Measurement of the 7Be(p, gamma)8B cross section with the recoil separator ERNA

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7Be(p,gamma)8B still represents one of the major uncertainties on the predicted high energy component of solar neutrino 2ux and it has also a direct impact on the 7Li abundance after the Big Bang Nucleosynthesis. So far, experiments producing data with useful precision were performed in direct kinematics, using an intense proton beam on a radioactive 7Be target. The complicated target stoichiometry and the deterioration under beam bombardment might possibly be the origin of the discrepancies observed between the results of different measurements. Inverse kinematics, i.e. a 7Be ion beam and a hydrogen target, can shed light on systematic effects. We report here on an experiment exploiting a high intensity 7Be beam in combination with a windowless gas target and the recoil mass separator ERNA (European Recoil mass separator for Nuclear Astrophysics) at CIRCE (Center for Isotopic Research on Cultural and Environmental heritage), Caserta, Italy. Measurements in the energy range Ecm=350 to 850 keV are presented and their impact on the determination of the stellar rate of7Be(p,gamma)8B is discussed.

Primary author: BUOMPANE, Raffaele (University of Campania)

Co-authors: DI LEVA, Antonino (INFN Napoli); D'ONOFRIO, Antonio (INFN Napoli); SCHUERMANN, Daniel (University of Campania); RAPAGNANI, David (INFN Perugia); ROGALLA, Detlef (Ruhr-Universitat Bochum); MORALES GALLEGOS, Elia Lizeth (INFN Napoli); SOMORJAI, Endre (ATOMKI); MARZAIOLI, Fabio (INFN Napoli); TER-RASI, Filippo (INFN Napoli); PALUMBO, Giancarlo ("Federico II"University, Napoli); PORZIO, Giuseppe (INFN Napoli); GYURKY, Gyorgy (ATOMKI); GARCIA DUARTE, Jeremias (INFN Napoli); ROMERO GASQUES, Leandro (INFN Napoli); GIALANELLA, Lucio (University of Campania); DE CESARE, Mario (INFN Napoli); ROMANO, Mario (INFN Napoli); ROMOLI, Mauro (INFN Napoli); DE CESARE, Nicola (University of Campania); ROCA, Vincenzo (INFN Napoli); FULOP, Zsolt (ATOMKI)

Presenter: BUOMPANE, Raffaele (University of Campania)

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