Application of a theory and simulation based convective boundary mixing model for AGB star evolution and nucleosynthesis

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ABSTRACT

The s-process nucleosynthesis in Asymptotic Giant Branch (AGB) stars depends on the modeling of convective boundaries. We present models and s-process simulations that adopt a treatment of convective boundaries based on the results of hydrodynamic simulations and on the theory of mixing due to gravity waves in the vicinity of convective boundaries. Hydrodynamics simulations suggest the presence of convective boundary mixing (CBM) at the bottom of the thermal pulse-driven convective zone. Similarly, convection-induced mixing processes are proposed for the mixing below the convective envelope during third dredge-up where the 13 C pocket for the s process in AGB stars forms. In this work we apply a CBM model motivated by simulations and theory to models with initial mass $M = 2$ and $M = 3M_{\odot}$, and with initial metal content

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 $Z = 0.01$ and $Z = 0.02$. As reported previously, the He-intershell abundance of ¹²C and ¹⁶O are increased by CBM at the bottom of pulse-driven convection zone. This mixing is affecting the ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg activation and the s-process efficiency in the ¹³C-pocket. In our model CBM at the bottom of the convective envelope during the third dredgeup represents gravity wave mixing. We take further into account that hydrodynamic simulations indicate a declining mixing efficiency already about a pressure scale height from the convective boundaries, compared to mixing-length theory. We obtain the formation of the ¹³C-pocket with a mass of $\approx 10^{-4} M_{\odot}$. The final s-process abundances are characterized by $0.36 <$ [s/Fe] < 0.78 and the heavy-to-light s-process ratio is -0.23 < [hs/ls] < 0.45. Finally, we compare our results with stellar observations, pre-solar grain measurements and previous work.

Subject headings: stars: abundances — evolution — interiors

1. Introduction

The Asymptotic giant branch (AGB) phase is the final evolutionary stage of low- and intermediatemass stars, during which all their envelope is lost by stellar wind forming a Planetary Nebula [\(Renzini 1983;](#page-29-0) [Kwok 1990\)](#page-28-0). During this phase, the energy output is dominated by the H-burning shell and the He-burning shell, activated alternatively on top of a degenerate core, mainly made of C and O (Schwarzschild $\&$ Härm 1965).

AGB stars have a fundamental role in the chemical evolution of the galaxy, producing among light elements a relevant amount of C, N, F and Na observed today in the solar system (e.g., [Tosi](#page-30-0) [2007;](#page-30-0) [Kobayashi et al. 2011\)](#page-27-0). Beyond Fe, about half of the heavy isotope abundances are made by the slow neutron capture process (s-process, [Burbidge et al. 1957;](#page-25-0) [Cameron 1957\)](#page-25-1). In particular, AGB stars have been identified as the site of the main s-process component of the solar abundance distribution between the Sr neutron magic peak and Pb, and the strong s-process component, explaining half of the solar ^{208}Pb (see Käppeler et al. 2011, and references therein). Most of the neutrons for the s-process come from the ¹³C(α ,n)¹⁶O neutron source, activated in the radiative 13 C-pocket in the He intershell stellar region [\(Straniero et al. 1995\)](#page-30-1). The physics mechanisms driving the formation of the ¹³C-pocket are still matter of debate (see [Herwig 2005,](#page-27-2) and references therein), and will also be discussed in this work.

Neutrons are also made by the ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg reaction, activated at the bottom of the He intershell during the Thermal Pulses (TPs). Whereas the contribution to the total amount of neutrons is smaller compared to the ¹³C neutron source, the activation of the ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg generates higher neutron densities above 10^{10} neutrons cm⁻³, leaving its fingerprints in the final s-process AGB stellar yields (e.g., [Gallino et al. 1998;](#page-26-0) [Cristallo et al. 2011;](#page-25-2) [Karakas & Lattanzio](#page-27-3) [2014\)](#page-27-3).

The production of the s-process elements has been directly observed for a large sample of intrinsic or extrinsic AGB stars at different metallicities (e.g., [Busso et al. 2001;](#page-25-3) [Abia et al. 2002;](#page-25-4) [Sneden et al. 2008;](#page-29-2) [Zamora et al. 2009,](#page-30-2) and references therein), in grains of presolar origin condensed in the winds of old AGB stars and found in pristine carbonaceous meteorites (e.g., [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-1) [2003b;](#page-28-1) [Avila et al. 2012;](#page-25-5) [Zinner 2014;](#page-30-3) [Liu et al. 2014a,](#page-28-2)[b\)](#page-28-3), in post-AGB stars (e.g., [Reddy et al.](#page-29-3) [2002;](#page-29-3) [Reyniers et al. 2004,](#page-29-4) [2007;](#page-29-5) [van Aarle et al. 2013;](#page-30-4) [De Smedt et al. 2014\)](#page-26-1) and in ionized material of planetary nebulae around their central remnant star after the AGB phase (e.g., [Sterling et al.](#page-29-6) [2002;](#page-29-6) [Sharpee et al. 2007;](#page-29-7) [Sterling et al. 2009;](#page-30-5) [Otsuka & Tajitsu 2013\)](#page-29-8). The abundances of the He intershell have been directly observed in post-AGB H-deficient stars (e.g., [Werner & Herwig 2006;](#page-30-6) [Werner et al. 2014\)](#page-30-7) and in planetary nebulae (e.g., Péquignot et al. 2000; Rodríguez & Delgado-[Inglada 2011;](#page-29-10) [Delgado-Inglada et al. 2015\)](#page-26-2), still carrying the abundance signatures original of their previous AGB phase, in particular for light elements like He, C and O.

The possibility to compare stellar-models predictions with such a large variety of independent observations together with the needs for galactic chemical evolution calculations (e.g., [Travaglio](#page-30-8) [et al. 2004\)](#page-30-8), has motivated the production of different sets of AGB stellar yields (e.g., [Bisterzo](#page-25-6) [et al. 2011;](#page-25-6) [Cristallo et al. 2011;](#page-25-2) [Lugaro et al. 2012;](#page-28-4) [Karakas & Lattanzio 2014\)](#page-27-3). The s-process nucleosynthesis is extremely sensitive to thermodynamic conditions, abundances and convective boundary mixing mechanisms in the parent AGB stars, providing fundamental constraints for the macro- and micro-physics inputs used to produce theoretical stellar AGB models (e.g., [Herwig](#page-27-2) [2005\)](#page-27-2). Mixing at two convection boundaries, the bottom of the convective envelope during the third dredge-up, and at the bottom of the pulse-driven convection zone (PDCZ) have been identified as particularly relevant for the nucleosynthesis and evolution of the elements. The latter affects the abundances of the most abundant species (e.g., 4 He, 12 C and 16 O), and therefore the evolution and the nucleosynthesis in the He intershell during the AGB phase (e.g., [Herwig et al. 1997;](#page-27-4) [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-1) [2003b\)](#page-28-1). CBM below the envelope during the third dredge-up (TDU) facilitates the formation of the 13 C-pocket [\(Straniero et al. 1995\)](#page-30-1). Neither of these inherently multi-dimensional fluid dynamics processes can be simulated ab-initio in hydrostatic one-dimensional stellar evolution models.

CBM at the bottom of the convective envelope has been represented as semiconvection [\(Iben](#page-27-5) [& Renzini 1982\)](#page-27-5) , overshooting [\(Herwig et al. 1997\)](#page-27-4), or exponential decay of convective velocities [\(Cristallo et al. 2001\)](#page-25-7). To address this challenge [\(Denissenkov & Tout 2003,](#page-26-3) hereafter De03) investigated mixing induced by internal gravity waves $(IGWs)$ and found a ¹³C-pocket with approximately the size of $\sim 10^{-4} M_{\odot}$ (see their Fig. 5). Other mechanisms that have been proposed considered mixing driven by magnetic buoyancy [\(Busso et al. 2007;](#page-25-8) [Nucci & Busso 2014;](#page-28-5) [Trippella](#page-30-9) [et al. 2016\)](#page-30-9). In the first work the efficiency of mixing was overestimated by several orders of magnitude [\(Denissenkov et al. 2009\)](#page-26-4). In the second work, the authors found the velocity and magnetic field distributions that satisfy the MHD equations under restricted assumptions, but it still needs to be explored what physical process, including magnetic buoyancy, could lead to such distributions.

Limitations in distinguishing between these scenarios include also the uncertainty of their implementation in hydrostatic models, leading to different nucleosynthesis results to compare with observations. For instance, starting from indications of hydrodynamics simulations by [Freytag et al.](#page-26-5) [\(1996\)](#page-26-5), In 1D models, [Herwig et al.](#page-27-4) [\(1997\)](#page-27-4) applied their parameterized description of the velocities of the convective elements to the inclusion of overshoot in stellar evolution calculations up to the AGB. [Cristallo et al.](#page-25-7) [\(2001\)](#page-25-7) implemented a CBM formalism based on the same work by [Freytag](#page-26-5) [et al.](#page-26-5) [\(1996\)](#page-26-5), but did it differently and got different results, with higher s-process production of heavy elements by at least one order of magnitude.

[Herwig et al.](#page-27-6) [\(2007\)](#page-27-6) (hereafter He07) studied the CBM at the bottom of the PDCZ via 2 dimensional hydrodynamical simulations, showing that their results can be reproduced by a first initial decay of the mixing efficiency, followed by a second shallower decay term. Even if He07 simulations do not define this clearly, we believe that the first term is due to Kelvin-Helmholtz instabilities. [Casanova et al.](#page-25-9) [\(2011\)](#page-25-9) interpreted CBM taking place in their 3D simulations of nova explosions as Kelvin-Helmholtz instabilities as the source of inhomogeneous mixing. Since the physical mechanism driving a nova-outburst is similar to the one driving a Helium-flash in AGB stars, we expect Kelvin-Helmholtz instabilities to dominate the CBM at the bottom of convective PDCZ as well. Concerning the second mixing term obtained by He07, we interpreted it as due to IGW, which were seen them plentifully in the hydrodynamic simulations by He07.

