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Experimental study of the $^{15}\text{O}(\alpha,\gamma)^{19}\text{Ne}$ reaction for understanding type I X-ray bursts

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The $^{15}\text{O}(\alpha,\gamma)^{19}\text{Ne}$ reaction is a key breakout route from the hot CNO cycle in explosive environments such as in type I X-ray bursts. Determining an accurate cross section for the relevant resonant states is critical for a better understanding of the X-ray burst energy production and light-curves, and of the subsequent nucleosynthesis through the ap- and rp-processes.

The relevant ^{19}Ne states for temperatures up to 1 GK were populated using an indirect $^{15}\text{O}(^7\text{Li,t})^{19}\text{Ne}$ alpha transfer reaction measurement in inverse kinematics. The experiment used an intense radioactive ^{15}O beam produced by SPIRAL1 at GANIL and the state-of-the-art detection system VAMOS + MUGAST + AGATA, for the detection of the heavy residues, the light charged particles and the de-exciting γ -rays, respectively. This allowed to reach an unprecedented selectivity for detecting triple coincidences of all final state particles in this reaction.

In this presentation, we will outline the experimental set-up and analysis, providing results for the strongest populated resonances in ^{19}Ne . In particular, our result with reduced uncertainty for the alpha width of the critical 4.033 MeV excited state will be presented. New astrophysical $^{15}\text{O}(\alpha,\gamma)^{19}\text{Ne}$ reaction rates will be presented and the impact on X-ray burst light-curves will be discussed.

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