

# Stellar Reaction Rates

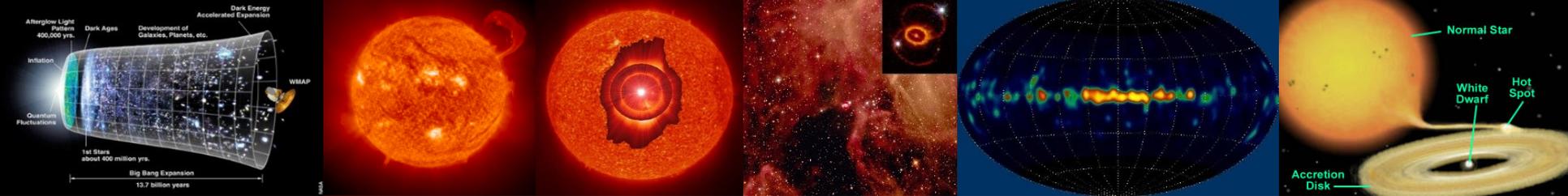
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# Plan of lecture I

- I. Introduction : Nuclear astrophysics & Nuclei in the Cosmos
- II. Nuclear reaction cross sections:
  - Definitions
  - Quantum tunneling,
  - Astrophysical S-factor
  - Reaction mechanisms (non-resonant & resonant processes)
- III. Thermonuclear reaction rates
  - Definitions

# Text books

- J. Audouze and S. Vauclair      An introduction to Nuclear Astrophysics  
D. Reidel Publishing Company, Dordrecht, 1980
- D.D. Clayton                      Principles of stellar evolution and nucleosynthesis  
The University of Chicago Press, 1983
- C.E. Rolfs and W.S. Rodney      Cauldrons in the Cosmos  
The University of Chicago Press, 1988 (...the “Bible”)
- C. Illiadis                            Nuclear Physics of Stars  
Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA, Weinheim, 2007

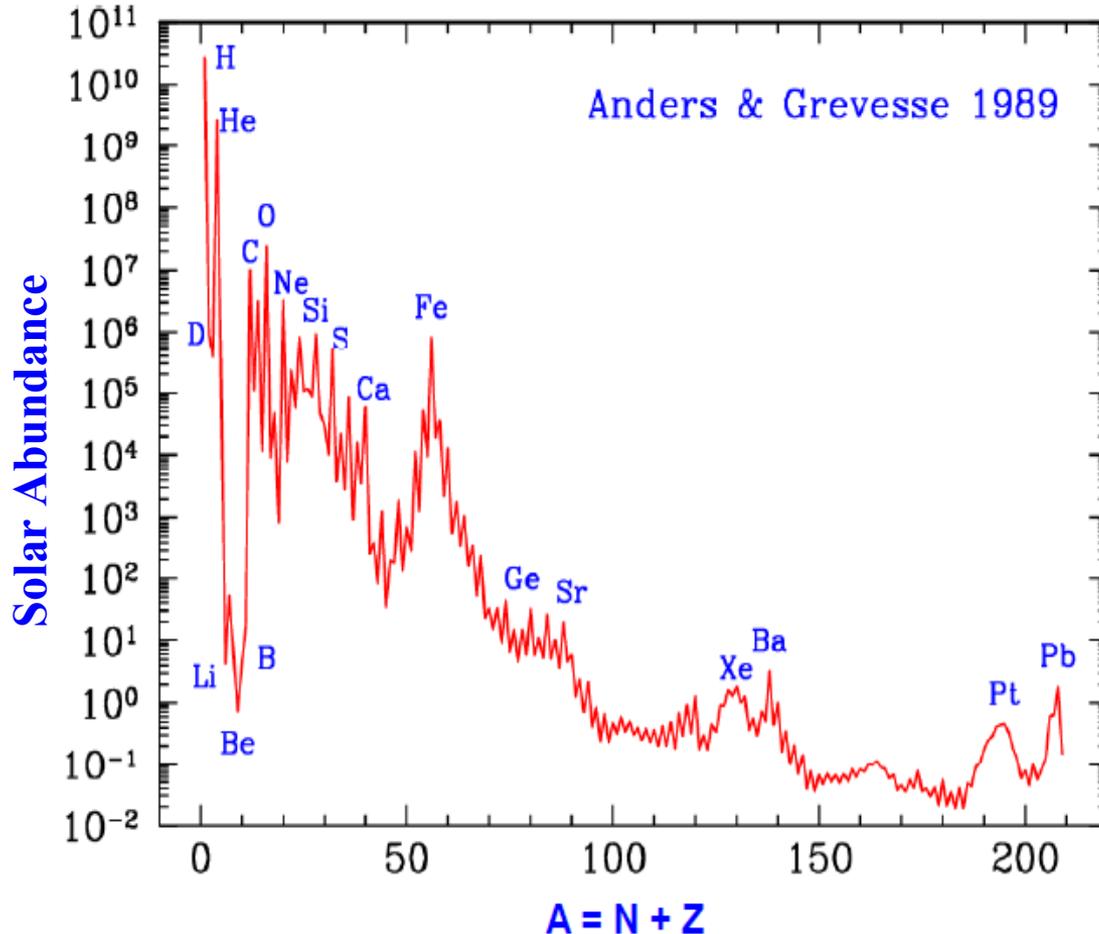


# NUCLEAR ASTROPHYSICS

**Nuclear astrophysics is the science which addresses some of the most compelling questions in nature:**

- How do stars form and evolve?
  - What powers the stars?
- What is the origin of the chemical elements present in our Universe?
- Which nucleosynthesis processes are responsible of the observed solar abundances?

## Abundance curve of the elements:



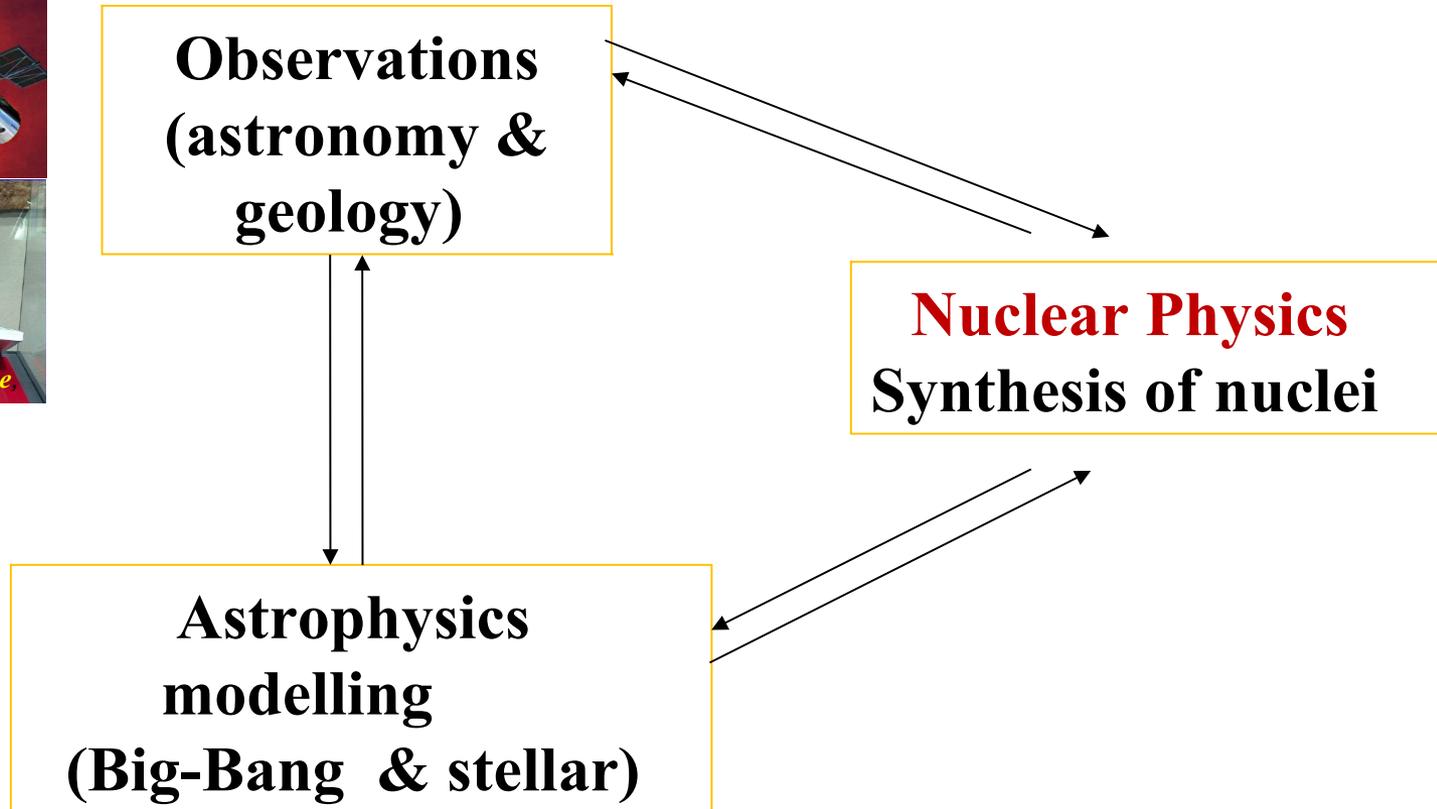
### Data sources:

Earth, Moon, meteorites,  
solar & stellar spectra,  
cosmic rays...

