

# Indirect methods and innovative techniques for Nuclear Astrophysics



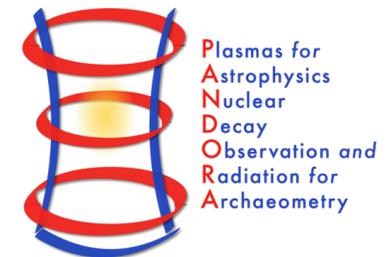
guardo@lns.infn.it



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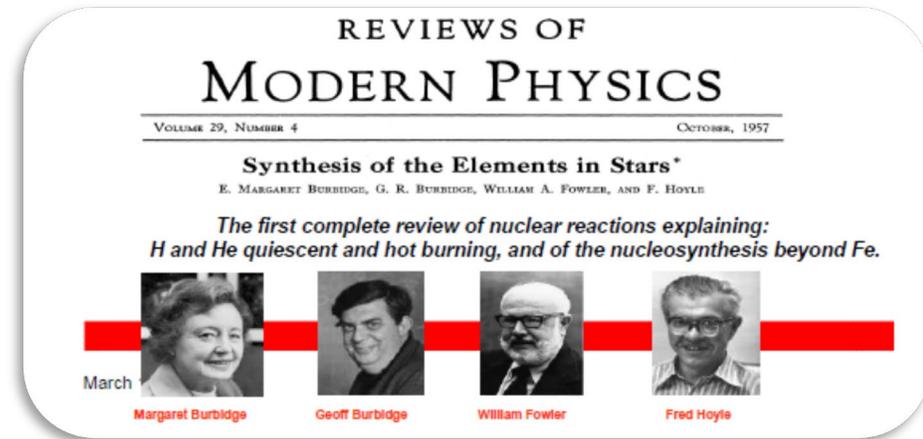
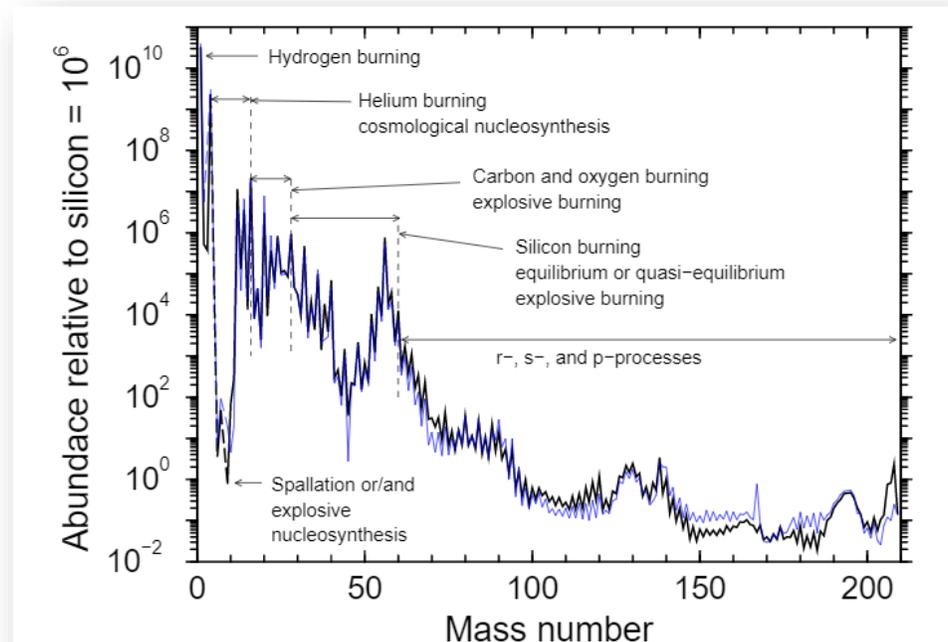
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G. L. Guardo & A. Pidotella  
*on behalf of AsFiN and PANDORA collaborations*



# Experimental Nuclear Astrophysics

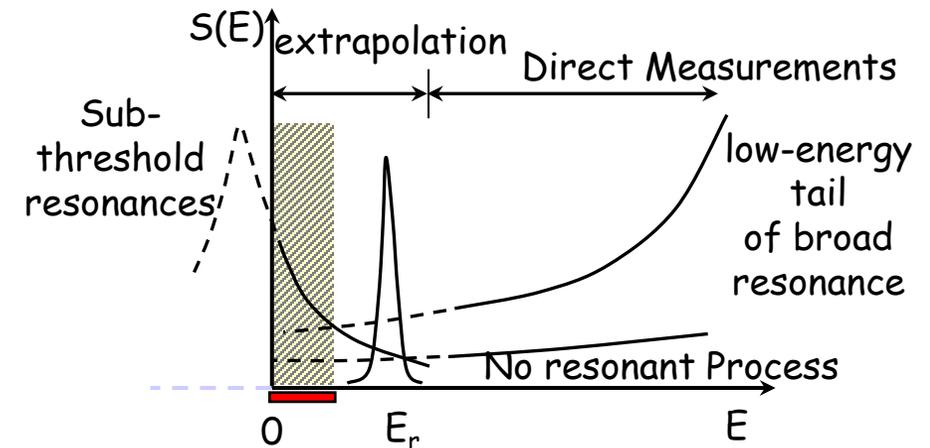
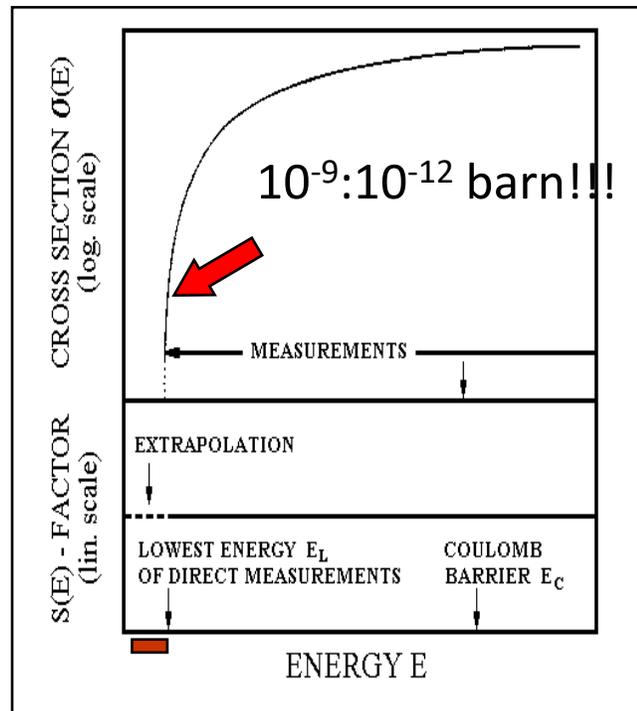
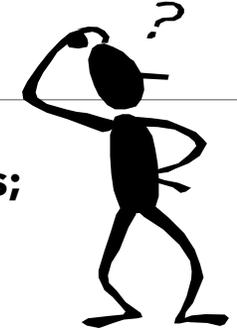
Everything starts from the **B<sup>2</sup>FH** review paper of 1957, the basis of the modern nuclear astrophysics.



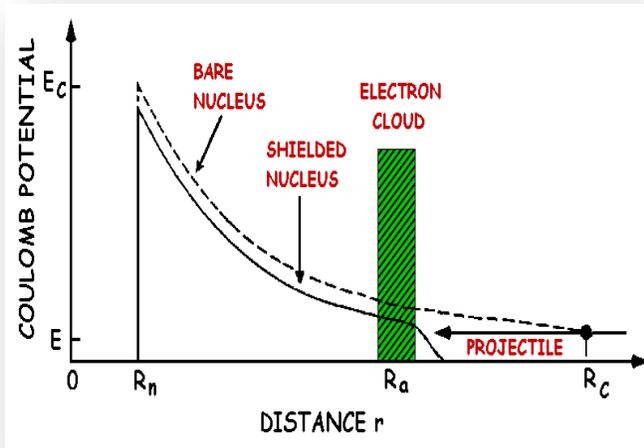
The elements composing everything from planets to life were forged inside earlier generations of stars!  
 Nuclear reactions responsible for both **ENERGY PRODUCTION** and **SYNTHESIS OF ELEMENTS**

