we slightly shift (1.10⁻⁵ hartree) one of the molecular curves in order to obtain an exact degeneracy for R=30 bohr, then, this minimum in the calculated cross sections disappears. This illustrates how sensitive cross sections are to the behaviour of the potential curves at long-range.



Figure 3. - <u>Na-He</u>. Definite-parity partial cross sections [Eq. 7] at total energy E = 0.06 eV. Upper panel refers to <u>e</u> levels. Lower panel refers to <u>f</u> levels. For clarity the partial cross sections have been drawn as continuous curves although they are defined only for half integer values of J.



Figure 4. - <u>Na-Ar</u>. Definite-parity partial cross sections [Eq. 7] at total energy E = 0.06 eV. Upper panel refers to <u>e</u> levels, lower panel refers to <u>f</u> levels. For clarity the partial cross sections have been drawn as continuous curves, although they are defined only for half integer values of J.

IV. Adiabatic Interpretation: Results and Discussion

To understand the results presented in the preceding section, it is instructive to look at the R dependence of the off-diagonal nonadiabatic matrix elements $G_{n'n}$ introduced in Section II (Eq. 5). If we assign the values of n by increasing energy, then the n=1, 2 and 3 *fully adiabatic* states correspond, respectively, in the molecular region to the ${}^{2}\pi_{1/2}$, ${}^{2}\pi_{3/2}$ and ${}^{2}\Sigma_{1/2}^{+}$ molecular states and asymptotically to the case (e) ${}^{2}P_{1/2}(n=1)$ and ${}^{2}P_{3/2}(n=2$ and 3) atomic states. Therefore, the G_{13} and G_{12} coupling matrix elements correspond in the case (e) limit to the intramultiplet j=1/2+j=3/2 transition under study here.

A. Results

1. Na-He

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate for different values of J the R dependence of the $G_{13}^{(e/f)}$ and $G_{12}^{(e/f)}$ matrix elements respectively.

Let us look first at the R dependence of the G_{13} matrix elements (Fig. 5). We observe that these matrix elements vary only slightly with the parity. In the case (a) molecular basis this element reflects the interaction between the ${}^{2}\Sigma_{1/2}^{+}$ and ${}^{2}\pi_{1/2}$ states which, as illustrated in Appendix II, are coupled by the spin-orbit and the rotational Hamiltonians. As long as the rotational matrix elements are weak (small J) the coupling is preferentially due to the spin-orbit interaction which is non-parity dependent (Appendix II). In such a situation, the peaks in the G_{13} matrix elements describe the pure radial coupling initially discussed by Nikitin (1965) and Dashevshaya <u>et al</u>. (1970) and occur in the region where the difference between the Σ and π potential energy curves ($W_{\Sigma}-W_{\pi}$) becomes equal to the spin-orbit splitting ($\Delta \varepsilon$) in the Na atom (Fig. 7). The shape of the G_{13} matrix elements for low values of J











Figure 7. - Splitting in millihartree between the Σ and Π potential curves as a function of internuclear distance $(W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\Pi}(R))$. R_R denotes the location of the maximum radial coupling region $(W_{\Sigma}(R_R)-W_{\Pi}(R_R) = \Delta \epsilon)$. R_c denotes the crossing point between the Π and Σ molecular curves $(W_{\Sigma}(R_c) = W_{\Pi}(R_c))$. Panel (a) : Na-He. The curve refers to the potentials calculated by Pascale [1984]. Panel (b) : Na-Ar. The curve refers to the potentials calculated by Saxon et al. (1977).

is similar to that of the non-adiabatic coupling matrix elements obtained in the case of Na($3^{2}P$)-Kr [Pascale and Olson (1976)], K($4^{2}P$)-Ar [Pascale <u>et al</u>. (1984)] and F(^{2}P)-Xe [Preston <u>et al</u>. (1974)] collisions. Note that the radial coupling is *independent* of J. However, as will be seen below, when the rotational interaction is no longer negligible, it is not possible to isolate the radial coupling in the G_{n'n}(R) matrix elements.

Indeed, as J increases, the rotational interaction mixes the ${}^{2\pi}_{3/2}$ and ${}^{2}_{\Sigma}_{1/2}$ molecular states: the state labelled n=2 which in the molecular region is a pure ${}^{2\pi}_{3/2}$ state acquires some ${}^{2}_{\Sigma}_{1/2}$ character. This gives rise to a rotational-induced radial coupling which can be seen in the increase with J of the ${}^{f}_{12}$ matrix element (Fig. 6a). The relative *increase* with J in the ${}^{f}_{12}$ matrix element (Fig. 6a) is compensated by a *decrease* with J in the ${}^{f}_{13}$ matrix element (Fig. 5a). This rotationalinduced radial coupling hetween the n=1 and n=2 adiabatic states is *distinct* from the rotational "Coriolis coupling" described by Nikitin which appears at short range in the ${}^{f}_{12}$ matrix elements (Fig. 6). We note, as already mentioned in the case of light alkali [Dashevskaya <u>et</u> <u>al</u>. (1970), Nikitin (1975), Mestdagh (1982)] that, in average, the Coriolis coupling is weak compared to the radial coupling.

By contrast to the G₁₃ matrix elements, we observe in Fig. 6 that the G₁₂ matrix elements vary strongly with the parity. The difference between the G_{12}^{e} and G_{12}^{f} matrix elements becomes marked for J=20.5 and increases extensively with J beyond this value. For high values of J, the G_{12}^{e} matrix elements exhibit strong peaks which can occur *outside* the radial-coupling region.

In order to form a coherent picture of all the mechanisms involved in the ${}^{2}P_{1/2}$ + ${}^{2}P_{3/2}$ transition the two following questions have to be answered: (1) What is the origin of the strong outer coupling peaks

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Figure 8. - Na-He. Splitting in millihartree between the n = 1, 2 and 3 fully adiabatic states as a function of internuclear distance for J = 50.5, 80.5 and 100.5. The n = 1 state is always taken as reference. The curves refer to <u>e</u> levels. R(J) denote the location of the points which satisfy Eq. 9. R denotes the crossing point between the Π and Σ molecular curves ($W_{\Sigma}(R_{c}) = W_{\Pi}(R_{c})$). Although the curves displayed correspond to fully adiabatic states, the n = 1 and n = 2 states can be degenerate or virtually degenerate. The exact degeneracy occurs only at R = R_c when the difference between the relevant centrifugal barriers (Table I) becomes equal to the spin-orbit splitting in the Na atom (see Section IV). In the lower panel the n = 1 and n = 2 states are virtually degenerate at R(J = 100.5) but the corresponding curves are indistinguishable at this point. which appear at high values of J in the G_{12}^e matrix elements (Fig. 6)? and (2) Why is this coupling parity dependent? To answer these questions it will be useful to work in a Hund's case (e) basis rather than the case (a) hasis which was most helpful in our earlier discussion of the coupling matrix elements. Indeed, if we look at the Hamiltonian matrix given in Appendix I, we see that the fully adiabatic n=1 states correlate asymptotically with the [j=1/2, g=J+1/2] state in the case of e level and with the [j=1/2, l=J-1/2] state in the case of the <u>f</u> level. The fully adiabatic n=2 states correlate asymptotically with the [j=3/2, $\ell=J-3/2$] e level and [j=3/2, $\ell=J-1/2$] f level. Thus, in the long-range region, where the difference between electrostatic interactions $(W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\pi}(R))$ becomes vanishingly small the potential curves for the n=1 and n=2 f levels which have the same centrifugal barrier will become parallel separated by the atomic spin-orbit splitting. By contrast, the n=1 e level will have a larger centrifugal barrier than the n=2 e level and thus the separation between these two levels will decrease as ${\sf R}$ decreases, at least initially. Indeed, when the difference between the relevant centrifugal barriers becomes equal to the spin-orbit splitting in the Na atom, the n=1 and n=2 e levels will be degenerate. This is illustrated in Fig. 8 which displays the energy curves for the fully adiabatic e states at several values of J.

Because two virtually degenerate states can be thoroughly mixed even by the smallest interaction, in the region where the n=1 and n=2 <u>e</u> states are closest ($W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\pi}(R)$ small), a strong peak in the G_{12}^{e} coupling matrix element appears. This is the origin of i) the difference between the G_{12}^{e} and G_{12}^{f} matrix elements in the region of radial coupling; ii) the outer peaks in the G_{12}^{e} matrix elements displayed in



Figure 9. - Na-Ar. Splitting in millihartree between the n = 1, 2 and 3 fully adiabatic states as a function of internuclear distance for J = 1.5, 150.5, 200.5. The n = 1 state is always taken as reference. The curves refer to e levels. R(J) denote the location of the points which satisfy Eq. 9. Note that for J = 1.5, R(J) is located outside of the region of R sampled on this figure. R_c denotes the crossing point between the Π and Σ molecular curves $(W_{\Sigma}(R_c) = W_{\Pi}(R_c))$. Note also that in this case there is no virtual degeneracy because $(W_{\Sigma}-W_{\Pi})$ is still not negligible at R(J).

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Fig. 6. These strong outer peaks between <u>e</u> levels at large R appear whenever (1) $W_{\Sigma}(R) \simeq W_{\Pi}(R)$, and (2) the difference between the centrifugal barriers is equal to the spin-orbit splitting $\Delta \varepsilon$ in the Na atom. We see from Appendix I that the second condition will be met when

$$\Delta \varepsilon = \hbar^2 (4J + 3/2) / 2_{\mu} R^2, \qquad (8)$$

or for a value of the internuclear distance given by:

$$R = \hbar [(4J+3/2)/2_{\mu\Delta\epsilon}]^{1/2}$$
 (9)

These values of R are indicated in Figs. 6 and 8. Note that Eq. (8) is similar to the condition used to define the maximum radial coupling in Nikitin's analysis, namely

$$\Delta \varepsilon = W_{\Sigma}(R) - W_{\Pi}(R) \tag{10}$$

Since $W_{\Sigma}-W_{\Pi}$ is small at large R, but not identically zero (except at one point designated R_c) the outer peaks in the $G_{12}^e(R)$ curves in Fig. 6 do not occur exactly at the values of R predicted by Eq. (9) (Figs 6 and 8). For Na-He, the strongest outer peak in the $G_{12}(R)$ curve occurs for R=R_c=18.2 bohr and J=J_c=80.5.

2. Na-Ar

The Na-Ar potential curves (Fig. 7) differ significantly from those for Na-He (Fig. 7). The point of maximum radial coupling $(W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\Pi}(R)=\Delta\varepsilon)$ which we designate R_R , here occurs extremely close to the point R_C where $(W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\Pi}(R)=0)$ which is where the parity-dependent coupling discussed in the preceding section will be important (Fig. 7). Therefore, these two regions of non-adiabatic coupling will overlap in the case of Na-Ar.

Moreover, clear avoided crossing occurs for both parities, between the n=2 and n=3 fully adiabatic states. This is seen clearly in Fig. 9 where the corresponding curves display a significant distorsion at R=12



Figure 10. - Na-Ar. Dependence on internuclear distance of the sum of the G_{13} and G_{12} non-adiabatic coupling matrix elements (absolute values) for J = 1.5. The curve is similar for <u>e</u> and <u>f</u> levels. R_R denotes the location of the maximum radial coupling region $(W_{\Sigma}(R_R)-W_{\Pi}(R_R) = \Delta \epsilon)$.



Figure 11. - Na-Ar. Dependence on internuclear distance of the G_{12} non-adiabatic coupling matrix element (absolute values) for J = 200.5. The curve refers to <u>e</u> levels. R(J) denotes the location of the point which satisfy Eq. 9. R denotes the crossing point between the II and Σ molecular curves ($W_{\Sigma}(R_c) = W_{\Pi}(R_c)$).

bohr. At this point the adiabatic wavefunctions are changing rapidly. The n=2 state, nominally $\pi_{3/2}$ at short range becomes $\Sigma_{1/2}$. The inverse is true for the n=3 state. Because of this exchange of Σ and π character, the n=2 state becomes strongly mixed with the n=1 state beyond (for R greater than) the point of avoided crossing while the n=3 state is mixed with the n=1 state for R lower than this point. Fig. 10 illustrates for low value of J(J=1.5) the R dependence of the sum of G_{12}^e and G_{13}^e matrix elements that is the pure radial coupling. The R dependence of the $(G_{12}^{f}+G_{13}^{f})$ coupling matrix element for J=1.5 is identical to $(G_{12}^e+G_{13}^e)$. As has been discussed by several authors [Pascale and Olson (1976), Pascale et al. (1984)] the outer peak (Rel6 bohr) corresponds roughly to the point at which $(\textbf{W}_{\Sigma}-\textbf{W}_{\Pi})$ becomes comparable to -Ac. Until now, this outer radial coupling region has been considered as the origin of the pronounced maximum in the energy dependence of the intramultiplet j=1/2+j=3/2 cross section (Fig. 2) [Pascale and Olson (1976), Pascale et al. (1984)]. However, since this maximum occurs only for transitions out of the j=1/2 e level, it probably should not be attributed to the outer radial coupling peak which is equally important for both e and f levels. In fact, we believe that the strong paritydependent coupling discussed previously is the origin of this maximum.

Figure 11 displays the R dependence of the G_{12}^{e} matrix element for J=200.5. The comparison of Figs. 10 and 11 shows that for Na-Ar, the region of the parity-dependent coupling overlaps strongly with the region of radial coupling. The two peaks in the G_{12}^{e} elements (J=200.5) (Fig. 11) are roughly three times greater than the radial coupling peaks (J=1.5) displayed in Fig. 10. These two peaks occur at R=R_c=12.2 bohr ($W_{\Sigma}=W_{\Pi}$) and R=16.5 hohr ($W_{\Sigma}=W_{\Pi}$). Note that for J=200.5, Eq. 9 yields R=14.1 bohr. At this value of R, because of the pronounced well in the

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 $W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\Pi}(R)$ curve (Fig. 7) the condition $W_{\Sigma}(R)\simeq W_{\Pi}(R)$ is not satisfied and thus the G_{12}^{e} coupling matrix element is weak. As for Na-He, the strongest peak in the G_{12}^{e} coupling matrix element occurs for $R=R_{c}$ (12.2bohr). For this value of R Eq. 9 gives $J=J_{c}=150.5$.

The peaks in the G_{12}^e elements in Figure 11 are responsible for large high-J contribution to the $j=1/2, e \rightarrow j=3/2, e$ partial cross sections (Fig. 4) which is present <u>only</u> for transitions out of the j=1/2 <u>e</u> level. The total energy for the curves in Fig. 4 corresponds to the maximum in the energy dependence of the integral cross section (Fig. 2). Note that the strongest contribution (Fig. 4) corresponds to $J=J_c=150.5$. Figure 4 clearly supports our assertion that the large maximum in the energy dependence of the j=1/2+j=3/2 intramultiplet cross section should not be attributed to the outer second radial coupling region.

Let us explain now the different dependence on total energy for Na-He and Na-Ar shown in Fig. 2. In the case of Na-Ar, the paritydependent coupling occurs only over a specific region of energies and the intramultiplet cross section exhibits a broad maximum. By contrast, for Na-He, the parity-dependent coupling occurs even for low values of energies and the intramultiplet cross section exhibits a flat maximum. This unlike behavior of the energy dependence of the cross sections is explained by the unlike behavior of the R dependence of the ($W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\Pi}(R)$) curves for the two systems (Fig. 7). Indeed, for Na-He near the crossing point of the π and Σ molecular curves, the slope of the ($W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\Pi}(R)$) curve is weak. Thus the condition $W_{\Sigma}(R)=W_{\Pi}(R)$ will be satisfied for a large range of internuclear separation. In a semiclassical viewpoint, this large range of internuclear separation corresponds to a large amount of impact parameters which for collision energy E, velocity v and reduced mass μ limit the value of J such that J= μ vR/K. Thus for Na-He, even for low collision energy, the paritydependent coupling will occur for a large amount of J values. Hence, the definite-parity cross sections are different even at low energy. By contrast, for Na-Ar, because of the pronounced well in the ($W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\Pi}(R)$) curve, there is a narrow range of internuclear separations over which $W_{\Sigma}(R)\simeq W_{\Pi}(R)$. Thus, at low collision energy, the parity-dependent coupling will occur for only few values of J. The definite parity cross sections are then similar at low energy.

3. Na-Other Noble Gases

Pascale and Olson (1976) have determined the intramultiplet cross sections for Na(²P)-rare gas pairs as a function of collision partner. From their published curves one can deduce that all the Na(²P)-rare gas pairs behave either like Na-He or like Na-Ar. For Ar, Kr, and Xe the high polarizability of the noble gas induces a pronounced crossing in the π and Σ molecular curves. For the reasons discussed in the preceding section, this gives rise to a large maximum in the energy dependence of the intramultiplet cross section [see Figs. 4, 6 and 9 of Pascale and Olson (1976)]. In the case of He and Ne, the ($W_{\Sigma}(R)-W_{\Pi}(R)$) curve is mainly repulsive and the intramultiplet cross section exhibits a flat maximum [see Figs. 2 and 3 of Pascale and Olson (1976)].

