Experimental Studies of Explosive Stellar Phenomena







Dan Doherty University of Surrey d.t.doherty@surrey.ac.uk

Explosive Nuclear Astrophysics Overview

- Lecture 1 Background and Theory (Today)
 - Explosive Astrophysical Environments
 - Experimental Quantities of Interest
 - Designing Experiments gamma-ray spectroscopy and particle transfer
 - Some 'textbook' examples
- Lecture 2 State-of-the-Art and Future Experimental work (Thursday)
 - Learning about Explosive Environments from Nuclear Structure
 - State-of-the-Artwork
 - Future investigations with stable and radioactive beams



Isaac Newton, Principia Mathematica (1687): *'from this fresh supply of new fuel those old stars, acquiring new splendour, may pass for new stars'* Among the most frequent and violent stellar explosions to occur in the Milky Way











Explosive Stellar Phenomena – X-ray bursts



X-ray bursts: T ~ 0.8 – 1.5 GK

Synthesisofelementsuptothe tin - telluriummass region.



Explosive Stellar Phenomena - CCSN





Type – II Supernovae:

T > 3 GK





Potential, V(r)









Influence of Partial Widths on Radiative Capture

We will now discuss the influence of the partial widths Γ_a and Γ_b on radiative capture reactions. In particular, we will consider cases in which only two channels are open, i.e. the particle channel Γ_a and the gamma-ray channel Γ_{γ} .

Suppose first that the charged-particle width is smaller than the gamma-ray partial width, a situation typical for low resonance energies. Since $\Gamma_a \ll \Gamma_{\gamma}$ we obtain from the definition of the resonance strength

$$\omega \gamma = \omega \frac{\Gamma_a \Gamma_{\gamma}}{\Gamma_a + \Gamma_{\gamma}} \approx \omega \frac{\Gamma_a \Gamma_{\gamma}}{\Gamma_{\gamma}} = \omega \Gamma_a$$

Thus, the resonance strength depends only on the charged-particle partial width.

While only the small energy region near E_r contributes to the reaction rate for narrow resonances, the concept of a Gamow peak is still useful in the case where the charged particle partial width plays a key role.

Influence of Partial Widths on Radiative Capture

Suppose now that the gamma-ray partial width is smaller than the particle width, $\Gamma_a \gg \Gamma_{\gamma}$. This situation typically occurs for charged particles at higher resonance energies.

$$\omega \gamma = \omega \frac{\Gamma_a \Gamma_{\gamma}}{\Gamma_a + \Gamma_{\gamma}} \approx \omega \frac{\Gamma_a \Gamma_{\gamma}}{\Gamma_a} = \omega \Gamma_{\gamma}$$

In this case, the concept of a most important energy window, such as the Gamow peak, does not exist.

The smaller resonance energy, the larger the reaction rate contribution, as long as $\Gamma_a \gg \Gamma_{\gamma}$. Consequently, it becomes very important to locate all of the low-energy resonances.

Nuclear Physics Experiments

Experimental procedures that are used in the field of nuclear astrophysics can be divided into two groups :

DIRECT MEASUREMENTS

- A measurement of a cross section or a resonance strength in a given reaction of astrophysical interest
- **INDIRECT MEASUREMENTS** All other studies that are performed to improve the thermonuclear rates of this particular reaction, for example, elastic scattering, particle transfer, charge-exchange, and so on



Direct Experimental Measurements

Let us consider the experimental measurement of the ${}^{21}Na(p,\gamma){}^{22}Mg$ radiative capture reaction that occurs in explosive stellar environments.



The rate is governed by the contributions of resonant capture to excited states above the proton-emission threshold energy ($S_p = 5504.3 \text{ keV}$) in ²²Mg.

For each environment, the most important resonances are determined by the location of the Gamow window, as well as the relative l-transfer.

