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A POSSIBLE NUCLEAR SOLUTION TO THE ¹⁸F DEFICIENCY IN NOVAE

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¹⁸F in Astrophysics: Classical Novae



Why are classical novae important?

- Nucleosynthesis (e.g. lithium? ¹³C to ¹⁹F.
 More important: ²²Na, ²⁶Al)
- Formation of presolar grains

Classical novae are stellar explosions that occur in close binary systems. Hydrogen-rich matter is transferred via Roche

lobe overflow from a low-mass mainsequence star to the surface of a compact white dwarf where it forms an accretion disk surrounding the white dwarf.

How can we study them?

- Light curves
- Ejected material
- Emission of γ–rays (from ²²Na decay and ¹⁸F e⁺-e⁻ annihilation)



However... no observations so far! Only upper limits

¹⁸F in Astrophysics: Production and Destruction



¹⁸F(p,α)¹⁵O Measurements

Many investigations have been performed, the first one in 1995



Publication year range : 1896 to 2018 Primary and secondary references.

Output year order : Descending Format : Normal

NSR database version of April 24, 2018.

Indexed quantity search: Target=18F AND Reaction=(P,A)

Direct measurements

Using ¹⁸F RIBs (~10⁶ pps)

Indirect measurements

 Spectroscopic studies to constrain ¹⁹Ne resonance parameters (e.g. d,p reactions, p,p scattering)

Extrapolations

- Using R-matrix

Theoretical calculations

- Microscopic cluster model



Status of the Art from EXFOR (Direct Measurements)



peak temperatures reached in novae: around 0.05–0.35 GK

S factor (MeV barn)

 $(1.3 \pm 0.4) \times 10^4$

 $(2.0 \pm 0.8) \times 10^2$

 $(8 \pm 4) \times 10^2$

 (110^{+120}_{-70})

Comprehensive R-Matrix Calculation



R-matrix calculation in

Bardayan et al. PLB 751 (2015) 311

<u>Thin curves</u> show the now excluded S-factors with a 3/2+ subthreshold resonance and interference between 3 resonances.

Latest (indirect) measurement 1



Latest (indirect) measurement 2

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 122, 052701 (2019)

Key ¹⁹Ne States Identified Affecting γ -Ray Emission from ¹⁸F in Novae

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First measurement of the ${}^{19}F(3He,t\gamma){}^{19}Ne$ reaction, in which the placement of two long-sought 3/2+ levels is suggested via triton- γ - γ coincidences.

Based on mirror symmetry, there should be two near-threshold 3/2+ states in ¹⁹Ne, corresponding to the 6497- and 6527-keV states in ¹⁹F

The cross section exhibits interference between these states and the broad 3/2+ resonance at E_{cm} =665 keV. This interference is a dominant source of uncertainty in the reaction rate!

6416 from Laird et al./spectroscopic factor

Only upper limits!



THM: Basic Ideas

Is it possible to carry out the measurement of the cross section at astrophysical energies?



The Trojan Horse Method was introduced to investigate reactions at vanishing energies, inside the Gamow window (see Tribble et al. Rep. **Prog. Phys. 77 (2014) 106901 for a recent review)**

Ingredients:

Direct breakup

nuclear field

From $A+a(x\oplus s) \rightarrow b+B+s @ 50 MeV$ $A + x \rightarrow b + B @ 0-1 MeV$ by selecting the QF contribution

Though $E_A >> V_{Coul}$ it is possible to measure at the Gamow peak since:

 $E_{cm} = E_{\Delta-x} - Q_{x-s}$



Quasifree reaction, Induced by a virtual proton (HOES cross section)



THM for Resonant Reactions

In the latest years, large efforts were made to give a quantitative justification of THM, to estimate the uncertainties and improve the description of the $2 \rightarrow 3$ cross section

$$\frac{d^{3}\sigma}{dE_{c.m.}d\Omega_{c.m.}d\Omega_{n}} \approx \mathrm{KF} \left|\phi(p_{n})\right|^{2} \frac{d\sigma^{HOES}}{d\Omega_{c.m.}}$$

$$M^{\text{PWA}(\text{prior})}(P, \boldsymbol{k}_{aA}) = (2\pi)^2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{\mu_{bB}k_{bB}}} \varphi_a(\boldsymbol{p}_{sx})$$
$$\times \sum_{J_F M_F j' ll' m_{j'} m_l m_{l'} M_n} i^{l+l'} \langle jm_j lm_l | J_F M_F \rangle \langle j'm_{j'} l'm_{l'} | J_F M_F \rangle$$