IGWs have mostly been considered as an efficient mechanism for angular momentum redistribution in rotating low- and intermediate-mass stars, particularly, in the Sun (e.g., [Press 1981;](#page-29-11) [Ringot 1998;](#page-29-12) [Talon & Charbonnel 2005,](#page-30-10) [2008;](#page-30-11) [Fuller et al. 2014\)](#page-26-6). Chemical mixing is produced by IGWs indirectly, when they modify a velocity field in a stellar radiative zone, which may either bring the rate of rotational mixing in agreement with observations [\(Charbonnel & Talon 2005\)](#page-25-10) or lead to a velocity distribution that becomes unstable on a small length scale when radiative damping is taken into account [\(Garcia Lopez & Spruit 1991;](#page-26-7) Montalbán & Schatzman 2000). De03 implemented the last two IGW mixing mechanisms at the bottom of the convective envelope of a $3 M_{\odot}$ TP-AGB star and showed that both of them could result in the formation of a ¹³C pocket wide enough for the s process.

In this work, we apply the CBM model parameters by He07 as well as a CBM model representing IGW mixing proposed by De03 at the bottom of the convective envelope for the formation of the 13 C pocket. The resulting abundance predictions are confronted with s-process observables in stars and pre-solar grains.

In Section [2](#page-4-0) we briefly describe the MESA stellar code and mppnp post-processing nucleosynthesis tool. In Section [3](#page-8-0) particular attention is given to 13 C-pocket formation and intershell abundances evolution. In Section [4](#page-11-0) we describe the post-processing method applied to compute s-process nucleosynthesis using the NuGrid mppnp code, also comparing our results with observations and other stellar models. Our conclusions are given in Section [5.](#page-19-0) Finally, in the Appendix more details are given about the simulations setup of our MESA stellar models, also comparing with different options and MESA revisions.

2. Physical ingredients

2.1. Stellar Evolution code – MESA

In this work we present eleven AGB stellar models with initial mass 2 and $3 M_{\odot}$ and initial metallicity $Z = 0.01$ and $Z = 0.02$. Their main features are given in Tab. [1](#page-31-0) [2](#page-33-0) and [3,](#page-34-0) and they will be discussed in detail in §[3.](#page-8-0) These models were computed using the stellar code MESA (MESA revision 4219, [Paxton et al. 2010\)](#page-29-13).

The solar distribution used as a reference is given by [Grevesse & Noels](#page-26-8) [\(1993\)](#page-26-8). The COenhanced opacities are used throughout the calculations, using OPAL tables [\(Iglesias & Rogers](#page-27-7) [1996\)](#page-27-7). For lower temperatures, we adopt the corresponding opacities from [Ferguson et al.](#page-26-9) [\(2005\)](#page-26-9). We use the Reimers formula [\(Reimers 1975\)](#page-29-14) with $\eta_R = 0.5$ for the mass loss up to the end of the RGB phase. Along the AGB phase we use instead the Blöcker [\(1995\)](#page-25-11) formula with $\eta_B = 0.01$ for the O-rich phase, $\eta_B = 0.04$ and $\eta_B = 0.08$ for the 2 and 3 M_{\odot} models respectively after the TDU event that makes the surface C/O ratio larger than 1.15. This choice is motivated by observational constraints, as for example the maximum level of C enhancement seen in C-rich stars and planetary nebulae [\(Herwig 2005\)](#page-27-2), as well as by hydrodynamics simulations investigating mass loss rates in C-rich giants (Mattsson & Höfner 2011). For the simulations the MESA nuclear network agb.net is used, including the pp chains, the CNO tri-cycle, the triple- α and the α -capture reactions ${}^{12}C(\alpha, \gamma) {}^{16}O, {}^{14}N(\alpha, \gamma) {}^{18}Fe^+,\nu \rangle {}^{18}O, {}^{18}O(\alpha, \gamma) {}^{22}Ne, {}^{13}C(\alpha, n) {}^{16}O$ and ${}^{19}F(\alpha, p) {}^{22}Ne$. We use the NACRE [\(Angulo et al. 1999\)](#page-25-12) reaction rate compilation for most reactions. For the ¹²C (α, γ) ¹⁶O we adopt the rate by [\(Kunz et al. 2002\)](#page-28-8), $^{14}N(p, \gamma)^{15}O$ is by [\(Imbriani et al. 2004\)](#page-27-8) and the triple- α by [\(Fynbo et al. 2005\)](#page-26-10). Convective mixing follows the standard mixing length theory [\(Vitense 1953;](#page-30-12) Böhm-Vitense 1958) taking into account also CBM treatment.

MESA provides the exponential convective boundary mixing model of [Freytag et al.](#page-26-5) [\(1996\)](#page-26-5) and [Herwig](#page-27-9) [\(2000\)](#page-27-9)

$$
D_{\rm CBM}(z) = D_0 \exp^{-2z/f_1 H_{P0}} \tag{1}
$$

where z is the distance in the radiative layer away from the Schwarzschild boundary. The term $f_1H_{\rm P0}$ is the scale height of the *overshoot* regime.

 D_0 and $H_{\rm P0}$ are the diffusion coefficient and the pressure scale height at the convective boundary respectively. This model describes the rapid decrease of the mixing efficiency at the convective boundary observed in hydrodynamic simulations of efficient, adiabatic convection in the deep stellar interior (e.g. He07, [Herwig et al. 2006;](#page-27-10) [Woodward et al. 2015\)](#page-30-13). He07 reported that mixing below the PDCZ according to their hydrodynamic simulations is best described by combining this initial decay of the mixing efficiency with a second, shallower exponential diffusion profile. MESA lets this second decay to start as soon as the mixing coefficient drops under a value D_2 given by

$$
D_2 = D_0 \exp^{-2z_2/(f_2 H_{P0})}.
$$
\n(2)

with an e-folding distance f_2H_{P0} , that is adopted for distances $z > z_2$.

Therefore, for $z > z_2$:

$$
D_{\rm CBM}(z) = D_2 \exp^{-2(z-z_2)/(f_2H_{P0})}
$$
\n(3)

Hydrodynamic simulations show that the exponential decay starts before reaching the Schwarzschild boundary. In MESA the switch from convective mixing to overshooting happens at a distance f_0H_{P0} from the estimated location of the Schwarzschild boundary, where H_{P0} is the pressure scale height at that location. in this paper, we always assume that $f_0 = f_1$.

During the pre-AGB phase the default overshooting, with a single-exponential decay of the diffusion coefficient in the radiative layer as described in [Herwig](#page-27-9) [\(2000\)](#page-27-9), is applied. A singleexponential decay is also used to account the CBM at the top of the PDCZ, using a value $f=0.014$. This low value is constrained by the increase in entropy across the hydrogen-burning shell and is expected to have an impact on nucleosynthesis only at much lower metallicity, around $Z=0.0001$ [\(Fujimoto et al. 2000;](#page-26-11) [Stancliffe et al. 2011;](#page-29-15) [Herwig 2005\)](#page-27-2). On the other hand, for the AGB phase in this work we adopt a three parameter CBM model with two exponential decay regions characterized f_1 and f_2 while D_2 defines the boundary between the two regions. These three parameters are inputs to the CBM model in MESA in order to determine the mixing profile at the convective boundary. A schematic description of this formalism is given in Fig. [1.](#page-40-0) This CBM scheme is only applied during the AGB phase, since the mixing that our CBM model represents has been specifically studied in this phase. Model parameters for CBM at the bottom of the PDCZ and at the bottom of the convective envelope during the TDU are given in Tab. 1^{13} 1^{13} 1^{13} . The model parameters f_1 , f_2 and D_2 at each of these two convective boundaries are taken from He07 and from theoretical work by [Denissenkov & Tout](#page-26-3) [\(2003\)](#page-26-3). For the PDCZ, He07 extracted the following values as upper limits: $f_1=0.01, D_2=10^5$ cm²s⁻¹, $f_2=0.14$.

Concerning the bottom of convective envelope during TDU, we chose f_2 to match the mixing profile of IGWs derived by De03, and D_2 to match the maximum of the IGW profile modelling the rapid decay of our mixing coefficient profile through a rapid decay across the convective boundary using a small f_1 . In this way our CBM model represent mixing due to IGWs, and this is the physical process through which in our models the 13 C-pocket forms. The results are shown in Fig. [2,](#page-41-0) where $f_2=0.24$ is the minimum value able to fit the mixing coefficient for IGW. The curves obtained with $f_2=0.25$ and $f_2=0.26$ also well reproduce De03 results for values closer to ¹³C-pocket formation regime $(10^6 \le D_0 \le 10^8)$. In this work we used as default $f_1=0.014$, $D_2=10^{11}$ cm²s⁻¹, $f_2=0.25$ (see also Tab. [1\)](#page-31-0). On the other hand, the f_1 parameter only marginally affects the size of the ¹³C-pocket. In general, by increasing(decreasing) f_1 the position of the ¹³C-pocket is shifted downward(upward) in the He intershell layers. This parameter may affect instead the overall TDU efficiency, and thus

¹³The inlist files and any additional information to reproduce our results are provided on htp ://www.mesastars.org and in <data.nugridstars.org>

the amount of C and s-process material dredged-up to the surface of the AGB star. As previously said, we use $f_1=0.014$ as default, consistently with the exponential decay parameter used during the AGB interpulse phase in Pi13. The robustness of these choices have been tested, see §[3.](#page-8-0) In Tab. [1](#page-31-0) the *clipping* column is given, where by *clipping* we mean the limitation of the mixing length to the length of the convection zone which is adopted from MESA revision 3713 onwards. Therefore, the stellar models M3.z2m2.he07, M2.z2m2.he07, M3.z1m2.he07 and M2.z1m2.he07 in Tab. [1,](#page-31-0) are calculated by using MESA rev. 4219 but without clipping.

We recommend as best MESA simulation setup the one used in he07 models, compared to the *clipping* models, although the final nucleosynthesis products are similar. This point is discussed in detail in the Appendix.