### Characteristics:

- 12 orders-of-magnitude span
  - H ~ 75%
  - He ~ 23%
  - C → U ~ 2% (“metals”)
- D, Li, Be, B under-abundant
- O the 3<sup>rd</sup> most abundant
- C the 4<sup>th</sup> most abundant
- exponential decrease up to Fe
  - peak near Fe
- nearly flat distribution beyond Fe with some peaks

The answer to all the questions concerning the stars and the origin of the nuclei in the cosmos is given by the interaction of three fields:



## Nucleosynthesis: When and where?

➤ **H, D, He,  ${}^7\text{Li}^\#$**

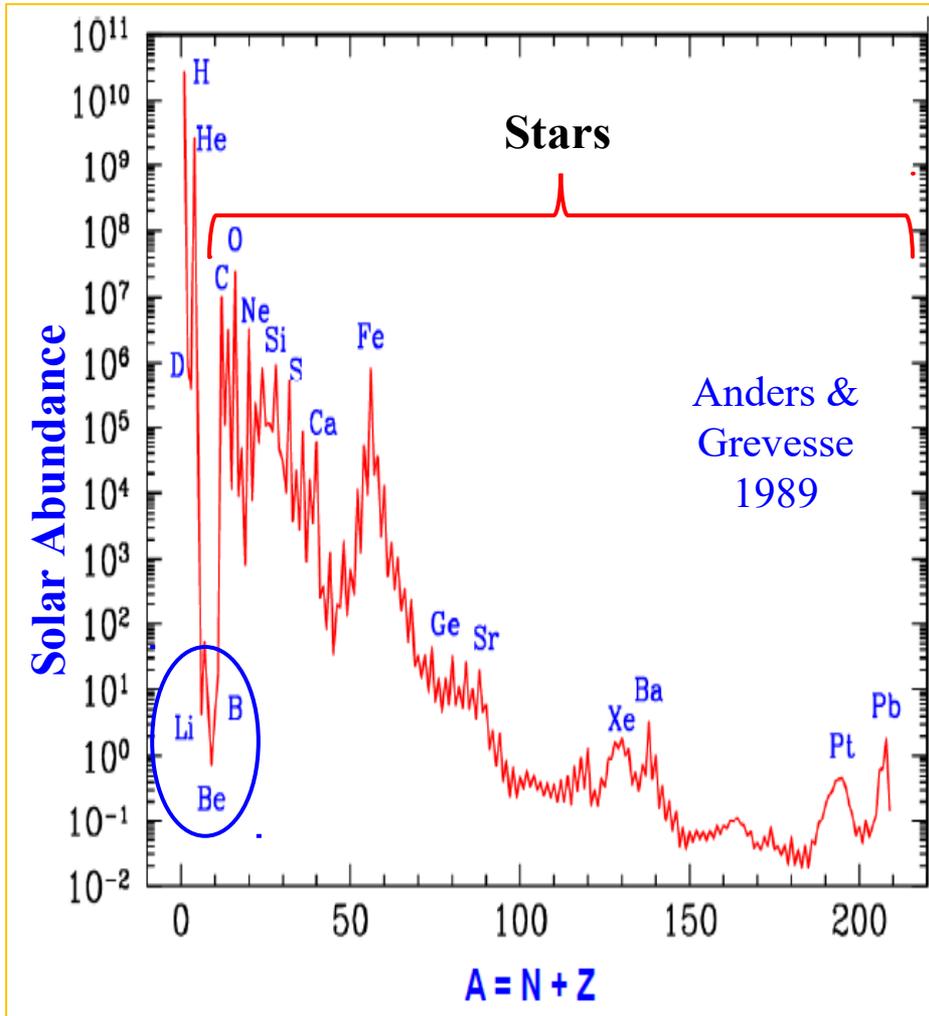
→ primordial nucleosynthesis  
**(Big-Bang)** (A. Coc lecture)

➤  **$\text{Li}^\#, \text{Be}, \text{B}$**

→ Cosmic ray spallation in Inter-Stellar Medium (ISM) : heavier and abundant nuclei (CNO) broken by interaction with p or  $\alpha$  particle (A. Coc lecture)

➤ **C, N, O ..., Fe, ... Pb,...**

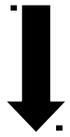
→ in star (calm & explosive)  
(A. Coc lecture)



# From nuclear physics to abundances

Improving the knowledge of the nucleosynthesis processes at work in the universe  
& the understanding of stellar evolution

**Nuclear physics** Experiments & theory  
(cross-sections, resonance parameters, masses,  $\beta$ -  
decays,...)



**Reaction rate**



**Astrophysics  
Modelling**  
Network calculations  
(BBN & stellar evolution  
modelling, nucleosynthesis)



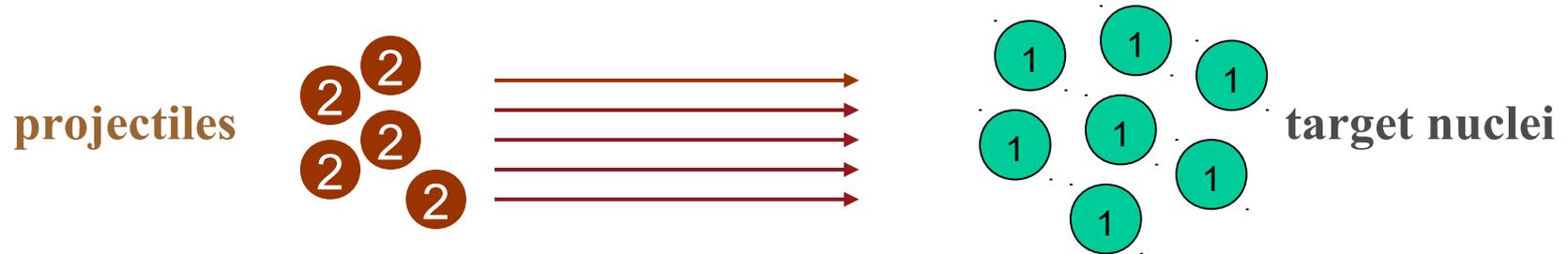
**Abundances**

**Observations**  
(On earth, meteorites,  
satellites,...)



**Abundances**





- Cross section of the reaction  $1 + 2 \rightarrow 3 + 4$  [notation  $1(2,3)4$ ]:

$$\sigma(\text{cm}^2) = \frac{\text{Number of reactions/second}}{(\text{Number of incident particles/cm}^2/\text{second})(\text{number of target nuclei within the beam})}$$

= **surface** presented by 1 to the projectile 2 **for a given reaction**

- “Billiard-type” description of the cross section:

$$\sigma = \pi(R_1 + R_2)^2 \quad \text{with the nuclear radius } R_N \approx 1.3A^{1/3} \text{ fm } (10^{-13} \text{ cm})$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma(^1\text{H}+^1\text{H}) = 0.2 \times 10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2, \quad \sigma(^{238}\text{U}+^{238}\text{U}) = 4.8 \times 10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{unit of nuclear cross sections: } 1 \text{ barn (b)} = 10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2$$

# Nuclear reaction cross sections: The maximum cross-section

- Quantum description of the **maximum reaction cross section**:

$$\sigma_{\max} = (2l + 1)\pi\lambda^2 \quad \text{where} \quad \lambda = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2\mu E}} = \frac{m_1 + m_2}{m_1} \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m_2 E_2}}$$

is the **de Broglie wavelength**,  $E$  the total kinetic energy in the centre-of-mass system of reference, and  $\mu = (m_1 m_2)/(m_1 + m_2)$  the reduced mass. Note that  $\sigma_{\max} \propto 1/E$

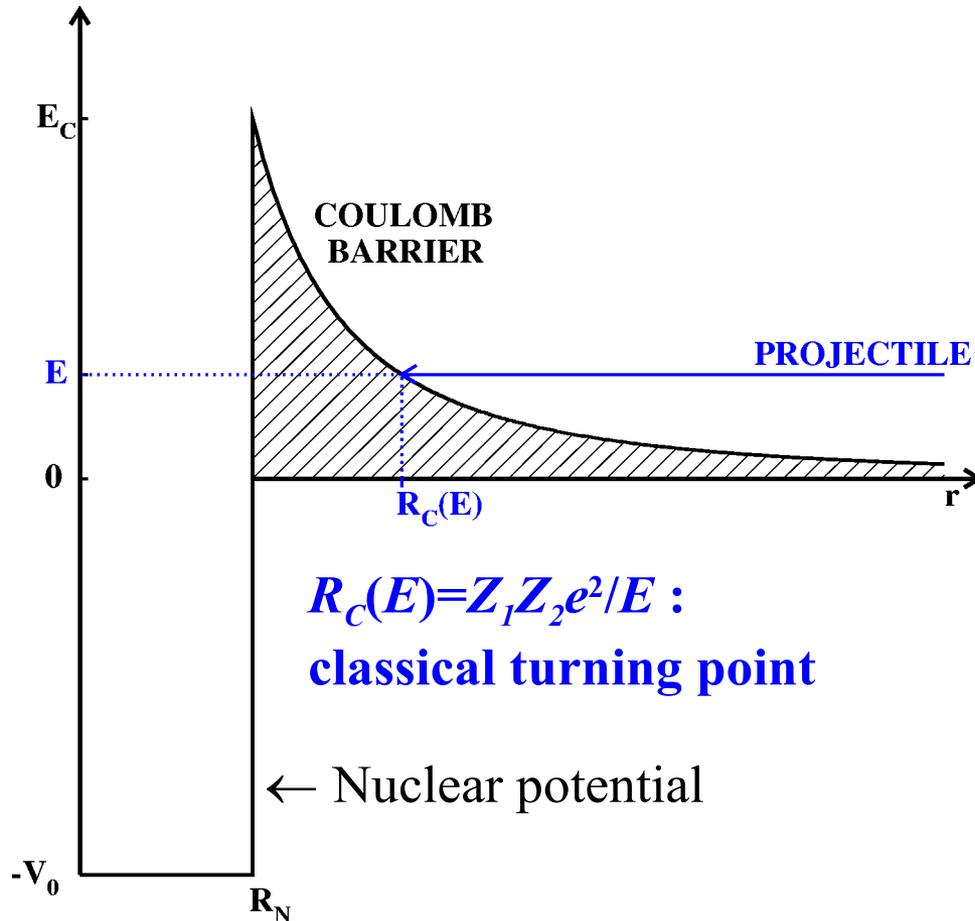
The statistical factor  $(2l+1)$  corresponds to the number of eigenstates of the system 1 + 2 of angular momentum  $L$  ( $l$  is the orbital quantum number)

