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Direct capture cross section and resonances in the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction at low energy

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1 **Direct capture cross section and resonances in the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$**
2 **reaction at low energy**

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Abstract

Background: Among the several inhomogeneities in the composition of globular cluster stars, an overabundance of ^{23}Na is interpreted as the signature of the operation of the neon-sodium (NeNa) cycle. One of the hypothesis to explain the observed O-Na anticorrelation invokes massive asymptotic giant branch stars as the main agents. At temperatures relevant for nucleosynthesis in asymptotic giant branch stars the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction rate has been the most uncertain so far, giving rise to considerable experimental efforts in recent years. While overall there is a good agreement between reported cross section results, some tensions still remain on the branching ratios of resonance γ rays mode and direct capture to excited sates.

Purpose: The present paper offers full details and a partial analysis of the high sensitivity study, of both direct capture and low-energy resonances in the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction, performed at LUNA and whose results were previously published in abbreviated form [Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 172701 (2018)].

Methods: During the LUNA measurement an intense proton beam was delivered to a ^{22}Ne gas target. The γ rays from the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction were detected by a high efficiency 4π , six-fold segmented bismuth germanate (BGO) detector. In the present paper the data from individual detector segments were combined with simulated detector responses to obtain cascade branching ratios.

Results: For the three resonances at $E_p = 156.2$ and 259.7 keV new γ -decay branchings are provided. Moreover, partial cross sections for the direct capture to different states of ^{23}Na are reported down to $E_p = 188$ keV, the lowest energy measured to date.

Conclusions: A revised reaction rate has been calculated based on a new R-matrix fit of the recent $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ S -factor data and results for the resonances. The thermonuclear reaction rate is provided in tabular form to be used in stellar models.

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47 I. INTRODUCTION

48 Hydrogen burning at temperatures as high as $T \sim 0.08 - 0.1$ GK, typical of Hot Bottom
49 Burning in Asymptotic Giant Branch (HBB-AGB) stars, and as $0.15 < T < 0.45$ GK, typical
50 of classical novae explosions, occur via both the CNO cycle and more advanced processes,
51 as the NeNa cycle [1, 2]. While it contributes negligibly to the energy budget, the NeNa
52 cycle is of great importance for stellar nucleosynthesis, because it affects the abundances
53 of isotopes between ^{20}Ne and ^{24}Mg [3]. Predicting the sodium abundance observable in
54 stellar atmospheres is, indeed, of great interest in the context of the long standing puzzle
55 of the Na-O anticorrelation in Globular Cluster (GC) stars [4, 5]. This anomaly, together
56 with other star-to-star abundance variations and independent photometric observations, are
57 believed to indicate the presence of multiple populations of stars in GCs [5–7]. Particularly
58 the increased abundance of ^{23}Na observed in some stars is interpreted as a signature of the
59 operation of the NeNa cycle in previous stellar generations [8]. Different hypotheses for the
60 origin of these anomalies have been investigated, such as mixing within the observed stars
61 [9], pollution of the interstellar medium by previous stellar sources such as AGB stars [10],
62 interactive binary systems [11], fast-rotating massive stars [12], supermassive stars [13], or
63 several distinct stellar populations within a cluster [14].

64 In order to constrain one or the other hypothesis, a comparison of predicted elemental
65 abundances with increasingly precise observed values is needed. To this end, the uncertain-
66 ties on the thermonuclear reaction rates of the processes involved should be reduced to a
67 negligible level compared to stellar evolutionary aspects [3, 15].

68 Until a few years ago, among the reactions of the NeNa cycle the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ (Q -
69 value = 8794.109(18) keV [16]) carried the largest uncertainty, with adopted reaction rates
70 spanning up to three orders of magnitude at temperatures of interest [17, 18]. Several
71 sensitivity studies have investigated how such an uncertainty propagated to the abundances
72 of intermediate-mass elements in AGB stars [3, 15], showing yields variation up to two orders
73 of magnitude [3], and classical novae explosions [19].

74 The large uncertainty of the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction rate was mainly due to the poorly
75 constrained contribution of a number of tentative low-energy resonances (Figure 1) [20–22]
76 and of the direct capture component [23, 24].

77 In this context the direct measurements performed at the Laboratory for Underground

78 Nuclear Astrophysics (LUNA) [25] played a significant role: first, three resonances at proton
79 energies of 156.2, 189.5 and 259.7 keV, in the laboratory, were observed for the first time
80 [26–29], providing also information on their energy and γ -decay modes. New stringent upper
81 limits were provided for the resonances at 71, 105 and 215 keV [26–29]. Then the S -factor,
82 $S(E)$, was measured down to unprecedented low energies [29].

83 In parallel to LUNA, independent studies at the overground TUNL, DRAGON, and
84 HZDR facilities, using direct (TUNL, HZDR) and inverse (DRAGON) kinematics, also re-
85 determined resonance strengths [30–33], and independently re-observed several of the new
86 resonances [31–33]. While overall there is a good agreement between results from different
87 experiments concerning the resonance strengths, some tensions still remain on the branching
88 ratios of the resonance γ -decay modes between Refs. [28, 30, 31]. Additionally, branching
89 ratios are used for efficiency simulations and are of interest for the broader nuclear physics
90 community.

91 A recent experiment, exploiting the proton inelastic-scattering reaction, combined with
92 non-observations of the 71, 105 and 215 keV resonance states in other experiments [26–29]
93 ruled out the existence of these resonance states [34].

94 As to the cross section in the energy region away from the resonances, LUNA has reported
95 results for the total S -factor down to very low energies [29], *i.e.* $E_p \leq 400$ keV. In the energy
96 region of overlap, DRAGON found total cross section values that agree with the LUNA
97 results [33]. Direct capture cross sections were measured at higher energies by [23, 24] and
98 more recently by [31].