Excited states in ²²Mg with :

 $J^{\pi}=1^+$ or 2^+ correspond to l = 0 resonances $J^{\pi}=0^-$, 1^- , 2^- or 3^- correspond to l = 1 resonances $J^{\pi}=0^+$, 3^+ or 4^+ correspond to l = 2 resonances

Direct Experimental Measurement : DRAGON

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$$E_0 = 0.1220 \left(Z_0^2 Z_1^2 \frac{M_0 M_1}{M_0 + M_1} T_9^2 \right)^{1/3}$$

$$\Delta = 0.2368 \left(Z_0^2 Z_1^2 \frac{M_0 M_1}{M_0 + M_1} T_9^5 \right)^{1/6}$$

For classical novae (T = 0.2 – 0.4 GK)

$$E \sim 140 - 440 \text{ keV}$$

Direct Experimental Measurements



Direct Experimental Measurement : DRAGON

ISAC at TRIUMF





DRAGON : Device for (p,γ) and (α,γ) measurement

A focal plane detection system (Si detector / MCP and Ion Chamber) is employed to identify heavy ions in coincidence with γ rays.



Indirect Measurements

Here, we will focus solely on resonant proton radiative capture reactions and lowenergy resonances [i.e. (p,γ) and $E_r \leq 500 \text{ keV}$].



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Modern γ -ray spectroscopy techniques provide the means to obtain precise resonance energies and spin-parity assignments.



Let us consider the ${}^{21}Na(p,\gamma){}^{22}Mg$ reaction again.

In this case, a stable ¹²C beam is used to bombard a stable ¹²C target. The radioactive nucleus ²²Mg ($t_{1/2} \sim 3.9$ s) is produced via the evaporation of TWO neutrons from the excited compound nucleus ²⁴Mg^{*}.

This is usually written as ${}^{12}C({}^{12}C,2n){}^{22}Mg$.

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Prompt γ rays are detected with a $4\pi \gamma$ -ray array, such as Gammasphere (consists of ~100 Germanium detectors).

Recoils of a certain mass (e.g. A = 22) are transmitted to the focal plane by a recoil mass spectrometer, such as the Fragment Mass Analyzer.

Finally, recoils are separated by atomic number Z at the focal plane by an ionization chamber.



The resulting γ rays obtained for ²²Mg obtained at Argonne National Laboratory are shown below.



Precise excitation energies are given by the energies of γ rays. However, it is essential to account for the recoil of the compound nucleus.





The spins of the resonant states may be obtained by performing an angular distribution analysis of the γ rays (in other words, measuring the intensity of γ rays as a function of angle).

$$W(\theta) = A_0 [1 + a_2 P_2 \cos \theta + a_4 P_4 \cos \theta]$$







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Where $P_2(\cos\theta) = (1/2)^*(3\cos^2\theta - 1)$ and $P_4(\cos\theta) = (1/8)^*(35\cos^4\theta - 30\cos^2\theta + 3)$ are the Legendre polynomials.



The parities are obtained from the concept that the structure of mirror nuclei (nuclei with the same number of protons and neutrons, in which the Z and N numbers are swapped) are nearly identical.



By identifying mirror analogues, it is possible to adopt parities assigned to the more well-studied stable mirror partner. The example above shows the nuclear structures of the mirror nuclei ${}^{20}F_9$ and ${}^{20}Na_{11}$.

With γ -ray spectroscopy, we are able to obtain :

- 1. Precise resonance energies
- 2. Spins of resonant states
- 3. Parities of resonant states these together with the spins can be used to determine the relative l transfer between the incident and final systems [e.g. ${}^{21}Na + p$ and ${}^{22}Mg$].

ABLE TO ESTIMATE THE RESONANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STELLAR REACTION RATES

$$N_{A}\langle \sigma \upsilon \rangle = \frac{1.5399 \times 10^{11}}{\left(\mu T_{9}\right)^{3/2}} \sum_{i} (\omega \gamma)_{i} e^{-11.605 E_{r}/T_{9}}$$

Indirect Measurements : Transfer Reactions

While γ -ray spectroscopy is able to obtain many of the quantities required to accurately determine stellar reaction rates in explosive astrophysical environments, a critical parameter is missing – THE SPECTROSCOPIC FACTOR.

$$\Gamma_p = 2 \cdot \frac{\hbar^2}{\mu R^2} \cdot P_l \cdot C^2 S \cdot \theta_p^2$$

If we intend to investigate a (p,γ) reaction, we need to use a surrogate TRANSFER reaction in order to extract the proton spectroscopic factor.

Let us consider the astrophysical ${}^{26}Al(p,\gamma){}^{27}Si$ reaction :

The relevant transfer reaction is ²⁶Al(³He,*d*)²⁷Si

These reactions need to be performed in normal kinematics (i.e. use a ³He beam). Therefore the target nuclide needs to be stable or have a long half-life. For the example above, ²⁶Al is radioactive but $t_{1/2} = 7.2 \times 10^5$ yr.

