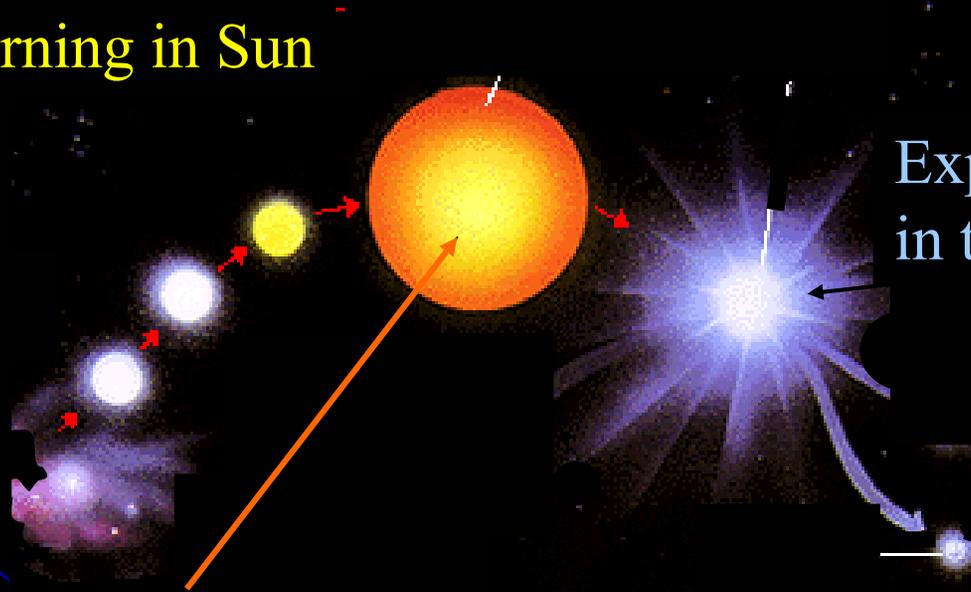


# Topics in Nuclear Astrophysics

Michael Wiescher  
University of Notre Dame

Hydrogen burning in Sun



Explosive reactions  
in the SN shock front

Helium burning in Red Giants

rp-process on accreting  
white dwarfs (Nova) or  
neutron stars (X-ray burst)

# Out-Line

- General concept and definitions
- Hydrogen burning sequences
- Nucleosynthesis in late stellar evolution
- Nucleosynthesis in explosive burning in supernova
- Explosive burning in cataclysmic binary systems
- Nucleosynthesis in Big Bang and Cosmic Rays

# Topics in Nuclear Astrophysics I

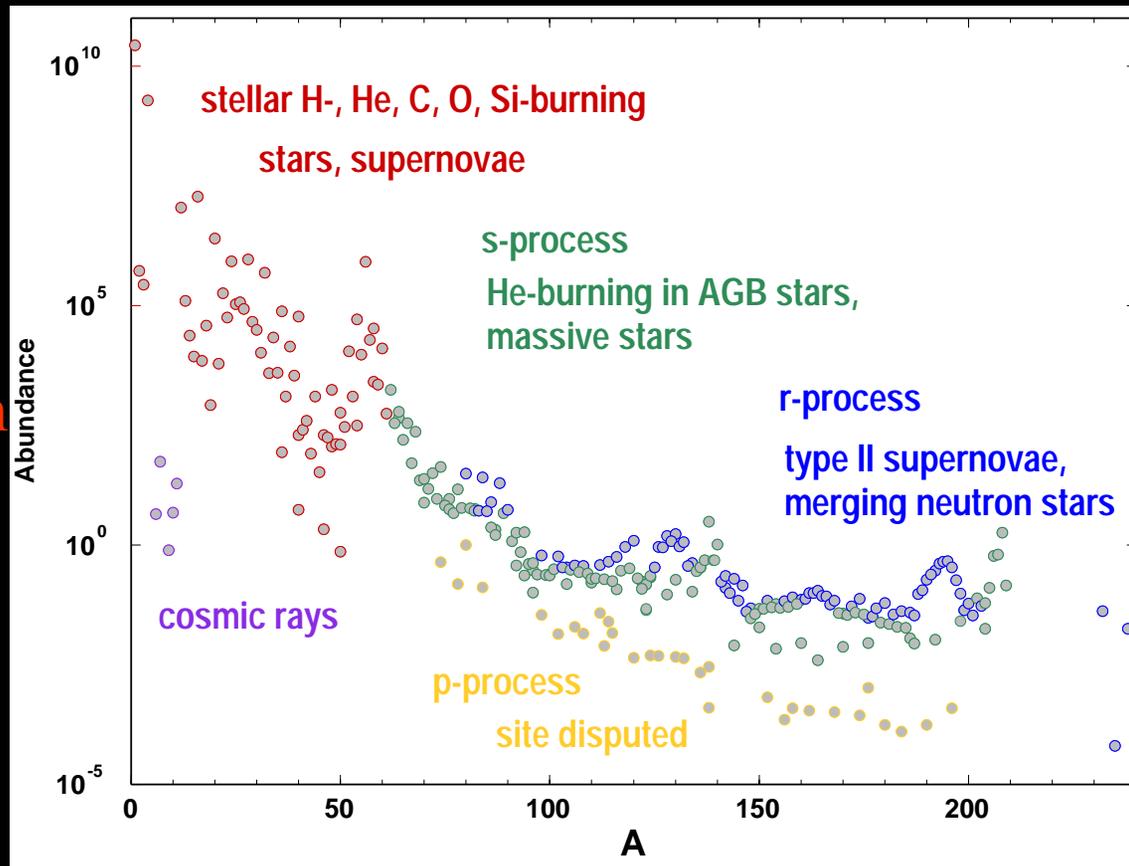
## Nuclear Signatures & Nuclear Physics

- Observational Signatures
- Abundances
- Light-curves & radioactivity
- Nuclear energy production rate
- Nuclear reaction cross sections
- Nuclear reaction mechanisms
- Techniques for determining cross sections

