

# Nuclear Astrophysics

## An Introduction

### Lecture 1

Francois De Oliveira Santos

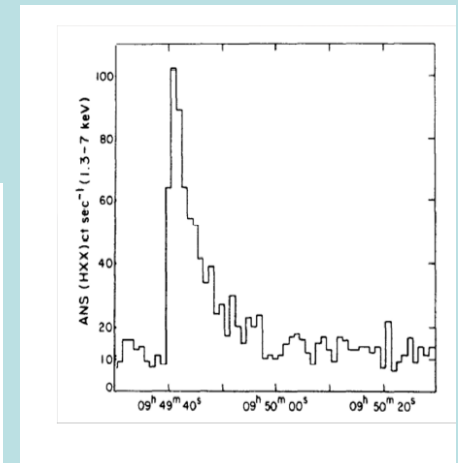
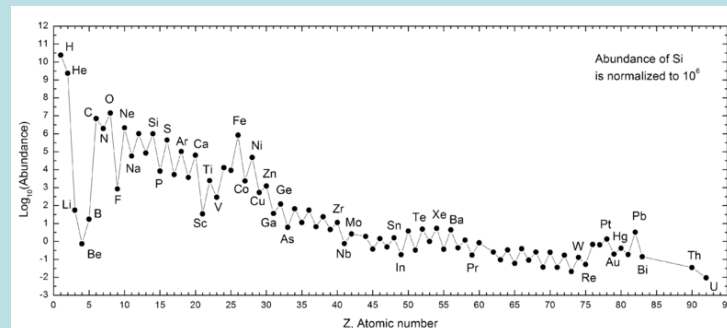
# Introduction

## Motivations

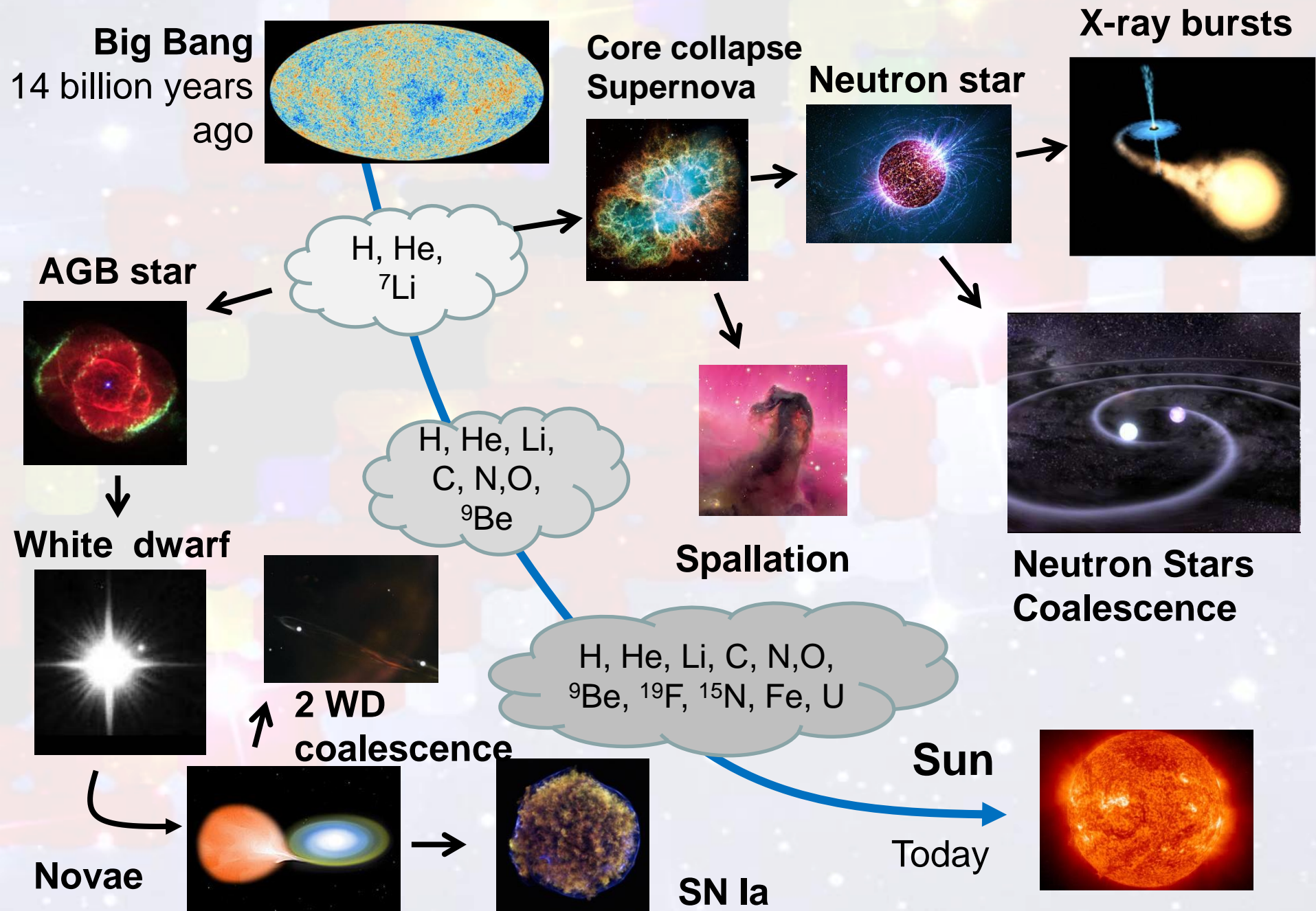
Origin of the chemical elements  
Energy generation of stellar events  
Time scales of the Universe

## Observables

Abundances of the elements  
Luminosities  
Light profile



# Nucleosynthesis



# Outline of the Lectures

- An introduction - Basics
- A historical approach
- Mostly light / neutron deficient nuclei
- With exercises (check solutions in the afternoon)
- Several examples of experiments
- pp rate calculated for the first time

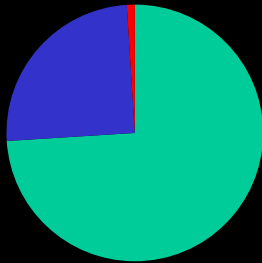
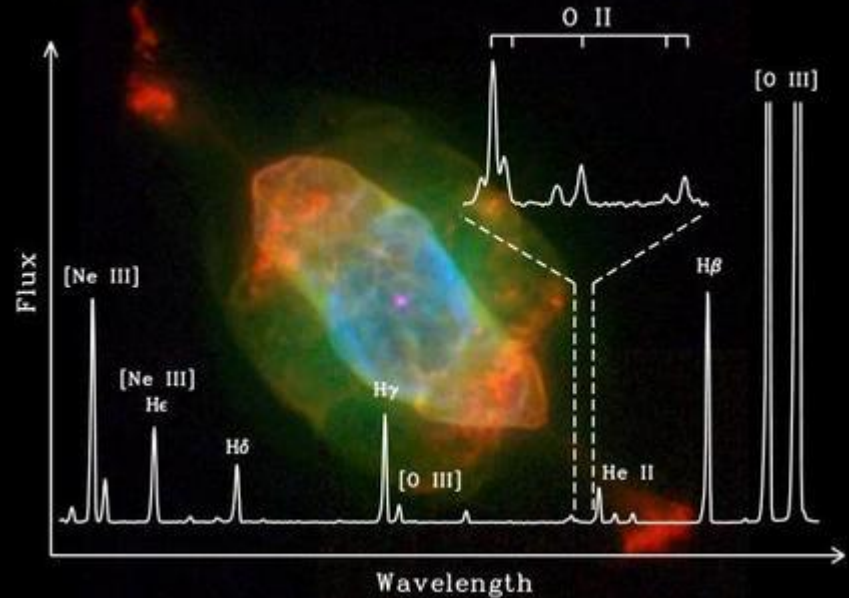
# Abundance of the chemical elements

**1814** Discovery of dark absorption lines in the Sun's spectrum (Fraunhofer)

## Nebula lines

Red : Hydrogen ( $H_\alpha$  à 656 nm)  
Green: Oxygen (500 nm [OIII])

NGC 7009



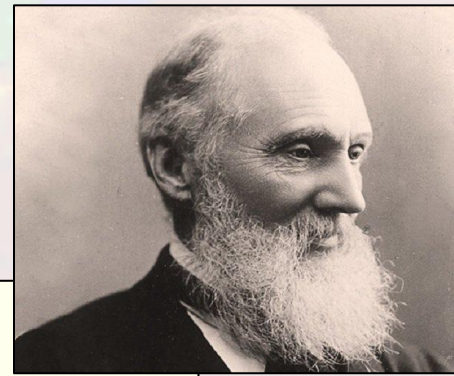
**1868**

Discovered in the Sun by  $\rightarrow$  Jules Jansen & N. Lockyer

Element	In atoms	In mass
<b>H</b>	<b>94 %</b>	<b>74 %</b>
<b>He</b>	<b>5.9 %</b>	<b>25 %</b>
<b>O</b>	<b>0.06 %</b>	<b>0.8 %</b>