99 The aim of the present work is to determine new γ -decay branchings of the resonances
100 at $E_p = 156.2$ and 259.7 keV and for the direct capture to different excited states of ^{23}Na ,
101 based on a refined re-analysis of data from Ref. [29]. These data are hoped to clarify existing
102 discrepancies between reported branching ratios and aid in a comparison between γ -ray and
103 recoil data. A new R-matrix fit of available data for the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ cross section and a
104 revised reaction rate are provided, as well.

105 The paper is organized as follows: the experimental setup is described in Section II.
106 Section III details the data analysis and experimental results for both the direct capture
107 and the resonances. In Section IV, the calculation of the reaction rate is described and
108 discussed. The summary and conclusion are given in Section V.

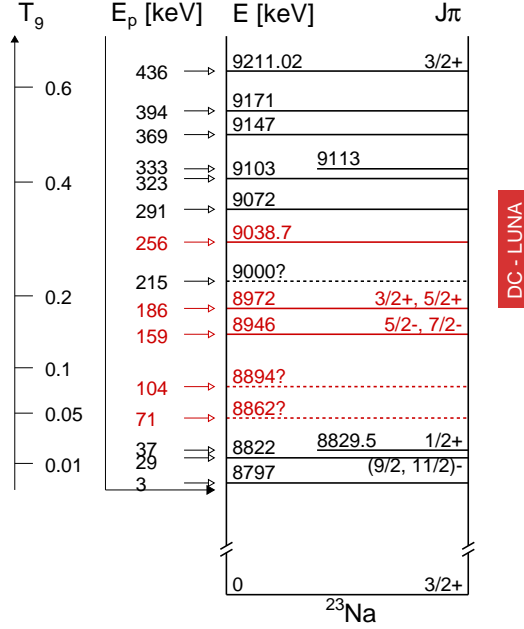


FIG. 1. (Color online) Partial level scheme of ^{23}Na , with level energies taken from [35, 36]. The energy range corresponding to the LUNA direct capture measurement [29, and present work] is indicated on the left in term of stellar temperature. The resonance energies in the laboratory system are shown together with the corresponding excited level energy and J^π . The resonances highlighted in red have been studied at LUNA [26, 27, 29, and present work].

109 II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

110 The experimental setup was installed at the LUNA-400kV accelerator [37] and it consisted
 111 of a cylindrical scattering chamber mounted in a windowless differential pumping system
 112 and filled with 2 mbar of ^{22}Ne gas, see [38, 39] for a recent description of the LUNA gas
 113 target and Figure 2 for a schematic view of the setup. The pumping system was operated
 114 in recirculation mode [39] and the ^{22}Ne gas (99.9% enrichment and 99.999% purity) was
 115 purified by a PS4-C3-R-2 heated getter to remove nitrogen, oxygen and carbohydrates. The
 116 nitrogen contamination was monitored by scanning the well known $E_p = 278$ keV resonance
 117 of $^{14}\text{N}(p,\gamma)^{15}\text{O}$ reaction on a daily basis [40–45]. Moreover to monitor the beam induced
 118 background, spectra were acquired filling the scattering chamber with argon. Proton capture
 119 reactions on argon are negligible at the LUNA-400kV energies, and by properly setting the
 120 gas pressure it was possible to reproduce the same proton energy loss as in neon. During

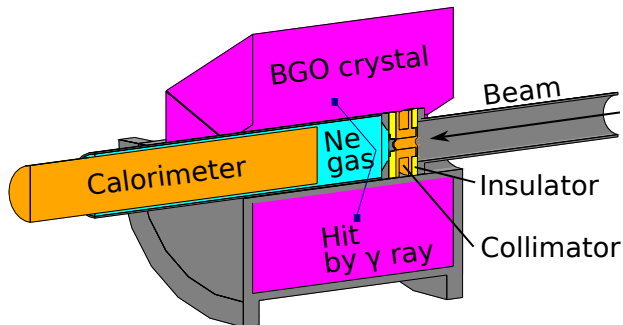


FIG. 2. (Color online) Cross section of the experimental setup. More details in the text and in [39].

121 the argon monitor runs, the beam hits the collimator and the calorimeter, the two places
 122 where most contaminants are located, at the same energy as during the neon.

123 The beam current was determined to a precision of better than 1.5% by using a Lab-
 124 VIEW controlled calorimeter [39]. The target density along the scattering chamber and the
 125 beam heating correction were obtained with dedicated investigations, resulting in a final
 126 uncertainty on ^{22}Ne density profile of 1.3%, as detailed in [39].

127 A 4π BGO detector [46] surrounded the scattering chamber as shown in Figure 2. The
 128 detector was composed of six optically independent sectors. The high Q -value of the
 129 $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction and the extreme reduction of the cosmic ray radiation granted by the
 130 underground location of the LUNA-400 kV in the INFN Gran Sasso National Laboratories
 131 [25] allowed to use the detector in add-back mode, namely summing energies of coincident
 132 events in a $3.5 \mu\text{s}$ wide time window [47] from all segments as if the BGO were one single
 133 detector [48, and references therein]. The coincidence window was found as the optimal to
 134 distinguish true coincidences from both pile-up events and random signal-pulsers overlaps
 135 [47].

136 To characterize the BGO response two different simulation codes were implemented,
 137 Geant3 [49] and Geant4 [50] based, respectively, and validated using radioactive sources and
 138 the well known resonance at $E_p = 278 \text{ keV}$ in the $^{14}\text{N}(p,\gamma)^{15}\text{O}$ reaction [40–45]. The two
 139 codes were found to give consistent results and the overall efficiency uncertainty is of 5%,
 140 see [29] for details.