# Signatures of Nucleosynthesis

galactic abundance distribution

- nucleosynthesis processes
- nucleosynthesis history of our universe
- cosmic chemical evolution



# References

## **Chemical Evolution of Galaxies**

*J Audouze, B M Tinsley*

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## **Element Production in the Early Universe**

*D N Schramm, R V Wagoner*

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## **Elemental and Isotopic Composition of the Galactic Cosmic Rays**

*J A Simpson*

Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science. Volume 33, Page 323-382, Dec 1983

## **Nucleosynthesis**

*J W Truran*

Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science. Volume 34, Page 53-97, Dec 1984

## **NUCLEOSYNTHESIS IN ASYMPTOTIC GIANT BRANCH STARS: Relevance for Galactic Enrichment and Solar System Formation**

*M. Busso, R. Gallino, G. J. Wasserburg*

Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Volume 37, Page 239-309, Sep 1999



# Meteorites

Chondrites: Chondrules - small ~1mm size spherical inclusions in matrix

Von dem donnerstein gefallē jm xcij. jar: vor Ensisheim.

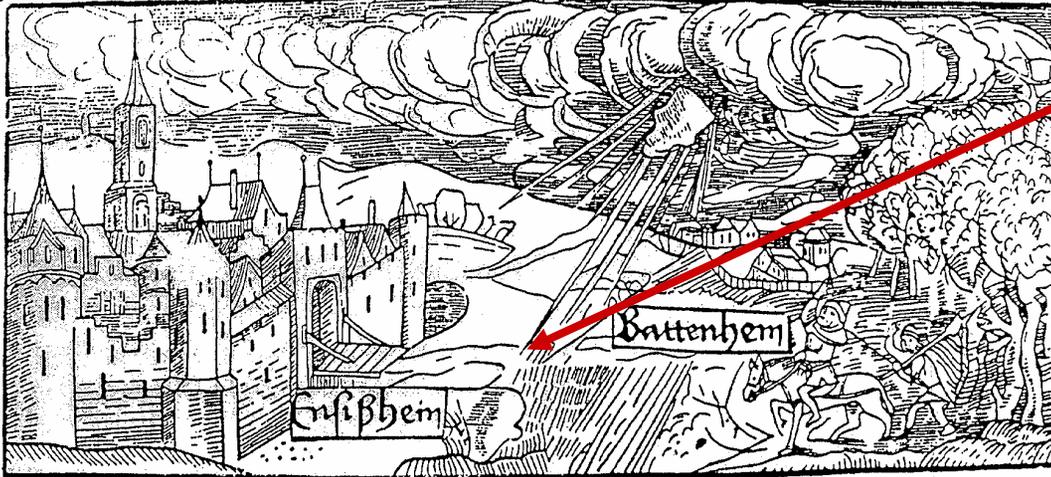


Figure I-2. Woodcut depicting the fall of the Ensisheim LL chondrite on 7 November 1492. A literal translation of the German caption (by Sebastian Brant) is “of the thunder-stone (that) fell in xcii (92) year outside of Ensisheim.” This meteorite, which is preserved in the city hall of Ensisheim, Alsace, is the oldest recorded fall from which material is still available.



Meteoritic inclusions are early condensates of nucleosynthesis ejecta – supernovae, novae, stellar winds AGB stars

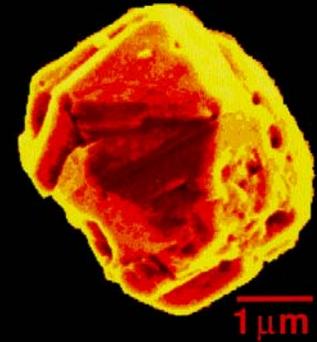
**STELLAR NUCLEOSYNTHESIS AND THE ISOTOPIC COMPOSITION OF PRESOLAR GRAINS FROM PRIMITIVE METEORITES**

*Ernst Zinner, Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences. Volume 26, Page 147-188, May 1998*

