

Contribution ID: 108 Type: Oral presentation

A study of the (d,pg) reaction on radioisotope 85gKr to constrain a key s-process branching point

Tuesday, 25 June 2024 14:20 (20 minutes)

The 85 Kr(d,p γ) 86 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 $2^+ \to 0^+$ and $4^+ \to 2^+ \gamma$ -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 Kr(n, γ) reaction, complementing recent direct, high-precision measurements on the stable Kr isotopes. The technique has significant potential for future indirect (n, γ)-reaction studies.

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Nuclear Physics, under Contract No. DE-AC02- 06CH11357. This research used resources of ANL's ATLAS facility, which is a DOE Office of Science User Facility.

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Session Classification: Tuesday afternoon 1