# r-process experiments with unstable isotope beams

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# r-process observations

# r-process elements in metal-poor stars



#### **Ultra-faint Dwarf Galaxies (Reticulum II)**



#### Kilonova from GW170817



#### Some outstanding questions:

- Is there a weak r-process?
- What are the different sites?
- How does each site contribute to galactic chemical evolution?

Tanvir et al, ApJ 848, L27 (2017)

# Nuclear data uncertainties in r-process models



Cote et al, ApJ 855, 99 (2018)

**Uncertainty band:** different theoretical models for nuclear mass

# **Relevant nuclear physics properties**



- masses
- $\beta\text{-decay}$  half-lives and modes
- (n, $\gamma$ ) and ( $\alpha$ ,n) reactions
- fission properties

# Terra-incognita

N=50 isotones



Production cross section (238U fission)

# Facility for Rare Isotope Beams@ Michigan State University





# Terra-incognita

#### N=50 isotones



# **Experimental tools**

#### Recent experiments relevant to r-process models



#### Review paper: C Horowitz et al, arXiv 1805.04637





## Neutron capture rates through β-Oslo method

Experimental constrains on nuclear level densities and gamma strength function for statistical-model calculations of neutron capture rates.



S. Liddick et al, PRL 116, 242502 (2016) A. Spyrou et al, PRL 117, 142701 (2016)









# Past TOF experiments at the NSCL



# Electron capture processes in the crust of accreting neutron stars



Z Meisel et al, PRC 93, 035805 (2016) Z Meisel et al, PRL 115, 162501 (2015) A Estrade et al, PRL 107, 172503 (2011)

## r-process motivated TOF experiments



#### **Expected reach of mass measurements at FRIB**

Half-life measurement at the NSCL



Time of Flight

Half-life measurement at the NSCL



P. T. Hosmer et al, PRL 94 112501 (2005)

Half-life measurement at the NSCL



#### **Radioactive Ion Beam Factory (RIBF)** @RIKEN, Japan



P. T. Hosmer et al, PRL 94 112501 (2005)

Half-life measurement at the NSCL

#### Half-life measurement at RIBF





#### P. T. Hosmer et al, PRL 94 112501 (2005)



#### Half-life measurement at RIBF



Z.Y. Xu et al, PRL 113, 032505 (2014)

# β-delayed neutrons and the r-process





# β-delayed neutrons and the r-process





**β-delayed neutron decay:** 





# **BRIKEN:** $\beta$ -delayed neutrons at RIKEN

 β-decay in AIDA: Advanced Implantation Detector Array (DSSSD):



• BRIKEN neutron detector:

$$^{3}\text{He} + n \rightarrow ^{3}\text{H} + p$$

**GOAL:** measure  $P_{xn}$ -value, the probability for emission of x beta-delayed neutrons







### **BRIKEN:** β-delayed neutrons at RIKEN



I. Dillmann and A. Tarifeño-Saldivia, Nucl. Phys. News 28:1 (2018) A. Tarifeño-Saldivia et al., J. of Instrum. 12 (2107) P04006



# **N=82 experiment**

#### Sensitivity to $\beta$ -delayed neutrons





**Stay tuned!** Ph.D. work of V. Phong (VNU), J. Liu (HKU), O. Hall (U Edinburgh) R. Yokoyama, R. Grzywacz, et al., *in preparation* (Ge region)

# **Conclusion:** we are entering an era of r-process experiments





BRIKEN: decay





#### KISS: N=126 isotopes



#### ARIEL@TRIUMF



#### SAMURAI: fission





#### HRS at FRIB: masses, reactions



### Conclusions

- Progress in r-process astronomical data and theoretical models demands more precise nuclear physics data for r-process models.
- A new generation of radioactive ion beam facilities, like FRIB at Michigan State University, will make a large number of r-process isotopes accessible to experimental study.
- A variety of experimental techniques have been developed to meet the challenges of performing experiments with very neutron-rich isotopes relevant to r-process models (very low beam rates, need to use indirect techniques, etc).
  - We have extended the reach of TOF experiments to regions relevant to the weak r-process.
  - The BRIKEN setup at RIBF will measure a large number of new Pn-values of r-process isotopes (beamtime for first campaign of experiments already completed).

## Thank you!

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### Nuclear data uncertainties in r-process models



Cote et al, ApJ 855, 99 (2018)



