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First evaluation of the 17 O(p, γ) 18 F 65 keV resonance strength by direct measurement at LUNA

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The ¹⁷O(p, γ)¹⁸F reaction plays a key role in the hydrogen burning in CNO cycle. At temperatures of interest for the H-shell burning in AGB stars, the reaction rate is dominated by the $E_{c.m.} = 65 \text{ keV}$ resonance.

The strength of this resonance is presently determined only through indirect techniques, with a literature value $\omega \gamma = (16 \pm 3) \text{ neV}$, leading to an expected counting rate of 0.3 reactions/C for typical experimental quantities.

The LUNA collaboration has recently performed a new direct measurement of the $^{17}\mathrm{O}(p,\gamma)^{18}\mathrm{F}$ cross section focused on the 65 keV resonance taking advantage of the ultra-low background of the deep underground Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (LNGS, Italy) and of a high stable intense proton beam ($\langle I \rangle = 200 \,\mu\mathrm{A}$) provided by the LUNA400 accelerator. For this purpose, a high sensitivity and high efficiency setup based on a segmented 4π BGO detector was developed. All these experimental efforts allowed, for the first time ever, the evaluation of the 65 keV resonance strength by a direct technique. Moreover, also the Γ_p width was calculated, confirming the results of the $^{17}\mathrm{O}(p,\alpha)^{14}\mathrm{N}$ 65 keV resonance measured in a previous LUNA experiment.

In the talk, the results of the new LUNA measurement will be presented.

Primary author: CIANI, Giovanni Francesco (INFN Bari)
Co-author: GESUE', Riccardo Maria (Gran Sasso Science Institute, INFN LNGS)
Presenter: GESUE', Riccardo Maria (Gran Sasso Science Institute, INFN LNGS)
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