The r-process nucleosynthesis

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(cf A. Bauswein's talks for more details on the simulations)

Outline

- 1. R-process nucleosynthesis resulting from the NSM
 - Dynamical ejecta
 - Disk ejecta
- 2. Impact of neutrino absorption on the composition of the dynamical ejecta
- 3. Universality of the thermodynamic conditions in the dynamical ejecta
 - Sensitivity to the expansion timescales
 - Sensitivity to the initial Temperature
 - \rightarrow temperature processing of SPH simulations
 - \rightarrow Impact on abundance distribution and decay heat
 - \rightarrow Impact on a possible neutron-rich precursor

Systematic study of Neutron-star mergers

(Bauswein, SG, Janka, Just, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015)

Various relativistic simulations for different binary systems :

- NS-NS systems: symmetric (e.g 1.35; 1.45; 1.6; $1.75 M_{o}$)
- asymmetric (e.g 1.2–1.5 M_o ; 1.2-1.8 M_o ; 1.35-1-8 M_o) - NS-BH systems: 1.1-1.45 M_o NS with 2.3-7 M_o BH (and spin α_{BH} =0-0.9)
- 40 different EoS with different stiffness (*i.e.* different NS compactness)
 - → different amounts of mass ejected $M = 10^{-3} - 2 \ 10^{-2} M_o$
 - → different ejecta velocities v/c = 0.1 - 0.4
 - → different luminosities of the optical transients 3 14 10⁴¹ erg/s



(see also e.g. Korobkin et al. 2012)

Systematic study of Neutron-star mergers

BUT *invariably*, more than 95 % of the ejected material is r-process with a distribution very similar to the solar r-abundance distribution (A>140)







Neutron Star Mergers: a very rich r-process site

Hydrodynamical simulations : Just, Bauswein, Janka et al. MNRAS (2015)







Mass-weighted *consistently* **combined Dynamical** + **Disk ejecta**



Robust production of all $A \ge 90$ r-nuclei with a rather solar distribution. Abundances for $A \le 140$ nuclei vary within typically a factor of 3

Total radioactive heating rate of the resulting Kilonova at late times







Composition of the matter ejected from a HMNS (Perego et al. 2014; Martin et al. 2015)



Still a major uncertainty affecting the nucleosynthesis in NS mergers: electron (anti)neutrino absorption by free nucleons



Wanajo et al. (2014); Sekiguchi et al. (2015)

Initial Ye before r-processing



 $1.35 - 1.35 M_{o} BNS$

Sensitivity wrt e[±] capture and v-interaction for different parametric properties of electron (anti)neutrinos: L_{ve} and $\langle E_{ve} \rangle$













Similar radioactive heating rate



Possibility for the Kilonova to result from

- a lanthanide-free dynamical ejecta (if $L_{\bar{\nu}_e} \leq 3 \times L_{\nu_e}$)
- a lanthanide-rich disk ejecta



A relatively different conclusion obtained with the HMNS ejecta (Perego et al. 2014; Martin et al. 2015; Wollaeger et al. 2018)





a lanthanide-*rich* dynamical ejecta
a lanthanide-*free* disk ejecta

with
$$M_{\rm dyn} \sim M_{\rm disk}$$
 but $v_{\rm dyn} \sim 4-7 \times v_{\rm disk}$

How universal are the thermodynamic conditions during the NSM decompression ?

About 1000-7000 mass elements ejected in the SPH simulations Each mass element has a specific density and temperature history



Sensitivity of the inner crust composition to the symmetry energy Possible β -decay of the inner crust material (with change of Y_e)



Network calculations based on the MPA NS-NS merger simulations

- Density profiles from hydrodynamical simulations (SPH trajectories)

$$p(t=0) \le \rho_{drip} = 4.2 \ 10^{11} \text{g/cm}^3 \quad \text{if } T \le 10^{10} \text{K}$$

= $\rho(T=10^{10} \text{K}) \quad \text{if } T \ge 10^{10} \text{K}$

At late times, a constant velocity expansion is assumed $\rho[t > t_{max}(simulation)]: \rho \propto \frac{1}{t^3}$

- Temperature profile from trajectories followed by thermodynamic laws for time such that $T \le 10^{10}$ K (heating by β and nuclear reactions)

- Initial composition: NSE at $T=10^{10}$ K; $\rho = \rho(T=10^{10}$ K); $Y_e = Y_e(T=10^{10}$ K)

About a few thousands mass elements ejected in the SPH simulations Each mass element has a specific density and temperature history