$$\times \left\langle J_x M_x J_A M_A | j' m_{j'} \right\rangle \left\langle J_s M_s J_x M_x | J_a M_a \right\rangle e^{-i\delta_{bBl}^{hs}} Y_{lm_l}(-\hat{k}_{bB})$$

$$\times \sum_{\nu,\tau=1}^{N} [\Gamma_{\nu b B j l J_{F}}(E_{bB})]^{1/2} [\boldsymbol{A}^{-1}]_{\nu \tau} Y^{*}_{l' m_{l'}}(\hat{\boldsymbol{p}}_{xA})$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{R_{xA}}{\mu_{xA}}} [\Gamma_{\nu xAl'j'J_F}(E_{xA})]^{1/2} P_{l'}^{-1/2}(\mu_{xA}, R_{xA})(j_{l'}(p_{xA}R_{xA})$$

$$\times [(B_{xAl'}(k_{xA}, R_{xA}) - 1) - D_{xAl'}(p_{xA}, R_{xA})] + 2Z_x Z_A e^2 \mu_{xA} \int^{\infty} dr_{xA} \frac{O_{l'}(k_{xA}, r_{xA})}{O_{l'}(k_{xA}, R_{xA})} j_{l'}(p_{xA}r_{xA})).$$

 R_{xA}

The THM simple formula can be deduced from the full one in the case of resonant reactions

Same R-matrix term as in OES cross section but for the appearence of the inverse penetration factor, making it possible to observe suppressed resonances at low energies

(Rep. Prog. Phys. 77 (2014) 106901)

With a single beam energy, the excitation function over a broad energy range can be deduced -> very useful for the application to RIBS

THM for Resonant Reactions

Very powerful approach: see our recent Letter on Nature:

Nature volume 557, pages687–690 (2018) Published: 23 May 2018

LETTER

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0149-4

An increase in the ${}^{12}C + {}^{12}C$ fusion rate from resonances at astrophysical energies

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THM for Resonant Reactions

Very powerful approach: see our recent Letter on Nature:

Nature volume 557, pages687–690 (2018) Published: 23 May 2018



¹⁸F(p,α)¹⁵O Measurement using THM



MARS Texas A&M (USA)



Pizzone et al. EPJ A 52, 24 (2016)



CRIB CNS/RIKEN (Japan)

- □ 3 10⁵ pps obtained
- □ Beam purity > 98%
- Normalization and definition of the beam particle by particle (PPACs)

Experimental Setup @CRIB





The use of chargepartition PSD allowed for a reduction of the number of electronic channels





Thanks to ray tracking, better resolution wrt MARS

S. Cherubini et al. PRC 92, 015805 (2015)

Few Details about the Data Analysis



Selection of the reaction channel

Detector coincidences, ToF, reaction kinematics (2 vs. 3 body reactions) were used to single out the ${}^{2}H({}^{18}F,\alpha{}^{15}O)n$ from others

Selection of the reaction mechanism

The same channel can be populated through different reaction mechanisms In particular: sequential (two-step) reactions The momentum distribution tells us if THM equations apply

Pinpointing the Contributing Resonances



For the first time, the whole Gamow window for novae nucleosynthesis could be covered

However, energy resolution was 53 keV (sigma) \rightarrow Need to disentangle resonance contribution

R-matrix analysis of the THM astrophysical factor (blue points)

Solid black line: the smoothed R-matrix calculation, accounting for a 53keV energy spread (best fit)

Red line: corresponding deconvoluted astrophysical factor

Dashed black line: smoothed R-matrix calculation including the 6417 keV level

Dotted–dashed line: the smoothed R-matrix calculation, where the 6537 keV is excluded

Dotted line: smoothed R-matrix calculation where the interference signs were changed to (++)(-+)

→ No sensitivity to interference, differences accounted for in the final total error

Pinpointing the Contributing Resonances



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Dotted line: smoothed R-matrix calculation where the interference signs were changed to (++)(-+)

→ No sensitivity to interference, differences accounted for in the final total error

Recommended Astrophysical Factor and Error Propagation



For the first time, the whole Gamow window was experimentally investigated

We use R-matrix to deconvolute the S-factor

Total error: ~40%

Dominant contribution is still statistical error

Normalization to the 665 keV peak is also introducing some uncertainty

Reaction Rate



Upper panel: ${}^{18}F(p, \alpha){}^{15}O$ reaction rate calculated using the deconvoluted THM S-factor (red line).

