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## R-Process Nucleosynthesis in Core-Collapse Supernova Explosion

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We study the *r*-process nucleosynthesis in neutrino-driven winds of gravitational core collapse SNeII. Appropriate physical conditions are found for successful *r*-process nucleosynthesis, which meet with several features of heavy elements discovered recently in metal-deficient halo stars. We find also several difficulties which are not explained in the present wind models. We discuss quests for new insights in nuclear physics, astrophysics, and astronomy.

### 1. Introduction

Stars with various masses provide a variety of production sites for intermediate-to-heavy mass elements. Very massive stars  $\geq 10M_{\odot}$  culminate their evolution by supernova (SN) explosions which are also presumed to be most viable candidate for the still unknown astrophysical site of *r*-process nucleosynthesis. Even in the nucleosynthesis of heavy elements, initial entropy and density at the surface of proto-neutron stars are so high that nuclear statistical equilibrium (NSE) favors production of abundant light nuclei. In such explosive circumstances of the so called hot-bubble scenario, not only heavy neutron-rich nuclei but also light unstable nuclei play a significant role.

Studies of the origin of the *r*-process elements are critical in cosmology, too. There still remains potentially a serious problem that the cosmic age of the expanding Universe derived from cosmological parameters may be shorter than the age of the oldest globular clusters. Since both age estimates are subject to the uncertain cosmological distance scale, an independent method has long been needed. Thorium (Th) and Uranium (U), which are typical *r*-process elements and have half-lives of 14 Gyr (Th) and 4.5Gyr (<sup>238</sup>U), have recently been detected along with other elements in very metal-deficient stars [1,2]. If we model the *r*-process nucleosynthesis in these first-generation stars, these long lived radioactive nuclei can be used as good cosmochronometers completely independent of the

uncertain cosmological distance scale.

We discuss in this article that supernova explosions of very massive stars could be a viable site for r-process nucleosynthesis. In sect. 2, we explain how to model the neutrino-driven winds. The details of explosive nucleosynthesis in the hot-bubble is discussed in sect. 3. Although our theoretical study has confirmed a successful r-process in SNeII, there are several findings which are still difficult to explain. We discuss several quests for nuclear physics and astrophysics in sect. 4, and astronomy in sect. 5.

## 2. Neutrino-Driven Winds in Type-II Supernovae

Recent measurements using high-dispersion spectrographs with large Telescopes or the Hubble Space Telescope have made it possible to detect minute amounts of heavy elements in faint metal-deficient ( $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \leq -2$ ) stars [1]. The discovery of r-process elements in these stars has shown that the relative abundance pattern for the mass region  $120 \leq A$  is surprisingly similar to the solar system r-process abundance independent of the metallicity of the star. Here metallicity is defined by  $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = \log[N(\text{Fe})/N(\text{H})] - \log[N(\text{Fe})/N(\text{H})]_{\odot}$ . It obeys the approximate relation  $t/10^{10}\text{yr} \sim 10^{[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]}$ . The observed similarity strongly suggests that the r-process occurs in a single environment which is independent of progenitor metallicity. Massive stars with  $10M_{\odot} \leq M$  have a short life,  $\sim 10^7$  yr, and eventually end up as violent supernova explosions, ejecting material into the interstellar medium early on in the history of the Galaxy. However, the iron shell in SNe is excluded from being the r-process site because of the observed metallicity independence.

Hot neutron stars just born in the gravitational core collapse SNeII release most of their energy as neutrinos during the Kelvin-Helmholtz cooling phase. An intense flux of neutrinos heat the material near the neutron star surface and drive matter outflow (neutrino-driven winds). The entropy in these winds is so high that the NSE favors a plasma which consists of mainly free nucleons and alpha particles rather than composite nuclei like iron. The equilibrium lepton fraction,  $Y_e$ , is determined by a delicate balance between  $\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e^-$  and  $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$ , which overcomes the difference of chemical potential between  $n$  and  $p$ , to reach  $Y_e \sim 0.45$ . R-process nucleosynthesis occurs because there are plenty of free neutrons at high temperature. This is possible only if seed elements are produced in the correct neutron-to-seed ratio before and during the r-process.

Although Woosley et al. [3] demonstrated a profound possibility that the r-process could occur in these winds, several difficulties were subsequently identified. First, independent non-relativistic numerical supernova models [4] have difficulty producing the required entropy in the bubble,  $S/k \sim 400$ . Relativistic effects may not be enough to increase the entropy dramatically [5–7]. Second, even should the entropy be high enough, the effects of neutrino absorption  $\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e^-$  and  $\nu_e + A(Z, N) \rightarrow A(Z + 1, N - 1) + e^-$  may decrease the neutron fraction during the nucleosynthesis process. As a result, a deficiency of free neutrons could prohibit the r-process [8]. Third, if neutrinos are massive and have appropriate mixing parameters, energetic  $\nu_{\mu}$  and  $\nu_{\tau}$  are converted into  $\nu_e$  due to flavor mixing. This activates the  $\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e^-$  process and results in a deficiency of free neutrons.

In order to resolve these difficulties, we have studied [7,9] neutrino-driven winds in a Schwarzschild geometry under the reasonable assumption of spherical steady-state flow.