B. Discussion

The fully adiabatic description of the collision in the preceding section proved to be extremely fruitful in shedding light on a new coupling mechanism involved in fine-structure transitions. The magnitude of the contribution of this new coupling mechanism to the j=1/2+j=3/2 intramultiplet cross section can be deduced from a comparison of the definite-parity cross sections for the <u>e</u> and <u>f</u> levels (Fig. 2). In the region of the maximum in the energy dependence of the

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intramultiplet cross section, the parity-dependent coupling contributes to about 15% of the intramultiplet cross section for Na-He and 30% for Na-Ar. This significant contribution is consistent with the magnitude and the width of the coupling peaks in the G_{12}^{e} matrix elements displayed in Figs. 6 and 11.

It is also worthwhile to examine the contribution of the various mechanisms to the intramultiplet cross section as a function of collision partner. The importance of radial coupling can be judged from the magnitude of the $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(f)}$ cross section, to which the parity-dependent coupling will not contribute. For values of energies high enough to allow the radial coupling regions to be sampled (E>0.04 eV) these definite-parity <u>f</u> cross sections for both Na-He and Na-Ar are roughly equal to $40x^2$ (Fig. 2). Thus, the contribution of the radial coupling mechanism in the region of the maximum of the intramultiplet cross section appears to be independent of the rare gas. By contrast, the contribution of the parity-dependent coupling mechanism depends strongly on the collision partner (compare the $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e)}$ cross sections for Na-Ar and Na-He in Fig. 2). This is not surprising. This coupling involves the rotational interaction which depends on the reduced mass of the diatomic system.

Let us look now at the importance of the parity-dependent coupling for other alkali atoms.

Li is a particular case. Because of the extremely small fine structure splitting in the Li($2^{2}P$) atom, Eq. (8) cannot be satisfied for a value of J>1.5 for values of R which correspond to the crossing between the π and Σ molecular curves. Thus, there will be no paritydependent coupling whatever the collision partner. As a confirmation of this assertion we carried out a calculation on the Li-He system by using

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the potential curves of Pascale (1984). We found the $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(e)}$ and $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}^{(f)}$ definite-parity cross sections roughly equal for energies lower than 1 eV.

The K(4²P)-noble gas pairs show the contributions of this paritydependent coupling mechanism with He as collision partner. This coupling contributes up to 25% to the j=1/2+3/2 intramultiplet cross section in the region of the maximum. This calculation was carried out by using the potentials of Pascale (1984) at total energy E=0.3 eV. We found $\sigma_{1/2+3/2}$ equal to 87 Å². Note that because the fine-structure splitting in the K(4²P) atom is about three times greater than the splitting in the Na(3²P) atom, the energy corresponding to the maximum in the intramultiplet cross section is higher for K (E=0.3 eV) than for Na (E=0.06 eV).

We did not carry out calculations on the $Rb(5^{2}p)$ - and $Cs(6^{2}p)$ -rare gas systems. For these systems, the spin-orbit splitting in the alkali atoms is so large that a very high total energy is necessary to obtain the total efficiency of all the processes involved in fine-structure transitions. The maximum in the energy dependence of the intramultiplet section is not reached at energies below 1.5 eV.

We now discuss briefly the new coupling mechanism in terms of Hund's case representation. The Hund's case basis which describes the diatomic system for each value of R depends on the relative order of magnitude of the various interactions (electrostatic, spin-orbit, rotational). For low values of J the rotational interaction is important for only low values of R. Thus, as already mentioned in the introduction, by decreasing R, the diatomic system is well described by the Hund's case (e), (c), (a) and (b) successively. The radial coupling

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region corresponds to the passage from the Hund's case (c) to the Hund's case (a) where occurs a *decoupling* of the spin-orbit interaction by the *electrostatic* interaction.

On the other hand, for high values of J, the rotational interaction is important even in the long-range region. In this region, the electrostatic interaction is weak. The diatomic system is then well described by the Hund's case (d) basis. The parity-dependent coupling region corresponds to the passage from Hund's case (e) to Hund's case (d) where occurs a decoupling of the spin-orbit interaction by the rotational interaction.

We now discuss qualitatively the role played by the paritydependent coupling on the scattering of oriented $Na(3^2P_{3/2})$ and $K(4^{2}P_{3/2})$ atoms with nohle gases. In a recent study, Düren and Hasselbrink (1986) determined the magnitude of intramultiplet cross sections as a function of direction of the circular polarization of the excitation laser. They attributed the σ^+/σ^- asymmetry to the centrifugal part of the interaction. We believe that the parity-dependent coupling which involves, indeed, the centrifugal interaction, underlies the asymmetry noticed above. Indeed, from our study, we know that in the case of a rare gas of large polarizability, the parity-dependent coupling will occur only over a specific region of energies. This region corresponds to the broad maximum in the energy dependence of the intramultiplet cross section. For scattering of $Na(3^2P)$ atoms, Düren and Hasselbrink (1986) have presented differential intramultiplet cross sections for collisions with Ar(at E=0.187 eV), Kr(at E=0.229 eV) and Xe (at E=0.249 eV) [see Fig. 8 of Düren and Hasselbrink (1986)]. For these three rare gases, the broad maximum in the energy dependence of the intramultiplet cross section falls at (0.04<E<0.15) eV for Ar (Fig. 2),

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(0.04<E<0.4) eV for Kr [Fig. 6 of Pascale and Olson (1976)] and E>0.04 eV to E>0.5 eV for Xe [Fig. 9 of Pascale and Olson (1976)]. Thus we anticipate that the asymmetry will be weak in the case of Ar and strong in the case of Kr and Xe - exactly what is seen in Fig. 8 of Düren and Hasselbrink (1986). These authors have also presented differential cross-sections for K-Ar (E=0.125 eV) [see Fig. 3 of Düren and Hasselbrink (1986)], K-Kr (E=0.145 eV) and K-Xe (E=0.187 eV) [see Fig. 7 of Düren and Hasselbrink (1986)]. Because in these three cases the energy threshold of the maximum in the dependence on energy of the intramultiplet cross section is greater than 0.3 eV (Fig. 5 of Pascale et al. (1984)), we expect not to see a strong asymmetry. This indeed is the result obtained by Düren and Hasselbrink (1986). The only system involving a rare gas with a small polarizability as collision partner, studied by these authors, is K-Ne (at E=0.081 eV) [see Fig. 7 of Düren and Hasselbrink (1986)]. In this case the parity-dependent coupling occurs even at small collision energies (as in the case of Na-He, Fig. 2). It is thus, not surprising, that marked $\sigma_{\pm}/\sigma_{\pm}$ asymmetry was seen for K-Ne.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have presented the *fully adiabatic* description of intramultiplet transitions induced by collision of an alkali atom in a 2p state with a structureless target. Our study reveals the presence of a strong non-adiabatic coupling region localized around the point where the $^{2}\Sigma$ and $^{2}\pi$ molecular states cross. This coupling, which occurs only for one molecular parity (<u>e</u> levels), results in the total- or quasi-degeneracy of two adiabatic states which correlate at long-range to the two spin-orbit components of the 2p state of the alkali atom. We have

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shown this new coupling mechanism contributes significantly to the intramultiplet cross section. In the case of a marked crossing between the π and Σ molecular potential curves, it explains the broad maximum in the energy dependence of the intramultiplet cross-section. This corrects the previous attribution of this maximum to a second radial coupling zone. Furthermore, the contribution to the cross section of the radial coupling mechanism appears to be independent of the rare gas in the region of the maximum. We found that the new coupling mechanism underlies the σ^+/σ^- asymmetry observed in the scattering of oriented alkali ^{2}P atoms with rare gases. Lastly, we think that this new coupling mechanism contributes to the parity dependence of the cross section of fine structure transition for Na-rare gas optical collisions [Vahala et al. (1986)].

The adiabatic interpretation proves to be the appropriate complement to the quantum close-coupling calculations. It provides a fully quantum description of the collision and therefore gives more insight into the mechanisms involved in fine-structure transitions than semiclassical models. As an extension of this work, a similar study applied to atom-molecule collisions would probably enlighten the mechanisms responsible for energy transfer in these more complex problems.

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. (j. 1	3/2,J+3/2	3/2,J-1/2	1/2,J-1/2
	3/2 ,J+3/2	$\begin{split} & \mathtt{W}_{11} + (\mathtt{W}_{1} - \mathtt{W}_{11}) \frac{(\mathtt{J} + 3/2)}{2(\mathtt{J} + 1)} \\ & + \frac{(\mathtt{J} + 3/2)(\mathtt{J} + 5/2)}{2\mathtt{U} \mathtt{R}^{2}} + \frac{1}{2} \mathtt{a} \end{split}$	$- (w_{2}-w_{11}) \left(\frac{(J+3/2)(J-1/2)}{12(J+1)^{2}}\right)^{1/2}$	$-(\underline{w}_{\underline{r}}-\underline{w}_{\underline{n}})(\frac{J-3/2}{6(J+1)})^{1/2}$
Parity (-1) ^{d+1/2} states labelled <u>f</u>	3/2 J-1/2		$\begin{split} & u_{\rm R} + (u_{\rm L} - u_{\rm R}) \frac{(J - 1/2)}{6(J + 1)} \\ & + \frac{(J - 1/2)(J + 1/2)}{2 \omega R^2} + \frac{1}{2} \bullet \end{split} . \end{split}$	(W ₂ -W ₁) (^{J-1/2} (18(J+1))
	1/2,J-1/2			$\begin{aligned} & \texttt{w}_{R} + \frac{1}{3} (\texttt{w}_{Z} - \texttt{w}_{R}) \\ &+ \frac{(J - 1/2)(J + 1/2)}{2 U R^{2}} - \bullet \end{aligned}$
	· .			
	j. 6	3/2,J-3/2	3/2.J+1/2	1/2,J+1/2
BU	3/2 .J-3/2	$ \begin{array}{c} \mathtt{W}_{\mathrm{R}} + (\mathtt{W}_{\mathrm{L}} - \mathtt{W}_{\mathrm{R}}) \frac{(J - 1/2)}{2J} \\ + \frac{(J - 3/2)(J - 1/2)}{2LR^2} + \frac{1}{2} \end{array} $	$- (\mathbf{w}_{2} - \mathbf{w}_{1}) \left(\frac{(J+3/2)(J-1/2)}{12J^{2}} \right)^{1/2}$	$(u_{\underline{1}}+u_{\underline{1}}) (\frac{J-1/2}{6J})^{1/2}$
Parity (-1) ^{J-1/2} states labelled <u>e</u>	3/2,J+1/2		$\frac{u_{\Pi} + (u_{L} - u_{\Pi}) \frac{(J + 3/2)}{6J}}{+ \frac{(J + 1/2)(J + 3/2)}{2u^{R^{2}}} + \frac{1}{2} \bullet$	$- (\mathbf{W}_{\underline{r}} - \mathbf{W}_{\underline{n}}) \left(\frac{3+3/2}{18J}\right)^{1/2}$
	1/2,J+1/2	_		$ \frac{W_{R}}{J} + \frac{1}{3} (W_{Z} - W_{R}) $. $(J + 1/2) (J + 3/2)$

Appendix I. Total Hamiltonian Matrix in a Hund's Case (e) Basis.^{a,b}

a. W_{Π} and W_{Σ} designate the electronically adiabatic potential curves of Π or Σ symmetry which arise from the interaction of the alkali atom (np²P) with the rare gas atom.

2.R

b. At infinite, $\frac{3}{2}a = \Delta \varepsilon$ defines the spin-orbit splitting of the alkali (²P) atom.

Molecular State (Λ ε ε) ^a	$2_{\Pi_{1/2}}$ (1 - 1/2 ± 1)	$2_{\Pi_{3/2}}$ (1 1/2 ± 1)	$2 \Sigma_{1/2}^{+}$ (0 1/2 ± 1)
$2\pi_{1/2}$ (1 - $\frac{1}{2} \pm 1$)	$T_{f1}^{b} - \frac{A}{2} + B(J + \frac{1}{2})^{2}$	$- B[(J - \frac{1}{2})(J + \frac{3}{2})]^{1/2}$	$\frac{a_{+}}{2}$ + bB[1 + (J + $\frac{1}{2}$)]
$2_{\Pi_{3/2}}$ (1 $\frac{1}{2} \pm 1$)		$T_{\Pi}^{b} + \frac{A}{2} + B[(J + \frac{1}{2})^{2} - 2]$	$- bB[(J - \frac{1}{2})(J + \frac{3}{2})]^{1/2}$
$ \begin{array}{c} 2_{\Sigma_{1/2}^{+}} \\ (0 \frac{1}{2} \pm 1) \end{array} $			$T_{\Sigma}^{b} + B(J + \frac{1}{2})^{2}$

Appendix II. Total Hamiltonian Matrix in a Hund's Case (a) Basis

• B defines the rotational constant in the molecular states : $B = \hbar^2/2\mu R^2$.

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- A denotes the spin-orbit constant in the molecular ${}^{2}\Pi$ state.
- The a_+ and b parameters define respectively the non diagonal part of the spin-orbit and rotational interactions between a ${}^2\Pi$ and a ${}^2\Sigma^+$ molecular state [Lefebvre-Brion and Field (1986)]. In the case of pure precession limit as assumed here $a_+ = \sqrt{2}$ A and $b = \sqrt{2}$.

a. $\varepsilon = +1$ and $\varepsilon = -1$ refer respectively to e and f levels.

b. T_{Π} and T_{Σ} are slightly different of the electronically adiabatic potential curves W_{Π} and W_{Σ} of Appendix I in the sense that they contain a part of the rotational Hamiltonian [Lefebvre-Brion and Field (1986)].

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III - COMMENTAIRES

Un certain nombre de conclusions intéressantes découlent de l'interprétation adiabatique présentée dans la section précédente. Elles concernent, d'une part, les différents types de couplage et leur contribution relative à la section efficace de transfert et d'autre part, l'intérêt et la validité de l'approximation CS dans l'étude des transferts entre composantes de structure fine. Le rôle de cette section est de rassembler les conclusions essentielles en étayant notre discussion par des exemples concrets.

III-1 - CONTRIBUTIONS DES TROIS MECANISMES

Grâce à l'interprétation adiabatique, nous savons qu'au cours de la collision, trois mécanismes de couplage contribuent aux transferts entre composantes de structure fine :

- Le couplage radial. Il est localisé en R, indépendant du moment cinétique total J. Il met en jeu l'interaction électrostatique entre les deux partenaires de collision et l'interaction spinorbite dans l'atome alcalin.

- Le couplage de Coriolis. Sa localisation en R et son amplitude dépendent de la valeur de J. Il met en jeu l'interaction rotationnelle.

- Le couplage dépendant de la parité. Il apparaît à grande distance internucléaire et son amplitude dépend de la valeur de J. Il provient de la compétition entre l'interaction rotationnelle et l'interaction spin-orbite de l'atome alcalin. Notons que ce couplage est dit dépendant de la parité dans la mesure où il n'apparaît, que pour un seul des deux états ($\varepsilon = +1$, niveau e) de parité définie (Eq. 4, article), même si la parité totale de cet état varie à chaque valeur de J.

Il est possible d'évaluer la contribution de chaque couplage à la section efficace de transfert. Rappelons tout d'abord que les trois types de couplage ont été mis en évidence dans le formalisme CC. Pour ce qui est du couplage dépendant de la parité, nous avons déjà mentionné (paragraphe II) que sa contribution peut être déduite par différence des sections efficaces $\sigma^{(e)}$ et $\sigma^{(f)}$ déterminées dans un calcul CC.

Puisque l'approximation CS repose sur l'utilisation pour tous les canaux d'une valeur moyenne de la barrière centrifuge, il est clair, que dans cette approximation, il n'existera plus de couplage rotationnel quelle que soit la représentation adoptée. Ainsi, seul le couplage radial est pris en compte (d'où l'appelation " Ω -conserving" souvent donnée à l'approximation CS dans le cadre des collisions atome-atome). Un calcul quantique de diffusion dans l'approximation CS offre donc le moyen de déterminer la contribution du mécanisme de couplage radial à la section efficace de transfert.

Enfin, l'importance du couplage de Coriolis se déduit de la différence entre la section efficace totale CC et les contributions des deux autres mécanismes.

III-2 - VALIDITE DE L'APPROXIMATION CS

Comme nous l'avons déjà mentionné (sous-section III-1), l'approximation CS néglige la contribution du couplage de Coriolis et du couplage dépendant de la parité.

Pour certains systèmes ou dans certaines conditions de collision, l'interprétation adiabatique révèle que le couplage dépendant de la parité n'existe pas (voir section II et aussi les exemples de la sous-section III-3). Dans l'hypothèse où, de plus, on peut négliger la contribution du couplage de Coriolis, l'approximation CS est alors valable.

En revanche, si le couplage dépendant de la parité est important, ce qui peut être estimé à partir de l'amplitude des pics de couplage correspondants dans une interprétation adiabatique CC, l'approximation CS n'est pas valable.

Il apparaît donc évident qu'une interprétation adiabatique CC de la dynamique de la collision permet de tester <u>a priori</u> la validité de l'approximation CS.

III-3 - EXEMPLES

Bien que, pour les collisions mettant en jeu un atome dans un état électronique ²P, le nombre de canaux soit suffisamment faible pour permettre un calcul CC rapide, il existe dans la littérature, plusieurs études théoriques^{18,19,23,28,29} réalisées dans le formalisme CS.

