

Probing the origins of the chemical elements

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Where and when are the elements created?



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Neutrinos from the Sun and isotopic signatures of the oldest stars



Interpretation of transients from all-sky surveys



Constraint of the nuclear equation of state



Heavy element nucleosynthesis in the multimessenger era

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First observation of neutrinos from the Sun's CNO cycle

Measuring the neutrinos produced by the Sun can tell us not only about the properties of neutrinos themselves, but also about the solar composition

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 \rightarrow recent Borexino result seems to indicate that the Sun has more "heavy" elements inside it than are visible at the solar surface

 \rightarrow additional precision in the underlying CNO cycle reaction rates is needed





TABLE 8 | Dominant theoretical error sources for neutrino fluxes and for the main characteristics of the SSM.



Villante Frontiers 618356 (2021)

Astrophysical cross section differences of just a few percent can cause solar models to disagree with observations by >1 σ

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 \rightarrow 1/3rd of major sources of uncertainty in neutrino flux are nuclear physics

→ measurements are needed at 10s of keV; extrapolations can be unreliable due to lack of structure info, plasma effects...

New techniques coupled with old tricks can help us understand these critical reaction rates

ounts

Counts (keV-1

10-6



Going underground in conventional experiments can reduce the cosmic-ray background e.g. CASPAR

Laser-driven fusion experiments probing cross sections at astrophysical temperatures

1500

Notre Dame - Unshielded

CASPAR - Unshielded

CASPAR - Shielded

Energy (keV)

Energy (keV)

(a)

(b)

Zylstra++ Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 035002

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Phys. Rev. C 106, 065803

Frentz++

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Transients



Many different transients -Kilonovae

- -Classical Novae
- -Supernovae
- -X-ray bursts





r-process nucleosynthesis Own artwork on ESA base

> CNe are important sources of Li, maybe P - need good yields from models for GCE

NASA artist's impression

What is the role of "astromers" in proton-rich nucleosynthesis?

²⁶Al is the most well-known, but many isomers exist along the rp-process path

 \rightarrow long-lived isomers can be populated thermally or as a decay endproduct

→ assumptions of thermal equilibrium may not be valid due to high angular momentum barriers, large differences in lifetime, coupling through higher-lying states needs large partial widths

 \rightarrow mixed populations impact effective lifetimes and stellar enhancement factors



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Supernovae





Oberlack et al., 1997



500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000 Gamma Energy (keV)



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EoS and the symmetry energy

EoS physics links microscopic nuclear physics (ISGMR, IVGDR, masses, GT response, HIC, neutron skins etc) to behaviour of neutron stars

Observations - NICER data, GWs, NS cooling, X-ray bursts

NS cooling needs information on Urca processes (weak rates including between excited states!)

XRBs require accurate reaction rates for many reactions (Gavin's talk!)





ГЕХА

Brendan T. Reed, F. J. Fattoyev, C. J. Horowitz, and J. Piekarewicz Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 172503

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Levan++ Nature volume 626, pages737–741 (2024)

Definite production of heavy elements following the kilonova



Can we constrain the various astro contributions to r-process abundances with improved nuclear data?





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More precise knowledge of nuclear masses, decay branches, neutron capture, fission probabilities, spallation reactions can help pin down the astrophysics behind r-process sites

 \rightarrow still some places, like the first r-process peak, where the uncertainty in the masses are driving abundance pattern changes on par with the uncertainties in the astrophysics

 \rightarrow reverse engineering from the nuclear physics data and the observational data are allowing more meaningful constraints on the astrophysical conditions

Nuclear physics is improving astro predictions!

Precision mass measurements of most neutron-rich CARIBU isotopes using PI-ICR at the CPT pins down astrophysical outflow conditions

→ masses near N=100, A=164 r-process "rare earth peak" → data compared to MCMC reverse engineering of mass surface needed to reproduce observed solar abundance patterns given a particular NSM outflow model (hot, cold, mixed)







PRL120, 262702 & PRC105, L052802

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Prof Surman will talk about the r-process in a moment but I like the s-process

Need to understand the s-process to confirm r-process models





Rightly much focus on observations -GWs, *v*, optical, presolar grains and isotopic ratios also vital to models of GCE



As an example: ⁹⁶Zr can be made in s-process since ⁹⁵Zr is long lived

It's a probe of the neutron density in e.g. AGB stars

Strong dependence on the $^{22}Ne(\alpha,n)$ rate (oh no)

Most ⁹⁶Zr is produced in the r-process but how much? Need to know the s-process



Any questions?





Blame Kelly for any mistakes :)

(She gave me a lot of the slides so also I should say "thanks", I guess)