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Measurement of the ²⁶Al(d,p) reaction to constrain the ²⁶Al(p,gamma) rate at stellar temperatures

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The long-lived radioactive nuclide ^{26}Al is a predominant target for γ -ray astronomy, including the first all-sky survey of an individual γ -ray line. Massive stars have been highlighted as a dominant source of ongoing synthesis of ^{26}Al [1]. At these stellar temperatures, the $^{26}Al(p,\gamma)27Si$ reaction is expected to be the main reaction destroying ^{26}Al , thus impacting the net ^{26}Al production [2]. However, the strengths of low-lying resonances in ^{27}Si which determine this rate are not well-constrained experimentally, and are the subject of recently renewed interest [3].

In order to determine spectroscopic information for the mirror states to astrophysically-important resonances in 27 Si, and thereby constrain the reaction rate via these resonances, the 26 Al(d,p) 27 Al reaction has been measured [4]. The experiment was performed at the Holifield Radioactive Ion Beam Facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, using a beam of ~5 million 26 Al per second. The SIDAR and ORRUBA silicon detector arrays were used to measure proton ejectiles backwards of 90 degrees in the laboratory. Spectroscopic information was determined for mirrors to the astrophysically-relevant resonances, which were found to differ significantly from previously adpoted values. Details of the astrophysical motivation, experiment, and results will be presented.

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