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β-decay strength distributions of neutron-rich isotopes for r-process nucleosynthesis

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Approximately half of the elements heavier than iron are thought to be produced in the r process. Recent insights into the astrophysical site of this critical process highlight the need for experimental data on short-lived neutron-rich nuclei. R-process nucleosynthesis sensitivity studies show that the final abundance distributions of r-process nuclei are greatly impacted by β -decay properties, such as half-lives and β -delayed neutron-emission probabilities [1]. To inform global models used to calculate these properties, the β -decay strengths for a series of neutron-rich Co isotopes have been measured using the technique of total absorption spectroscopy with the Summing NaI (SuN) detector. The resultant β -decay intensities and deduced Gamow-Teller strengths are compared to QRPA calculations, which are typically used in r-process models. Results from several different experiments will be presented along with determined trends which may inform future theoretical calculations.

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[1] M. R. Mumpower, R. Surman, G.C. McLaughlin, A. Aprahamian. Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 86 (2016), 86-126.

Primary authors: LYONS, Stephanie (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory); SPYROU, Artemis (Michigan State University); LIDDICK, Sean (FRIB/MSU); LEWIS, Rebecca (National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, Michigan State University); MOGANNAM, Mejdi (Michigan State University (MSU)); BERG, Hannah (MSU/FRIB); BLEUEL, Darren (LLNL); Dr BROWN, B. Alex (Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University); CHILDERS, Katherine (Texas A&M University); Prof. CRIDER, Benjamin (Mississippi State University); Dr DOMBOS, Alexander (University of Notre Dame); ENGEL, J (University of North Carolina); Dr HARRIS, Caley (Michigan State University); Prof. GUTTORMSEN, Magne (University of Oslo); Prof. LARSEN, Ann-Cecilie (University of Oslo); MUMPOWER, Matthew (Los Alamos National Laboratory); NEY, Evan (University of North Carolina); Dr PALMISANO, Alicia (University of Tennessee, Knoxville); RICHARD, Andrea (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams); Dr RICHMAN, Debra (Facility for Rare Isotope Beams); Dr SCIELZO, N. (LLNL); Dr SIMON-ROBERTSON, Anna (University of Notre Dame); SMITH, M. (NSCL/FRIB/MSU); Dr SWEET, Adriana (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory); ZEGERS, R. (NSCL/FRIB/MSU)

Presenter: LYONS, Stephanie (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)

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