AQUILANTI et collaborateurs¹⁸ ont reporté des calculs CC et CS pour les systèmes $F(^2P)$ -Xe et Na(2P)-Xe pour une même énergie de translation relative (E = 73.4 meV) choisie :

- du même ordre de grandeur que l'écart spin-orbite dans l'atome de fluor ($\Delta \epsilon$ = 50.1 meV) ; - grande par rapport à l'écart spin-orbite dans l'atome de sodium ($\Delta \epsilon$ = 2.1 meV).

Pour le système $F(^2P)$ -Xe nous n'avons pas réalisé d'interprétation adiabatique complète. Toutefois, rappelons que les conditions liées à l'existence du couplage dépendant de la parité sont (Eqs. 8 et 9 de l'article) :

$W_{\Sigma}(R) - W_{\Pi}(R) \simeq 0$	(II-1)
$\Delta \varepsilon = \pi^2 (4J+3/2)/2\mu R^2$	(II-2)

La première équation donne la localisation de la région de couplage ($R_c \simeq 9$ bohr pour le système considéré). La deuxième équation permet de déterminer la valeur du nombre quantique J_c autour de laquelle est centré le couplage. Cependant pour une énergie de translation donnée, la portée du potentiel impose une valeur limite de J au delà de laquelle les contributions à la section efficace totale sont négligeables. Dans le cas présent, cette valeur limite est de l'ordre de 60.5 ; or l'équation (II-2) ne sera satisfaite que pour J $\simeq 2250.5$, valeur largement en dehors du domaine autorisé. En d'autres termes, le couplage dépendant de la parité ne contribue pas à la transition inélastique. Si, de surcroît, on accepte l'hypothèse d'un couplage de Coriolis faible, on peut prévoir pour le système $F(^2P)$ -Xe un très bon accord entre les résultats CC et CS. C'est exactement ce qui apparaît dans l'étude d'AQUILANTI et collaborateurs¹⁸. En ce qui concerne le système Na-Xe l'une des conclusions de notre étude (section II) est que le mécanisme de couplage dépendant de la parité est important pour des valeurs d'énergie supérieures à 40 meV. Il est donc possible d'affirmer <u>a priori</u> que,pour ce système, l'approximation CS ne sera pas valable. C'est précisément ce qui ressort de l'étude d'AQUILANTI et collaborateurs.

D'autres études montrent également un désaccord entre les calculs CC et CS. Les sections efficaces calculées sont toujours plus faibles dans le formalisme CS. A titre d'exemples citons :

- le calcul de FITZ et KOURI¹⁹ sur la collision Na-He où les résultats CS sont environ 35 % plus faibles que les valeurs CC ;

- les calculs de LAUNAY et ROUEFF²⁸ sur le système C⁺ (² P)-H(² S) où, pour le domaine d'énergie échantillonné, les sections efficaces CS sont entre 10 % et 30 % plus faibles que les résultats CC.

Enfin, notons une comparaison CC-CS pour un état ³ P dans l'étude d'ALEXANDER et collaborateurs²³ sur le système Ca-He. Dans ce travail, le désaccord est encore plus net que dans les cas précédents. Ce désaccord est même total pour la transition ³ P₀ -³ P₁ interdite dans le formalisme CS alors que la section efficace CC correspondante est du même ordre de grandeur que celle des autres transitions.

III-4 - PARALLELE AVEC LES SYSTEMES MOLECULE DIATOMIQUE -GAZ RARE

Dans l'étude présentée dans la section II, le hamiltonien électronique V (Eq. 3 de l'article) a été développé sur les bases du cas (e) ou du cas (a) de Hund. Les éléments de matrice correspondants (voir Appendices I et II de l'article) s'écrivent alors en fonction des termes W_{Σ} et W_{Π} qui correspondent aux états électroniques adiabatiques de symétries Σ et Π . Ce sont ces termes qui résultent d'un calcul ab-initio ou d'un calcul de pseudo-potentiel. Une autre formulation, introduite par REID et DALGARNO³⁰ consiste à développer le potentiel V sur une base de polynômes de Legendre :

$$V(R,\beta) = \sum_{\lambda} V_{\lambda}(R) P_{\lambda}(\cos \beta)$$
 (II-3)

Dans le cas de la collision d'un atome dans un état électronique (np ² P), l'angle β caractérise l'orientation de l'orbitale np par rapport au vecteur position relative des deux partenaires \vec{R} (fig. II-1). De plus, la sommation sur λ qui apparaît dans l'équation (II-3) est limitée aux deux valeurs $\lambda = 0$ et $\lambda = 2$. Le terme V₂(R) caractérise l'anisotropie du potentiel d'interaction.

La correspondance entre les termes $V_o(R)$ et $V_2(R)$ et les termes $W_{\Sigma}(R)$ et $W_{\Pi}(R)$ est donnée par :

$$V_{o} = \frac{1}{3} (W_{\Sigma} + 2W_{\Pi})$$
(II-4)
$$V_{2} = \frac{5}{3} (W_{\Sigma} - W_{\Pi})$$
(II-5)

et

L'avantage de cette formulation réside dans le parallèle que l'on peut établir entre la collision d'un atome sans structure et d'un atome dans un état électronique (np ² P) et celle d'un atome sans structure et d'une molécule diatomique. En effet, dans ce dernier cas le potentiel d'interaction s'exprime par le développement donné par l'équation (II-3) avec β l'orientation de l'axe internucléaire de la molécule ($\vec{r_M}$) par rapport au vecteur \vec{R} (fig. II-1).



Fig. (II-1) (Ref. 48)

<u>CHAPITRE III</u>:

COLLISIONS MOLECULE DIATOMIQUE-GAZ RARE

I - INTRODUCTION

Les études rassemblées dans ce chapitre concernent le traitement quantique des transferts rotationnels dans les molécules $N_2(^{1}\Sigma_{q}^{*})$ et Li₂($^{1}\Pi_{u}$) par collision avec un atome de gaz rare.

Après une collision, la molécule $(N_2 \text{ ou Li}_2)$ est laissée dans un des niveaux rotationnels permis par la conservation de l'énergie totale.

Nous avons noté au chapitre I, que la faisabilité d'un calcul quantique exact (dans le formalisme CC) dépend du nombre de canaux nécessaires à la description du système. Pour les collisions considérées ici, $N_2 ({}^1\Sigma_g^+)$ -He et Li₂ (${}^1\Pi_u$)-He,Ne, les expériences ont été réalisées dans le domaine des énergies thermiques. En raison, d'une part de la faible multiplicité des états moléculaires mis en jeu et d'autre part du caractère homonucléaire des deux molécules considérées, le nombre de canaux, dans ce domaine des énergies thermiques est assez limité pour qu'un calcul quantique exact soit possible.

II - TRANSFERTS ROTATIONNELS DANS UNE MOLECULE DANS UN ETAT ELECTRONIQUE Σ : COLLISION N₂ (${}^{1}\Sigma_{a}^{+}$)-Ne.

II-1 - PRESENTATION DU PROBLEME

Les expériences ont été réalisées par BENEVENTI et collaborateurs³² à l'Université de Pérouse. Ce sont des expériences de haute résolution en jets croisés³³. Par une analyse détaillée de la structure des oscillations de diffraction^{34,35} dans la section efficace différentielle totale pour le système Ne-N₂ (fig. III-1), BENEVENTI et collaborateurs³² ont pu déduire des informations précises quant à l'anisotropie du potentiel d'interaction. Grâce à une analyse simultanée de ces informations et de données expéri-



Fig. (III-1) : Référence 33. Section efficace différentielle totale pour la diffusion de Ne sur N₂(¹Σ⁺_g) et section efficace élastique pour Ne-Ar. Les distributions angulaires dans le système du laboratoire I(Θ), ont été multipliées par Θ^{7/3} pour atténuer la dépendance angulaire aiguë à petits angles. Sur le graphe, les points caractérisent les résultats expérimentaux et les courbes ont été calculées à partir des potentiels déduits des expériences (Fig. (III-2) pour Ne-N₂). La forte atténuation de l'amplitude des oscillations de diffraction lorsque l'on passe du système sphérique Ne-Ar à Ne-N₂ est due principalement à l'anisotropie du potentiel d'interaction pour ce dernier système.

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mentales disponibles dans la littérature (second coefficient du viriel, coefficients de diffusion et de viscosité), BENEVENTI et collaborateurs³² ont déterminé les paramètres d'une forme analytique³³ du potentiel d'interaction. La figure (III-2) illustre les courbes de potentiel pour les deux angles d'orientation limite $\beta = 0$ et $\beta = \Pi/2$. Toutefois, cette analyse repose sur l'utilisation de l'approximation IOS. Tout le problème consiste donc à connaître la validité de cette approximation. Le but de notre travail est, précisément, grâce à une comparaison des résultats CC et IOS d'explorer le domaine de validité de l'approximation IOS pour le système $N_2(1\sum_g^+)$ -Ne. Un autre aspect de cette étude est de présenter la distribution angulaire des sections efficaces différentielles inélastiques.

Le potentiel d'interaction, déduit des expériences sous une forme analytique, a été redéveloppé en polynômes de Legendre (Equation identique à l'Eq. II-3)

$$V(R,\beta) = \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\infty} V_{\lambda}(R) P_{\lambda}(\cos \beta). \qquad (III-1)$$

Puisque la molécule N₂ est homonucléaire, on a :

$$V(R,\Pi-\beta) = V(R,\beta)$$
(III-2)

On en déduit, que seules les valeurs paires de l'indice λ doivent être introduites dans la sommation précédente (Eq. III-1). Cinq termes ($\lambda = 0, 2, 4, 6, 8$) ont été suffisants pour reproduire parfaitement le potentiel. La figure (III-3) illustre la dépendance en R des termes V_{λ} correspondants.

Il convient de développer le potentiel d'interaction sur la base asymptotique $|i\ell JM\rangle$ (Eq. I-5) où $i = (j,\Omega,\epsilon)$ (Eq. I-4). Pour un état ${}^{1}\Sigma$, $\Omega = 0$ et l'indice ϵ n'intervient pas. Dans la suite, ces deux indices seront donc omis et la base $|i\ell JM\rangle$ devient la base des vecteurs $|j\ell JM\rangle$.



Fig. (III-2) : Potentiel de la référence 33 pour le système Ne-N₂(${}^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+}$). Les deux courbes correspondent aux configurations parallèle, V_{||} = V(β=0), et perpendiculaire, V₁ = V(β=Π/2).



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Fig. (III-3) : Dépendance en R des quatre premiers termes V_{λ} retenus dans le développement du potentiel N₂-Ne en polynômes de Legendre. Pour des raisons de clarté, le cinquième terme, λ = 8, qui est toujours très petit, a été omis. Pour une énergie totale de 75.8 meV (2.78 mHartree) la plus petite valeur du point tournant classique dans les calculs de diffusion correspond à R \approx 4.8 bohr. Ainsi, dans la région du point tournant classique le terme anisotropique λ = 2 est dominant.

Dans cette base, les éléments de matrice du potentiel s'écrivent :

< j'l'JM|V(R, \beta)|jlJM > =
 (-1)^{j+j'+J} [(2l+1)(2l'+1)(2j+1)(2j'+1)]^{1/2}
 x
$$\sum_{\ell} \begin{pmatrix} \ell' & \lambda & \ell \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} j' & \lambda & j \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{cases} j & \ell & J \\ \ell' & j' & \lambda \end{cases} V_{\lambda}(R)$$
 (III-3)
où {...} est un symbole 6j¹¹.

Puisque nous sommes concernés ici par l'étude des transferts rotationnels, les éléments de matrice du hamiltonien interne de la molécule (Eq. I-10) sont les énergies (E_j) des niveaux rotationnels

<
$$j'\ell'JM|H_{int}(R,\beta)|j\ell JM > = \delta_{jj}, E_{j}$$
 (III-4)

avec

 $E_{i} = B_{v}[j(j+1)]$ (III-5)

où B_v est la constante de rotation de la molécule N₂ dans le niveau vibrationnel v de l'état électronique ${}^{1}\Sigma_{a}^{*}$.

Nous avons traité la molécule N_2 comme un rotateur rigide avec une constante rotationnelle égale à celle du niveau vibrationnel fondamental $B_0 = 1.99$ cm⁻¹ (0.2467 meV)³⁶.

D'autre part, les conditions expérimentales indiquent que pratiquement toutes les molécules N_2 dans le jet moléculaire se trouvent dans les plus bas niveaux de rotation (j = 0, 1 et 2). En conséquence, nous présentons les résultats pour les transitions à partir de ces niveaux.

Pour une molécule homonucléaire dans un état électronique ${}^{1}\Sigma^{+}$ la parité totale des niveaux de rotation est égale à $(-1)^{j}{}^{37}$. D'autre part, les niveaux rotationnels sont caractérisés par leur comportement dans l'opération de symétrie de permutation des noyaux. Pour un état ${}^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+}$, les niveaux de rotation pour lesquels j est pair sont symétriques (indexés s) et ceux pour lesquels j est impair sont antisymétriques (indexés a). Le symbole $3j \begin{pmatrix} j' & \lambda & j \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ qui apparaît dans l'équation (III-3) est nul pour $(j'+\lambda+j)$ impair. En conséquence, puisque λ est pair, il n'existe pas de couplage entre les niveaux symétriques et les niveaux antisymétriques.

A - Calculs "Close-coupling"

Tous les calculs CC présentés dans cette section ont été réalisés en utilisant le nouveau programme HIBRIDON basé sur les propagateurs "log-derivative" récemment développés par MANOLOPOULOS et ALEXANDER^{38,39}.

Les sections efficaces ont été déterminées pour une énergie de translation initiale égale à l'énergie de collision des expériences E = 75.8 meV (611.4 cm⁻¹). Notons qu'une énergie de translation initiale de 75.8 meV correspond à des énergies totales différentes pour les trois niveaux rotationnels initiaux j = 0, 1 et 2. En conséquence les calculs CC ont été réalisés pour les trois énergies totales E = 75.8, 76.30 et 77.28 meV.

Les équations CC sont séparées en quatre blocs indépendants qui correspondent aux différentes valeurs de la parité de la fonction d'onde totale du système (parité égale à $(-1)^{j-1+\ell}$) et de l'index de symétrie de permutation des noyaux de la molécule N₂.

Afin d'obtenir la convergence de tous les éléments de la matrice de diffusion **S** relatifs aux excitations à partir des niveaux rotationnels j = 0, 1 ou 2, il a été nécessaire d'inclure tous les canaux ouverts plus un canal fermé. En d'autres termes, pour l'énergie de translation considérée, tous les niveaux rotationnels de valeur de j paire avec $j \leq 18$ ont dû être pris en compte pour les transferts à partir du niveau j = 0 (ou 2) et tous les niveaux rotationnels de j impair avec $j \leq 19$ ont été inclus pour les excitations à partir du niveau j = 1. Ceci conduit à un maximum de 110 canaux. La convergence des sections efficaces élastiques a été obtenue par la sommation sur J (Eqs. I-15 et I-17) pour la valeur maximum J = 325.

B - Calculs "Infinite Order Sudden"

Dans l'approximation $IOS^{16 \cdot 22}$, les barrières centrifuges et les vecteurs d'onde des différents canaux sont remplacés par une valeur moyenne. Le calcul quantique se réduit alors à la résolution, pour chaque valeur de l'angle d'orientation β et de $\overline{\ell}$, d'une unique équation de Schrödinger :

$$\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}^2}{\mathrm{dR}^2} + \bar{\mathbf{k}}^2 - \frac{\bar{\ell}(\bar{\ell}+1)}{\mathrm{R}^2} - \frac{2\mu}{\kappa^2} \, \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{R},\beta)\right] \mathbf{C}^{\bar{\mathbf{k}}} \, \bar{\ell} \, (\mathbf{R},\beta) = 0 \qquad (\mathbf{III-6})$$

où quand $R \rightarrow \infty$, les fonctions radiales dépendant de l'angle d'orientation satisfont à l'équation :

$$\lim_{R \to \infty} C^{k} \overline{\ell} (R,\beta) = e^{-i(kR - \ell\pi/2)} - S^{k} \overline{\ell} (\beta) e^{+i(kR - \ell\pi/2)}$$
(III-7)

Les éléments de la matrice de transition $T_{j\ell,j,\ell}^{J}$, s'écrivent en termes des fonctions soudaines dépendant de l'angle d'orientation S^{k} $\overline{\ell}$ (β) sous la forme :

$$T_{j\ell,j\ell}^{J} = i^{\ell+\ell'-2\overline{\ell}} \left[\delta_{jj}, \delta_{\ell\ell}, - \langle j'\ell' JM | S^{k} \overline{\ell} (\beta) | j\ell JM \rangle \right].$$
 (III-8)

En d'autres termes, l'approximation IOS consiste d'abord à garder l'orientation de la molécule fixe durant la collision, puis à résoudre l'équation (III-6) et enfin à intégrer sur tous les angles d'orientation pour obtenir les sections efficaces inélastiques reliées aux éléments de la matrice de transition (Eq. I-17).