# Direct Measurements

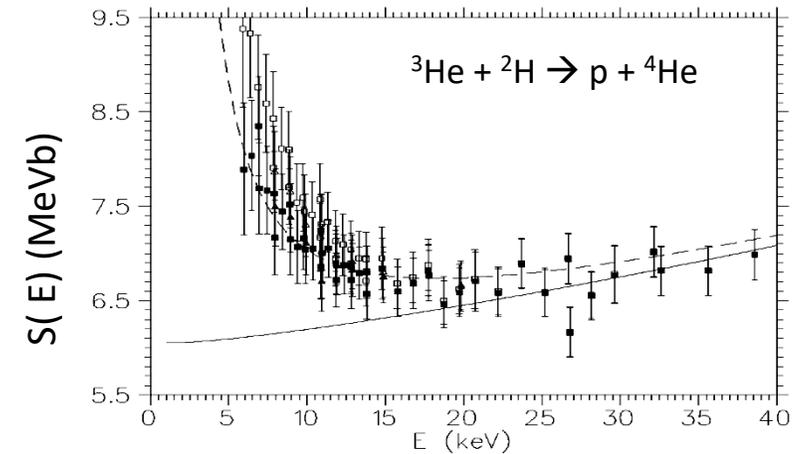
- **Very small cross section values reflect in a faint statistic;**
- **Very low signal-to-noise ratio makes hard the investigation at astrophysical energies;**
- **Instead of the cross section, the S(E)-factor is introduced**



# Electron Screening

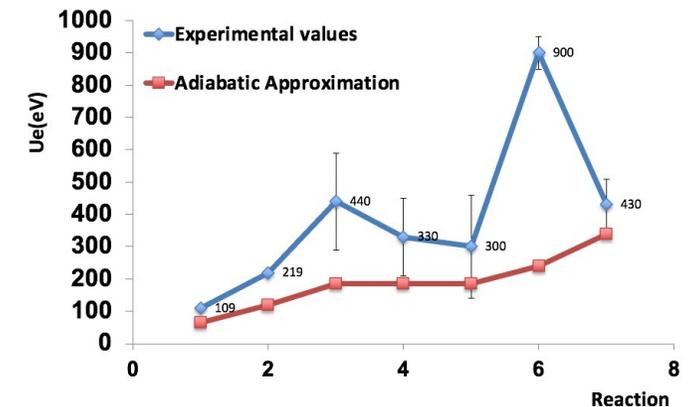


Due to the electron cloud surrounding the interacting ions the projectile feels a reduced barrier

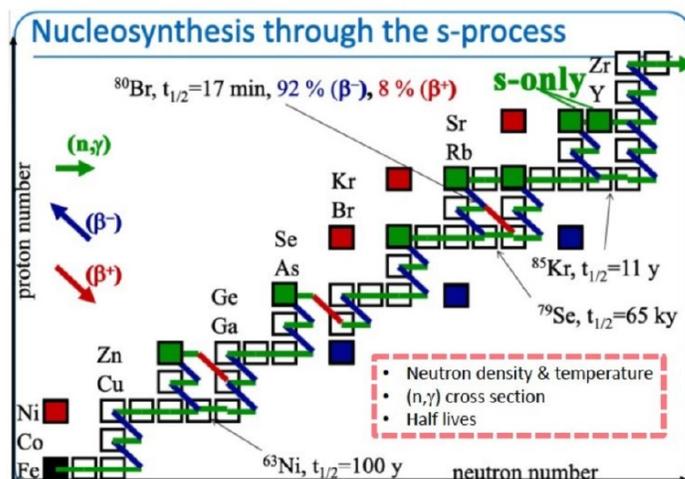


Reaction	$U_{ad}$ (eV)	$U_{exp}$ (eV)	Reference
${}^6\text{Li}(p,\alpha){}^3\text{He}$	186	$440 \pm 150$	[Engstler et al.(1992)]
${}^6\text{Li}(d,\alpha){}^4\text{He}$	186	$330 \pm 120$	[Engstler et al.(1992)]
$\text{H}({}^7\text{Li},\alpha){}^4\text{He}$	186	$300 \pm 160$	[Engstler et al.(1992)]
${}^2\text{H}({}^3\text{He},p){}^4\text{He}$	65	$109 \pm 9$	[Aliotta et al.(2004)]
${}^3\text{He}({}^2\text{H},p){}^4\text{He}$	120	$219 \pm 7$	[Aliotta et al.(2004)]
$\text{H}({}^9\text{Be},\alpha){}^6\text{Li}$	240	$900 \pm 50$	[Zahnow et al.(1997)]
$\text{H}({}^{11}\text{B},\alpha){}^8\text{Be}$	340	$430 \pm 80$	[Angulo et al. (1993)]

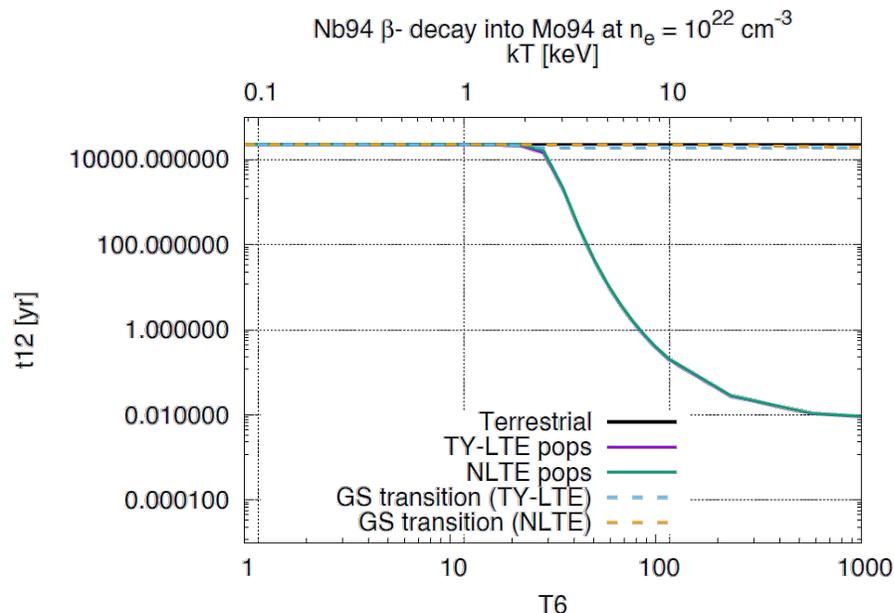
Theory vs. Experiment →  
Stellar plasma...far to be understood



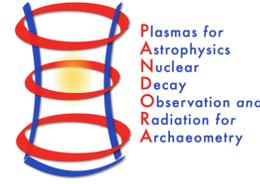
# $\beta$ decay Branching Point



Busso M., et al, Ann. Rev. Astr. Astrophysics, 37 239, (1999)  
 Cristallo S., et al., APJ Suppl. 197, 17 (2011)

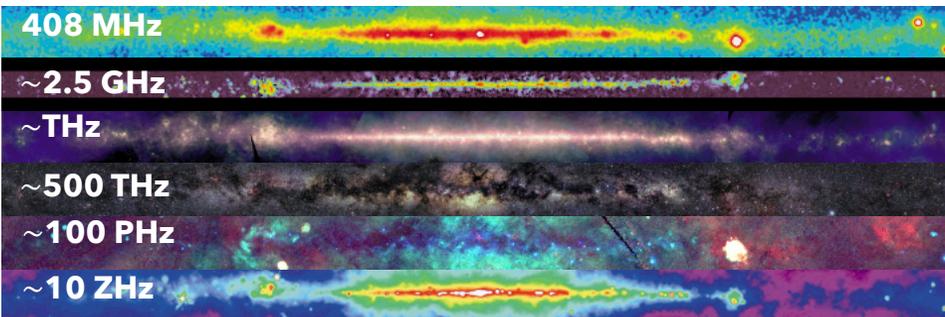


- **s-process branching  $\rightarrow$  neutron capture vs. nuclear  $\beta$  decays. Unknown radionuclides lifetime in strongly ionized stellar environment**
- **Abundances search for elements heavier than iron through r-process nucleosynthesis in neutron-rich compact binary objects**



# A Way To Face These Problems

**AS SIMILAR AS TO Multi-wavelength astronomy** : many information on the Galaxy composition, dynamics, structure from variety of telescopes and detectors within a broad range of EM spectrum → **COMPLEMENTARY PICTURE OF GALAXY**