Different entropies S and different expansion timescales τ







Temperature evolution and decay heat

Determination of the temperature of each trajectory within SPH simulations - 2 variants:

- 1) without T-processing: the original T determination including « artificial heating »
- 2) With T-processing: Post-processing of the temperature, i.e.
 - --> assume constant specific entropy in absence of shocks
 - --> follow evolution of fluid element and identify shocks
 - --> if shock detected, then increase entropy
 - --> From the EoS, determine the new

temperature based on post-processed entropy





Distribution of initial entropies for the 6423 ejected 'particles'

Without T-processing

With T-processing



(Entropies calculated when T decreases below $T=10^{10}$ K)

Distribution of the T at the drip density for the 6423 ejected 'particles'

Without T-processing

With T-processing



Distribution of the initial density $\rho_0(T=10^{10}\text{K})$ for the 6423 ejected 'particles'

Without T-processing

With T-processing



Evolution of specific properties for a given ejected 'particles'



(seed : $A \ge 12$)

DD135135_wdl_1000Kav15

(trajectory 0489807)

Final abundances from a representative ejected 'particles'



Without T processing : S_0 =40 With T processing: S_0 =6.4

DD135135_wdl_1000Kav15

(trajectory 0489807)

Final mass-averaged abundances for a large sample of ejected 'particles'



Without T processing With T processing

Final mass-averaged decay heat


On the possible fast ejection of free neutrons

Small fraction of the ejected mass (a few % or $\sim 10^{-4} M_{o}$) possibly made of free neutrons



 \rightarrow Potential counterpart to the gravitational wave source

On the possible fast ejection of free neutrons



But how reliable is the estimated amount of ejected free neutrons ??

Free neutron ejection is found to be sensitive to

- *The NS-NS system* : the higher the asymmetry, the more fast-expanding material
- *The EoS*: the softer the EoS, the stronger the shock-heated outflows
- *Late time extrapolation* of the density evolution $\rho \propto t^{-3}$
- *Initial velocities*: the faster the ejection, the less efficient the neutron captures (Relativistic vs Newtonian models)
- *Initial entropies*: the highest the entropy, the longer it takes to rebuild heavy nuclei from neutrons and protons
- *The neutrino interactions*: the stronger the weak interactions with nucleons, the smaller the amount of free neutrons left



Still many uncertainties to estimate reliably free neutron ejection

Free neutron ejection is found to be sensitive to

- *Expansion timescale*: the faster the ejection, the less efficient the neutron captures
- *Initial entropy*: the highest the entropy, the less effective is the rebuilding of heavy nuclei from neutrons and protons



without T-processing





Conclusions

The astrophysical site for the r-process remains puzzling despite the remarkable observation of GW170817/ AT2017fgo

Favour nowadays to Compact Object Mergers (NS-NS;NS-BH)

- Successful solar-like r-process for A ≥ 90 nuclei with contribution from Dynamical A≥140 and Disk ejecta A≥90
- Can explain the Galactic amount of r-nuclei
- Galactic/Cosmic Chemical Evolution to be confirmed ...
- Favoured by some observations (ultrafaint dwarf Galaxies, ²⁴⁴Pu in crust and sediment samples, ...)
- Possible ejection of free neutrons with observable blue signal

But still some major open questions, in particular:

- Description of the hydrodynamical conditions (expansion timescales: Newtonian vs Relativistic simulations)
- Description of the thermodynamic conditions, in part. initial T
- Neutrino absorption affecting the composition of the dyn. ejecta (+ possible neutrino oscillation)

Still major astrophysical questions to be answered, including

• Impact of neutrinos on the neutron richness during dynamical ejection

$$\nu_e + n \rightleftharpoons p + e^-$$
 $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightleftharpoons n + e^+$

- Frequency and properties of NS binary systems (in part, coalescence time)
- Chemical evolution of r-nuclei in the Galaxy
- Comparison with spectroscopic observation, in particular with r-enrichment in old (ultrametal-poor) stars
- Nuclear Physics Aspects