141 III. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

142 Three low-energy peaks originating from the natural background, namely the $E_\gamma=1461$,
143 2204 and 2614 keV peaks from the ^{40}K , ^{214}Bi and ^{208}Tl decay, respectively, were used in
144 the calibration procedure. These γ rays were always present in the spectra and clearly
145 distinguishable in the ^{22}Ne runs. Due to the high Q -value of the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction,
146 the calibration was extended by including the γ rays by the $^{14}\text{N}(p,\gamma)^{15}\text{O}$ aforementioned
147 resonance and the $^{11}\text{B}(p,\gamma)^{12}\text{C}$ reaction, at energies around 11 and 16 MeV [51].

148 Once the single spectra were calibrated, the list-mode acquisition was exploited for the
149 creation of the addback spectrum. The signals from the single crystals contributing to the
150 sum peak ROI in the addback spectrum were selected and used to produce the so called
151 gated spectrum [29, 48, and references therein]. The same gate was applied to Ar spectra to
152 establish the ratio between Compton background in the region of interest and the high-energy
153 $^{11}\text{B}(p,\gamma)^{12}\text{C}$ peaks at 11-16 MeV. This ratio was used for subtraction of the background in
154 the gated neon spectra [29, 39].

155 To access the branching ratios, the experimental net gated spectra were fitted with sim-
156 ulated templates, which were prepared for each resonance ($E_p = 156.2, 259.7$ keV) and for
157 each non-resonant run ($E_p = 188, 205, 250, \text{ and } 310$ keV) separately. For each of these
158 seven runs, a separate template was developed for the decay from the resonance, or the
159 direct capture, to each accessible lower-lying state in ^{23}Na . The level scheme and decay
160 branching ratios from the latest version of the Nuclear Data Sheets [52] was used for these
161 templates. In the simulation, the trigger thresholds (each crystal was self-triggered with a
162 threshold) and dead time were considered, as well as the energy straggling and energy loss
163 of the proton beam inside the extended gas target [53, 54].

164 During the fit, only the branching ratios of the primary γ rays under study here were
165 considered free parameters, while all of the subsequent decays were fixed to the Nuclear
166 Data Sheet values [52]. The TFractionFitter class of ROOT was used [55]. This class
167 takes the statistical uncertainties of both the data and the Monte Carlo simulation into
168 account. Finally, the effect of different starting parameter sets on the fit results, including
169 possible false minima, was tested by repeating the fit using a fine grid of starting parameters,
170 and including also these effects in the error bar. The final branching ratio was given by
171 the weighted average of these several fit results. The branching ratio error was typically

172 dominated by the error due to this last step, not by the experimental or Monte Carlo
173 statistics.

174 The aforementioned analysis routine was validated with the precise branching data of the
175 $E_p = 278$ keV resonance in the $^{14}\text{N}(p,\gamma)^{15}\text{O}$ reaction [41], which were recovered within 4%
176 discrepancy [53, 54]. It must be noted that the detection efficiency for the sum peak in the
177 addback spectrum depends on the branching ratios used in the simulations. However, their
178 impact is mild, with a variation of the efficiency of less than 4% as a result of changing the
179 primary branchings by 10%.

180 A. Direct capture

181 The non-resonant component of the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ cross section was determined exper-
182 imentally by Rolfs et al. [24] and by Görres et al. [23] at energies $E_p > 500$ keV, resulting
183 in an extrapolated $S_{DC}(0) = 67(12)$ and 62 keV b, respectively. Görres et al. [23] also
184 measured the cross section of the ground state capture down to $E_p = 287$ keV, finding that
185 its low-energy trend is affected by both the contribution of the sub-threshold resonance at
186 $E_p = -135$ keV and the resonance at $E_p = 38$ keV, which decay to the ground state with
187 84% and 36% probability, respectively. Therefore, extrapolations of the cross section to zero
188 energy heavily rely on the sub-threshold resonance parameters.

189 In the present study, the intensities of the direct capture to ten different excited states of
190 ^{23}Na and the ground state were determined at four energies in the range $E_p = 188 - 310$ keV,
191 far-off the energies of known or supposed narrow resonances. These new data cover an energy
192 domain that was previously unexplored. While here we provide transition probabilities to
193 individual excited states, the results on the total cross section are reported in [29]. As an
194 example of the fitting procedure, the gated spectrum for the effective energy $E_{\text{eff}} = 306.2$ keV,
195 namely the cross-section-weighted average energy integrated over the target thickness [56],
196 with the simulated templates used in the fit are shown in Figure 3. None of the branching
197 ratios obtained shows variations as a function of beam energy in the energetic range explored
198 here, so we averaged the branching ratios obtained at different beam energies. The results
199 are reported in Table I. A conservative approach was used for the uncertainty estimation,
200 adopting the maximum deviation between the average and the branchings measured at
201 different energies. For some of the transition only an upper limit is reported, obtained