- **Radio:** SN shocked electrons moving at  $v \sim c$  through interstellar B field
- **Radio:** hot, ionized gas and high-energy electrons
- **IR:** thermal, dust warmed by absorbed starlight, star-forming regions embedded in interstellar clouds
- **Optical:** low-density gas, light from stars at few thousand LY from the Sun
- **Composte X-Ray:** hot, shocked gas ( $\sim keV$ ), cold clouds of interstellar gas absorbers
- **$\gamma$ -Ray:** high-energy photons ( $\geq 300 MeV$ ), collisions of cosmic rays with hydrogen nuclei in interstellar clouds

[https://asd.gsfc.nasa.gov/archive/mwmw/mmw\\_sci.html](https://asd.gsfc.nasa.gov/archive/mwmw/mmw_sci.html)

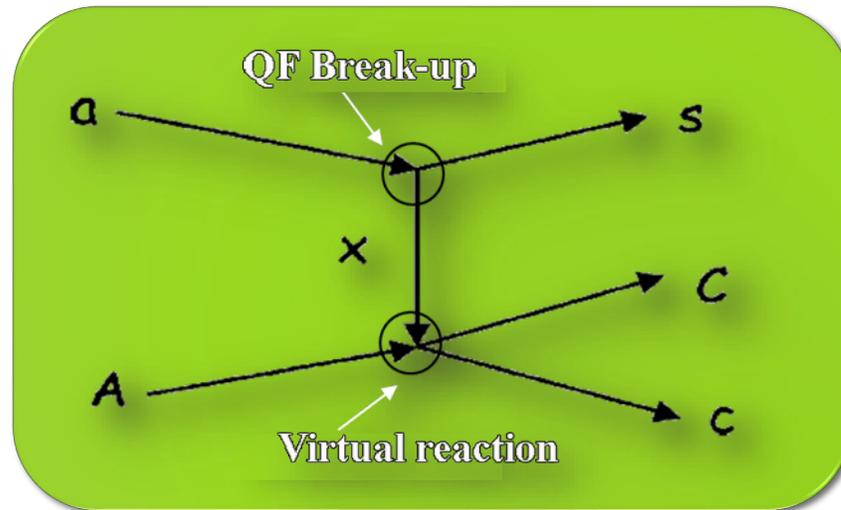
Beyond the extrapolation procedure, **indirect** and **innovative experimental methods** are highly demanded to address missing or incomplete aspects led by the complexity of nuclear reactions in stars

**Multi-diagnostic experiments** for **Multi-messenger Astronomy (MMA)**: several methods, detectors, instruments to investigate single processes relevant for Nuclear Physics and Astrophysics, under extreme conditions of ionized stellar environments  
→ **COMPLEMENTARY PICTURE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS AND NUCLEAR ASTROPHYSICS PHENOMENA**

# The Trojan Horse Method



The idea of the **THM** is to extract the cross section of an astrophysically relevant two-body reaction  $\mathbf{A+x \rightarrow c+C}$  at low energies from a suitable three-body reaction  $\mathbf{a+A \rightarrow c+C+s}$



**Quasi free kinematics is selected**

✓ **only  $x - A$  interaction**

✓  **$s = \text{spectator}$  ( $p_s \sim 0$ )**

$$E_A > E_{\text{Coul}} \rightarrow$$

- **NO coulomb suppression**
- **NO electron screening**
- **NO centrifugal barrier**

# Theoretical Approach

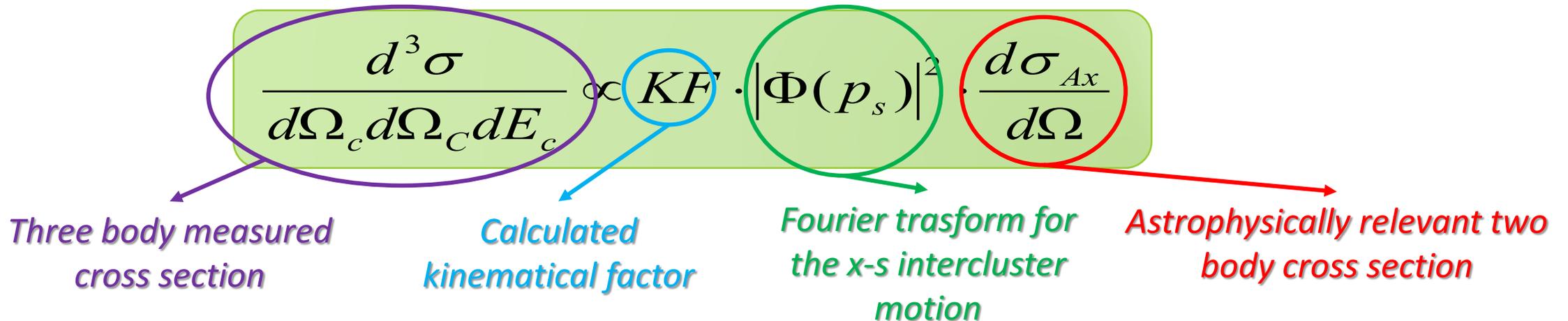
The TH-nucleus is chosen because of:

- its large amplitude in the  $a=x\oplus s$  cluster configuration;
- its relatively low-binding energy;
- Its known  $x$ - $s$  momentum distribution  $|\Phi(p_s)|^2$  in  $a$ .

$$E_{Ax} = \frac{m_x}{m_x + m_A} E_A - B_{xs}$$

$B_{x-s}$  plays a key role in compensating for the beam energy thanks to the  $x$ - $s$  intercluster motion inside  $a$ , it is possible to span an energy range of several hundreds of keV with only one beam energy

In the Plane Wave Impulse Approximation (PWIA) the cross section of the 3-body reaction can be factorized as:



# Applications of THM

	Binary reaction	Indirect reaction	Beam energy (MeV)	$Q_3$ (MeV)	TH nucleus
1	${}^7\text{Li}(p, \alpha){}^4\text{He}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^7\text{Li}, \alpha\alpha)n$	19–22, 28–48	15.122	$d = (p \oplus n)$
2	${}^7\text{Li}(p, \alpha){}^4\text{He}$	${}^7\text{Li}({}^3\text{He}, \alpha\alpha){}^2\text{H}$	33	11.853	${}^3\text{He} = (d \oplus p)$
3	${}^6\text{Li}(d, \alpha){}^4\text{He}$	${}^6\text{Li}({}^6\text{Li}, \alpha\alpha){}^4\text{He}$	5	22.372	${}^6\text{Li} = (\alpha \oplus d)$
4	${}^6\text{Li}(d, \alpha){}^4\text{He}$	${}^6\text{Li}({}^3\text{He}, \alpha\alpha){}^1\text{H}$	17.5	16.879	${}^3\text{He} = (d \oplus p)$
5	${}^6\text{Li}(p, \alpha){}^3\text{He}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^6\text{Li}, \alpha{}^3\text{He})n$	14–25, 21–36.6, 25	1.795	$d = (p \oplus n)$
6	${}^{11}\text{B}(p, \alpha){}^8\text{Be}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^{11}\text{B}, {}^8\text{Be}\alpha)n$	27	6.366	$d = (p \oplus n)$
7	${}^{10}\text{B}(p, \alpha){}^7\text{Be}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^{10}\text{B}, {}^7\text{Be}\alpha)n$	27, 28	−1.079	$d = (p \oplus n)$
8	${}^9\text{Be}(p, \alpha){}^6\text{Li}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^9\text{Be}, {}^6\text{Li}\alpha)n$	22.25	−0.099	$d = (p \oplus n)$
11	${}^{18}\text{F}(p, \alpha){}^{15}\text{O}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^{18}\text{F}, \alpha{}^{15}\text{O})n$	52	0.66	$d = (p \oplus n)$
12	${}^{15}\text{N}(p, \alpha){}^{12}\text{C}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^{15}\text{N}, \alpha{}^{12}\text{C})n$	60	2.741	$d = (p \oplus n)$
13	${}^{18}\text{O}(p, \alpha){}^{15}\text{N}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^{18}\text{O}, \alpha{}^{15}\text{N})n$	54	1.755	$d = (p \oplus n)$
14	${}^{19}\text{F}(p, \alpha){}^{16}\text{O}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^{19}\text{F}, \alpha{}^{16}\text{O})n$	50	5.889	$d = (p \oplus n)$
15	${}^{19}\text{F}(\alpha, p){}^{22}\text{Ne}$	${}^{19}\text{F}({}^6\text{Li}, p{}^{22}\text{Ne}){}^2\text{H}$	6	0.199	${}^6\text{Li} = (\alpha \oplus d)$
16	${}^{12}\text{C}({}^{12}\text{C}, \alpha){}^{20}\text{Ne}$	${}^{12}\text{C}({}^{14}\text{N}, \alpha{}^{20}\text{Ne}){}^2\text{H}$	30	−5.655	${}^{14}\text{N} = ({}^{12}\text{C} \oplus d)$
17	${}^{17}\text{O}(p, \alpha){}^{14}\text{N}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^{17}\text{O}, \alpha{}^{14}\text{N})n$	45	−1.033	$d = (p \oplus n)$
18	${}^{17}\text{O}(n, \alpha){}^{14}\text{C}$	${}^2\text{H}({}^{17}\text{O}, \alpha{}^{14}\text{C}){}^1\text{H}$	41, 43.5	−9.407	$d = (p \oplus n)$
19	${}^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \alpha){}^{12}\text{C}$	${}^6\text{Li}({}^{12}\text{C}, d{}^{12}\text{C}){}^4\text{He}$	18	−1.474	${}^6\text{Li} = (\alpha \oplus d)$
20	${}^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n){}^{16}\text{O}$	${}^{13}\text{C}({}^6\text{Li}, nd){}^{16}\text{O}$	7.82	0.742	${}^6\text{Li} = (\alpha \oplus d)$
21	${}^{12}\text{C}({}^{12}\text{C}, p){}^{23}\text{Na}$	${}^{12}\text{C}({}^{14}\text{N}, p{}^{23}\text{Na}){}^2\text{H}$	30	−7.28	${}^{14}\text{N} = ({}^{12}\text{C} \oplus d)$

