



SPES one-day workshop "Nuclear Astrophysics at SPES"



Caserta, 12-13 November 2015





INFN

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

Nuclear Astrophysics at CERN - n_TOF

Cristian Massimi



for the n_TOF Collaboration

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

IL PRESENTE MATERIALE È RISERVATO AL PERSONALE DELL'UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA E NON PUÒ ESSERE UTILIZZATO AI TERMINI DI LEGGE DA ALTRE PERSONE O PER FINI NON ISTITUZIONALI







The n_TOF project

Collaboration, objectives, basic parameters, instrumentation

 Some examples of measurements and their impact on Nuclear Astrophysics
 Branching isotopes
 Neutron source of the s process
 BBN





The n_TOF project [NFN]

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- 1. Atominstitut, Technische Universität Wien, Austria
- 2. University of Vienna, Faculty of Physics, Austria
- 3. European Commission JRC, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM)
- 4. Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- 5. Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
- 6. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique/IN2P3 IPN, Orsay, France
- 7. Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA) Saclay Irfu, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
- 8. Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany
- 9. Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Campus Nord, Institut für Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 10. National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece
- 11. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 12. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, India
- 13. ENEA Bologna e
- 14. Dipartimento di Fisica, e Astronomia, Università di Bologna
- 15. Sezione INFN di Bologna, INFN Bari, Bologna, LNL, Trieste, LNS
- 16. Uniwersytet Łódzki, Lodz, Poland
- 17. Instituto Tecnológico e Nuclear, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal
- 18. Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering Bucharest, Romania
- 19. Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain
- 20. Instituto de Fisica Corpuscular, CSIC-Universidad de Valencia, Spain
- 21. Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain
- 22. Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
- 23. Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- 24. Department of Physics and Astronomy University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- 25. European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland
- 26. Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen PSI, Switzerland
- 27. University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, UK
- 28. University of York, Heslington, York, UK







Objective: to provide Nuclear Data for Science (and Technology)



INTOF



Objective: to provide Nuclear Data for Science (and Technology)



INTOF



Objective: to provide Nuclear Data for Science (and Technology)



NTOF



Objective: to provide Nuclear Data for Science (and Technology)









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s-process (slow process):

- Capture times long relative to decay time
- Involves mostly stable isotopes
- $N_n = 10^8 \text{ n/cm}^3$, $E_n = 0.3 300 \text{ keV}$







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s-process nucleosynthesis proceeds through **neutron captures** and successive β-decay.

The abundance of elements in the Universe depends on:

• thermodinamic conditions (temperture and neutron density);

Need of **new** and **accurate** neutron capture cross-sections:

- **refine models** of stellar nucleosynthesis in the Universe;
- obtain information on the stellar environment and evolution

Along the β -stability valley





Neutron flux



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Stellar spectra: AGB (8, 23 keV) and Massive stars (25, 90 keV)



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For Astrophysical applications it is important to determine **Maxwellian Averaged Cross-Sections (MACS)**, for various temperatures (kT depends on stellar site).

Reaction rate (cm⁻³s⁻¹):
$$r = N_A N_n v \sigma(v)$$

 $r = N_A N_n \langle \sigma \cdot v \rangle$
 $MACS \equiv \frac{\langle \sigma \cdot v \rangle}{v_T} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi} (kT)^2} \int_0^\infty \sigma(E) E e^{-E/(kT)} dE$

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Two methods are used to determine MACS:

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NTO



• ⁷⁹Se, ⁸⁵Kr, ¹⁵¹Sm, ¹⁶³Ho, ²⁰⁴Tl, ²⁰⁵Pb

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Detectors for (n, γ) reaction

Capture reactions are measured by detecting γ -rays emitted in the de-excitation process. **Two different systems**, to minimize different types of background

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Bicron

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4 5

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Detector for (n, γ) reaction

n_TOF Internal Report (June 2013)

New C₆D₆ detectors: reduced neutron sensitivity and improved safety

P.F. Mastinu¹, R. Baccomi², E. Berthoumieux³, D. Cano-Ott⁴, F. Gramegna¹, C. Guerrero⁵, C. Massimi⁶, P.M. Milazzo², F.Mingrone⁶, J. Praena⁷, G. Prete¹, A.R. García⁴

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³ CEA, Irfu, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

