

OVERLAP OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS & NUCLEOSYNTHESIS



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MATTHEW MUMPOWER

FRIB first experiments

Tuesday May 5th 2020

CTA

Center *for* Theoretical

ASTROPHYSICS

ABOUT MY WORK

I'm a theorist focused on the description of nuclear physics of neutron-rich nuclei

Trevor Sprouse and I have recently developed a novel platform for studying nucleosynthesis

nuclear physics inputs
(Sn, β -rates, n-capture rates, ...)



thermodynamic conditions
(temperature, density, ...)

PRISM: Portable Routines for Integrated nucleoSynthesis Modeling

Code soon to be released as open source; 100's of GBs of nuclear data in the PRISM nuclear data interface (NDI)

NUCLEAR PHYSICS: THE LANGUAGE OF NUCLEOSYNTHESIS

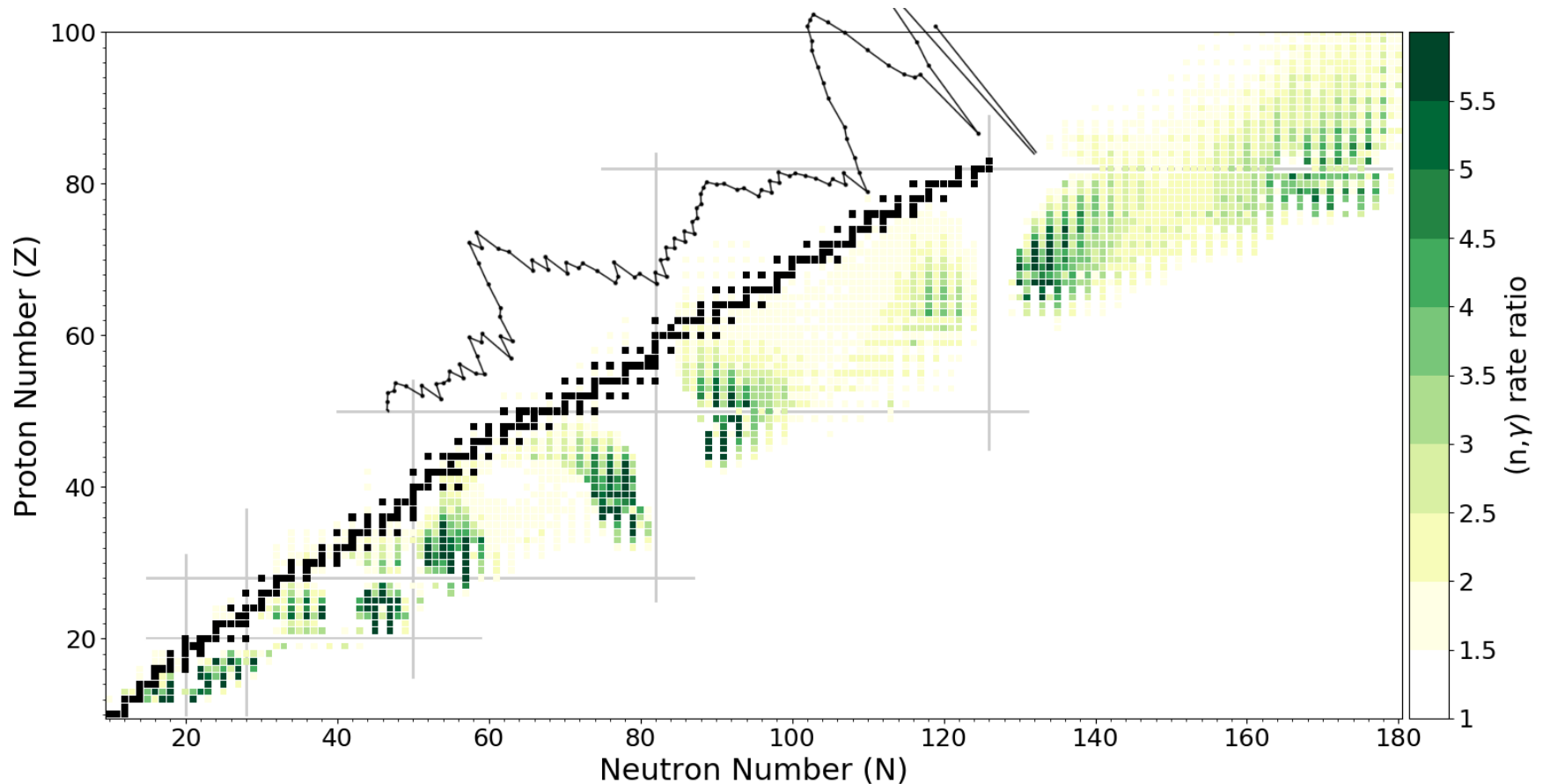
How the nuclei express themselves depends on the astrophysical conditions