La solution de l'équation (III-6) conduit aux fonctions soudaines :

$$s^{k} \overline{\ell} (\beta) = e^{2i\eta^{k} \overline{\ell} (\beta)}$$
. (III-9)

Les déphasages de la fonction d'onde η^{k} (β) ont été calculés pour chaque onde partielle $\overline{\ell}$ en utilisant l'approximation JWKB^{8,34} et par une intégration de GAUSS-MEHLER²⁰. Comme l'ont indiqué plusieurs auteurs^{40,41} les sections efficaces différentielles sont virtuellement indépendantes du choix de la valeur moyenne $\overline{\ell}$ du moment angulaire orbital. Toutefois, les choix $\overline{\ell} = \ell_{\text{final}}$ ou $\overline{\ell} = \ell_{\text{initial}}$ (utilisé dans le présent travail) permet une factorisation dans l'expression de la section efficace qui simplifie la programmation et qui réduit le temps de calcul. Nous avons utilisé un programme développé par COREY⁴².

A partir des mesures expérimentales, le potentiel Ne-N₂ est déduit, dans le formalisme IOS, en imposant $E_j = 0$. En conséquence, contrairement aux calculs CC nous présentons les résultats IOS à une seule énergie totale de collision égale à l'énergie de translation initiale expérimentale (75.8 meV). D'autre part, les vecteurs d'onde sont choisis avec la même amplitude proportionnelle à cette énergie.

II-2 - RESULTATS ET DISCUSSION

A - Sections efficaces intégrales

Les sections efficaces intégrales $(\sigma_{j \rightarrow j},)$ dans les formalismes CC, CS et IOS pour les transitions à partir des niveaux rotationnels j = 0, j = 1 et j = 2 sont données dans la table (III-1).

Nous observons, tout d'abord, un très bon accord entre les résultats CC et CS. D'autre part, les valeurs CC et IOS sont tout à fait comparables pour les transitions $j \rightarrow j'$ avec $j' \leq 9$ pour lesquelles l'écart maximum d'énergie est égal à $\Delta E = 22.2$ meV, valeur qui correspond à environ 30 % de l'énergie de collision. Ce bon accord est le reflet de la validité de l'approximation IOS dans le cas de collisions mettant en jeu des cibles légères pour des énergies de translation relativement importantes^{17,43}.

Pour les transitions $j \rightarrow j'$ avec j' > 9, les sections efficaces intégrales CC et CS deviennent très faibles voire pratiquement nulles lorsque le nombre quantique de rotation j' devient égal à la valeur maximum permise par la conservation de l'énergie totale. En revanche, la précision des calculs IOS décroit rapidement lorsque j' augmente au delà de la valeur j' = 9. On constate en effet que dans ce domaine les sections efficaces intégrales IOS sont plus élevées que les valeurs CC.

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		j = 0			j= 1			j=2	
Δj	cc	CS	IOS	cc	CS	IOS	cc	CS	IOS
<u> </u>			· ·		<u></u>	. <u></u>			
-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.32	2.14	2.00
0	154.83	155.83	153.57	157.77	159.83	157.57	158.44	160.73	158.62
2	11.45	10.57	10.00	10.65	10.21	9.41	10.55	10.46	9.40
4	8.41	8.23	7.66	8.17	8.28	7.58	7.59	7.93	7.33
6	7.58	7.96	7.20	6.64	7.14	6.75	5.35	5.80	5.82
8	5.25	5.73	6.10	3.63	3.97	4.89	2.52	2.67	3.89
	1.89	2.08	3.50	1.01	1.07	2.47	0.57	0.56	1.89
12	0.31	0.32	1.33	0.12	0.11	0.86	0.05	0.04	0.65
14	0.02	0.02	0.35	<0.01	<0.01	0.21	<0.01	<0.01	0.16
16	<0.01	<0.01	0.06	<0.01	<0.01	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.03
Σ ∆i	189.74	190.75	189.78	188.00	190.62	189.78	187.38	190.33	189.78

Table (III-1) : Sections efficaces intégrales CC, CS, et IOS (\mathring{A}^2) pour les transitions j \neq j + Δ j.

Enfin, la table (III-1) donne pour chaque approximation la section efficace intégrale totale c'est-à-dire la section efficace intégrale sommée sur tous les niveaux rotationnels finaux. Les résultats CC, CS et IOS sont en très bon accord.

B - Sections efficaces différentielles

Le potentiel utilisé dans notre étude a été déduit des mesures³⁴ de la section efficace différentielle totale (sommée sur tous les états finaux et moyennée sur la distribution rotationnelle initiale dans le jet moléculaire) dans un domaine spatial correspondant à l'intervalle angulaire $\theta \simeq 4^\circ - 50^\circ$ où θ est mesuré dans le système du centre de masse. Toutes les figures présentées ici sont relatives à ce domaine. Les calculs ont été effectués avec un pas de 0.1° permettant de reproduire toutes les oscillations présentées sur les figures suivantes.

La figure (III-4) illustre les sections efficaces différentielles totales CC et IOS pour les transitions à partir du niveau rotationnel j = 0. Nous avons également calculé les sections efficaces différentielles totales à partir du niveau j = 1. En ce qui concerne les résultats IOS, plusieurs auteurs^{17,40,44} ont démontré que la section efficace différentielle totale est indépendante du nombre quantique rotationnel initial j. C'est ce que nous avons vérifié. Pour les calculs CC, les écarts entre les valeurs correspondant à j = 0 et j = 1 s'échelonnent entre 0.5 % pour les angles de diffusion $\theta > 25^\circ$ et 2 % pour la région des oscillations de diffraction^{34,35} marquées où $\theta \leq 25^\circ$.

Pour ce qui est de la comparaison des résultats CC et IOS, l'écart maximum est de 25 % pour l'angle $\theta = 10.5^{\circ}$. D'autre part, les positions des extremums dans les oscillations de diffraction apparaissent dans les calculs IOS pour des valeurs d'angles légèrement plus grandes, effet qui s'accentue lorsque θ augmente. Toutefois, le désaccord entre les sections efficaces différentielles totales CC et IOS reste toujours du même ordre de grandeur ou plus faible que l'incertitude des mesures expérimentales. Il est donc possible de conclure que la détermination de la surface de potentiel par déconvolution des mesures expérimentales de la section efficace différentielle totale est raisonnable dans le cas



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de la collision $N_2({}^1\Sigma_g^*)$ -Ne. Enfin, l'invariance de la section efficace différentielle totale avec le niveau de rotation initial implique que cette déconvolution ne sera pas particulièrement sensible à la population rotationnelle dans le jet moléculaire.

Sur la figure III-5, nous avons reporté les résultats CC et IOS des sections efficaces différentielles élastiques pour les niveaux j = 0 et j = 1. On constate que les valeurs IOS reproduisent correctement la position et l'amplitude des oscillations de diffraction et en particulier l'amplitude plus faible des oscillations dans le cas du niveau initial j = 1. Comme précédemment, on constate un léger décalage dans la position des extremums IOS.

Les sections efficaces différentielles inélastiques les plus importantes sont reportées sur les figures III-6 et III-7 pour les transitions à partir des niveaux j = 0 et j = 1.

Bien que la valeur absolue des sections efficaces dépende du niveau de rotation initial, pour chaque transition, la structure des oscillations est similaire pour j = 0 et j = 1. Par opposition aux résultats précédents de sections efficaces élastiques, on note ici que l'amplitude des oscillations n'est que légèrement atténuée dans le cas de j = 1.

On constate de plus, que pour les faibles angles de diffusion les sections efficaces inélastiques sont très mal déterminées dans l'approximation IOS. Ce résultat, déjà noté pour d'autres systèmes⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷, n'est pas surprenant. Ceci est dû à l'approximation d'une barrière centrifuge moyenne (CS) contenue dans le formalisme IOS.

En effet, dans une représentation semi-classique, une faible déviation θ correspond à un grand paramètre d'impact c'est-à-dire encore, à une grande valeur de ℓ moment cinétique du mouvement relatif des deux partenaires. Il est clair que pour les grandes valeurs de ℓ , l'étalement des points tournants classiques (distances de plus petite approche), négligé dans l'approximation CS, fait que cette approximation n'est plus applicable¹⁷.

Toutefois, la comparaison des figures III-5, III-6 et III-7 indique que pour des angles de diffusion faibles, la collision est totalement dominée par les transferts élastiques qui sont, rappelons-le, déterminés correctement dans l'approximation IOS.

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Enfin, notons que l'accord CC-IOS est meilleur pour des transitions à $\Delta j = j' - j$ faible, qui correspondent à des écarts d'énergie faibles, que pour des transitions à Δj grand pour lesquelles les écarts d'énergie sont trop importants pour permettre la validité de l'approximation IOS. Néanmoins, les transitions avec Δj grand n'apportent qu'une contribution négligeable à la section efficace différentielle totale dans le domaine angulaire considéré, et n'ont donc que peu d'influence dans l'extraction de l'anisotropie du potentiel des mesures de la diffusion globale.

Le dernier point de notre discussion concerne la position des extremums dans les sections efficaces différentielles. La figure III-8 compare les résultats CC pour les transitions $j = 1 \rightarrow j' = 1$, 3 et 5. Le simple modèle de FRAUNHOFER, appliqué par FAUBEL⁴⁴ aux collisions molécules-He pour lesquelles la partie attractive du potentiel est très faible, prédit que les oscillations de diffraction dans les sections efficaces inélastiques avec Δj pair sont en phase entre elles et sont en opposition de phase avec les oscillations des sections efficaces élastiques. Ce n'est pas le cas ici. Les oscillations des sections efficaces inélastiques $j = 1 \rightarrow j' = 3$ et $j = 1 \rightarrow j' = 5$ ne sont pas en phase et seul le transfert $j = 1 \rightarrow j' = 5$ donne des oscillations en opposition de phase avec celles de la section efficace élastique.

Nous avons observé le même effet en ce qui concerne les transferts à partir du niveau j = 0.

Nous pensons que le puits attractif, plus profond pour Ne que pour He joue un rôle suffisamment important pour qu'un modèle ⁴⁴ basé sur un potentiel purement répulsif ne soit plus justifié.

Dans le deuxième chapitre de ce travail, nous avons montré qu'une description totalement adiabatique de la collision peut renseigner sur la nature et la localisation des mécanismes de couplage. Récemment, POUILLY et ALEXANDER²⁶ et AQUILANTI et collaborateurs⁴⁸ ont utilisé une description identique dans le formalisme CS pour des collisions atome-molécule. Nous pensons que le même type d'analyse peut être appliqué aux collisions N_2 -Ne et N_2 -He afin de déterminer le rôle joué par le puits de potentiel pour chaque transition. De plus l'utilisation de schémas de couplage analogues aux représentations en cas de Hund pour les collisions atome-atome, est possible⁴⁹ et permettrait une interprétation plus détaillée des mécanismes de la collision.



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III - TRANSFERT D ENERGIE INDUIT PAR COLLISION DANS LES MOLECULES DANS DES ETATS ELECTRONIQUES ${}^{1}\Pi$: ETUDE QUANTIQUE DES COLLISIONS DE Li₂ (B¹ Π_{u}) AVEC He ET Ne (ARTICLE)



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COLLISIONAL ENERGY TRANSFER INVOLVING MOLECULES IN ¹ Π ELECTRONIC STATES: FULLY QUANTUM STUDY OF COLLISIONS OF Li₂(B¹ Π_{u}) WITH He AND Ne

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Infinite-order-sudden (IOS), coupled-states (CS) and close-coupled (CC) calculations for collisions of $\text{Li}_2(B^1\Pi_u)$ with He and Ne are reported, based on a representation of the potential energy surfaces introduced by Poppe. We explore the range of validity of the CS and IOS approximations and analyse the quantum interference effects in the integral cross sections. For both homonuclear and heteronuclear molecules in ¹II electronic states we discuss, within the IOS approximation, when asymmetries will exist in the cross sections for upward $(J \rightarrow J + \Delta J)$, as compared to downward $(J \rightarrow J - \Delta J)$ transitions. In addition, also within the IOS approximation we show that the $J \rightarrow J + \Delta J$ cross sections will not be invariant with respect to the Λ -doublet level of the initial state. The CC cross sections are compared with previous and current experimental results. Good agreement is found for the magnitude of both the integral cross sections and the cross section asymmetries. The present study as well as previous experimental investigations show that the asymmetry pattern appears to be extremely sensitive to the interaction potential.

1. Introduction

More than a decade ago several experimental groups [1-4] began the investigation of inelastic collisions within the excited $B^1\Pi_u$ electronic states of the alkali dimers (Li₂ and Na₂). In these open-shell systems the relative motion of the collision partners can couple not only with the rotational motion of the molecule, but also with the orbital motion of the electron in the singly filled π orbital of the alkali dimer. Motivated by this work, a number of authors [5–18] developed general frameworks for the treatment of the collisions of molecules in ${}^{1}\Pi$ (and, later [12–18], ${}^{2}\Pi$ and ${}^{3}\Pi$) electronic states. In several early treatments [5–9,11,12,15] the interaction of the II-state molecule with a perturber atom was described in terms of a single potential energy surface which depended explicitly on the orientation of the singly filled π orbital. A simpler, and less confusing, description [10,17,19] invokes the *two* potential energy surfaces which arise when the electronic degeneracy of a ${}^{1}\Pi$ electronic state is lifted by the approach of a collision partner.

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Much of the early experimental work [1-4], and the interpretation thereof [5,6,10] was devoted to the observed inequalities in the cross sections for *upward* $(J \rightarrow J + \Delta J)$, as compared to *downward* $(J \rightarrow J - \Delta J)$ transitions. Bergmann and collaborators [5] as well as Poppe [6] used a first-order Born treatment [20] to demonstrate that this effect was a manifestation of quantum interference.

Interest in inelastic collisions of molecules in ${}^{1}\Pi$ electronic states has continued [21–32], particularly in the group of McCaffery [24–26]. Studies have concentrated not only on the investigation of the up/down asymmetries in the cross sections discussed above, but also on vibrationally inelastic [22] as well as *M*-dependent cross sections [23,24,26]. Recently, collisions of ${}^{1}\Pi$ molecules have proven to be particularly relevant [33] in view of the possible use of such molecules as diagnostic probes of electric fields in plasma environments [34–37].

To our knowledge, the only computational studies of inelastic collisions involving molecules in ${}^{1}\Pi$ electronic states were the work by Bergmann, Klar, and Schlecht [6] based on the first-order Born approximation [20], the study by Klar and Klar [8] based on the quantum strong coupling approximation and the classical trajectory [38] study by Poppe [11]. With presently available computational facilities and algorithms [39–41] for the solution of the quantum close-coupled equations [42,43], it is now possible to calculate the revelant cross sections, free of dynamical approximations. An exact quantum calculation can elucidate the dependence of the cross sections, in particular the quantum interference effects, on the choice of potential energy surface, and collision energy and/or partner. In addition, exact calculations can serve to ascertain the accuracy of simpler dynamical techniques such as the first-order Born [20], coupled-states [15,44–47], or infinite-order-sudden [18,46–50]) approximations, which could then be routinely used in the analysis of ongoing experiments.

In the present article we report close-coupled (CC), coupled-states (CS), and infinite-order-sudden (IOS) cross sections for collisions of $\text{Li}_2(B^1\Pi_u)$ with He and Ne, a system currently under experimental study [31]. Two choices were made for the relevant potential energy surfaces, both based on functional forms introduced by Poppe [11]. Since these surfaces are simplistic, our goal will not be the determination of quantitative cross sections to compare with experiment. Rather, we shall concentrate on exploring the range of validity of the CS and IOS approximations and investigating and interpreting the quantum interference effects one might expect to find. The organization of this article is as follows: In section 2 we review briefly the relevant aspects of the quantum description of the collision dynamics. Then, in section 3 we describe our adaptation of Poppe's [11] $\text{Li}_2(B^1\Pi_u) + \text{noble gas interaction potentials. After a brief summary of the scattering calculations in section 4, we present and analyse the computed cross sections in section 5. A comparison with relevant experimental data is made in section 6. A short conclusion follows.$

2. Collision dynamics

2.1. Close-coupled equations

The approach of a spherical perturber raises the two-fold electronic degeneracy of a diatomic molecule in a II state, yielding two electronic states, one symmetric (A') and the other antisymmetric (A'') with respect to reflection in the plane of the three atoms [17]. The total electronic energies of these two states, which within the Born-Oppenheimer approximation define the electrostatic potentials on which the nuclei move, will coalesce asymptotically but differ as the noble gas atom approaches. These potential energy surfaces, which we designate V_+ and V_- , where the subscripts refer to the reflection symmetry of the electronic wavefunctions in the plane of the three-atom system, will be a function of R, the distance between the center-of-mass of the molecule and the collision partner; β , the angle between the molecularframe and body-frame z axes; and, finally, r, the molecular bond length. As is often done, we shall for simplicity suppress the dependence on r, treating the molecule as a rigid rotor.

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Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of the lowest rotational energy levels of a homonuclear molecule in a ${}^{1}\Pi_{u}$ electronic state. The s/a and e/f labels of the individual Λ -doublet levels are indicated.