# Cosmo-Chemistry of Meteorites



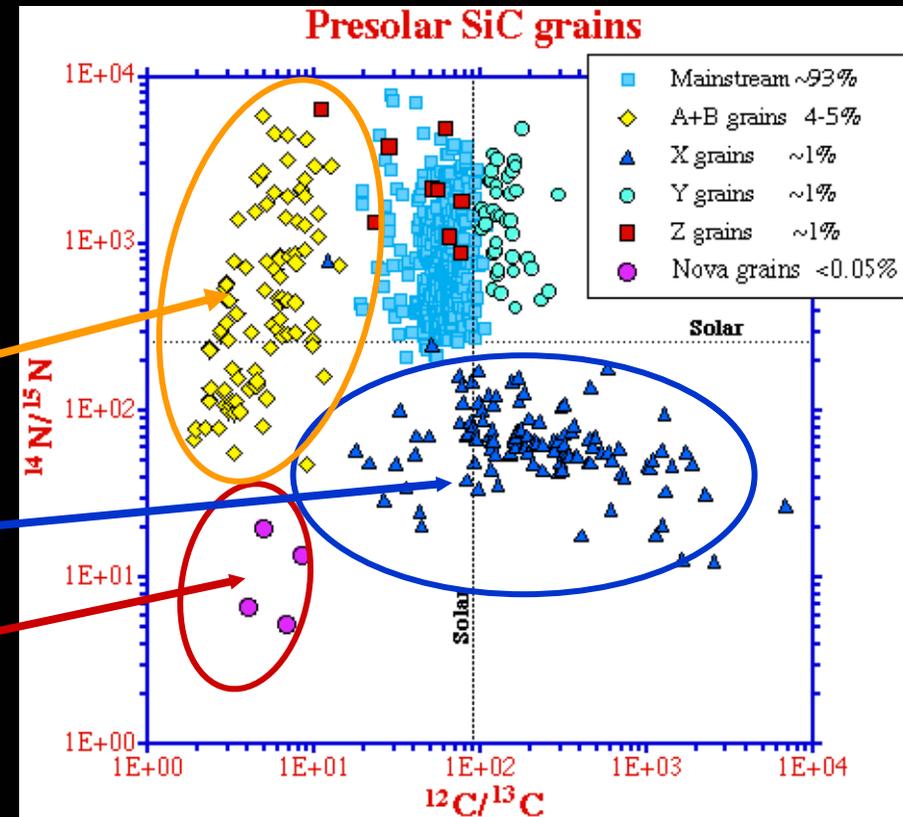
Chondrule



*AGB-Stars*

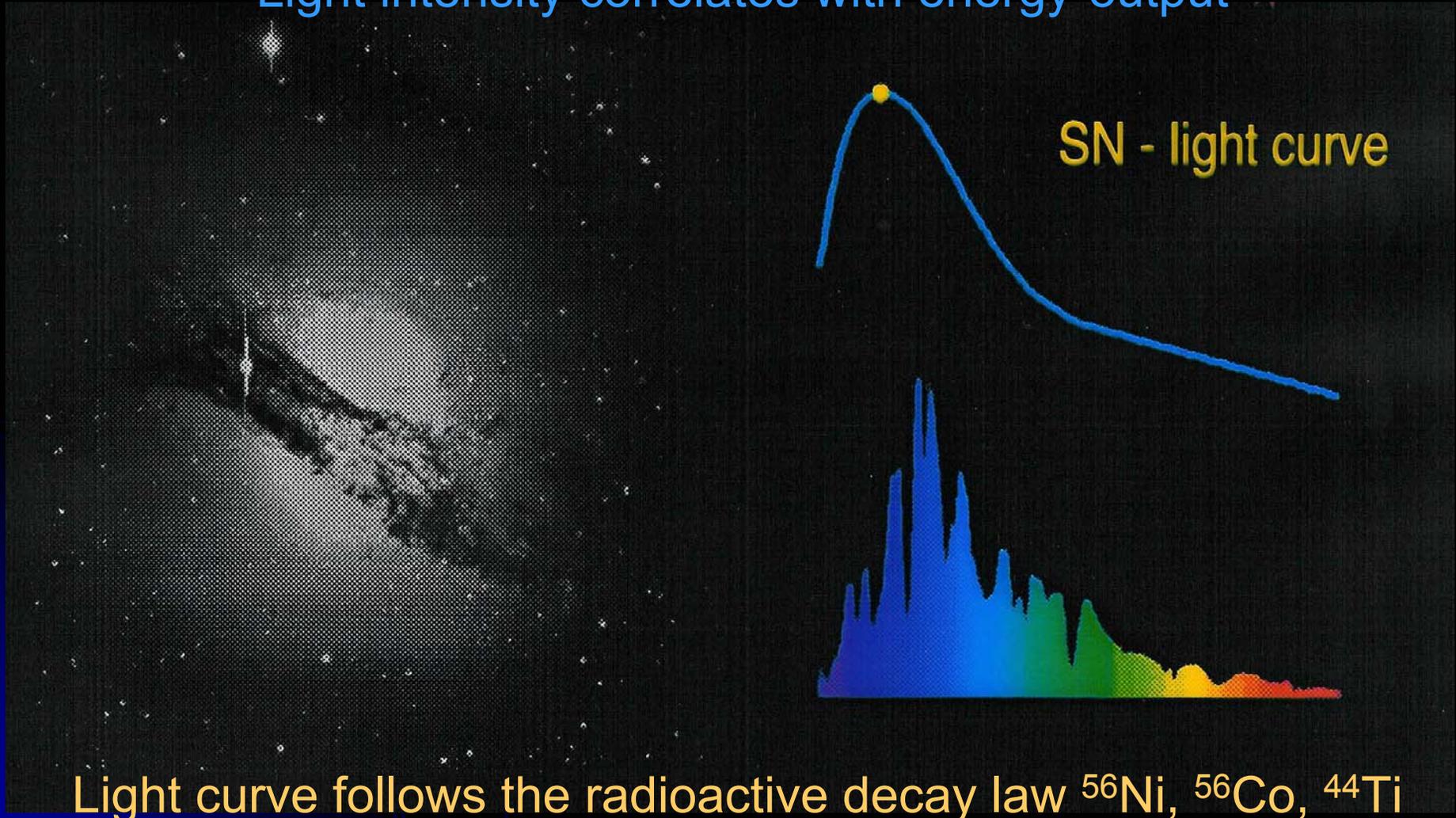
*Supernovae*

*Novae*



# Light and Light-Curves

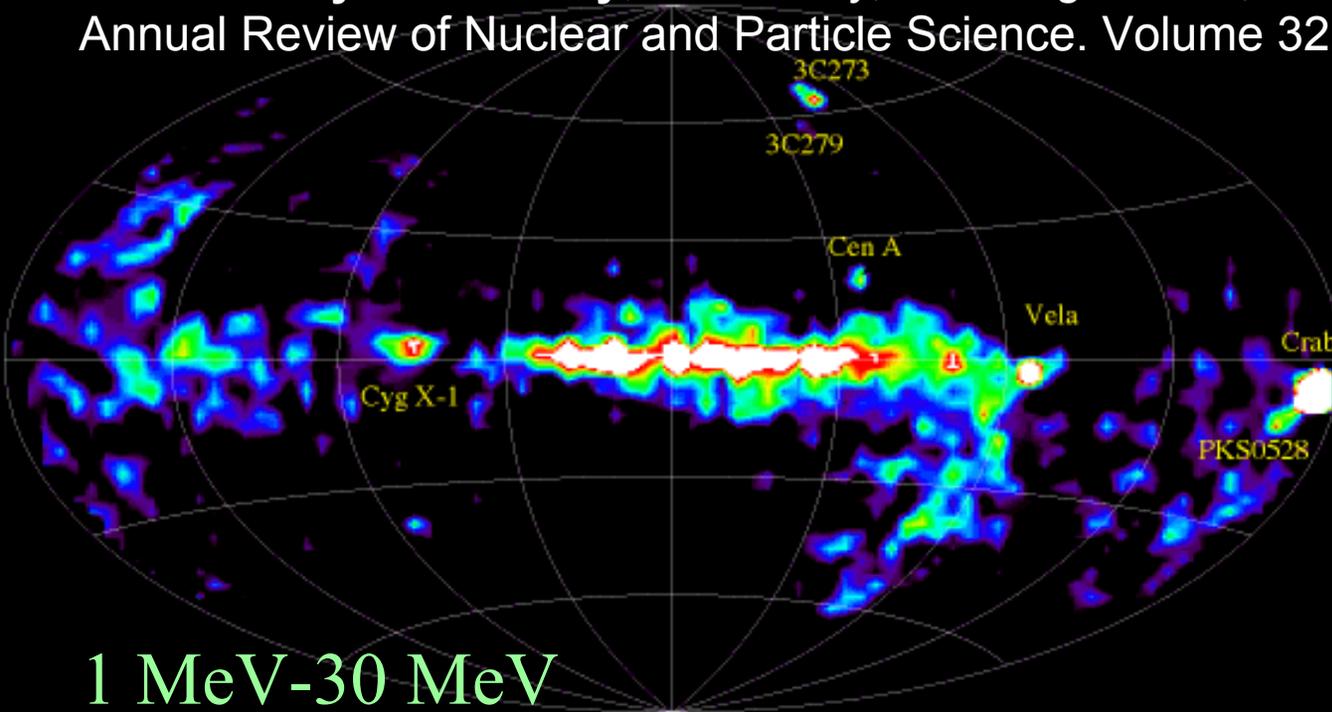
Light intensity correlates with energy-output



