

# Nuclei in the Cosmos (NIC XVII)



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## Experimentally determined $^{56}\text{Ni}(n,p)$ cross section and its impacts on nu-p process

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To constrain the nu-p process, we studied the  $^{56}\text{Ni}(n,p)$  reaction by directly measuring the cross section on the radioactive  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  (a half-life of 6 days) at Los Alamos Neutron Science Center. This reaction has been identified as one of critical reactions for understanding the heavy element production in core-collapse supernovae. The radioactive  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  was produced by irradiating protons on a  $^{59}\text{Co}$  foil via the  $(p,4n)$  reaction at the Isotope Production Facility and the  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  target was chemically separated, fabricated, and characterized at the Hot Cell facility. Using the LENZ (Low Energy NZ) instrument, the first directly measured cross sections of  $^{56,59}\text{Ni}(n,p)$ ,  $^{56}\text{Co}(n,p)$ , and  $^{59}\text{Ni}(n,\alpha)$  will be reported along with experimentally deduced reaction rates of  $^{56}\text{Ni}(n,p)$  and  $^{56}\text{Co}(n,p)$ . The impacts of these newly obtained reaction rates and potential further constrains on the nu-p process will be discussed. Ongoing LENZ efforts on  $(n,p)$  and  $(n,\alpha)$  reaction studies with radionuclides such as  $^{40}\text{K}$ ,  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ , and  $^{26}\text{Al}$ , and the optimized solenoidal spectrometer development at LANSCE will be presented.

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