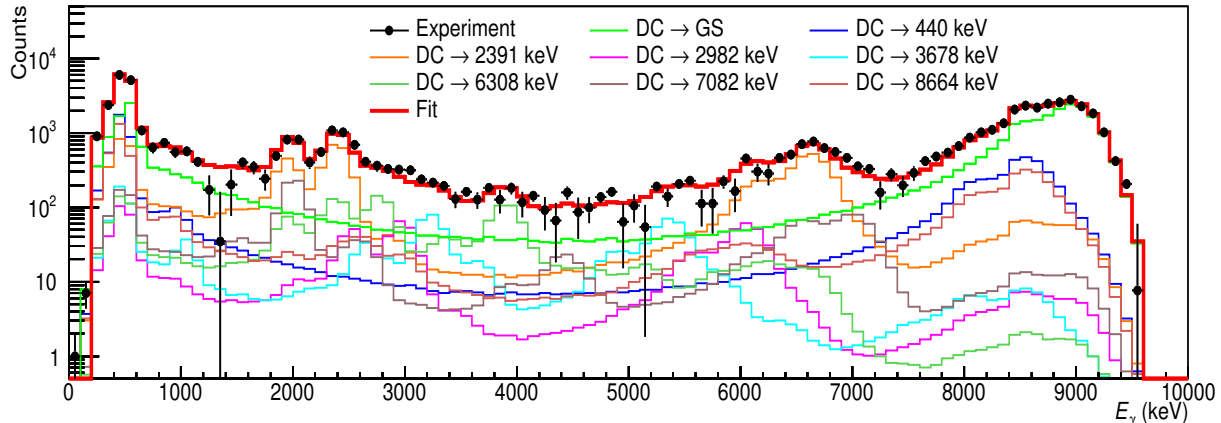


FIG. 3. Experimental spectrum at $E_{\text{eff}} = 306.2$ keV, gated at ROI = 8400-9600 keV, black points. Best fit simulated single cascades (colored lines) and their sum (red histogram) are shown for comparison.

202 averaging the values derived at different proton energies.

203 The DRAGON collaboration reported eight data points for the cross section [32, 33] in
 204 an energy range above the LUNA data, but with a small overlap, as shown in Figure 4.
 205 Their dataset is in excellent agreement with LUNA data [29], which are corrected for the
 206 screening effect via the adiabatic approach [58], but with slightly higher uncertainties. Since
 207 DRAGON studied also the resonance at $E_p = 479$ keV, they performed a re-normalisation
 208 of the single TUNL data point at $E_p = 425$ keV [31], which was found to be in better
 209 agreement with the DRAGON S -factor values and also with the trend reported in [29]. In
 210 order to better constrain the trend of the direct capture contribution and to properly fix
 211 the sub-threshold resonance shape at very low energies, we included the recent DRAGON
 212 results in the present re-evaluation of the non-resonant contribution via R-matrix fit, which
 213 supersedes the previous evaluation in [29].

214 The R-matrix fit was performed through the AZURE2 code and all the subthreshold
 215 states were considered with their ANC parameters taken from [59]. For the $E_x = 8665$ keV
 216 state a radiative width was added as well, since it could impact the extrapolation at lowest
 217 energies. The $1/2^-$, $1/2^+$ and $3/2^-$ background poles were also included. To perform the
 218 minimization, the Bayesian approach was followed with the use of the emcee library [60] and
 219 the BRICK package [61]. The prior distributions for the ANCs were considered as normal
 220 functions with the width given by their respective uncertainties. The normalization factors

TABLE I. Average values and the adopted uncertainties for the direct capture (DC) branchings in the energy range 188-310 keV.

Final E_x [keV] [36, 57]	DC Fraction Adopted [%]
0	48.1 ± 2.7
440.2(4)	9.8 ± 3.2
2390.9(3)	14.7 ± 3.6
2640.5(6)	< 1.5
2982.0(5)	2.4 ± 1.7
3677.9(5)	< 2.2
6305.6(6)	2.8 ± 2.2
6920.6(2)	< 2.2
7081.9(3)	< 3.4
8665.0(18)	11.2 ± 5.9
8826.5(19)	< 1.6

221 for each dataset were left free and their priors were assumed as normal distributions, with
 222 the width defined by the reported systematic uncertainty. For all the other parameters,
 223 so-called flat priors (flat probability density functions) within set limits, were used. See
 224 the Supplemental Material for a list of the R-matrix fit inputs. The resulting extrapolation
 225 for the total S -factor is shown in Figure 4, solid line, together with literature data. The
 226 obtained value for $S(0)$ is 0.36 ± 0.05 MeV b. In Figure 4, the dashed line indicates the
 227 present direct capture component, which was treated following the prescriptions in [62] for
 228 the energy dependence. In Table II the present direct component extrapolation, $S_{\text{DC}}(0)$, is
 229 compared to literature data, obtained considering the non-resonant contribution constant
 230 with the energy.

231 B. Resonances

232 Here we report the new results for the branching ratio of the 156.2 and 259.7 keV res-
 233 onance cascades, as obtained by fitting LUNA data in [29] as described in Section III. In

TABLE II. Extrapolated S -factor for the direct capture component only, $S_{\text{DC}}(0)$ from the literature and the present work. It must be noted that direct capture is treated as dependent on energy only in the present analysis, while in literature it was assumed constant.

$S_{\text{DC}}(0)$ [keV b]	Source
67 ± 12	C. Rolfs <i>et. al.</i> [24]
62	J. Goerres <i>et. al.</i> [23]
48.8 ± 9.5	R. Santra <i>et al.</i> [59]
60	M. Williams <i>et. al.</i> [33]
50 ± 12	F. Ferraro <i>et. al.</i> [29]
35 ± 5	Present Work

the following, results are discussed and compared with literature data while they are summarized in Table III. Moreover we include more details of the analysis performed for the branching ratio determination of the 189.5 keV resonance, whose results are published in [39]

C. 259.7 keV resonance ($E_x = 9042.4$ keV)

The resonance at 259.7 keV corresponds to the $E_x = 9042.4$ keV excited state in ^{23}Na . This level was reported as part of a doublet with the 9038 keV level in [36]. According to [36], the 9038 keV level has $J^\pi = 15/2^+$, while $J^\pi = 7/2^+$ or $9/2^+$ was assigned to the 9042.4 keV level. None of the transitions reported in [36] for the 9038 keV level have been observed in the present work, probably as consequence of the high angular momentum of the level. The branching ratios obtained in this work are in Figure 5 (top panel) and in Table III. An overall agreement with previous LUNA results is evident, except for the transition to the 2704 keV level. This resonance was recently studied by the DRAGON collaboration [32, 33], resulting in a resonance strength 1σ compatible with the value reported in [29], see Table IV.