This in turn, suggests what should be focused on for measurement campaigns

Ideally, we focus on measurements that will provide insight to both astrophysics & nuclear physics

M1 ENHANCEMENT OF CAPTURE RATES

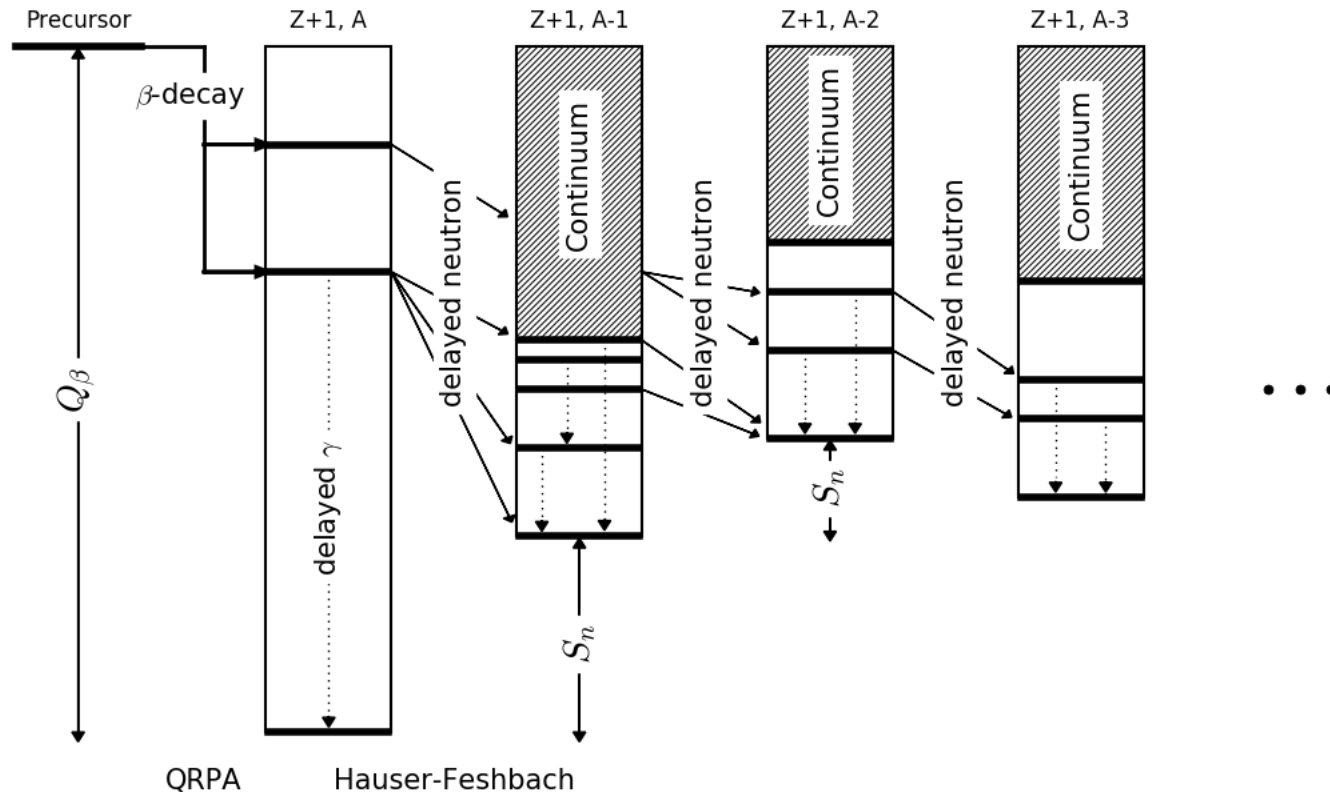


The impact (**darker color**) to neutron-rich nuclei is even larger than for those near stability