Light curve follows the radioactive decay law  $^{56}\text{Ni}$ ,  $^{56}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{44}\text{Ti}$

# Galactic Radioactivity - $\gamma$ -Radiation

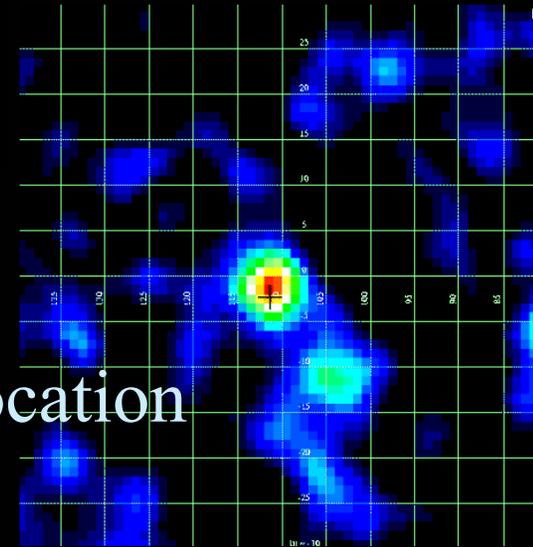
Gamma-Ray Astronomy; *R Ramaty, R E Lingenfelter*,  
Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science. Volume 32, Page 235-269, Dec 1982



