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The study of the 7 Li(γ, α) 3 H reaction at energies below 6 MeV at HI γ S

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The abundances of the light elements can be spectroscopically determined by observing the low-metallicity stars. Usually, those measurements are in agreement with the Big Bang Nucleosynthesis predictions. Particularly, the Li-7 measured abundance is 3-4 times lower than expected, discrepancy known as the "cosmological Li problem". The reaction ${}^{3}H(\alpha,\gamma)^{7}Li$ contributes to the production of Li-7 in Universe and can be studied through its inverse reaction, according to the reciprocity theorem. In consequence, the Li-7 photodisintegration has been measured by our team in 2017 at the High Intensity γ -ray Source (HI γ S) Laboratory of Duke University (USA) using a silicon detector array (SIDAR) to observe the coincidences between the alpha particles and the tritons. The considered energies of the gamma beam have been between 4.4 and 10 MeV, but below 6 MeV the coincidences have been observed only in the thinner detectors. In 2023, a new similar experimental campaign, with an improved set-up, took place at HI γ S for gamma-beam energies between 3.7 and 6 MeV. The coincidences have been clearly separated and the preliminary astrophysical S-factor of the direct ${}^{3}H(\alpha,\gamma)^{7}Li$ reaction has been successfully extracted.

The set-up and the preliminary results of the experimental campaign performed at HI γ S in 2023 will be presented.

Primary author: Ms KUNCSER, Ioana (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH & PO-LITEHNICA Bucharest National University for Science and Technology)

Co-authors: Dr CHAE, A. (Sungkyunkwan University, Korea); Mr PAPPALARDO, A. (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH); Dr TUMINO, A. (Laboratori Nazionali del Sud INFN, Catania, Italy); Dr UR, C. A. (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH & POLITEHNICA Bucharest National University for Science and Technology); Dr MATEI, C. (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH & POLITEHNICA Bucharest National University for Science and Technology); Dr BRUNE, C. R. (Ohio University, USA); Dr BAL-ABANSKI, D. L. (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH & POLITEHNICA Bucharest National University for Science and Technology); Dr LATTUADA, D. (Laboratori Nazionali del Sud INFN, Catania, Italy); Mr GU, G. (Sungkyunkwan University, Korea); Dr TURTURICA, G. (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH); Dr GUARDO, Giovanni Luca (Laboratori Nazionali del Sud INFN, Catania, Italy); Dr GARLAND, H. (Rutgers University, USA); Dr KARWOWSKI, H. (TUNL/HIGS, USA); Dr PAI, Haridas (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH); Mr HAVERSON, K. C. Z. (Sheffield Hallam University); Dr CHIPPS, Kelly A. (Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA); Dr GRINDER, M. (Rutgers University, USA); Dr LA COGNATA, Marco (Laboratori Nazionali del Sud INFN, Catania, Italy); Ms TINDLE, O. (Sheffield Hallam University); Dr PIZZONE, R. G. (Laboratori Nazionali del Sud INFN, Catania, Italy); Dr BALAKRISHNAN, S. (Rutgers University, USA); Dr PAIN, S. D. (Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA); Dr FINCH, S. (TUNL/HIGS, USA); Dr PALMERINI, S. (Laboratori Nazionali del Sud INFN, Catania, Italy); Dr KING, T. (Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA); Mrs PETRUSE, T. (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH & POLITEHNICA Bucharest National University for Science and Technology); Dr IANCU, V. (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH); Dr XU, Y. (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH)

Presenter: Ms KUNCSER, Ioana (Extrem Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics / IFIN-HH & POLITEHNICA Bucharest National University for Science and Technology)

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