Many candidates (Ce, La, Pr) and lighter elements are **well within the reach** of **FRIB reaction studies**

An intriguing result... follows the solar isotopic pattern - *Juicy!*

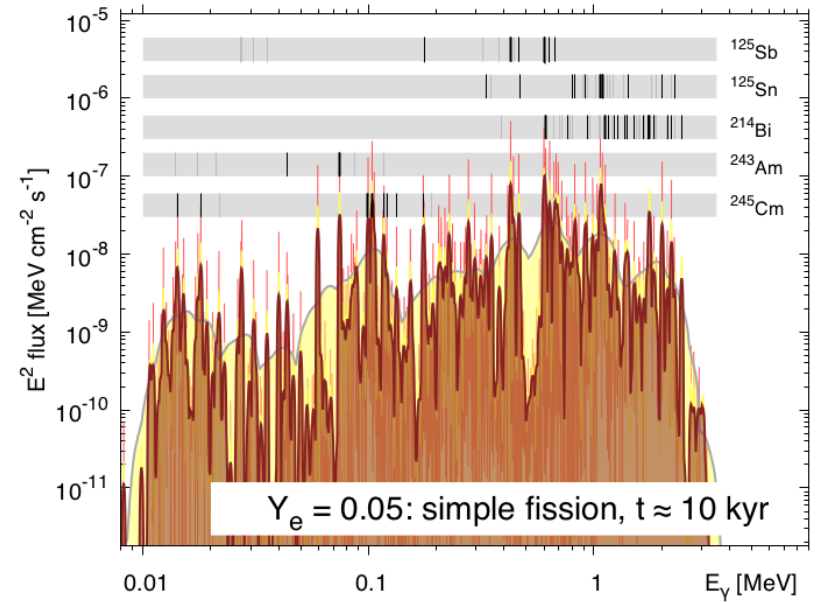
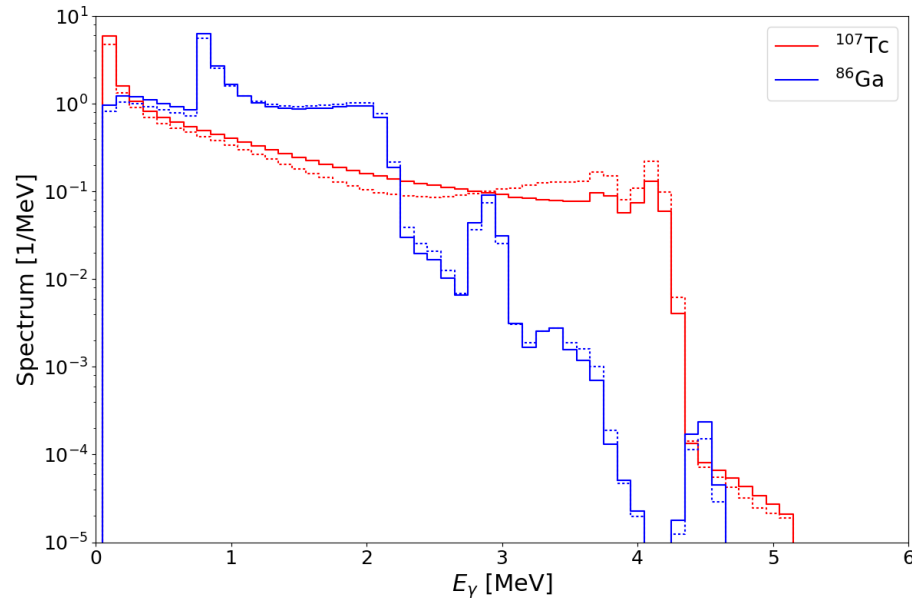
NOVEL DESCRIPTION OF β -DECAY: QRPA + HF



Initial population from the β -decay strength function from QRPA

Follow the **statistical decay** via Hauser-Feshbach until all excitation energy is exhausted

PARTICLE SPECTRA / OBSERVATIONS



Our QRPA+HF model is also capable of producing predictions of **particle spectra** (left)