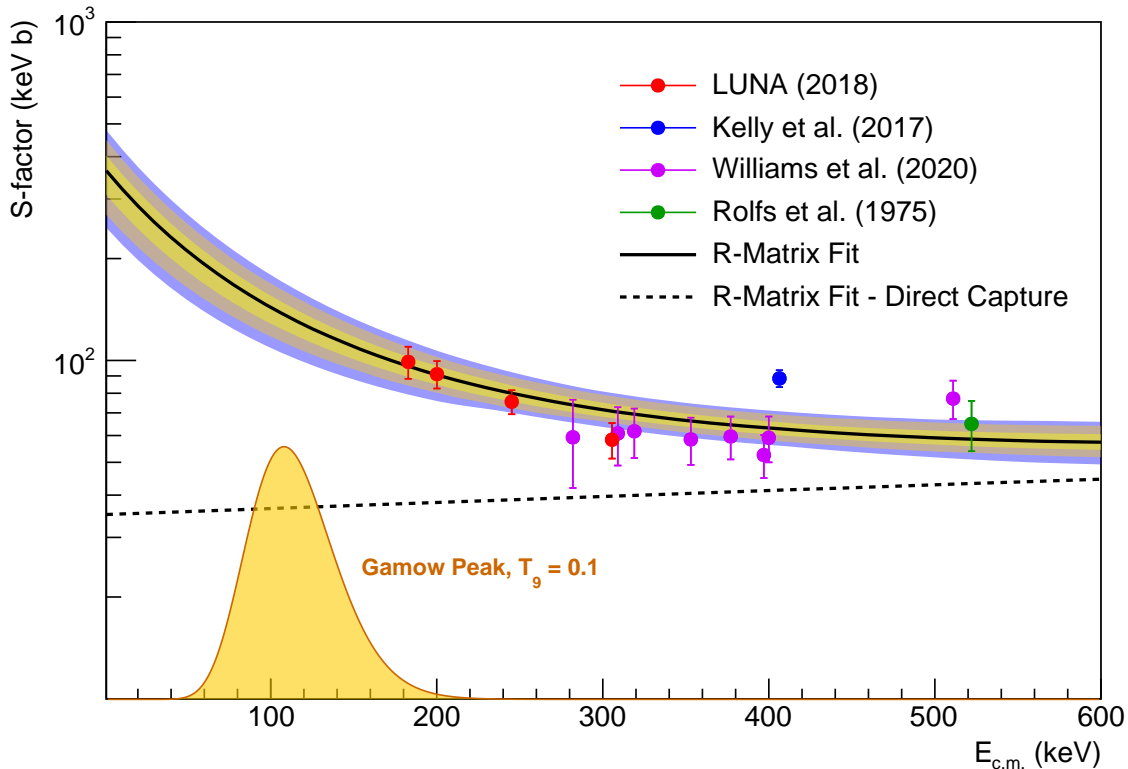


FIG. 4. The total S -factor data from LUNA, corrected for the screening effect [29], and from literature used in the R-matrix fit (black line). The three colored areas represent the 1, 2, 3σ regions of the fit, see text for details and Table I for adopted branchings of the cascades contributing to the total S -factor. The dashed line is the direct capture component as resulting from the R-matrix fit. A comparison between this work and the previously estimated direct capture contribution, $S_{\text{DC}}(0)$, is in Table II.

249 D. 189.5 keV resonance ($E_x = 8975.3$ keV)

250 The 189.5 keV resonance corresponds to the 8975.3 keV excited state in ^{23}Na with spin
251 parity $5/2^+$ [31, 35].

252 The branching ratios reported in [39], as derived from the best fit reported here in Figure
253 5 (middle panel) are compared with literature results [28, 31] in Table III. It must be noted
254 that in the minimisation procedure the branching ratio sets from [28] and [31] were also
255 considered, however they were unable to reproduce the experimental spectrum [39]. In
256 particular the transition to the ground state claimed in [31] is not confirmed here [39].

TABLE III. Decay branching ratios for the three resonances of $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ observed in the present experiment and reported in LUNA-HPGe [28], TUNL [31] and Jenkins [36].

E_x [keV]	Branching Ratios [%]								
	$E_p^{\text{res}} = 156.2$ keV				$E_p^{\text{res}} = 189.5$ keV			$E_p^{\text{res}} = 259.7$ keV	
	Jenkins	TUNL	LUNA HPGe	This work	TUNL	LUNA HPGe	[39]	LUNA HPGe	This work
G.S.					5.3±1.4		≤ 1		
440					37.7±1.5	42.8 ± 0.9	35 ± 6	45.4 ± 0.9	44.8 ± 1.4
2076					39.8±1.3	47.9 ± 0.9	53 ± 6	18.7 ± 0.6	17.9 ± 0.4
2391	39±6	20±4	23 ± 4	33.5 ± 1.8					
2704								10.9 ± 0.5	14.0 ± 0.3
2982					5.0±0.8	3.7 ± 0.5	3.3 ± 0.7		
3678					2.2 ± 0.8		2.4 ± 0.5		
3848								13.3 ± 0.5	14.7 ± 0.4
3915	61±30	80±6	77 ± 4	66.5 ± 2.2	3.1±0.6	1.1 ± 0.3	1.6 ± 0.5	1.8 ± 0.4	0.8 ± 0.2
4775					≤3.0	1.8 ± 0.2	1.9 ± 0.4		
5927								3.6 ± 0.2	2.7 ± 0.4
6042								2.6 ± 0.2	1.5 ± 0.7
6355								1.5 ± 0.2	2.2 ± 0.3
6618					4.7±0.9	2.7 ± 0.2	2.5 ± 0.8		
6820								2.2 ± 0.2	1.5 ± 0.4

257 Recently DRAGON reported for this resonance a new resonance strength [32, 33] com-
 258 patible with results in literature [29, 31], see Table IV.

