Isotopes in Cosmic Sites: Observations and Lessons

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How cosmic isotopes are being made, and how measurements enable us to study this

Contents:

- 1. Isotopes in the cosmos
- 2. Nuclear reactions and cosmic sites
- 3. Astronomy of cosmic isotopes
- 4. Lessons learned and open questions





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Cosmic origins of the variety of nuclides

Associating different "processes" with nuclide groups – that's what we teach...



Science with Cosmic Isotopes



☆Trace the forms of cosmic matter

☆Understand the sources of new nuclei

rare sources are a challenge (& speculation)....

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Messengers for Cosmic Nucleosynthesis: Issues

Complex and variate nuclear-reaction flows



• Cosmic nuclear-reaction sites are embedded

☆ Stars:

^{CP} inactive envelope is ~90% of stellar mass

- ☆ Supernovae:
 - envelopes large (SN II) or small (SN Ia)
- ☆ Kilonovae:











How do we measure nuclei in cosmic sites?

Diversity of Complementing Observing Methods



A closer look: The Sun

Telescopes can see many exciting surface phenomena...



STEREO Ahead EUVI 304

Solar Dynamic Observatory

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Signatures of Elements

Spectral lines in the spectrum of Sunlight



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Spectrographs in optical telescopes today

• Make use of wavelength-dependent propagation in materials



Optical Spectra: Observables of Stars



Jacoby, B. H., Hunter, D. A., and Christian, C. A. 1984, Astrophys. J. Supp. Ser., 56, 257

Solar Photospheric Abundances

improvements of

- ☆ measurement technique,
- interpretation(line shape modeling)
 - 3D atmosshere models for convective motion
 - atomic-line calibrations
 - non-LTE population of ionisation states



→ C,N,O abundances reduced 2009 by ~30% wrt 1998 reference

Asplund+2009, 2015...



Fig. 2. Photospheric abundance determinations over time

Solar Elemental Abundances



determined from 3D-NLTE analyses of solar spectra

Solar Elemental Abundances



Asplund & Grevesse 2021 7.60 3D non-LTE: Stagger 3D model -ogarithmic Fe abundance 7.55 Fel ∆ Fell • 7.50 7.45 7.40 7.35 2 5 0 3 1 **Excitation potential [eV]** 7.60 1D non-LTE: Holweger & Mueller 1974 -ogarithmic Fe abundance 7.55 7.50 7.45 7.40 7.35 0 2 3 5 1 **Excitation potential [eV]**

3D-NLTE analyses of solar spectra reveal differences to previous spectral analyses:

Fe abundance independent of the particular line excitation energies

Stellar Surface Spectroscopy

- This messenger of cosmic abundances is applied widely
- Multiple lines per species, with different ionization states; wavelength-dependent depth / location of photosphere: gas kinematics (microturbulence) determines line shapes
- Spectral modeling, using atomic data & atmosphere model, is key to precision results



• Astrophysical history of photospheric gas requires modeling (gravitational settling; nuclear burning; chemical processing, ...)

Spectral Modeling (CANNON), varying log g

Challenge: r-process ejecta from neutron star collisions?



- → elemental-lines are broad / fuzzy due to Doppler shifts & broadenings of dynamic ejecta Large number of lines (~10⁵), need for laboratory references & libraries
- unclear abundance signatures, unclear chemical-evolution impact

(ejecta masses, fresh vs prior synthesis, rare events) Nuclei in the Cosmos 2021 School, Sep 2021

Highly-dynamic gas evolution (\rightarrow bulk motion, opacity evolution)



Elemental yields are expected in variety



Solar Elemental Abundances



determined from laboratory analyses of meteoritic material (CI chondrites=oldest)

pre-solar grains: a new astronomical messenger

* isotopic anomalies wrt solar-system materials by many orders of magnitude



Figure 1 Scanning electron micrographs of presolar dust grains. (a) Silicon carbide, (b) Graphite, (c) TEM image of graphite slice with interior TiC grain, (d) Aluminum oxide, (e) Spinel (only ~2% of the grains in this image are presolar), (f) Silicate.

☆ study AGB stars (=dust producers)

nuclear burning in shells of AGB star (HBB)





Solar Abundances: Photospheric vs Meteoritic

General agreement,

but upon closer inspection also discrepancies:



Solar Abundances: Photospheric vs Meteoritic

General agreement, but upon closer inspection also discrepancies:





- gases & volatile elements underabundant in CI meteorites
- moderately-volatile elements enriched in CI meteorites
- other primitive meteorites (CM matrix) agree better to photospheric abundances \rightarrow CI formation bias?