- $\sigma < \sigma_{\max}$  in part. because of the **centrifugal and Coulomb barriers**
- Centrifugal barrier: energy needed to move closer 1 and 2 to a distance  $r$  given the orbital angular momentum  $L$  (classical mech.)

$$V_{\text{cent}}(r) = \frac{\|\vec{L}\|^2}{2\mu r^2} \Rightarrow V_{\text{cent}}(r) = \frac{l(l+1)\hbar^2}{2\mu r^2} \quad l(l+1)\hbar^2 : \text{ eigenvalues of } \mathbf{L}^2$$

# Nuclear reaction cross sections:

# The Coulomb barrier



- In a reaction between **charged nuclei** (atomic numbers  $Z_1, Z_2$ )

$$V_{\text{coul}}(r) = \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r} = \frac{1.44 Z_1 Z_2}{r \text{ (in fm)}} \text{ MeV}$$

- In stars,  $T_C \sim 10^7 - 10^9 \text{ K}$   
 $\Rightarrow kT_C \sim 1-100 \text{ keV} < V_{\text{coul}}(R_N)$

$\Rightarrow$  penetration of the Coulomb barrier by the **"tunnel effect"** (quantum mechanic effect)

# Nuclear reaction cross sections:

# The tunnel effect (1)

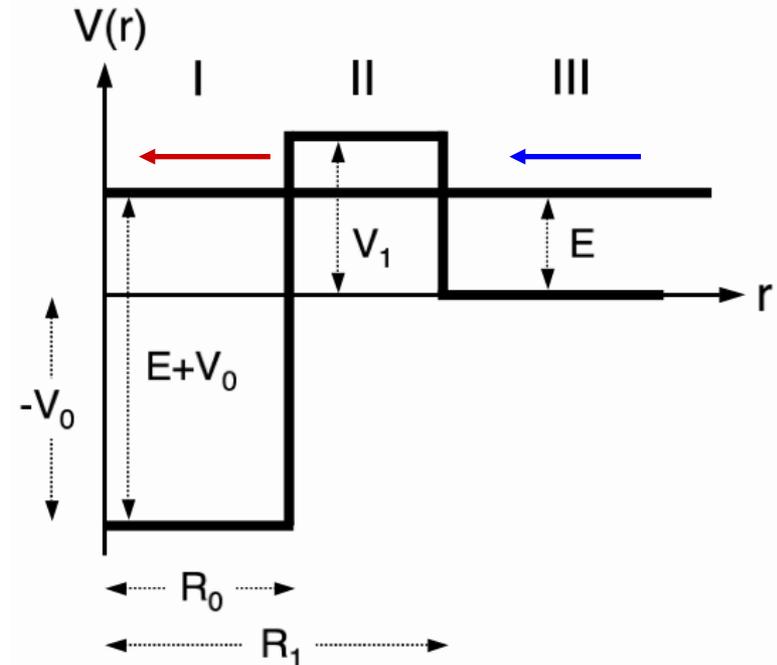
- Square-barrier potential with  $l = 0$  The radial wave functions  $\phi(r)$  (1D) are solution of the **time-independent Schrödinger equation**:

$$\left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} + V \right] \phi(r) = E \phi(r)$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_{III}(r) = F e^{ikr} + G e^{-ikr} \text{ with } k^2 = \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} E$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_{II}(r) = C e^{-\kappa r} + D e^{\kappa r} \text{ with } \kappa^2 = \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} (V_1 - E) \quad \Leftarrow \text{vanishing waves}$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_I(r) = A e^{iKr} + B e^{-iKr} \text{ with } K^2 = \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} (E + V_0) \quad \Leftarrow \text{plane waves}$$



- Wave function **matching conditions at the boundaries**:

$$\begin{aligned} (\phi_I)_{R_0} &= (\phi_{II})_{R_0} & (\phi_{II})_{R_1} &= (\phi_{III})_{R_1} \\ \left(\frac{d\phi_I}{dx}\right)_{R_0} &= \left(\frac{d\phi_{II}}{dx}\right)_{R_0} & \left(\frac{d\phi_{II}}{dx}\right)_{R_1} &= \left(\frac{d\phi_{III}}{dx}\right)_{R_1} \end{aligned} \Rightarrow B = f(G)$$

$$T = \frac{j_{\text{trans}}}{j_{\text{inc}}} = \frac{K|B|^2}{k|G|^2}$$

- Transmission coefficient** of the barrier:

given the incident and transmitted **current densities (or fluxes)**

$$j_{\text{inc}} = v_{III}|G|^2 = \frac{\hbar k}{\mu}|G|^2 \quad \text{and} \quad j_{\text{trans}} = v_I|B|^2 = \frac{\hbar K}{\mu}|B|^2$$

We finally obtain:  $T \approx \exp\left[-(2/\hbar)\sqrt{2\mu(V_1 - E)}(R_1 - R_0)\right]$

- Numerical application: p + p interaction at  $E = 100$  keV

$$R_0 = 1.3 \times 2 = 2.6 \text{ fm}, \quad R_1 \equiv R_C = 14.4 \text{ fm}, \quad V_1 \equiv V_{\text{coul}} = 550 \text{ keV} \Rightarrow T = 9\%$$

With  $V_1 = 36.8$  MeV corresponding to  $V_{\text{cent}}$  for  $l = 2 \Rightarrow T = 2 \times 10^{-10}$

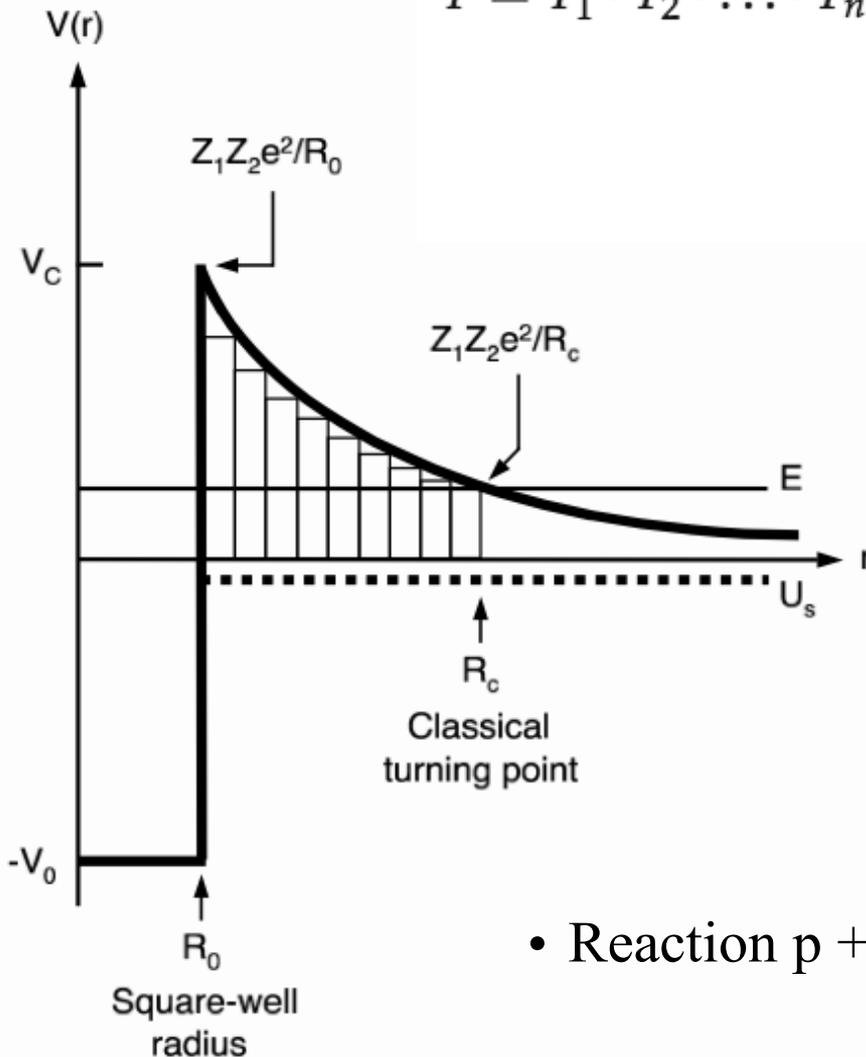
# Nuclear reaction cross sections:

# The tunnel effect (3)

- Transmission coefficient of the Coulomb barrier

$$\hat{T} = \hat{T}_1 \cdot \hat{T}_2 \cdot \dots \cdot \hat{T}_n \approx \exp \left[ -\frac{2}{\hbar} \sum_i \sqrt{2m(V_i - E)(R_{i+1} - R_i)} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{n \text{ large}} \exp \left[ -\frac{2}{\hbar} \int_{R_0}^{R_c} \sqrt{2m[V(r) - E]} dr \right]$$



$$T \approx \exp \left[ -\frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2E}} Z_1 Z_2 e^2 \right] = \exp(-2\pi\eta)$$

$\eta$ : Sommerfeld parameter

$\exp(-2\pi\eta)$ : Gamow factor

$$2\pi\eta = 31.29 Z_1 Z_2 \sqrt{\frac{\mu_{\text{amu}}}{E_{\text{keV}}}}$$

- Reaction  $p + p$  ( $\mu_{\text{amu}} = 1/2$ ) at  $E_{\text{keV}} = 100 \Rightarrow T = 11\%$

at  $E_{\text{keV}} = 6 \Rightarrow T = 0.01\%$

# Nuclear reaction cross sections:

# The astrophysical S-factor

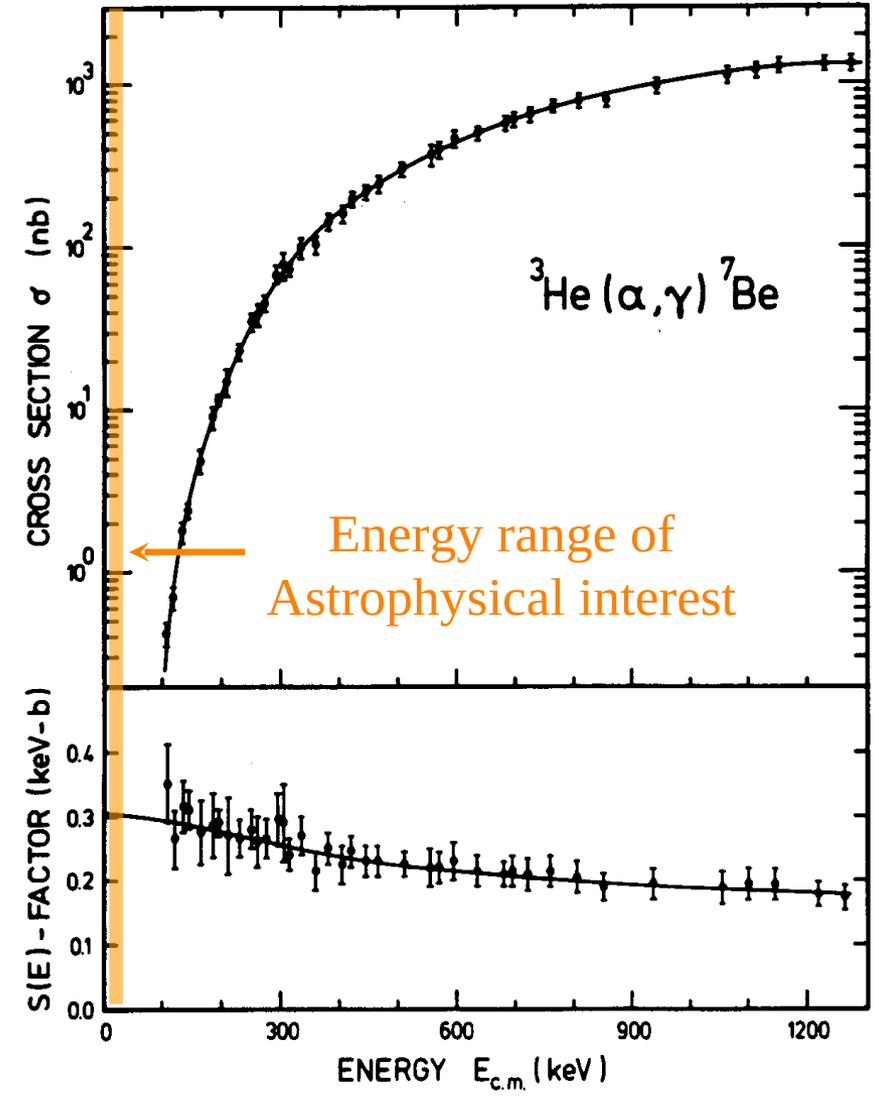
$$\sigma(E) = \frac{1}{E} \times e^{-2\pi\eta} \times S(E)$$

correction of the effect  
 $\sigma_{\max}(E) \propto \lambda^2$

correction of the tunneling probability ( $l=0$ )

$S(E)$  : **astrophysical S-factor** which contains all the nuclear effects for a given reaction

➤ (Sometimes) a smoothly varying function  $\Rightarrow$  **extrapolation** to astrophysical energies



Consider reaction:



(b = particle or photon)

## Non-resonant process

One-step process leading to final nucleus Y  $\sigma \propto | \langle b+Y | H | a+X \rangle |^2$   
single matrix element

- occurs at all interaction energies
- cross section has relatively WEAK energy dependence

## Resonant process

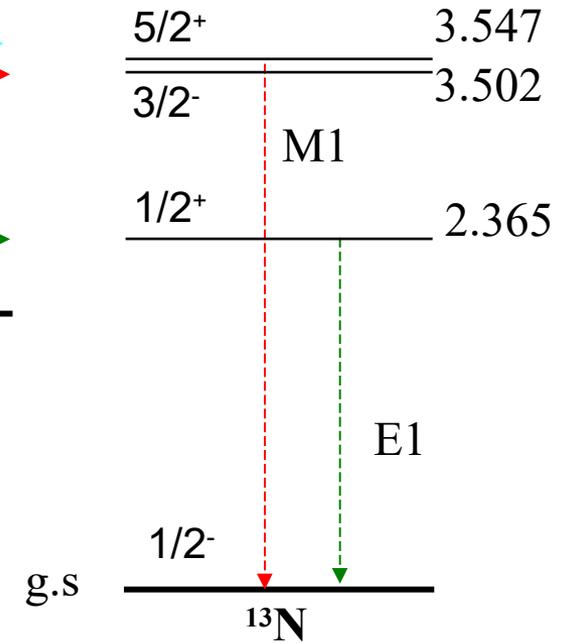
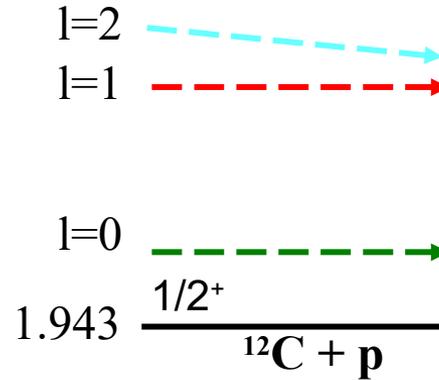
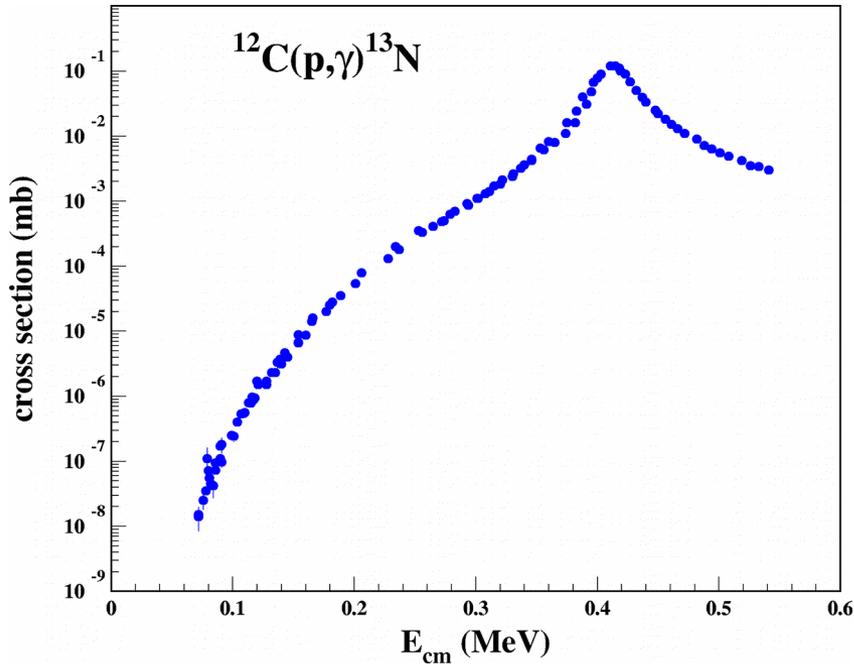
Two-step process: 1) compound nucleus formation  $a + X \rightarrow C^*$   
2) decay of compound nucleus  $C^* \rightarrow b + Y$

$$\sigma \propto | \langle b+Y | H' | C^* \rangle |^2 | \langle C^* | H | a+X \rangle |^2$$

two matrix elements

- occurs at specific energies
- cross section has STRONG energy dependence

- A simple case:  $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$



- Reaction Q-value ( $\Delta$ =mass excess):
- $Q = \Delta(^{12}\text{C}) + \Delta(p) - \Delta(^{13}\text{N}) = 1.943 \text{ MeV}$
- $E_R = 2365 - 1943 = \underline{422 \text{ keV}}$

