Nuclear Astrophysics Experiments: (in heavy element nucleosynthesis)

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Nice to meet you !

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Overview – Lecture 1

- Heavy Element Nucleosynthesis
- Astrophysical processes above Fe that may or may not contribute
 - Neutron-capture processes (s,r,i)
 - Proton-capture processes (vp, rp)
 - Photodissociation processes (γ, p)
- Accelerator facilities

Overview – Lecture 2

Direct techniques for proton/alpha captures

- Intro to non-resonant/statistical reactions
- Regular Kinematics (Activation, Angular distributions, gsumming)
- Inverse kinematics (Recoil separator, ring, γ-summing)
 Indirect techniques (resonance properties, statistical
 properties, time reverse)

Overview – Lecture 3

Nuclear Structure

- Masses (time of flight, traps)
- Half lives
- Pn values (time of flight, thermalization, traps)
- Neutron-captures: Indirect techniques (surrogate, β-Oslo)

Abundances







Observations





ereinents with fast, stopped ereinents with f



Figure Credit: Erin O'Donnel, NSCI

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Models

Input

Nuclear input: What do we need? <u>Basic nuclear properties</u>







Nuclear Reactions in Stars

Main focus on capture reactions





Rolfs and Rodney, "Cauldrons in the cosmos"



$P = \frac{\left|\psi(R_n)\right|^2}{\left|\psi(R_c)\right|^2}$

Tunneling probability -> increasing with energy

Cross section has two components: 1. Interaction between particles (pure nuclear) 2. The Coulomb force





Gamow Window



Gamow Window

Charged particles

Standard approximation

 $E_0 = 0.12204(Z_1^2 Z_2^2 \mu T_9^2)^{1/3}$ [in MeV] $\Delta E_0 = 0.237 (Z_1^2 Z_2^2 \mu T_0^5)^{1/6}$

Window:
$$E_0 + \frac{\Delta E_0}{2}$$

p process: T= 1.8 – 3.3 GK (p,γ): E_p= 1 – 5 MeV Ο (α,γ): E_α= 4 -12 MeV

rp process: T = 1.1 – 1.3 GK $(p, \gamma): E_p = 0.8 - 2 \text{ MeV}$ Ο

vp process: T= 1.5 – 3.0 GK $(p, \gamma): E_p = 1 - 4 \text{ MeV}$ Ο

Neutrons

No Coulomb barrier, angular momentum $E_{eff} = 0.172T_9(\ell + \frac{1}{2})$ [in MeV] $\Delta E_{eff} = 0.194 T_9 \sqrt{\ell + \frac{1}{2}}$ Window: $E_{eff} + \frac{\Delta E_{eff}}{2}$ Kadonis.org : Gamow Calculator

s process: T~ 0.3GK (n,γ): E_n= 25 - 75 keV

i process: T= 0.1-0.3GK (n,γ): E_p= 10 – 75 MeV

r process: T= 0.1 – 2.0 GK (n,γ): E_p= 10 – 500 keV Ο

Rauscher, PRC 81 (2010) 045807



• Example: ${}^{24}Mg(p,\gamma){}^{25}Al$



Max .

Marialuisa Aliotta, University of Edinburgh 11th Euro Summer School on Exotic Beams









In the Laboratory

- Yield of reaction: $Y = \frac{Number of reactions}{Number of beam particles}$
- Cross section: $\sigma = \frac{Yield \ of \ reaction}{Number \ of \ target \ particles} = \frac{N_R}{N_b \cdot N_T}$

To measure a cross section you need three things:

- 1. Number of target particles (N_T) !!!
- 2. Number of beam particles (N_b) !!!
- 3. Number of reactions (N_R) !!!

But first ... you need a beam

Accelerator Facilities

Facilities

Stable beam facilities (Intro Physics)

- Van de Graaff (single-ended or tandem)
- Cyclotrons
- LINACS













Neutron Facilities

Time-of-Flight: e.g. nTOF@CERN, LANSCE@ Los Alamos, IRMM@Geel, Belgium, etc

 High energy protons on heavy target, broad energy distribution, pulsed beam.



Reaction-based, quasi-monoenergetic: Any low energy facility

• Reactions: ${}^{2}H({}^{2}H,n){}^{3}He - Q = 3.3 \text{ MeV} - E_{n} = 2.5 \text{ MeV}$ ${}^{3}H({}^{2}H,n){}^{4}He - Q = 17.6 \text{ MeV} - E_{n} = 14.1 \text{ MeV}$ ${}^{7}Li(p,n){}^{7}Be - Q = -1.64 \text{ MeV} - E_{n} = ? - \text{How can you get 25 keV}?$

γ-ray beam facilities

- Bremsstrahlung based (electron accelerators)
- Compton scattering e.g HIGS facility in North Carolina, LCS in Japan...)