For the first time, we explore the effect of mixing due to molecular diffusion. Such mixing may dilute the ¹³C-pocket with ¹⁴N from above during the long inter-pulse period. We assume that the molecular diffusivity is equal to the molecular viscosity, because both of them are proportional to a product of the mean free path and mean velocity of the same particles. On the contrary, we do not consider the radiative viscosity as a component of the microscopic diffusivity, because it describes the exchange of momentum between photons and particles, therefore it is proportional to the photon mean free path and the speed of light. The default MESA revision used for this work allows to include radiative viscosity as microscopic diffusion term, according to Morel $\&$ Thévenin [\(2002\)](#page-28-9). For this work, also according to [Alecian & Michaud](#page-25-14) [\(2005\)](#page-25-14), we consider the molecular viscosity term, using the following expression [\(Spitzer 1962\)](#page-29-16):

$$
\nu_{\rm mol} = 2.21 \times 10^{-15} \left(1 + 7X\right) \frac{T^{5/2} \times A^{1/2}}{\rho \times Z^4 \times Log\Lambda}.\tag{4}
$$

where Λ is the Coulomb integral, with value ranging from 15 to 40 depending on the composition of the stellar layers. With the present implementation, the impact of molecular diffusion on final surface elemental abundances is \lesssim 5%. On the contrary, the impact on s-process nucleosynthesis is severe if the controversial implementation from Morel $\&$ Thévenin [\(2002\)](#page-28-9) is adopted, strongly increasing the $14N$ diffusion into the $13C$ pocket and completely suppressing the s-process production by the ¹³C(α ,n)¹⁶O neutron source. While we may rule out the implementation by [Morel &](#page-28-9) Thévenin [\(2002\)](#page-28-9) (for more details we refer to the discussion in [Alecian & Michaud 2005\)](#page-25-14), the role of molecular diffusion during the AGB phase deserves further investigation.

2.2. Nucleosynthesis Post-Processing Calculations – MPPNP

For the s-process nucleosynthesis we used the multi-zone post-processing code mppnp [\(Pig](#page-29-17)[natari et al. 2013,](#page-29-17) hereafter Pi13). The stellar structure evolution data for all zones at all time steps are saved, and then processed with the mppnp code. The network can include up to about 5000 isotopes between H and Bi, and more than 50000 nuclear reactions. A dynamical network defines the number of species and reactions considered in each zone individually, based on the strength of

nucleosynthesis flows producing and destroying each isotope. Nuclear reaction rates are collected from different data sources, including the European NACRE compilation [\(Angulo et al. 1999\)](#page-25-12) and [Iliadis et al.](#page-27-11) [\(2001\)](#page-27-11), or more recent if available (e.g., [Fynbo et al. 2005;](#page-26-10) [Kunz et al. 2002;](#page-28-8) [Imbriani](#page-27-12) [et al. 2005\)](#page-27-12). For the ¹³C(α ,n)¹⁶O and ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg rates we use [Heil et al.](#page-27-13) [\(2008\)](#page-27-13) and [Jaeger](#page-27-14) [et al.](#page-27-14) [\(2001\)](#page-27-14), respectively. For experimental neutron capture rates of stable isotopes and available rates for unstable isotopes we use mostly the Kadonis compilation version 0.3 (see [Dillmann et al.](#page-26-12) [\(2014\)](#page-26-12) and <http://www.kadonis.org>). Exceptions relevant for this work are the neutron-capture cross sections of $90,92,93,94,95,96$ Zr: we used instead the new rates by [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-10) [\(2014\)](#page-28-10), calculated based on recent experimental measurements. For stellar β -decay and electron-capture weak rates we use [Fuller et al.](#page-26-13) [\(1985\)](#page-26-13), [Oda et al.](#page-28-11) [\(1994\)](#page-28-11), Langanke & Martínez-Pinedo [\(2000\)](#page-28-12) and [Goriely](#page-26-14) [\(1999\)](#page-26-14), according to the mass region. Rates are taken from JINA reaclib library [\(Cyburt et al.](#page-26-15) [2010\)](#page-26-15) if not available from one of the resources mentioned above.

3. Stellar models - CBM in the He intershell and the 13 C-pocket

In this chapter we summarize the relevant CBM features adopted in our simulations for the AGB evolution at the He-intershell boundaries, and we present the main properties of the AGB models, which are listed in Tab. [1.](#page-31-0) In this table, model names contain the following information: The initial mass is given by the number following the initial capital M. Initial metallicity is given by what follows the z. Considering M3.z2m2 as an example, M3 means that this is a 3 M_{\odot} model, z2m2 is to be read as $Z=2\times10^{-2}$, where m2 means minus two referring to the exponent to be applied.

3.1. CBM at the bottom of the convective TP

Based on hydrodynamics simulations of the AGB He flash, He07 suggested the presence of CBM at the bottom of the PDCZ zone. Furthermore, He07 obtained that convective motions induce a rich spectrum of IGW in the neighboring stable layers. For the stellar models M3.z2m2.he07, M2.z2m2.he07, M3.z1m2.he07 and M2.z1m2.he07 we adopt the CBM parameterization by He07. For the analogous models without the He07 setup, we use instead a larger f_1 value, obtaining similar He, C and O abundances in the He intershell. For instance, the M3.z2m2.he07 model shows a final He, C and O of 55%, 29% and 16% respectively, compared to 48%, 31% and 13% of model M3.z2m2.

We do not present here AGB models exploring the D_2 and f_2 parameters. The parameter f_2 has a negligible impact on the evolution and composition of the He intershell with $D_2=10^5$. The parameters D_2 and f_2 become relevant only for $D_2 \gtrsim 10^7\ {\rm cm^2 s^{-1}}$, two orders of magnitude higher than the indications by He07 results. Therefore, at the bottom of the PDCZ a single exponential-decay parameterization would be enough to include CBM in 1D stellar models.

3.2. CBM at the bottom of the convective envelope during TDU: the formation of the ¹³C-pocket

The CBM below the convective envelope during each TDU all along the AGB phase causes a decreasing profile of protons in the He-intershell material, due to a finite amount of proton diffusion from the convective envelope into the He intershell. This profile is the product of the physics mechanisms triggering the CBM, and will directly impact on crucial features of the radiative ¹³Cpocket. The value of the H/Y(¹²C) ratio (where Y(¹²C) is the molar fraction of ¹²C in the He intershell) defines the boundary between the 13 C-pocket and the 14 N-pocket above. The proton capture rates involved in the production and in the depletion of 13 C in these stellar radiative layers and the amount of ¹²C define where the condition $X(^{13}C) > X(^{14}N)$ is satisfied (e.g., [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-1) [2003b;](#page-28-1) [Goriely & Siess 2004;](#page-26-16) [Cristallo et al. 2009\)](#page-25-15). The ¹⁴N-pocket is also ¹³C rich, but the neutrons made by the ¹³C(α ,n)¹⁶O reaction are mostly captured by the poison reaction ¹⁴N(n,p)¹⁴C, thus

drastically reducing the s-process efficiency (e.g., [Gallino et al. 1998;](#page-26-0) [Cristallo et al. 2015a\)](#page-25-16). With our nuclear-reaction rates choice, the upper boundary of the ¹³C-pocket is given by H/Y(¹²C) ∼ 0.4. During the TDU, this ratio is obtained for a mixing coefficient D $\sim 10^7 \text{cm}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$. See for comparison with other models the discussion in [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-1) [\(2003b\)](#page-28-1), [Goriely & Siess](#page-26-16) [\(2004\)](#page-26-16) and [Cristallo et al.](#page-25-15) [\(2009\)](#page-25-15). For $H/Y(^{12}C) \lesssim 0.4$ the ¹³C-pocket forms, with a decreasing abundance of 13^C moving toward the center of the star. The s-process production in He-intershell layers with concentration of ¹³C $\leq 10^{-3}$ becomes negligible. The size of the ¹³C-pocket (i.e. the ¹³C-rich mass region with $X(^{13}C) > X(^{14}N)$ and $X(^{13}C) > 10^{-3}$ is crucial for the s-process production.

We analyzed the impact of the D_2 and f_2 parameters on the size of the ¹³C-pocket. In Fig. [3](#page-42-0) the ¹³C-pocket size resulting from the model M2.z2m2 is shown as a function of D_2 and f_2 after the 5th TDU. In order to produce the results of this test, we have recalculated the stellar structure from the end of the previous convective TP until the formation of the 13 C-pocket. In these calculations, we explored the parameter range $10^7 \leq D_2 \leq 10^{13}$, and $0.17 \leq f_2 \leq 0.29$. All the other stellar parameters were not changed. The typical ¹³C-pocket size obtained by using the IGW value from De03 is ∼ 7-8 ×10⁻⁵ M_o. The size of the ¹³C-pocket tends to increase with increasing of D₂ and f₂, up to a size of 1.5 ×10⁻⁴ M_☉ with the largest D₂ and f₂ values . The colored area represents the range of f_2 still giving an acceptable fitting of De03 calculations, and of D_2 assuming an uncertainty of one order of magnitude. Within this range, the ¹³C-pocket size is varying between 4×10^{-5} and 1.2×10^{-4} M_o. We added two AGB models to our set, M2.z2m2.hCBM and M3.z1m2.hCBM (Tab. [1\)](#page-31-0), with $D_2=10^{12}$ cm²s⁻¹ and f₂=0.27 where the impact of a larger ¹³C-pocket within the mentioned uncertainty range is explored. The same investigation has been performed at the 3rd TDU of the same model, giving consistent results.

In Fig. [4](#page-43-0) we report three snapshots of the abundance profiles of indicative species from model M3.z2m2, showing the maximum penetration of H in the He intershell during the 5th TDU, the following ¹³C-pocket when the ¹³C(α ,n)¹⁶O starts to be activated, depleting ⁵⁶Fe and making s-process species, and close to the end of the AGB interpulse period, when 13 C has been consumed. The following convective TP will mix convectively the s-process products in the He intershell and the next TDU will enrich the surface with these newly produced heavy elements.