- $J_R = J(^{12}\text{C}) + J(p) + L = 1/2, (-1)^l = 1$
- $\Rightarrow \underline{l=0}$

- Energy profile of excited nuclear states:

- Time-dependent wave function:  $\psi(t) = \psi(0) \exp\left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} E_R t\right) \times \exp\left(-\frac{t}{2\tau}\right)$

where  $\tau$  is the **mean lifetime of the excited state**

- The wave function as a function of energy is obtained by the

Fourier transform (conjugate variables):  $\varphi(E) = \int_0^{\infty} \psi(t) \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} E t\right) dt$

- The probability distribution is then:

$$f_R(E) = |\varphi(E)|^2 = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi\tau} \frac{1}{(E - E_R)^2 + (\hbar/2\tau)^2}$$

= Breit-Wigner **profile** (Cauchy-Lorentz distribution)

- **Full width** at half maximum:

$$\Gamma = \frac{\hbar}{\tau}$$

← Heisenberg  
uncertainty principle

- Partial width** (energy units):  $\Gamma_a = \hbar \lambda_a$  where  $\lambda_a$  is the probability per second that the decay particle  $a$  ( $\equiv p, n, \alpha, \beta \dots$ ) crosses an imaginary sphere at the distance  $r \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\lambda_a = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} v \iint |\psi(r, \theta, \Phi)|^2 r^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\Phi$$

$$\lambda_a = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} v \int_{\theta, \phi} \left| \frac{\phi_l(r)}{r} \right|_{\theta, \phi}^2 |Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)|^2 r^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi = v |\phi_l(\infty)|^2$$

$v$  being the relative velocity and  $Y_l^m(\theta, \Phi)$  the spherical harmonics

With the **penetration factor** for the Coulomb and centrifugal barriers:

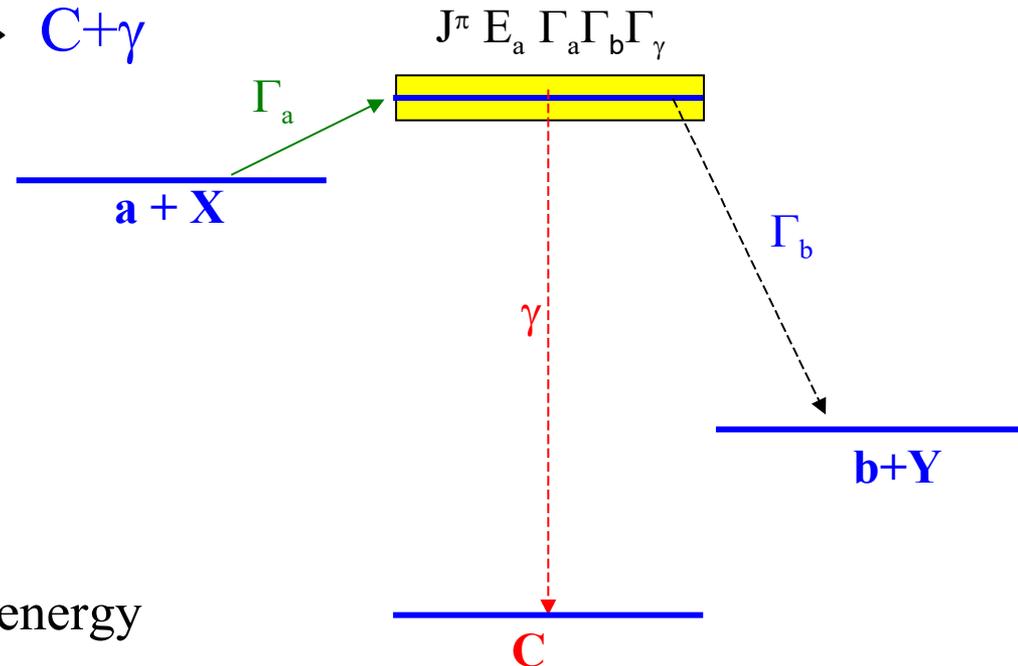
$$P_l(E, R_N) = \frac{|\phi_l(\infty)|^2}{|\phi_l(R_N)|^2} \Rightarrow \Gamma_a = \hbar \sqrt{\frac{2E}{\mu}} P_l(E, R_N) |\phi_l(R_N)|^2$$

$|\Phi_l(R_N)|^2 = |\phi_l(R_N)/R_N|^2$  being the **probability** density for the appearance of the particle  $a$  at the nuclear radius  $R_N$

# Nuclear reaction cross-sections:

# Resonant process

Consider reaction:  $a+X \rightarrow C^* \rightarrow b+Y$   
 $\rightarrow C+\gamma$



Resonance parameters:

Resonance energy:  $E_r = E_x - Q$

$E_x$  excitation energy

Partial widths:

$\Gamma_a$ : Probability of the formation of the compound nucleus  $C^*$  from the entrance channel  $a+X$

$\Gamma_b$ : Probability of the decay of the compound state  $C^*$  to the exit channel  $b+Y$

$\Gamma_\gamma$ : Probability of the  $\gamma$  decay of the compound state  $C^*$  to its ground state

Spin, parity:  $J^\pi$

# Nuclear reaction cross sections: Sub-threshold resonances

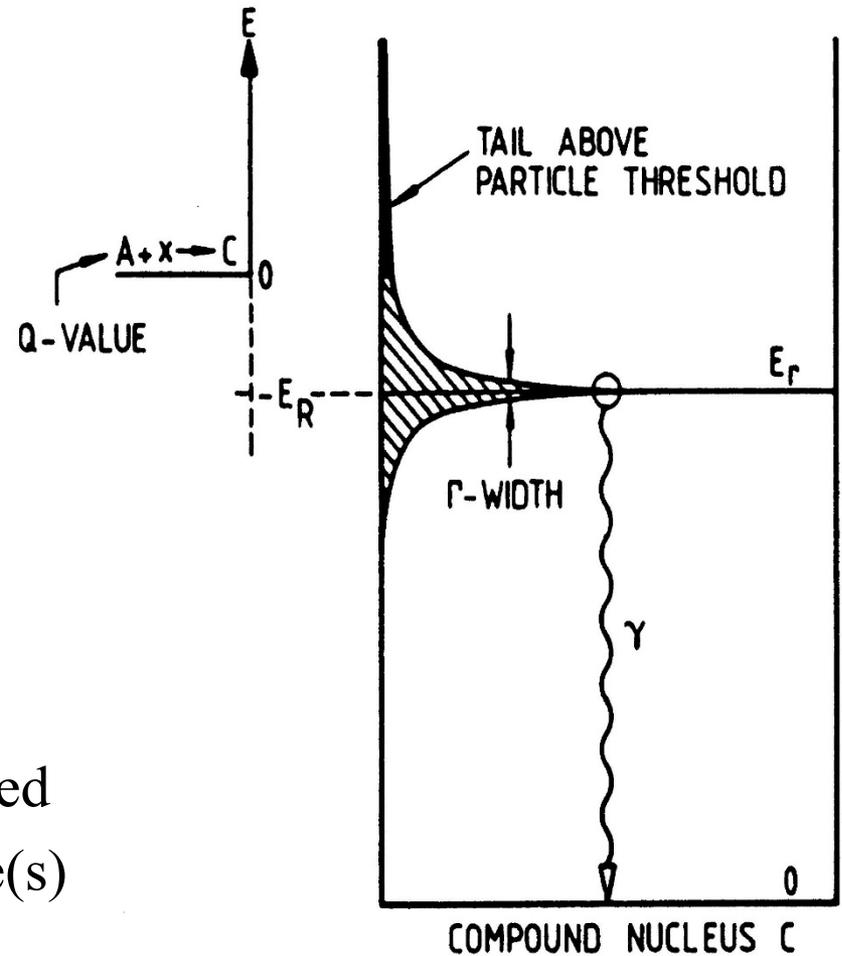
Any excited state has a finite width

$$\Gamma \sim h/\tau$$

high energy wing can extend  
above particle threshold



cross section can be entirely dominated  
by contribution of sub-threshold state(s)