# Origin of Sun's heat?

Power of Sun =  $4 \times 10^{26}$  Watts



1862

## On the Age of the Sun's Heat

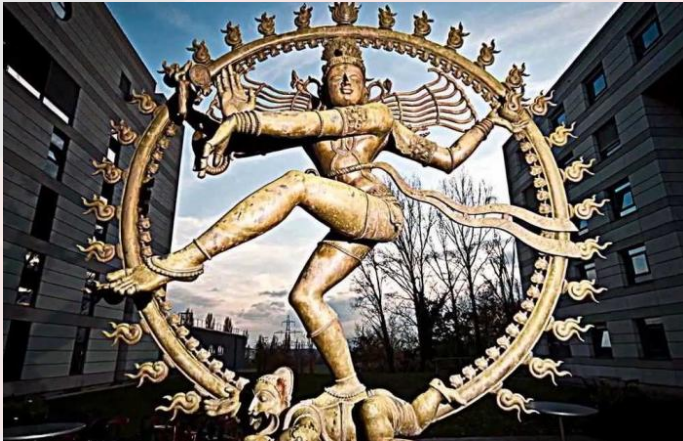
By Sir William Thomson (Lord Kelvin)

*Macmillan's Magazine*, vol. 5 (March 5, 1862), pp. 388-393.

From reprint in *Popular Lectures and Addresses*, vol. 1, 2nd edition, pp. 356-375.

The second great law of thermodynamics involves a certain principle of *irreversible action in Nature*. It is thus shown that, although mechanical energy is *indestructible*, there is a universal tendency to its dissipation, which produces gradual augmentation and diffusion of heat, cessation of motion, and exhaustion of potential energy through the material universe. [4] The result would inevitably be a state of universal rest and death, if the universe were finite and left to obey existing laws. But it is

## Several ideas...



### Conversion of gravitational energy into heat Meteorites falling on the Sun

Maximum age  $\sim 10^7$  years

### Chemical reactions?

Mass of the Sun =  $2 \times 10^{30}$  kg

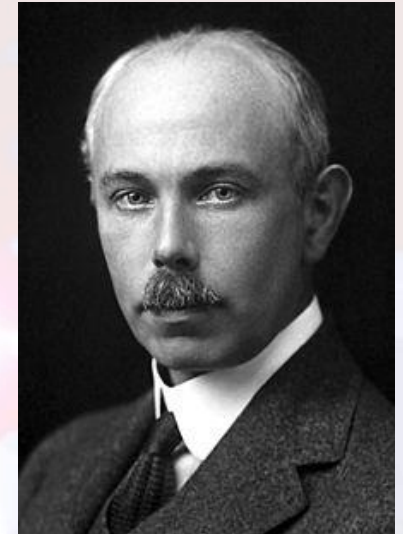
$\sim 10$  eV/ reaction  $\Rightarrow$  age  $\sim 10^4$  years

### Radioactivity?

6 nW / T (Earth)  $\Rightarrow 10^{19}$  W

# Precise mass measurements

1919



Francis William Aston

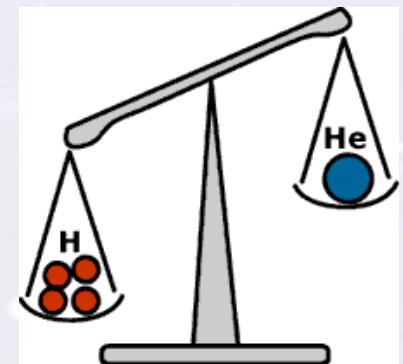
LIX. *The Mass-Spectra of Chemical Elements.* By F. W. ASTON, M.A., D.Sc., Clerk Maxwell Student of the University of Cambridge\*.

[Plate XV.]

THE following paper is an account of some results obtained by the analyses of gases by means of the Positive Ray Spectrograph or, as it may be more conveniently termed, Mass-Spectrograph. The principle of the method by which a focussed spectrum is obtained depending solely on the ratio of mass to charge has already been described †, but for the sake of others experimenting in this field it is now proposed to give an account of the actual apparatus in some detail.

\* Communicated by the Author.

† F. W. A., *Phil. Mag.* xxxviii. Dec. 1919, p. 707.

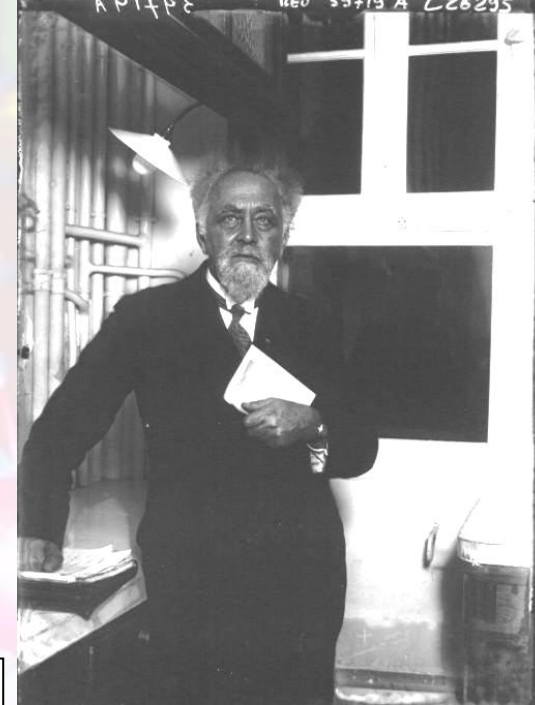


# 1919 Jean Perrin

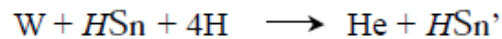
proposed that the Sun and other stars are powered by **nuclear reactions**.

*Origine de la chaleur solaire Annales de Phys., 1919*  
*Revue du Mois, 1920*  
*L'Astronomie, 1922*

*Notice sur les travaux scientifiques J. Perrin*  
*Académie des Sciences 1923*



La condensation d'hydrogène en hélium se fera peut-être en deux ou trois étapes, avec formation intermédiaire de nébulium ; en définitive, par addition des équations de transformation correspondantes, elle pourra s'écrire, selon notre schéma :



en appelant  $W$  les énergies cinétiques (peut-être notables) avant rencontre,  $n$  les fréquences des radiations absorbées (s'il y en a), et  $n'$  les fréquences des rayons ultra X émis à chaque transformation.

Or les mesures précises classiques des poids atomiques de l'hydrogène et de l'hélium donnent, pour  $4H$ , 32 milligrammes de plus que pour  $He$  ; perte de masse impliquant une diminution d'énergie interne égale à  $0,032 c^2$  d'après la formule d'Einstein, soit  $3.10^{19}$  ergs. L'énergie rayonnée  $HSn'$  comprend outre ces  $3.10^{19}$  ergs, l'énergie inconnue  $W + HSn$ .

**Nuclear reaction**  
 **$4H \rightarrow {}^4He$**

**$E = mc^2$**   
**26.7**  
**MeV/reaction**



# Exercise

Power of Sun =  $4 \times 10^{26}$  Watts

26 MeV/reaction



**????? T/s of H is  
transformed into  $^4\text{He}$**

Mass of the Sun =  $2 \times 10^{30}$  kg

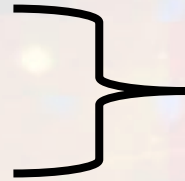
94% of H

**It could provide  
????? years of burning**

# Solution

Power of Sun =  $4 \times 10^{26}$  Watts

26 MeV/reaction



$620 \times 10^6$  T/s of H

Mass of the Sun =  $2 \times 10^{30}$  kg

94% of H

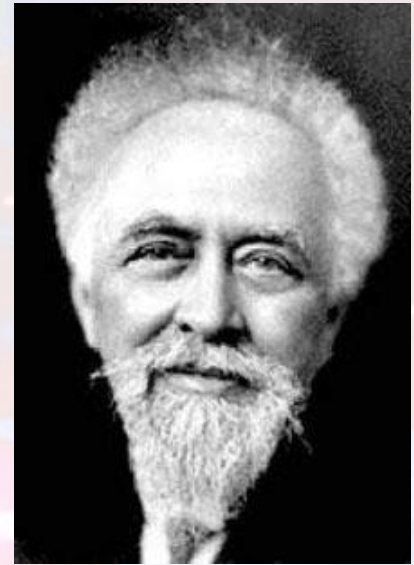
$\sim 10^{11}$  years

# 1923

Notice sur les travaux scientifiques *J. Perrin*  
Académie des Sciences 1923

Après l'hélium apparaîtront successivement les éléments plus lourds, et pour beaucoup d'entre eux sans émission d'énergie comparable à celle qui accompagne la formation de l'hélium. On sait en effet que par exemple le poids atomique du carbone est, au dix-millième près, 3 fois celui de l'hélium ; il ne se perd donc pas dans cette union plus que 1 milligramme (ce qui permet encore une «chaleur de réaction», inaccessible à nos balances actuelles, mais pourtant de quelques milliards de calories).

