

Proton induced reactions on the p-nucleus ^{120}Te

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In order to extend the experimental database related to the p-process, the $^{120}\text{Te}(p,\gamma)^{121}\text{I}$ reaction cross section has been measured with high precision by means of the activation method in the effective center of mass energies between $2.47 \text{ MeV} \leq E_{\text{c.m.}}^{\text{eff}} \leq 7.93 \text{ MeV}$. The covered energy range spans the Gamow window predicted in the high temperature environment, e.g., $2.43 \text{ MeV} \leq E_{\text{G}} \leq 4.64 \text{ MeV}$ for $T_9 = 3$. In addition, the $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)^{120}\text{I}$ reaction cross section has been investigated in the energy range $6.44 \text{ MeV} \leq E_{\text{c.m.}}^{\text{eff}} \leq 7.93 \text{ MeV}$. The targets were prepared by evaporation of 99.4 % isotopically enriched ^{120}Te on Aluminum and Carbon backing foils, and bombarded with proton beams provided by the FN Tandem Van de Graaff accelerator at the University of Notre Dame. The cross sections were deduced from the observed induced γ ray activity, which was detected off-line by two Clover HPGe detectors placed face to face in close geometry. The cross section measurements were also compared with the predictions of statistical model calculations using NON-SMOKER code to test the reliability of the theoretical input parameters.

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1. Introduction

The p-process is the least known among three main nucleosynthesis processes: s-process, r-process, and p-process. The p-process can proceed via a combination of photodisintegration reactions, (γ, n) , (γ, p) and (γ, α) on existing heavy s- and r-seeds in the temperature range of $2\text{--}3 \times 10^9$ K [1], [2]. Since most γ -induced reactions [3], [4] are difficult to measure directly, the photon-induced reaction cross sections can be determined by measuring the inverse reactions using the activation method, if the product is radioactive and has an appropriate β -decay half-life with an adequate γ -intensity. The obtained results are converted to γ -induced reaction cross sections by using the detailed balance theorem. In the last decade, the interest in measuring the cross sections of charged particle induced reactions has increased [5-17], see Ref. [18] for the detail. Although the (p, γ) measurements generally agree with the statistical model predictions within less than a factor of two, more (p, γ) data in the relevant energy range will be useful for a direct application in reaction network. Meantime, for a comparison, (p, n) measurements are not available at all except for ^{76}Ge [5] and ^{82}Se [6] isotopes. Moreover, experimental data for the charged particle induced reaction cross sections are scarce for higher mass region, especially $A > 100$. It is, therefore, important to investigate experimentally the p-induced reaction cross sections on ^{120}Te , which is a p-nucleus, in order to test the reliability of the statistical model predictions.

This work presents the measurements of $^{120}\text{Te}(p, \gamma)^{121}\text{I}$ and $^{120}\text{Te}(p, n)^{120}\text{I}$ reaction cross sections in the astrophysical energy range (the energy range for Gamow window is between 2.43 MeV and 4.64 MeV at the temperature of 3×10^9 K).

2. Experimental method

Measurements of (p, γ) and (p, n) cross sections on targets of ^{120}Te were carried out in a proton beam energy range from 2.5 MeV to 8.0 MeV in the laboratory frame with steps of 0.5 MeV, corresponding to effective center of mass energies from 2.47 MeV to 7.93 MeV. As the beam defining aperture, a 10 mm diameter collimator was placed just before the target irradiation chamber. A secondary electron suppression voltage of -300 V was also applied. Total number of incident protons is measured with a Faraday cup mounted right after the target chamber. Enriched ^{120}Te oxide (99.4 %) material was evaporated onto $20 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ C [19] and $1500 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ Al backing, and two targets were provided with the thickness of $128 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ and $456 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$, respectively. Backscattered protons were detected to monitor the target performance during each irradiation, using a Si surface barrier detector at an angle of 135° with respected to the beam direction. In order to take into account the possible changes in the beam current, it was recorded with an integrator in time intervals of 1 s. The applied current was between 80 nA and 320 nA depending on the thickness of the targets and beam energy.

After each irradiation, the target was removed from the target chamber and then transported to the γ counting system in order to measure off-line the yield of the produced unstable isotopes, ^{121}I and ^{120}I . The counting system was very similar to the one for our previous works on the α captures of ^{106}Cd [20] and ^{112}Sn [21]. The γ -

detection setup was composed of two Clover detectors placed face-to-face in close geometry, 4.9 mm gap between the Clovers. The whole setup is shielded against the room background with 5 cm of Pb and inner Cu lining of 3 mm. The irradiated target was placed in a plexiglass holder, and then it was inserted between the Clovers, each of which had four individual crystals. Each crystal was utilized as a single detection unit operating in “direct” mode in order to reduce the pileup and summing losses. The energies of the crystals were recorded event by event together with the time of the event, and a pulser with a frequency 100 Hz was also applied to one of the Ge preamplifiers, so that the dead time was able to be reconstructed as a function of time.