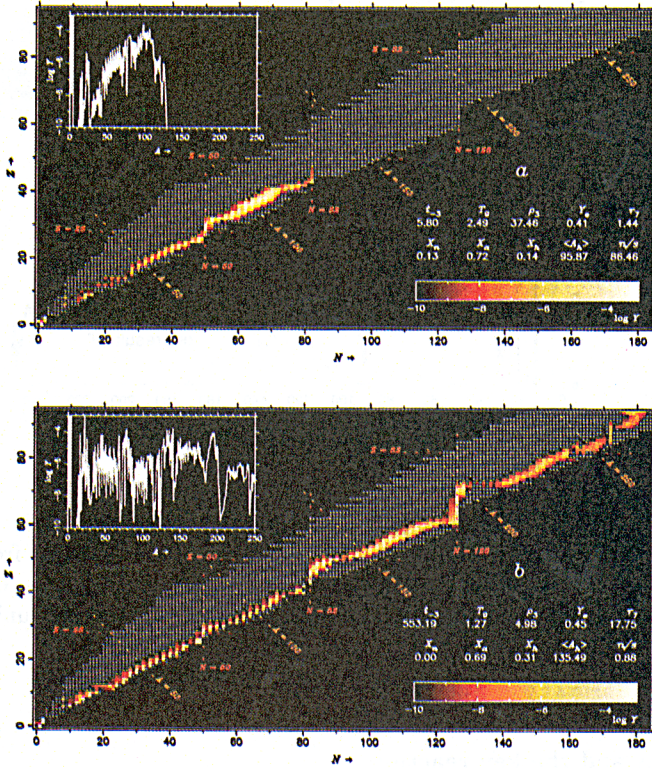


Figure 1. Nuclear reaction flow patterns in Z-N plane, and abundances in the insets at the time; (a)  $t \approx 20$  ms during the  $\alpha$ -process (upper), and (b)  $t \approx 567$  ms during the r-process (lower). Time zero refers to the time of core bounce. Highlight abundance scales to  $\log Y$ , where  $Y$  is the number fraction of each nucleus. White dots show the nuclei included in the reaction network code [7,9]. The neutrino-driven wind model used is for  $L_{\nu} = 10^{52}$  ergs/s and  $M = 2M_{\odot}$  [7].

The parameters in the wind models are the mass of neutron star,  $M$ , and the neutrino luminosity,  $L_{\nu}$ . The entropy per baryon,  $S/k$ , in the asymptotic regime and the expansion dynamic time scale,  $\tau_{dyn}$ , which is defined as the duration time of the  $\alpha$ -process when the temperature drops from  $T \approx 0.5$  MeV to  $0.5/e$  MeV, are calculated from the solution of the hydrodynamic equations. Then, we carried out r-process nucleosynthesis calculations in our wind model. We found [7] that the general relativistic effects make  $\tau_{dyn}$  much shorter, although the entropy increases by about 40 % from the Newtonian value of  $S/k \sim 90$ . By simulating many supernova explosions, we have found some interesting conditions which lead to successful r-process nucleosynthesis, as to be discussed in the following sections.

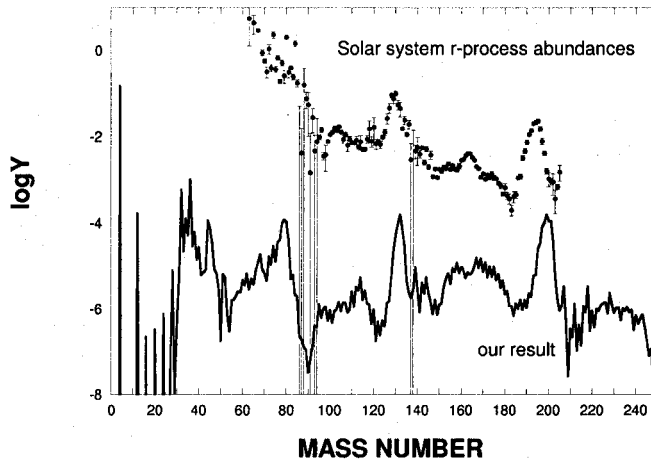


Figure 2. R-process abundance [7] (solid line) as a function of atomic mass number  $A$  compared with the solar system r-process abundance (filled circles) from Käppeler, Beer, & Wisshak [10]. The neutrino-driven wind model used is for  $L_\nu = 10^{52}$  ergs/s and  $M = 2M_\odot$ . The solar system r-process abundance is shown in arbitrary unit.

### 3. Nucleosynthesis

#### 3.1. R-process and the key reaction

Previous r-process calculations [3,11] had shortcoming that the seed abundance distribution was first calculated by using smaller network for light-to-intermediate mass elements, and then the result was connected further to another r-process network in a different set of the computing run. For this reason it was less transparent to interpret the whole nucleosynthesis process. This inconvenience happened because it was numerically too heavy to run both  $\alpha$ -process and r-process in a single network code for too huge number of reaction couplings among  $\sim 3000$  isotopes. Our nucleosynthesis calculation is completely free from this complexity because we exploited a fully implicit single network code which is applied to a sequence of the whole processes of NSE -  $\alpha$ -process - r-process. Shown by white dots in Fig. 1 are the isotopes included in our reaction network [7,9].

