

Evidence for p-process nucleosynthesis recorded at the solar system abundances

T. Hayakawa^{1,3}, N. Iwamoto², T. Shizuma¹, T. Kajino^{3,4}, H. Umeda⁴, K. Nomoto⁴

¹ Advanced Photon Research Center, Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, Kizu, Kyoto 619-0215, Japan

² Department of Nuclear Energy System, Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, Tokai, Ibaraki 319-1195, Japan

³ National Astronomical Observatory, Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588, Japan

⁴ Department of Astronomy, School of Science, University of Tokyo, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan

The solar system abundances show some evidences for nucleosynthesis processes, for example, two abundance peaks at the neutron magic number for the s- and r-processes. The origin of the p-nuclei has long been discussed with many possible nuclear reactions. They are the rp-process in neutron stars [1], the proton-induced reactions by Galactic cosmic rays [2], the photodisintegration reactions in supernova (SN) explosions (p-process) [3,4], and the neutrinoinduced reactions in SN explosions (ν -process) [5].

We here present an evidence for the origin of the p-nuclei at the solar system abundances [6]. There are twenty-two p-nuclei associated with almost pure s-nuclei that have two more neutrons than the p-nuclei. The pure s-nuclei are dominantly synthesized by the s-process. Taking the abundance ratios of the s-nucleus to the p-nucleus, N(s)/N(p), where N is each isotope abundance, we find a clear correlation between them. The ratios concentrate at a constant value of $N(s)/N(p) \approx 23$ in a wide range of the atomic number. Furthermore, we find another scaling rule between two pure p-nuclei with the same atomic number. Nine nuclear species have two pure p-nuclei, in which the second p-nucleus is two neutron-deficient to the first p-nucleus. The ratios concentrate at a constant value of $N(1st p)/N(2nd p) \approx 1$.

The first scaling shows a strong correlation between p- and s-nuclei with the same atomic number. This is consistent with the previous theoretical calculations that the p-nuclei are produced by the p-process in SN explosions. The pre-existing nuclei in massive stars are affected by the s-process before SN explosion. The p-nuclei are subsequently produced from the s-nuclei by photodisintegration reactions such as (γ,n) reactions in a huge photon bath at extremely high temperatures in SN explosions. The particle induced reactions in the other processes and the charged current interaction in the ν -process change the proton number of seed nuclei. Therefore, the first scaling is a piece of evidence that the p-process is the most promising origin of the p-nuclei.

We carry out nucleosynthesis calculations of the p-process in oxygen-neon layers in typical core-collapse SN explosion models. The calculated N(s)/N(p) and N(1st p)/N(2nd p) ratios are consistent with the observed scalings. The observed scalings and calculation results indicate a novel concept: the universality of the p-process that the two ratios are almost independent on astrophysical conditions such as the metallicity and progenitor mass of the massive stars.

- [1] H. Schatz, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 86, 3471 (2001).
- [2] J. Audouze, Astron. Astrophys. 8, 436 (1970).
- [3] M. Arnould, Astron. Astrophys. 46, 117 (1976).
- [4] S.E. Woosley and W.M. Howard, Astrophys. J. Suppl. 36, 285 (1978).
- [5] S.E. Woosley, et al., Astrophys. J. **356**, 272 (1990).
- [6] T. Hayakawa et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 93, 161102, (2004).