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Measurement of Radiative Decay Width of the Hoyle State of ^{12}C via $^{12}\text{C}(p, p)\gamma^{12}\text{C}$ Reactions

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The Hoyle state, second excited state of ^{12}C at an excitation energy of 7.65 MeV, plays an important role in nucleosynthesis. Particularly the radiative decay of the Hoyle state is the doorway to the production of heavier elements in stellar environment. An exclusive experiment has been performed to measure the radiative decay width of the Hoyle state of ^{12}C through the $^{12}\text{C}(p, p\gamma)^{12}\text{C}$ reaction at 10.6 MeV beam energy. Triple coincidence measurement yields a value of radiative branching ratio, $\Gamma_{\text{rad}}/\Gamma = 4.01 (30) \times 10^{-4}$. The result has been reconfirmed by an independent experiment based on the complete kinematical measurement via $^{12}\text{C}(p, p)^{12}\text{C}$ reaction at 11.0 MeV. Using our results together with the currently adopted values of $\Gamma_{\pi(E0)}/\Gamma$ and $\Gamma_{\pi(E0)}$, the radiative width of the Hoyle state is found to be $3.75 (28) \times 10^{-3}$ eV.

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