Let us remind the readers that there were at least three difficulties in the previous theoretical studies of the r-process. The first difficulty is that an ideal, high entropy in the bubble  $S/k \sim 400$  [3] was hard to be achieved in other simulations [4–7].

The key to resolve this difficulty is found with the short dynamic time scale  $\tau_{dyn} \sim 10$  ms in our models of the neutrino-driven winds. As the initial nuclear composition of the relativistic plasma consists of neutrons and protons, the  $\alpha$ -burning begins when the plasma temperature cools below  $T \sim 0.5$  MeV. The  ${}^4\text{He}(\alpha\alpha, \gamma){}^{12}\text{C}$  reaction is too slow at this temperature, and an alternative nuclear reaction path  ${}^4\text{He}(\alpha n, \gamma){}^9\text{Be}(\alpha, n){}^{12}\text{C}$  triggers explosive  $\alpha$ -burning to produce seed elements with  $A \sim 100$  (Fig. 1a). Therefore, the time scale for nuclear reactions is regulated by the  ${}^4\text{He}(\alpha n, \gamma){}^9\text{Be}$  reaction. It is given

by  $\tau_N \equiv (\rho_b^2 Y_\alpha^2 Y_n \lambda(\alpha n \rightarrow {}^9\text{Be}))^{-1}$ . If the neutrino-driven winds fulfill the condition  $\tau_{dyn} < \tau_N$ , then fewer seed nuclei are produced during the  $\alpha$ -process with plenty of free neutrons left over when the r-process begins at  $T \sim 0.2$  MeV. The high neutron-to-seed ratio,  $n/s \sim 100$ , leads to appreciable production of r-process elements, even for low entropy  $S/k \sim 130$ , producing both the 2nd ( $A \sim 130$ ) and 3rd ( $A \sim 195$ ) abundance peaks and the hill of rare-earth elements ( $A \sim 165$ ) (Fig. 1b and Fig. 2).

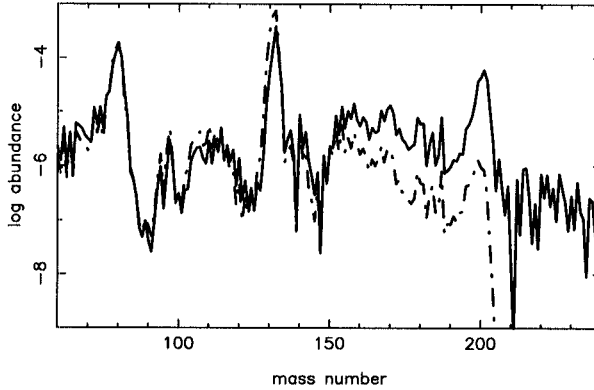


Figure 3. The same as in Fig. 2, but for the neutrino-driven wind model of  $L_\nu = 5 \times 10^{52}$  ergs/s. Solid line represents the result by using the Woosley & Hoffman rate [12] of the  ${}^4\text{He}(\alpha n, \gamma){}^9\text{Be}$  reaction, and long-dashed line shows the result for this rate multiplied by factor 2, as suggested by the recent experiment of Utsunomiya et al. [13].

The three body nuclear reaction cross section for  ${}^4\text{He}(\alpha n, \gamma){}^9\text{Be}$  is one of the poorly determined nuclear data which may alter the r-process nucleosynthesis yields. The inverse process has recently been studied experimentally by Utsunomiya et al. [13], and photodisintegration cross section of  ${}^9\text{Be}$  has been measured with better precision than those of the previous experiments. Applying the principle of the detailed balance to this process, one can estimate the cross section for  ${}^4\text{He}(\alpha n, \gamma){}^9\text{Be}$ . They found that the thermonuclear reaction rate is almost twice as big as that of Woosley and Hoffman [12] but in reasonable agreement with the recent compilation of Angulo et al. [14]. However, there still remain several questions on the consistency between their result and electron-scattering experiments, on the contribution from the narrow resonance  $J^\pi = 5/2^-$  (2.429 MeV), etc. It is also a theoretical challenge to understand the reaction mechanism and the resonance structure because two different channels,  ${}^8\text{Be} + n$  and  ${}^5\text{He} + \alpha$ , contribute to this process.

Therefore, we show two calculated results in Fig. 3: The solid line displays the result obtained by using the Woosley and Hoffman cross section [12], assuming a  ${}^8\text{Be} + n$  structure for  ${}^9\text{Be}$ . We also calculated the r-process by multiplying this cross section by factor of 2 (long-dashed line). This makes a drastic change in the r-process yields in the 3rd ( $A \sim 195$ ) abundance peak. More theoretical and experimental studies of the

${}^4\text{He}(\alpha n, \gamma){}^9\text{Be}$  reaction are highly desired.