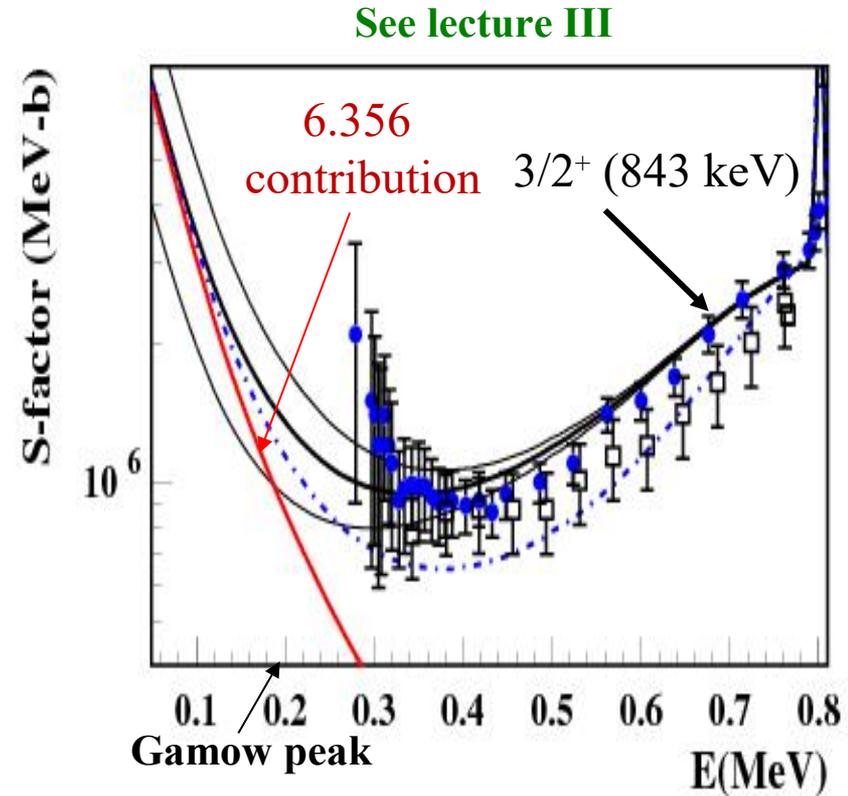
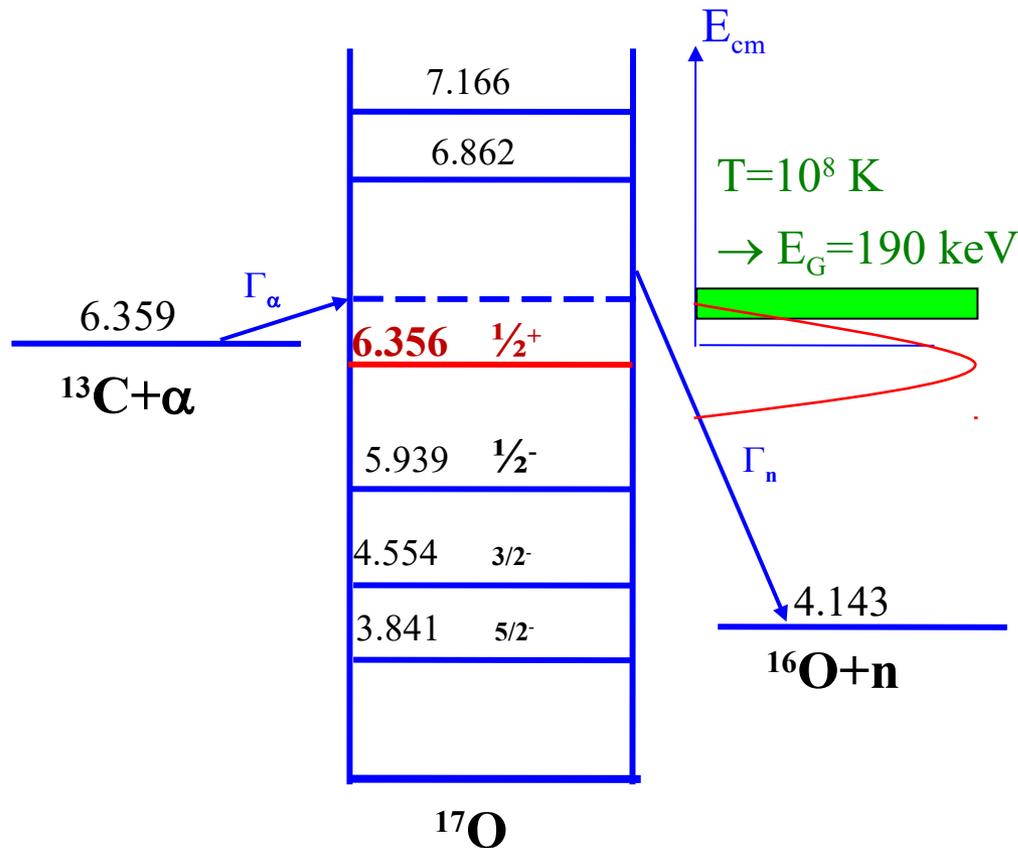


# Example of sub-threshold resonant reaction:



$^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n)^{16}\text{O} \rightarrow$  main neutron source in AGB stars (1-3  $M_{\odot}$ )

$\rightarrow$  s-process nucleosynthesis  $\rightarrow 90 < A < 209$



# Nuclear reaction cross sections: The Breit-Wigner cross-section

- Cross section for the **resonant reaction**  $a + X \rightarrow C \rightarrow Y + b$ , via the formation of an excited state in the **compound nucleus** C:

$$\sigma_{\text{BW}}(E) \sim \sigma_{\text{max}} \times f_R(E) \times \Gamma_a \Gamma_b$$

$$\sigma_{\text{BW}}(E) = \pi \lambda^2 \frac{2J+1}{(2J_a+1)(2J_X+1)} (1 + \delta_{aX}) \frac{\Gamma_a \Gamma_b}{(E - E_R)^2 + (\Gamma/2)^2}$$

where  $J_a$  and  $J_X$  are the total angular momentum of the nuclei a and X, and  $J$  that of the resonance in the compound nucleus;  $\delta_{aX}$  is Kronecker's delta function

- The spin statistical factor  $\omega = (1 + \delta_{aX}) \frac{2J+1}{(2J_a+1)(2J_X+1)}$  takes into

account the number of available states (selection rules)

- Note that  $\Gamma_a$  and  $\Gamma_b$  are energy dependent ( $P_l(E, R_N) \dots$ )

# Nuclear reaction cross-sections: Neutron induced-reactions

$A(n,x)B$  with  $x=\gamma, p$  or  $\alpha$

The cross section is given by :

$$\sigma_n \approx \lambda_n^2 \left| \langle B+x | H_{II} | C \rangle \langle C | H_I | A+n \rangle \right|^2 \approx \lambda_n^2 \Gamma_n(E_n) \Gamma_x(Q+E_n)$$

For thermal energies  $Q \gg E_n \rightarrow \Gamma_x(Q+E_n) \approx \Gamma_x(Q) = \text{constant}$

$$\Gamma_n(E_n) \propto P_{ln}(E_n)$$

$$\text{for } \mathbf{l}_n=0 \rightarrow P_0(E_n) \sim v_n$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\sigma_n(E_n) \propto \frac{1}{v_n^2} v_n = \frac{1}{v_n}$$

for non-resonant reaction

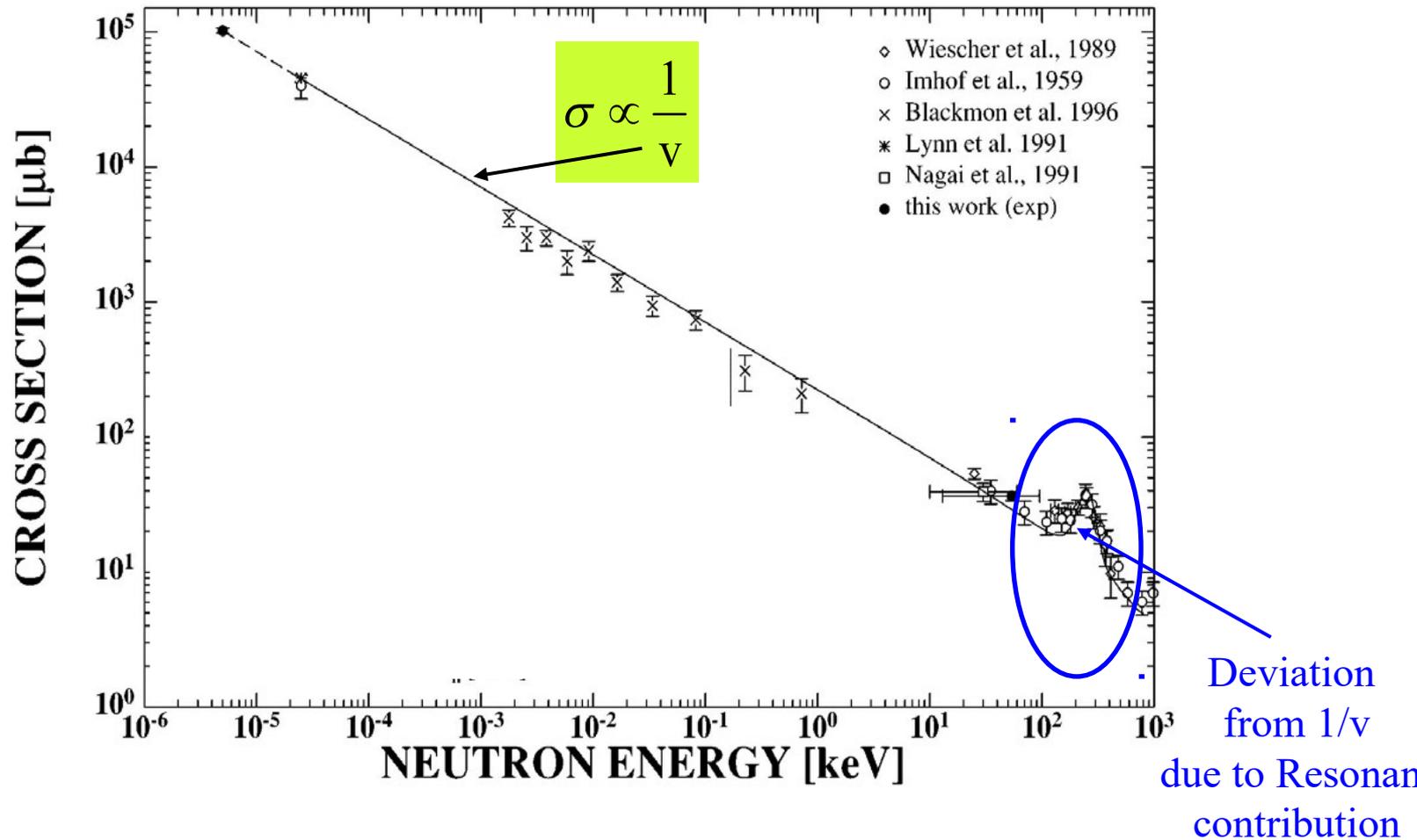
For **s-wave neutrons** ( $l=0$ )  $\Rightarrow$  **centrifugal barrier  $V_l=0$**  and also coulomb barrier  $V_c=0$