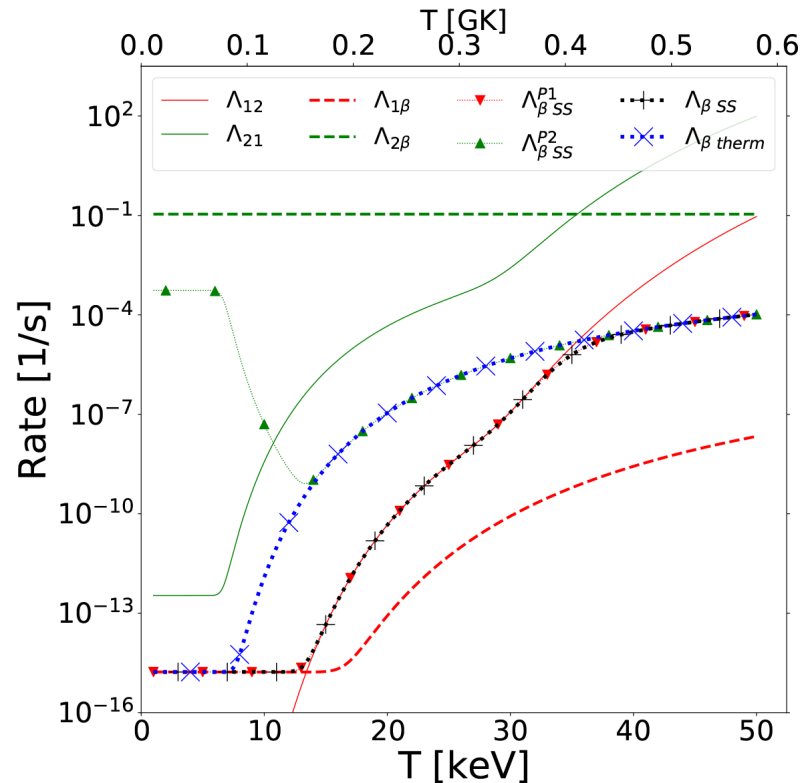
Benchmarking these quantities provides a more **sensitive test** of the model beyond integral quantities such as P_n

Both theory & data are influential in predicting **observational signatures** e.g. γ -rays from remnants (right)

Measurements focused on decays can provide a new handle on potential '**smoking gun**' *r*-process nuclei

$^{213,214}\text{Bi}$ ($Z = 83$) are strong γ -emitters that have short half-lives but can be generated by longer-lived species

ASTROPHYSICALLY RELEVANT NUCLEAR ISOMERS

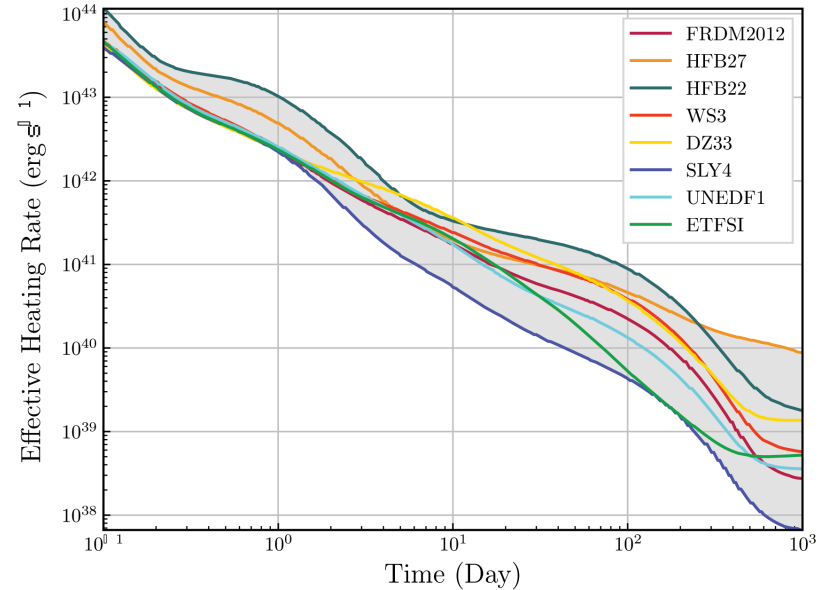
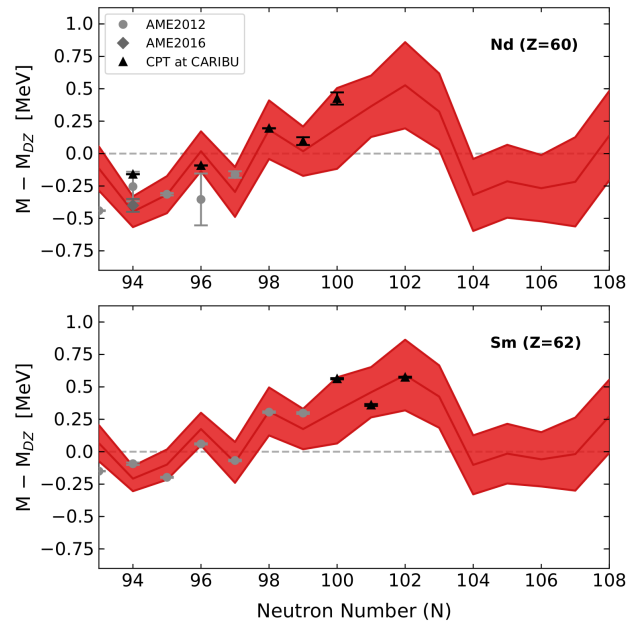


