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**Low-lying states in  $^{32}\text{Mg}$  studied by proton inelastic scattering**  
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Low-lying excited states in the neutron-rich nucleus  $^{32}\text{Mg}$  were studied by proton inelastic scattering in inverse kinematics via an in-beam  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy technique. Populated states were identified by measuring de-excitation  $\gamma$  rays, in which five new states were found by  $\gamma - \gamma$  coincidence analyses. The differential cross sections were analyzed by using coupled-channel calculations to determine the transferred angular momenta and the amplitudes of individual transitions. The spin and parity of the 2321-keV state was assigned as  $4^+$ . The ratio between the energies of the  $2^+$  and  $4^+$  states indicates that  $^{32}\text{Mg}$  is a transitional nucleus rather than an axially deformed rigid rotor. A candidate for the  $3^-$  state was found at an excitation energy of 3115 keV, which is lower than the  $3^-$  energies in other  $N = 20$  isotones. A small  $B(E3)$  value of 0.6 W.u. suggests a single-particle nature. The collectivities in the nucleus  $^{32}\text{Mg}$  with  $N = 20$  are discussed based on the results obtained in the present experiment.

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