

Merger rates of binary neutron stars and r-process element abundances in the Milky Way

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The chemical abundance patterns of Milky Way stars allow to trace the nucleosynthetic processes that took place before these stars were born, and in particular, to study the sources of r-process elements. In this talk I will discuss the contribution of binary neutron star mergers to the production of r-process elements, focusing on the effect of the delay time distribution between the formation and merger of binary neutron stars. I will also discuss the dispersion in the observed abundances of r-process elements.

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