1 MeV-30 MeV

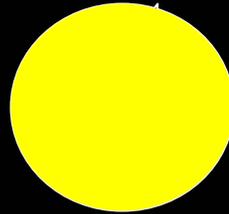
$\gamma$ -Radiation in Galactic Survey

$^{44}\text{Ti}$  in Supernova Cas-A Location  
1.157 MeV  $\gamma$ -radiation



# Nuclear Reactions in Stars

- generate energy
- create new isotopes and elements

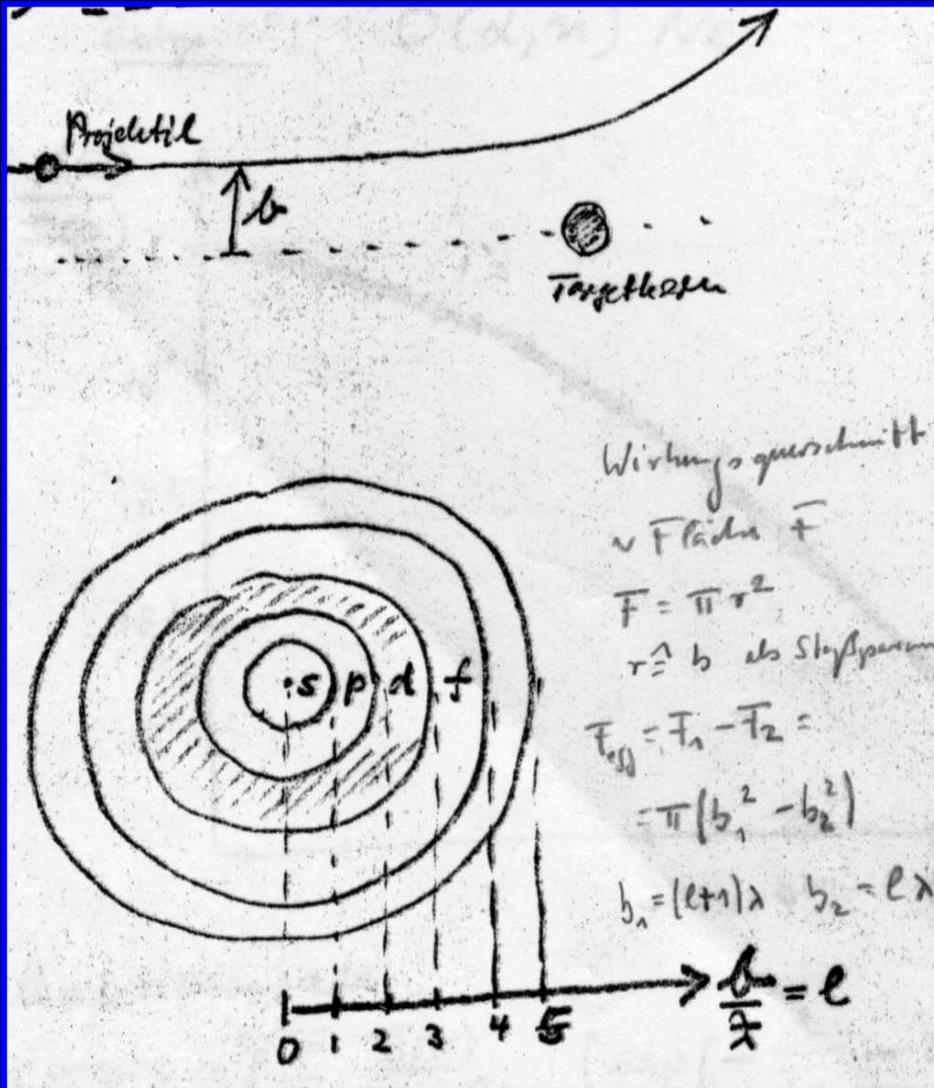


$\gamma$



reaction probability  $\Rightarrow \sigma$ : reaction cross section

# Cross Section – a reminder!



*cross section = area!*

$$\sigma \cong \pi \cdot r_{\text{nucleus}}^2 \approx 1.26 \cdot \pi \cdot A^{2/3} \quad [\text{fm}]$$

*projectile orbital momentum  $\ell$*

$$p = \hbar k = \frac{\hbar}{\lambda}; \quad L = \vec{b} \times \vec{p} \cong |b| \cdot |p| = b \cdot \hbar k = b \cdot \frac{\hbar}{\lambda}$$

$$L = \hbar \ell \quad \Rightarrow \quad b = \lambda \cdot \ell$$

*orbital momentum  $\ell$  in  $\sigma$*

$$\sigma_{\ell} \cong \pi \cdot F_{\ell} = \pi \cdot (r_{\ell+1}^2 - r_{\ell}^2) = \pi \cdot (b_{\ell+1}^2 - b_{\ell}^2)$$

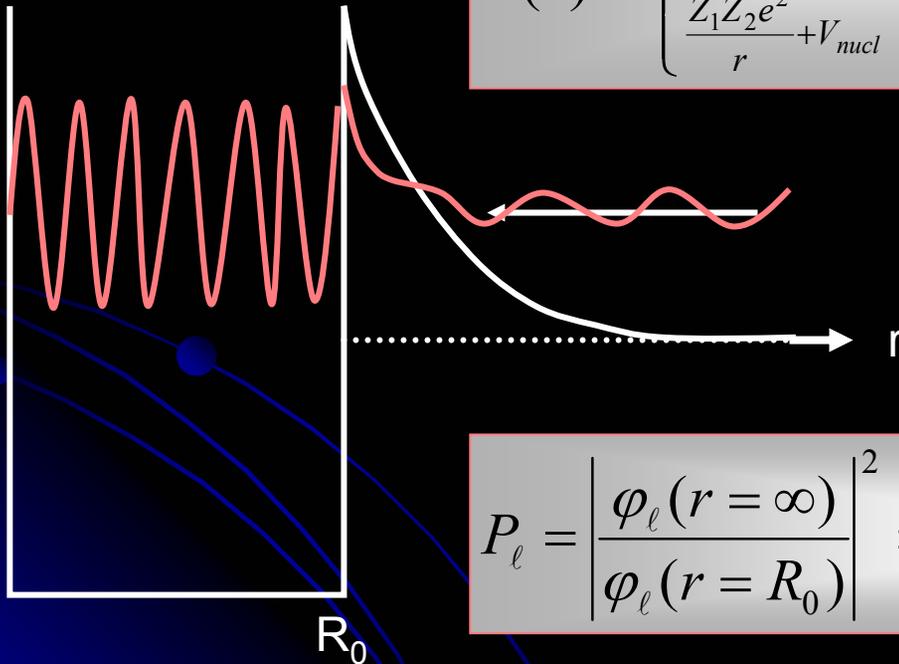
$$\sigma_{\ell} \cong \pi \cdot ((\ell + 1)^2 - \ell^2) \cdot \lambda^2 = \pi \cdot (2\ell + 1) \cdot \lambda^2$$

$$\sigma_{\ell}(E) \propto \frac{2\ell + 1}{E}$$

# Transmission through the barrier

$$\left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{\ell(\ell+1)\hbar^2}{2\mu r^2} + V(r) - E \right] \varphi_\ell(r) = 0$$