Wendell Misch (LANL postdoc) has been pioneering a [new approach to nuclear isomers](#)

Famous example of an '[astromer](#)': ^{26}Al

Our approach is broadly applicable to any environment, not limited to astrophysics

MASS MEASUREMENTS



Bayesian model predictions for mass trends in rare earth nuclei (left) - Nicole Vassh

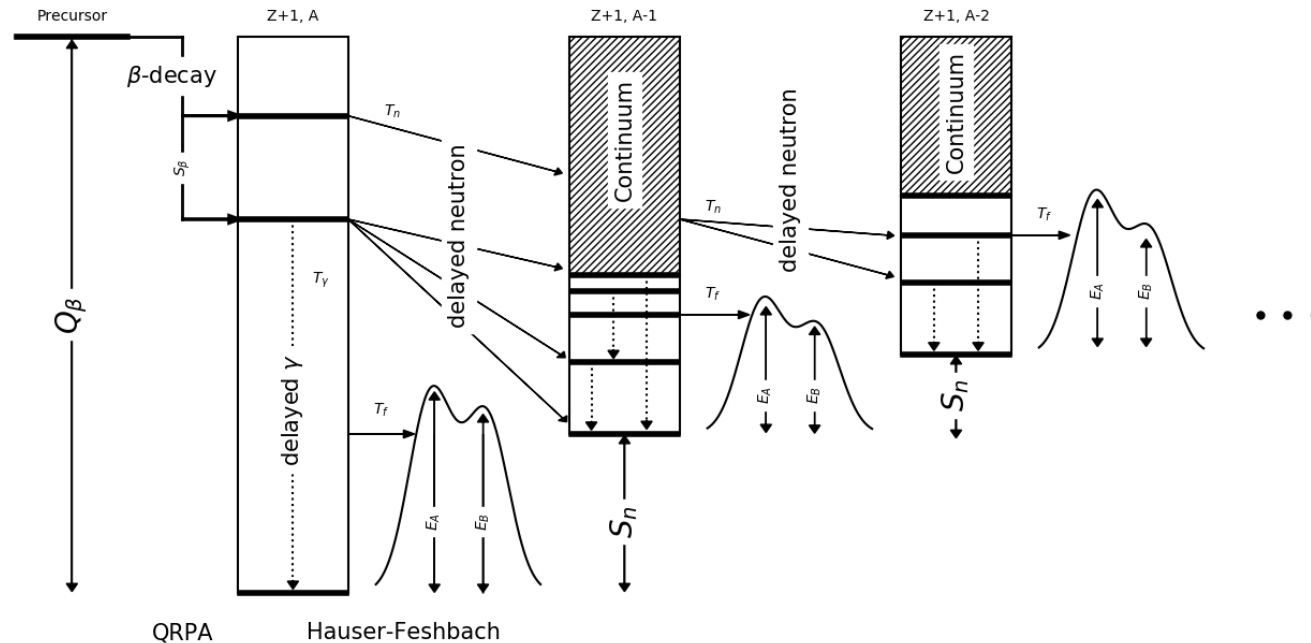
Targeted high-precision mass measurements can help to diagnose *r*-process conditions

Mass measurement campaigns can further help to address uncertainties in kilonova parameters (right)

Nuclei around $N = 126$ act as the gatekeepers for actinide production; strength of shell closure important!

