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Neutron-Capture Element Observations in Low-Metallicity Stars: Joys and Frustrations

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Neutron-capture elements often are extremely overabundant in metal-poor halo stars. In some cases we have been able to determine accurate abundances or significant upper limits to over 30 elements with Z>30. These detailed abundance distributions can provide significant constraints on neutron-capture nucleosynthesis predictions. But how well do we really know the neutron-capture abundances? What can we trust, and what must be viewed with a lot of caution?

In this talk, the view from a stellar spectroscopist's perspective, I will try to demonstrate which abundances are probably rock-solid, which have significant uncertainties, and which are more hopeful than assured. Cautions for the consumer, and suggested avenues for future improvements will be provided.

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Sitzung Einordnung: Session 1: r-process: Observations vs. models