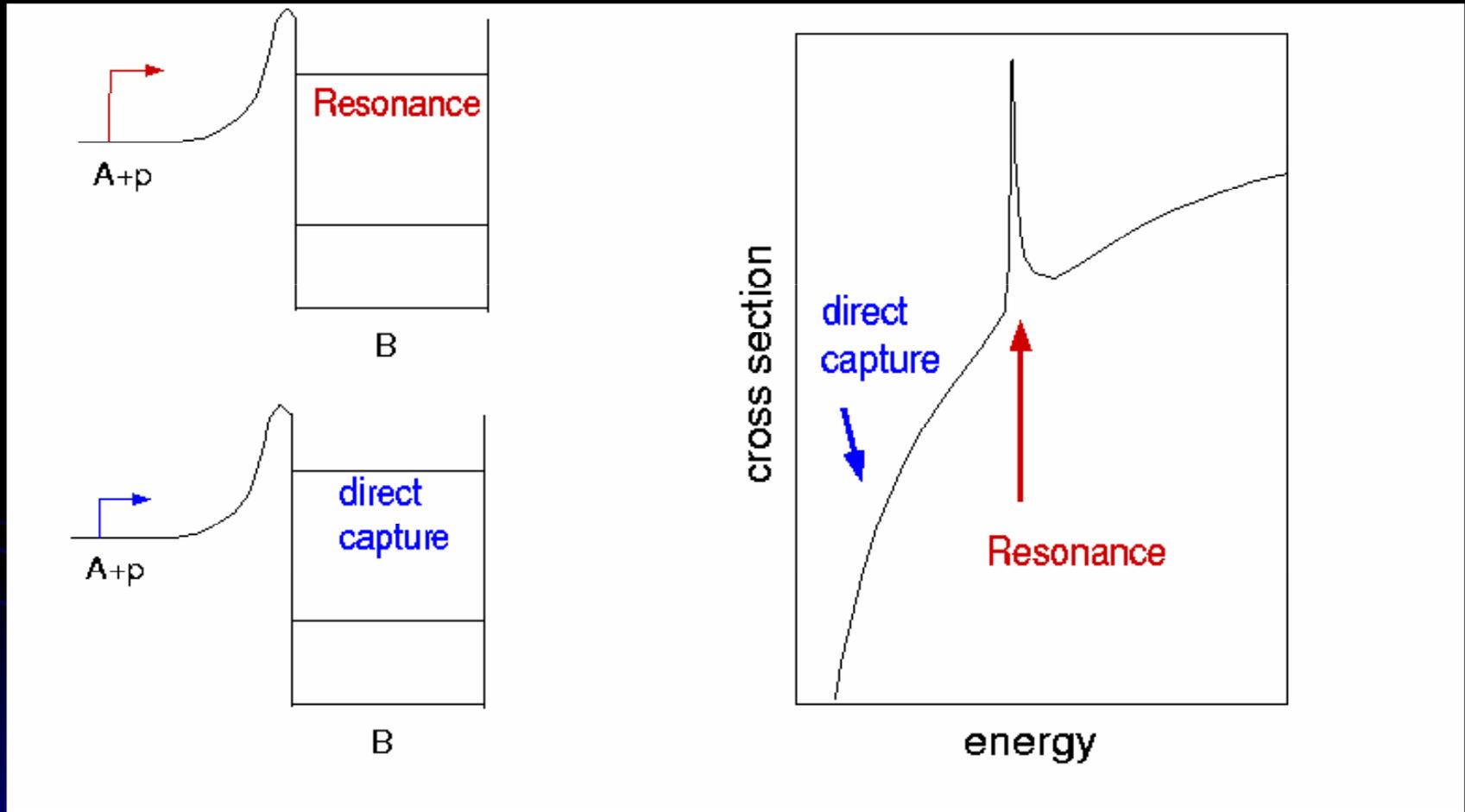
$$V(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r} & r \geq R_0 \\ \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r} + V_{\text{nucl}} & r < R_0 \end{cases} \quad \varphi_\ell(r) = A \cdot F_\ell(r) + B \cdot G_\ell(r)$$



$$P_\ell = \frac{|\varphi_\ell(r = \infty)|^2}{|\varphi_\ell(r = R_0)|^2} \Rightarrow P_\ell(E, R_0) = \frac{1}{F_\ell^2(E, R_0) + G_\ell^2(E, R_0)}$$

$F_\ell$ ,  $G_\ell$  are the Coulomb wave functions

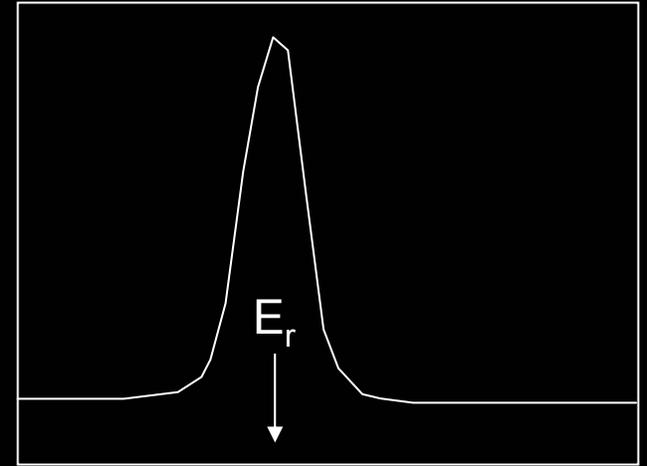
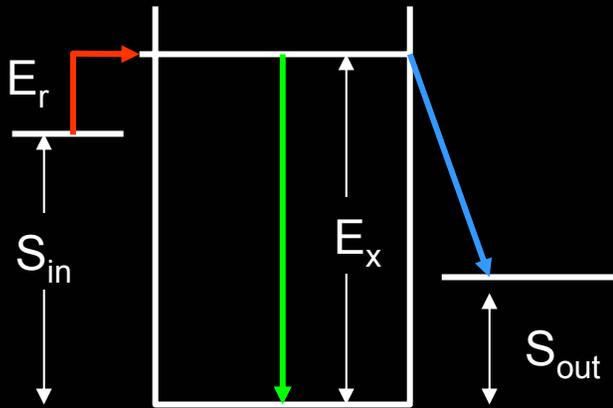
# Cross section for charged particles