### 3.2. Neutrino-nucleus interactions

Neutrino interactions with nucleons and nuclei take the key to resolve the second difficulty which was pointed out in sect. 1. The difficulty is that the effects of neutrino absorptions  $\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e^-$  and  $\nu_e + A(Z, N) \rightarrow A(Z + 1, N - 1) + e^-$  during the  $\alpha$ -process may induce a deficiency of free neutrons and break down the r-process conditions [8]. These two types of neutrino interactions control most sensitively the electron fraction and the neutron fraction in a neutron-rich environment. In order to resolve this difficulty, we have updated the electron-type neutrino capture rates for all nuclei and electron-type anti-neutrino capture rate for free protons [15,16].

The new r-process calculation proves to be almost invariant. One can understand this robustness of the successful r-process in the following way: The specific collision time for neutrino-nucleus interactions is given by

$$\tau_\nu \approx 201 \times L_{\nu,51}^{-1} \times \left( \frac{\epsilon_\nu}{\text{MeV}} \right) \left( \frac{r}{100\text{km}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\langle \sigma_\nu \rangle}{10^{-41}\text{cm}^2} \right)^{-1} \text{ms}, \quad (1)$$

where  $L_{i,51}$  is the individual neutrino or antineutrino luminosity in units of  $10^{51}$  ergs/s,  $\epsilon_i = \langle E_i^2 \rangle / \langle E_i \rangle$  in MeV ( $i = \nu_e, \bar{\nu}_e, \text{etc.}$ ), and  $\langle \sigma_\nu \rangle$  is the cross section averaged over the neutrino energy spectrum. At the  $\alpha$ -burning site of  $r \approx 100$  km for  $L_{\nu,51} \approx 10$ ,  $\epsilon_{\nu_e} = 12$  MeV, and  $\langle \sigma_\nu \rangle \approx 10^{-41}\text{cm}^2$ ,  $\tau_{\nu_e}(r=100\text{ km})$  turns out to be  $\approx 240$  ms. This collision time is larger than the expansion dynamic time scale;  $\tau_{dyn} \approx 10$  ms  $\ll$   $\tau_{\nu_e}(r=100\text{ km}) \approx 240$  ms. Because there is not enough time for  $\nu_e$ 's to interact with n's in such rapidly expanding neutrino-driven wind, the neutron fraction is insensitive to the neutrino absorptions. (Note, however, that the opposite condition  $\tau_{dyn} > \tau_{\nu_e}$  could apply to slowly expanding winds as adopted in the previous studies [3,4,11]. In this case the r-process is strongly affected by the neutrino interactions [8]. )

One might wonder if our dynamic time scale  $\sim 10$  ms is too short for the wind to be heated by neutrinos. Careful comparison between proper expansion time and specific collision time for the neutrino heating is needed in order to answer this question. Otsuki et al. [7] have found that the supernova neutrinos transfer their kinetic energy to the wind most effectively just above the neutron star surface at  $10\text{km} \leq r < 20\text{km}$ . Therefore, one should refer here to the duration time for the wind to reach the  $\alpha$ -burning site,  $\tau_{\text{heat}}$ , rather than to  $\tau_{dyn}$ . One can estimate this heating time scale

$$\tau_{\text{heat}} = \int_{r_i}^{r_f} \frac{dr}{u}, \quad (2)$$

where  $u$  is the fluid velocity of the wind. By setting the radius of the neutron star surface to  $r_i = 10$  km and  $r_f = 100$  km, we get  $\tau_{\text{heat}} \approx 30$  ms. The collision time  $\tau_\nu$  is given by Eq. (1) by setting  $L_{\nu,51} \approx 10$ ,  $\epsilon_\nu = (\epsilon_{\nu_e} + \epsilon_{\bar{\nu}_e})/2 = (12 + 22)/2 = 17$  MeV,  $r \approx 10$  km, and  $\langle \sigma_\nu \rangle \approx 10^{-41}\text{cm}^2$ . Let us compare  $\tau_{\text{heat}}$  and  $\tau_\nu$  to one another:

$$\tau_\nu \approx 3.4\text{ms} \ll \tau_{\text{heat}} \approx 30\text{ms}. \quad (3)$$

We can thus conclude that there is enough time for the expanding wind to be heated by neutrinos even with short dynamic time scales for the  $\alpha$ -process,  $\tau_{dyn} \sim 10$  ms.

### 3.3. Neutrino oscillation

The third difficulty discussed in sect. 1 is that the energetic massive  $\nu_\mu$  and  $\nu_\tau$  may change their flavors to emerge as  $\nu_e$  due to the MSW effect. Although the luminosity of each type of neutrino  $L_i$  ( $i = \nu_e, \bar{\nu}_e, \nu_\mu, \bar{\nu}_\mu, \nu_\tau, \bar{\nu}_\tau$ ) is similar, average energies are different from one another;  $\epsilon_{\nu_e} = 12$  MeV,  $\epsilon_{\bar{\nu}_e} = 22$  MeV, and  $\epsilon_\nu = \epsilon_{\bar{\nu}} = 34$  MeV for the other flavors [5]. Because of this difference, if the flavor mixing happened, newly converted  $\nu_e$  were more energetic so that the  $\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e^-$  reaction would decrease the neutron fraction.