259 E. 156.2 keV resonance ($E_x = 8943.5$ keV)

260 The 156.2 keV resonance corresponds to the 8943.5 keV excitation energy in ^{23}Na , which
 261 is reported as a doublet by [36] with one level having $J^\pi = 7/2^-$, while the other a tentatively
 262 assigned $3/2^+$. As a matter of fact, for the low proton beam energies used here, the $7/2^-$
 263 level is strongly disfavored by the angular momentum barrier. Primary transitions to the
 264 3915 keV and 2391 keV states have been observed in this work (Figure 5, bottom panel) as
 265 well as in previous experiments [28, 31, 36], see Table III.

266 The resonance strengths provided by recent measurements are in agreement within 1σ

267 [29, 31, 32], see IV.

268 IV. REACTION RATE

269 The present extrapolation for the total cross section (Figure 4) was used to calculate a
270 new reaction rate, reported in Table V. All the previously reported narrow resonances were
271 added by using the following approximation:

$$R_i = \frac{1.54 \times 10^{11}}{T_9^{3/2}} \left(\frac{M_p + M_{22}}{M_p M_{22}} \right)^{3/2} \omega \gamma_i \exp \left(-11.605 \frac{E_i}{T_9} \right), \quad (1)$$

272 where T_9 is the temperature in GK, M_p and M_{22} are the proton and ^{22}Ne masses in amu,
273 respectively, and E_i is the center of mass energy of the resonance. Resonance strengths,
274 $\omega \gamma_i$, and energies, E_i , assumed here are given in Table IV. Following the prescriptions
275 in [58], the screening correction factors, f , were estimated between 1.07 and 1.03 for the
276 resonances investigated by LUNA, see Table IV. A recently published approach suggests that
277 the screening correction in case of narrow resonances is negligible [63]. The new formalism,
278 however, is still under debate.

279 For the resonances for which only upper limits are reported the formalism described in
280 [28] was used. Resonances at 71, 105 and 215 keV were not considered [34].

281 The final rate is shown in Figure 6 and compared with the most recent results in literature
282 and with the commonly adopted rate from [21]. Over the whole temperature range in Figure
283 6 the present rate uncertainty is reduced compared to the result in [21]. At $0.02 \leq T \leq$
284 0.15 GK the present uncertainty is compatible with [31, 33] and strongly reduced compared
285 to previous LUNA rate [29], because of the different treatment of 71 and 105 keV resonances.
286 The new reaction rate is in good agreement with literature results, except at $0.09 \leq T \leq$
287 0.3 GK, where it is up to 30% higher than the most adopted rate [21], as a consequence of
288 the improved resonance contribution estimation.

289 V. SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

290 The total S -factor of the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction was recently measured by LUNA down
291 to the lowest energy to date. From the same measurement we reported here the results
292 for the branching ratio of direct capture to different excited states of ^{23}Na . Moreover, we

293 propose an updated extrapolation for the total S -factor and for the direct capture component
294 based on a dedicated R-matrix fit of LUNA data and recent results reported in literature.
295 New γ -decay branchings are provided for the resonances at 156.2 and 259.7 keV. An overall
296 good agreement is found with respect to previous LUNA and literature results. A new
297 reaction rate was calculated based on the present results and recently published data and
298 can be adopted for future investigation of AGB star nucleosynthesis and their impact on the
299 abundance anomalies in globular clusters.

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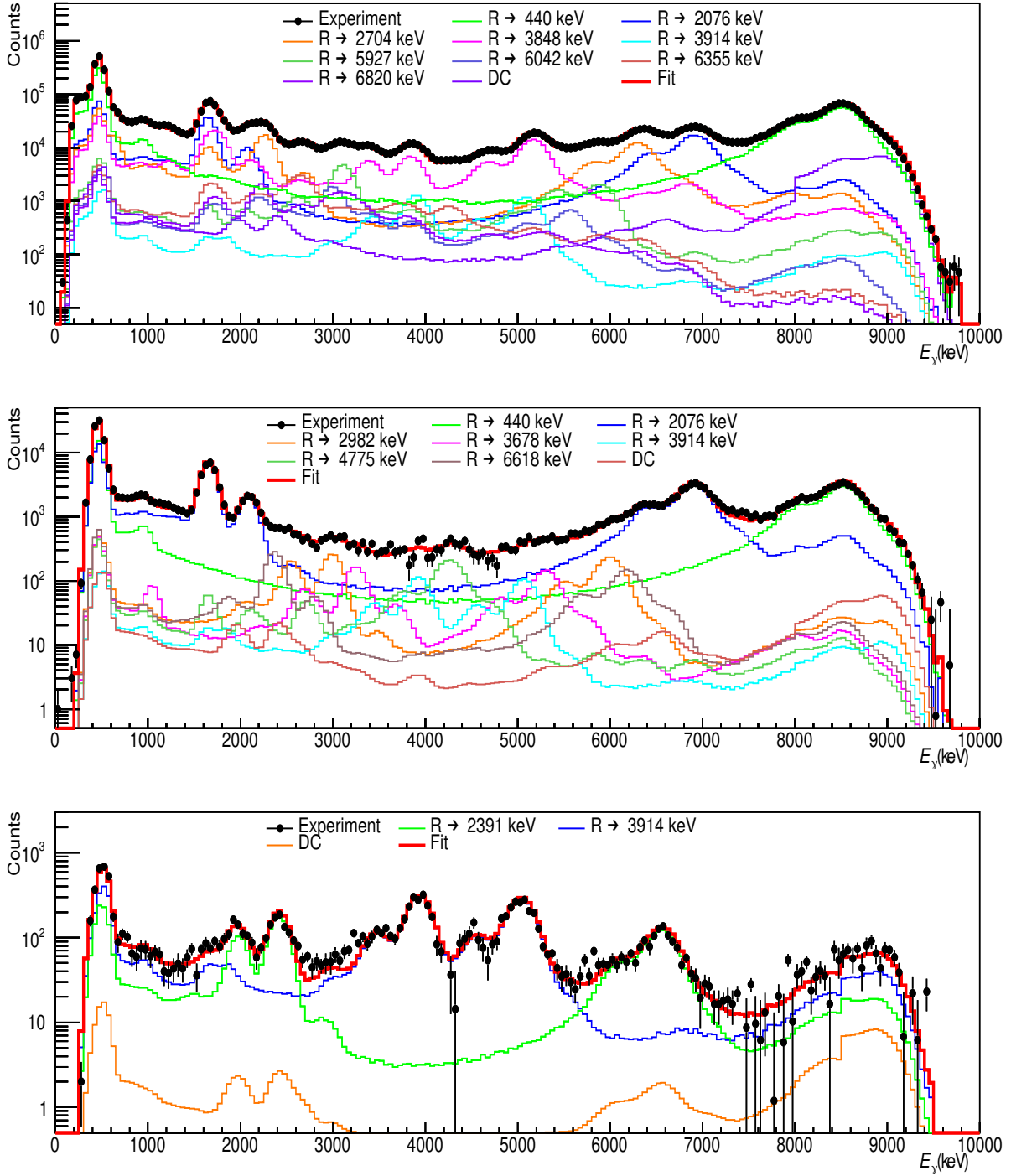