The electronic-rotational wavefunctions of a diatomic molecule in a ${}^{1}\Pi$ electronic state can be written in a Hund's case (a) basis as a linear combination of definite- Λ wavefunctions, namely [15,17,18,51,52]

$$JM\epsilon \rangle = 2^{-1/2} (|JM\Lambda\rangle + \epsilon |JM, -\Lambda\rangle |-\Lambda\rangle). \tag{1}$$

Here J designates the total molecular angular momentum with projections along space- and molecule-frame z axes of M and $\pm \Lambda$, respectively. For a molecule in a ¹ Π electronic state Λ , which denotes the magnitude of the molecule-frame projection of the electronic orbital angular momentum, equals 1. The symmetry index ϵ , which distinguishes the Λ -doublet levels, can take on the values ± 1 [17]. The total parity of these wavefunctions is given by $\epsilon(-1)^J$ [53]. According to conventional spectroscopic notation, it follows that $\epsilon = +1$ in eq. (1) corresponds to the e levels and $\epsilon = -1$, to the f levels [54]. Note that the e/f labelling is equivalent to the older [55] c/d labels. In the case of a homonuclear diatomic, the rotational levels can be characterized by their permutation-inversion symmetry [51]. For an ungerade Π electronic state (as, for example, the B¹ Π_u state of Li₂) the even parity states [$\epsilon(-1)^J = +1$] are antisymmetric with respect to this operation and are labelled a, while the odd parity states [$\epsilon(-1)^J = -1$] are symmetric with respect to this operation and are labelled s [51]. The assignment of the e/f and s/a labels for the rotational levels of a molecule in a ¹ Π_u electronic state is illustrated in fig. 1. We note, in particular, that the two Λ -doublet states for a given value of J are characterized by opposite permutation-inversion symmetry of the e or f levels alternates with J.

To describe the scattering of a diatomic molecule by a structureless atom, the total system wavefunction is expanded in terms of products of the molecular wavefunctions (eq. (1)) multiplied by the wavefunctions for the relative orbital motion of the atom-diatom pair. These product functions can be chosen to be eigenfunctions of the total angular momentum \mathcal{J} , namely [15]

$$|JL\epsilon \mathcal{JM}\rangle = \sum_{M,M_L} (JMLM_L | \mathcal{JM}\rangle) | JM\epsilon\rangle | LM_L\rangle,$$
(2)

where $(\ldots, |...)$ is a Clebsch-Gordan coefficient [56], \mathcal{M} is the space-frame projection of \mathcal{J} , and L is the nuclear orbital angular momentum with space-frame projection M_L . The expansion coefficients of the total system wavefunction in terms of the $|JL \in \mathcal{JM}\rangle$ functions satisfy the usual close-coupled (CC) equations, namely [12,15,18,42,43,46]

$$\left[d^{2}/dR^{2} - L(L+1)/R^{2} + k_{J_{\epsilon}}^{2} \right] C_{JL_{\epsilon}}^{\mathscr{I}} = \left(2\mu/\hbar^{2} \right) \sum_{J'L'\epsilon'} V_{J'L'\epsilon',JL\epsilon}^{\mathscr{I}}(R) C_{J'L'\epsilon'}^{\mathscr{I}}.$$
(3)

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Here the potential matrix elements are defined by [17]

$$V_{J'L'\epsilon',JL\epsilon}^{\mathscr{I}}(R) = (-1)^{\mathscr{I}+J+J'-\Lambda} [(2L+1)(2L'+1)(2J+1)(2J'+1)]^{1/2} \\ \times \sum_{\ell} {\binom{L'}{0} - \binom{\ell}{0}} {\binom{J'}{L} - \binom{L'}{\ell}} \frac{\mathscr{I}}{\ell}^{\frac{1}{2}} [1 + \epsilon\epsilon'(-1)^{J+J'+\ell}] \\ \times [{\binom{J'}{-1} - \binom{\ell}{0}} \frac{J}{\ell}] V_{\ell 0}(R) + \epsilon {\binom{J'}{-1} - \binom{\ell}{2}} \frac{J}{-1} V_{\ell 2}(R)].$$
(4)

where (:::) and {:::} are 3j and 6j symbols [56]. As discussed by Alexander [17], the $V_{\ell_0}(R)$ and $V_{\ell_2}(R)$ terms in eq. (4) are the coefficients in the expansion of the *average of and difference between* the two electrostatic potential energy surfaces V_+ and V_- . The average has been expanded in Legendre polynomials, namely

$$V_{\rm avg}(\beta, R) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[V_{-}(\beta, R) + V_{+}(\beta, R) \right] = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} V_{\ell 0}(R) P_{\ell}(\cos \beta).$$
(5)

The expansion coefficients can be obtained by integrating over β and using the orthogonality properties of the Legendre polynomials. We find

$$V_{\ell 0} = \frac{2\ell + 1}{4} \int_0^{\pi} P_{\ell}(\cos \beta) \left[V_{-}(\beta, R) + V_{+}(\beta, R) \right] \sin \beta \, d\beta.$$
(6)

By contrast, one-half the difference has been expanded in terms of associated Legendre polynomials, namely [17]

$$V_{\rm dif}(\beta, R) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[V_{-}(\beta, R) - V_{+}(\beta, R) \right] = \sum_{\ell=2}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(\ell-2)!}{(\ell+2)!} \right)^{1/2} V_{\ell 2} P_{\ell}^{2}(\cos\beta).$$
(7)

This equation can be inverted to yield

$$V_{\ell 2} = \frac{2\ell + 1}{4} \left(\frac{(\ell - 2)!}{(\ell + 2)!} \right)^{1/2} \int_0^{\pi} P_{\ell}^2(\cos\beta) \left[V_-(\beta, R) - V_+(\beta, R) \right] \sin\beta \, d\beta.$$
(8)

From the asymptotic behavior of the solutions to the CC equations, one can extract *T*-matrix elements $T_{J'L'\epsilon',JL\epsilon}$ in terms of which the integral, degeneracy-averaged cross sections can be written as [15,42,43,46]

$$\sigma_{J_{\epsilon} \to J'\epsilon'} = \frac{\pi}{(2J+1)k_{J_{\epsilon}}^2} \sum_{\mathscr{I}} (2\mathscr{J}+1) \sum_{L,L'} \left| T_{J'L'\epsilon',JL\epsilon}^{\mathscr{I}} \right|^2.$$
(9)

2.2. Coupled-states approximation

If the centrifugal terms in the CC equations are replaced by an average value $\mathscr{L}(\mathscr{L}+1)$, then the CC equations can be block diagonalized by transformation to a new basis, namely [57]

$$|J\nu\epsilon\mathcal{JM}\rangle = (-1)^{\nu}\sum_{L}(2L+1)\begin{pmatrix} L & J & \mathcal{J} \\ 0 & \nu & -\nu \end{pmatrix}|JL\epsilon\mathcal{JM}\rangle.$$
(10)

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Within this "centrifugal sudden" or coupled-states [44-47] approximation, the potential matrix in the new basis defined by eq. (10) is given by

$$V_{J'\nu'\epsilon',J\nu\epsilon} = \delta_{\nu\nu'}(-1)^{\nu-\Lambda} [(2J+1)(2J'+1)]^{1/2} \\ \times \sum_{\ell} \begin{pmatrix} J' & \ell & J \\ -\nu & 0 & \nu \end{pmatrix}^{\frac{1}{2}} [1 + \epsilon\epsilon'(-1)^{J+J'+\ell}] \\ \times \left[\begin{pmatrix} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} V_{\ell 0}(R) + \epsilon \begin{pmatrix} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} V_{\ell 2}(R) \right].$$
(11)

Note that the potential matrix is *independent* of both the total angular momentum \mathscr{I} and the effective orbital angular momentum \mathscr{L} . As indicated by the Kronecker delta in eq. (11), the potential matrix is block diagonal in the CS projection index ν . The corresponding CS *T*-matrix elements are independent of \mathscr{J} and block diagonal in ν . However, since the effective centrifugal barrier does depend on \mathscr{L} , the CS *T*-matrix elements will vary with \mathscr{L} . The CS expression for the degeneracy-averaged integral cross sections is

$$\sigma_{J_{\epsilon} \to J'\epsilon'} = \frac{\pi}{(2J+1)k_{J_{\epsilon}}^2} \sum_{\mathscr{L}} (2\mathscr{L}+1) \sum_{\nu} \left| T_{J'\epsilon',J\epsilon}^{\nu,\mathscr{L}} \right|^2.$$
(12)

When ν is replaced by $-\nu$ in eq. (11), the presence of the phase factor in square brackets along with the symmetry properties of the 3j symbols [56] imply, here as in the case of collisions of $^{2}\Pi$ molecules [58], that the potential matrix elements are transformed as

$$V_{J',-\nu',\epsilon',J,-\nu,\epsilon} = \epsilon \epsilon' V_{J'\nu'\epsilon',J\nu\epsilon}.$$
⁽¹³⁾

In other words, when ν is replaced by $-\nu$, the potential matrix elements which couple two states of the same symmetry index are unchanged while the potential matrix elements which couple two states of opposite symmetry index are multiplied by -1. From a quantum-mechanical viewpoint this implies that the $-\nu$ CS equations could be obtained from the $+\nu$ equations if all the $\epsilon = -1$ wavefunctions (eq. (2)) were multiplied by -1. Since the S-matrix elements relate the incoming amplitude in a particular state to the outgoing amplitude in another state, it is clear that if all the $\epsilon = -1$ states are multiplied by -1, then the $\epsilon \rightarrow \epsilon' \neq -1$ S-matrix elements also will be all multiplied by -1, but otherwise unchanged. Thus, the CS S-matrix elements for $\pm \nu$ must satisfy a symmetry relation identical to eq. (13). Since the integral cross sections (eq. (12)) depend only on the magnitude of the CS T-matrix elements, it follows that the $+\nu$ and $-\nu$ equations will make an identical contribution to the integral cross sections. Therefore, the CS equations need be solved only for values of $\nu \ge 0$ [58].

2.3. Infinite-order-sudden approximation

If, in addition to making the centrifugal sudden approximation discussed at the beginning of section 2.2, one also replaces the individual channel wavevectors. $k_{J_{\epsilon}}^2$ by an average value, k^2 , then the CC equations can be fully diagonalized. The application of this infinite-order-sudden approximation (IOS) [46-50] to collisions involving molecules in Π electronic states has been described by Corey and Alexander [18]. The IOS approximation represents the extension of an earlier sudden approximation [59] used by Klar and Klar [8] in their pioneering study of rotationally inelastic collisions of Na₂(B) with He. In the IOS treatment of rotationally inelastic collisions involving a molecule in a ¹ Σ electronic state, the orientation angle β is assumed fixed during the collision. The scattering at fixed orientation is governed by a single-channel Schrödinger equation. In the extension of the IOS approximation to collisions of a

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molecule in a ${}^{1}\Pi$ electronic state it is necessary to solve the following single-channel Schrödinger equation for each of the two adiabatic potentials [18]:

$$\left[\frac{d^2}{dR^2} + k^2 - \mathscr{L}(\mathscr{L} + 1)/R^2 - (2m/\hbar^2) V_{\pm}(\beta, R) \right] C_{\pm}^{\mathscr{L}}(\beta, R) = 0.$$
(14)

Here, $V_{\pm}(\beta, R)$ denotes the symmetric and antisymmetric potential energy surfaces described in section 2.1. These two single-channel Schrödinger equations are then solved subject to the usual boundary conditions [46-50] to yield two sudden S functions, which depend on the orientation angle β . Because the V_{+} and V_{-} potentials differ, except for $\beta = 0$ and $\beta = \pi$, the two sudden S functions, $S_{+}^{\mathscr{L}}(\beta)$ and $S_{-}^{\mathscr{L}}(\beta)$, will be equal, in general, only for $\beta = 0$ and $\beta = \pi$.

As in the case of collisions of molecules in ${}^{1}\Sigma$ electronic states, the IOS approximation to the S-matrix elements can be evaluated by an expansion in terms of Legendre polynomials. By analogy with the matrix elements of the electrostatic interaction potential [16–18], for Π -state molecules the matrix elements of the sudden S functions can be evaluated most conveniently by expanding the *average* and *difference* of $S_{+}^{\mathscr{G}}(\beta)$ and $S_{-}^{\mathscr{G}}(\beta)$, rather than these two functions separately. The average is expanded in ordinary Legendre polynomials, and the difference in associated Legendre polynomials. The $S_{\ell_0}^{\mathscr{G}}$ and $S_{\ell_2}^{\mathscr{G}}$ expansion coefficients can be obtained by integrating over β and using the orthogonality properties of the Legendre polynomials, exactly as in eqs. (6) and (8). We find

$$S_{\ell 0}^{\mathscr{L}} = \frac{2\ell+1}{4} \int_0^{\pi} P_{\ell}(\cos\beta) \left[S_{-}^{\mathscr{L}}(\beta) + S_{+}^{\mathscr{L}}(\beta) \right] \sin\beta \, \mathrm{d}\beta.$$
(15)

and

$$S_{\ell_{2}}^{\mathscr{S}} = \frac{2\ell+1}{4} \left(\frac{(\ell-2)!}{(\ell+2)!} \right)^{1/2} \int_{0}^{\pi} P_{\ell}^{2}(\cos\beta) \left[S_{-}^{\mathscr{S}}(\beta) - S_{+}^{\mathscr{S}}(\beta) \right] \sin\beta \, d\beta.$$
(16)

Since the sudden S functions are expanded in terms of the same set of Legendre polynomials used to expand the interaction potential, the IOS approximation to the S-matrix elements will be formally equivalent to the matrix elements of the interaction potential, which are given in eq. (4), except with the $V_{\ell_0}(R)$ and $V_{\ell_2}(R)$ terms replaced by the $S_{\ell_0}^{\mathscr{D}}$ and $S_{\ell_2}^{\mathscr{D}}$ expansion coefficients. The expression for the degeneracy-averaged, rotationally inelastic integral cross sections is

$$\sigma_{J_{\epsilon} \to J'\epsilon'} = \frac{\pi}{(2J+1)k_{J_{\epsilon}}^2} \sum_{L,L',\ell} \frac{(2L+1)(2L'+1)}{2\ell+1} \times \frac{1}{2} \Big[1 + \epsilon\epsilon'(-1)^{J+J'+\ell'} \Big] \Big(\frac{L'}{0} - \ell - \frac{\ell}{2} \Big)^2 \Big| \Big[\Big(\begin{array}{ccc} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \Big) S_{\ell 0}^{\mathcal{G}} + \epsilon \Big(\begin{array}{ccc} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{array} \Big) S_{\ell 2}^{\mathcal{G}'} \Big] \Big|^2.$$
(17)

Implicit in eq. (17) is a prescription for choosing \mathcal{L} given the values of the initial and final nuclear orbital angular momenta L and L'. Often \mathcal{L} is taken to be equal to either the initial (L), the final (L'), or the mean ((L + L')/2) orbital angular momentum. Eq. (17) can be rewritten as

$$\sigma_{J_{\ell} \to J' \epsilon'} = \frac{\pi}{(2J+1)k_{J_{\ell}}^2} \sum_{\ell} \frac{1}{2} \left[1 + \epsilon \epsilon' (-1)^{J+J'+\ell} \right] \\ \times \left[\left(\begin{array}{ccc} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right)^2 A_{\ell} + \left(\begin{array}{ccc} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{array} \right)^2 B_{\ell} + \epsilon \left(\begin{array}{ccc} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \left(\begin{array}{ccc} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{array} \right) C_{\ell} \right].$$
(18)

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where the real quantities A_{ℓ} , B_{ℓ} , and C_{ℓ} are defined by

$$A_{\ell} = \sum_{L,L'} \frac{(2L+1)(2L'+1)}{2\ell+1} \begin{pmatrix} L' & \ell & L \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \left| S_{\ell 0}^{\mathscr{D}} \right|^2,$$
(19)

$$B_{\ell} = \sum_{L,L'} \frac{(2L+1)(2L'+1)}{2\ell+1} \begin{pmatrix} L' & \ell & L \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 |S_{\ell_2}^{\mathscr{D}}|^2$$
(20)

and

$$C_{\ell} = \sum_{L,L'} \frac{(2L+1)(2L'+1)}{2\ell+1} \begin{pmatrix} L' & \ell & L \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \begin{bmatrix} S_{\ell 0}^{\mathscr{D}} * S_{\ell 2}^{\mathscr{D}} + \text{c.c.} \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (21)

If L is chosen to be either the initial or final L, then the summation over L' or L, respectively, in eqs. (17) and (19)-(21) can be evaluated through the orthogonality properties of the 3j symbols.

It is worthwhile to compare the scaling relation given by eq. (18) with comparable IOS expressions in the case of scattering involving molecules in ${}^{1}\Sigma$ electronic states [47-51] and in ${}^{2}\Pi$ electronic states [15,18]. In the former case, the electronic wavefunction has cylindrical symmetry, and the scaling relation for the integral cross sections involves a *single* set of J-independent coefficients. In the case of collisions of ${}^{2}\Pi$ molecules, in the Hund's case (a) limit the wavefunctions are also cylindrically symmetric [60] but the scaling relation [15,18] involves *two* set of J-independent coefficients, one set for transitions within the $\Omega = 1/2$ and $\Omega = 3/2$ spin-orbit manifolds and the other set for transitions between the two spin-orbit manifolds.