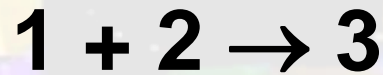
L'équation d'une telle réaction s'écrirait



(known today as the  
Triple Alpha reaction)

Is this guess confirmed by theory?

# The Reaction Rate



$$dN_3 = N_1 N_2 v \sigma(v) \phi(v) dv dt$$

Number of particles 3 produced per  $\text{cm}^3$

Densities particles/ $\text{cm}^3$

Velocity

Cross Section

Probability to get the velocity between  $v$  and  $v+dv$

$$dN_3 = N_1 N_2 \int \phi(v) v \sigma(v) dv dt$$

**Reaction Rate  $\text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$**

Need:

- a) Velocity distribution  $\phi(v)$
- b) Cross section  $\sigma(v)$

# Velocity distribution

Hydrostatic equilibrium

$$\Rightarrow T \sim 15 \times 10^6 \text{ K}$$

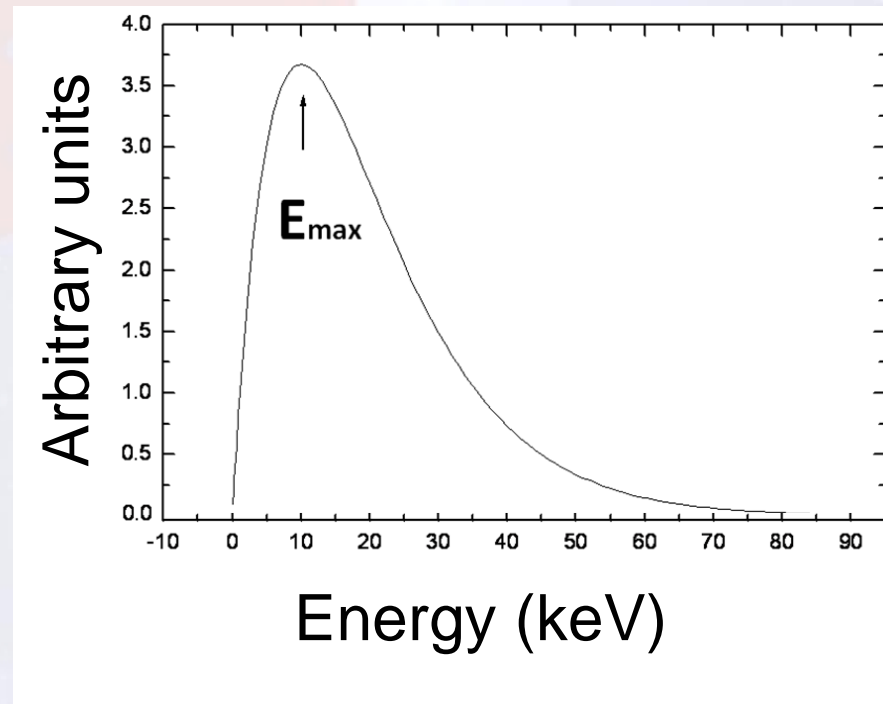
Interacting nuclei in plasma are in thermal equilibrium at temperature  $T \Rightarrow$

**Maxwell – Boltzmann** Velocity Distribution

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

$$E_{\max} = kT = 0.086 T_6 \text{ (keV)}$$

$$\text{Sun } E_{\max} \sim 0.86 \text{ keV}$$



# Cross section

From quantum mechanical, we expect:

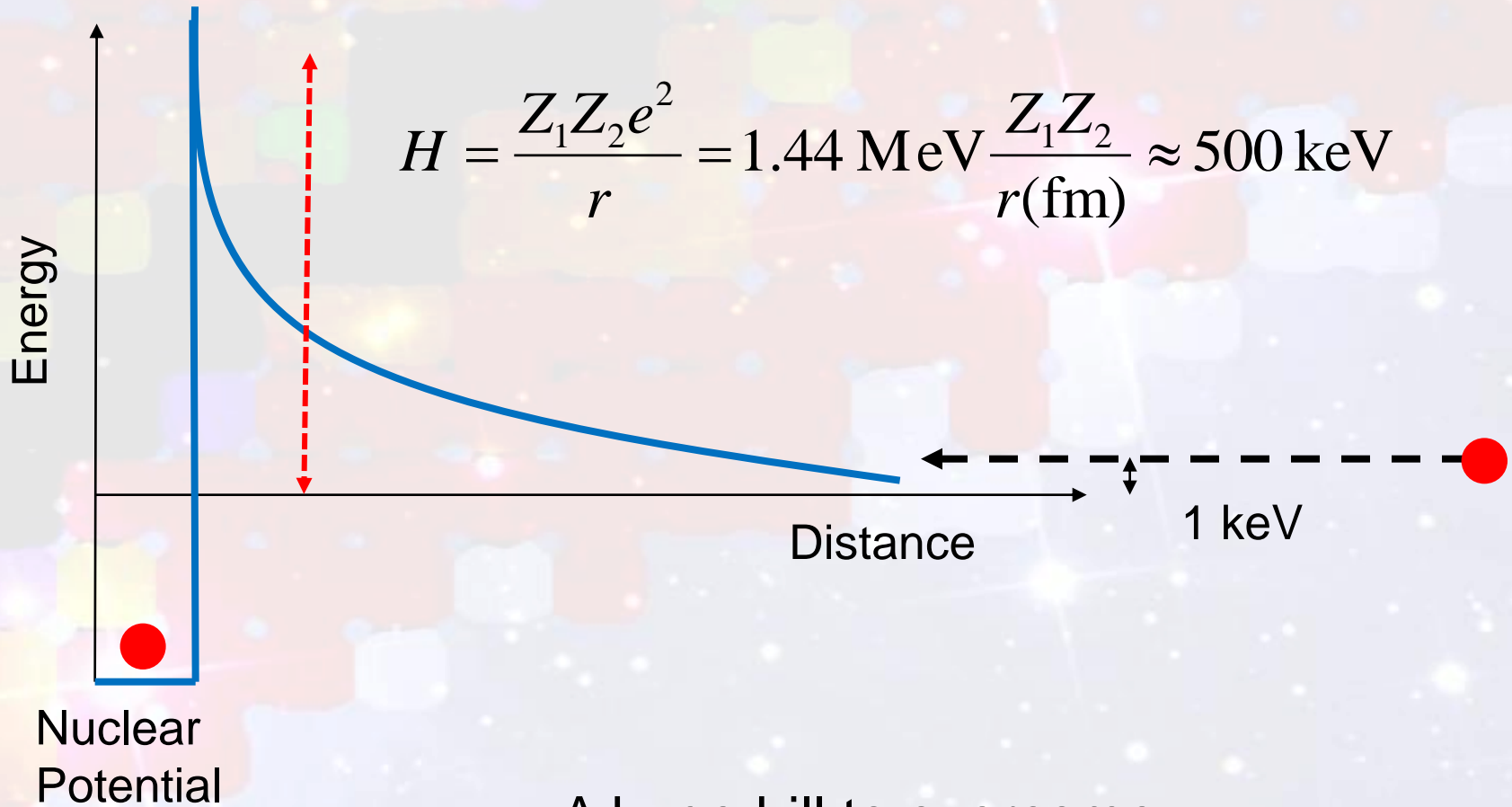
$$\sigma(E) \propto \pi\lambda^2 \propto \frac{1}{E}$$

$\lambda$  : de Broglie wave - length

But not only....