Transfer reactions are very sensitive to the relative proton *l*-transfer between the incident and exit systems. In particular, the cross sections for low *l*-transfers (i.e. l = 1, 2 and 3), the most important for nuclear astrophysics, are maximum at small angles in the COM system.

For normal kinematics experiments – $\theta_{lab} \sim \theta_{com}$



A ³He beam is used to bombard a target and the reaction products are transmitted through a magnetic spectrograph. The reaction products are then separated at the focal plane using a suitable detector (proportional counter, scintillator, silicon strip detector.

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The magnetic spectrograph can be moved to different angles and as such, the differential cross section can be determined as a function of centre-ofmass angle.

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{N}{N_{BEAM} \cdot N_{TARGET} \cdot \eta \cdot d\Omega}$$



1. It is clear that the differential cross section is related to the relative l – transfer and consequently, transfer reactions may be used to determine spin-parity assignments.

2. The dotted points in the plots represent experimental data, whereas the curves are theoretical predictions for the shapes of the distributions. A comparison between these two values may be used to determine the SPECTROSCOPIC FACTOR.

 $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\exp) \propto C^2 S \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(theory)$



State-of-the-Art and Future Experiments for Explosive Nuclear Astrophysics

Explosive Nuclear Astrophysics

Recap

• In Lecture 1 we discussed

- Some explosive astrophysical scenarios
- Looked at how to calculate reaction rates
- Looked at the indirect techniques of gamma-ray spectroscopy and transfer reactions

• Today (lecture 2) we will look at

- Some selected (biased!) highlights from recent years
- Future work at new RIB facilities
- Future work we could do here

Astronomical Observations of ONe Novae

 Table 1

 Summary of Observed Abundances (in Mass Fractions) for Neon Novae from UV, optical, and IR Spectroscopy

	LMC 1990#1 ¹	$V4160 \ Sgr^2$	V838 Her ²	V382 Vel ³	QU Vul⁴	$V693 \ CrA^5$	V1974 Cyg ⁶	$V1065 \ {\rm Cen}^7$	$Solar^8$
X _{He} /X _H	4.8(8)E-01	7.1(4)E-01	5.6(4)E-01	4.0(4)E-01	4.6(3)E-01	5.4(22)E-01	4.8(8)E-01	5.4(10)E-01	3.85E-01
X_C/X_H	3.7(15)E-02	1.43(7)E-02	2.28(23)E-02	2.6(13)E-03	9.5(59)E-04	1.06(44)E-02	3.1(9)E-03	` ` .	3.31E-03
X_N/X_H	1.48(42)E-01	1.27(8) E-01	3.29(47)E-02	2.28(54)E-02	1.61(10)E-02	1.84(67)E-01	6.0(15)E-02	1.40(33)E-01	1.14E-03
Xo/XH	2.4(10)E-01	1.35(9)E-01	1.42(38)E-02	4.13(38)E-02	3.2(14)E-02	1.63(66)E-01	1.55(85)E-01	4.7(15)E-01	9.65E-03
XNe/XH	1.6(10)E-01	1.38(5)E-01	1.22(5)E-01	4.0(7)É-02	5.1(4)E-02	6.7(34)E-01	9.7(40)E-02	5.34(98)E-01	2.54E-03
X_{Mg}/X_{H}	1.37(71)E-02	≈8.4E-03	1.2(7)E-03	2.45(14)E-03	1.02(49)E-02	9(7)É-03	4.3(28)E-03	4.4(13)E-02	9.55E-04
X_{Al}/X_{H}	2.3(11)E-02		1.8(13)E-03	1.63(16)E-03	4.1(11)E-03	5.0(46)E-03	>7.8É-05	`́.	8.74E-05
X_{Si}/X_H	4.8(39)E-02	1.09(6)E-02	7(2)É-03	5(3)E-04	2.4(18)E-03	2.4(18)E-02			1.08E-03
X_S/X_H	`í.		1.48(15)E-02	`.́	`í	`í.		2.3(13)E-02	5.17E-04
X_{Ar}/X_{H}			` ´		4.0(3)E-05			4.6(17)E-03	1.29E-04
XFe/XH		2.4(8)E-03	2.35(63)E-03		9.53(54)E-04		8.8(72)E-03	1.16(40)E-02	1.81E-03
X _H ⁹	4.7(9)E-01	4.65(37)E-01	5.63(36)E-01	6.6(4)E-01	6.3(3)É-01	3.8(14)E-01	5.5(8)E-01	3.6(10)E-01	7.11E-01