3.3. AGB stellar models: summary of their main features

In the previous two sections we have discussed the CBM setup used to calculate the AGB stellar models listed in Tab. [1.](#page-31-0) The main properties of these AGB models are summarized in Tab. [2](#page-33-0) and [3.](#page-34-0) The number of thermal pulses goes from 13 for model M3.z1m2, to 27 for model M2.z2m2.he07. The model reaching the highest temperature at the bottom of the AGB envelope is M3.z1m2.he07, while the coldest model is M2.z1m2.he07. The total mass dredged up goes from 3.243 10⁻² M_ofor model M2.z2m2.he07 to 1.298 $10^{-1} M_{\odot}$ for model M3.z2m2. In Fig. [5,](#page-44-0) we show the evolution of the C/O ratio at the stellar surface during the AGB evolution. All these models become C rich at the end of their AGB evolution, and the surface C/O ratio evolves similarly. The he07 models show a C/O ratio lower by about 0.2, that corresponds to an average departure of 10% from their corresponding *clipped* models, which is mostly due to a lower λ_{DUP} dredge-up parameter during the AGB phase. The parameter λ_{DUP} is shown in Fig. [6](#page-44-1) and is defined as:

$$
\lambda = \frac{\Delta M_{DUP}}{\Delta M_H} \tag{5}
$$

where ΔM_H is the growth of the H-free core after each TP and ΔM_{DUP} is the dredged up mass. As expected we obtain more efficient TDUs (i.e., higher λ_{DUP}) with decreasing of the initial metallicity and increasing initial mass (see, [Lattanzio 1989\)](#page-28-13). The total mass dredged up M_D and the maximum mass dredged up ΔM_{Dmax} increase with initial mass (Tab. [2\)](#page-33-0). In Fig. [7,](#page-45-0) we show the temperature at the bottom of the convective envelope during the deepest extend of TDU (T_{CEB}) . In general, models with $Z=0.02$ show larger temperatures T_{CEB} compared to models at $Z=0.01$. This is due to the anti-correlation between the largest temperature at the bottom of the He-flash convective zone (T_{FBOT}) and T_{CEB} : the higher the TP luminosity, the more the He intershell will expand causing colder TDUs (T_{CEB} and T_{FBOT} for all the AGB models and all the TPs are provided in Tab. [3\)](#page-34-0). We also confirm the strong dependence of the interpulse period with the core-mass as already discussed by [Paczynski](#page-29-18) [\(1974\)](#page-29-18). This is obtained not only along the evolution of single models, but also comparing results between different models. The envelope mass is not important for this, since our 3 M_{\odot} models have almost the same interpulse period as our 2 M_{\odot} models when core masses the same. The extension of the different TP episodes reflect the intershell thickness instead, being larger in 2 M_{\odot} models and smaller in 3 M_{\odot} ones as expected. Finally, all our models experience a large mass-loss increase as the Blöcker wind coefficient η_B is artificially increased when the star becomes C-rich,

mimicking in this way the effect of higher opacities in such regime (see discussion in $\S 2.1$). Another consequence of the higher value of η_B , is the occurrence of a super-wind regime

after the last TDU event of each model, leading to the loss of a envelope mass ranging from about 0.7 to 1 M_{\odot} and finally leaving the degenerate CO core surrounded by the He-intershell. In order to simulate the last TPs, we modify the opacity to prevent convergence problems related to the iron opacity peak at the bottom of the envelope. Indeed, when the star is approaching the end of the TP AGB, close to stripping the envelope from the CO core unstable pulsation due to the opacity-mechanism from the Fe-group opacity bump at T around 2×10^5 K in a zone right-below the surface set in up. This can be also seen in large and irregular variations of effective temperature and luminosity in the HR diagram. This effect was identified by [Dziembowski & Pamiatnykh](#page-26-17) [\(1993\)](#page-26-17) to explain β Chepheids pulsations, also determining that a typical solar metal content suffices to account for the pulsation. Our stellar models calculations manage to advance this stage after several thousand timesteps, eventually with no success. In order to get through this phase, we confirm that lowering the opacity to prevent the iron bump may help [\(Jeffery & Saio 2006;](#page-27-15) [Lau et al. 2012\)](#page-28-14), but for our purpose this last phase is not important, since the mass loss is so large that none or very little s process production could still happen before the entire envelope is lost.

4. Post-processing nucleosynthesis calculations and comparison with observations

In this section we discuss the nucleosynthesis results of our post-processing calculations, and we compare them with observations and stellar yields from other authors. The abundances for all the isotopes up to Bi have been calculated using the post-processing tool mppnp $(\S 2)$ $(\S 2)$. In addition to the stellar models in Tab. [1,](#page-31-0) we performed additional post-processing calculations on the same stellar structures, but using different reaction rate networks. The complete list of these models is given in Tab. [4.](#page-38-0) In particular, we tested the impact of the $^{14}N(n,p)^{14}C$ reaction rate (models labeled with ntest, where the default rate is multiplied by a factor of two). The ¹⁴N(n,p)¹⁴C is the main neutron poison in the ¹³C-pocket. While there are several experimental results beyond 20 keV [\(Wallner](#page-30-14) [et al. 2012,](#page-30-14) and references therein), there is only one available so far at energies ∼ 8 keV, typical for the ¹³C-pocket [\(Koehler & O'Brien 1989\)](#page-27-16). Above 20 keV, independent experiments obtain rates changing within a factor of three. The Zr neutron capture cross section have been updated by a number of studies in recent years [\(Tagliente et al. 2012;](#page-30-15) [Lugaro et al. 2014,](#page-28-10) and references therein). In particular, [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-10) [\(2014\)](#page-28-10) provided a new evaluation of the ${}^{95}Zr(n,\gamma){}^{96}Zr$ cross section based on the measurements on neighbor Zr species, which is more than a factor of two lower compared to older rates (e.g., [Bao et al. 2000\)](#page-25-17). This rate is important for the s-process branching point at $95Zr$, leading to the production of $96Zr$. Zr isotopic ratios are observed in presolar SiC mainstream grains from AGB stars [\(Barzyk et al. 2006\)](#page-25-18). They provide an important diagnostic for the thermodynamics conditions at the bottom of the He-intershell during convective TPs (e.g., [Lugaro et al. 2003b\)](#page-28-1). Therefore, we have tested the impact of this reaction on the s-process Zr products reducing the ${}^{95}Zr(n,\gamma){}^{96}Zr$ rate by a factor of two.

We did not consider in this work the uncertainties of other reaction rates that impact s-process nucleosynthesis predictions in AGB stars, such as the ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg (see e.g., [Gallino et al. 1998;](#page-26-0) [Pignatari et al. 2005;](#page-29-19) [Karakas et al. 2006;](#page-27-17) [Liu et al. 2014b;](#page-28-3) [Bisterzo et al. 2015\)](#page-25-19).

In §[3](#page-8-0) we described the new CBM parameterization adopted at the boundaries of the He intershell to calculate the AGB stellar models discussed here. We have seen from Fig. [5](#page-44-0) that all the AGB models become C-rich before the end of the AGB phase, with final $1.4 \leq C/O \leq 2.4$. In Figs. [8](#page-45-1) and [9,](#page-46-0) we show the evolution of the s-process indices during the AGB evolution [\(Luck](#page-28-15) [& Bond 1991\)](#page-28-15) compared to observations of surface abundances of Carbon stars [\(Abia et al. 2002;](#page-25-4) [Zamora et al. 2009\)](#page-30-2), where [ls/Fe] is representative of the surface abundance of s-process elements at the neutron shell closure N=50 (ls elements = Sr, Y, Zr), and [hs/Fe] of the elements at N=82 (hs elements $=$ Ba, La, Nd, Sm). The ratio \vert hs/ls indicates the relative s-process production at the two s-process neutron-magic peaks, independently from the absolute production of these el-ements (e.g. [Busso et al. 2001\)](#page-25-3). Compared to the model Pi13.newnet, the model M3.z2m2.he07 (and M3.z2m2) has a production more efficient by 0.3-0.4 dex at the two s-process peak elements. This is due to the different CBM prescription used at the bottom of the convective envelope during the TDU compared to Pi13. The IGW model parameterization allows to form 13 C pockets that are a factor of 3-5 larger compared to the overshooting CBM prescription used by Pi13. On the other hand, the two models have comparable concentrations of ${}^{12}C$ in the He intershell, allowing to build similar amounts of 13 C in 13 C-pocket layers [\(Lugaro et al. 2003b\)](#page-28-1). As a consequence, the [hs/ls] ratios are similar within ∼ 0.05 dex. The model M3.z1m2 and the associated test cases show stronger s-process enrichment compared to the models with lower mass or higher metallicity. In particular, [ls/Fe] ∼ 0.7 for model M3.z1m2.hCBM.ntest, and [hs/Fe] ∼ 0.95 for M3.z1m2 and M3.z1m2.hCBM.ntest. The factor driving the difference in the shape of the curves between the 2 and 3 M_{\odot} models is the larger λ_{DUP} parameter in the 3 M_{\odot} models and, concerning the Z=0.02 cases, the larger number of TDUs (check Tab. [2](#page-33-0) and Fig. [6\)](#page-44-1).

In Fig. [8,](#page-45-1) we show the comparison between AGB models with and without clipping, but using the same CBM parameterization at the bottom of TDUs (see Tab. [1\)](#page-31-0). The results give similar results within 0.1 dex. Therefore, our s-process calculations are not much affected by using these two different setups. This is because the set of AGB models he07 and the analogous models with no clipping but higher f_1 share enhanced C and O abundances in the He intershell (see discussion in §[6](#page-22-0) and [3\)](#page-8-0). Indeed, as shown by [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-1) [\(2003b\)](#page-28-1), the amount of 12 C present in the He intershell is a fundamental parameter affecting the neutron exposure in the ¹³C pocket.

Most of the models show a final $\vert \text{hs}/\text{ls} \vert > 0$, with the exception of the models M2.z2m2.hCBM and M2.z2m2.hCBM.ntest, where $[hs/ls] = -0.1$ and -0.25 respectively. These models with more efficient IGW CBM than M2.z2m2, host 13 C-pockets on average 50-70% larger compared to the default case. The resulting s-process enrichment in the AGB star envelope increases by $\lesssim 0.2$ dex for ls elements and hs elements (Fig. [9\)](#page-46-0). In general, a larger 13 C-pocket allows to have a more gradual decline of ¹³C, and to produce lighter elements more efficiently. In general, hCBM models show lower [hs/ls] ratios (i.e., an average lower neutron exposure), compared to their analogous with our default CBM.

This is interesting, since these variations in the s-process abundances are obtained with the same He-intershell conditions. Therefore, while the total amount of s-process elements dredgedup in the AGB envelope is not drastically affected, the uncertainties associated with the IGW CBM setup in our models affect the relative production at the Sr peak with respect to the Ba peak. According to the discussion in §[3,](#page-8-0) the parameters D_2 (i.e. the point where the IGW mixing efficiency dominates CBM) and f_2 need to be constrained by future hydrodynamics simulations with an uncertainty much lower than what we considered here.