# The Coulomb barrier

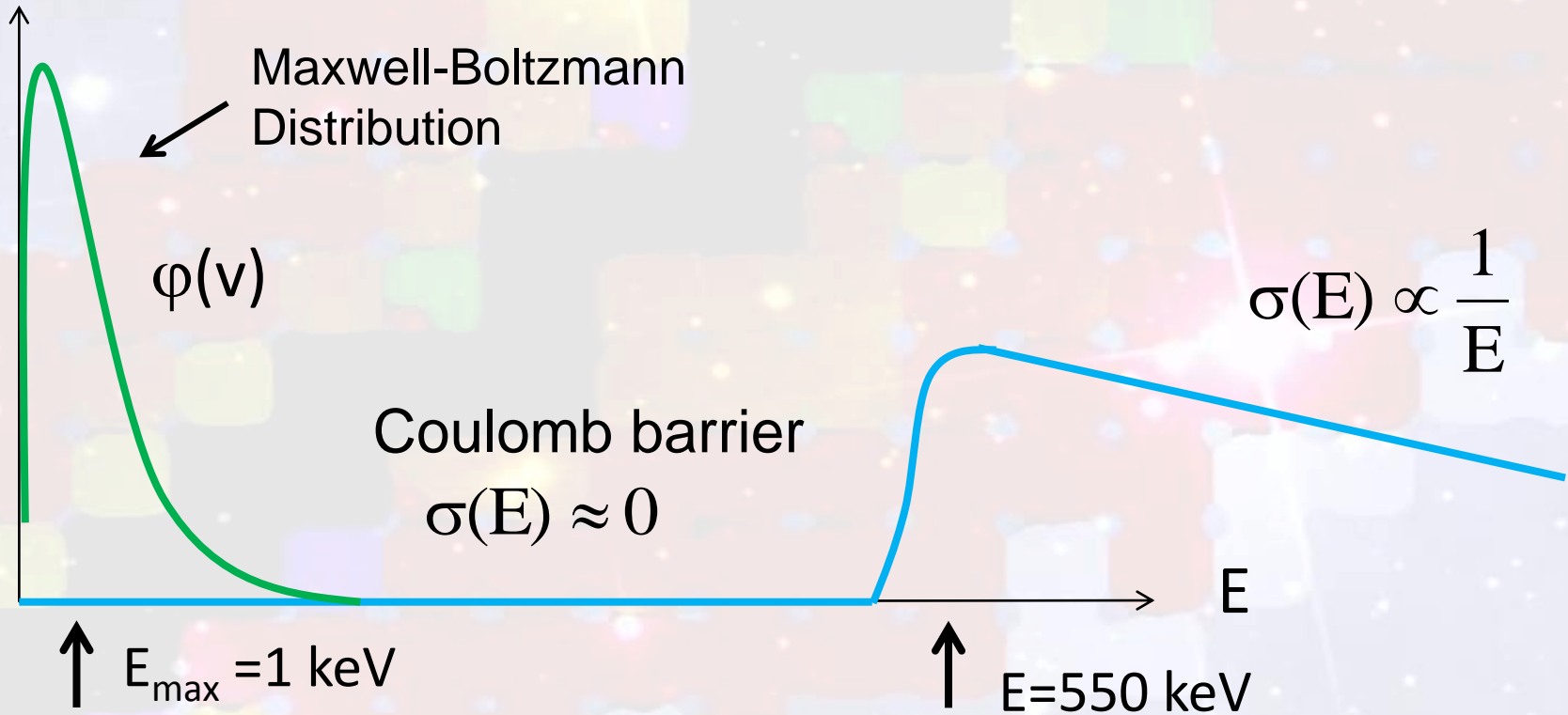
In the case of p+p



A huge hill to overcome



# Is the temperature high enough? (to induce nuclear reactions)



Probability

$$\frac{\phi(550 \text{ keV})}{\phi(1 \text{ keV})} = 10^{-275}$$

In the Sun  $\sim 10^{57}$  protons

Reaction Rate

$$\int v \sigma(v) \phi(v) dv = 0$$

**No reaction!**

# 1926

Second Series

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## THE PHYSICAL REVIEW

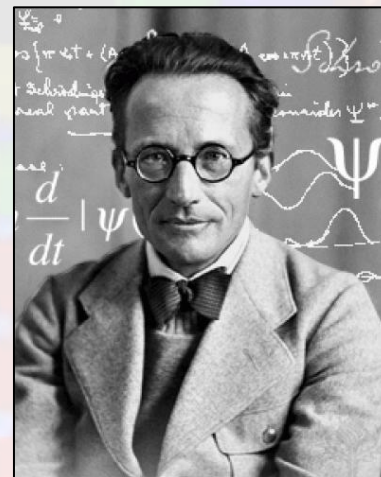
### AN UNDULATORY THEORY OF THE MECHANICS OF ATOMS AND MOLECULES

BY E. SCHRÖDINGER

#### ABSTRACT

The paper gives an account of the author's work on a new form of quantum theory. §1. The Hamiltonian analogy between mechanics and optics. §2. The analogy is to be extended to include real "physical" or "undulatory" mechanics instead of mere geometrical mechanics. §3. The significance of wave-length; macro-mechanical and micro-mechanical problems. §4. The wave-equation and its application to the hydrogen atom. §5. The intrinsic reason for the appearance of discrete characteristic frequencies. §6. Other problems; intensity of emitted light. §7. The wave-equation derived from a Hamiltonian variation-principle; generalization to an arbitrary conservative system. §8. The wave-function physically means and determines a continuous distribution of electricity in space, the fluctuations of which determine the radiation by the laws of ordinary electrodynamics. §9. Non-conservative systems. Theory of dispersion and scattering and of the "transitions" between the "stationary states." §10. The question of relativity and the action of a magnetic field. Incompleteness of that part of the theory.

1. The theory which is reported in the following pages is based on the very interesting and fundamental researches of L. de Broglie<sup>1</sup> on what he called "phase-waves" ("ondes de phase") and thought to be associated with the motion of material points, especially with the motion of an electron or proton. The point of view taken here, which was first



$$\frac{\hat{\mathbf{p}}^2}{2m} |\Psi(t)\rangle + V(\hat{\mathbf{r}}, t) |\Psi(t)\rangle = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\Psi(t)\rangle$$

# 1928



G. Gamow

Alpha particle was considered a preformed cluster, moving around the core and penetrating quantum mechanically the Coulomb barrier

## About the quantum theory of the atomic nucleus

204

### Zur Quantentheorie des Atomkernes.

Von G. Gamow, z. Zt. in Göttingen.

Mit 5 Abbildungen. (Eingegangen am 2. August 1928.)

Es wird der Versuch gemacht, die Prozesse der  $\alpha$ -Ausstrahlung auf Grund der Wellenmechanik näher zu untersuchen und den experimentell festgestellten Zusammenhang zwischen Zerfallskonstante und Energie der  $\alpha$ -Partikel theoretisch zu erhalten.

§ 1. Es ist schon öfters\* die Vermutung ausgesprochen worden, daß im Atomkern die nichtcoulombschen Anziehungskräfte eine sehr wichtige Rolle spielen. Über die Natur dieser Kräfte können wir viele Hypothesen machen.

Es können die Anziehungen zwischen den magnetischen Momenten der einzelnen Kernbauelemente oder die von elektrischer und magnetischer Polarisation herrührenden Kräfte sein.

Jedenfalls nehmen diese Kräfte mit wachsender Entfernung vom Kern sehr schnell ab, und nur in unmittelbarer Nähe des Kernes überwiegen sie den Einfluß der Coulombschen Kraft.

Aus Experimenten über Zerstreung der  $\alpha$ -Strahlen können wir schließen, daß, für schwere Elemente, die Anziehungskräfte bis zu einer Entfernung  $\sim 10^{-12}$  cm noch nicht merklich sind. So können wir das auf Fig. 1 gezeichnete Bild für den Verlauf der potentiellen Energie annehmen.

Hier bedeutet  $r''$  die Entfernung, bis zu welcher experimentell nachgewiesen ist, daß Coulombsche Anziehung allein existiert. Von  $r'$  beginnen die Abweichungen ( $r'$  ist unbekannt und vielleicht viel kleiner als  $r''$ ) und bei  $r_0$  hat die  $U$ -Kurve ein Maximum. Für  $r < r_0$  herrschen schon die Anziehungskräfte vor, in diesem Gebiet würde das Teilchen den Kernrest wie ein Satellit umkreisen.

\* J. Frenkel, ZS. f. Phys. **37**, 243, 1926; E. Rutherford, Phil. Mag. **4**, 580, 1927; D. Enskog, ZS. f. Phys. **45**, 852, 1927.

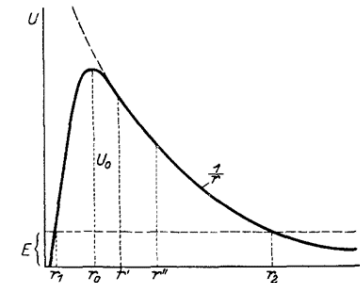


Fig. 1.

# Quantum tunneling

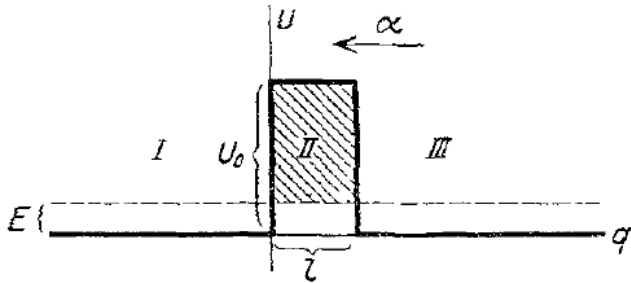


Fig. 2.

208

G. Gamow,

So sehen wir, daß die Amplitude der durchgegangenen Welle um so kleiner ist, je kleiner die Gesamtenergie  $E$  ist, und zwar spielt der Faktor:

$$e^{-lk'} = e^{-\frac{2\pi \cdot \sqrt{2m}}{h} \sqrt{U_0 - E} \cdot l}$$

in dieser Abhängigkeit die wichtigste Rolle.

