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On the possibility to observe a proton beta decay in a colliding system

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The possibility to observe a proton beta decay in a sub-barrier Rutherford scattering of a proton on a high Z nucleus is examined. Due to the potential energy of the proton in the Coulomb field, a strong enhancement of the phase space for beta decay takes place, creating the circumstances for observing such events. A rough (however realistic) estimate of the rate of expected decays is also given.

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