In Fig. [9,](#page-46-0) we show the cases labeled as *reference_model.ntest*, where the only difference with respect to their reference models is the ¹⁴N(n,p)¹⁴C rate multiplied by a factor of two (Tab. [4\)](#page-38-0). By changing the ¹⁴N(n,p)¹⁴C rate, the impact is comparable to the uncertainty related to the IGW CBM setup. For the default models the rate increase reduces the [hs/ls] by about 0.05 dex, while for hCBM models the [hs/ls] ratio is reduced by 0.1 dex. This effect is due to the higher poisoning effect of ¹⁴N using the higher ¹⁴N(n,p)¹⁴C rate, reducing the neutron exposure and favoring the production at the Sr peak compared to the models using a lower rate. While the errors given by [Koehler & O'Brien](#page-27-16) [\(1989\)](#page-27-16) are much lower than a factor of two, the large departure between different experiments at energies larger than 20 keV requires more experimental analysis. An accurate determination of the ¹⁴N(n,p)¹⁴C cross section at ~ 8 keV would allow to better constrain the physics mechanisms driving the formation of the ¹³C pocket.

4.1. Comparison with spectroscopic observations of post-AGB H-deficient stars and planetary nebulae

About 10% of AGB stars will experience a late pulse or very late thermal pulse event during their post-AGB evolution, becoming H-deficient stars (e.g., [Herwig et al. 1999;](#page-27-18) [Miller Bertolami](#page-28-16) [et al. 2006\)](#page-28-16). Examples are Sakurai's object (e.g., [Herwig et al. 2011,](#page-27-19) and references therein), and Fg Sagittae [\(Gonzalez et al. 1998\)](#page-26-18). The observation of the surface abundances of stars like the PG1159 objects reveal the He-intershell abundances at late AGB stages, where the amount of the most abundant elements He, C and O are relics of the AGB stellar evolution and diagnostics for CBM during this earlier phase (e.g., [Werner & Herwig 2006;](#page-30-6) [Werner et al. 2014\)](#page-30-7). In particular, the observed range of abundances in mass fractions are $0.3 <$ He $< 0.85, 0.15 <$ C < 0.6 and 0.02 $<$ O $<$ 0.20. The CBM at the bottom of the He-intershell during the convective TPs allows to cover this range of abundances and the largest observed concentrations for C and O, whether the physics mechanism driving the CBM is overshooting (e.g., [Herwig et al. 1997\)](#page-27-4) or Kelvin-Helmholtz instabilities (this work). [Lawlor & MacDonald](#page-28-17) [\(2006\)](#page-28-17) partially reproduced the observed C and O enrichment in the He intershell, with a maximum O concentration of 5.9%, by including semiconvection in their calculations. While the observation of C and O in H-deficient stars is affected by uncertainties (e.g., [Asplund 1999;](#page-25-20) [Gallino et al. 2011\)](#page-26-19), there are no published observations questioning the large spread of C and O abundances in post-AGB H-deficient stars, and the largest C and O enrichment that are observed.

In Fig. [10,](#page-47-0) upper panel, the abundances of He, C and O are shown in the He intershell after each TP for our models M2.z2m2, M3.z2m2, M2.z1m2 and M3.z1m2. In particular, the final C and O abundances are 0.39-0.48 and 0.12-0.18, respectively. In the lower panel, the same data are given for the models M2.z2m2.he07, M3.z2m2.he07, M2.z1m2.he07 and M3.z1m2.he07. In this case, the final C and O abundances are 0.33-0.41 and 0.13-0.17, respectively. The two sets of AGB models show similar evolution patterns for He-intershell abundances. As a comparison, in Fig. [11](#page-48-0) we report the abundances observed for PG1159 stars [\(Werner & Herwig 2006\)](#page-30-6), that are comparable with the final He-intershell abundances shown in Fig. [10.](#page-47-0) In particular, in the same plot we show the results from model M2.z2m2.he07 as a representative case of our calculations.

At the end of the post-AGB evolutionary phase, planetary nebulae (PNe) are still carriers of the abundance signatures of the previous AGB phase [\(van Winckel 2003,](#page-30-16) and references therein). The abundances of elements such as O, Cl, Ar have been used in order to identify the initial metallicity of the PN progenitor, assuming that their initial concentrations are not affected by AGB nucleosynthesis. However, evidence for O enrichment have been found first for PNe at low metallicity (e.g., Péquignot et al. 2000), and lately for PNe with metallicities close to solar (Rodríguez [& Delgado-Inglada 2011;](#page-29-10) [Delgado-Inglada et al. 2015\)](#page-26-2). In particular, [Delgado-Inglada et al.](#page-26-2) [\(2015\)](#page-26-2)

confirmed that the O enrichment calculated for AGB models including CBM at the bottom of the intershell during the convective TP by Pi13 are compatible with observations of PNe with solar-like metallicity. Consistently with post-AGB H-deficient stars, another independent confirmation that CBM should be included during the AGB phase comes from observation of O isotopic ratios in C-rich AGB stars [\(Karakas et al. 2010\)](#page-27-20).

4.2. Comparison to the literature and with spectroscopic data from AGB stars

In Fig. [12,](#page-49-0) the [hs/ls] ratio obtained in our models is compared with spectroscopic observations of galactic-disk AGB stars [\(Abia et al. 2002;](#page-25-4) [Zamora et al. 2009\)](#page-30-2). Both [Abia et al.](#page-25-4) [\(2002\)](#page-25-4) and [Zamora et al.](#page-30-2) [\(2009\)](#page-30-2) derived the s-element abundance pattern of Carbon stars. [Abia et al.](#page-25-4) [\(2002\)](#page-25-4) analyzed N-type stars of nearly solar and super-solar metallicity, while [Zamora et al.](#page-30-2) [\(2009\)](#page-30-2) focused on lower metallicity R-type stars. This is the main reason why data from these two works are located in two distinct areas on the $\vert \text{hs/ls} \vert$ VS $\vert M/H \vert$ plane (Fig. [12\)](#page-49-0). They are consistent with each other since the resulting pattern of $[hs/ls]$ decreases with $[M/H]$ as expected as a consequence of the lower number of neutrons captured by each iron seed [\(Busso et al. 2001\)](#page-25-3). The results for the stellar models with the same initial mass from the FRUITY database are also shown [\(Cristallo et al.](#page-25-21) [2015b\)](#page-25-21). The different $[M/H]$ between the two theoretical data sets is due to the different reference solar metals distribution adopted.

In our models, we consider CBM at the bottom of the convective TP, while this is not the case for the models in the FRUITY database shown here for comparison. This implies that we obtain a peak-¹³C concentrations the ¹³C pocket that is about a factor of two larger compared to models without CBM at the bottom of the PDCZ [\(Lugaro et al. 2003b\)](#page-28-1). This translates into a proportionally larger peak-neutron exposure and in turn yielding a more efficient production of heavier s-process elements as seen by a systematically larger $[hs/ls]$ in our models compared to AGB calculations by [Cristallo et al.](#page-25-2) [\(2011\)](#page-25-2), and in general compared to all models without CBM below the PDCZ (e.g., [Bisterzo et al. 2011;](#page-25-6) [Lugaro et al. 2014\)](#page-28-10).

Note that it is not only the CBM at the bottom of the intershell during convective TP that defines the evolution of the [hs/ls] ratio at the surface of the AGB star. Indeed, the s-process nucleosynthesis is also affected by the complex interplay between CBM at both the two He intershell boundaries, and the selection of the nuclear reaction rates. In Fig. [9,](#page-46-0) we have shown that a different IGW CBM setup at the bottom of the TDU combined with the uncertainty of the $^{14}N(n,p)^{14}C$ rate might reduce by up to ∼0.3 dex the final [hs/ls] ratio. The models shown in Fig. [12](#page-49-0) do not include other relevant physics mechanisms such as rotation and magnetic field. [Herwig et al.](#page-27-21) [\(2003\)](#page-27-21) and [Siess et al.](#page-29-20) [\(2004\)](#page-29-20), and more recently [Piersanti et al.](#page-29-21) [\(2013\)](#page-29-21), have shown that by considering rotation in AGB models the final [hs/ls] ratio tends to be reduced, compared to non-rotating models. On the other hand, [Herwig](#page-27-2) [\(2005\)](#page-27-2) discussed the possible interplay between rotation and magnetic field, where the impact of rotation can be partially suppressed by magnetic field.

Overall, both sets of models in Fig. [12](#page-49-0) are consistent with observations. This is also due to the large observational uncertainties, reported in the figure.

In Fig. [13,](#page-50-0) we compare our models with spectroscopic observations for $[Rb/Fe]$ and the s/Fe ratio, given by the average production at the ls and hs s-process neutron-magic peaks. The $\sqrt{s/E}$ ratio is a diagnostic for the s-process efficiency, and the [Rb/Fe] ratio increases with the increase of the efficiency of the ²²Ne $(\alpha,n)^{25}$ Mg reaction during the TP (e.g., [Lambert et al. 1995\)](#page-28-18). Indeed, Rb is not made efficiently at neutron densities typical of the ¹³C pocket, while at the high neutron densities during the TP the nucleosynthesis flows ${}^{84}\text{Kr}(n,\gamma){}^{85}\text{Kr}(n,\gamma){}^{86}\text{Kr}(n,\gamma){}^{87}\text{Kr}(\beta^-){}^{87}\text{Rb}$ and ${}^{84}\text{Kr}(n,\gamma){}^{85}\text{Kr}(\beta^-){}^{85}\text{Rb}(n,\gamma){}^{86}\text{Rb}(n,\gamma){}^{87}\text{Rb}$ accumulate ${}^{87}\text{Rb}$. In these conditions, ${}^{87}\text{Rb}$ is made more efficiently than ⁸⁵Rb and the s-process production of Rb is higher, because of the lower neutron capture cross section of ${}^{87}Rb$ compared to ${}^{85}Rb$ (e.g., [Abia et al. 2001\)](#page-25-22). As for Fig. [12,](#page-49-0) in Fig. [13](#page-50-0) observational uncertainties pose a serious limitation to the diagnostic power of these observed abundance ratios. A large observational scatter is obtained for s-process and Rb enrichment. On the other hand, it needs to be clarified if such a scatter is just due to observational uncertainties, or if it is instead tracing a real spread of s-process nucleosynthesis conditions in the He intershell of AGB stars.

