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Understanding the origin of the elements using rare isotopes in the laboratory

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Nucleosynthetic processes in supernovae and X-ray bursts often involve unstable ions and reactions that are difficult to produce at the relevant energies in rare beam facilities. Recent progress in astronomical observations and the chemical evolution of the Galaxy need to be accompanied with similar progress in understanding the relevant properties of rare isotopes through nuclear physics experiments. I will review the important role that rare isotopes play in understanding stellar explosions, show some examples of recent nuclear physics measurements and give a (very abbreviated) outlook of future nuclear astrophysics studies.

Author: MONTES, Fernando (Michigan State University, USA.)

Presenter: MONTES, Fernando (Michigan State University, USA.)

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