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Cosmic Ray production of Beryllium and Boron at high redshift

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Observations of ${}^6\text{Li}$ in Pop-II stars of the galactic halo have shown in some cases a surprisingly high abundance of this isotope, about a thousand times higher than its predicted primordial value. Using a cosmological model for the cosmic ray-induced production of this isotope in the IGM allows us to explain the observed abundance at low metallicity. Given this constraint on the ${}^6\text{Li}$, we also calculate the non-thermal evolution with redshift of D, Be, and B in the IGM. In addition to cosmological cosmic ray interactions in the IGM, we include additional processes driven by SN explosions: neutrino spallation and a low energy component in the structures ejected by outflows to the IGM. We take into account CNO CRs impinging on the intergalactic gas. Although subdominant in the galactic disk, this process is shown to produce the bulk of Be and B in the IGM, due to the differential metal enrichment between structures (where CRs originate) and the IGM. We also consider the resulting extragalactic gamma-ray background which we find to be well below existing data. The computation is performed in the framework of hierarchical structure formation considering several star formation histories including Pop-III stars. We find that D production is negligible and that a potentially detectable Be and B plateau is produced by these processes at the time of the formation of the Galaxy ($z\sim 3$).

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Classification de Session: Diffuse emission and cosmic ray interaction with interstellar matter