

Nucleosynthesis of ^{60}Fe and constraints on the nuclear level density and γ -ray strength function.

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^{60}Fe is created by neutron capture in massive stars prior to core collapse supernova. This isotope is one of only a handful whose gamma-rays from β -decay indicate ongoing nucleosynthesis in the Galaxy [1]. For this reason the reactions involved for the creation and destruction of ^{60}Fe in this environment must be well understood. Due to the short half-life of ^{59}Fe it is challenging to perform a direct capture reaction experiment to determine the cross section of $^{59}\text{Fe}(n,\gamma)^{60}\text{Fe}$. Instead we used the β -decay of ^{60}Mn to populate states at all energies in the ^{60}Fe nucleus. The resulting γ -rays were collected using a 4π total-absorption spectrometer, SuN (Summing NaI(Tl) detector) [2], at the NSCL. With this data the β -Oslo method [3] can be applied to extract the nuclear level density and gamma-strength function needed for statistical models to calculate the reaction rate using experimentally constrained nuclear structure parameters. Preliminary results from the ongoing analysis will be presented.

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