

Measurement of the reactions $^{17}\text{O}(\alpha, n)^{20}\text{Ne}$ and $^{17}\text{O}(\alpha, g)^{21}\text{Ne}$ and their impact on the s process in massive stars

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The ratio of the reaction rates of the competing channels $^{17}\text{O}(\alpha, g)^{21}\text{Ne}$ and $^{17}\text{O}(\alpha, n)^{20}\text{Ne}$ determines the efficiency of ^{16}O as a neutron poison in the s process in low metallicity rotating stars. It has a large impact on the element production, either producing elements to the mass range of $A=90$ in case of a significant poisoning effect or extending the mass range up to the region of $A=150$ if the g channel is of negligible strength.

We present results of the first measurement of the reaction $^{17}\text{O}(\alpha, g)^{21}\text{Ne}$ and an improved study of the reaction $^{17}\text{O}(\alpha, n)^{20}\text{Ne}$, including an independent measurement of the $^{17}\text{O}(\alpha, n1)^{20}\text{Ne}$ channel. A simultaneous R-Matrix fit to both the n0 and the n1 channels has been performed. New reaction rates have been calculated and used as input for stellar network calculations and their impact on the s process in rotating massive stars is discussed.

Presenter: BEST, Andreas (INFN - LNGS)