Quantum-mechanical tunneling probability

Gamow factor

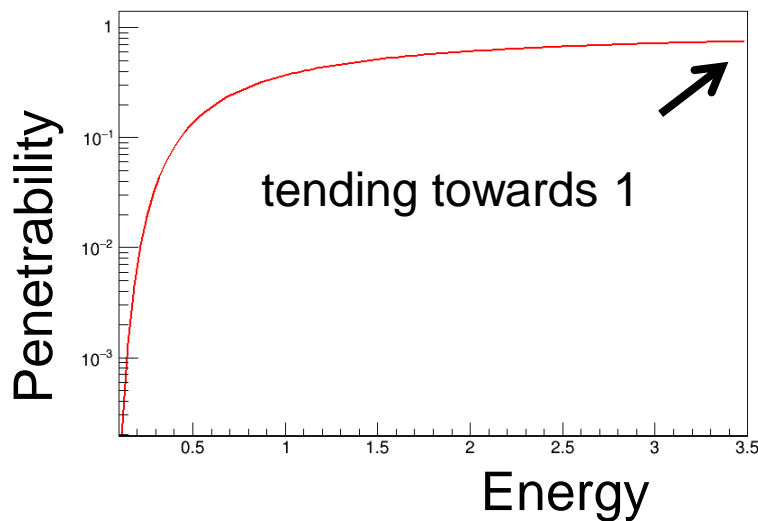
Penetrability

$$P(E) = \exp(-2\pi \eta)$$

$$\eta = \frac{Z_1 Z_2}{\hbar v} \frac{q^2}{4\pi \epsilon_0}$$

$$P(E) = \exp\left(-\frac{b}{\sqrt{E}}\right)$$

$$\sigma(E) \propto \lambda^2 P(E)$$



# Penetrability

- The Gamow expression of Penetrability is an approximation
- Angular momentum  $\ell$  should be taken into account

$$V_{\text{eff}}(r) = V(r) + \frac{\hbar^2 \ell(\ell + 1)}{2m_0 r^2}$$

Effective potential with the centrifugal barrier term

More accurate expression:

$$P_{\ell}(E, R) = \frac{1}{F_{\ell}^2(E, R) + G_{\ell}^2(E, R)}$$

with regular and irregular Coulomb function

Be careful, in the literature there are different definitions of “P”, the penetrability,

$$P_\ell(E, R) = \frac{1}{F_\ell^2(E, R) + G_\ell^2(E, R)}$$

$$P_\ell(E, R) = \frac{\text{Rho}}{F_\ell^2(E, R) + G_\ell^2(E, R)}$$

With  $\text{Rho} \propto E^{1/2}$

# One program for penetrability

```
essai.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <gsl/gsl_sf_coulomb.h>
#include <math.h>

int main (void)
{
    double R0 = 1.25;
    double AC=4.0;
    double ZC=2.0;
    double AP=23.0;
    double ZP=12.0;
    double R=R0*(pow(AC,1./3.)+pow(AP,1./3.));
    double e1=4.6;
    double elab=(AC+AP)*e1/AC;
    double ETA=.1575*ZC*ZP*sqrt(AP/elab);
    double XMU=AC*AP/(AC+AP);
    double RHO=.2187*XMU*R*sqrt(elab/AP);
    double L_min=0;
    int kmax=6;
    double fc_array[10] = {0.};
    double gc_array[10] = {0.};
    double F_exponent;
    double G_exponent;
    int i=0;
    double P,G;

    gsl_sf_coulomb_wave_FG_array (L_min, kmax, ETA, RHO, fc_array, gc_array, &F_exponent, &G_exponent);

    do
    {
        printf ("l=%d  F=%e  G=%e  \n", i,fc_array[i],gc_array[i]);
        P=RHO/(fc_array[i]*fc_array[i]+gc_array[i]*gc_array[i]);
        G=3.0*pow(197.33,2)/XMU/931.5/pow(R,2)*P*1.e6;
        printf ("P=%e  G=%e  eV  \n",P,G);
        i++;
    }
    while(i<4);

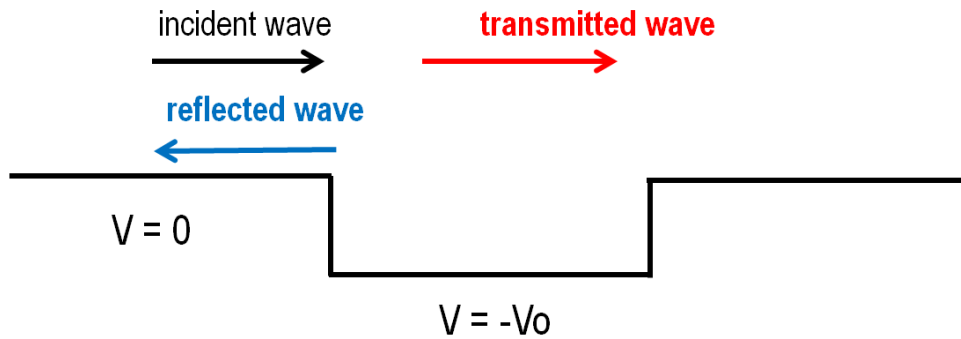
    return 0;
}
```

Compiled with

```
gcc -Wall -I/usr/include -c essai.c
gcc -L/lib essai.o -lgsl -lgslcblas -lm
```

# Reactions with neutrons

## Penetrability



Discontinuity in potential gives rise to partial reflection of incident wave

$$P_\ell(E) \propto E^{1/2+\ell}$$

$E \rightarrow 0$

## Cross section

$$\sigma(E) \propto E^{\ell-1/2}$$

for  $\ell = 0$

$$\sigma(E) \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{E}} = \frac{1}{v}$$

Consequence:

s-wave neutron capture usually dominates at low energies

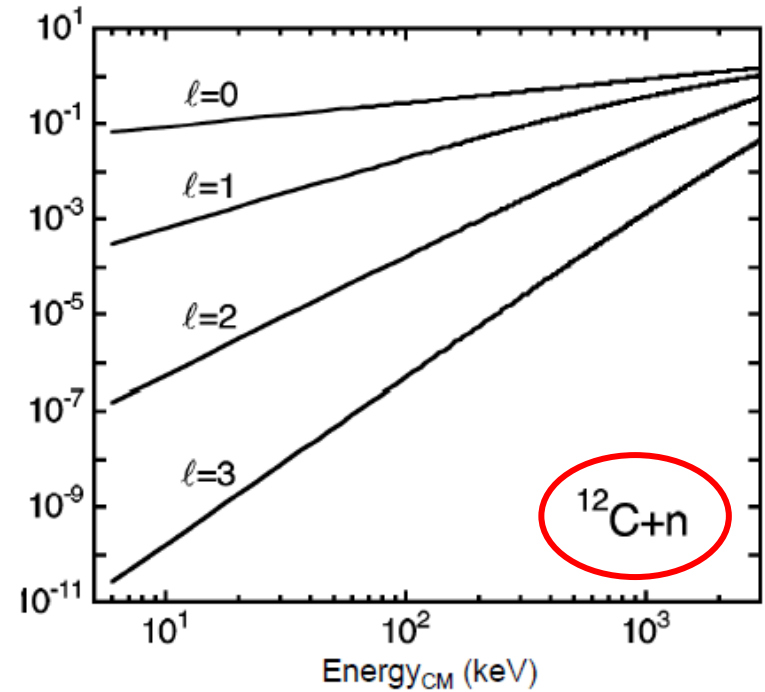
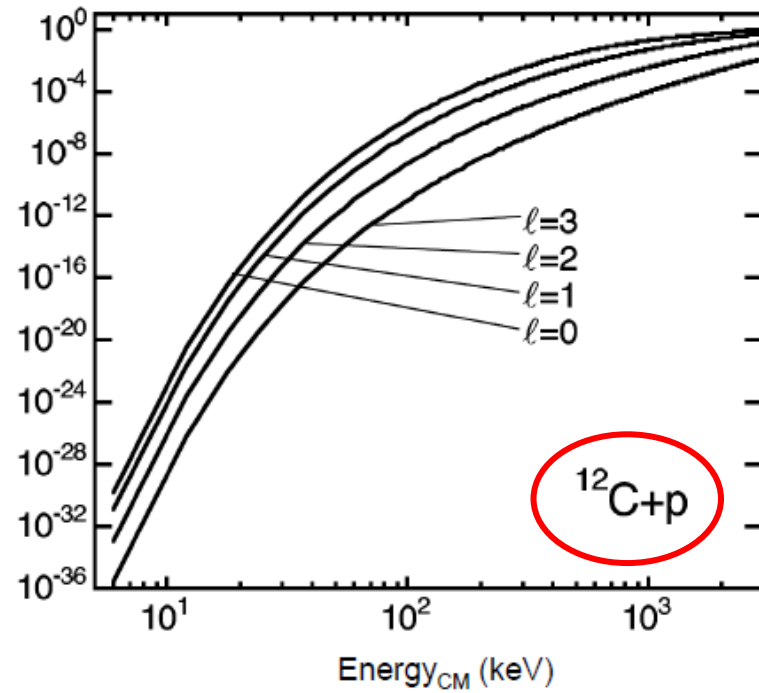
## Reaction rate