Lower panel: ratio of the THM reaction rate to the one reported in the JINA REACLIB database (https://groups.nscl.msu.edu/jina/reaclib/db/f18(p,a)o15/il10/).

In both plots, the uncertainties of the reaction rate are represented as a shadowed band.

In the temperature region of interest for astrophysics, 0.05 < T9 < 0.35 (T9 = T/10⁹ K), an increase in the reaction rate ratio is observed, compatible with the results by Bardayan et al. (2015)

Reaction rate calculation based on experimental data

→ Evaluation of astrophysical consequences using the SHIVA code (J. Josè, Stellar Explosions: Hydrodynamics and Nucleosynthesis, 2016)

Astrophysical Impact: chemical composition of the ejected matter

WD $M_{\rm wd}$ (M_{\odot}) Reference	Model A CO 1 This Work	Model B CO 1.15 This Work	Model C ONe 1.15 This Work	Model D ONe 1.25 This Work	Model D' ONe 1.25 Iliadis et al. (2010)	Model E ONe 1.35 This Work							
							¹² C	4.52E-2	4.76E-2	2.28E-2	2.61E-2	2.61E-2	2.21E-2
							¹³ C	1.10E-1	7.87E-2	2.15E-2	2.54E-2	2.55E-2	1.56E-2
¹⁴ N	1.18E-1	1.33E-1	3.36E-2	4.15E-2	4.15E-2	5.47E-2							
¹⁵ N	9.63E-3	3.66E-2	3.57E-2	5.66E-2	5.66E-2	1.07E-1							
¹⁶ O	2.40E-1	2.23E-1	1.09E-1	6.12E-2	6.11E-2	5.97E-3							
¹⁷ O	4.74E-3	1.15E-2	2.90E-2	3.67E-2	3.68E-2	4.05E-2							
$^{18}O^{a}$	3.09E-7	5.67E-7	1.49E-6	2.09E-6	4.59E-6	8.81E-6							
18 F ^a	7.14E–7	1.29E-6	3.48E-6	4.82E-6	1.03E-5	1.98E-5							
¹⁹ F	2.03E-8	1.86E-8	3.62E-8	1.19E-7	1.40E-7	1.42E-6							

No change in the dynamical properties of the explosion is found (e.g., peak temperature attained, amount of mass ejected)

D & D' are equal but the reaction rate used for the ¹⁸F(p, α)¹⁵O reaction

Model D shows a factor of 2 lower ¹⁸F than model D' \rightarrow which reduces previous estimates of the detectability distance of the 511 keV annihilation line by γ -ray satellites by a factor ~ $\sqrt{2}$

18O and 19F abundances in the ejecta are also smaller in model D wrt D'

Summary

- The ¹⁸F(p,α)¹⁵O reaction is one of the most important astrophysical reactions, since it influences ¹⁸F yield, used to probe novae nucleosynthesis
- Many studies have been attempted over the past 20 years, reaching the upper tail of the Gamow window
- The Trojan Horse Method has been successfully used for reactions involving stable nuclei
- Since S/N \rightarrow 0 even more dramatically with RIBs, its application turned out to be very successful
- First time measurement of the ${}^{18}F(p,\alpha){}^{15}O$ reaction at astrophysical energies
- Possibility to establish the contribution of resonances inside the Gamow window
- **Evaluation of the astrophysical implications (thanks to J. Jose)**
- Lower ¹⁸F yield may help to explain the lack of observation of the 511 keV gamma line
- The analysis of a new experiment with better statistics and energy resolution is ongoing

Thanks for you attention

Collaboration & Papers

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 92, 015805 (2015)

First application of the Trojan horse method with a radioactive ion beam: Study of the ${}^{18}F(p,\alpha){}^{15}O$ reaction at astrophysical energies

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Eur. Phys. J. A (2016) **52**: 24 DOI 10.1140/epja/i2016-16024-3

THE EUROPEAN Physical Journal A

Regular Article – Experimental Physics

Trojan Horse measurement of the $^{18}\mathrm{F}(\mathrm{p},\alpha)^{15}\mathrm{O}$ astrophysical S(E)-factor

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A Trojan Horse Approach to the Production of ¹⁸F in Novae

M. La Cognata¹, R. G. Pizzone¹, J. José^{2,3}, M. Hernanz^{3,4}, S. Cherubini^{1,5}, M. Gulino^{1,6}, G. G. Rapisarda^{1,5}, and C. Spitaleri^{1,5}