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Number of target particles

Rutherford backscattering



 $N_T = \frac{N_A \xi}{A} \qquad \begin{array}{l} \mathsf{N}_{\mathsf{A}}: \text{ Avogadro number} \\ \mathsf{A}: \text{ Atomic mass} \\ \xi: \text{ target thickness in g/cm}^2 \end{array}$

What would happen if my backing materia



- \circ $\,$ Simulation with SIMNRA $\,$
- Known detector geometry
- Known cross section
- Free parameter: target thickness/composition




spectrometer or recoil separator, use a reaction, etc

If radioactive sample: activity from decay



e.g. ${}^{1}H^{+}$ beam: each beam particle deposits 1.6 x 10⁻¹⁹ Cb (e⁻ charge)

 84 Kr²⁷⁺ beam: each beam particle deposits 27 x 1.6 x 10⁻¹⁹ Cb

Do you expect all ions to deposit one electrical charge?

Number of beam particles

- Low beam intensities: measure each particle in detector
- 1. In beam detector upstream to measure continuously
- 2. In beam detector upstream to insert every so often
- 3. Scattering detector upstream
- 4. Detector looking at target scattering
- 5. Detector downstream after target
- 6. Activation (especially for neutrons)



Number of reactions

 $a + A \rightarrow b + B$



- Measure prompt γ rays
- Measure emitted particles
- \circ Measure β -delayed γ rays
- Measure the recoiling

nucleus (inverse kinematics)

- Measure emitted X-rays
- Combination of the above
- Know efficiency
- Understand setup
- Understand background
- o Estimate uncertainties

Regular kinematics



<u>Facilities</u>: Stable beam (ATOMKI, Athens, Notre Dame, Cologne, Florida State, nTOF, Los Alamos, Karlsruhe, etc)

Equipment: Gamma-ray detectors, X-ray detectors, charged

particle detectors

Techniques: Activation, Angular distribution, Summing

Advantages:

•High intensity stable beams

•Well developed techniques

Disadvantages

• Not applicable for all targets, in particular radioactive nuclei

Activation



T. Sauter and F. Kappeler, Phys. Rev. C 55, 3127 (1997).

Angular Distributions



- \circ In beam γ -ray detection
- Measure at many angles
- High resolution system (HPGe)
- Create angular distributions
- Extract reaction yield
- Extract cross sections



Angular Distributions



e.g. Galanopoulos, et al, PRC 67 (2003) 015801



e.g. Galanopoulos, et al, PRC 67 (2003)







Inverse kinematics



✓ recoil separators

- ✓ ring measurements
- ✓ γ-summing
- ✓ activation/implantation

Radioactive Beam Facilities: TRIUMF, MSU, GSI, GANIL, CERN, ANL? Equipment: Dragon, SECAR, Storage ring, SuN, LISE, ...



Recoil separators

- Mane different separators in operation or under construction
- $\circ~$ So far only DRAGON @ TRIUMF has been used for heavy

element nucleosynthesis experiments.







Indirect Measurements

Indirect Measurements

- Many measurements are hard or impossible to perform directly.
- Indirect approaches are useful for constraining reaction rates and providing input into the astrophysical calculations that would otherwise not be possible.

Some examples of indirect techniques

- Transfer reactions (d,n) and (d,p) for (p,γ) and (n,γ) reactions respectively
- β-decay feeding levels of interest and extracting branchings
- Various reaction studies to extract spins of levels
- Trojan Horse method for low-energy reaction rates
- Surrogate Method for (n,γ) reactions
- Oslo/ β -Oslo for (n, γ) reaction studies
- Various reactions for extracting nuclear level density or γ-ray strength function
- Coulomb dissociation for γ-ray strength



Surrogate technique



- Formation of compound nucleus (CN) independent of its decay
- Form same CN as (n,γ) via (d,p)
- Study its decay
- Inform the models
- Applicable in regular and inverse kinematics

"Desired" reaction

• Applicable a few steps from stability

Compound nucleus

A+1'

"Surrogate"

reaction

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Validation: ${}^{95}Mo(n,\gamma){}^{96}Mo$ Significant progress during the last couple of years

A. Ratkiewicz, J. Cizewski, EPJ Web of Conferences 92 (2015) 02012



Traditional Oslo method

- Use reaction to populate the compound nucleus of interest
- Measure <u>excitation energy</u> and <u>y-ray energy</u>.
- \succ Extract level density and γ -ray strength function (external normalizations)
- Calculate "semi-experimental" (n,γ) cross section
- \succ Excellent agreement with measured (n, γ) reaction cross sections







- Populate the compound nucleus via β-decay (large Q-value far from stability)
- Spin selectivity correct for it
- \bullet Extract level density and $\gamma\text{-ray}$ strength function
- Advantage: Can reach (n, γ) reactions with beam intensity down to 1 pps.