3. Analysis and results

In such a close geometry, the detection efficiency is relatively high; the correction for coincidence summing effects could become important. The photopeak efficiency of the detection system was measured by the efficiency-ratio method, which is defined in Ref. [21]. The relative efficiencies were obtained with the uncalibrated ^{152}Eu source, and normalized to fit in with the absolute photopeak efficiency of calibrated ^{137}Cs source. The nearly 4π detection geometry allowed the angular correlation to be neglected. The decay parameters used for the analysis and absolute photopeak efficiencies of the γ -transitions used for the products of $^{120}\text{Te}(p,\gamma)$ and $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)$ reactions are given in Table I. In the case of $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)$, the product ^{120}I has ground and isomeric states, and their partial cross sections can be determined separately. The $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)^{120}\text{I}$ reaction cross section was determined by summing the partial cross sections of $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)^{120g}\text{I}$ and $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)^{120m}\text{I}$ reactions.

Table I. Decay parameters of the investigated reaction products [22] and measured photopeak efficiencies of the γ -transitions used for the analysis.

Reactions	Product	Half-life (min)	E_γ (keV)	γ -Intensity (%)	eff. (%)
$^{120}\text{Te}(p,\gamma)$	^{121}I	127.2 ± 0.6	532.08	6.1 ± 0.3	12.6 ± 0.3
$^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)$	^{120g}I	81.6 ± 0.2	1523.0	10.9 ± 0.6	5.3 ± 0.1
	^{120m}I	53 ± 4	654.5	2.1 ± 0.7	10.6 ± 0.2

For the $^{120}\text{Te}(p,\gamma)^{121}\text{I}$ and $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)^{120}\text{I}$ reactions, the measured cross sections have been compared with the Hauser-Feschbach statistical model calculations obtained with the standard settings of the statistical model code NON-SMOKER [23] as seen in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The uncertainty in the results is governed by the following partial errors: the uncertainties in target thickness ($\sim 9\%$), counting statistics (0.2 % to 11 %), detection efficiency (1.8 % to 2.3 %), and decay parameters (0.2 % to 33 %).

Although a good agreement is observed at energies up to 6.45 MeV for the $^{120}\text{Te}(p,\gamma)^{121}\text{I}$ cross section values, the theoretical calculations deviate considerably at the higher energies from the measured data. The (p,n) channel opens around this energy (Q-value of 6.937 MeV corresponding to the threshold value of 6.451 MeV) and the model calculations for $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)^{120}\text{I}$ reaction underestimate measured values, see Figure 2. The detailed final results will be published soon.

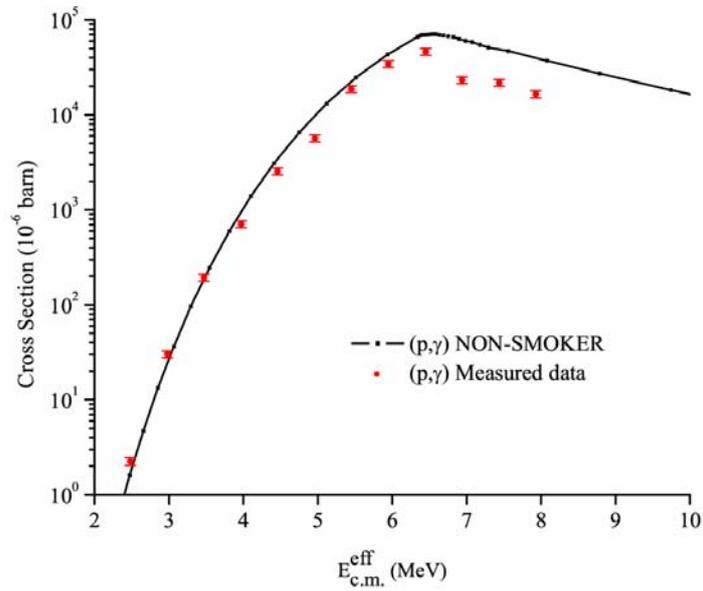


Figure 1. The measured cross sections for $^{120}\text{Te}(p,\gamma)^{121}\text{I}$ reaction in comparison with standard NON-SMOKER predictions [23].

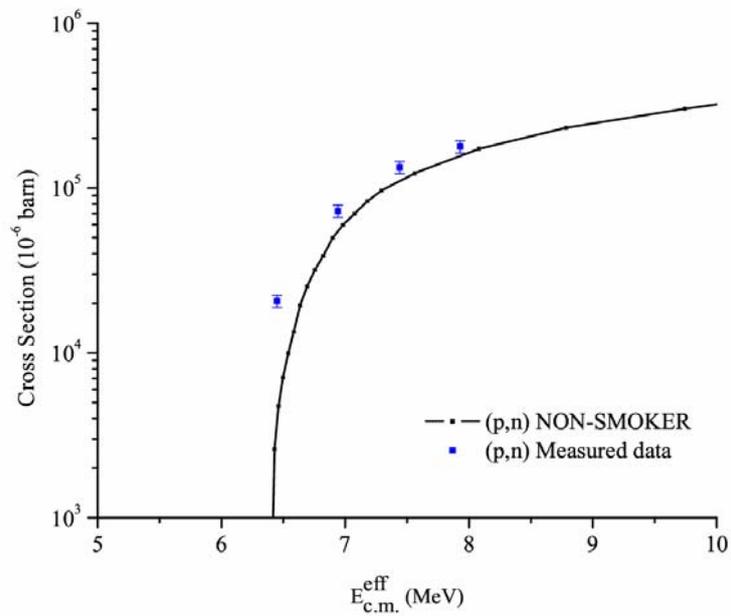


Figure 2. The measured cross sections for $^{120}\text{Te}(p,n)^{120}\text{I}$ reaction in comparison with standard NON-SMOKER predictions [23].

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