$\rightarrow$  **At low energies**, the reactions are dominated by s-wave neutron capture

$\rightarrow$  Higher  $l$  neutron capture plays role only at higher energies (or if  $l=0$  capture is suppressed)

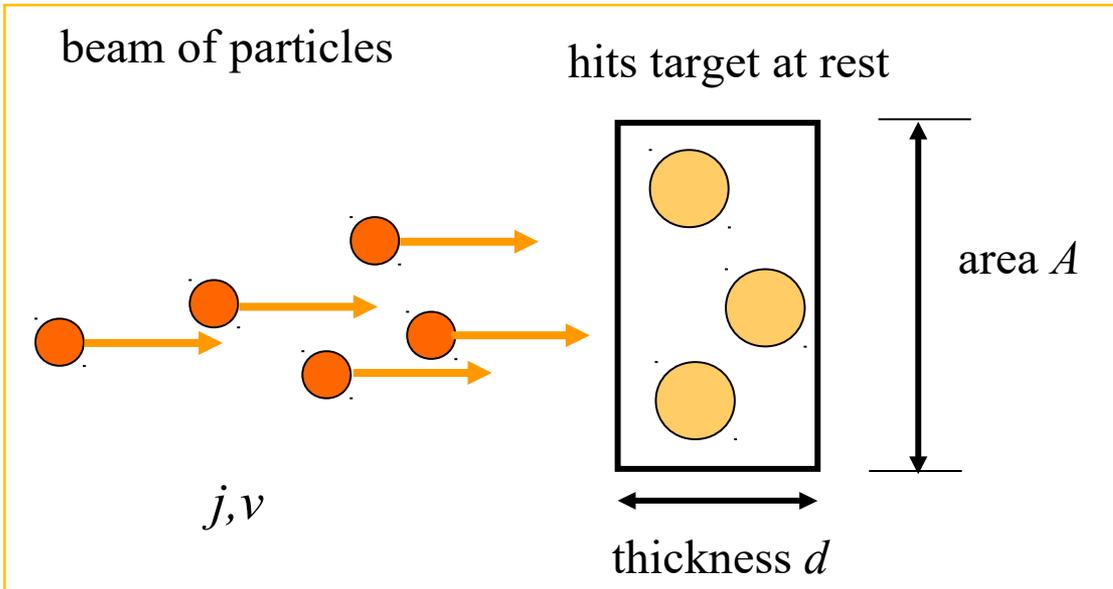
# Nuclear reaction cross-sections: Neutron induced reactions

Example:



# **Thermonuclear reaction rates**

Reaction rate  $a + X \rightarrow b + Y$   $\sigma(\text{cm}^2) = \frac{\text{Number of reactions/unit time/nucleus } X}{\text{Number of incident particles/cm}^2/\text{unit time}}$



assume thin target (unattenuated Intensity through target)

Total reaction rate (reactions per second)

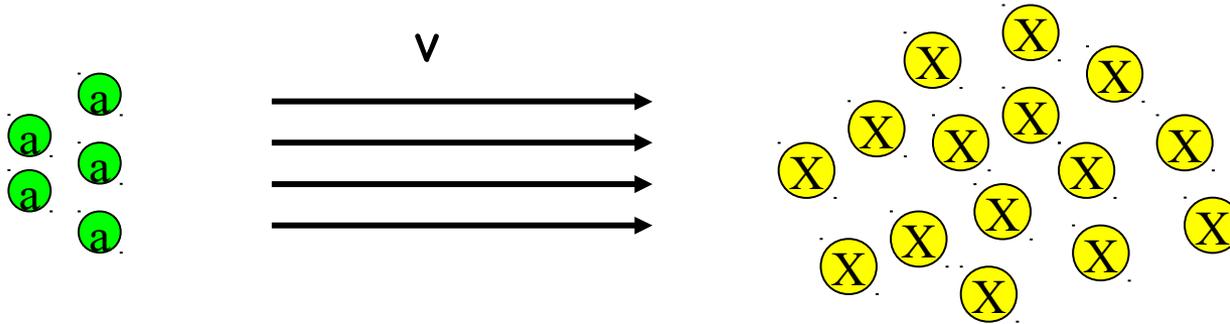
$$R = \sigma I d n_T$$

with  $n_T$  : number density of target nuclei

$I = jA$  : beam number current (number of particles per second hitting the target)

note:  $dn_T$  is number of target nuclei per  $\text{cm}^2$ .

Mix of (fully ionized) projectiles  $a$  and target nuclei  $X$  at a temperature  $T$



For a given relative velocity  $v$  in volume  $V$  with projectile number density  $N_a$

The number of reactions/s  $R = \sigma N_a v N_x V$

so for **reaction rate per second per  $\text{cm}^3$** :  $r_{aX} = N_a N_x \sigma(v) v$

This is proportional to the number of  $a$ - $X$  pairs in the volume.

If projectile and target are identical,  
one has to divide by 2 to avoid  
double counting

$$r_{aX} = \frac{1}{1 + \delta_{aX}} N_a N_X \sigma(v) v$$

In stellar plasma:

velocity of particles varies over wide range

Reaction **rate per particle pair**:

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle_{aX} = \int_0^{\infty} v \sigma(v) \phi(v) dv$$

$\phi(v)$  velocity distribution

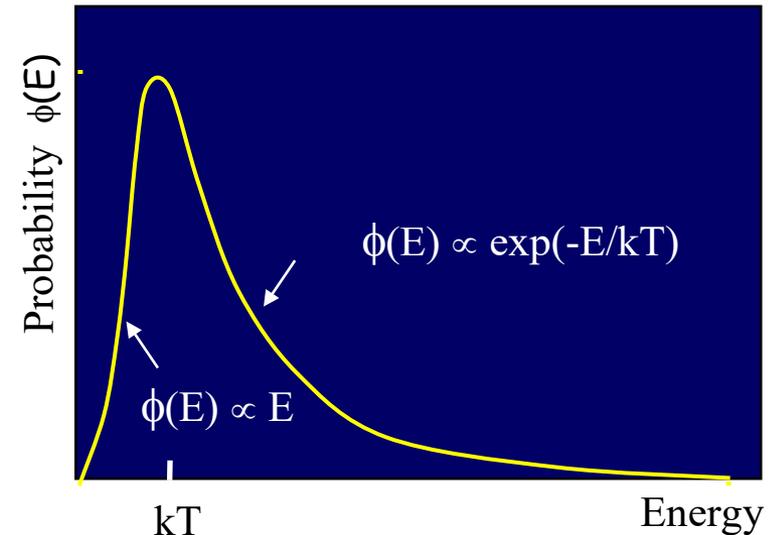
Quiescent stellar burning: non-relativistic, non-degenerate gas in thermodynamic equilibrium at temperature T

Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution:

$$\phi(v) dv = \left( \frac{\mu}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} \exp\left( -\frac{\mu v^2}{2kT} \right) 4\pi v^2 dv$$

$\mu$  = reduced mass

$v$  = relative velocity



$$\langle \sigma v \rangle_{aX} = \left( \frac{8}{\pi \mu_{aX}} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{(kT)^{3/2}} \int_0^{\infty} \sigma(E) \exp\left( -\frac{E}{kT} \right) E dE$$

Total reaction rate  $R_{aX} = \frac{1}{1 + \delta_{aX}} N_a N_X \langle \sigma v \rangle_{aX}$  reactions  $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$   
 $N_i =$  number density

expressed in terms abundances

$$R_{aX} = \frac{1}{1 + \delta_{aX}} Y_X Y_a \rho^2 N_A^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle \text{ reactions per s and cm}^3$$

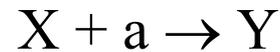
$$\lambda = \frac{1}{1 + \delta_{aX}} Y_a \rho \underbrace{N_A \langle \sigma v \rangle}_{\text{reactions per s and target nucleus}}$$

this is usually referred to as the **stellar reaction rate** of a specific reaction