Solar abundances: isotopes

- Careful before interpretation: Biases of material samples are significant
 - using meteoritic & solar-wind data and theory for estimations of their evolutionary biases
 Asplund & Grevesse 2021



Solar Isotopic Abundances: Data vs ChemEv Model



Nuclear Burning: H to He

• H Burning: the p-p Chains



Modeling our Sun: Neutrinos from H fusion reactions

- Core hydrogen burning, hydrostatic equilibrium
- Parameters:
 - Y (He abundance), Z (metallicity)
 - Mixing length α
- Outputs:
 - Luminosity (energy), neutrinos





Bahcall+2006

Borexino: lower energy neutrinos (<8B)

• Scintillation Detector in Gran Sasso Lab. (Italy)



Suppress very efficiently other background

Neutrinos from H burning confirm solar model basics

The variety of "astronomies"

... beyond astronomical telescopes of optical light:

Detection of Radiation from Isotopes

Current Nuclear Gamma-Ray Line Telescopes

INTEGRAL

2002-(2021+..2029)

ESA

high E resolution Ge detectors 15-8000 keV

NuSTAR (only <80 keV!)

2012-(2022+) ...

NASA

hard X ray imaging <80 keV

Fig. 1. NuSTAR telescopes in deployed configuration

MeV Range Gamma-Ray Telescope Principles

Simple Detector (& Collimator)

(e.g. HEAO-C, SMM, CGRO-OSSE) Spatial Resolution (=Aperture) Defined Through Shield

Coded Mask & Detector Array

(e.g. SIGMA, INTEGRAL, SWIFT) Spatial Resolution Defined by Mask & Detector Elements Sizes

Compton Telescopes

(Coincidence-Setup of

Position-Sensitive Detectors)

(e.g. CGO-COMPTEL, MEGA, ACT, GRIPS, eASTROGAM) Spatial Resolution Defined by Detectors' Spatial Resolution

Achievable Sensitivity: ~10⁻⁵ ph cm⁻² s⁻¹, Angular Resolution \geq deg Nuclei in the Cosmos 2021 School, Sep 2021

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MeV Range Gamma-Ray Telescope Imaging Principles

Compton Telescopes and Coded-Mask Telescopes

Achievable Sensitivity: ~10⁻⁵ ph cm⁻² s⁻¹, Angular Resolution \geq deg Nuclei in the Cosmos 2021 School, Sep 2021

Compton Scattering: Coincidence Experiments

Casting a Source Shadow: Coded Mask Telescopes

- ☆ A Semi-Transparent Mask Occults Part of the Position-Sensitive Gamma-Ray Detector Plane
- Recognition of the Mask Shadow in the Detectors' Signal -> "Imaging a Source"
 Telescope = Mask & Detector Hardware + Imaging Software
- 🛠 Masks
 - Uniformly Redundant Arrays
 - Adapted to Detector Spatial Resolution
 - Optimized for Larger Field of View
 - » Partially/Fully Coded FoV
- 🖈 Imaging
 - Correlation
 - Fourier-Domain Filtering

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ref. e.g.: Skinner

SPI on INTEGRAL

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Ge Detectors in Space Telescopes

Dominance of instrumental background

SPI Ge detector spectra

Discriminating Background and Sky Signals

• Tracking the relative count rate ratios among detectors

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Gamma ray spectroscopy with SPI

Gamma-Ray Lines from Cosmic Radioactivity

Radioactive trace isotopes are by-products of nucleosynthesis reactions Released into circum-source ISM, we can observe gamma-ray afterglows:

Isotope	Mean Decay Time	Decay Chain	γ -Ray Energy [keV]	Detected Source	Source Type
⁷ Be	77 d	$^{7}\text{Be} \rightarrow ^{7}\text{Li}^{*}$	478	(none)	Novae
⁵⁶ Ni	8.8 d; 111 d	⁵⁶ Ni → ⁵⁶ Co* → ⁵⁶ Fe*+e*	158, 812; 847, 1238	SN2014J; SN1987A, SN1991T(?)	Supernovae
⁵⁷ Ni	390 d	⁵⁷ Co→ ⁵⁷ Fe*	122	SN1987A	Supernovae
²² Na	3.8 y	$^{22}Na \rightarrow ^{22}Ne^* + e^+$	1275	(none)	Novae
⁴⁴ Ti	85 y	⁴⁴ Ti→ ⁴⁴ Sc*→ ⁴⁴ Ca*+e*	78, 68; 1157	SNR Cas A	Supernovae
^{229/230} Th	~1.0 10 ⁵ y	^{229/230} Th →·····→ ²⁰⁶ Pb	352 6092615	(none)	Neutron Star Mergers, SNe
¹²⁶ Sn	3.3 10 ⁵ y	¹²⁶ Sn→ ¹²⁶ Sb*→ ¹²⁶ Te	666; 695; 87; 64	(none)	Neutron Star Mergers, SNe
²⁶ AI	1.04 10 ⁶ y	$^{26}\text{Al} \rightarrow ^{26}\text{Mg}^* + e^+$	1809	Massive-Star Groups Cyg, Ori	Stars, Novae Supernovae
⁶⁰ Fe	3.5 10 ⁶ у	$^{60}\text{Fe} \rightarrow {}^{60}\text{Co}^* \rightarrow {}^{60}\text{Ni}^*$	59, 1173, 1332	Galaxy (?)	Supernovae, Stars
e*	10 ⁵ 10 ⁷ y	$e^++e^- \rightarrow Ps \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	511, <511	Galactic Bulge, Disk	Supernovae, Novae, Pulsars, Microquasars

• Only the most-plausible candidates per source type are listed

(abundance; decay time (weeks<τ<10⁸y) long enough to survive ejection/not too long to be bright)

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How do we learn about isotopes in the cosmos?

a few examples...

Science with Cosmic Isotopes

☆Trace the forms of cosmic matter

☆Understand the sources of new nuclei

SN1987A: multiple messengers exploited

• Witnessing the final core collapse of a massive star of mass 22 M_{\odot} in Feb 1987

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Cas A, a 360-year old SNR – X rays:

X-ray image surprise: Fe rich knots outside of Si, S \rightarrow overturn of material??

⁴⁴Ti radioactivity in Cas A: Locating the inner Ejecta

NuSTAR Imaging in hard X-rays (3-79 keV; ⁴⁴Ti lines at 68,78 keV) →

^C first mapping of radioactivity in a SNR

- Both ⁴⁴Ti lines detected clearly
- − line redshift 0.5 keV
 → 2000 km/s asymmetry
- ⁴⁴Ti flux consistent with earlier measurements
- Doppler broadening: (5350 \pm 1610) km s⁻¹
- Image differs from Fe!!

⁴⁴Ti → TRUE locations of ejecta from the inner supernova
Fe-line X-rays are biased from ionization of shocked plasma

"Rare" Core Collapse Supernovae as ⁴⁴Ca (=⁴⁴Ti) Sources?

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⁵⁶Ni radioactivity $\rightarrow \gamma$ -Rays, e⁺ \rightarrow leakage/deposit

SN2014J light evolution in the 847 keV ⁵⁶Co line

SN2014J data Jan – Jun 2014: ⁵⁶Co lines

☆ Doppler broadened ✓

→ Observe a structured and evolving spectrum

expected:
 gradual appearance
 of broadened ⁵⁶Co lines

[©] Diehl et al., A&A (2015)

SNIa and SN2014J: Early ⁵⁶Ni (τ~8.8d)

Spectra from the SN at ~20 days after explosion

Clear detections of the two strongest lines expected from ⁵⁶Ni

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Sources of Nucleosynthesis

• Our current inventory:

source	main products	frequency
core-collapse supernovae	Ni Fe Si Ca Ti U Th	10 ⁻³ y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹
thermonuclear supernovae	Fe Mn Ca	10 ⁻⁴ y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹
novae	F Na	30 y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹
jet-driven/magnetic supernovae	Eu	10 ⁻⁶ y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹
hypernovae	Zn	10 ⁻⁶ y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹
neutron star collisions	La	10 ⁻⁹ y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹
massive stars	O Ca Si Mg Al Fe	lifetime ~My100My, birth rate 1 y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹
intermediate-mass stars	C Ba Pb	lifetime ~0.1-1 Gy, birth rate 1 y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹
low-mass stars	He	lifetime ~>10 Gy, birth rate 1 y ⁻¹ galaxy ⁻¹

Science with Cosmic Isotopes

☆Trace the forms of cosmic matter

☆Understand the sources of new nuclei

spreading of new nuclei across time & space...