3. $\operatorname{Li}_2(B^1\Pi_u)$ -noble gas interaction potential

Unfortunately, ab initio studies of the interaction potential between electronically excited Li₂ molecules and noble gas atoms have only been attempted for the $A^{1}\Sigma_{u}^{+}$ electronic state [61]. To gain some understanding of the collision dynamics of Li₂ in the $B^{1}\Pi_{u}$ state, we used the model potentials first developed by Poppe [11] in a classical trajectory study of collisions involving Li₂($B^{1}\Pi_{u}$). Rather than considering directly the two potential energy surfaces for the two electronic states, of A' and A'' symmetry, which result when the noble gas atom lifts the degeneracy of the Π electronic state. Poppe, following earlier work of Klar [7,8], chose to describe the Li₂-M interaction potential in terms of a *single* function which depended explicitly on the azimuthal angle ϕ of the singly filled π orbital of Li₂ in the body frame. This potential function is

$$V(R, \beta, \phi) = U^{11}(R) [1 + FP_2(\cos\beta)] + U^2(R) [1 + HP_2(\cos\beta) + G\sin^2\beta\cos^2\phi].$$
(22)

where F, H, and G are parameters, and $U^{11}(R)$ and $U^{\Sigma}(R)$ are the one-dimensional Li-noble gas potential curves of Σ and Π symmetry which correlate asymptotically to Li(2p²P) + noble gas. As discussed earlier by Alexander [17], and demonstrated clearly in a recent paper on OH-H₂ collisions by Dewangan et al. [19], the concept of a ϕ -dependent potential, introduced originally by Klar [7] and by Green and Zare [9], is an unnecessary and confusing construct.

Since the Li₂-M wavefunction is of A" symmetry when the singly filled π orbital of Li₂ is oriented *perpendicular* ($\phi = \pi/2$) to the Li₂-M plane ($\phi = 0$), it follows that the V_+ and V_- potential energy surfaces defined in section 2.1 are described by the functions

$$V_{+}(R,\beta) = U^{11}(R) [1 + FP_{2}(\cos\beta)] + U^{\Sigma}(R) [1 + HP_{2}(\cos\beta) + G\sin^{2}\beta].$$
(23)

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and

$$V_{-}(R, \beta) = U^{\Pi}(R) [1 + FP_{2}(\cos \beta)] + U^{\Sigma}(R) [1 + HP_{2}(\cos \beta)].$$
⁽²⁴⁾

With eqs. (23) and (24), we find that Poppe's potential contains only three nonzero $V_{\ell 0}$ and $V_{\ell 2}$ expansion terms, namely

$$V_{00}(R) = U^{11}(R) + (1 + G/3)U^{\Sigma}(R),$$
⁽²⁵⁾

$$V_{20}(R) = FU^{\Pi}(R) + (H - G/3)U^{\Sigma}(R),$$
(26)

and

$$V_{22}(R) = -(6^{1/2}G/3)U^{\Sigma}(R).$$
⁽²⁷⁾

Since the Li₂ molecule is homonuclear, $V_{\pm}(\pi - \beta, R) = V_{\pm}(\beta, R)$, so that only *even-l* terms will appear in the expansion of the potential. The symmetry properties of the 3*j* symbols as well as the phase factors in eqs. (4) and (11) then imply that there will be no collision-induced coupling between rotational levels of different s/a symmetry. This is, of course, consistent with the fact that an s \rightarrow a transition would require a change in the nuclear spin state of the homonuclear molecule, which cannot be accomplished by a purely electrostatic interaction. Thus the CC and CS equations can be further block-diagonalized in the s/a label. Similarly, since $V_{\pm}(\pi - \beta, R) = V_{\pm}(\beta, R)$, the IOS S functions themselves must reflect the permutation-inversion symmetry of the overall Hamiltonian, so that $S_{\pm}(\pi - \beta) = S_{\pm}(\beta)$. Thus only *even* terms will appear in the Legendre expansion of the S functions.

Poppe [11] took the $U^{\Pi}(R)$ and $U^{\Sigma}(R)$ curves from a fit to an earlier pseudopotential calculation by Baylis [62] of the Π and Σ Li(3s3p ²P) + He and Li(3s3p ²P) + Ne potential energy curves. He used a Morse function to fit the $U^{\Pi}(R)$ curves, namely

$$U^{\Pi}(R) = D_{e} \exp[-\beta(R - R_{e})] \{\exp[-\beta(R - R_{e})] - 2\},$$
(28)

and a repulsive exponential to fit $U^{\Sigma}(R)$, namely

$$U^{\Sigma}(R) = A \exp(-\alpha R). \tag{29}$$

The values of the parameters D_e , β , R_e , A, and α for the Li₂(B) + He and the Li₂(B) + Ne systems are listed in table 1. The values of the parameters F and H used by Poppe [11] are -0.2 and 0.2, respectively. The dependence of the Li₂-M interaction potential on the orientation of the unfilled π orbital, and, consequently, the difference between the V_+ and V_- potential energy surfaces, is controlled by the parameter G in eqs. (22)-(27). Poppe took G=0, which implies that the V_+ and V_- potentials are identical. This is consistent with his classical trajectory treatment of the dynamics, since this technique cannot be adapted easily to treat scattering on two potential surfaces which coalesce asymptotically. In our exploratory quantum scattering calculations, to be reported below, we used two different values of G, 1.0 and 0.25. The dependence on R of the V_{00} , V_{20} , and V_{22} terms in the expansion of the sum and difference

Table 1

Values of the parameters which define the $U^{\Sigma}(R)$ and $U^{\Pi}(R)$ functions used to describe the V_{+} and V_{-} potentials for the interaction of Li₂(B¹ Π_{u}) with He and Ne^{-av}

System	D _e (eV)	β (Å ⁻¹)	R _e (Å)	.4 (eV)	α (Å ⁻¹)	
$Li_2 + He$	0.0065	1.47	2.92	28	1.4	
$Li_2 + Ne$	0.00262	1.07	4.03	28	1.4	

^{a)} Eqs. (23), (24), (28) and (29) of text.

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Fig. 2. Dependence on the Li₂-Ne distance of the $V_{00}(R)$, $V_{20}(R)$. and $V_{22}(R)$ terms in the Legendre expansion of onehalf the sum and one-half the difference in the V_+ and $V_$ potential energy surfaces for this system (see eqs. (5)-(8)). For the curves in the upper panel the anisotropy parameter G (eqs. (22)-(27)) was given the value G = 0.25 and for the lower panel, G = 1.0. For both panels the parameters F and H (eqs. (22)-(26)) are F = -0.2 and H = 0.2, and the functions $U^{\Sigma}(R)$ and $U^{11}(R)$ which appear in eqs. (22)-(27) are defined by eqs. (28) and (29) with the parameters listed in table 1 (1 mh = 219.5 cm⁻¹ = 0.0272 eV).

of V_+ and V_- (eqs. (22)-(27)) for these two choices of G is illustrated in fig. 2. We observe that the V_{22} anisotropy is significantly larger than the V_{20} anisotropy. especially when G = 1.

4. Scattering calculations

Close-coupled, coupled-states, and infinite-order-sudden calculations were carried out at a total energy of $E = 616.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. This energy corresponds closely to the average translational energy in ongoing cell experiments [32] at T = 887 K. The rotational energy levels of Li₂(B) were assumed to be those of a rigid rotor with rotational constant $B = 0.45 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ [63]. This is the value appropriate to the v = 10 vibrational manifold of the B¹ Π_u state, which is the manifold initially pumped in these experiments. The energy separation between the two Λ -doublet levels for a given value of J was neglected, since this is known [63] to be much smaller than either the rotational spacing or the collision energy. The zero of energy was taken to be the lowest rotational level of the B state, J = 1.

The CC and CS calculations were carried out using the new Hibridon scattering code ⁼¹, which is based on the recently developed log-derivative propagators of Manolopoulos and Alexander [40,41]. For Li₂-He collisions at E = 616.5 cm⁻¹ values of the total angular momentum up to $\mathcal{J} = 88$ were included in the sum in eq. (9). For Li₂-Ne collisions, this number was increased to $\mathcal{J} = 140$. The CC and CS calculations required, respectively, a total of 288 and 23 channels for convergence. In the IOS calculations the sudden S functions $S_{+}^{\mathcal{L}}(\beta)$ and $S_{-}^{\mathcal{L}}(\beta)$ were first expressed in terms of phase shifts in the usual manner. namely

$$S_{\pm}^{\mathscr{D}}(\beta) = \exp\left[2i\eta_{\pm}^{\mathscr{D}}(\beta)\right].$$

(30)

These angle-dependent phase shifts were calculated within the JWKB approximation by a Gauss-Mehler quadrature, as suggested by Pack [48] for molecules in ${}^{1}\Sigma$ electronic states.

^{#1} Copies and descriptions of this code can be obtained from M.H. Alexander, Department of Chemistry, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA; electronic mail address: MHA@UMCINCOM.BITNET or mha@cincom.umd.edu.arpa.

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5. Qualitative behavior of calculated cross sections

The general magnitude of the cross sections and the dependence on the initial rotational quantum number is illustrated in figs. 3 and 4, where we plot the Li₂(B)-Ne cross sections for all $Ja \rightarrow J + \Delta J$, a transitions with $1 \le J \le 19$ and $\Delta J = 1$, 2. The parameter G (eqs. (22)-(23)) was taken to be 0.25 for the calculations summarized in fig. 3, and 1.0 for the calculations summarized in fig. 4. We make the following observations: (1) The cross sections are large and, except for the $J \rightarrow J + 2$ transitions with G = 1.0, display a marked alternation as a function of J, which will be discussed in more detail below. (2) For the $\Delta J = 1$ cross sections with G = 0.25, an intriguing shift appears in this alternation at $J \approx 12$. (3) Finally, we observe that for the calculations with G = 0.25 the CS cross sections agree extremely well with the CC values for $\Delta J = 1$ transitions, but are slightly too low for the $\Delta J = 2$ transitions out of odd, low-J levels. When the anisotropy parameter G is increased to a value of 1.0, the CS cross sections for the $\Delta J = 1$ transitions are somewhat smaller than the CC values, but mimic well the oscillatory structure. We observe that there is now *no shift* in the phase of the alternation as a function of J. For the $\Delta J = 2$ transitions the CS cross sections reproduce well the CC values, except for transitions out of low-J levels. By contrast, for the calculations with an anisotropy parameter of G = 0.25 the IOS approximation appears to work best at low J. Significant discrepancies, particularly in the *phase* of the $\Delta J = 1$ cross sections, become manifest in



Fig. 3. Cross sections $(Å^2)$ for collision-induced $Ja \rightarrow J + 1$, a and $Ja \rightarrow J + 2$, a transitions as a function of J for Li₂-Ne collisions at E = 616.5 cm⁻¹. The anisotropy parameters F, H, and G (eqs. (22)-(27)) were given the values -0.2, 0.2, and 0.25, respectively. The CC, CS, and IOS cross sections, which have beer joined by line segments for clarity, are represented by solid, short dashed, and long dashed lines, respectively. Because t^Le association of the permutation-inversion symmetry index (s/a) with the Λ -doublet symmetry index (e/f) *alternates* with J (fig. 1), the displayed cross sections out of the *even J* levels refer to transitions out of e Λ -doublet levels and, out of the *odd J* levels, to transition out of f Λ -doublet levels.



Fig. 4. Cross sections $(Å^2)$ for collision-induced $Ja \rightarrow J + 1$. a and $Ja \rightarrow J + 2$, a transitions as a function of J for Li₂-Ne collisions at $E = 616.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The anisotropy parameters F. H. and G (eqs. (22)-(27)) were given the values -0.2, 0.2, and 1.0, respectively. The CC, CS, and IOS cross sections, which have been joined by line segments for clarity, are represented by solid, short dashed, and long dashed lines, respectively. Because the association of the permutation-inversion symmetry index (s/a) with the Λ -doublet symmetry index (e/f) *alternates* with J (fig. 1), the displayed cross sections out of the *even J* levels refer to transitions out of e Λ -doublet levels and, out of the odd J levels, to transitions out of f Λ -doublet levels. The difference between the curves in figs. 3 and 4 is due entirely to the change in the value of the anisotropy parameter G.

the IOS results as J increases. For the calculations with G = 1.0 (fig. 4) the accuracy of the IOS cross sections deteriorates. In particular, little oscillatory structure is predicted for the $\Delta J = 1$ cross sections.

The breakdown in the accuracy of the IOS approximation at high J is expected. The energy sudden approximation will become increasingly inexact as the spacing between the rotational levels increases. The $J \rightarrow J + 1$ energy gap is only 1.8 cm⁻¹ at J = 1 but rises to 14.4 cm⁻¹ at J = 15. A similar breakdown in accuracy at high J might also occur in the earlier sudden approximation of Tsien and Pack [59], which was used by Klar and Klar [8] to investigate rotationally inelastic collisions of Na₂(B) with He in very high rotational levels (J up to 80). It is unclear why the IOS cross sections, which are obtained within *both* the energy sudden and centrifugal sudden approximations, are more accurate at low J than the CS cross sections, which are obtained by application of just the centrifugal sudden approximation. Most likely this anomaly reflects a fortuitous cancellation of errors in the IOS calculations. The magnitude of the errors in the CS cross sections is unexpected in light of the accuracy of this method for collisions of NO(X²Π) with Ar [58], but, in fact, the errors are no larger than the errors seen in earlier applications of this method to collisions involving molecules in ¹Σ electronic states.

The oscillations in the $Ja \rightarrow J + \Delta J$, a cross sections as a function of J can be understood easily within the IOS limit. As discussed in section 2, in the IOS limit these cross sections are proportional to a sum involving terms of the form (eq. (18))

$$\left[\begin{pmatrix} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^2 A_{\ell} + \begin{pmatrix} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}^2 B_{\ell} + \epsilon \begin{pmatrix} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} J' & \ell & J \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} C_{\ell} \right],$$
(31)

where the quantities A_{ℓ} , B_{ℓ} , and C_{ℓ} are *real*. Additional insight can be obtained by considering the limiting behavior of the 3j symbols in eq. (31) when $J \gg 1$. We have, for $\Delta J > 0$ [56]

$$\lim_{J \gg \ell} \begin{pmatrix} J + \Delta J & \ell & J \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \approx (-1)^{J + \Delta J + 1} (2J + 2\Delta J + 1)^{-1/2} d_{\Delta J,0}^{\ell}(\gamma),$$
(32)

and

$$\lim_{J \to \ell} \begin{pmatrix} J + \Delta J & \ell & J \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \approx (-1)^{J + \Delta J + 1} (2J + 2\Delta J + 1)^{-1/2} d'_{\Delta J, 2}(\gamma),$$
(33)

where $d'_{mn}(\gamma)$ is a reduced rotation matrix element [56], and $\cos \gamma = 1/(J + \Delta J)$.

As discussed in section 2, for odd J, the f levels ($\epsilon = -1$) are antisymmetric (a) with respect to the homonuclear permutation-inversion symmetry, while for even J, it is the e levels ($\epsilon = +1$) which are antisymmetric. Since, from eqs. (32) and (33) the phase of the product of the two 3j symbols in eq. (31) is independent of J, the discussion in the preceding sentence implies that for transitions out of the even J levels the interference between the sum of the A_{ℓ} and B_{ℓ} coefficients and the term containing the C_{ℓ} coefficient in eq. (31) will be opposite to the interference in the case of transitions out of the odd J levels. Note, however, that eqs. (31)-(33) imply that within the IOS approximation the phase shift in this oscillatory pattern, seen in the CC and CS results, will not occur.

An alternative analysis involves focusing on the e/f label of the initial rotational state. The cross sections graphed in figs. 3 and 4 refer to transitions out of a states. As discussed in the preceding paragraph, the cross sections in figs. 3 and 4 for transitions out of odd J levels are out of the f Λ -doublet level whereas those for transitions out of even J levels are out of the $e \Lambda$ -doublet level. The behavior of the cross sections indicates that $J \rightarrow J + 1$ transitions are more probable out of f levels, except at low J, while $J \rightarrow J + 2$ transitions are also more probable out of f levels. This behavior is illustrated clearly by fig. 5, which displays the Li₂-Ne $J \rightarrow J + 1$ and $J \rightarrow J + 2$ cross sections out of both the e and f Λ -doublet levels as a function of J. For a molecule in a ¹ Π electronic state, the electronic wavefunctions for the e Λ -doublet levels are symmetric with respect to reflection in the plane of rotation of the molecule, but antisymmetric

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Fig. 5. CC cross sections (Å²) for collision-induced $J \rightarrow J + 1$ and $J \rightarrow J + 2$ transitions as a function of J for Li₂-Ne collisions at E = 616.5 cm⁻¹. The anisotropy parameters F. H, and G (eqs. (22)-(27)) were given the values -0.2, 0.2, and 0.25, respectively. The cross sections have been joined by line segments for clarity; the solid curves refer to transitions out of the f A-doublet levels and the dashed curves, to transitions out of the e Λ -doublet levels. The displayed cross sections can be compared with the CC values in fig. 3, except that here cross sections are plotted for transitions out of both the symmetric (s) and antisymmetric (a) levels. The association of the permutation-inversion symmetry index (s/a) with the Λ -doublet symmetry index (e/f), implies that a levels with even J will be e while a levels with odd J will be f. Thus the alternation seen in fig. 3 is a direct manifestation of the e/f asymmetry seen here.

for the f Λ -doublet levels [1,9,10,60.64]. Thus we see that the strength of rotationally inelastic collisions are sensitive to this subtle feature of the electronic wavefunction. As shown by the IOS analysis in the preceding paragraph, this effect is a direct manifestation of quantum interference.