Orford *et al.* PRL 120, 262702 (2018) • Vilen *et al.* PRL 120, 262701 (2018) Côte *et al.* ApJ 855 2 (2018) • Tang *et al.* PRL 124, 062502 (2020) • Zhu, Barnes *et al.* in prep. (2020) • Barnes *et al.* in prep. (2020) • Vassh *et al.* in prep (2020)

QRPA+HF APPLIED TO β DF

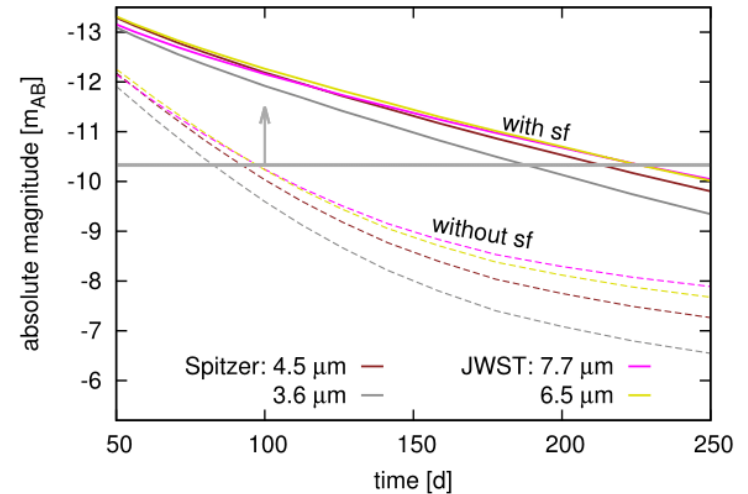
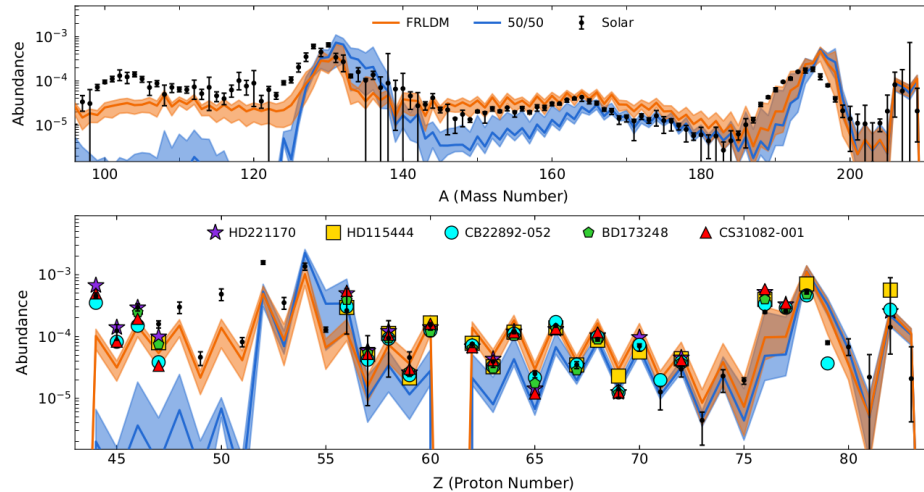


We have also explored multi-chance β df - found to be an influential channel in the r -process

Future, exciting opportunities for studying this phenomenon in heavy elements...

Question: What can the high rigidity spectrometer (HRS) upgrade to FRIB do for fission studies?

FISSION & ACTINIDE STUDIES



We're in the process of releasing new **fission fragment yield predictions** to the community (impact left panel)

Fission is another area where we could find an **observational 'smoking gun'** of heavy element formation

New missions may be easily able to detect the presence of **^{254}Cf or other elements** (right)

Measurements of yield and prompt emission are a **vital test** of model predictions

Fission may be one of the **last pillars of uncertainty** we must conquer to understand heavy element formation

SUMMARY

Nuclear physics is the *language* of nucleosynthesis

Recent advances:

We have developed a **state-of-the-art research pipeline** for studying nuclear physics in nucleosynthesis

We have novel **theoretical tools** to interpret experiments and gauge impact in astrophysical environments

We have recently compiled new **mass**, **reaction**, **decay** and **fission** predictions across the chart of nuclides

Measurements will have a tremendous impact on theoretical nuclear modeling, nucleosynthesis and observations

I'm looking forward to the exciting opportunities at FRIB!

Results / Data / Papers @ [MatthewMumpower.com](https://matthewmumpower.com)