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = \left\langle \frac{1}{v} v \right\rangle = \text{cte} \int \varphi(v) dv$$



# "exact" formula for the Penetrability

$P_\ell(E)$



From C. Iliadis "Nuclear Physics of Stars"

# Exercise

Probability  $\propto \exp(-2\pi \eta)$

$$2\pi\eta = 31.29 Z_1 Z_2 \left( \frac{\mu}{E} \right)^{1/2}$$

with E in keV

$\mu$  in u.m.a

**Probability ???**

**p+p (1keV)**

# Solution

Probability  $\propto \exp(-2\pi\eta)$

$$2\pi\eta = 31.29Z_1Z_2\left(\frac{\mu}{E}\right)^{1/2}$$

with E in keV

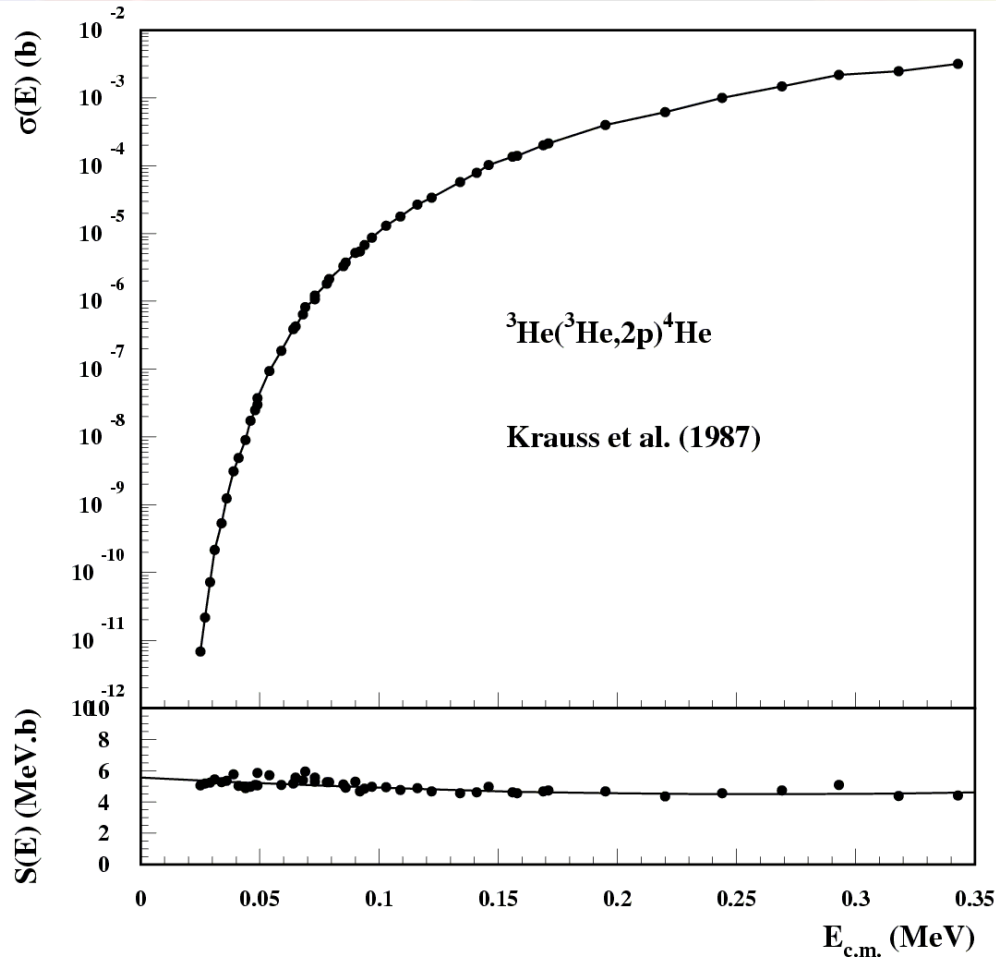
$\mu$  in u.m.a

**Prob =  $10^{-10}$**   
**p+p (1keV)**

# The Astrophysical Factor

$$\sigma(E) \equiv \frac{S(E)}{E} \exp(-2\pi\eta)$$

Tunnel Effect



**Astrophysical  
Factor**

$S(E) \sim \text{constant}$

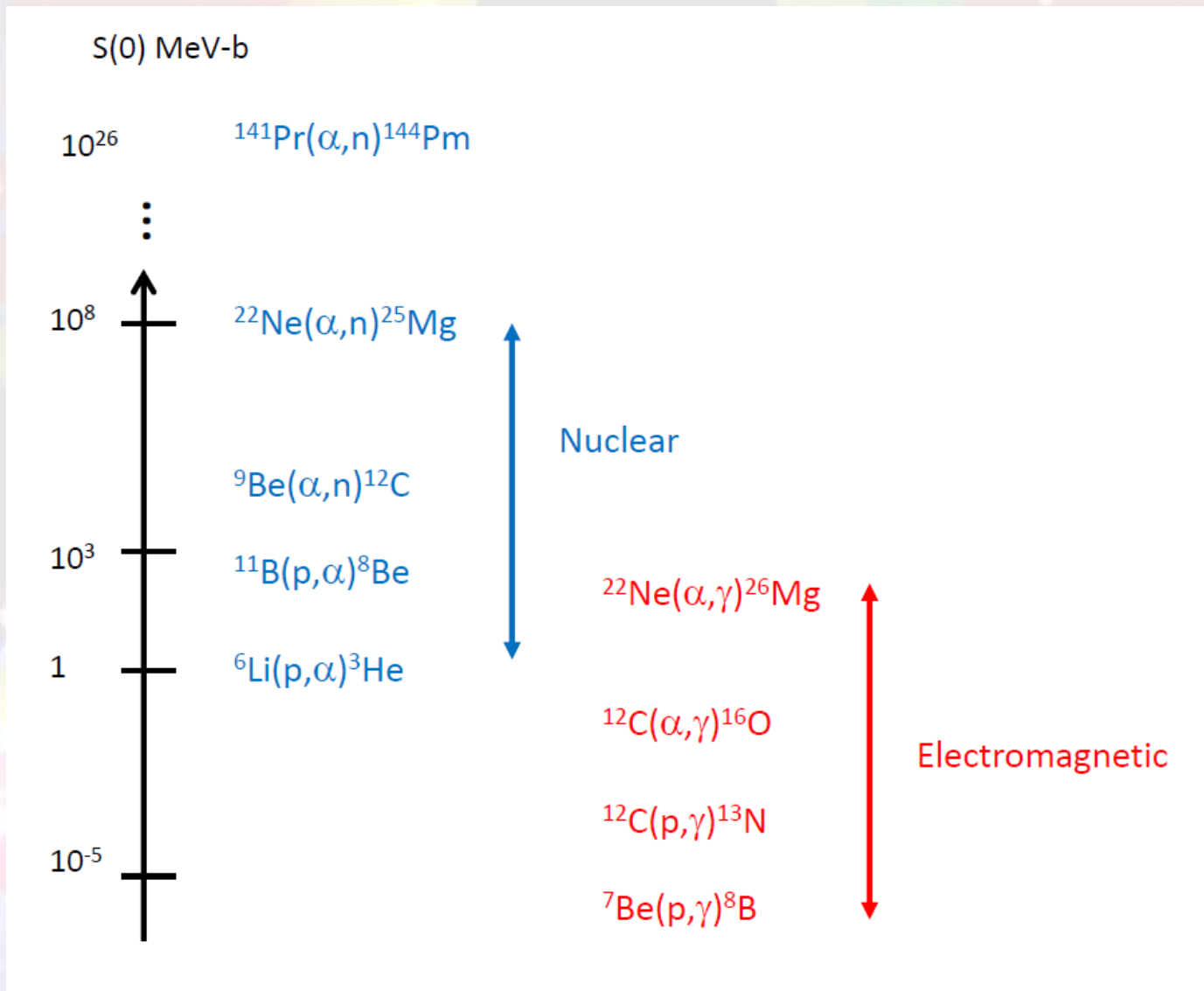
$$S(E) \sim \left| \langle f | \mathbf{H}_{\text{nuclear}} | i \rangle \right|^2$$