We see from eq. (31) that in the IOS limit the magnitude of this e/f asymmetry in the $J \rightarrow J + \Delta J$ cross sections will be largest when the magnitudes of $(A_{\ell} + B_{\ell})$ and the term containing the C_{ℓ} coefficient are equal. Comparison of figs. 3 and 4 indicates that this will occur when the V_{20} and V_{22} terms in the expansion of the potential are roughly comparable in magnitude. With the parameter G set equal to 1, the V_{22} term is considerably larger (fig. 2). This explains why the magnitude of the e/f asymmetry in the IOS cross sections is greatly diminished when G = 1 (fig. 4). We do observe, however, that for the $J \rightarrow J + 1$ transitions the strength of this asymmetry in the CC and CS cross sections is *not* damped out as the anisotropy parameter G is increased from 0.25 to 1.0.

In the IOS limit the phase of the alternation in the $Ja \rightarrow J + \Delta J$, a cross sections will be independent of J, since the A_{ℓ} , B_{ℓ} and C_{ℓ} coefficients are independent of J and J'. Correspondingly, the e/f asymmetry will always favor transitions out of either e or f levels, *regardless* of J. However, we see in figs. 3-5 that both the CC and CS calculations reveal that this asymmetry can *reverse* as J increases, so that the position of the maxima in the $Ja \rightarrow J + \Delta J$, a cross sections will *shift*. It is well known that the IOS approximation may break down with increasing J, as the rotational spacing which is ignored in the energy sudden limit becomes no longer negligible compared to the collision energy. In the present case the interference between the coupling induced by the $V_{20}(R)$ and $V_{22}(R)$ terms in the potential is predicted well only at low J.

The two advantages of the IOS approximation are (1) the availability of *analytic* expressions which can be used to make qualitative predictions of the general behavior of the relevant inelastic cross sections, and (2) the prescription for the rapid calculation of these cross sections. From the discussion in the preceding paragraphs we conclude that, unfortunately, at least for collisions of Li₂ at moderate to high values of J, the accuracy, both quantitative as well as qualitative, of the IOS approximation is too inconsistent.

In this section we have, so far, discussed only the results of our calculations for collisions of $\text{Li}_2(B)$ with Ne. We have also carried out a comparison of the Li_2 -He CC, CS, and IOS cross sections for both values of the anisotropy parameter G. When G = 0.25 the resulting $J \rightarrow J + 1$ and $J \rightarrow J + 2$ cross sections (not shown) are qualitatively very similar to those displayed in fig. 3, except that the shift in the reversal in the e/f asymmetry, which leads to a shift in the phase of the oscillations in the $Ja \rightarrow J + 1$, a cross sections, occurs at J = 18 rather than for J = 12, which is at the upper end of the range of rotational quantum numbers for which the CC cross sections were fully converged with respect to the size of the channel basis. The CS cross sections are highly accurate, except for the $\Delta J = 2$ transitions at low J. As in the case of

collisions with Ne, the accuracy of the IOS approximation deteriorates as J increases. The onset of this deterioration occurs at a higher value of J, probably because the IOS approximation is more suited for a lighter collision partner [18,47]. In particular, the e/f asymmetry in the IOS $J \rightarrow J + 1$ cross sections becomes too large at high J. For G = 1.0 the resulting $J \rightarrow J + 1$ and $J \rightarrow J + 2$ cross sections (not shown) are qualitatively very similar to those displayed in fig. 4. The CS and IOS cross sections are slightly more accurate for the $\Delta J = 1$ transitions than was the case for Li₂(B)-Ne.

Both the magnitude and direction of the e/f asymmetry appears to be a sensitive function of the two $(V_+ \text{ and } V_-) \text{ Li}_2$ -M potential energy surfaces. Little prior attention has been given to this oscillatory structure.

As discussed in the introduction, historically the experimentally determined inelastic cross sections for collisions of both the alkali dimers Li_2 and Na_2 in the $B^1\Pi_u$ electronic state displayed a strong "up-down" asymmetry in the rotationally inelastic cross sections. The ratios of the cross section for $J \rightarrow J + \Delta J$ transitions with ΔJ odd as compared to those for the equivalent $J \rightarrow J - \Delta J$ transitions were found to differ substantially from unity and, furthermore, to alternate with J. This effect was particularly pronounced for J = 1 [2,4,11]. Prior theoretical studies [5,6] have focused on the origin of this asymmetry.

As in the case of the e/f asymmetry, discussed above, qualitative insight into the origin of this effect can be gained by examination of the IOS expressions for the integral cross sections (eq. (18)). This approach will be complementary to earlier analyses [5,6] of the up-down asymmetry which were based on the use of the first-order Born approximation [20]. It is first useful to supplement eqs. (32) and (33) with the corresponding limits to the 3j symbols in eq. (31) for $J' = J - \Delta J$ valid when $J \gg \ell$. We have

$$\lim_{J \to \ell} \begin{pmatrix} J - \Delta J & \ell & J \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \approx (-1)^{J+1} (2J - 2\Delta J + 1)^{-1/2} d_{\Delta J,0}^{\ell}(\gamma),$$
(34)

and

$$\lim_{J \to \ell} \begin{pmatrix} J - \Delta J & \ell & J \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \approx (-1)^{\ell + J + \Delta J + 1} (2J - 2\Delta J + 1)^{-1/2} d'_{\Delta J, 2} (\pi - \gamma),$$
(35)

where now $\cos \gamma = 1/(J - \Delta J)$. Thus, we see that when $J \gg \Delta J$ the arguments of the reduced rotation matrix elements in eqs. (32)-(34) all approach $\pi/2$ and eq. (31) then becomes, for $J \rightarrow J + \Delta J$ transitions,

$$(2J+2\Delta J+1)^{-1}\left\{ \left[d_{\Delta J,0}^{\prime}(\pi/2) \right]^{2} A_{\ell} + \left[d_{\Delta J,2}^{\prime}(\pi/2) \right]^{2} B_{\ell} + \epsilon d_{\Delta J,0}^{\prime}(\pi/2) d_{\Delta J,2}^{\prime}(\pi/2) C_{\ell} \right\}.$$
(36)

and, for $J \rightarrow J - \Delta J$ transitions,

$$(2J - 2\Delta J + 1)^{-1} \left\{ \left[d_{\Delta J,0}^{\prime}(\pi/2) \right]^{2} A_{\ell} + \left[d_{\Delta J,2}^{\prime}(\pi/2) \right]^{2} B_{\ell} + \epsilon (-1)^{\ell + \Delta J} d_{\Delta J,0}^{\prime}(\pi/2) d_{\Delta J,2}^{\prime}(\pi/2) C_{\ell} \right\}.$$
(37)

When we compare eqs. (36) and (37), we observe in the case of $J \rightarrow J - \Delta J$ transitions an extra phase factor of $(-1)^{\ell+\Delta J}$ in the third term in braces. In the case of collisions of a homonuclear molecule, which is the subject of the present paper, ℓ must be even because of the permutation-inversion symmetry discussed in sections 2.1 and 3. Thus, $(-1)^{\ell} = 1$ and will not play a role in the interference between the terms containing the A_{ℓ} , B_{ℓ} , and C_{ℓ} coefficients. However, the phase factor for $J \rightarrow J - \Delta J$ transitions still contains an extra term of $(-1)^{\Delta J}$ for transitions with odd ΔJ (in particular $\Delta J = +1$). Thus, the interference between the sum of the terms containing the A_{ℓ} and B_{ℓ} coefficients and the term containing the C_{ℓ} coefficient in eq. (31) will be opposite to the interference in the case of transitions with $\Delta J = +1$. Hence we anticipate that the cross sections for the $J \rightarrow J + 1$ and the $J \rightarrow J - 1$ transitions will not be identical, so that the ratio $\sigma_{J \rightarrow J+1}/\sigma_{J \rightarrow J-1}$ will differ from unity. Furthermore, as discussed in section 2, for even J, the levels ($\epsilon = +1$) are antisymmetric (a) with respect to the homonuclear permutation-inversion symmetry, while for odd J, it is the f levels ($\epsilon = -1$) which are antisymmetric. It is then clear that

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both for $J \to J + 1$ and the $J \to J - 1$ transitions out of an initial a level, the interference between the sum of the A_{ℓ} and B_{ℓ} coefficients and the term containing the C_{ℓ} coefficient in eq. (31) will *alternate* with J. Thus as a function of J the ratio $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ will *alternate* between being larger than unity and smaller than unity.

In the case, however, of even- ΔJ transitions (in particular $\Delta J = +2$), the phase factors in eqs. (37) and (38) will be *identical*. Thus we anticipate that the ratio of the upward $(J \rightarrow J + 2)$ to downward $(J \rightarrow J - 2)$ cross sections will approach unity in the high-J limit. Furthermore, little or no oscillatory structure will be apparent in the even- ΔJ ratios.

In the case of collisions of a heteronuclear molecule, ℓ is no longer restricted to even values. In addition the two Λ -doublet levels are not longer associated with different s/a labels. The presence of the factor $[1 + \epsilon \epsilon'(-1)^{J+J'+\ell}]$ in eqs. (4), (11), and (18) implies that only odd values of ℓ will contribute to the even- ΔJ , ϵ -changing, or to the odd- ΔJ , ϵ -conserving transitions. Thus, because the full phase factor difference between eqs. (36) and (37) is $(-1)^{\ell+\Delta J}$, an up-down asymmetry will also occur for the even- ΔJ , ϵ -changing transitions. This asymmetry has been observed experimentally by Ottinger [21] in the case of $\Delta J = 2$ transitions in collisions of NaLi(B¹\Pi) with noble gases. As discussed above, in the case of homonuclear molecules, no asymmetries will be present for even- ΔJ transitions, since even- ΔJ , ϵ -changing transitions are forbidden by the conservation of s/a symmetry.



Fig. 6. Comparison of the cross section ratios $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ (upper panel) and $\sigma_{J \to J+2}/\sigma_{J \to J-2}$ (lower panel) for Li₂-Ne collisions at E = 616.5 cm⁻¹. The anisotropy parameters F. H, and G (eqs. (22)-(27)) were given the values -0.2, 0.2, and 0.25, respectively. The CC, CS, and IOS cross section ratios, which have been joined by line segments for clarity, are represented by solid, short dashed, and long dashed lines, respectively. The initial state is antisymmetric (a). Because the association of the permutation-inversion symmetry index (s/a) with the Λ -doublet symmetry index (e/f) alternates with J (fig. 1), the displayed ratios for the even J levels refer to transitions out of e Λ -doublet levels and, for the odd J levels, to transitions out of f Λ -doublet levels.



Fig. 7. Comparison of the cross section ratios $\sigma_{J \rightarrow J+1}/\sigma_{J \rightarrow J-1}$ (upper panel) and $\sigma_{J \rightarrow J+2}/\sigma_{J \rightarrow J-2}$ (lower panel) for Li₂-Ne collisions at E = 616.5 cm⁻¹. The anisotropy parameters F. H. and G (eqs. (22)-(27)) were given the values -0.2, 0.2, and 1.0, respectively. The CC, CS, and IOS cross section ratios, which have been joined by line segments for clarity, are represented by solid, short dashed, and long dashed lines, respectively. The initial state is antisymmetric (a). Because the association of the permutation-inversion symmetry index (s/a) with the Λ -doublet symmetry index (e/f) alternates with J (fig. 1), the displayed ratios for the even J levels refer to transitions out of f Λ -doublet levels and, for the odd J levels, to transitions out of f Λ -doublet levels. The difference between the curves in figs. 6 and 7 is due entirely to the change in the value of the anisotropy parameter G.

Alternatively, it is worthwhile to compare the $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ cross section ratios for transitions out of the e ($\epsilon = 1$) and out of the f ($\epsilon = -1$) Λ -doublet levels. The above discussion, based on the IOS expression for the cross sections (eq. (18)) and the high-J limits of the relevant 3j symbols (eqs. (32)-(37)), implies that if this ratio is greater than unity for transitions out of the e levels, then it will be less than unity for transitions out of the f levels, and vice versa.

Previous analyses [5.6] of the observed up-down asymmetry in the rotationally inelastic cross sections for collisions involving the alkali dimers have involved the use of the first-order Born approximation [20]. In this approximation the inelastic S-matrix elements are proportional to the magnitude squared of integrals of the matrix elements of the electrostatic potential between the initial and final states in question (eq. (4)). Since these matrix elements are isomorphic with the IOS expression for the S-matrix elements (eq. (17)), the prediction of oscillatory structure in the $\Delta J =$ odd cross sections is also valid within the first-order Born approximation. The important difference between our work and the earlier analyses based on the first-order Born approximation [5,6] is that we here make no assumptions about which terms are important in the Legendre expansion of the potential. In the earlier work [5,6], the authors assumed that only the lowest order terms in the Legendre expansion of the potential ($V_{20}(R)$ and $V_{22}(R)$) were important. Alternation was then demonstrated by introduction of analytic expressions for the 3j symbols in eq. (4). A major restriction is that only $\Delta J \leq 2$ transitions are allowed. As will be seen in section 6, the



Fig. 8. Comparison of the cross section ratios $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ (upper panel) and $\sigma_{J \to J+2}/\sigma_{J \to J-2}$ (lower panel) for Li₂-He collisions at E = 616.5 cm⁻¹. The anisotropy parameters, F, H, and G (eqs. (22)-(27)) were given the values -0.2. 0.2, and 0.25, respectively. The CC, CS, and IOS cross section ratios, which have been joined by line segments for clarity, are represented by solid. short dashed, and long dashed lines, respectively. The initial state is antisymmetric (a). Because the association of the permutation-inversion symmetry index (s/a) with the Λ -doublet symmetry index (e/f) alternates with J(fig. 1), the displayed ratios for the even J levels refer to transitions out of e Λ -doublet levels and, for the odd J levels, to transitions out of f Λ -doublet levels.



Fig. 9. Comparison of the cross section ratios $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ (upper panel) and $\sigma_{J \to J+2}/\sigma_{J \to J-2}$ (lower panel) for Li₂-He collisions at E = 616.5 cm⁻¹. The anisotropy parameters F, H, and G (eqs. (22)-(27)) were given the values -0.2, 0.2, and 1.0, respectively. The CC, CS, and IOS cross section ratios, which have been joined by line segments for clarity, are represented by solid, short dashed, and long dashed lines, respectively. The initial state is antisymmetric (a). Because the association of the permutation-inversion symmetry index (s/a) with the Λ -doublet symmetry index (e/f) alternates with J (fig. 1), the displayed ratios for the even J levels refer to transitions out of f Λ -doublet levels and, for the odd J levels, to transitions out of f Λ -doublet levels. The difference between the curves in figs. 8 and 9 is due entirely to the change in the value of the anisotropy parameter G.

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cross sections for transitions with $\Delta J \ge 3$ are not negligible. In our IOS analysis use of the asymptotic (high-J) limits of the 3j symbols allows us to obtain expressions which illustrate explicitly the expected alternation independent both of the functional form of the potential and of the change in rotational angular momentum.

The cross section ratios $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ and $\sigma_{J \to J+2}/\sigma_{J \to J-2}$ for Li₂-Ne collisions are displayed as a function of J in figs. 6 and 7. The values in fig. 6 were obtained with an anisotropy parameter of G = 0.25; those in fig. 7 with G = 1.0. As predicted above, a pronounced oscillatory structure is seen for the cross section ratios with $\Delta J = 1$, which is not apparent for the cross section ratios with $\Delta J = 2$. We also observe, as in the case of the $J \to J + 1$ and the $J \to J + 2$ cross sections themselves (figs. 3 and 4), that the modulation depth of these oscillations is *not* well predicted within the IOS approximation, especially for high J. Also, exactly as in the case of the $J \to J + 1$ cross sections (fig. 3), a phase shift appears in the $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ cross section ratios obtained with the anisotropy parameter G = 0.25, which is not anticipated within the sudden analysis presented above. By contrast, the cross section ratios obtained with the CC values.

A similar comparison of the $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ and $\sigma_{J \to J+2}/\sigma_{J \to J-2}$ cross section ratios for collisions of $\text{Li}_2(B)$ with He with anisotropy parameters of G = 0.25 and G = 1.0 appears in figs. 8 and 9, respectively. As in the case of collisions with Ne, we observe that the phase and modulation depth of the oscillatory behavior of the ratios of the $\Delta J = 1$ transitions is predicted well within the CS approximation. The IOS values either overestimate or underestimate the modulation depth. As expected, a pronounced oscillatory structure is seen for the ratios with $\Delta J = 1$, but not for those with $\Delta J = 2$.