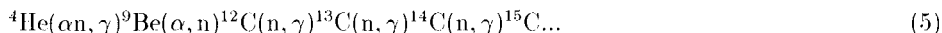
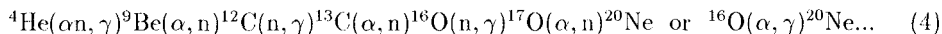
We have recently shown that the neutrino flavor oscillation destroys the r-process condition only if the mixing parameters satisfy  $0.3 \text{ eV}^2 \leq \Delta m^2$  [17]. Although recent experiments of the atmospheric neutrinos and the missing solar neutrinos have indicated much smaller  $\Delta m^2$ , the LSND experiment suggests remarkably larger  $\Delta m^2$  which overlaps with our interesting parameter region. We should wait for more experiments.

### 3.4. Extended reaction network

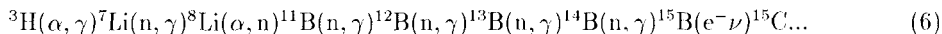
The r-process is thought to proceed after the pile up of seed nuclei produced in the  $\alpha$ -process at higher temperatures  $T_9 \approx 5 \sim 2.5$ . Since charged-particle reactions, which reassemble nucleons into  $\alpha$ -particles and  $\alpha$ -particles into heavier nuclei (i.e.  $\alpha$ -process), are faster than the neutron-capture flow which is regulated by beta-decays, the light-mass neutron-rich nuclei were presumed to be unimportant.

However, we have recently found [18,19] that even light neutron-rich nuclei progressively play the significant roles in the production of seed nuclei. The nuclear reaction network used in the previous studies [3,11] included only limited number of light unstable nuclei,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^7\text{Be}$ ,  $^8,^9\text{B}$ ,  $^{11,14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{N}$ ,  $^{15}\text{O}$ ,  $^{18,20}\text{F}$ ,  $^{23,24}\text{Ne}$ , and so on. We therefore need to extend the network code so that it covers all radioactive nuclei to the neutron-drip line. We take the rates of charged particle reactions from those used in the Big-Bang nucleosynthesis calculations [20–23] and the NACRE compilation [14].

Let us briefly discuss the results of the r-process calculations, using the extended reaction network [19]. At early epoch of the wind expansion,  $t \leq$  a few dozens ms, both temperature and density are so high that the charged particles interact with one another to proceed nucleosynthesis around the  $\beta$ -stability line in the light-mass region  $A \leq 20$ . There are plenty of protons and  $\alpha$ -particles as well as neutrons at this epoch, and the main reaction flow is triggered by  $^4\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma)^9\text{Be}$  [3,12]:



However, at relatively later epoch when the temperature drops below  $T = 0.5/e$  MeV even after the  $\alpha$ -rich freeze out, a new reaction path [18,19] starts operating:



This new reaction flow path also takes appreciable flux of baryon number and continuously produces seed nuclei. The classical r-process like flow,  $(n, \gamma)$  followed by beta decay, has already started from light nuclei. This is a very different result from the previous picture that the r-process starts from only intermediate-mass seed nuclei  $A \approx 100$ .

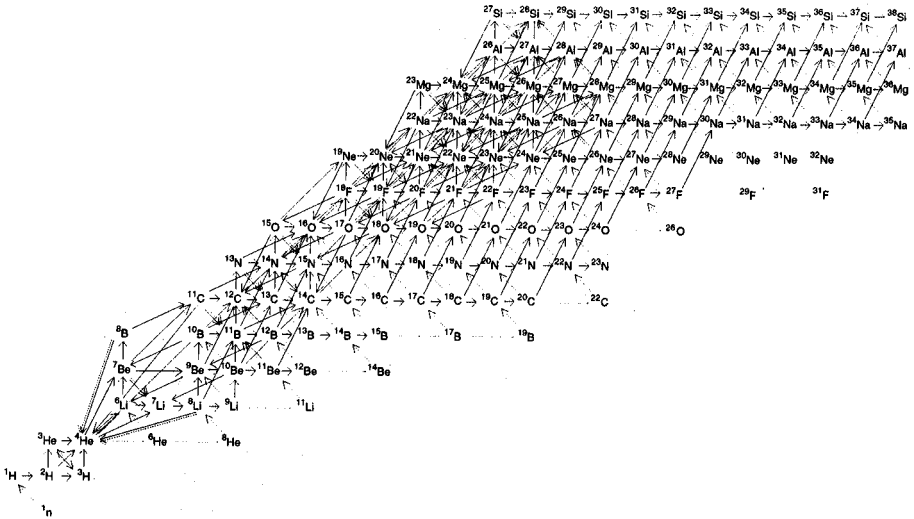


Figure 4. Extended nuclear reaction network for explosive nucleosynthesis [19]. For  $\alpha$ -process conditions at earlier times the main reaction flows are triggered by the  ${}^4\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma){}^9\text{Be}$  reaction and two flow paths (4) and (5) follow. For r-process conditions at later times, the third path (6), which is triggered by the  ${}^3\text{H}(\alpha, \gamma){}^7\text{Li}(n, \gamma){}^8\text{Li}(\alpha, n){}^{11}\text{B}$  chain reactions, becomes equally important. See the text for more details.