FIG. 5. Experimental spectra of the resonances at, from top to bottom, $E_p = 259.7, 156.2$ and 189.5 keV (from [39]), gated at ROI = 8000-9800 keV, 7700-9700 keV and 8400-9500 keV, respectively.

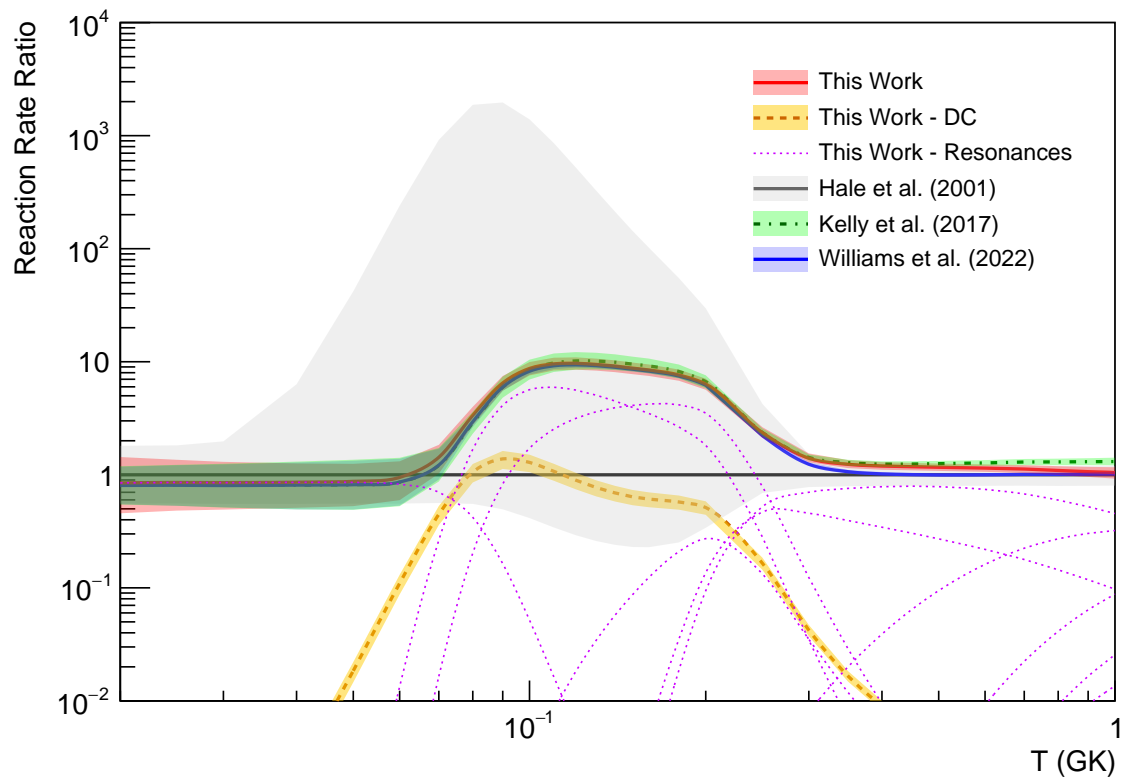


FIG. 6. (Color online) The present $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ total reaction rate and other from literature [21, 31, 33] are shown as normalized to [21] and with error bands corresponding to 1σ . The contribution of individual resonances (contributing more than 1% to the total rate) is given in magenta. The DC component is shown in dashed orange line with relative error as from the R-matrix fit.

TABLE IV. The $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ resonance strengths adopted here. For the reaction rate calculation a screening correction was applied to resonances studied at LUNA, see text for details. Upper limits from [29] are given at 90% confidence level. Resonances at $E_p > 661$ keV are adopted without change from Ref. [18] but not listed here.

