List of Figures

1.1 Solar system abundances at its birth. Number abundances are normalized to
the number of silicon atoms (Si = 10^6) from Lodders[7] (2003). 3
1.2 Nuclear landscape 4
1.3 Binary system 5
1.4 X-ray burster 6
1.5 Elemental solar system s- and r-process abundances[21] 15
2.1 Neutron dripline according to the present calculation. 25
2.2 Neutron dripline for even N-nuclei predicted by the present formula (Pres),
FRDM and DZ formula. 26
2.3 The two neutron separation energy S2n and the r-process path. 28
2.4 Lightest isotopes for which the two neutron separation energy is above 4
MeV. See text for details. 29
2.5 The abundance pattern from a weighted sum of three r-process components.
See text for details. 30
3.1 Calculated charge density in 62Ni and 66Zn (solid lines) compared with ex-
perimental measurements (filled circles) from Wohlfahrt et al.[16] 39
3.2 Comparison of charge density obtained from Fourier-Bessel analysis of ex-
perimental electron scattering data[17] (solid line) and calculated in the present
work (dashed line) for 76Ge, 88Sr, 90Zr and 94Mo respectively. 40
3.3 S-factors extracted from experimental measurements compared with theory
for 60,62Ni and 63,65Cu. Solid and dashed lines indicate respectively the re-
results of the HF+BCS and HFB approaches for level density and E1 gamma
strength. E_{cm} is centre of mass frame energy. 43
3.4 S-factors extracted from experimental measurements compared with theory for $^{64,66,67,68}$Zn. See caption of figure 3.3 for details. ........................................ 43
3.5 S-factors extracted from experimental measurements compared with theory for $^{70}$Ge and $^{74,76,77}$Se. See caption of figure 3.3 for details. ........................................ 44
3.6 Experimental and calculated S-factors for $(p, \gamma)$ reactions in $^{84}$Sr and $^{86}$Sr targets. ................................................................. 44
3.7 Experimental and calculated S-factors for $(p, \gamma)$ reactions in $^{87}$Sr and $^{88}$Sr targets. ................................................................. 44
3.8 Experimental and calculated S-factors for $^{75}$As($p$, $n$), $^{76}$Ge($p$, $n$) and $^{85}$Rb($p$, $n$) reactions respectively. ........................................ 45
3.9 Experimental and calculated cross sections for elastic proton scattering in Zr isotopes. For $A = 90$, 91 and 92, the proton energies are 9.7 MeV, 14.8 MeV, and 14.25 MeV, respectively. The cross sections for $^{91,92}$Zr have been multiplied by a factor of 100 and 1000, respectively. ........................................ 46
3.10 Experimental and calculated cross sections for elastic proton scattering in Mo isotopes at 15 MeV proton energy. The cross sections for $A = 92$, 94, and 96 have been multiplied by factors of 10, 100, and 1000, respectively. ........................................ 47
3.11 Experimental and calculated S-factors for $(p, \gamma)$ reactions in $^{89}$Y and $^{90}$Zr, respectively. The solid (dashed) line indicates calculated results for $^{89}$Y($^{96}$Zr). ........................................ 47
3.12 Experimental and calculated S-factors for $^{92,94}$Mo($p, \gamma$) reactions. Results for $^{94}$Mo have been multiplied by 10. The solid (dashed) line indicates calculated results for $^{92}$Mo($^{94}$Mo). ........................................ 48
3.13 Experimental and calculated S-factors for $^{95,98}$Mo($p, \gamma$) reactions. Results for $^{98}$Mo have been multiplied by 10. The solid (dashed) line indicates calculated results for $^{95}$Mo($^{98}$Mo). ........................................ 48
3.14 Experimental and calculated S-factors for $^{96,98,99}$Ru($p, \gamma$) reactions. Results for $^{98,99}$Ru have been multiplied by 10 and 100, respectively. The solid, dashed and dotted lines indicate results for $^{96,98,99}$Ru, respectively. .............. 49
3.15 Experimental and calculated S-factors for the $^{93}$Nb($p$, $n$) reaction. .............. 49
3.16 Comparison of rates (cm$^3$ mol$^{-1}$ sec$^{-1}$) for $(\gamma, p)$ reactions from present calculation (solid line) and NON-SMOKER[35] calculation (dotted line) for (a) $^{92}$Mo and (b) $^{96}$Ru respectively. ........................................ 50
4.1 Block diagram of $rp$-network ........................................ 59
4.2 Effective half life values of $^{64}$Ge as a function of temperature. The solid line represents the results of our calculation while the dashed lines mark the two extremes for the errors in the Q-values of the reactions involved. The dash dotted line shows the results obtained using the rates from reference[8]. .............. 61
4.3 Effective half life values of $^{68}\text{Se}$ as a function of temperature. See caption of figure 4.2 for details. ................................................................. 62
4.4 Effective half life values of $^{72}\text{Kr}$ as a function of temperature. See caption of figure 4.2 for details. ................................................................. 62
4.5 Effective half life values of $^{76}\text{Sr}$ as a function of temperature. See caption of figure 4.2 for details. ................................................................. 62
4.6 Effective half life values of $^{64}\text{Ge}$ as a function of temperature for different Q-values of $^{64}\text{Ge}(p, \gamma)$ reaction. ................................................................. 63
4.7 Densities above which the various waiting points are found to be to be effectively bridged at different temperatures. The waiting points are $^{64}\text{Ge}$ (continuous curve), $^{68}\text{Se}$ (dotted curve), $^{72}\text{Kr}$ (dash-dotted curve) and $^{76}\text{Sr}$ (dashed curve). ................................................................. 65
4.8 Differences between experimental[2] and calculated mass values in MeV near the $N = Z$ line in mass 60-80 region. ...................................................... 66
4.9 Evolution of abundance of mass at the waiting points in explosive proton-rich astrophysical environments. See text for details. ......................... 67
4.10 $r_p$-process path for 1.2 GK ................................................................. 69
4.11 $r_p$-process path for 1.5 GK ................................................................. 70
4.12 SnSbTe cycle from Schatz et al.[16] .......................................................... 71
4.13 Proton capture rates (cm$^3$ mol$^{-1}$ sec$^{-1}$) vs temperature(GK). See text for details. ................................................................. 72
4.14 Relative abundances vs mass number for different temperature-density profiles of various X-ray burster after 100 seconds. (Insets) Model-II: Curve for temperature in GK vs time in seconds of the X-ray burst from Schatz et al.[16]; Model-III and IV: Temperature $T_9$ in GK (left) and density $\rho$ in gram/cm$^3$ (right) with time in seconds from Illiadis[7]. See text for details. 73
4.15 Abundances as a function of the Q-value of the reaction $^{61}\text{Ga}(p, \gamma)$ for a constant temperature 1.5 GK. The abundances have been multiplied by 5 and 50 in the second and the third frames, respectively. ......................... 75
4.16 Abundances as a function of the Q-value of the reaction $^{65}\text{As}(p, \gamma)$ for a constant temperature 1.5 GK. The abundances have been multiplied by 5 and 50 in the second and the third frames, respectively. ......................... 76
4.17 Major abundances as a function of the Q-value of the reaction $^{64}\text{Ge}(p, \gamma)$ for a constant temperature 1.5 GK. ................................................................. 77
4.18 Ratio of change in final abundance for $Q_0 \pm \sigma$ values of the $^{65}\text{As}(p, \gamma)$ reaction. See text for details. ................................................................. 78