Since we do not have much information of  $(2n, \gamma)$  reactions, we assumed in this paper that the  $(n, \gamma)$  and  $(\gamma, n)$  reactions are in thermal equilibrium for the first neutron and then the second neutron is subsequently captured. Although inclusion of the  $(2n, \gamma)$  reactions did not change drastically the final result, these rates are presumed to be lower limit. More elaborated theoretical calculation of the  $(2n, \gamma)$  reaction has suggested that the di-neutron correlation may increase these cross sections. In the present calculations the yields of even the most neutron-rich isotopes were found to be abundant [19]. Photodisintegration reactions of  ${}^6\text{He}$  and  ${}^8\text{He}$  and their electromagnetic structure also have been studied experimentally [24,25]. Extensive measurements of the nuclear properties of neutron-rich nuclei near the drip line, including  ${}^{17,19}\text{B}$  and  ${}^{29,31}\text{F}$ , are yet to be carried out.

There are several branching points between  $(n, \gamma)$  and  $(\alpha, n)$  reactions. They are at  ${}^{18}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{24}\text{O}$ ,  ${}^{36}\text{Mg}$ , etc. Experimental studies to measure these reaction cross sections are highly desirable.



#### 4. Quest for Nuclear Physics and Astrophysics

We discussed the r-process nucleosynthesis in a single set of  $(M, L_\nu)$  of the neutrino-driven wind in sect. 2. In realistic supernova events, however, the neutrino luminosity varies slowly as a function of time during Kelvin-Helmholtz cooling phase  $\sim 10$  sec, as observed in SN1987A. We therefore expand the parameter space in this section in order to include a number of  $(M, L_\nu)$ -grids in the reasonable range  $1.2M_\odot \leq M \leq 2.0M_\odot$  and  $10^{50} \text{ ergs/s} \leq L_\nu \leq 5 \times 10^{52} \text{ ergs/s}$ . Calculated results of  $\tau_{\text{dyn}}$  and  $S$  are displayed in Fig. 5 [7]. Shown also are two zones for which the r-process nucleosynthesis might occur so that the second abundance peak ( $A \approx 130$ ) and the third abundance peak ( $A \approx 195$ ) emerge from a theoretical calculation [26]. In this figure, we observe that the neutrino-driven winds from massive and compact proto-neutron stars may produce successfully the r-process elements.

In order to compare the nucleosynthesis result with the observed r-process abundance, the calculated yields are integrated over the mass-weighted time history, according to the time evolution of the neutrino luminosity

$$L_\nu = L_{\nu 0} \exp(-t/\tau_\nu), \quad (7)$$

where we set  $L_{\nu 0} = 5 \times 10^{52} \text{ ergs s}^{-1}$  [3] and  $\tau_\nu = 1.0$  s so that the total integrated neutrino energy becomes  $3 \times 10^{53} \text{ ergs}$  to fit the observed result in SN1987A. Assuming that the trajectories can be described at each time by steady flow [7] corresponding to the grids shown in Fig. 5, the mass-weighted r-process yields are given [9] by

$$Y_i = \frac{1}{M_{\text{ej}}} \int Y_i(t) \dot{M}(t) dt, \quad (8)$$

$$M_{\text{ej}} = \int \dot{M}(t) dt, \quad (9)$$

where  $Y_i$  is the number fraction of i-th nuclide,  $\dot{M}(t)$  is the mass-loss rate, and  $M_{\text{ej}}$  is the total mass ejected in the neutrino-driven winds from the neutron star.

The calculated result is shown in Fig. 6. Total mass ejection is  $M_{\text{ej}} = 1.5 \times 10^{-3} M_\odot$ , and total mass of the r-process elements  $M_{\text{r-process}} = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} M_\odot$ . These values are compared with those of the benchmark study by Woosley et al. [3], which gives  $M_{\text{ej}} = 3 \times 10^{-2} M_\odot$  and  $M_{\text{r-process}} = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} M_\odot$ . Their calculation makes larger total mass ejection because their highest entropy is three times bigger and the expansion time scale is about one order of magnitude larger than those in the present wind model. Unfortunately, their result turns out to be incomplete [8] for the lack of neutrino-nucleus interactions during the nucleosynthesis, as discussed in the previous section. We included these interactions fully in the present calculation. Having the same  $M_{\text{r-process}}$ , we can explain the absolute mass of the observed r-process abundance in the solar system, taking account of the frequency of finding SNeII in the Milky Way over  $10^{10}$  yr.

Our result in Fig. 6 reproduces fairly well the observed second abundance peak ( $A \approx 130$ ), the hill of rare-earth elements ( $A \approx 165$ ), and the third peak ( $A \approx 195$ ). However, there are several defects, too. The biggest defect is that the abundance around  $A \approx 100 \sim 120$  is overproduced by, at most, factor 50. Although this factor is much smaller than