# Classification of the Reactions

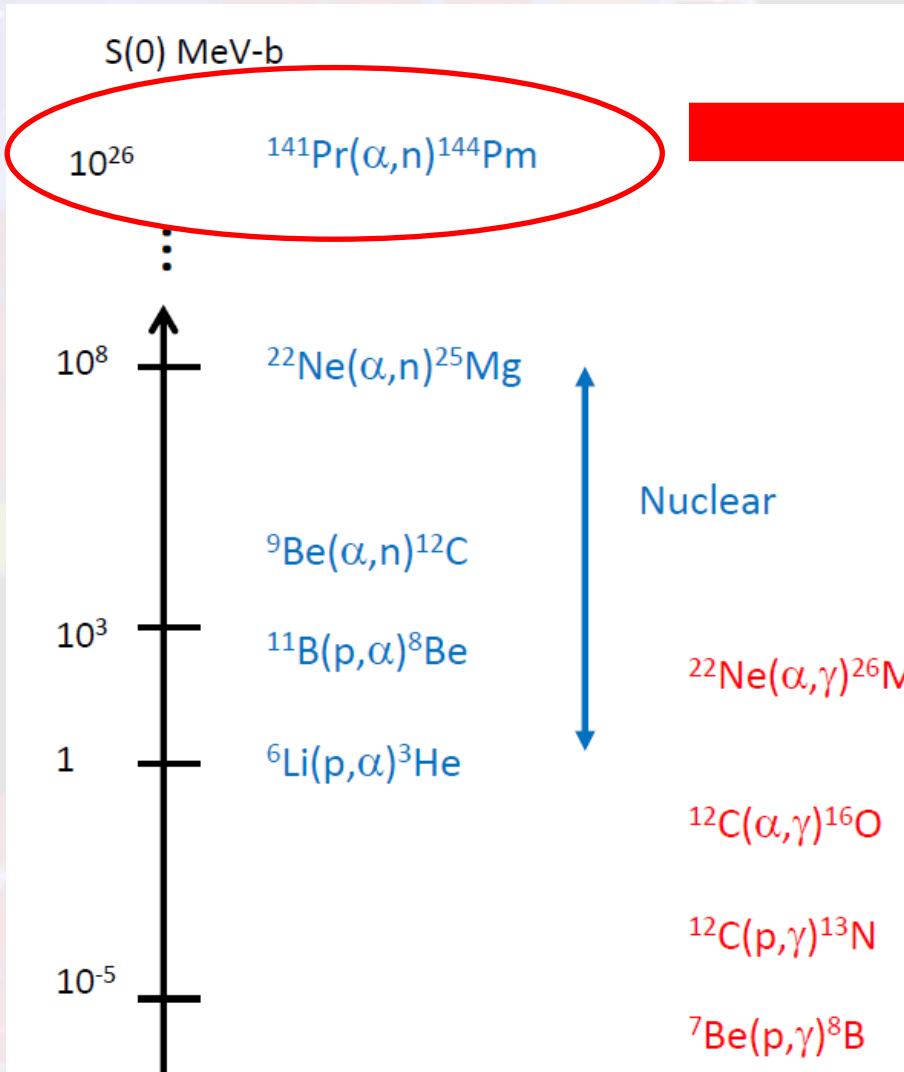
Table 2.3 Classification of the main reactions involved in nuclear astrophysics.

Process		Examples	$S(0)$ (MeV-b)
Nuclear	Non - resonant	${}^6\text{Li}(p, \alpha){}^3\text{He}$	$\approx 3$
	Resonant $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \ell_R = \ell_{min} \\ \ell_R > \ell_{min} \end{array} \right.$	${}^3\text{He}(d, p)\alpha$	$\approx 6$
		multiresonance	${}^{11}\text{B}(p, \alpha){}^8\text{Be}$
	Subthreshold state	${}^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha, n){}^{25}\text{Mg}$	$\approx 10^8$
		${}^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n){}^{16}\text{O}$	$\approx 10^7$
Electromagnetic	Non - resonant	${}^6\text{Li}(p, \gamma){}^7\text{Be}$	$\approx 10^{-4}$
	Resonant $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \ell_R = \ell_{min} \\ \ell_R > \ell_{min} \end{array} \right.$	${}^{12}\text{C}(p, \gamma){}^{13}\text{N}$	$\approx 10^{-3}$
		multiresonance	${}^7\text{Be}(p, \gamma){}^8\text{B}$
	Subthreshold state	${}^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha, \gamma){}^{26}\text{Mg}$	$\approx 2 \times 10^3$
		${}^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \gamma){}^{16}\text{O}$	$\approx 0.5$
Weak	Non-resonant	$p(p, e^+ \nu)d$	$\approx 4 \times 10^{-25}$
		${}^3\text{He}(p, e^+ \nu){}^4\text{He}$	$\approx 10^{-22}$

# Classification of the Reactions



# This is very counter-intuitive! Why is it so?



$$\sigma_{\text{measured}}(11 \text{ MeV}) \sim 1 \mu\text{barn}$$

$$\sigma(E) = \frac{S}{E} \exp(-2\pi\eta)$$

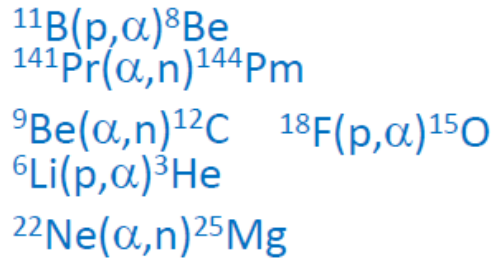
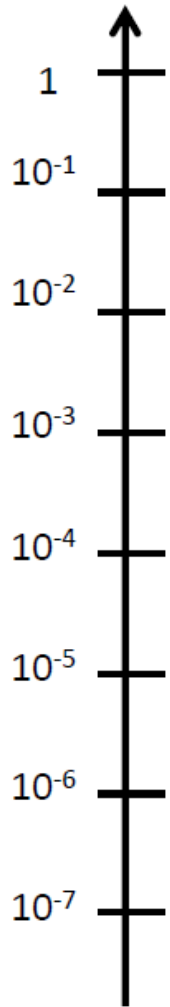
$$Z=59 \Rightarrow \exp(-2\pi\eta) = 7 \cdot 10^{-31}$$

$$\Rightarrow S = 1.25 \times 10^{25}$$

The extremely low penetrability seems to be compensated by the extremely high nuclear astrophysical factor

# The Gamow factor is an approximation

$S_N(E0)$  MeV-b

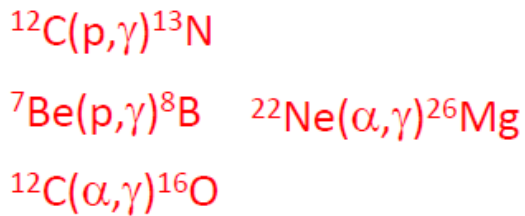


Nuclear

$$\sigma(E) = \frac{S}{E} P(E)$$

$S(0) \sim$  constant within a factor 100

using the exact formula for the penetrability



Electromagnetic

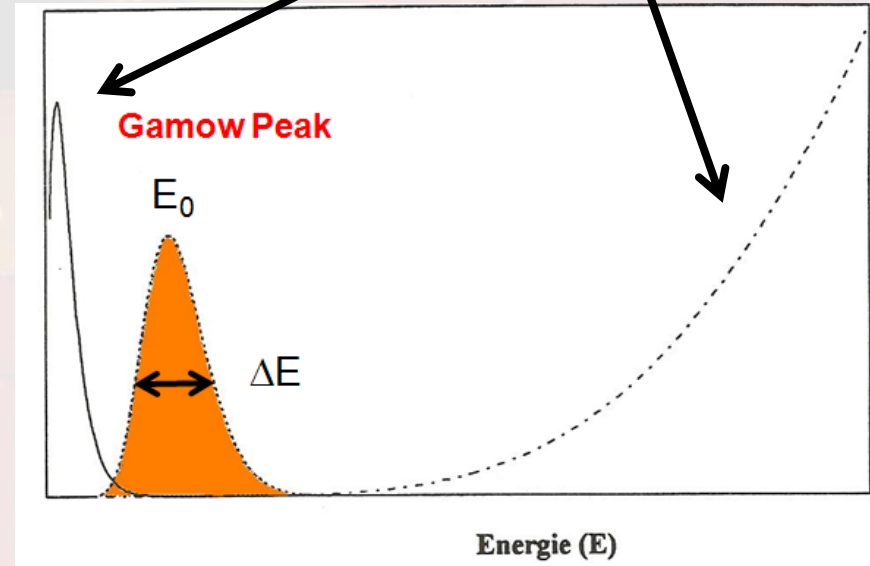


# Gamow energy and window

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = \int \sigma(v) \phi(v) v dv = \int S(E) \exp\left(-\frac{E}{kT} - \frac{b}{\sqrt{E}}\right) dE$$

Maximum reaction rate at  $E_0$

$$\frac{d}{dE} \left[ \exp\left(-\frac{E}{kT} - \frac{b}{\sqrt{E}}\right) \right] = 0$$



