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Study of the hindrance effect in sub-barrier fusion reactions PAUL DAVIES, University of Surrey, ANSEL HILLMER, Valparaiso University, ANTO-NIOS KONTOS, LARRY LAMM, CHI MA, University of Notre Dame, EDWARD MARTIN, University of Surrey, MASAHIRO NOTANI, FRANCESCO RAIOLA, ED STECH, WANPENG TAN, XIAODONG TANG, University of Notre Dame — In recent years, a hindrance model has been proposed to extrapolate heavy-ion fusion cross sections at sub-barrier bombarding energies. Compared to the singleand coupled-channel model, the hindrance model greatly reduces the fusion reaction rates in the stellar matter at temperatures  $T \leq (3-10) \times 10^8$  K. To test the hindrance model, we have measured the cross sections for the reaction  ${}^{12}C({}^{13}C,p){}^{24}Na$  in the energy range  $E_{c.m.} = 3.08$ -4.80 MeV by counting the beta-gamma coincidence from the decay of  ${}^{24}Na$  which has a half life of 15 hours. Preliminary results will be presented.

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