The r-process distribution in ultra-metal-poor stars

Differences between the SS r-process and stellar abundances in metal-poor stars

> Honda et al (2007) ApJ 666, 1189

-1.0 log € (S.S. r-process) CS 22892-052 [Fe/H] = -3.1-2.0 logε(star) --0.0 [Fe/H] = -2.8HD 122563 [Fe/H] = -3.1HD 88609 -4.040 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 Atomic Number 1.5 r-process) normalized to Sr STAR [Sr/Fe] [Eu/Fe] HE 1523-090 2.0 log € (S.S. △ BD+17 3248 +0.3+0.9 +0.1 +0.8 2.5 O HD 115444 +0.3 +0.7△ HD 175305 +0.1 +0.4 RD+10 249 -0.1 + 0.1relative log c (star) O CS 2289 +0.1-0.1 △ HD 1397 -0.2 -0.2 -3.0 +0.1 -0.3O HD 8860 -0.3-0.1 -0.3 -0.5CS 22949-037 +0.3 <+0.0 -3.5 typical uncertainty 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 Atomic Number

Continuous distribution of r-abundance patterns in metal poor stars falling between two extreme cases:

CS22892-052 and HD88609

Roederer et al (2010) ApJ 724, 975

Comparison with observation in low-metallicity r-process-rich stars

2 extreme cases



Dynamical + Disk ejecta (mass averaged)

- for $56 \le Z \le 76$: « Universal » solarlike distribution
- for Z < 56 : Deviation wrt solar (0.5dex)

Suppressed dynamical ejecta (only ~1%) in particular for NS-BH systems

- Asymmetric ejecta
- Small ejecta (NS accreted by the BH)
- Or v-nucleon interaction !!

Cosmic & Galactic Chemical Evolution Models

The SN vs NSM imprint at very low-metallicities



Cosmic chemical evolution based on a hierarchical model for structure formation

Eu evolution: NSM scenario with 7 10⁻⁵ M_{\odot} to 2 10⁻⁴ M_{\odot} per merger

Constraint on the coalescence timescale

SFR1: [EU/H]



Cosmic chemical evolution based on a hierarchical model for structure formation

On the basis of realistic estimates of the coalescence timescales estimate

Updated version of the population synthesis model (Belczynski et al. 2015)



For 2 fractions of NS binaries

Merger rate: BNS



Post-O1 upper limits on BNS rate

Abbott et al. 2016, post-01

Merger rate: BNS

- Model: estimate the BNS rate assuming that most of the r-process elements are produced by NS+NS mergers
- Observations: Eu measured in metal-poor halo stars in the Milky Way = tracer of the time evolution of the r-process



Vangioni, Goriely, Daigne, François & Belczynski (2016)

Merger rate: BNS

Post-O1 upper limits on BNS rate



Abbott et al. 2016, post-01

Conclusions

The astrophysical site for the r-process remains puzzling !

• **Supernovae** : favorite sites for decades (GCE), but so far fail to produce a successful r-process

 \rightarrow Need to solve the explosion mechanism first; may still be viable

- **Compact Object Mergers (NS-NS;NS-BH)** : GW170817 recent robust hydrodynamical simulations
 - Successful solar-like r-process for A ≥ 90 nuclei with contribution from Dynamical A≥140 and Disk ejecta A≥90
 - Can explain the Galactic amount of r-nuclei
 - Galactic/Cosmic Chemical Evolution to be confirmed
 - Favoured by some observations (ultrafaint dwarf Galaxies, 244Pu in crust and sediment samples, ...)

- Possible ejections of free neutrons with observable blue signal **But still some major open questions, in particular neutrino effects in relativistic models** !

CONCLUSIONS

Compact Object Mergers (NS-NS;NS-BH) : recent robust hydrodynamical simulations

- Successful solar-like r-process for A ≥ 90 nuclei with contribution from both Dynamical A≥140 and Disk ejecta A≥90
- Can explain the Galactic amount of r-nuclei
- Possible ejections of free neutrons with observable blue signal

But we need

- to confirm Galactic/Cosmic Chemical Evolution
- to investigate neutrino effects in relativistic models
- to improve nuclear physics input
- to confirm the ejection of precursor free neutrons

Elemental abundances expected in the dynamical ejecta

Dynamical ejecta



Significant production of lanthanides and actinides (if neutrino interactions are negligible) Very much dependent on the nuclear physics treatment of fission – Possible production of superheavy elements ?

On the possible fast ejection of free neutrons

Small fraction of the ejected mass (a few % or $\sim 10^{-4} M_{o}$) possibly made of free neutrons



 \rightarrow Potential counterpart to the gravitational wave source

On the possible fast ejection of free neutrons



But how reliable is the estimated amount of ejected free neutrons ??