- Various astrophysical scenarios
- Different TH-nucleus
- One beam energy for a wide  $E_{\text{cm}}$  range
- «simple» experimental setup

# Recent Results of THM

**nature**  
International journal of science

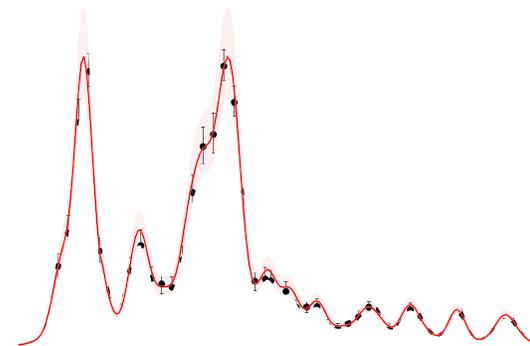
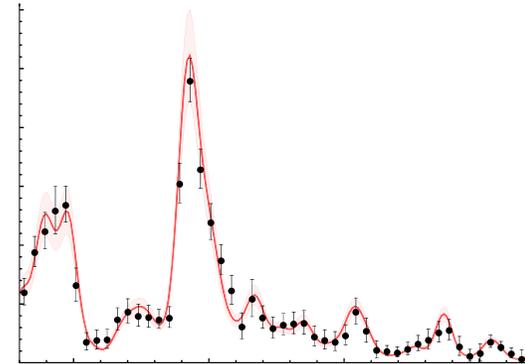
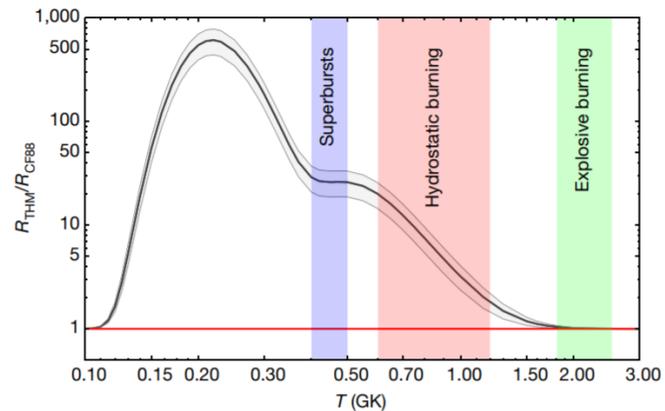
Letter | Published: 23 May 2018

## An increase in the $^{12}\text{C} + ^{12}\text{C}$ fusion rate from resonances at astrophysical energies

A. Tumino , C. Spitaleri, M. La Cognata, S. Cherubini, G. L. Guardo, M. Gulino, S. Hayakawa, I. Indelicato, L. Lamia, H. Petrascu, R. G. Pizzone, S. M. R. Puglia, G. G. Rapisarda, S. Romano, M. L. Sergi, R. Spartá & L. Trache

Nature 557, 687–690 (2018) | [Download Citation](#)

### Experiment performed @ INFN-LNS



# Recent Results of THM

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 850:175 (5pp), 2017 December 1  
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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aa965e>



## On the Determination of the ${}^7\text{Be}(n, \alpha){}^4\text{He}$ Reaction Cross Section at BBN Energies

L. Lamia<sup>1,2</sup>, C. Spitaleri<sup>1,2</sup>, C. A. Bertulani<sup>3</sup>, S. Q. Hou<sup>3,4</sup>, M. La Cognata<sup>2</sup>, R. G. Pizzone<sup>2</sup>, S. Romano<sup>1,2</sup>,  
 M. L. Sergi<sup>2</sup>, and A. Tumino<sup>2,5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>INFN—Laboratori Nazionali del Sud, Catania, Italy

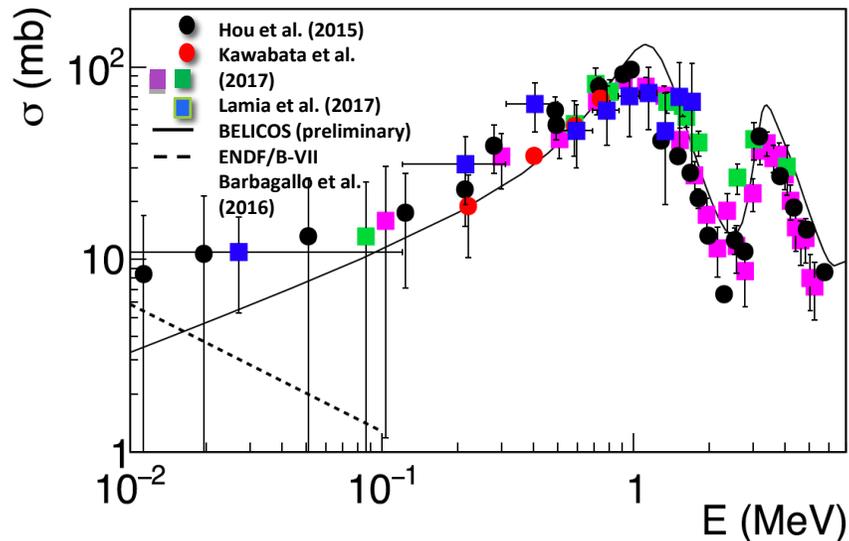
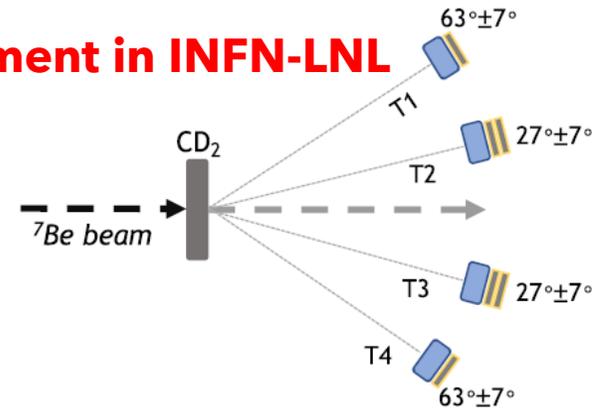
<sup>3</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX 75428, USA

<sup>4</sup>Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China

<sup>5</sup>Facoltà di Ingegneria e Architettura, Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore”, Enna, Italy

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## Experiment in INFN-LNL



## Application of THM with RIBs and neutron induced reactions

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 879:23 (8pp), 2019 July 1  
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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ab2234>