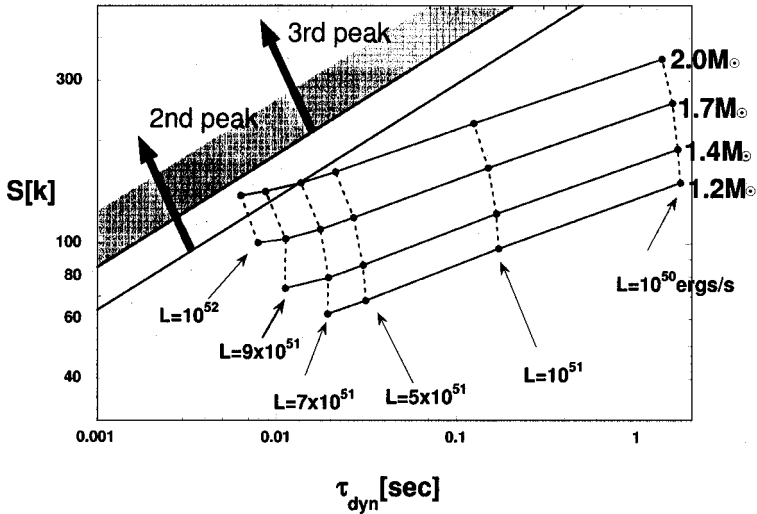


Figure 5. Relation between entropy per baryon,  $S/k$ , and dynamic time scale,  $\tau_{dyn}$ , for various combinations of the neutron star mass,  $1.2M_{\odot} \leq M \leq 2.0M_{\odot}$ , and the neutrino luminosity,  $10^{50} \leq L_{\nu} \leq 10^{52}$  ergs/s, taken from Otsuki et al. [7]. Solid and broken lines connect the same mass and luminosity. Two zones indicated by shadows satisfy the approximate conditions, for  $Y_e = 0.4$ , on which the successful r-process occurs [26] to make the second abundance peak around  $A = 130$  (lower) and the third abundance peak around  $A = 195$  (upper).

the overproduction by two or more orders of magnitudes in the previous calculations [3, 11], this is a common defect in the hot-bubble scenario. This overproduction is related apparently to the hydrodynamics of the expanding neutrino-driven winds. These nuclei are produced in the  $\alpha$ -rich freeze out. One of the hints to resolve this difficulty may be the bypass effects due to the neutrino interactions with very neutron-rich nuclei [27]. Further studies are needed to suppress this unwelcome peak.

The second defect is a shift of the third abundance peak around  $A \approx 195$  by a couple of mass units. This is also a common feature found in the previous r-process calculations [3, 7, 9, 11]. These elements are the beta-decay products of extremely neutron-rich unstable nuclei on the neutron magic  $N = 126$ . Peak position depends on the timing of freezeout of the r-process and subsequent beta-delayed neutron emission. Therefore, a particular combination of environmental evolution of neutron-number density,  $N_n$ , and temperature,  $T_9$ , as well as the expansion dynamic time scale,  $\tau_{dyn}$ , might match the freeze out so that it results in the right position of the abundance peak.

The third defect is the deficiency of abundance right above or below the peak elements, i.e. at  $A \approx 140 \sim 150$  and  $\approx 180 \sim 190$ . These deficiencies seem related to yet unseen

effects of deformation or structure changes of unstable nuclei surrounding the neutron magic numbers  $N = 82$  and  $126$ . Further extensive theoretical studies and observational challenge to determine the masses, lives, and beta  $Q$ -values of these nuclei are highly desired.

The fourth defect is the underproduction of actinoid elements, Th-U-Pu ( $A = 230 \sim 240$ ), by more than one order of magnitude. The observed high abundance level of these nuclei (see Fig. 6) might suggest an existence of a new magic number around  $N = 150 \sim 160$ . Xenon  $^{129}\text{Xe}_{75}$  and platinum  $^{195}\text{Pt}_{117}$  are the typical r-process elements on the second and third abundance peaks, which are the decay products from extremely neutron-rich unstable nuclei with neutron magic numbers  $N = 82$  and  $126$ , respectively. From these observations we estimate that the waiting point nucleus is located by shifting  $\Delta N \approx 7$  or  $9$  units from the peak element. Applying the same shift  $\Delta N \approx 7$  or  $9$  to  $^{232}\text{Th}_{142}$  and  $^{238}\text{U}_{146}$ , we could assume a new magic number around  $N = 150 \sim 160$  which may lead to the fourth abundance peak at  $A = 230 \sim 240$ . Actually, in the very light nuclear systems, a new magic number  $N = 16$  was found [28] in careful experimental studies of the neutron separation energies and interaction cross sections of extremely neutron-rich nuclei. Since these possibilities were not taken into account in the present and previous calculations, the deficiency of actinoids might be improved by modernizing nuclear mass formula including such effects.

Another possibility is to make actinoid elements in neutron star mergers or the mergers of the neutron star and black hole binaries which have extremely small lepton fraction,  $Y_e \leq 0.2$  [29]. However, these processes do not virtually produce any intermediate-mass nuclei including iron, which contradicts with the fact that the observed iron abundance is at least proportional to the r-process elements and actinoid elements over the entire history of Galactic evolution  $\sim 10^{10}$  yr. Different possibility has recently been proposed in [30]. Inner mass shells of the prompt supernova explosions have very small lepton fraction,  $Y_e \leq 0.16$ , and thus some actinoid elements are produced here.

Since we discuss only material ejected from the proto-neutron star behind the shock, it does not make any serious problem to see the underproduction in mass region  $A \leq 90$ . Most of these intermediate-mass nuclei are ejected from the exploded outer shells in supernovae.