⁴ Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas Medioambientales y Technologicas, Madrid, Spain

⁵ CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Resarch, Geneva, Switzerland

⁶ Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Bologna and Sezione INFN di Bologna, Italy
 ⁷ Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

(The n_TOF Collaboration, <u>http://cern.ch/nTOF</u>)

1×10³

8

Detectors: (n, p) and (n, α) reactions

Gas and solid state detectors are used for detecting charged particles, depending on the energy region of interest and the Q-value of the reaction

Silicon detectors Silicon sandwich Diamond detector AE-E Telescopes

Micromegas chamber

• low-noice, high-gain, radiation-hard detector

The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

The case of ⁶³Ni

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 63 Ni (t_{1/2}=100 y) represents the **first branching point** in the s-process, and determines the **abundance** of 63,65 Cu

⁶²Ni sample (1g) irradiated in thermal reactor (1984 and 1992), leading to enrichment in ⁶³Ni of ~13 % (131 mg)

In 2011 ~ **15.4 mg** ⁶³Cu in the sample (from ⁶³Ni decay).

After **chemical** separation at PSI, ⁶³Cu contamination <0.01 mg

First high-resolution measurement of 63 Ni(n, γ) in the astrophysical energy range.

The case of ²⁵Mg

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Constraints for the ²²Ne(α, n)²⁵Mg reaction

Element	Spin/ parity	
²² Ne	0+	
⁴ He	0+	

Only **natural-parity states in ²⁶Mg** can participate in the ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg reaction

$$\vec{J} = \vec{I} + \vec{i} + \vec{\ell} \qquad \pi = (-1)^{\ell}$$
$$\vec{J} = \vec{0} + \vec{\ell}$$
$$J^{\pi} = 0^{+}, 1^{-}, 2^{+}, 3^{-}, 4^{+} \dots$$

The case of ²⁵Mg

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Constraints for the ²²Ne(α, n)²⁵Mg reaction

Element	Spin/ parity	
²⁵ Mg	5/2+	
neutron	1/2+	

$$\vec{J} = \vec{I} + \vec{i} + \vec{\ell}$$
$$\vec{J} = 2 + \vec{\ell} \quad \vec{J} = 3 + \vec{\ell}$$

s-wave $\rightarrow J^{\pi} = \underline{2^{+}}, 3^{+}$ p-wave $\rightarrow J^{\pi} = \underline{1^{-}}, 2^{-}, \underline{3^{-}}, 4^{-}$ d-wave $\rightarrow J^{\pi} = \underline{0^{+}}, 1^{+}, \underline{2^{+}}, 3^{+}, \underline{4^{+}}, 5^{+}$ States in ²⁶Mg populated by ²⁵Mg+n reaction

Experimental **evidence** of **natural spin parity** states in the energy region of interest

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BBN successfully predicts the abundances of primordial elements such as ⁴He, D and ³He. Large **discrepancy** for ⁷Li, which is produced from electron capture decay of ⁷Be

The case of ⁷Li

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~ 95% of ⁷Li is produced by the decay of ⁷Be ($T_{1/2}$ =53.2 d) \longrightarrow ⁷Be is the key

The case of ⁷Li

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⁷Be is **destroyed** by:

- (n, p) ≈ 97%
- (n, α) ≈ 2.5%

With a **10 times higher destruction** rate of ⁷Be the cosmological lithium problem could be solved (**nuclear solution**)

The case of ⁷Li

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⁷Be(n, p)

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LNS @ n TOF

The (n, α) reaction produces **two** α -particles emitted back-toback with several MeV energy (Q-value=19 MeV)

2 Sandwiches of silicon detector (140 mm,3x3cm²) with ⁷Be sample in between directly inserted in the neutron beam

Coincidence technique: strong background rejection

LNS @ n_TOF

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LNS @ n_TOF

Conclusions

... a lot has been done, since 2001 Cross sections relevant for Nuclear Astrophysics

- branching point isotopes
 - ¹⁵¹Sm, ⁶³Ni, ¹⁴⁷Pm, ¹⁷¹Tm, ²⁰³Tl
- abundancies in presolar grains
 - 91,92, <mark>93</mark>,94,96<mark>Zr</mark>
- magic nuclei and end-point
 - ¹³⁹La, ⁹⁰Zr, ^{204,206,207,208}Pb^{,209}Bi
- seeds isotopes
 - ^{54,56,57}Fe, ^{58,60,62}Ni
- isotopes of special interest
 - ^{186,187,188}OS (cosmocronometer), ^{24,25,26}Mg (neutron poison)