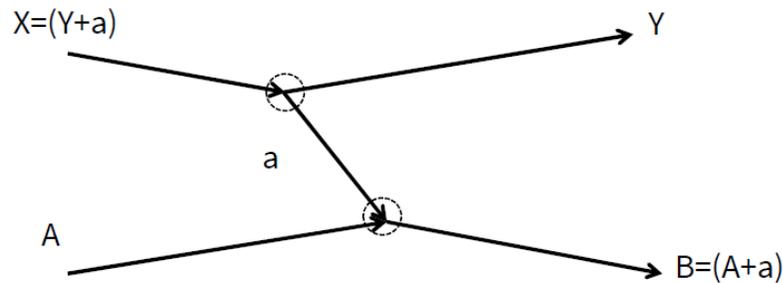
## Cross-section Measurement of the Cosmologically Relevant ${}^7\text{Be}(n, \alpha){}^4\text{He}$ Reaction over a Broad Energy Range in a Single Experiment

L. Lamia<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Mazzocco<sup>3,4</sup>, R. G. Pizzone<sup>2</sup>, S. Hayakawa<sup>5</sup>, M. La Cognata<sup>2</sup>, C. Spitaleri<sup>1,2</sup>, C. A. Bertulani<sup>6</sup>, A. Boiano<sup>7</sup>,  
 C. Boiano<sup>8</sup>, C. Brogini<sup>4</sup>, A. Cacioli<sup>3,4</sup>, S. Cherubini<sup>1,2</sup>, G. D'Agata<sup>1,2,13</sup>, H. da Silva<sup>9</sup>, R. Depalo<sup>3,4</sup>, F. Galtarossa<sup>10</sup>,  
 G. L. Guardo<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Gulino<sup>2,11</sup>, I. Indelicato<sup>1,2</sup>, M. La Commara<sup>7,12</sup>, G. La Rana<sup>7,12</sup>, R. Menegazzo<sup>4</sup>, J. Mrazek<sup>13</sup>, A. Pakou<sup>14</sup>,  
 C. Parascandolo<sup>7</sup>, D. Piatti<sup>3,4</sup>, D. Pierrotsakou<sup>7</sup>, S. M. R. Puglia<sup>2</sup>, S. Romano<sup>1,2</sup>, G. G. Rapisarda<sup>2</sup>, A. M. Sánchez-Benítez<sup>15</sup>,  
 M. L. Sergi<sup>2</sup>, O. Sgouros<sup>2,14</sup>, F. Soramel<sup>3,4</sup>, V. Soukeras<sup>2,14</sup>, R. Sparta<sup>1,2</sup>, E. Strano<sup>3,4</sup>, D. Torresi<sup>2</sup>, A. Tumino<sup>2,11</sup>,  
 H. Yamaguchi<sup>5</sup>, and G. L. Zhang<sup>16</sup>

# Asymptotic Normalization Coefficient

Widely used to gain informations about **DIRECT RADIATIVE CAPTURE**

Studies performed by means of «simple» transfer reactions



In Distorted Wave Born Approximation, the transition amplitude between the states before and after the reactions can be written as:

$$M(E_i, \vartheta_{c.m.}) = \sum_{M_a} \langle \chi_f^{(-)} | I_{Aa}^B | \Delta V | I_{Ya}^X \chi_i^{(+)} \rangle$$

Using DWBA we were able to find the ANC's coefficients from the spectroscopic factors. This gives us some advantages:

- For peripheral reactions, ANCs have small dependence from the potential
- $R_{l_B, j_B, l_x, j_x}$  is nearly independent from  $b^2$
- ANCs are defined in the nuclear «exterior», so are «observable»

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} &= \sum_{j_B, j_x} (C_{Aa, l_B, j_B}^B)^2 (C_{Ya, l_x, j_x}^X)^2 \frac{\sigma_{l_B, j_B, l_x, j_x}^{DWBA}}{b_{Aa, l_B, j_B}^2 b_{Ya, l_x, j_x}^2} = \\ &= \sum_{j_B, j_x} (C_{Aa, l_B, j_B}^B)^2 (C_{Ya, l_x, j_x}^X)^2 R_{l_B, j_B, l_x, j_x} \end{aligned}$$

# Recent results of ANC

Physics Letters B 807 (2020) 135606

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ELSEVIER



Astrophysical S-factor for the  ${}^3\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma){}^7\text{Be}$  reaction via the asymptotic normalization coefficient (ANC) method

G.G. Kiss<sup>a</sup>, M. La Cognata<sup>b,\*</sup>, C. Spitaleri<sup>b,c</sup>, R. Yarmukhamedov<sup>d</sup>, I. Wiedenhöver<sup>e</sup>, L.T. Baby<sup>e</sup>, S. Cherubini<sup>b,c</sup>, A. Cvetinović<sup>b</sup>, G. D'Agata<sup>b,c,f</sup>, P. Figuera<sup>b</sup>, G.L. Guardo<sup>b,c</sup>, M. Gulino<sup>b,g</sup>, S. Hayakawa<sup>b,h</sup>, I. Indelicato<sup>b,c</sup>, L. Lamia<sup>b,c,i</sup>, M. Lattuada<sup>b,c</sup>, F. Mudò<sup>b,c</sup>, S. Palmerini<sup>j,k</sup>, R.G. Pizzone<sup>b</sup>, G.G. Rapisarda<sup>b,c</sup>, S. Romano<sup>b,c,i</sup>, M.L. Sergi<sup>b,c</sup>, R. Sparta<sup>b,c</sup>, O. Trippella<sup>j,k</sup>, A. Tumino<sup>b,g</sup>, M. Anastasiou<sup>e</sup>, S.A. Kuvín<sup>e</sup>, N. Rijal<sup>e</sup>, B. Schmidt<sup>e</sup>



**Astrophysical factor at Gamow energies for the Sun was extracted via the ANC method. For the  ${}^3\text{He}({}^4\text{He}, \gamma){}^7\text{Be}$  case, in good agreement with previous experiments**

**Experiment in ATOMKI**

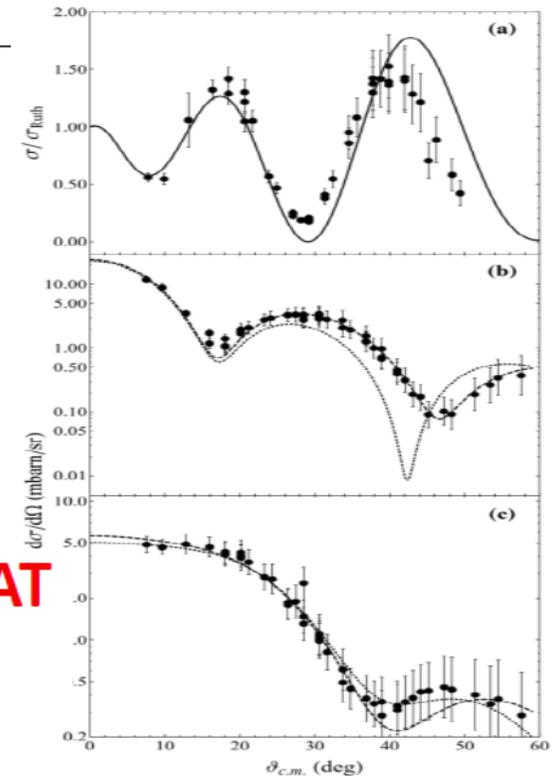
PHYSICAL REVIEW C **103**, 015806 (2021)

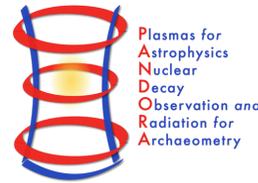
${}^{26}\text{Si}(p, \gamma){}^{27}\text{P}$  direct proton capture by means of the asymptotic normalization coefficients method for mirror nuclei

G. D'Agata<sup>1,\*</sup>, A. I. Kilic<sup>1</sup>, V. Burjan<sup>1</sup>, J. Mrazek<sup>1</sup>, V. Glagolev<sup>1</sup>, V. Kroha<sup>1</sup>, G. L. Guardo<sup>2</sup>, M. La Cognata<sup>2</sup>, L. Lamia<sup>2,3,4</sup>, S. Palmerini<sup>5,6</sup>, R. G. Pizzone<sup>2</sup>, G. G. Rapisarda<sup>2</sup>, S. Romano<sup>2,3,4</sup>, M. L. Sergi<sup>2,3</sup>, R. Sparta<sup>2,3</sup>, C. Spitaleri<sup>2</sup>, I. Síváček<sup>1,7</sup> and A. Tumino<sup>2,8</sup>