Nova Nucleosynthesis



Submitted LoI for Astrophysical Measurements with GAMKA at iThemba Laboratory

- Programme of measurements of key astrophysical nuclei via (³He,n) reactions. Including ²⁹Si(³He,n)³¹S ⁵⁸Ni(³He,n)⁶⁰Zn ⁴⁰Ca(³He,n)⁴²Ti ³²S(³He,n)³⁴Ar
- Take advantage of the excellent angular coverage of GAMKA and channel selectivity from the neutron wall



The future GAMKA array in conjunction with the double neutron wall WAFANA WAFANA.

• Possibility of determining parities with polarization measurements

LoI submitted – Surrey, York, iThemba, UWC, Stellenbosch, Brighton

The Power of (³He,*n*) for populating low-spin states

- Key low-spin states in ²⁶Si populated in a ²⁴Mg(³He,n) reaction. These were not observed in a previous ¹²C(¹⁶O,2n) study [D. Seweryniak *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 75 062801(R) (2007)].
- Gamma-rays detected with Gammasphere but no additional channel selection.



The Gammasphere detector array at Argonne National Laboratory

D. T. Doherty et al., Phys. Rev. C 92 035808 (2015)

Inverse Kinematics

In many instances, normal kinematic measurements are not desirable due to the large number of contaminants in radioactive targets and in fact, are often not possible due to the short-lived nature of the nuclei of interest. As such, it is often necessary to perform measurements in inverse kinematics (i.e. heavy beam, light target).

We need to consider what target and reaction is appropriate in this case. Let us again consider investigating the ${}^{26}Al(p,\gamma){}^{27}Si$ reaction :

- 1. ³He is a tricky target option to investigate the ${}^{26}\text{Al}({}^{3}\text{He},d){}^{27}\text{Si}$ reaction.
- 2. The ²⁶Al(d,n)²⁷Si transfer reaction is also a surrogate for (p,γ) .
- 3. Deuterium is a viable target option $-CD_2$ (poly-deuterated ethylene).
- 4. However, the detection of neutrons is extremely difficult.

A possible solution to the problem is to use the concept of mirror nuclei as described earlier (where the structures are nearly identical) and measure the neutron spectroscopic factors of the analogue systems in ²⁷Al via the ²⁶Al(d,p)²⁷Al transfer reaction.

Inverse kinematic (d,p) reactions are fundamentally different to normal kinematic $(^{3}\text{He},d)$ reactions. If we consider a general reaction A(d,p)B :

BEFORE



Inverse kinematic (d,p) reactions are fundamentally different to normal kinematic $(^{3}\text{He,d})$ reactions. If we consider a general reaction A(d,p)B :

AFTER





Protons are emitted at backward laboratory angles

We still want to cover the region of importance for nuclear astrophysics (i.e. centre-of-mass angles $0^{\circ} - 30^{\circ}$). As such, the first thing we will need to do is convert from the centre-of-mass angles to laboratory angles, in order to determine where we need to perform the measurement.

$$\tan(\theta_{lab}) = \frac{\sin(\theta_{cm})}{\cos(\theta_{cm}) + \frac{m_p}{m_B}} \rightarrow \theta_{exp} = 180 - \theta_{lab}$$

Consequently, protons need to be detected at laboratory angles from $\sim 180 - 150^{\circ}$.







Annular silicon strip detectors are placed at backward laboratory angles and used to detect resulting protons.



$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{N_{\text{det}}}{N_{\text{BEAM}} \cdot N_{\text{TARGET}} \cdot \eta \cdot d\Omega}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\exp) \propto C^2 S \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(theory)$$

V. Margerin *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **115**062701 (2015) ... and ...
S. Pain *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **114** 212501 (2015)



Identifying Key Resonant States for the ${}^{30}P(p,\gamma){}^{31}S$ reaction



- Obtained precise E_r and J^{π} for all resonances $E_r \leq 505 \text{ keV}$
- Key remaining uncertainty in RESONANCE STRENGTHS

D.T. Doherty, G. Lotay *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 262502 (2012).