In our models the [s/Fe] ratio ranges between ∼ 0.4 dex (M2.z2m2) and 0.8 dex (M3.z1m2.hCBM). They all show quite similar theoretical curves in Fig. [13,](#page-50-0) consistent also with results from the FRUITY models at Z=0.02. On the other hand, the s-process abundance evolution for the models at Z=0.01 by [Cristallo et al.](#page-25-2) [\(2011\)](#page-25-2) shows a larger [s/Fe] up to [s/Fe]∼1.3 dex, with a production of Rb comparable with the models at higher metallicity. As already found considering Fig. [8,](#page-45-1) we obtain similar results for these AGB models and their analogous he07 stellar models. In the same figure and in Fig. [9](#page-46-0) our 3 M_{\odot} models sit right on the highest [hs/ls] region covered by observations, as predicted since they are non-rotating model. The expected impact of rotation is to reduce the neutron exposure favoring the production of lighter s-process isotopes, potentially allowing to account for all the observed range of the [hs/ls] index. The model Pi13.newnet has a final [s/Fe] ~ 0.3 and $[Rb/Fe] \sim 0.1$. The IGW CMB allowed to obtain larger ¹³C pockets compared to Pi13, causing a 0.3 dex higher final [s/Fe]. Within the observational and stellar uncertainties these models can reproduce the observed range of [s/Fe] (see Fig. [13\)](#page-50-0). Therefore, IGW provide a suitable mechanism to drive the CBM at the bottom of the TDU and leading to the formation of the radiative ¹³C pocket.

4.3. Comparison with presolar-grains data

In this section, we compare the results of our stellar calculations with measurements of isotopic abundances in presolar mainstream SiC grains for Zr and Ba. Presolar mainstream SiC grains are the most abundant type of presolar SiC grains (e.g., [Ott & Begemann 1990;](#page-29-22) [Lewis et al. 1994;](#page-28-19) [Lugaro et al. 2003a;](#page-28-20) [Zinner 2014\)](#page-30-3). They condensed in the envelope of C-rich AGB stars and were ejected into the surrounding interstellar medium by stellar winds. The condition to form in a C-rich environment (i.e., $C/O>1$) is crucial for the formation of C-rich grains. Thanks to highprecision laboratory measurement of their isotopic composition for heavy elements like Sr, Zr and Ba it is possible to derive fundamental constraints about their parent AGB stars. In particular, theoretical stellar simulations can be compared with the conditions in the He intershell inferred by measurement in presolar grains, where the s-process is activated in AGB stars (e.g., [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-1) [2003b;](#page-28-1) [Barzyk et al. 2006;](#page-25-18) [Avila et al. 2012;](#page-25-5) [Lugaro et al. 2014;](#page-28-10) [Liu et al. 2014a,](#page-28-2)[b,](#page-28-3) [2015\)](#page-28-21). ´

The measured $96Zr/94Zr$ ratio in SiC grains is known to be a diagnostic for the activation of the $^{22}Ne(\alpha,n)^{25}Mg$ neutron source at the bottom of the convective TPs. This is due to the s-process branching point at $95Zr$, which needs

neutron densities higher than $5 \times 10^8 \text{cm}^{-3}$ to be opened and produce 96 Zr via direct neutron capture on ⁹⁵Zr [\(Lugaro et al. 2003b\)](#page-28-1). [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-10) [\(2014\)](#page-28-10) identified a positive correlation between the $92Zr/94Zr$ and $29\text{Si}/28\text{Si}$ ratios, suggesting that the observed spread of $92Zr/94Zr$ is a signature of the initial metallicity of the AGB progenitor. [Liu et al.](#page-28-3) [\(2014b\)](#page-28-3) suggested that this ratio can also be used to constrain the internal structure of the 13 C-pocket. The same methodology is adopted by [Liu et al.](#page-28-21) [\(2015\)](#page-28-21) by comparing theoretical predictions with new grain measurements for Sr and Ba. In particular, we compare our AGB calculations with newly measured $88\text{Sr}/86\text{Sr}$ and $138\text{Ba}/136\text{Ba}$ ratios to derive information about the ¹³C-pocket shape and size.

In Tab. [5](#page-39-0) the final isotopic ratios obtained in the He intershell and in the AGB envelope are given for our AGB models. In Figs. [14](#page-51-0) and [15](#page-52-0) the evolution of the Zr abundances at the stellar surface during the AGB evolution is shown. In Fig. [14,](#page-51-0) the models cover a large range of $\frac{96}{2}Tr/\frac{94}{2}Tr$ ratios, with 200% $\gtrsim \delta(^{96}Zr/^{94}Zr) \gtrsim$ -600\%. The δ here indicates deviations of the given isotopic ratio from the average solar system value in parts per thousand. The factors with the largest impact on this quantity are the temperature at the bottom of the PDCZ, which is correlated to the CBM description at the bottom of such zone, and the neutron-capture reactions rates on Zr isotopes. Compared to Pi13 and results by [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-20) [\(2003a\)](#page-28-20) obtained for AGB models including CBM during the convective TPs, the negative δ -values are mostly due to the new ⁹⁵Zr MACS by [Lugaro](#page-28-10) [et al.](#page-28-10) [\(2014\)](#page-28-10) (see also Fig. [22\)](#page-59-0). Our models reproduce the observed scatter of $\delta(^{90}Zr/^{94}Zr)$, while a relevant fraction of grains with low $\delta(^{91}Zr)^{94}Zr$ and $\delta(^{92}Zr)^{94}Zr$ ratios are not reproduced. As discussed by [Liu et al.](#page-28-3) [\(2014b\)](#page-28-3), Zr isotopic ratios can be used to test size and properties of the 13 C pocket. In our models the ¹³C pocket is made after each TDU consistently with the IGW CBM adopted to calculate the stellar structure. On the other hand, the IGW CBM implementation was made by a simple fitting of the De03 simulations. This allows us to provide a good indication of the size of the ¹³C pocket due to IGW CBM, but the detailed shape needs to be better constrained by multi-dimensional hydrodynamics simulations. Furthermore, rotation and magnetic field are two fundamental physics ingredients still missing in our models, that will affect the ¹³C pocket properties af ter its formation (for rotation, e.g., [Herwig et al. 2003;](#page-27-21) [Piersanti et al. 2013\)](#page-29-21) and eventually the s-process Zr isotopic ratios [\(Liu et al. 2015\)](#page-28-21). Therefore, a crucial step forward to challenge the scenario in which IGW CBM is the physics mechanism responsible for the formation of the ¹³C pocket, will be to calculate how the pocket is modified by rotation and magnetic field before and during the s-process production.

Grains with $\delta(^{96}\text{Zr}/^{94}\text{Zr})$ <-900 \% are not reproduced by baseline AGB models [\(Liu et al.](#page-28-3) [2014b;](#page-28-3) [Lugaro et al. 2014\)](#page-28-10). With our models in Fig. [14,](#page-51-0) we confirm the increasing trend of the $96Zr/94Zr$ ratio with increasing initial mass and with decreasing initial metallicity [\(Lugaro et al.](#page-28-1) [2003b;](#page-28-1) [Liu et al. 2014b;](#page-28-3) [Lugaro et al. 2014\)](#page-28-10). However, our AGB models cannot reproduce grains with $\delta(^{96}\text{Zr}/^{94}\text{Zr})$ <-600 \%. In Fig. [15,](#page-52-0) we show the impact on our results of the $^{95}\text{Zr}(n,\gamma)^{96}\text{Zr}$ neutron capture cross section. The cross section provided by [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-10) [\(2014\)](#page-28-10) was reduced by a factor of two. In general, the use of the reduced rate allows to decrease the final $\frac{96}{2}$ r/ $\frac{94}{2}$ r ratio by $\delta \sim 200\%$. Therefore, while the new ⁹⁵Zr(n,γ)⁹⁶Zr cross section helped to alleviate the overproduction of $96Zr$ compared to $94Zr$, the entire observed range is not yet reproduced. From the nuclear physics point of view, the other reaction rate relevant for the $95Zr$ branching is the rate of the neutron source ${}^{22}Ne(\alpha,n){}^{25}Mg$. Once the combined uncertainties of the ${}^{95}Zr(n,\gamma){}^{96}Zr$ and $^{22}Ne(\alpha,n)^{25}Mg$ rates will be fully constrained by experiments, the $^{96}Zr/^{94}Zr$ will be a crucial diagnostic to constrain our simulations. By comparing Fig. [14](#page-51-0) with Fig. [15,](#page-52-0) the impact of the $^{95}Zr(n,\gamma)^{96}Zr$ are comparable with the variations between models M2.z2m2 and M2.z2m2.hCBM. The difference between these two models shows the impact of the uncertainty associated with the IGW CMB implementation in our models. This is due to the fact that the model M2.z2m2.hCBM tends to have ¹³C pockets larger than the model M2.z2m2. This means that the ¹³C(α ,n)¹⁶O (producing ⁹⁴Zr but not ⁹⁶Zr) has a relatively much larger contribution than the ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg (eventually producing also $96Zr$) in hCBM models. Therefore, the 13 C-pocket properties may also affect the $\frac{96}{2} \frac{\pi}{94}$ Zr ratio.

If we compare our clipped and he07 sets of AGB models, in general the values evolve in a similar way. The only exception is between M3.z2m2 and M3.z2m2.he07 models, since the final $\delta({}^{96}\text{Zr}/{}^{94}\text{Zr})$ values in M3.z2m2.he07 is higher by $\delta \sim 100\%$. In Fig. [16](#page-53-0) we do the same comparison for the he07 models. In this case, our models do not reproduce $\delta(^{96}Zr/^{94}Zr)$ values lower than $\sim 400\%$.

From Tab. [5,](#page-39-0) the final surface abundance for most of the models is representative of the Heintershell abundances, with the tendency to show a milder departure from the solar composition in the AGB envelope compared to the He intershell, due to the dilution with the pristine stellar composition. Concerning the $96Zr/94Zr$ ratio, this trend is maintained for both positive and negative δ -values. For instance, the model M3.z1m2.hCBM has final $\delta(^{96}\text{Zr}/^{94}\text{Zr})$ equal to $+631\%$ and $+162\%$. On the other hand, the model M2.z2m2.hCBM shows $\delta = -741\%$ and -584% in the He intershell and in the AGB envelope, respectively. The model with the lowest δ -values is M2.z1m2.zrtest, with -831 $\%$ and -613 $\%$. More efficient TDUs, or a larger number of them would have eventually allowed to reach lower final $\delta(^{96}Zr/^{94}Zr)$ values.