## 5. Quest for Astronomy

The solar system abundance is thought to consist of many different nucleosynthesis products in various astrophysical sites. For this reason it is not straightforward to compare the "pure" process to be studied theoretically with those observed experimentally in the solar system. However, recent detections [1] of extremely enhanced r-process abundances in several metal-deficient stars have indicated that they describe surprisingly very similar pattern to the solar system r-process abundance which we call a "universality". We here proved theoretically that the neutrino-driven winds from massive and compact proto-neutron stars can explain this "universality".

Let us refer to massive neutron stars. Although a large core mass  $1.7M_{\odot} \leq M$  is sometimes claimed from observational viewpoints, several established EOSs for neutron star

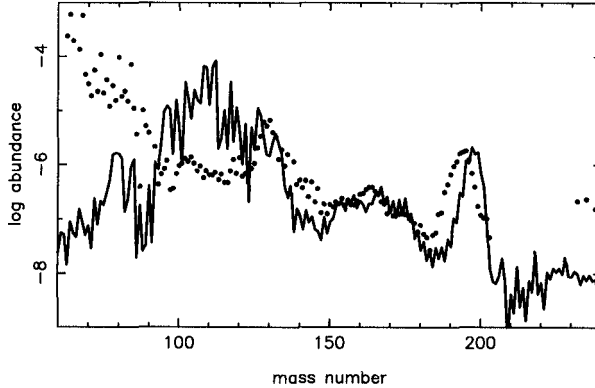


Figure 6. Final mass-weighted r-process abundance (solid line) as a function of atomic mass number  $A$  compared with the solar system r-process abundance (filled circles) [10]. The neutrino-driven wind model used is for  $L_\nu = 10^{52}$  ergs/s and  $M = 2M_\odot$ . The solar system r-process abundance is shown in arbitrary unit.

matter are known to stabilize these massive cores. Wanajo et al. [9] have recently proposed a formation mechanism of massive neutron star in the delayed explosion mechanism. Since the r-process nucleosynthesis is very sensitive to the core mass of proto-neutron stars [7,9,31], it is desirable to probe the mass dependence of their yields observationally. Incidentally, a large dispersion in heavy element abundances of halo stars has recently been observed [32,33]. Ishimaru and Wanajo [34] have shown in their galactic chemical evolution model that if r-process nucleosynthesis occurs in either massive supernovae  $\geq 30M_\odot$  or small mass supernovae  $8 - 10M_\odot$ , the observed large dispersion can be well understood. In addition, SN1994W and SN1997D are presumed to be due to  $25M_\odot - 40M_\odot$  massive progenitors because of a very low  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  abundance in the ejecta [35,36]. These massive supernovae are known to have massive iron cores  $\geq 1.8M_\odot$  and leave massive remnants [36].

It is more critical for the r-process nucleosynthesis whether the remnant is a neutron star or a black hole. The recent discovery [37] of a strong overabundance of  $\alpha$ -elements in the companion in the massive black hole binary, GRO J1655-40, suggests clearly that the explosion was a gravitational type core-collapse, i.e. SNeII. The atmosphere of the star orbiting around black hole or neutron star is likely to be polluted and contaminated by the nucleosynthesis products in supernova event associated to the formation of these compact objects. Therefore, if a future spectroscopic analysis of this companion star could detect the r-process elements and if the mass of the black hole were determined observationally, it would show clear evidence for the fact that the r-process could occur in SNeII which leave remnant black holes.

It has recently been suggested theoretically that, even should the core mass be  $M \sim 1.4M_\odot$  which is a typical cold neutron star mass, taking proper boundary conditions of

the wind at the shock  $r \sim 10,000$  km can improve crucial conditions for the r-process nucleosynthesis. Extensive studies are underway [38].

The r-process elements in the first generation stars might also make a strong impact on cosmology. The actinoids like U-Th-Pu are produced only in the r-process, and for their long lives, which are comparable to the cosmic expansion age, these elements have ever been used as cosmochronometers. Cosmological models infer that the cosmic expansion time scale is  $10^{10} \text{ y} \leq t_U \leq 1.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ y}$ , but there are several other observations which suggest controversially longer Galactic age than  $t_U$ . Major source of the uncertainty arises from the uncertain cosmological distance scale. In order to construct a reliable nuclear cosmochronometer, which has a great advantage being free from the distance scale, one has to establish that the atmosphere of extremely metal-deficient stars has for the most part originated from the gas of a single supernova event which produced enough amount of r-process elements in the early Galaxy. Extensive theoretical studies [39] of the r-process have suggested that the "universality" may hold only for elements having  $Z = 56 \sim 80$ , while it seems slightly broken for the actinoid elements. They have suggested also that the Th/U chronometer is almost free from this breaking universality. These theoretical suggestions have recently been confirmed by the detections of Th along with other r-process elements in several new metal-poor halo giants which were observed by using the High Dispersion Spectrograph equipped with SUBARU Telescope, SUBARU/HDS [40]. Further collaboration among nuclear physics, astrophysics, astronomy, and even cosmology is highly desirable.

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