Conclusions

... a lot has been done, since 2001

Always looking for good ideas

Cross sections relevant for Nuclear Astrophysics

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Reference Cross Section for Astrophysics

•	Mass	S Karlsruhe Astrophysical Database of Nucleosynthesis in Stars							
	0446 ⁻	s-process	i	[Standa	rds] [Logbook] [FAQ] [Links] [Disclaimer] [Contact]	p-process			
•	Lede	▼ Availabl	e isotopes for Gold (Z	=79)			v. C		
	83 (2)				197 _{AU} 198 _{AU}				
•	Mass				Go to isotope Go!		LINA,		
	The E								
		Recommended MACS30 (Maxwellian Averaged Cross Section @ 30keV)							
		¹⁹⁷ Au (n, γ) ¹⁹⁸ Au							
				т	otal MACS at 30keV: 612.8 ± 7.0 mb				
					Cross sections do not include stellar enhancement factors!				
		▼ History							
		Version	Total MACS [mb]	Partial to as [mb]	Partial to isomer [mb]				
		1.0	612.8 ± 7.0	- -					

(Version 0.0 corresponds to Bao et al.)

- Comment

Au-197 is used as standard for most astrophysical cross section measurements. Unfortunately, it is at the moment only a standard in the thermal region and between E(n)= 200 keV and 2.8 MeV (au197). Recent measurements at nTOF (CL11, CM10) and GELINA (MBD14) show a discrepancy of about 5% to the previously used standard value at kT= 30 keV from RaK88 and Mac82e.

The new recommended standard cross section for the astrophysical energy region was derived between kT= 5 and 50 keV by the weighted average of the GELINA measurement of MBD14 and the nTOF measurement of CL11,CM10. The uncertainty in this energy range was taken from MBD14. For the energies between kT= 60-100keV we used the average of the recent libraries (jeff32, jendl40, endfb71) and the uncertainty from the standard deviation given in jeff32 and endfb71. The previous standard value used for activations with the Li-7(p,n)Be-7 reaction at E(p)= 1912 keV was 586 (9) mb, the so-called "Ratynski value" (RaK88). At this energy the neutrons are collimated in a forward cone of 120 degree opening angle and resemble a quasi-stellar neutron spectrum of kT= 25 keV. With the new results this value would change to 632 (9) mb.

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Detector for the neutron flux

The **spatial distribution** of neutrons as a function of energy has been measured by means of a **double side silicon strip detector** (DSSSD).

- 16 x 16 Si sensor strips
- 3 mm wide strips, 500 mm thick
- 50 x 50 mm² X-Y grid
- LiF converter

Study of the neutron flux

Neutrons/In(E)/7e12 ppp

 10^{5}

 10^{4}

10⁻¹

1

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The flux was measured for each target, with four different systems based on ⁶Li, ¹⁰B and ²³⁵U.

Measurements were repeated for the ¹⁰B-water moderator (the thermal peak in the flux is suppressed).

The use of borated water suppresses the 2.2 MeV g-rays from ¹H(n,g)²H. Background reduced by a factor of 10 in some energy regions!

РТВ SiMon

FLUKA n TOF-Ph1

MGAS (¹⁰B) MGAS (235 U)

 10^{3}

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EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH

Proposal to the ISOLDE and Neutron Time-of-Flight Committee

Neutron capture cross section of $^{25}\mathrm{Mg}$ and its astrophysical implications

January 4, 2012

C. Massimi^{1,2}, E. Berthoumieux³, N. Colonna⁴, F. Gunsing³ F. Käppeler⁵, P. Koehler⁶, P.M. Milazzo⁷, F. Mingrone^{1,2}, P. Schillebeeckx⁸, G. Vannini^{1,2} and The n_TOF Collaboration (www.cern.ch/ntof)

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 ⁵Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Campus Nord, Institut für Kernphysik, Germany
 ⁶Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Physics Division, Oak Ridge, USA
 ⁷ Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Trieste, Italy
 ⁸ EC-JRC, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, Belgium

Spokesperson: C. Massimi cristian.massimi@bo.infn.it Technical coordinator: E. Berthoumieux Eric.Berthoumieux@cern.ch 1. CONSTRAINTS for ${}^{22}Ne(\alpha, n)$ ${}^{25}Mg$: it is one of the most important neutron source in Red Giant stars. Its reaction rate is very uncertain because of the poorly known property of the states in ${}^{26}Mg$. From neutron measurements the J^{π} of ${}^{26}Mg$ states can be deduced.

