The intermediate neutron-capture process in stars, and its abundance signatures in presolar grains

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What is the Origin of the Elements?





Sneden & Cowan 2003

Pb

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Elemental production factors for a low mass AGB star, a massive AGB stars, and a massive star (Z=0.01).



The s-process, r-process and p-process **are not able** to explain all the abundances of the heavy elements above iron (e.g., for silver).

See e.g., Hansen et al. 2012 s-Process Contribution and r-Process Fraction at the Solar Composition for Elements from Ru to Cd

	s-Fraction AGB+weak s (%)	r-Fraction			
ELEMENT		r-Residuals (%)	From CS 22892-052 (%)		
Ru	24	69	50		
Rh	10	90	43		
Pd	36	64	36		
Ag	9	91	30		
Cd	38	62	(41)		

- Between the s-process and the r-process in 1977 it was defined the intermediate neutron-capture process.

In 1996 it was observed for the first time an i-process carrier.

i-process ~ 10¹⁵ n cm⁻³ Cowan & Rose 1977 ApJ Herwig, MP et al. 2011 ApJ

Sakurai's object



Busso et al. 2001, ApJ 557 versus Asplund et al. 1999 A&A 343





Figure 1 Schematic (not to scale) of the time-evolution of convection zones in the top $0.01 M_{\odot}$ of a post-AGB star of $0.6 M_{\odot}$ during a VLTP. All shaded areas indicate convectively unstable zones. The two solid horizontal lines in the upper part of the diagram indicate the stellar surface and the mass coordinate of the envelope-intershell (=core) transition.



Busso et al. 2001, ApJ 557 versus Asplund et al. 1999 A&A 343

Multi-zone 1D nucleosynthesis simulations: 3D effects important



Modeling the abundance in post-AGB star Sakurai's object

Simulations according to 1D stellar evolution: early thin burning front of 12C + p chokes off mixing

Marginal activation of the C13(α ,n)O16, not consistent with the observations.

Simulations with extended mixing: split scenario from 1D simulations does not work. H/N13/C13 reach deeper He-burning layers, activating the i process via the C13(α ,n)O16 neutron production.



Figure 1 Schematic (not to scale) of the time-evolution of convection zones in the top $0.01 M_{\odot}$ of a post-AGB star of $0.6 M_{\odot}$ during a VLTP. All shaded areas indicate convectively unstable zones. The two solid horizontal lines in the upper part of the diagram indicate the stellar surface and the mass coordinate of the envelope-intershell (=core) transition.

First scenario: Delayed split in 3D stellar hydro of H-12C combustion

Stellar hydrodynamics code by **Paul Woodward**, Minnesota.

Formation of split after ≈480min →hydro simulation confirms and agrees with nucleosynthesis analysis prediction of delayed split formation.

grid: 7683 1.47M time steps 0.53M CPU hrs 2056 cores (ComputeCanada, WestGrid)

Confirmed with 11523 run performed on **NSF Blue Waters** (LCSE, 2.7M CPU hrs). 200m

300m

500m



400m



Impact of $12C(p,\gamma)13N$ reaction rate on hydrodynamic combustion feedback

- Additional run (right panel) with reaction rate 12C(p,γ)13N * 0.5 performed by Paul Woodward and his research team at Minnesota.
- · Run on newest NSF supercomputer Blue Waters: 11.27, running on 110,656 cores for 11.27hrs

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Most recent results for the hydrodynamics of H ingestion:



Woodward et al. 2014, arXiv1307.3821 Herwig et al. 2014, arXiv1310.4584 - Analysis of the entrainment process at the top convection boundary and on the subsequent advection of H-rich material into deeper He-rich layers.

- Defined the quantitative dependence of the entrainment rate on grid resolution.

Future step:

include limited network with virtual species and virtual neutron capture rates, to evaluate the neutron density distribution and the neutron exposure.

Nucleosynthesis properties of the i process: Se-Nb



Nucleosynthesis properties of the n process: Se-Nb



Presolar grain from an old CCSN



Cas A 11000 ly ~ 300 years ago

n-process signature (...) on isotopic ratios of heavy isotopes (e.g., Zinner 2003) unknown ? ~ 4.5-5 Gy ago

CCSN







³¹ S	³² S	³³ S	³⁴ S	³⁵ S
2.57 s	95.02	0.75	4.21	87.51 d
β ⁺	4.1 mb	7.4 mb	0.226 mb	β ⁻
³⁰ p	³¹ p	32 _P	³³ p	³⁴ p
2.50 m	100	14.26 d	25.34 d	12.43 s
β ⁺	1.74 mb	β ⁻	β ⁻	β ⁻
²⁹ Si	³⁰ Si	³¹ Si	³² Si	³³ Si
4.683	3.087	2.62 h	132.02 a	6.18 s
7.9 mb	6.5 mb	β ⁻	β ⁻	β ⁻
²⁸ AI	²⁹ AI	³⁰ AI	³¹ AI	³² AI
2.24 m	6.56 m	3.60 s	644.00 ms	33.00 ms
β ⁻				
27 _{Mg}	²⁸ Mg	²⁹ Mg	³⁰ Mg	³¹ Mg
9.46 m	20.91 h	1.30 s	335.00 ms	230.00 ms
β ⁻				



Fujiya et al. 2013, ApJL (SiC AB presolar grains)



Observations over a large sample of OH/IR stars in our Galaxy, LMC and SMC extreme enrichment of Rb and high Rb/Zr in massive AGB stars (4-8 Msun).



Problem for GCE

CEMP-rs stars \rightarrow CEMP-i stars



~ 20% of the low metallicity stars are carbon-rich (Lucatello et al. 2006)

> Bertolli, MP et al. 2013, arXiv Herwig, MP et al. 2014, in prep.



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NuGrid stats:

15 institutions16 senior investigators25 post-docs and students

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