

Abstract Submitted  
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**Constraining electron capture rates in core-collapse supernovae for nuclei near  $N=50$ .**<sup>1</sup> REMCO ZEGERS, Michigan State Univ, NSCL E15112 COLLABORATION, NSCL E16006 COLLABORATION — Electron captures on medium-heavy nuclei play an important role in the late stages of the evolution of core-collapse supernovae, just prior to the explosion. In particular, nuclei around  $N=50$ , just above  $^{78}\text{Ni}$ , have been identified as especially important for the deleptonization of the core. The astrophysical simulations require accurate electron-capture rates. One has to largely rely on theoretical models, which must be benchmarked and guided by experimental data. This work describes a broad effort to improve the electron capture-rates for nuclear astrophysical simulations, focusing on nuclei near  $N=50$ . This includes ( $t, ^3\text{He}$ ) charge-exchange experiments for extracting Gamow-Teller strengths, the comparison with theoretical models used for calculating electron-capture rates for the astrophysical simulations, and results from sensitivity studies by using 1D core-collapse simulations.

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