

A VERY IMPORTANT PROCESS OF NUCLEOSYNTHESIS IN STARS

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ABSTRACT

This is a framework.

At the supernova pre-explosion stage with $M \approx 15--30M_{\odot}$, the core with $\bar{\rho} \geq 5 \times 10^{11}$ (g/cm³), $R \leq 10^7$ cm and $M_1 = \frac{4\pi}{3} R^3 \bar{\rho} \geq M_{\odot}$ collapses to a neutron star. The emitted gravitational energy per nucleon $E_n \sim 140$ Mev transforms into the radiation energy which prevents material outside $R > 10^7$ cm from collapsing and causes the explosion of supernova. The γ -radiation is so strong that it makes Fe⁵⁶--Ni⁶⁰ nuclei of the mass $\sim 0.2M_{\odot}$ within the inner shell to dissociate and proton-neutron gas with neutron number density $n_n \sim 10^{28}--10^{30}$ /cm³ to be formed. At the same time, the radiation pressure transforms into the kinetic energy of dispersed material, which sets off the shock waves. Thus the local density is $\rho > 10^{12}$ g/cm³ and neutronization is accelerated, which makes Ca⁵⁶--Ca⁶⁰ nuclei of 1-2 M_{\odot} mass to collide with each other and to form nuclei with $A \sim 112-360$. Finally, neutron-rich nuclei ($A \sim 140--440$, $Z \sim 30--82$) can be formed by adding a large number of neutrons.

When these nuclei are free from the strong gravitational field, they are unstable and will become stable nuclei by competitions of following processes: (1)neutron-evaporation, (2)spontaneous fission and (3) β^- -decay. At the initial stage, (1) and (2) are important and (3) can be ignored.

The qualitative results are as follows:

- (1). It seems that nuclei with $A > 100$ come from the spontaneous fission and β^- -decay of neutron-evaporated nuclei with $A \sim 140--440$, which can replace the r-process.
- (2). The super-heavy elements with $Z = 114--126$ ($A \sim 330--360$) can be formed. They can be observed in cosmic rays if they have the halftime $\tau_{1/2} > 10^7$ years.
- (3). The peak in the rare-earth elements comes from the symmetric fission of super-heavy elements.
- (4). There are more neutron-rich nuclei in the fragments.
- (5). The abundances of $Z > 83$ elements in cosmic rays are one order of magnitude higher than that in the solar system.