• Variation of theoretical predictions using TALYS, changing NLD and γ SF

• Predictions diverge moving away from stability

Nuclear Structure

s/r-process paths and abundances



Cowan and Thielemann, Physics Today, 2004

Mass measurements

- Strong connection between nuclear mass (binding energy) and shell closures
- Two-neutron separation energies example





Mass measurements

- Penning Traps (PT)
- Time-of-Flight (ToF)
- Multi-reflection ToF (MR ToF)
- •Storage Rings Schottky (SR-Sch)
- Storage Ring Isochronous Mass Spectrometry (SR IMS)



Penning Trap

- Triple motion in penning trap
- Used for measuring the mass of nuclei with very large accuracy
- Confining particles in electric and magnetic fields



- Canadian Penning Trap @ANL
- LEBIT @ MSU
- ISOLTRAP @ ISOLDE, CERN
- TITAN @ TRIUMF
- JYFLTRAP@Jyvaskula
- SHIPTRAP@GSI



Example results: Penning Trap

- Canadian Penning Trap @ANL
- Collaboration ANL + Notre Dame
- Impact on r-process calculations



J. A. Clark and G. Savard, Int. J. Mass Spectrom. 349-350, 81 (2013).



Storage Rings



SOCHRONOUS MASS SPECTROMETRY



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www.gsi.de


ife

Y(A)







M. Mumpower, et. al. Prog. Nucl. Part. Phys. 86 (2016) 86.

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А

Half life

- RIKEN recently completed a major upgrade
- Higher beam rates than other facilities
- Systematics of T1/2
- Impact on r process



High resolution

- Mentioned that nuclear structure understanding is important for all astrophysical processes
- Many ways to study nuclear structure
- β decay is typically the first view of a nucleus (low beam intensity)
- High resolution measurements for the low lying level scheme

GRIFFIN @ TRIUMF



SeGA + BCS @ MSU



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Evolution of Nuclear Structure





HPGe Clovers @ ORNL



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S. Padget, et. al. Phys. Rev. C 82 (2010) 064314

Why measure *β*-decay intensity.

- Model constraints for better input in r-process calculations (Cannot measure everything - we need to rely on model predictions)
 Nuclear structure information
 - Nuclear structure information
 - > T_{1/2} sensitive to nuclear shape
 - > Can get same $T_{1/2}$ for different shapes
 - β-decay strength: sensitive constraint



•Lucrecia @ CERN

 $(F_{20}^{5}) = \frac{76 \text{Sr } \beta \text{-decay}}{1} = \frac{76 \text{Sr } \beta \text{-decay}}{0} = \frac{76 \text{Sr } \beta \text{-d$

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E. Nacher, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 92 (2004) 232501.









R. Surman, et. al. JPS Conf. Proc. 6 (2015) 010010

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Measuring Pn values

- Integrated measurement 3He counters (3Hen, NERO, BRIKEN)
- Time of flight energy information (VANDLE, LENDA, DESCANT)
- New technique Paul trap (@ ANL)



Paul trap



- Surround ion trap (Paul trap) with plastic scintillators (to detect β 's) and MCPs (to detect decay recoils)
- Beta-delayed neutron decay measured without detecting neutron







Example: Recent Pn measurements

- Installed at RIKEN Nishina Center in Wako/ Japan
- 148 ³He-filled neutron counters from Germany, Japan, Spain, USA and 2 HPGe clovers (Oak Ridge)
- Implantation detector AIDA (Edinburg, Daresbury)
- First parasitic experiment more to come 2017-2019

BRIKEN

• **Goal**: Measure >100 of the most exotic neutron-rich isotopes presently accessible



Summary

We covered A LOT of material but we didn't cover EVERYTHING. Here's some of what we didn't cover:

- Isomers
- Charge Exchange Reactions
- (p,n) reactions for vp process
- (α,n) reactions for neutron-star crusts
- Equation of State experiments
- Fission

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"We shape our tools and thereafter our tools shape us." Marshall McLuhan

