

Abstract for an Invited Paper
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The Cosmic Abundance Distribution Decoded

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Fifty years ago E. M. Burbidge, G. Burbidge, W. A. Fowler, and F. Hoyle, and separately A. G. W. Cameron, made fundamental efforts in interpreting the abundance patterns in stars and meteorites in terms of thermonuclear processes in stars and supernova explosions. These ideas will be reviewed and compared to modern observations and theory.