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AMS measurements of stellar cross sections across the nuclear chart

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Accurate and precise cross-section data are the key ingredients to our understanding of stellar nucleosynthesis. Common techniques for these data comprise online time-of-flight measurements of reaction cross sections as well as offline methods like the activation technique. In cases of longer-lived nuclides or nuclides with an unfavourable decay scheme, counting atoms directly rather than their decay rates, is the far more sensitive method. Accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) offers a powerful tool to measure cross sections independent on half-lives of reaction products. At the Vienna Environmental Research Accelerator (VERA) we are pursuing a program to study cross sections relevant to nuclear astrophysics. In this context, various samples are irradiated in a quasi-stellar neutron spectrum of $kT = 25$ keV produced with the ${}^7\text{Li}(\text{p},\text{n}){}^7\text{Be}$ reaction at the 3.7MV Van de Graaff accelerator of Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe. The subsequent AMS measurements are performed at VERA. The main challenge in AMS is to discriminate isotopic and isobaric interferences. By extensive background studies the required sensitivity for cross section measurements has been demonstrated for various isotopes prior to the AMS measurements. So far, the reactions ${}^9\text{Be}(\text{n},\text{g}){}^{10}\text{Be}$, ${}^{13}\text{C}(\text{n},\text{g}){}^{14}\text{C}$, ${}^{40}\text{Ca}(\text{n},\text{g}){}^{41}\text{Ca}$, ${}^{54}\text{Fe}(\text{n},\text{g}){}^{55}\text{Fe}$, and ${}^{209}\text{Bi}(\text{n},\text{g}){}^{210}\text{Bi}$ have been investigated. For some of these reactions no experimental results exist up to now. The implications of measured cross sections for various nucleosynthesis scenarios will be discussed.

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