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A study of the (d,p γ) reaction on radioisotope ^{85}Kr to constrain a key s-process branching point

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The $^{85}\text{Kr}(\text{d},\text{p}\gamma)^{86}\text{Kr}$ reaction has been carried out at 10 MeV/u in inverse kinematics at Argonne's ATLAS facility using the HELIOS spectrometer and the Apollo array. The neutron capture cross section on the radioisotope ^{85}Kr ($T_{1/2} = 10.7$ yr), an s-process branching point nucleus, carries a significant uncertainty due to the challenges of direct measurements. However, ^{85}Kr can be accelerated as a pure beam, and the (d,p γ) reaction has been demonstrated to be a reliable indirect probe of the (n, γ)-reaction cross section. Neutron excitations from around 2-14 MeV in ^{86}Kr were populated, where $S_n = 9.86$ MeV, with a Q-value resolution of about 150 keV. The γ -ray emission probabilities as a function of excitation energy [$P_{p\gamma}(E_{ex})$] were determined. The $2^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ and $4^+ \rightarrow 2^+$ γ -rays are clearly observed, showing the characteristic constant value of $P_{p\gamma}$ below S_n and a decrease above S_n . These data are used to extract the cross sections for $^{85}\text{Kr}(\text{n},\gamma)$ reaction, complementing recent direct, high-precision measurements on the stable Kr isotopes. The technique has significant potential for future indirect (n, γ)-reaction studies.

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