**Experiment in Rez, Prague**

**REACTION RATE CALCULATED AT GAMOW ENERGIES!!!**





# The PANDORA Project

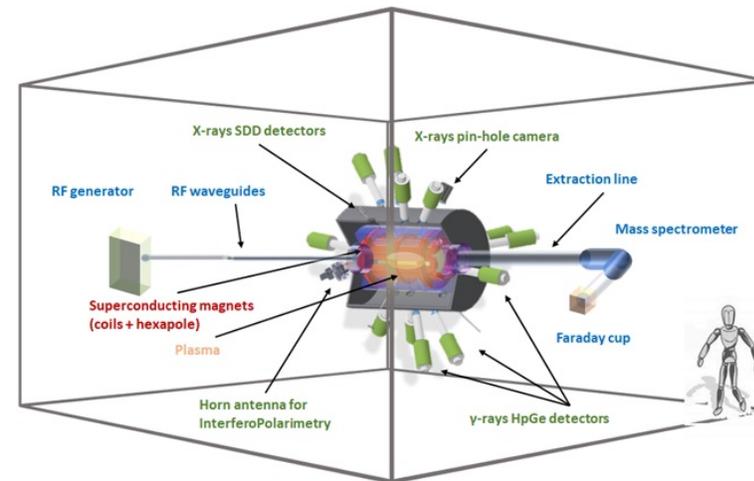
- **PANDORA concept:** compact plasma **trap** to magnetically confine **ions of radioisotopes** in a microwave-sustained **plasma**
- **Main Goal:** nuclear decay measurements in a plasma resembling **astrophysical conditions** (temperature, ion charge state distribution)
- **Multi-diagnostic setup:** **monitoring diagnostics + detectors array**

- Assembling multi-diagnostic setup: simultaneously monitor plasma parameters and carry measurements under stable conditions

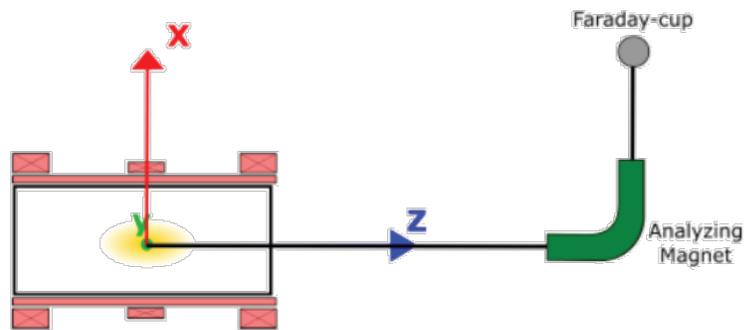
- **Electron dens:**  $10^{12} - 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- **Electron Energy:**  $\sim \text{eV} - 100 \text{ keV}$
- **Ion dens:**  $10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

## PHYSICS OF INTEREST FOR MMA AND NUCLEAR ASTROPHYSICS

- s-process nucleosynthesis +  $\beta$ -decay branching
- r-process cosmic sites
- Nuclear reaction rates in stars
- Compact binary object spectroscopy (*kilonova transient*): to characterize composition and to identify GW events

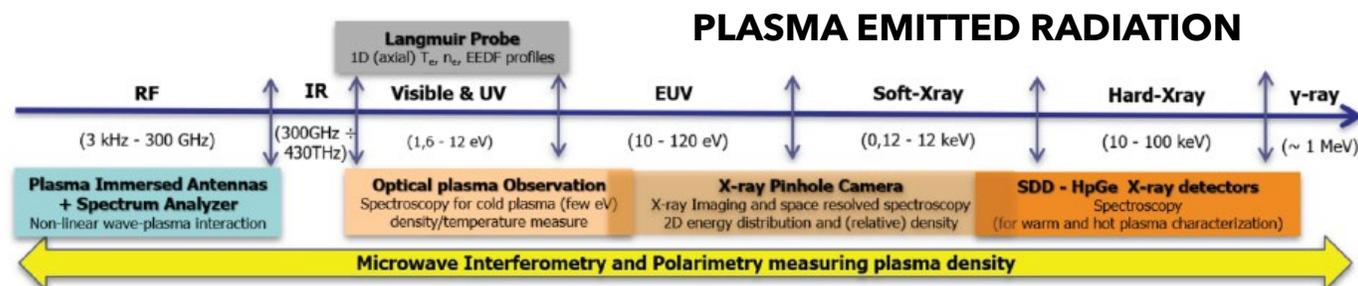
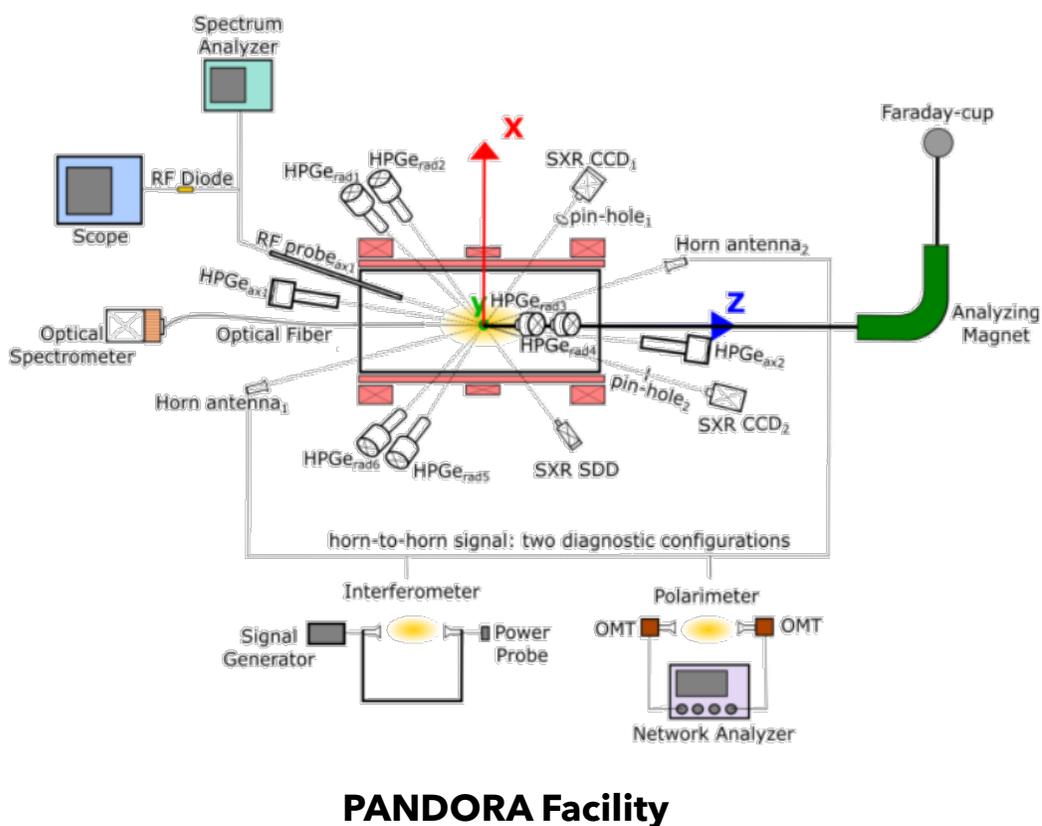


# The PANDORA Multi-Diagnostic Setup

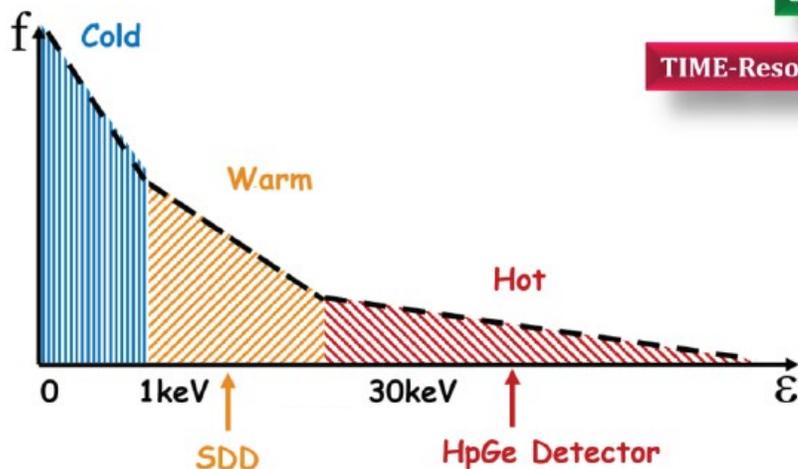


**Typical ECR Ion  
Source**

# The PANDORA Multi-Diagnostic Setup



**Typical Electron Energy Distribution Function (EEDF)**  
Three different regions can be individuated in a typical spectra