If we look carefully at theoretical evolution curves in Figs. [14](#page-51-0) and [15,](#page-52-0) all the models with initial mass M=3 M_{\odot} show a signature of efficient ⁹⁶Zr production due to the ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg activation at the bottom of the convective TP, eventually leading to positive δ -values. This picture is consistent with [Lugaro et al.](#page-28-1) [\(2003b\)](#page-28-1) and Pi13, where CBM at the bottom of the convective TPs leads to a stronger ${}^{22}Ne(\alpha,n){}^{25}Mg$ activation due to the larger temperatures compared to models without CBM. On the other hand, the new ${}^{95}Zr(n,\gamma){}^{96}Zr$ cross section strongly reduces the production of ⁹⁶Zr. Therefore, according to our simulations, AGB models with initial mass $M \le 2 M_{\odot}$ can have at the same time negative $\delta(^{96}\text{Zr}/^{94}\text{Zr})$, and C and O concentrations in the He intershell consistent with post-AGB stars and planetary nebula observations. However, for the $2 M_{\odot}$ stellar models the degree of pollution of the AGB envelope with He-intershell material seems not to be high enough to explain the abundances for all the presolar grains.

In Fig. [17,](#page-54-0) the Ba isotopic ratios in our calculations are compared with observations. The $138Ba/136Ba$ ratio decreases with increasing metallicity and with decreasing stellar mass as a consequence of the lower neutron exposure (because of mass conservation and higher ${}^{12}C$ content in the intershell respectively [\(Lugaro et al. 2003b\)](#page-28-1)). Furthermore, as also indicated by [Liu et al.](#page-28-2) $(2014a)$ and [Liu et al.](#page-28-21) (2015) , the shape of the ¹³C pocket is affecting the results. The uncertainty of the $^{14}N(n,p)^{14}C$ rate is also relevant for the Ba isotopic ratios, since it is the main neutron poison in the ¹³C pocket. In Fig. [17,](#page-54-0) we compare the results for the models M3.z1m2, M3z1m2.hCBM and M3.z2m2.hCBM.ntest (Tab. [1](#page-31-0) and [4\)](#page-38-0). With the exception of the grains with the lowest $\delta({}^{138}Ba/{}^{136}Ba)$ and $\delta({}^{135}Ba/{}^{136}Ba)$, the observed range is reproduced by our models within the uncertainties, and the same conclusion can be reached considering $\delta(^{137}Ba^{136}Ba)$. In Fig. [18](#page-55-0) we show the same kind of comparison as in Fig. [17,](#page-54-0) but this time for our he07 models, showing comparable results.

To conclude, our models still present some possible limitations in the comparison with presolar grains data, although they do a much better work compared to previous models adopting CBM at the bottom of the PDCZ. In order to perform a more detailed comparison with presolar mainstream SiC grains, we need to calculate also AGB models with initial mass lower than $M = 2 M_{\odot}$. Finally, we believe that AGB models including rotation (and magnetic field) may also have an important impact in this discussion. At least rotation affects the ¹³C pocket history once the ¹³C pocket has formed [\(Piersanti et al. 2013\)](#page-29-21) reducing the neutron exposure and favoring the production of light s-isotopes like ⁹⁴Zr, eventually reducing the $\delta(^{96}Zr/^{94}Zr)$. Presolar grains are likely carrying the signature of these effects (e.g., [Liu et al. 2015\)](#page-28-21).

5. Conclusions

In this work we have presented eleven new AGB stellar models with initial mass $M = 2 M_{\odot}$ and $3 M_{\odot}$, and initial metallicity $Z = 0.01$ and 0.02. Additionally, we calculated seven other complete stellar runs using the same stellar structures, but using different rates for the reactions ¹⁴N(n,p)¹⁴C and ⁹⁵Zr(n, γ)⁹⁶Zr. For the first time, these models study the impact of the following physics ingredients on AGB stellar evolution and nucleosynthesis: the Convective-Boundary-Mixing (CBM) at the bottom of the convective TPs according to [Herwig et al.](#page-27-6) [\(2007\)](#page-27-6) simulations, the CBM below the TDU driven by Internal-Gravity-Waves (IGW) according to [Denissenkov & Tout](#page-26-3) [\(2003\)](#page-26-3), and the molecular diffusion in the stellar layers where the radiative 13 C pocket is forming and evolves.

The main results are the following. Our AGB models show final 12 C and 16 O abundances in the He intershell in the order of 30-50% and 10-20%, respectively. These results are consistent with previous AGB simulations where overshooting was assumed to be the dominant CBM mechanism at the bottom of the PDCZ (e.g., [Herwig 2000;](#page-27-9) [Lugaro et al. 2003b;](#page-28-1) [Pignatari et al. 2013\)](#page-29-17). The main reason is that the second shallower CBM term due to IGW found by [Herwig et al.](#page-27-6) [\(2007\)](#page-27-6) has only a marginal impact on the He intershell during the AGB evolution. Therefore, we confirm that the CBM at the bottom of the PDCZ can be well represented in 1D models with a single exponential-decay of the mixing efficiency, as done in previous works.

We assume that CBM at the bottom of the convective envelope during TDU is driven by IGW instabilities, by fitting our CBM parameterization with simulations by [Denissenkov & Tout](#page-26-3) [\(2003\)](#page-26-3). We obtain radiative ¹³C pockets with size of about $10^{-4} M_{\odot}$ (consistently with [Denissenkov & Tout](#page-26-3) [2003,](#page-26-3) calculations). In particular, the default CBM setup below the TDU used in our calculations are the following: $f_1=0.014$, $f_2=0.25$ and $D_2=10^{11}$ cm²s⁻¹. We show that the parameter f_1 does not affect the size of the ¹³C pocket, which is instead dominated by the f_2 and D_2 parameters, i.e. by IGW. We also provide an uncertainty study of the CBM setup on the ¹³C-pocket size and on the s-process production. Since IGW appears like a suitable physics mechanism to explain the formation of the ¹³C pocket, the original study by [Denissenkov & Tout](#page-26-3) [\(2003\)](#page-26-3) used as a guidance in our work needs be confirmed and improved by future 3D hydrodynamics simulations.

At the end of the AGB evolution we obtain an s-process production $0.36 < |s/Fe| < 0.78$ and -0.23 \langle [hs/ls] \langle 0.45, which is consistent with spectroscopic observations of C-rich AGB stars. We explored the impact on our results of the uncertainty of the $^{14}N(n,p)^{14}C$ rate. We showed that according to our models the increase by a factor of two of the mentioned rate at a relevant energy of ∼8 keV reduces the final [hs/ls] by 0.05-0.1 dex. Similar variations are obtained by using different IGW CBM parameters. Therefore, the ${}^{14}N(n,p){}^{14}C$ rate needs to be constrained with an uncertainty much lower than a factor of two in order to better study the physics mechanisms responsible for the formation of the ¹³C pocket.

We have compared our models with different types of observations, including isotopic measurements in presolar mainstream SiC grains. For this specific comparison we choose to focus our

analysis on the heavy elements Zr and Ba. We highlight few potential limitations of our present AGB models, that needs to be explored in more details in the future. In particular, within the mass range considered we do not produce low enough $\frac{96}{2}$ r $\frac{94}{2}$ r and $\frac{135}{8}$ Ba ratios as observed in all grains. On the other hand, present AGB models are getting much closer to fit the grain data than previous works where the CBM at the bottom of the PDCZ was used, in particular for the $96Zr/94Zr$ ratio. The main reason of this improvement is due to the new nuclear reaction rates in the Zr region, with a much lower $95Zr$ neutron capture cross section reducing the production of ⁹⁶Zr in the convective TPs. The AGB models with initial mass $M = 2 M_{\odot}$ do not show any relevant signature of ⁹⁶Zr production, while in the models with $M = 3 M_{\odot}$ carry the signature of the s-process branching at ⁹⁵Zr. Stellar models with $M < 2 M_{\odot}$ should be produced in order to perform a detailed comparison with mainstream SiC presolar grains.

Furthermore, [Piersanti et al.](#page-29-21) [\(2013\)](#page-29-21) and [Liu et al.](#page-28-21) [\(2015\)](#page-28-21) showed that a physics mechanism like rotation might affect the main properties and the nucleosynthesis in the 13 C pocket *after* its formation. This is due to the slow mixing of material (including ^{14}N and the s-process seed ^{56}Fe) from stellar layers located above the pocket into the thin regions where the s-process takes place. Therefore, the measurements in presolar grains may give an insight about the physics mechanisms crucial for the formation 13 C pocket, but also the physics affecting the pocket along its evolution before the ¹³C(α ,n)¹⁶O neutron source runs out of fuel.

In order to use presolar grain data to answer the question of what the physical mechanisms for the formation of the ¹³C-pocket are, AGB stellar models need to take into account processes with a delayed impact like rotation, magnetic field and molecular diffusion. This might be challenging, but thanks to future guidance from multi-dimensional hydrodynamics simulation it will be possible in the next few years, making AGB stars a unique laboratory to study different physical mechanisms in stellar environments and disentangle their relative effects.

Qualitatively, the same effect of rotation is triggered by molecular diffusion. We have shown that with the implementation adopted in this work the impact on the final s-process abundances is marginal. However, by using the default MESA which adopts the controversial implementation from Morel & Thévenin [\(2002\)](#page-28-9), the s-process nucleosynthesis in the ¹³C pocket would have been suppressed.

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6. APPENDIX: Impact of the new MESA revision and of the new nuclear reaction network

For our previous stellar AGB models (Pi13) we have adopted the MESA rev. 3372, in this work we use rev. 4219. We compared the results between these two different revisions. In Fig. [19](#page-56-0) and [20](#page-57-0) the HR and Kippenhahn diagrams, respectively, of two models with initial mass $M = 3 M_{\odot}$ and initial metallicity $Z = 0.02$, from pre-main sequence to the tip of the AGB phase, are shown: the model M3.z2m2.st (see Tab. [1](#page-31-0) for more details), calculated with the MESA rev. 4219, with its analogous stellar model from Pi13. All other model assumptions, such as mass loss, nuclear reaction rates, CBM parameters, time and spatial resolution, opacities and outer boundary choice are the same.