 NEUTRON POISON: ^{25,26}Mg are the most important neutron poisons due to neutron capture on Mg stable isotopes in competition with neutron capture on ⁵⁶Fe (the basic sprocess seed for the production of heavy isotopes).

Experimental evidence of natural spin parity

²⁵Mg(n, γ)²⁶Mg resonances \longrightarrow R-matrix parameterization of the cross section

E_n (keV)	l	J^{π}	$\Gamma_{\gamma} (eV)$	$\Gamma_n \ (eV)$
-154.25	0	2^{+}	6.5	30000
19.86 ± 0.05	0	2^{+}	1.7 ± 0.2	2310 ± 30
62.727 ± 0.003	1^a	$1^{+ a}$	4.1 ± 0.7	28 ± 5
72.66 ± 0.03	0	2^{+}	2.5 ± 0.4	5080 ± 80
79.29 ± 0.03	0	3^{+}	3.3 ± 0.4	1560 ± 80
81.117 ± 0.001	0^b	$(2)^+$	3 ± 2	0.8 ± 0.7
93.60 ± 0.02	(1)	(1^{-})	2.3 ± 2	0.6 ± 0.2
100.03 ± 0.02	0	3^{+}	1.0 ± 0.1	5240 ± 40
$[101.997 \pm 0.009]$	[1]	$[2^{-}]$	$[0.2 \pm 0.1]$	$[4 \pm 3]$
$[107.60 \pm 0.02]$	$[0]^{b}$	$[3^+]$	$[0.3 \pm 0.1]$	$[2 \pm 1]$
156.34 ± 0.02	(1)	(2^{-})	6.1 ± 0.4	5520 ± 20
188.347 ± 0.009	0	$(2)^+$	1.7 ± 0.2	590 ± 20
194.482 ± 0.009	(1)	$4^{(-)}$	0.2 ± 0.1	1730 ± 20
200.20 ± 0.03	16	1^{-}	0.3 ± 0.3	1410 ± 60
200.944 ± 0.006	(2)	(2^+)	3.0 ± 0.3	0.7 ± 0.7
203.878 ± 0.001	(1)	(2^{-})	0.8 ± 0.3	2 ± 1
208.27 ± 0.01	(1)	(1^{-})	1.2 ± 0.5	230 ± 20
211.14 ± 0.05	(1)	(2^{-})	3.1 ± 0.7	12400 ± 100
226.255 ± 0.001	(1)	(1^{-})	4 ± 3	0.4 ± 0.2
242.47 ± 0.02	(1)	(1^{-})	6 ± 4	0.3 ± 0.2
244.60 ± 0.03	1	1^{-c}	3.5 ± 0.6	50 ± 20
245.552 ± 0.002	(1)	(1^{-})	2.3 ± 2	0.5 ± 0.2
253.63 ± 0.01	(1)	(1^{-})	3.1 ± 2.7	0.1 ± 0.1
261.84 ± 0.03	(1)	$4^{(-)}$	2.6 ± 0.4	3490 ± 60
279.6 ± 0.2	(0)	(2^+)	1.9 ± 0.7	3290 ± 50
311.57 ± 0.01	(2)	(5^+)	(0.84 ± 0.09)	(240 ± 10)

Convoluted with **neutron** stellar **flux**

Results

Stellar site	Temperature keV	MACS (Massimi 2003)	MACS (KADoNiS)	MACS Massimi 2012
He - AGB	8	4.9±0.6 mb	4.9 mb	4.3 mb
He - AGB	23	3.2±0.2 mb	6.1 mb	4.3 mb
30	30	4.1±0.6 mb	6.4±0.4 mb	4.1 mb
He – Massive	25	3.4±0.2 mb	6.2 mb	4.2 mb
C - Massive	90	2.6±0.3 mb	4.0 mb	2.5 mb