Volume-Integrated Spectroscopy

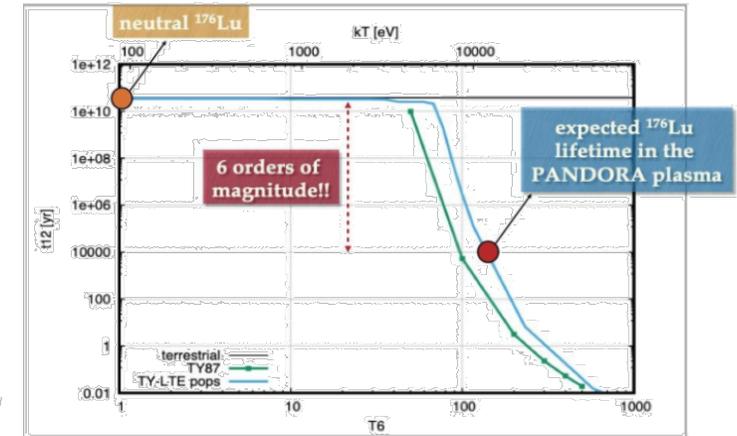
SPACE-Resolved Soft X ray Spectroscopy

TIME-Resolved RF + Soft/Hard X ray Spectroscopy

# PANDORA: $\beta$ -decay Measurements

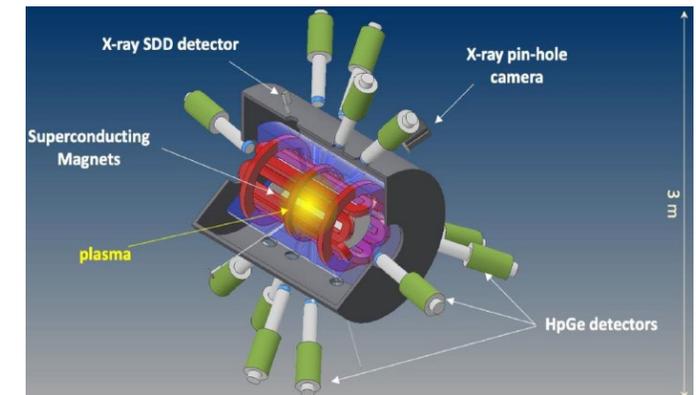
- Three suitable candidates for experiments (among more than 100 initial cases!), based on scientific impact, trap size, magnitude of stellar-enhanced effects, type of element

- $^{176}\text{Lu}$  → **Cosmo-chronometer/thermometer** - Expected theor. reduced lifetime  $\sim$  **6 orders of magnitude**
- $^{134}\text{Cs}$  → **s-process branching in AGB stars** - Expected theor. reduced lifetime  $\sim$  **3 orders of magnitude**
- $^{94}\text{Nb}$  → **s-process branching in AGB stars** - Expected theor. reduced lifetime  $\sim$  **4 orders of magnitude**



## METHOD

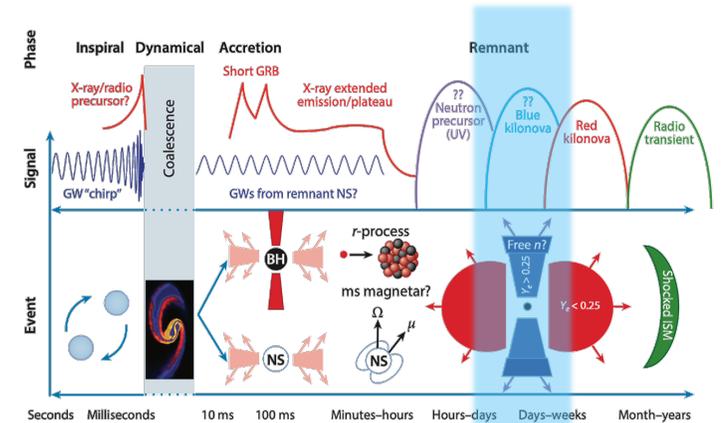
- **Plasma** buffer (H, He, Ar) **host radioisotopes** fluxed into the trap, maintained in dynamical equilibrium **for  $\sim$  days/weeks**
- After isotopes decay, **daughter nuclei** still confined **emit  $\gamma$ -rays** of hundreds of keV
- Gamma are detected through **HpGe array  $\gamma$ -detector array** surrounding the trap
- In-plasma **measured radioactivity correlated to plasma density and energy**, monitored via a multi-diagnostic setup
- **CORRELATION BETWEEN PLASMA PARAMETERS AND NUCLEAR LIFETIME IS THE CRUCIAL POINT OF THE MEASUREMENTS.**



# PANDORA: Plasma Opacity Measurements

- **EM transient** signals known as **kilonovae** (KN) emitted by merging compact objects
- KN observed as **follow-up of the gravitational-wave** (GW) event GW170817, spectroscopic info on the **composition/dynamics of ejecta** arising from the merging
- **r-process nucleosynthesis sites**, making the study of KN a novel challenge for nuclear astrophysics in the MMA era.

**Opacity of ejecta** fundamental for reliable predictions on the KN light curve. **Mismatch between obs. vs. theory**, models oversimplified, lacking detailed atomic database



**Figure 1**  
Phases of a neutron star (NS) merger as a function of time, showing the associated observational signatures and underlying physical phenomena. Abbreviations: BH, black hole; GRB,  $\gamma$ -ray burst; GW, gravitational wave; ISM, interstellar medium;  $n$ , neutron; UV, ultraviolet;  $Y_e$ , electron fraction. Coalescence inset courtesy of D. Price and S. Rosswog (see also Reference 15).

R.Fernández, et al., Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 2016. 66:23-45

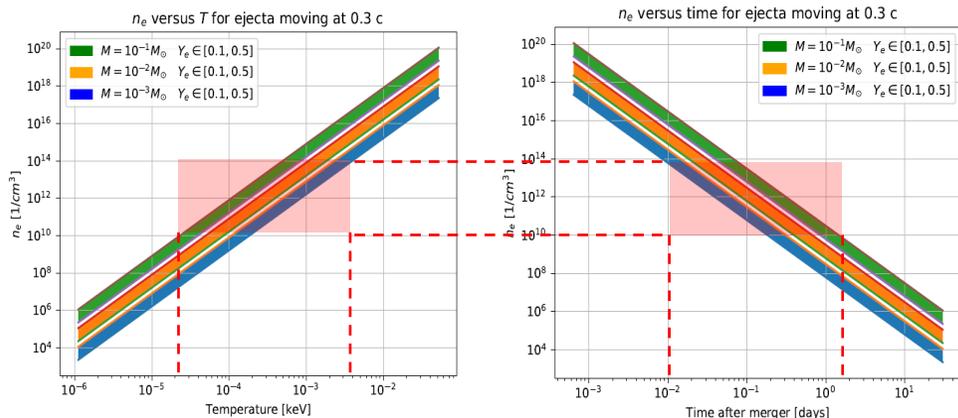
Article | Published: 23 October 2019

## Identification of strontium in the merger of two neutron stars

Darach Watson , Camilla J. Hansen, Jonatan Selsing, Andreas Koch, Daniele B. Malesani, Anja C. Andersen, Johan P. U. Fynbo, Almudena Arcones, Andreas Bauswein, Stefano Covino, Aniello Grado, Kasper E. Heintz, Leslie Hunt, Chryssa Kouveliotou, Giorgos Leloudas, Andrew J. Levan, Paolo Mazzali & Elena Pian

*Nature* 574, 497-500 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

Watson, D. et al, Nature volume 574, 497-500 (2019)

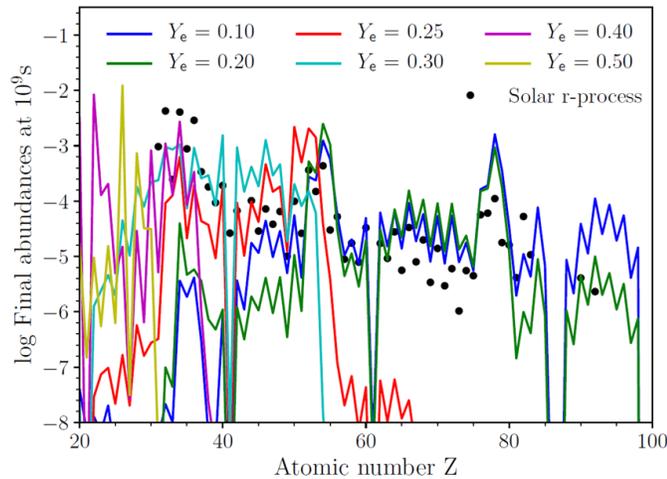


**PLASMA CONDITIONS REPRODUCIBLE IN ECR trap (e.g., PANDORA)  $10^{10} \div 10^{14}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>**