Stellar Feedback

• Astrophysical processes:

Marinacci+2019

Star formation and winds

- Variant of Springel & Hernquist (2003)
- Cold dense gas stabilized by an ISM equation of state
- Winds are phenomenologically introduced, with an energy given as a fixed fraction of the supernova energy
- The wind velocity is variable, the mass flux follows for energy-driven winds
- · Fiducial model scales wind with local dark matter velocity dispersion
- Winds are launched[®]outside of star-forming gas, and metal-loading can be reduced if desired

Modeling Compositional Evolution

100 Myrs in a kpc³ of a galaxy:

courtesy Miguel de Avillez

☆ Changes in the forms of cosmic matter:

stars and gas flows:

 $m = m_{\text{gas}} + m_{\text{stars}} + m_{\text{infall}} + m_{\text{outflow}} \qquad m_{\text{stars}} = m_{1} + m_{c}$ $\frac{dm_{G}}{dt} = -\Psi + E + [f - o]$

 $\Psi(t)$ is the Star Formation Rate (SFR) and E(t) the *Rate of mass ejection* **G** gas ejected from stars:

$$E(t) = \int_{M_t}^{M_U} (M - C_M) \, \Psi(t - \tau_M) \, \Phi(M) \, dM$$

newly-contributed ashes from nucleosynthesis:

The mass of element/isotope *i* in the gas is $m_i = m_G X_i$

$$\frac{d(m_G X_i)}{dt} = -\Psi X_i + E_i + [f X_{i,f} - o X_{i,o}]$$
$$E_i(t) = \int_{M_t}^{M_U} Y_i(M) \Psi(t - \tau_M) \Phi(M) dM$$

Ingredients:

Sources: How fast do they evolve to return (new) gas? the star of mass M, created at the time $t - \tau_M$, dies at time t

Sources: How much of species i do they eject (and/or bury)?

 $Y_i(M)$ the mass ejected in the form of that element by the star of mass M

… (locations and environments of star formation, gas flows, …)

Two examples: Nuclear reactions to produce ²⁶Al, ⁶⁰Fe

• The Na-Al-Mg cycle: p captures (H burning, +...)

²⁶Al Nucleosynthesis: Example of a Cosmic Reaction Network, Common for Intermediate-Mass Isotopes

nucleosynthesis

 Neutron capture on Fe in massive-star shells

☆ What are the n capture rates?☆ What are the β decay lifetimes?

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²⁶Al γ -rays and the galaxy-wide massive star census

Ejecta and cavities blown by stars & supernovae

ISM is driven by stars and supernovae \rightarrow Ejecta commonly in (super-)bubbles

How massive-star ejecta are spread out...

Superbubbles are blown into lower-density regions

⁶⁰Fe from a nearby supernova on Earth

The Sun is located inside a hot cavity (Local Bubble & Loop-1) SN explosions within \rightarrow ejecta flows reach the Solar System

Cosmic Rays: From sources to direct observation

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Messengers from cosmic nucleosynthesis

messenger	message		
photons (optical/UV)	identify atomic species		
meteorites	discover variety of elements & isotopes		
neutrinos	proof of gravitational collapse proof of H burning reactions		
photons (optical; time domain)	oscillation modes of stars		
photons (gamma rays)	identify freshly-produced isotopes		
photons (X rays)	identify highly-ionised atoms (hot plasma)		
sediments on Earth & Moon	identify ejecta cloud from recent nearby SNe		
presolar grains	identify isotopic signatures of nucleosynthesis processes in AGB, SNe,		
cosmic rays	verify fresh SN ejecta within nearby CR-propagation distances		

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Cosmic Nucleosynthesis Overview

Observing Cosmic Nuclei - Status Summary

Stellar spectroscopy / galactic archeology is in an era of precision
 large surveys >10⁶ sources with spectra; metallicity fully covered
 better stellar ages allows evolutionary-model test

☆ Specific sources and their understanding are a challenge

- Models for stars and supernovae are not (yet?) fundamental 'physics'
 - − SNIa diversity (⁵⁶Ni and how it reveals its radiation) → sub-Chandra models?
 - ccSupernovae are fundamentally 3D/asymmetric (⁴⁴Ti ; jetSNe, HNe)
 - rare events (e.g. kilonovae/NSMs) are multi-variate; astronomy?
- Cycling of cosmic gas through sources and galaxies is a challenge
 source environments are a variety (dense clouds.... cavities)
 evolutionary time delays and locations are poorly known

Varied messengers complement each other with essential diagnostics
 Radioactivity provides a unique / different view on cosmic isotopes (γ rays!)

- particle measurements (sediments/meteorites/stardust/CRs) are essential
- new astronomies contribute unique aspects (seismology, gravity waves)