E_p^{res} [keV]	Strength $\omega\gamma$ [eV]				f
	Literature direct	Literature indirect	LUNA [26, 29]	Adopted	
29	-	$\leq 3.2 \times 10^{-25}$ [21] $\leq 2.6 \times 10^{-25}$ [64]	-	$\leq 2.6 \times 10^{-25}$	
37	-	3.6×10^{-15} [21] $(3.1 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-15}$ [64]	-	$(3.1 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-15}$	
71	$\leq 3.2 \times 10^{-6}$ [22]	$\leq 1.9 \times 10^{-10}$ [21]	$\leq 6 \times 10^{-11}$	-	
105	$\leq 0.6 \times 10^{-6}$ [22]	$\leq 1.4 \times 10^{-7}$ [21]	$\leq 7 \times 10^{-11}$	-	
156.2	$\leq 1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ [22] $(2.03 \pm 0.40) \times 10^{-7}$ [31] $1.7_{-0.4}^{+0.5} \times 10^{-7}$ [32, 33]	9.2×10^{-9} [21] $(9.2 \pm 3.7) \times 10^{-9}$ [64]	$(2.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-7}$	$(2.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-7}$	1.07
189.5	$\leq 2.6 \times 10^{-6}$ [22] $(2.32 \pm 0.32) \times 10^{-6}$ [31] $(2.2 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-6}$ [32, 33]	3.4×10^{-6} [21]	$(2.7 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-6}$	$(2.7 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-6}$	1.06
215	$\leq 1.4 \times 10^{-6}$ [22]	-	$\leq 2.8 \times 10^{-8}$	-	
259.7	$\leq 2.6 \times 10^{-6}$ [22] $(8.5 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-6}$ [32, 33]	$\leq 1.3 \times 10^{-7}$ [21]	$(9.7 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-6}$	$(9.7 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-6}$	1.03
291	$\leq 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$ [22]	-	-	$\leq 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$	
323	$\leq 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$ [22]	-	-	$\leq 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$	
334	$\leq 3.0 \times 10^{-6}$ [22]	-	-	$\leq 3.0 \times 10^{-6}$	
369	-	$\leq 6.0 \times 10^{-4}$ [21]	-	$\leq 6.0 \times 10^{-4}$	
394	-	$\leq 6.0 \times 10^{-4}$ [21]	-	$\leq 6.0 \times 10^{-4}$	
436	(0.079 ± 0.006) [30] (0.088 ± 0.01) [31]	-	-	(0.079 ± 0.006)	
479	(0.594 ± 0.038) [30] (0.583 ± 0.043) [65] (0.44 ± 0.02) [32, 33]	-	-	(0.594 ± 0.038)	
638.5	(2.45 ± 0.18) [30] (2.6 ± 0.3) [33]	-	-	(2.45 ± 0.18)	
661	(0.032 ± 0.017) [30] (0.45 ± 0.03) [33]	-	-	(0.032 ± 0.015)	

TABLE V. The presently adopted thermonuclear reaction rate (Median Rate) for the $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ reaction in units $\text{cm}^{-3}\text{s}^{-1}\text{mol}^{-1}$, as a function of temperature T_9 in GK units. The low and high rates were obtained subtracting and adding 1σ uncertainty, respectively.

T_9	Low Rate	Median Rate	High Rate
0.01	2.76×10^{-25}	6.97×10^{-25}	1.65×10^{-24}
0.011	1.06×10^{-23}	2.53×10^{-23}	5.63×10^{-23}
0.012	2.21×10^{-22}	4.99×10^{-22}	1.05×10^{-21}
0.013	2.85×10^{-21}	5.91×10^{-21}	1.25×10^{-20}
0.014	2.53×10^{-20}	5.28×10^{-20}	1.03×10^{-19}
0.015	1.66×10^{-19}	3.38×10^{-19}	6.39×10^{-19}
0.016	8.57×10^{-19}	1.70×10^{-18}	3.14×10^{-18}
0.018	1.30×10^{-17}	2.49×10^{-17}	4.36×10^{-17}
0.02	1.12×10^{-16}	2.09×10^{-16}	3.53×10^{-16}
0.025	5.16×10^{-15}	9.15×10^{-15}	1.46×10^{-14}
0.03	6.25×10^{-14}	1.08×10^{-13}	1.65×10^{-13}
0.04	1.29×10^{-12}	2.17×10^{-12}	3.19×10^{-12}
0.05	7.50×10^{-12}	1.24×10^{-11}	1.77×10^{-11}
0.06	2.64×10^{-11}	4.19×10^{-11}	5.82×10^{-11}
0.07	1.13×10^{-10}	1.57×10^{-10}	2.02×10^{-10}
0.08	8.59×10^{-10}	1.05×10^{-9}	1.25×10^{-9}
0.09	6.60×10^{-9}	7.73×10^{-9}	8.91×10^{-9}
0.1	3.83×10^{-8}	4.42×10^{-8}	5.04×10^{-8}
0.11	1.69×10^{-7}	1.94×10^{-7}	2.19×10^{-7}
0.12	5.95×10^{-7}	6.77×10^{-7}	7.65×10^{-7}
0.13	1.74×10^{-6}	1.98×10^{-6}	2.23×10^{-6}
0.14	4.42×10^{-6}	5.00×10^{-6}	5.62×10^{-6}
0.15	9.94×10^{-6}	1.12×10^{-5}	1.26×10^{-5}
0.16	2.03×10^{-5}	2.29×10^{-5}	2.56×10^{-5}
0.18	6.76×10^{-5}	7.61×10^{-5}	8.50×10^{-5}
0.2	1.83×10^{-4}	2.06×10^{-4}	2.30×10^{-4}
0.25	1.81×10^{-3}	2.00×10^{-3}	2.24×10^{-3}
0.3	2.15×10^{-2}	2.34×10^{-2}	2.58×10^{-2}
0.35	1.76×10^{-1}	1.90×10^{-1}	2.08×10^{-1}
0.4	9.01×10^{-1}	9.71×10^{-1}	1.05×10^0
0.45	3.23×10^0	3.48×10^0	3.76×10^0
0.5	8.97×10^0	9.66×10^0	1.04×10^1
0.6	4.16×10^1	4.49×10^1	4.85×10^1
0.7	1.25×10^2	1.36×10^2	1.47×10^2
0.8	2.88×10^2	3.17×10^2	3.46×10^2
0.9	5.57×10^2	6.20×10^2	6.84×10^2
1.0	9.52×10^2	1.08×10^3	1.20×10^3

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