$N_A =$  Avogadro number

units of stellar reaction rate  $N_A \langle \sigma v \rangle$ : usually  $\text{cm}^3/\text{mole/s}$

Lets assume the only reaction that involves nuclei X and Y is destruction (production) of X (Y) by X capturing the projectile a:



The reaction is a **random process** with const probability (as long as the conditions are unchanged) and therefore governed by the **same laws as radioactive decay**:

$$\frac{dn_X}{dt} = -n_X \lambda = -n_X Y_a \rho N_A \langle \sigma v \rangle$$

$$\frac{dn_Y}{dt} = +n_X \lambda$$

consequently:

$$n_X(t) = n_{0X} e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$n_Y(t) = n_{0X} (1 - e^{-\lambda t})$$

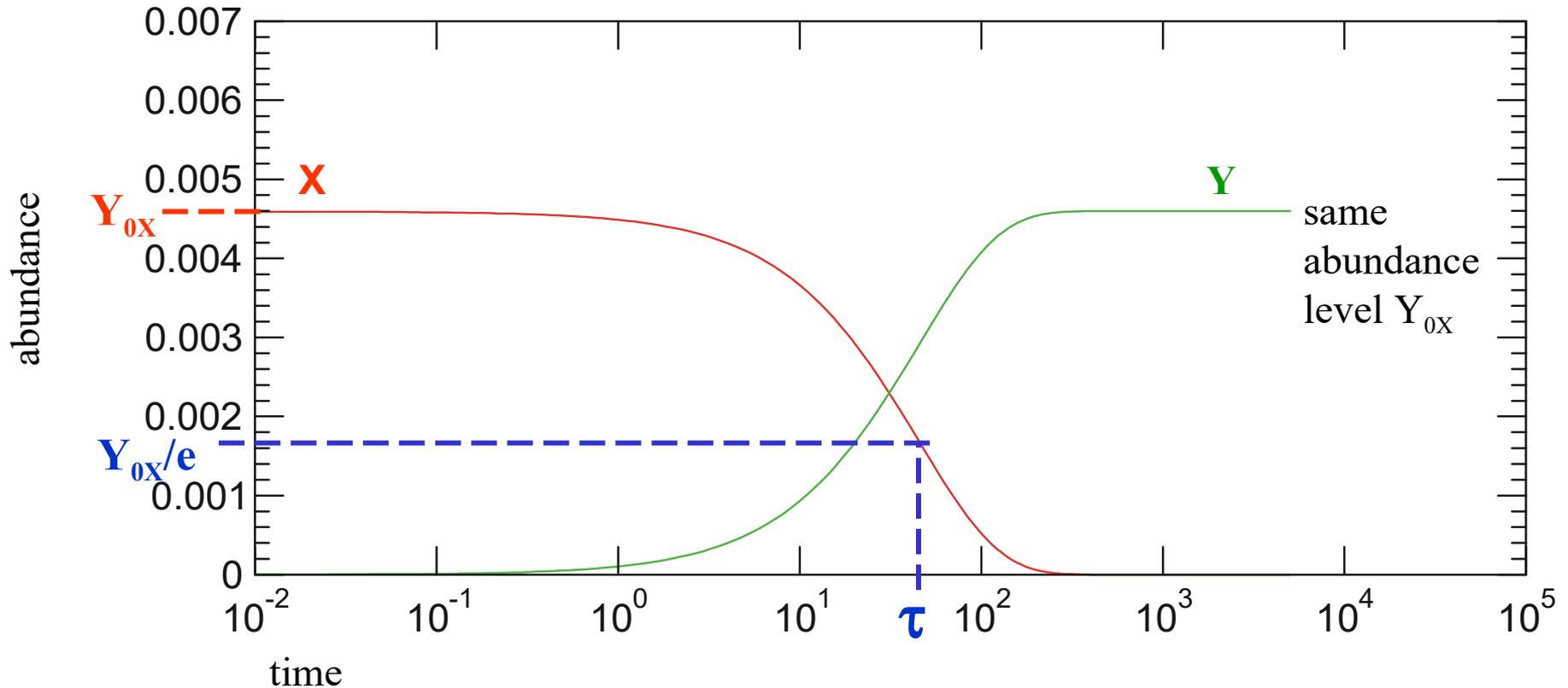
and of course

$$Y_X(t) = Y_{0X} e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$Y_Y(t) = Y_{0X} (1 - e^{-\lambda t})$$

after some time, nucleus X  
is entirely converted to nucleus Y

Example:



Lifetime of X (against destruction via the reaction  $X+a$ ):  $\tau = \frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{Y_a \rho N_A \langle \sigma v \rangle}$

(of course half-life of A  $T_{1/2} = \ln 2 / \lambda$ )

# Thermonuclear Reaction Rates:

# Energy generation

Consider the reaction  $X+a \rightarrow Y$

**Reaction Q-value:** Energy generated (if  $>0$ ) by a single reaction:

$$Q = c^2 \left( \sum_{\text{initial nuclei } i} m_i - \sum_{\text{final nuclei } j} m_j \right)$$

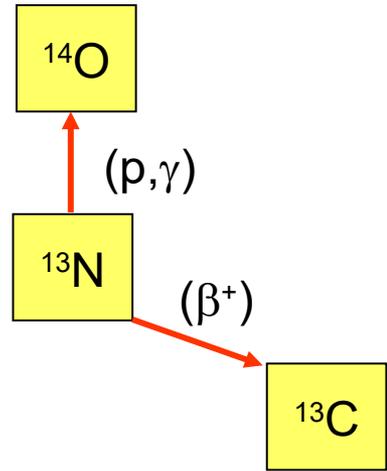
**Energy generation:** Energy generated per g and second by a reaction:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{rQ}{\rho} = Q \frac{1}{1 + \delta_{aX}} Y_X Y_a \rho N_A^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle$$

# Thermonuclear Reaction Rates: various reactions destroying a nucleus

Example: in the CNO cycle,  $^{13}\text{N}$  can either capture a proton or  $\beta$  decay.

each destructive reaction  $i$  has a rate  $\lambda_i$



## Total lifetime

the total destruction rate for the nucleus is then

$$\lambda = \sum_i \lambda_i$$

its total lifetime

$$\tau = \frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{\sum_i \lambda_i}$$

## Branching

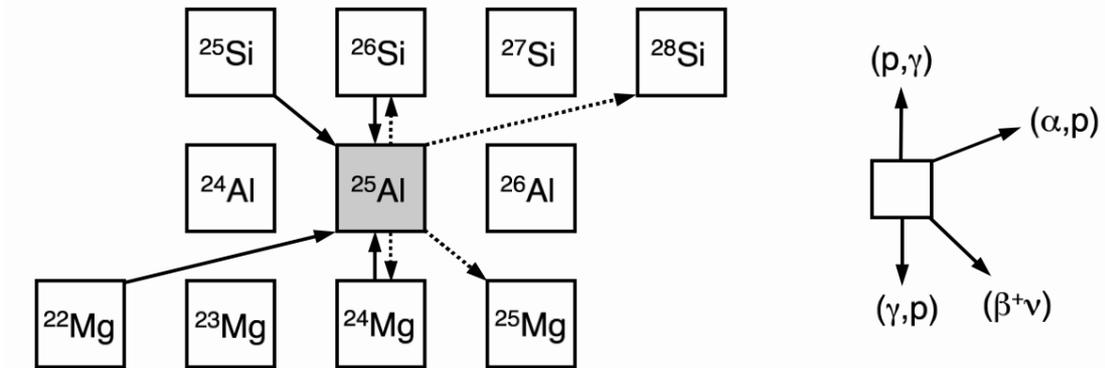
the reaction flow branching into reaction  $i$ ,  $b_i$  is the fraction of destructive flow through reaction  $i$ . (or the fraction of nuclei destroyed via reaction  $i$ )

$$b_i = \frac{\lambda_i}{\sum_j \lambda_j}$$

# The nucleosynthesis equations

- **Evolution of the densities:** system of coupled differential equations (solved numerically)

→ **Nuclear reaction network**



$$\frac{d(N_{25\text{Al}})}{dt} = \underbrace{N_{\text{H}}N_{24\text{Mg}}\langle\sigma v\rangle_{24\text{Mg}(p,\gamma)} + N_{4\text{He}}N_{22\text{Mg}}\langle\sigma v\rangle_{22\text{Mg}(\alpha,p)} + N_{25\text{Si}}\lambda_{25\text{Si}(\beta^+\nu)} + N_{26\text{Si}}\lambda_{26\text{Si}(\gamma,p)} + \dots}_{\text{production}}$$

$$\underbrace{- N_{\text{H}}N_{25\text{Al}}\langle\sigma v\rangle_{25\text{Al}(p,\gamma)} - N_{4\text{He}}N_{25\text{Al}}\langle\sigma v\rangle_{25\text{Al}(\alpha,p)} - N_{25\text{Al}}\lambda_{25\text{Al}(\beta^+\nu)} - N_{25\text{Al}}\lambda_{25\text{Al}(\gamma,p)} - \dots}_{\text{destruction}}$$

- **Nuclear energy production rate:**

$$\varepsilon = \sum_{ijk} \frac{N_i N_j}{1 + \delta_{ij}} \langle\sigma v\rangle_{ijk} Q_{ijk}$$

where  $Q_{ijk}$  is the Q-value of the reaction  $i+j \rightarrow k$