Exponential decline towards lower energy due to Coulomb barrier

# Resonant Reaction Mechanism

resonance capture: population of unbound state in compound nucleus



$$\Gamma_i \cong P_\ell \cdot \left| \langle \psi_f | H_{\text{int}} | \psi_i \rangle \right|^2$$

$$\Gamma_{in} \cong P_\ell \cdot \left| \langle \psi_C | H_s | \psi_T + \psi_{in} \rangle \right|^2$$

$$\Gamma_{out} \cong P_\ell \cdot \left| \langle \psi_{out} + \psi_R | H_s | \psi_C \rangle \right|^2$$

$$\Gamma_\gamma \cong E_\gamma^{2L+1} \cdot \left| \langle \psi_{gs} | H_{em} | \psi_C \rangle \right|^2$$

$$\sigma(E) = \pi \hat{\lambda}^2 \omega \cdot \frac{\Gamma_{in} \cdot \Gamma_{out}}{(E - E_r)^2 + (\Gamma/2)^2}$$

$$\omega = \frac{2J+1}{(2j_p+1) \cdot (2j_T+1)}$$

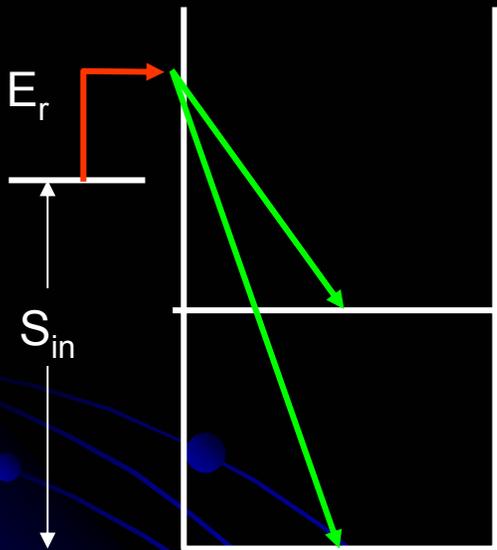
# Direct Capture Mechanism

one-step reaction mechanism through e-m interaction

$$\sigma(E) = P_{\ell} \cdot \left| \langle \psi_f | H_{em} | \psi_p + \psi_T \rangle \right|^2$$

$P_{\ell}$  is the penetrability through the Coulomb and orbital momentum barrier

$\gamma$  energy changes with particle energy



# cross section for neutron capture

$$\left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{\ell(\ell+1)\hbar^2}{2\mu r^2} - E \right] \varphi_\ell(r) = 0$$

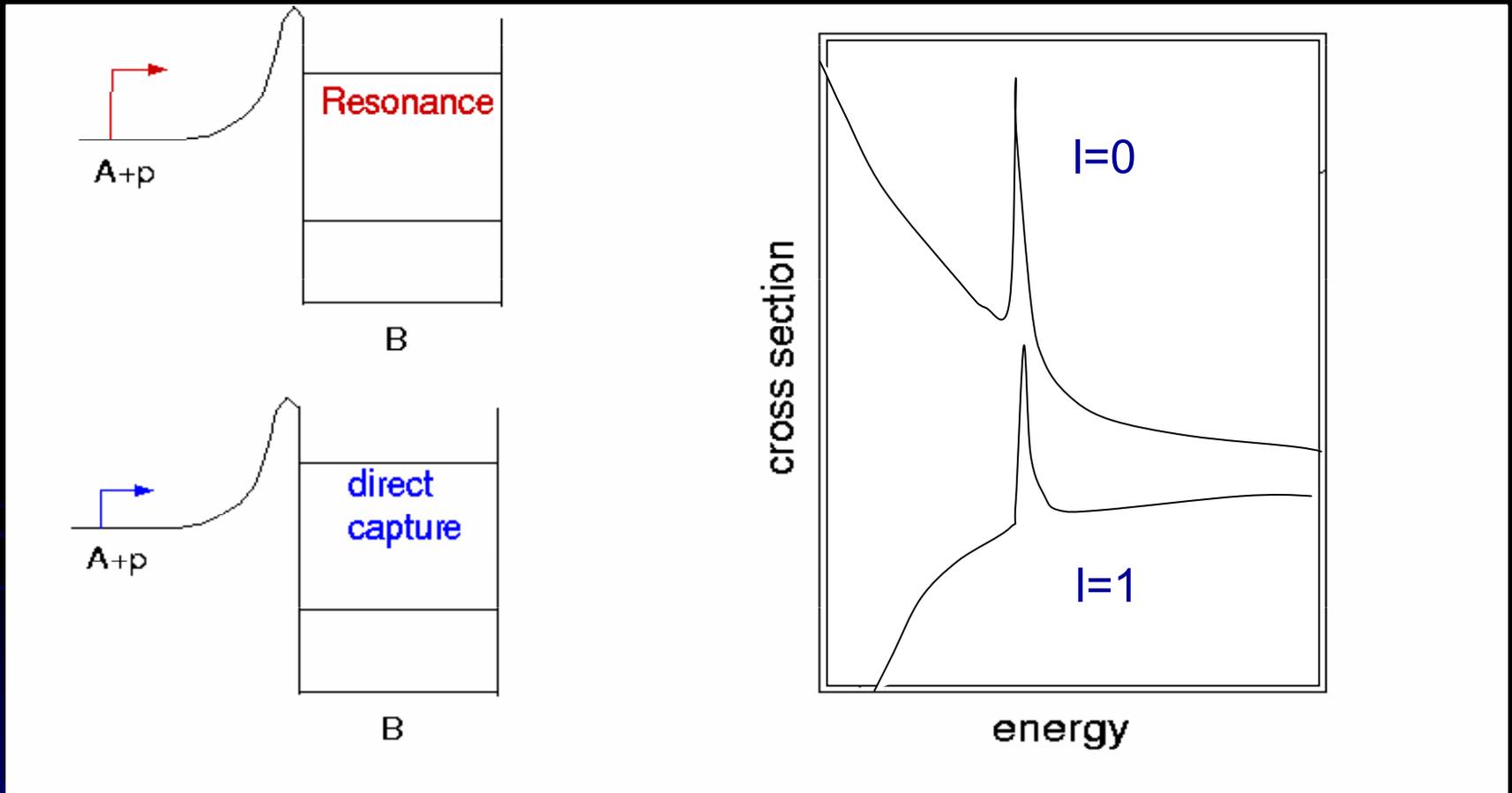
no Coulomb barrier, just orbital momentum term!

