### **Experiments for Explosive Nuclear Astrophysics**



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"We stand on the verge of one of those exciting periods which occur in science from time to time. In the past few years, it has become abundantly clear that there is an urgent need for data on the properties and interactions of radioactive nuclei for use in nuclear astrophysics"

Willie Fowler, Nobel Laureate



### **Explosive H/He burning in Binary Stars**





Isaac Newton, Principia Mathematica (1666): 'from this fresh supply of new fuel those old stars, acquiring new splendour, may pass for new stars'

### The endpoint of the rp-process



### The Hot CNO Cycles





Reaction rate often dominated by a few resonances in Gamow burning window

#### A NEW ESTIMATE OF THE <sup>19</sup>Ne(p, $\gamma$ )<sup>20</sup>Na AND <sup>15</sup>O( $\alpha$ , $\gamma$ )<sup>19</sup>Ne REACTION RATES AT STELLAR ENERGIES



AND

J. GÖRRES Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Received 1985 May 24; accepted 1985 August 19

<sup>15</sup>O( $\alpha,\gamma$ )<sup>19</sup>Ne reaction rate predicted to be dominated by a single resonance at a CoM energy of 504 keV

Key unknown -  $\alpha$ -decay probability from excited state at 4.03 MeV in <sup>19</sup>Ne compared to  $\gamma$ -decay, predicted to be ~ 10<sup>-4</sup>

# The <sup>15</sup>O(α,γ)<sup>19</sup>Ne reaction: the nuclear trigger of X-ray bursts



Reaction regulates flow between the hot CNO cycles and rp process
→ critical for explanation of amplitude and periodicity of bursts

#### Study of the <sup>20</sup>Ne(p,<sup>2</sup>H)<sup>19</sup>Ne transfer reaction on the ESR





### **Detector Pocket**



•16x16 strips

### Particle ID plot for DSSD







### Excitation Energy Spectrum @ 72mm



### Heavy Element Abundance: Solar System



from B.S.Meyer, Ann. Rev. Astron. Astrophys. 32 (1994) 153

### **Nucleosynthesis above Fe**



### Puzzle of the origin of heavy 'p-nuclei' – abundant proton-rich isotopes eg <sup>92</sup>Mo and <sup>96</sup>Ru



### Predicted p-nuclei abundances compared to observed abundances



Arnould & Goriely Phys. Rep. 384,1 (2003)

### Study of <sup>96</sup>Ru(p,γ)<sup>97</sup>Nb reaction with decelerated beams using the ESR storage ring at GSI



Pioneering new technique on ESR (Heil, Reifarth) – heavy recoils detected with double-sided silicon strip detector (Edinburgh)



Position distribution of recoiling ions measured by DSSD



### σ(p,γ)= 3.6(5) mb

New DSSD system being developed (Edinburgh/GSI/Frankfurt) for use in UHV allowing p-process reaction measurements in Gamow energy region on ESR (2014) and then CRYRING

#### **TSR@ISOLDE – RIBs injected directly at low energy**

#### **Spokesperson: K Blaum (Heidelberg)**

#### **Deputies: PJW (Edinburgh), R Raabe(Leuven)**



#### entire issue of EPJ 207 1-117 (2012)

### **ISOLDE site (west) side**



 $\rightarrow$  Proposal supported by CERN management

### Abundances in novae ejecta



J. José, M. Hernanz, C. Iliadis. Nucl Phys A, 777, (2006), 550-578

### Sensitivity to uncertainty in ${}^{30}P(p,\gamma){}^{31}S$ reaction rate



C. Iliadis, A. Champagne, J José et al., Astrophys. J. Suppl. Ser. 142, 105 (2002)

# Presolar grains

- Grains of nova origin are thought to have a large <sup>30</sup>Si/<sup>28</sup>Si ratio.
- Abundance of <sup>30</sup>Si is determined by the competition between the <sup>30</sup>P β<sup>+</sup> decay and the <sup>30</sup>P(p,γ)<sup>31</sup>S reaction rate.



### **Novae Nucleosynthesis**



## Known <sup>31</sup>S level scheme



D.G. Jenkins et al, Phys. Rev. C. 72. (2005)

#### week ending 29 JUNE 2012

### Key Resonances in the ${}^{30}P(p, \gamma){}^{31}S$ Gateway Reaction for the Production of Heavy Elements in ONe Novae

D. T. Doherty,<sup>1</sup> G. Lotay,<sup>1</sup> P. J. Woods,<sup>1</sup> D. Seweryniak,<sup>2</sup> M. P. Carpenter,<sup>2</sup> C. J. Chiara,<sup>2,3</sup> H. M. David,<sup>1</sup> R. V. F. Janssens,<sup>2</sup> L. Trache,<sup>4</sup> and S. Zhu<sup>2</sup>



### <sup>4</sup>He + <sup>28</sup>Si $\rightarrow$ <sup>31</sup>S + n fusion reaction



#### Identification of levels in Mirror Nuclei



### $^{30}P(p,\gamma)^{31}S$ reaction rate using new resonance data



### Galactic abundance distribution of the cosmic γ-ray emitter <sup>26</sup>Al

INTEGRAL Measured abundance 2.8(8) Solar Masses [R. Diehl, Nature **439**, 45(2006)]





### Supernova Cycle

# Life Cycle of a Red Supergiant Supernova Massive Star Ne bula Black Hole Ne ut ro n Recycling Star

### Hydrogen burning in Mg – Al Cycle



#### Identification of Key Astrophysical Resonances Relevant for the ${}^{26g}Al(p, \gamma){}^{27}Si$ Reaction in Wolf-Rayet Stars, AGB stars, and Classical Novae

G. Lotay,<sup>1</sup> P. J. Woods,<sup>1</sup> D. Seweryniak,<sup>2</sup> M. P. Carpenter,<sup>2</sup> R. V. F. Janssens,<sup>2</sup> and S. Zhu<sup>2</sup>



# ISAC at TRIUMF





→ Problem is that most reactions on key low energy resonances cannot be measured directly



- $\rightarrow$  Use transfer reactions to determine  $\Gamma_p$  for (p,  $\gamma$ ) reactions
- → New high resolution study performed of the d(<sup>26g</sup>Al,p)<sup>27</sup>Al analogue reaction using the Edinburgh group's TUDA silicon strip detector array on the ISAC II facility at Triumf (June 2012)

NB exotic reaction since  ${}^{26g}AI$  has  $J^{\pi} = 5^+!$ 







New technique for (d,n) studies of (p,γ) resonance strengths with GRETINA gamma-array and S800 spectrometer PJW, H Schatz et al, NSCL, April 2013

Measure  $\sigma(d,n)_{int} \rightarrow \Gamma_p$  for

each key resonance

~10<sup>6</sup> <sup>26</sup>Al 30 MeV/u ions on CD<sub>2</sub> target

### Conclusion

We are in a very exciting era coupling the properties and reactions of exotic nuclei with explosive nuclear astrophysics

Need a variety of facilities, and new techniques and equipment, to address the most interesting scientific issues