As discussed above the e/f asymmetry and the asymmetry in the $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ cross section ratios, in particular the phase shift and the modulation depth, is sensitive to the chosen value of the anisotropy parameter G. Additional CS calculations carried out at total energies of E = 300 and 1200 cm^{-1} reveal that the phase shift is insensitive to the collision energy, at least over the range probed here. Most likely, then, the experimentally observed variation in the up-down cross section ratios with the choice of noble gas partner [2-4,11,21] is a direct manifestation of variations in the potential energy surfaces for the interaction of Li₂(B) with the various noble gases.

6. Quantitative cross sections and comparison with experiment

One motivation for this theoretical study is the ongoing experiments at MIT [32] on collision-induced transitions out of the J = 16e and J = 17f levels of the v = 10 vibrational manifold of the $B^1\Pi_u$ state of Li₂ with Ne as a collision partner. We give in table 2 the calculated CC cross sections for transitions out of these two initial levels. We observe that even for transitions with large values of ΔJ the cross sections are substantial, especially with the larger value of the anisotropy parameter G (G = 1.0).

Within the first-order Born approximation [20], only those $J \rightarrow J'$ transitions which are directly coupled by the potential (eq. (4)) will have non-zero cross sections. Since we are using only the V_{00} , V_{20} , and V_{22} terms in the Legendre expansion of the potential (eqs. (25)-(27)), it follows from eq. (4) that only transitions with $\Delta J \leq 2$ would be allowed within the first-order Born approximation. The substantial flux into transitions with larger changes in the rotational quantum number indicates that this approximation certainly could not be used in a quantitative treatment of Li₂-Ne collisions.

Experimental Li₂(B)-Ne cross sections have so far been determined only for transitions out of the J = 17 f level [32]. These values, which are still preliminary, are reproduced in table 2 for comparison with the theoretical values. We observe that the agreement, both in the magnitudes as well as the up-down asymmetry, between the experimental and theoretical cross sections is excellent in the case of the $\Delta J = \pm 1$ transitions, particularly for the calculated values with an anisotropy parameter of G = 0.25. In the case of the $\Delta J = \pm 2$ transitions, the experimental cross sections are much *smaller* than the theoretical values. As

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<u>ر ک</u>	$E = 616.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$		$E = 300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$	$E = 1200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$	Exp. ^{c)}	
	$G = 0.25^{\text{b}}$	G = 1.0	G = 0.25	G = 0.25		
initial lev	el: $J = 16e$			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
- 7	< 0.1	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1		
-6	< 0.1	2.2	< 0.1	0.1		
- 5	0.2	1.6	< 0.1	0.3		
-4	0.3	4.3	< 0.1	0.8		
- 3	1.5	4.5	0.4	1.6		
- 2	2.7	11.6	0.9	3.9		
-1	12.0	22.5	10.3	9.5		
+1	9.7	13.1	7.3	8.1		
+ 2	2.6	12.4	0.6	4.2		
+ 3	1.9	4.2	0.2	2.9		
+4	0.2	5.2	< 0.1	0.8		
initial lev	el: $J = 17f$					
-7	< 0.1	0.3	< 0.1	0.3		
- 6	0.6	1.0	< 0.1	1.5	0.5	
- 5	0.3	1.2	< 0.1	1.1	0.6	
-4	2.9	4.0	0.5	3.3	1.2	RI
- 3	2.0	4.2	0.4	2.7	1.9	
- 2	10.4	12.5	6.2	8.0	4.2	
-1	9.4	12.8	7.6	7.8	6.7	
+1	12.9	23.9	8.6	10.5	13.0	
+ 2	10.7	13.1	3.4	8.7	4.1	
+ 3	1.3	4.3	0.1	1.9	3.1	
+4	d)	d)	d)	d)	1.2	
+ 5	d)	d)	d)	d)	0.8	

⁴⁾ The tabulated cross sections refer to CC calculations for $E = 616.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and CS calculations for $E = 300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $E = 1200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

b) Value of the anisotropy parameter in eqs. (22)-(27).

^{c)} Ref. [32].

^{d)} Calculation not converged for cross sections into rational levels with J > 20.

expected, there is virtually no up-down asymmetry for the $\Delta J = \pm 2$ cross sections. Certainly, the discrepancy between the experimental and theoretical cross sections for the $J = 17f \rightarrow J'$ transitions in table 2 is a measure of the crudeness of the Li₂-Ne potential energy surfaces used here. We also observe that the experimental cross sections given in table 2 for transitions out of the J = 17f level are considerably *smaller* than those reported by Poppe [11] for transitions out of the J = 24f level ($\sigma_{24 \rightarrow 23} = 20.2$ Å², $\sigma_{24 \rightarrow 25} = 46.4$ Å², $\sigma_{24 \rightarrow 25} = 5.9$ Å², $\sigma_{24 \rightarrow 26} = 5.9$ Å²).

Poppe [11] has reported experimental cross sections for collision-induced transitions out of a number of rotational levels of $\text{Li}_2(B)$ in collision with all the noble gases. Unfortunately, most of the initial rotational levels excited in these experiments were considerably higher than the levels for which we obtained converged CC cross sections ($J \leq 19$). However, a comparison of our calculated cross sections with Poppe's results are possible for transitions out of the J = 5e and J = 8f levels in the case of He as a collision partner. This comparison is summarized in table 3.

The overall agreement between theory and experiment is not bad, given the simplistic potentials used here. Large differences do exist, however, at the level of the individual cross sections. The values obtained with an anisotropy parameter G = 1.0 appear to reproduce the experimental cross sections somewhat

Table 3

Comparison of theoretical ^{a)} and experimental ^{b)} cross sections for $J \rightarrow J + \Delta J$ transitions in collisions of Li₂(B) with He

$\overline{\Delta J}$	Theory		Experiment	
	$G = 0.25^{-a}$	$G = 1.0^{-a}$		
initial level: $J =$	5e			· · · · ·
- 1	4.3	17.1	20.5	
+ 1	12.6	15.8	17.0	
initial level: $J =$	8f			
-2	8.6	9.8	5.1	
- 1	9.8	13.2	26.2	
+1	6.6	19.0	29.5	
+ 2	10.6	12.3	5.1	

^{a)} The theoretical cross sections refer to CC calculations for E = 616.5 cm⁻¹.

^{b)} The experimental values refer to cell experiments at a temperature of 883 K [11]. The average relative Li_2 -He translational energy at this temperature is 614 cm⁻¹.

better. In particular the up ($\Delta J > 0$) versus down ($\Delta J < 0$) preferences are reproduced correctly only in the calculations with G = 1.0.

The theoretical work presented here also allows us to discuss, in a more qualitative manner, all the experimental results of Poppe [11] for collision-induced transitions of $\text{Li}_2(B^1\Pi_u)$ both with the heavier noble gases and for initial rotational levels higher than those for which we obtained converged cross sections. Table 4 presents the $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ cross section ratios for the complete set of experimental data given by Poppe [11]. In section 5 we used the IOS expression for the $J \to J'$ cross sections to show that, within the IOS limit, if the $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ cross section ratios are greater that unity for transitions out of the e Λ -doublet levels, then the corresponding ratios will be *smaller* than unity for transitions out of the f Λ -doublet levels, and vice versa. This asymmetry will be independent of the s/a labels of the initial state.

Table 4 Experimenta Experimenta $\sigma_{J \to J+1}/\sigma_{J \to J-1}$ for collisions of Li₂(B¹II_u) with the noble gases; $E_{av}^{b} = 614 \text{ cm}^{-1}$

J	s/a	Collision partner					
		He	Ne	Ar	Kr	Xe	
transition	s out of e A-double	et levels				- <u></u>	``
5	s	0.83	-	0.39	0.91	1.39	
29	S	0.46	0.40	0.78	1.32	1.70	
30	а	0.41	0.35	0.61	1.19	1.69	
31	s	0.41	0.32	0.53	0.97	1.47	
38	а	0.38	0.28	0.51	1.10	1.63	
41	S	0.35	0.29	0.35	0.64	1.21	
45	S	0.34	0.28	0.34	0.56	1.05	
transition	s out of f Λ -double	t levels					
8	S	1.13	-	0.42	0.76	0.72	
24	S	1.84	2.30	1.33	0.74	0.56	
31	а	2.32	2.49	1.63	0.81	0.54	
43	а	2.37	3.86	1.76	1.00	0.58	
61	а	2.58	2.80	2.08	1.26	0.74	

⁴⁹ Ratios computed from experimental cross sections given in ref. [11]. The vibrational quantum numbers for the initial state do vary; see ref. [11].

^{b)} Average translational energy in initial state for a cell experiment at T = 883 K.

This asymmetry is seen clearly in the He, Ne, Ar (except for J = 8f), and Xe ratios in table 4. In the case of Kr a reversal in this asymmetry appears both between J = 5 and J = 8 and at J = 40. This reversal, which is not predicted in the IOS limit, is analogous to the phase shift in the J-dependence of the Li₂-Ne $J \rightarrow J + 1$ cross sections in figs. 3 and 5 as well as in the J-dependence of the $\sigma_{J \rightarrow J+1}/\sigma_{J \rightarrow J-1}$ cross section ratios in fig. 6. The fact that the cross section ratios for Ar are less than unity for transitions both out of the J = 5e and J = 8f levels is *inconsistent* with the IOS analysis, but would be consistent with the other Ar ratios if a *double reversal* in the asymmetry in these ratios occurred between J = 5 and J = 24. Finally, it is worthwhile to observe that the asymmetry in the cross section ratios listed in table 4 is *reversed* in the case of Xe as compared to the lighter noble gases (He, Ne, Ar). This undoubtedly reflects a qualitative difference in the V_+ and V_- potential energy surfaces when Xe is the collision partner. Further experimental study of collisions of Li₂(B¹\Pi_u) with Ar and Kr would be needed to confirm the reversals in the asymmetry in the cross section ratios.

Similarly, in the case of Na₂(B¹ Π_u)-noble gas collisions, Bergmann and Demtröder [4] showed that the asymmetry in the cross section ratios reversed as the noble gas partner was varied from He to Xe. For Na₂-Ar a phase shift was found in the cross section ratios: for low values of J they are less than unity, and for large values of J, greater than unity.

7. Conclusion

We have presented here a complete study of inelastic collisions of Li₂ in its B¹ Π_u electronic state with both He and Ne. The description of the interaction potential was adapted from earlier work of Poppe [11]; we explicitly distinguished between the *two* potential energy surfaces, of A' and A'' symmetry in C_s geometry, which arise when the approach of a spherical partner raises the electronic degeneracy of a molecule in a Π electronic state. The collision dynamics were solved exactly, as well as within the coupled-states (CS) and infinite-order-sudden (IOS) approximations. The IOS approximation also provides additional qualitative insight into the origin of the quantum interference effects. In particular, by introduction of asymptotic (high-J) expressions for the 3*j* symbols which appear in the IOS expression for the inelastic cross sections, we were able to show (1) that the magnitude of the $J \rightarrow J + \Delta J$ cross sections could be expected to vary with the symmetry index of the initial Λ -doublet level for both even and odd values of ΔJ , and (2) that the ratio of the cross sections for $J \rightarrow J + \Delta J$ versus $J \rightarrow J - \Delta J$ transitions as a function of J could also be expected to alternate between greater than unity and less than unity, but only for odd values of ΔJ . Our analysis, which is more general than that of earlier work [5,6], differs in the use of the IOS approximation and in the use of the asymptotic (high-J) limits of the relevant 3*j* symbols.

Comparison with CC cross sections for collisions of Li_2 with both Ne and He indicated that the CS approximation yielded accurate cross sections, although those for $\Delta J = 2$ transitions out of low-J levels were of somewhat poorer quality. By contrast, the IOS cross sections do not reproduce consistently either the modulation depth or the phase shifts in the oscillatory structure of the inelastic cross sections. As might be expected, these features appear to be extremely sensitive to the anisotropy of the interaction potential, in particular to the difference between the two relevant potential energy surfaces, of A' and A'' symmetry.

The calculated cross sections agree reasonably well with the available experimental data of Poppe [11] for Li₂-He and Derouard et al. [32] for Li₂-Ne, although significant differences are present. In particular, the experimental Li₂-Ne cross sections for the $\Delta J = \pm 2$ transitions are considerably smaller than the calculated values. These differences are undoubtedly due to the crudeness of the potential energy surfaces used here. It is now possible to determine accurate ab initio potential energy surfaces for the Li₂-He and Li₂-Ne systems [61]. Thus, continued experimental studies of collisions of Li₂(B¹\Pi_u) will undoubtedly

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provide the motivation not only for the calculation of realistic potential energy surfaces but also for the determination of accurate CS or full CC inelastic cross sections.

The present article is restricted to the consideration of collisions of homonuclear diatomics. In the case of heteronuclear diatomics, the selection rule against transitions which change the s/a label is no longer in force, so that transitions from an initial state into both Λ -doublet states, for a given final J, are possible. It would be worthwhile to extend the present study to heteronuclear molecules in ¹II electronic states, or, alternatively, to either homonuclear or heteronuclear molecules in ³II electronic states. The potential matrix elements between rotational levels in the $\Omega = 1$ spin-orbit manifold of a ³II electronic state are similar in structure [16,17] to those for a molecule in a ¹II electronic state. Thus, quantum interference effects similar to those discussed here will certainly arise. Further investigation of these would be particularly relevant in light of the recent optical-optical double resonance studies by Katayama [65] and Dagdigian [66] of inelastic collisions of N₂(B³II_R).

Acknowledgement

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Note à propos de l'article

Nous avons montré dans l'article précédent que dans la limite des grands j pour les transitions qui changent l'index de symétrie ε le rapport de la section efficace d'une transition d'excitation $j \rightarrow j + \Delta j$ et de celle d'une transition de désexcitation $j \rightarrow j - \Delta j$ est différent de l'unité.

Cette propriété qui s'applique à une molécule (homonucléaire ou hétéronucléaire) dans un état électronique ¹II découle des équations (36) et (37) de l'article. Ces équations permettent, d'autre part, de montrer que les rapports des sections efficaces d'excitation et de désexcitation pour les deux composantes de dédoublement- \wedge d'un niveau de rotation initial donné sont inverses :

 $\frac{\sigma_{j, \epsilon \to j+\Delta j, -\epsilon}}{\sigma_{j, \epsilon \to j+\Delta j, -\epsilon}} = \frac{\sigma_{j, -\epsilon \to j-\Delta j, \epsilon}}{\sigma_{j, -\epsilon \to j+\Delta j, \epsilon}}$ (III-10)

Notons que cette relation est une conséquence du principe de microréversibilité dans la limite des grands j.

Cet effet a été observé expérimentalement pour le système Na₂ ($^{1}\Pi_{u}$)-gaz rare par BERGMANN et DEMTRODER (ref. 4 de l'article).

Bien que l'analyse précédente repose sur le formalisme IOS, nos calculs CC et CS ont fait apparaître le même résultat.

CONCLUSION



Les travaux présentés dans ce mémoire concernent l'étude théorique du transfert d'énergie dans les collisions mettant en jeu des systèmes simples.

Plutôt que de rappeler les résultats obtenus au cours de ce travail, il nous semble préférable, à titre de conclusion d'indiquer les perspectives qui s'offrent à nous dans le domaine de la dynamique collisionnelle.

Notre ambition est de nous engager dans l'étude quantique de processus collisionnels plus complexes et particulièrement dans l'étude du transfert d'énergie dans les molécules induit par collision avec une surface cristalline. Dans ce type de collision, le nombre de canaux devient souvent trop important pour que le problème puisse être traité par les méthodes usuelles de la dynamique collisionnelle. Le traitement quantique nécessite l'emploi de techniques nouvelles comme celle basée sur l'utilisation de paquets d'onde mise au point récemment par KOURI et collaborateurs. C'est vers l'exploitation et le développement de ces méthodes que nous nous orienterons avec pour objectif de contribuer à la connaissance des mécanismes qui régissent les transferts d'énergie dans le domaine passionnant de la dynamique collisionnelle.



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RESUME

Dans ce travail nous utilisons le formalisme quantique afin d'étudier les transferts d'énergie dans les collisions atomiques et moléculaires.

La première partie est dédiée à l'étude des transferts entre les composantes de structure fine d'un atome alcalin dans un état électronique ² P induits par collision avec un atome sans structure.

Au delà d'une détermination quantitative des sections efficaces, notre étude vise à une interprétation détaillée des résultats. A l'aide d'une description totalement adiabatique de la dynamique de la collision, nous avons pu mettre en évidence un nouveau mécanisme de couplage qui complète la connaissance des processus mis en jeu dans les transferts collisionnels.

La deuxième partie est l'étude des transferts rotationnels dans les molécules $N_2({}^1\Sigma_g^*)$ et Li₂(${}^1\Pi_u$) induits par collision avec un atome de gaz rare. Nous avons dans un premier temps exploré le domaine de validité des deux approximations les plus couramment utilisées.

De plus, pour la collision N_2 -Ne nous présentons la distribution angulaire de la diffusion dans le système du centre de masse. Enfin, dans l'étude Li₂-He,Ne nous avons pu expliquer l'origine des effets d'assymétrie observés expérimentalement dans les transitions rotationnelles.

MOTS CLES

- Collisions inélastiques
- Transition de structure fine
- Transfert rotationnel
- Interprétation adiabatique
- Approximations de découplage
- Distribution angulaire de la diffusion
- Effets d'interférence quantiques.