Free neutron ejection is found to be sensitive to

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- *The neutrino interactions*: the stronger the weak interactions with nucleons, the smaller the amount of free neutrons left

The now-favoured r-process scenario: the decompression of NS matter

(initial conditions: high-density matter)



Composition of the matter ejected from a HMNS (Perego et al. 2014; Martin et al. 2015)



Network calculations based on the MPA NS-NS merger simulations

- Density profile from SPH trajectories

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \rho(t=0) &\leq & \rho_{drip} = 4.2 \ 10^{11} \text{g/cm}^3 & \text{if } T \leq 10^{10} \text{K} \\ &= & \rho(T=10^{10} \text{K}) & \text{if } T \geq 10^{10} \text{K} \end{array}$$

At late times, a constant velocity expansion is assumed

$$\rho[t > t_{max}(simulation)]: \rho \propto \frac{1}{t^3}$$

- Temperature profile from trajectories followed by thermodynamic laws for time such that $T \le 10^{10}$ K (heating by β -decay and fission)
- Initial composition: NSE at $T=10^{10}$ K; $\rho = \rho(T=10^{10}$ K); $Y_e = Y_e(T=10^{10}$ K)
- Nuclear input:
 - HFB-21 masses and *corresponding* reaction rates (TALYS)
 - GT2+HFB-21 β-decay rates
 - Full fission processes for Z_{max}=90-110 with HFB-14 nuclear inputs
 & SPY (Saclay) fission fragment distributions

STILL MANY OPEN QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT DECADE

- The reaction model
 - CN vs Direct capture for low-S_n reactions
- Nuclear inputs to the reaction model (almost no exp. data !)
 - **GS properties:** masses (correlations GCM, odd-nuclei)
 - **E1-strength function:** GDR tail, PR, ε_{γ} =0 limit, T-dep, PC
 - Nuclear level Densities (at low *E*): J- and π -description, pairing, shell and collective effects & damping
 - **Optical potential:** the low-E isovector imaginary component
 - **Fission:** fission paths, NLD at the saddle points, FFD
- The β-decay rates
 - Forbidden transitions, deformation effects, odd-nuclei, PC

We are still far from being capable of estimating *reliably* the radiative neutron capture and β -decay of exotic n-rich nuclei (and fission properties even for known nuclei)

Models exist, but corresponding uncertainties are usually not estimated

Conclusions

Astrophysics simulations are now able to provide consistent robust nucleosynthesis models for the r-process

(3D relativistic hydro simulations of the NS Mergers and BH-torus phases)

Calculated r-abundance distributions remain essentially affected by

- β-decay: better than factor 1.5
- neutron capture (nuclear input models as well as reaction models: CN, DC): better than factor 2 around S_n~2-3MeV, 10 at drip lines ?
- Fission probabilities (barriers within ~ few 100keVs) and fission fragment distributions

The best Nuclear Physics input should be provided

- More theoretical work based on "MICROSCOPIC" approaches
- Consistent estimate of the model & parameter uncertainties

That should keep us busy for the next decade... for sure...

Characteristics of the ejected "particles" from NS merger

Material initially from the inner crust $\rho \sim 10^{14} \text{ g/cm}^3$; $Y_e \sim 0.01-0.05$

Expansion timescales

Temperatures reached during the decompression



A relatively different result in comparison with the ejecta from a HMNS (Rosswog et al. 2014)



Cosmic & Galactic Chemical Evolution Models

On the basis of Galactic chemical evolution model, including cosmological zoom-in simulations, & cosmological evolution model using a hierarchical model for structure formation



IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED

- Matteuci et al. (2014) « NSM can be entirely responsible for the production of Eu in the Galaxy if $\tau_{coal} \sim 1$ Myr »
- Mennekens et al. (2014) conclude « that except for the earliest evolutionary phase of the Galaxy (~the first 100 Myr), double compact star mergers may be the major production sites of r-process elements »
- Vangioni et al. (2015): « the Eu cosmic evolution tends to favour NSM as the main astrophysical site for the r process »
- Tsujimoto et al. (2014) « results demonstrate that NSM occuring at Galactic rate of 12-23Myr⁻¹ are the main site of r-process elements »
- Van de Voort et al. (2014) « Overall, results are consistent with **NS mergers being the source** of most of the rprocess nuclei in the Universe. »
- Shen et al. (2014) « argue that **compact binary mergers could be the dominant source** of r-process nucleosynthesis in the Galaxy »



z





Ζ



Evolution of the decay heat in the dynamical ejecta



Evolution of specific properties for a given ejected 'particles'



Without T processing With T processing

DD135135_wdl_1000Kav15

(trajectory 0489807)
Evolution of the decay heat (for a given T-processed case)



Evolution of the decay heat (for a given T-unprocessed case)