**REPRODUCIBLE EVOLUTION STAGE IN LAB @  $\sim 10^{-2} \div 1$  day : BLUE KILONOVA, VISIBLE LIGHT**

Pidatella A. et al, Il Nuovo Cimento C, 2-3, (2021), 10.1393/ncc/i2021-21065-x  
 O. Korobkin et al., Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc., 426 (2012) 3-1940:1949  
 Radice D. et al., Astrophys. J., 869 (2018) 2-130

# PANDORA: Plasma Opacity Measurements

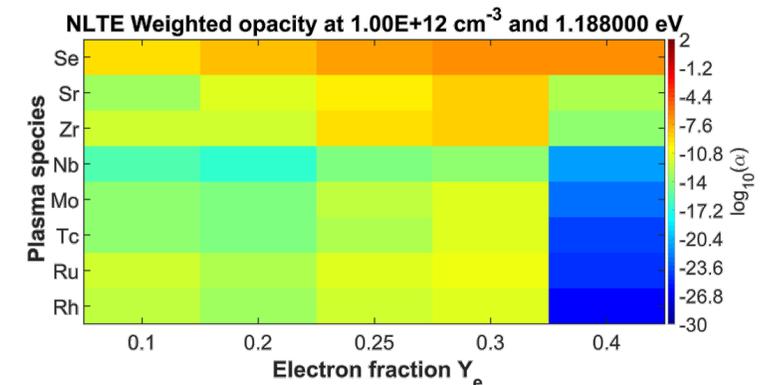


## IDENTIFICATION OF PHYSICS CASES

- **Time-dependent r-process elements abundances from SKYNET**, with distribution of ejecta properties (entropy, electron fraction and expansion timescale) from astrophysical simulations → **LIGHT R-PROCESS ELEMENTS, LOW NEUTRON RICHNESS**
- **MEAN OPACITY vs. T**, weighted with abundances from SKYNET: **synthetic spectra** of opacity from **FLYCHK** → **Selenium and Strontium** most suitable for experiments

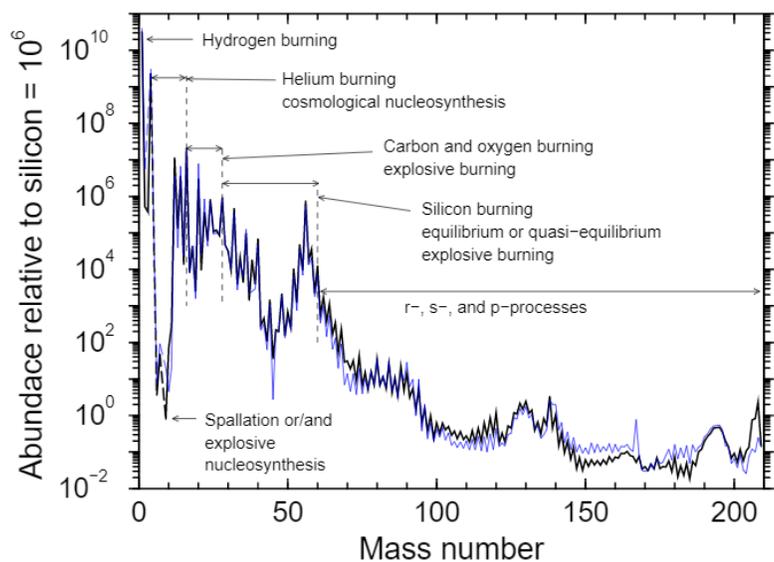
## METHOD: OPTICAL EMISSION SPECTROSCOPY (OES) + INTERFERO-POLARIMETRY

- **OES** to monitor plasma density and temperature via **line-ratio method**, and analysis of **emitted light to extract opacity** of radiation-interacting plasma
- Interfero-polarimetry measurements - effect of plasma on EM radiation measuring **Faraday rotation angle**



Pidatella A. et al, Il Nuovo Cimento C, 2-3, (2021), 10.1393/ncc/i2021-21065-x

# Conclusions

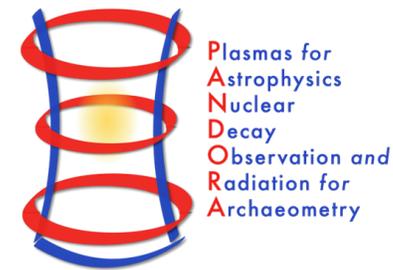


## @ INFN-LNS **ASFIN** & **PANDORA** COMMON GOAL:

- NEW APPROACHES TO NUCLEAR ASTROPHYSICS FEASIBLE IN LABORATORY
- EXPERIMENTAL SYNERGY FOR STELLAR MODELS
- PHYSICS LINKS: S- AND R-PROCESS NUCLEOSYNTHESIS



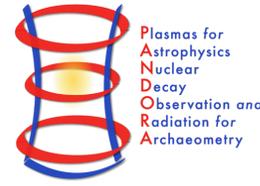
**NUCLEAR  
REACTION RATES**



**MAIN GOAL : KNOWLEDGE OF NUCLEAR  
REACTION RATES --> ARE DIRECT  
MEASUREMENTS ENOUGH?**

**ASFIN**: application of THM to n-induced reactions; r-process nucleosynthesis in n-star mergers--> **EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR INPUTS/OUTPUTS**

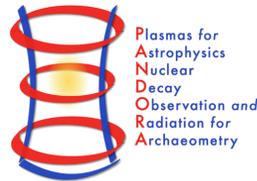
**PANDORA**: on construction experimental facility @LNS, plasma trap to measure weak-interaction rates of radionuclides in strongly ionized environment --> **EXPERIMENTAL WEAK-INTERACTION INPUTS/OUTPUTS**



# Conclusions

- A - It is possible to measure the bare nucleus cross section  $\sigma_b$  (or the bare nucleus Astrophysical Factor  $S_b(E)$ ) at Gamow energy for reactions involving charged particles and neutron.**
- B - One of the few ways to measure the electron screening effect; comparison with direct data;**
- C - Measurements of radiative capture reaction cross section at Gamow energy;**
- D - Application to the radioactive beam measurements;**
- E - Measurements of  $\beta$ -decay lifetimes at stellar conditions;**
- F - Shed light on plasma opacity for compact stellar objects**

**Method complementary to direct measurements (Multi Diagnostic Experiments)**

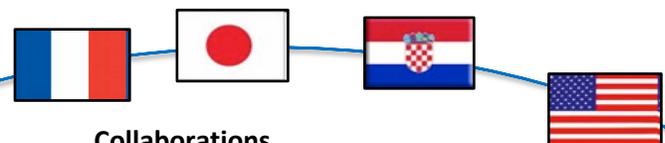


# AsFiN Collaboration

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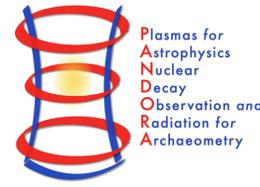
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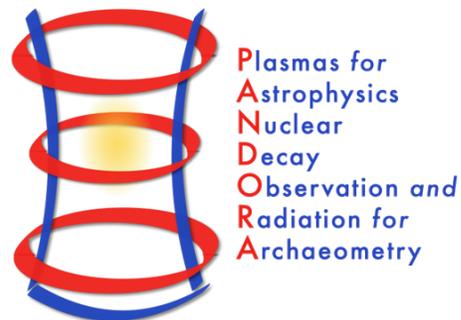
# PANDORA Collaboration

## HAVE A LOOK AT OTHER PANDORA COLLABORATION TALKS @ SIF2021

- **BHARAT MISHRA (UniCT - INFN-LNS)** - "Predicting  $\beta$ -Decay Rates of Radioisotopes Embedded in Anisotropic ECR Plasmas"
- **EUGENIA NASELLI (INFN-LNS)** - "Status of the PANDORA project at INFN-LNS: in-plasma  $\beta$ -decay investigations of nuclear astrophysical interest"

Also collaborating in the nuclear fusion research programme for the Divertor Tokamak Test (DTT) project





*Thank you for your  
attention*