**Gamow energy**

$$E_0 = 1.22 (Z_1^2 Z_2^2 \mu T_6^2)^{1/3} \text{ keV}$$

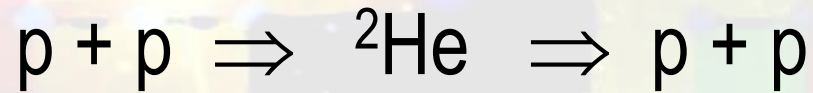
$$E_0 = 5.9 \text{ keV (p+p)}$$

**Gamow window**

$$\Delta E = 0.749 (Z_1^2 Z_2^2 \mu T_6^5)^{1/6} \text{ keV}$$

$$\Delta E = 6.4 \text{ keV}$$

# Exercise



$\sigma(E_0)$  ?

we suppose  $S(E) = \text{constant} = 1 \text{ MeV barn}$

Rate of reaction ?

at  $T=15$

How many times per second a proton is transformed into  ${}^2\text{He}$  ?

at density =  $150 \text{ g/cm}^3$

$$\int_0^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{E}{kT} - \frac{b}{\sqrt{E}}\right) dE \approx \pi^{1/2} \frac{\Delta}{2} \exp\left(-\frac{3E_0}{kT}\right)$$

# Solution: $\sigma(E_0)$

$$E_0 = 1.22 (Z_1^2 Z_2^2 \mu T_6^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \text{ keV}$$

$$\sigma(E) = \frac{S}{E} \exp(-2\pi \eta)$$

$$2\pi\eta = 31.29 Z_1 Z_2 \left( \frac{\mu}{E} \right)^{1/2}$$

with E in keV and  $\mu$  in amu

$$E_0 = 5.9 \text{ keV}$$

$$\sigma(E_0) = 19 \text{ mb}$$

# Solution: Reaction Rate

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = \left( \frac{8}{\pi\mu} \right)^{1/2} \frac{S}{(kT)^{3/2}} \int_0^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{E}{kT} - \frac{b}{\sqrt{E}}\right) dE$$

$$\approx \pi^{1/2} \frac{\Delta}{2} \exp\left(-\frac{3E_0}{kT}\right)$$

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = \left( \frac{8}{\pi\mu} \right)^{1/2} \frac{S}{(kT)^{3/2}} \pi^{1/2} \frac{\Delta}{2} \exp\left(-\frac{3E_0}{kT}\right)$$

$$E_0 = 1.22 (Z_1^2 Z_2^2 \mu T_6^2)^{1/3} \text{ keV}$$

$$\Delta E = 0.749 (Z_1^2 Z_2^2 \mu T_6^5)^{1/6} \text{ keV}$$

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = 1.30 \times 10^{-12} \text{ S(MeV.barn)} Z_1^{1/3} Z_2^{1/3} \mu^{-1/3} T_6^{-2/3} \exp(-42.43 (Z_1^2 Z_2^2 \mu T_6^{-1})^{1/3})$$

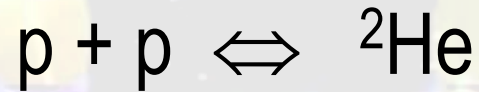
$$k_B = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ JK}^{-1}$$

$$1 \text{ u} = 931.5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$$

Reaction rate at  $T_6=15$

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = 3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

# Solution: rate of proton capture



$$dN_{2\text{He}} = + N_p N_p \int \varphi(v) v \sigma(v) dv dt$$

**Reaction Rate  $\text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$**

$$dN_p = -2 \frac{1}{2} N_p^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle dt$$

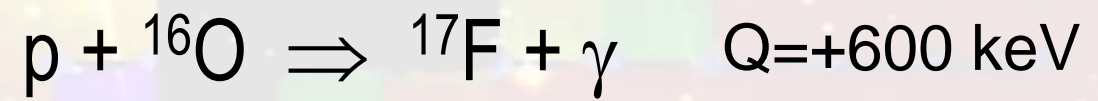
$$dN_p = -\lambda N_p dt$$

Abundance =  
74% in mass

$$\lambda = 20 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\tau = \frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{N_p \langle \sigma v \rangle} \quad \tau = 5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}$$

# Exercise

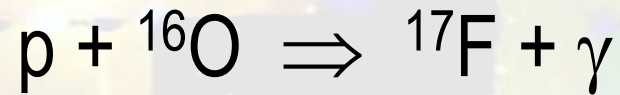


$\sigma(E_0)$  ?

Rate of reaction ?

Lifetime of proton ?

# Solution



$$E_0 = 29 \text{ keV}$$

We suppose  $S(E) = \text{constant} = 10^{-3} \text{ MeV barn}$

$$\sigma(E_0) = 9.0 \times 10^{-22} \text{ b}$$

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = 2.2 \times 10^{-45} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$N_{16\text{O}} = 0.8\% \text{ (in mass)} \times 150 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

$$N_p \approx \text{constant}$$

$$dN_{16\text{O}} = - \langle \sigma v \rangle N_p N_{16\text{O}} dt = - \lambda N_{16\text{O}} dt$$

Approximate reaction time

$$\tau = 6.8 \times 10^{18} \text{ s} = 2 \times 10^{11} \text{ years}$$

1929

# Zur Frage der Aufbaumöglichkeit der Elemente in Sternen.

Von R. d'E. Atkinson und F. G. Houtermans in Berlin-Charlottenburg.

(Eingegangen am 19. März 1929.)

The first ones to  
apply quantum  
mechanics to  
astrophysics

Tabelle 1.

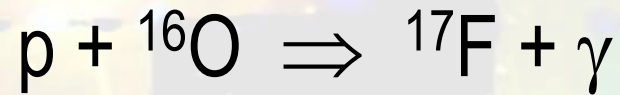
Element	Eindringungs- wahrscheinlichkeit $\bar{W}_1$ pro Stoß	Lebensdauer bezüglich Protonen- eindringung $\tau$
2 He 4	$2,7 \cdot 10^{-8}$	8 sec
3 Li 6	$9,7 \cdot 10^{-11}$	37 min
3 Li 7	$10,6 \cdot 10^{-11}$	34 min
(4 Be 6	$4,1 \cdot 10^{-13}$	6,3 Tage)
(4 Be 7	$5,1 \cdot 10^{-13}$	4,9 " )
(4 Be 8	$5,8 \cdot 10^{-13}$	4,3 " )
4 Be 9	$6,5 \cdot 10^{-13}$	3,9 " )
(4 Be 10	$7,1 \cdot 10^{-13}$	3,6 " )
(4 Be 11	$7,6 \cdot 10^{-13}$	3,5 " )
5 B 10	$5,0 \cdot 10^{-15}$	1,4 Jahre
5 B 11	$5,4 \cdot 10^{-15}$	1,3 "
6 C 12	$6,2 \cdot 10^{-17}$	110 "
7 N 14	$8,4 \cdot 10^{-19}$	8 200 "
8 O 16	$1,5 \cdot 10^{-20}$	470 000 "
9 F 19	$3,1 \cdot 10^{-23}$	$2,3 \cdot 10^7$ "
10 Ne 20	$6,7 \cdot 10^{-24}$	$1,0 \cdot 10^9$ "

~Penetrability

~Effective  
lifetime



# Exercise



We have seen:

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle = 2.2 \times 10^{-45} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$N_{16\text{O}} = 0.8\% \text{ (in mass)} \times 150 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

$$N_p \approx \text{constant}$$

$$dN_{16\text{O}} = - \langle \sigma v \rangle N_p N_{16\text{O}} dt$$

But only  $\sim 1\%$  of the Sun's mass has  $T_6=15$  and density  $\sim 150 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$

Is this reaction responsible for the Sun's heat?

# Solution

$$\text{Rate (T6=15)} \langle \sigma v \rangle = 2.2 \times 10^{-45} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1} = 1.32 \times 10^{-21} \text{ mole}^{-1} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$dN_{\text{reactions}} = \langle \sigma v \rangle N_p N_{16\text{O}} dt$$

Energy production rate:

$$P(\text{W cm}^{-3}) = Q N_A \frac{dN_{\text{reactions}}}{dt}$$

$Q=0.6 \text{ MeV/reaction}$

Avogadro number  $N_A = 6.02 \times 10^{23}$

$N_p = 150 \text{ g/cm}^3 \times 74\% = 111 \text{ moles cm}^{-3}$

$N_{16\text{O}} = 150 \text{ g/cm}^3 \times 0.8\% = 1.2 \text{ moles cm}^{-3}$



$$P = 10^{-8} \text{ W cm}^{-3}$$

1 % of Mass of the Sun ( $2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$ ) =  $1.3 \times 10^{29} \text{ cm}^3$

$P(16\text{O}+p) = 1.3 \times 10^{21} \text{ W}$

Power of Sun  $P = 4 \times 10^{26} \text{ Watts}$



$3.3 \times 10^{-6}$  of the Sun's heat

$\langle \sigma v \rangle$  is the KEY quantity



To be determined from experiments and theoretical considerations

As star evolves

⇒ Temperature changes

⇒ Measure / Evaluate  $\sigma(E)$  for each energy



The end

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