Nuclear and astrophysics aspects for the rapid neutron capture process in the era of multimessenger observations



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The creation of the first r-process peak in neutron star mergers, impact of nuclear masses and beta decay rates.

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The observation of the electromagnetic counterpart of GW170817 gravitational wave hinted the production of r-process elements in the aftermath of neutron star mergers. The color of the electromagnetic counterpart suggests there are at least two different contributions of electron fraction (Y_e) distributions, one moderately high, reproducing the light r-process elements, and one < 0.25 reproducing heavier nuclei including the lanthanide elements. We present a study for the creation of the first r-process peak using astrophysical conditions matching the ones speculated for neutron star mergers. We identify the range of Y_e that can reproduce the first r-process peak and the effect of specific nuclear masses and beta decay rates on it.

Primary author: NIKAS, Stylianos (Techniche Universitat Darmstadt / GSI)

Co-authors: Prof. MARTINEZ-PINEDO, Gabriel (TU Darmstadt, GSI); Dr REITER, Moritz Pascal (University of Giessen, TRIUMF); Dr SIEVERDING, Andre (University of Minnesota); Dr WU, Meng-Ru (Academia Sinica)

Presenter: NIKAS, Stylianos (Techniche Universitat Darmstadt / GSI)

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