0.25

Temperature (GK)

0.35

0.15

0.2

First Attempt at Determining the Resonance Strengths : Fragmentation beams at NSCL

 75pnA beam of ³⁶Ar on ⁹Be target to produce ~10⁶ pps ³⁰P (30 MeV/u)

• Bombarded ~ 0.2 mg/cm² thick CD_2

• GRETINA used in coincidence with S800 to gate on ${}^{31}S \gamma$ rays

Reaction product identification by S800 spectrograph

A1900 fragment separator



First Attempt at Determining the Resonance Strengths : Fragmentation beams at NSCL



First Resonance Strength Information

- Challenging measurement but with some interesting results
- To progress one needs to move from an integrated cross-section to a differential one
- Detect light-ion close to the target position



A. Kankainen et al., Phys. Lett. B 769 549 (2017)

DRACULA – Surrey/UK Proposed Light-Particle Array for (d,p) and (⁶Li,d) (t,p) etc., at FRIB

G LOTAY, D T DOHERTY & W N CATFORD (Surrey UK)



- existing arrays such as GODDESS at RIA3 are ideal for reaccelerated FRIB beams
- the **OPPORTUNITY** is for a dedicated array to exploit slower fast beams
- designed to mount in front of the S800
- designed to fit inside GRETA/GRETINA
- while 10 MeV/A is ideal for assigning $\ell_{transfer}$, 50 MeV/A still **works fine** for transfer
- there will be no untagged beam contaminant
- there will be no chemistry or breeding issues
- we can use **any of the beams** from FRIB
- we will need higher stopping power
- we will need low noise, especially to extend to (⁹Be,⁸Be→αα) etc.
- we have costed **digital electronics** with 300 MHz sampling to allow Si-PSD with nTD silicon
- the electronics/DAQ would be designed to also be suitable to connect to GODDESS
- we foresee important extensions to study (t,p) and (p,t) with GRETA and in-flight beams
- Discussions and collaboration with SDP, AG, BMS

Direct investigation of *r* process reactions and insight into neutron star mergers [e.g. $^{76}Ni(d,p)^{77}Ni$ as a surrogate for (n, γ) reactions around ^{78}Ni]



 Study of proton-rich nuclei involved in the *rp* process and their influence on X-ray bursts – targets of the ESA's ATHENA satellite [e.g. resonance strengths in the ⁵⁶Ni(α,p) reaction via ⁵⁶Ni(⁶Li,d)]





Study of the evolution of magic numbers away from stability via single nucleon transfer reactions [e.g. ${}^{54}Ca(d,p)$] and the 2nd island of inversion [e.g. ${}^{64}Cr(d,p)$]

DRACULA – Surrey/UK Proposed Light-Particle Array for (d,p) and (⁶Li,d) (t,p) etc., at FRIB

VIEW FROM BEAM-LEFT SIDE

VIEW TOWARDS BEAM-ENTRY PORT

PRESENT STATUS of PROJECT: OUTLINE

PROPOSAL ACCEPTED BY STFC, July 18.

VOLTAGE TRACES FOR 2 MeV SIGNALS FOR p, d, t; 50ns/div [Data: Orsay NIM A732, 87 (2013)]



Full submission requested for 2019 start date. <u>PRELIMINARY DESIGN</u> FOR COSTINGS (£3.7m/4years incl. manpower)

Telescopes of 4" Si DSSD 1mm + 2 x SiPAD 1.5mm + CsI/SiPM 3mm Initial instrumentation for (d,p) at up to 50 MeV/u & elastic normalization Feedthroughs to air for each channel, fast ASIC preamps in air New custom digital electronics/DAQ; liaison with FRIB for compatibility 1500 channels, 250 or 500 MHz sampling, 14-bit; PSD with nTD Si possible

The UKRI (STFC's parent) HAS ALSO REQUESTED a bid for an EXTENDED PROJECT that will include A FULL S800 UPGRADE.

DRACULA

DRACULA at iThemba(?)





- It would be invaluable to commission DRACULA with stable beams (and still do some great physics!).
- Few places in the world with the combination of high-energy beams, a worldleading gamma-ray array (GAMKA) and a spectrometer for identifying reaction products
- Number of astrophysically important (p,t) and (p,d) reactions to be done