$$P_\ell = \left| \frac{\varphi_\ell(r = \infty)}{\varphi_\ell(r = R_0)} \right|^2 \Rightarrow P_{\ell=0} = \frac{r}{\lambda} = k \cdot r$$

$$P_{\ell=1} = \frac{(k \cdot r)^3}{(1 + (k \cdot r)^2)}$$

$$P_{\ell=2} = \frac{(k \cdot r)^5}{(9 + 3(k \cdot r)^2 + (k \cdot r)^4)}$$

# Cross section for neutral particles



$l=0$ , s-wave follows  $1/v$  law,

$l=1$ , p-wave experiences orbital momentum barrier

# Hauser Feshbach Approach

assumption of many resonances!  
(high level density  $\rho$  in particle  
unbound region of compound nucleus)

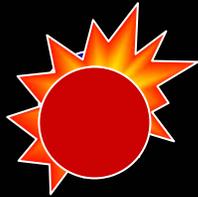
$$i + j \Rightarrow o + m$$

$$\sigma_i(E) = \pi \cdot \tilde{\lambda}_j^2 \cdot \frac{1 + \delta_{i,j}}{(2j_i + 1) \cdot (2j_j + 1)} \sum_{J,\pi} (2J + 1) \frac{T_j(E, J, \pi) \cdot T_o(E, J, \pi)}{T_{tot}(E, J, \pi)}$$

$T$  : transition probability

Smooth Coulomb barrier determined energy dependence!

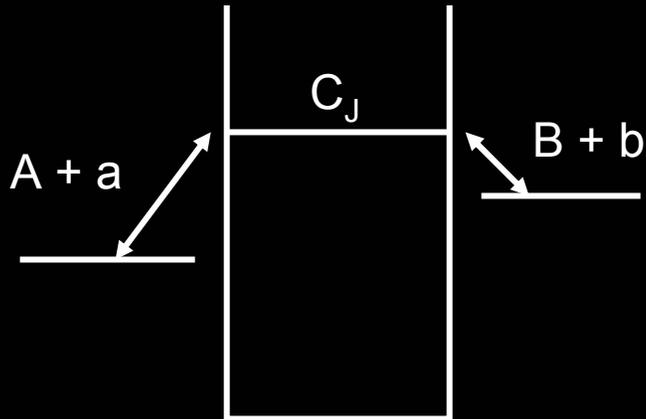
# inverse reactions



or



# detailed balance theorem I



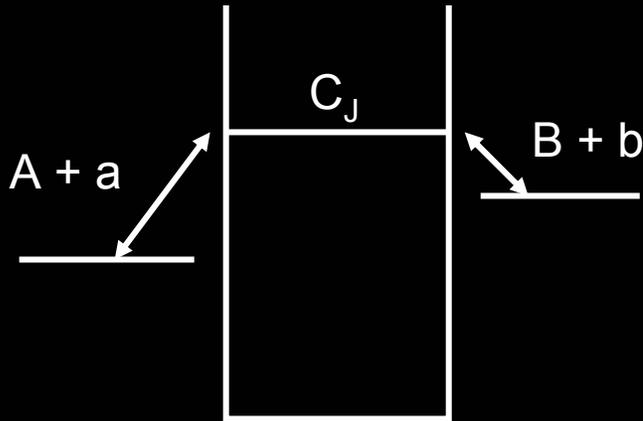
$$\left| \langle \varphi_{Bb} | H | \varphi_{Aa} \rangle \right|^2 = \left| \langle \varphi_{Aa} | H | \varphi_{Bb} \rangle \right|^2$$

identical matrix elements for transition through same compound configuration

$$\sigma_{Aa} = \pi \hat{\lambda}_{Aa}^2 \cdot \frac{(2J + 1)}{(2j_A + 1) \cdot (2j_a + 1)} \cdot \left| \langle \varphi_{Bb} | H | \varphi_{Aa} \rangle \right|^2$$

$$\sigma_{Bb} = \pi \hat{\lambda}_{Bb}^2 \cdot \frac{(2J + 1)}{(2j_B + 1) \cdot (2j_b + 1)} \cdot \left| \langle \varphi_{Aa} | H | \varphi_{Bb} \rangle \right|^2$$

# detailed balance theorem II



theorem allows to calculate reaction cross section from known cross section of the inverse reaction process!

$$\lambda_{Aa}^2 \propto \frac{1}{\mu_{Aa} \cdot E_{Aa}}; \quad \mu_{Aa} = \frac{m_A \cdot m_a}{m_A + m_a} \quad E_{Aa} = E_{cm}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_{Aa}}{\sigma_{Bb}} = \frac{(2j_B + 1)(2j_b + 1)}{(2j_A + 1)(2j_a + 1)} \cdot \frac{m_B \cdot m_b \cdot E_{Bb}}{m_A \cdot m_a \cdot E_{Ab}}$$

# Conclusion

- observational indication for nuclear processes in the past and present universe!
- low energy reaction processes through resonant and non-resonant reaction channels
- cross section determination through
  - single resonance formalism
  - direct capture or transfer formalism
  - statistical model formalism
  - detailed balance approach