In Fig. [19,](#page-56-0) the evolution in the HR diagram are extremely similar until the start of the AGB phase. Then the two models give different results. The different behavior is observed also in the C/O ratio at the surface during the AGB phase (see Fig. [20\)](#page-57-0). This is due to specific modifications adopted since MESA rev. 3713, which are related to the handling of convection zones of the order of 10^{-3} M_{\odot} or less, where the radial extent of the zone is so small that the mixing length is larger than the size of the zone. We refer to these code modifications as clipping. Therefore, from rev. 3713 on (including rev. 4219) the mixing length is limited to be smaller than the height of the zone. The main impact for our analysis is that small convection zones, which form under and separately from the big PDCZ during TP event using MESA rev. 3372, will be more weakly mixed because of mixing scale length being limited to the size of the zone, and the He-intershell tends to be less enriched in O than with older MESA revisions. This is shown in Fig. [21,](#page-58-0) where the evolution of He, C and O abundances in the He-intershell are shown for model M3.z2m2.st, M3.z2m2.he07 and the corresponding model in Pi13. M3.z2m2.st is the only model including clipping (see Tab. [1](#page-31-0) for more detail about model parameters). The 4 He abundance in the He-intershell of model M3.z2m2.st is 30% higher compared to Pi13 and M3.z2m2.he07, while ¹²C and ¹⁶O are smaller. On the other hand, M3.z2m2.he07 is similar to the results of Pi13, showing a good agreement all along the AGB evolution. For M3.z2m2.st the final mass fractions of 4 He, 12 C and 16 O in the He intershell are 0.55, 0.35 and 0.045, respectively, while for the 3 M_{\odot} star model adopting the older MESA revision the mass fractions are 0.40, 0.40 and 0.15 respectively. Finally, we obtain 0.44, 0.34, and 0.16 for the model M3.z2m2.he07. Therefore, in models with clipping like M3.z2m2.st, an f parameter larger by a factor of 2.4 at the PDCZ is needed to arrive at the same intershell abundance enhancement of O and C compared to model M3.z2m2.he07, without clipping.

The clipping is the main source of the differences seen in Fig. [21.](#page-58-0) This detail of how small convection zones are treated has significant implications for the evolution of the inter-shell abundances of TP-AGB stars. This is affecting the parameterization of physics mixing mechanisms in 1D models, and it is not clear a priori what is the best solution. However, hydrodynamics simulations presented in He07 give an indication that the clipping implementation used in MESA revisions 4219 should not be used, as we did in the set of AGB models labeled he07 to simulate the CBM physics at the He intershell convective boundary. In He07, the mixing parameters extrapolated for the parameterization in 1D models f_1, f_2 and D_2 should be considered more as upper limits, since for instance buoyancy due to stabilizing chemical gradients, that might work against the mixing and reduce the size of the diffusion coefficients, was ignored. For this reason, the possibility that the f parameter at the bottom of the PDCZ is in fact smaller cannot be excluded. Instead, in order to obtain similar C and O concentrations in the He intershell, the models with the clipping require an f_1 larger than the upper limit given by hydrodynamics simulations. Based on these considerations, we recommend the set of AGB models labeled he07 as the most representative. In the paper we still consider models with clipping and enhanced f1. Although these models do not have an ideal CBM setup at the bottom of convective TPs, their results are still valuable to study s-process predictions and their dependence on mixing assumptions. Indeed, we will see in the next sections that with similar He, C and O abundances in the He intershell, similar nucleosynthesis results are obtained during the AGB phase.

There are further differences between the models calculated with the different MESA revisions (see Fig. [20\)](#page-57-0). With the revision 4219 less TPs take place compared to the revision 3372. The models Pi13 has 23 TPs, with 19 TDU events, while M3.z2m2.st 17 and 14 respectively TDUs are more efficient in M3.z2m2.st compared to the older revision. Point (1) and (2) are connected, since more efficient TDUs allow the AGB envelope to become C-rich earlier, and therefore to be consumed by stellar winds at earlier times. The final surface C/O numeric ratio reached in the $3 M_{\odot}$ star model by Pi13, M3.z2m2.he07 and M3.z2m2.st is 1.7, 1.6 and 2.2 respectively.

Compared to Pi13, for the present work we have adopted an updated nuclear reaction network, including a few different neutron capture reaction rates. In particular, for this work we used the new cross sections for neutron captures on $20,21,22$ Ne by [Heil et al.](#page-27-22) [\(2014\)](#page-27-22), $62,63$ Ni by [Lederer et al.](#page-28-22) (2014) , and $90,91,92,93,94,95,96$ Zr [\(Tagliente et al. 2012;](#page-30-15) [Lugaro et al. 2014,](#page-28-10) and references therein). The only exception is model M3.z2m2.st, that was calculated using the same nuclear reaction network of Pi13. While none of the rates mentioned above have a relevant impact on stellar evolution or on the total s-process production, the new Zr cross sections affect the s-process branching at ^{95}Zr during convective TPs. For this reason, we also provide here below the results for the $3 M_{\odot}$ star model by Pi13, but using the same nuclear reaction network adopted for this work (model Pi13.newnet).

Fig. [22](#page-59-0) shows the differences arising from the nucleosynthesis calculations of these four models. Due to the lower number of TDUs, the M3.z2m2.st shows a smaller s-process enrichment at both the Sr peak and the Ba peaks, only partially compensated by the larger TDU efficiency. On the other hand we obtain similar [hs/ls] ratios, defining it as the average logarithmic ratio normalized to solar ($[hs/ls]=log(hs/ls)-log(hs/ls)_{\odot}$, a similar definition is given to the [ls/Fe] and [hs/Fe] indices). The model M3.z2m2.he07 shows a much larger s-process enrichment compared to the other two models. This is due to the different CBM implementation adopted at the bottom of the convective envelope during TDU.

The evolution of the Zr isotopic ratios shows strong differences. The use of new Zr neutron capture cross sections (and in particular of the $95Zr$ cross section, that is more than a factor of two lower than the rate used by Pi13) allows to obtain much lower $96Zr/94Zr$ ratios, compared to the results of Pi13 model and Pi13.newnet. On the other hand, M3.z2m2.st (adopting the same nuclear reaction network of Pi13) shows milder s-process signatures compared to Pi13 and Pi13.newnet models, due to the lower amount of TPs and to the lower temperatures obtained at the bottom of convective TPs. This is an effect of the larger ⁴He abundance in the He intershell of M3.z2m2.st, allowing the He-burning activation at lower temperatures (see Fig. [21](#page-58-0) and previous discussion). The new Zr cross sections have an impact on the final Zr isotopic rations comparable to the differences related to stellar model uncertainties. The $96Zr/94Zr$ ratio is considered an indicator of the ²²Ne(α ,n)²⁵Mg efficiency at the bottom of convective TPs (e.g., [Lugaro et al. 2003b;](#page-28-1) [Bisterzo](#page-25-19) [et al. 2015\)](#page-25-19).

Concluding, we showed that the main source of these differences is coming from the different handling of small convective zones in the default setup of the two revisions. A priori it is not clear what the best implementation for 1D models is. However, hydrodynamics simulations clearly indicate that the no clipping setup (Tab. [1\)](#page-31-0) should be favored. Thanks to the example of the Zr isotopes, we have seen that nuclear uncertainties are also crucial: their relevance can be comparable to stellar uncertainties.

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Table 1: List of AGB stellar models and their relevant parameters: initial mass, initial metallicity and CBM parameterization. The CBM parameterization can be given by a single exponential decreasing profile (sf), as in Pi13, or by a double exponential decreasing profile (df) adopted in this work, with or without limiting the mixing length to the size of the convections zones (clipping). The CBM parameters are given below the PDCZ (f1, D2 and f2) and below the envelope convection during the TDU $(f1^*, D2^* \text{ and } f2^*).$

name	mass $[M_{\odot}]$	metallicity	CBM	f1	$\mathrm{D}2$	f2	$f1*$	$D2^*$	$f2^*$	clipping
M3.z2m2.st	3.0	0.02	sf	0.008	$\overline{}$		0.126			yes
M3.z2m2	3.0	0.02	df	0.024	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{11}	0.25	yes
M3.z1m2	3.0	0.01	df	0.024	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{11}	0.25	yes
M2.z2m2	2.0	0.02	df	0.024	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{11}	0.25	yes
M2.z1m2	2.0	0.01	df	0.024	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{11}	0.25	yes
M3.z1m2.hCBM	3.0	0.01	df	0.024	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{12}	0.27	yes
M2.z2m2.hCBM	2.0	0.02	df	0.024	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{12}	0.27	yes
M3.z2m2.he07	3.0	0.02	df	0.010	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{11}	0.25	no
M3.z1m2.he07	3.0	0.01	df	0.010	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{11}	0.25	no
M2.z2m2.he07	2.0	0.02	df	0.010	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{11}	0.25	no
M2.z1m2.he07	2.0	0.01	df	0.010	10 ⁵	0.14	0.014	10^{11}	0.25	no

Table 2: AGB stars properties.

Name	M_{ini}	Z_{ini}	m_e	$logL_{*}$	R_{*}	N_{TP}	$N_{T D U P}$	t_{TPI}	ΔM_{Dmax}	M_D	t_{ip}	M_{lost}	$log T_{PDCZ,max}$
	$[M_{\odot}]$		$[M_{\odot}]$	$ L_{\odot} $	$\left[R_\odot\right]$			$[10^6 yr]$	$[10^{-2} M_{\odot}]$	$[10^{-2} M_{\odot}]$	$[10^3 yr]$	$[M_{\odot}]$	[Κ
M2.z1m2	2.00	0.01	0.495	3.47	169	24	12	$1.265E + 03$	0.8	6.348	164.5	1.38	8.476
M2.z2m2	2.00	0.02	0.515	3.59	229	24	12	$1.357E + 03$	0.7	5.563	112.6	1.34	8.394
M3.z1m2	3.00	0.01	0.640	3.97	308	13	12	$4.092E+02$	1.2	9.324	57.7	2.33	8.480
M3.z2m2	3.00	0.02	0.588	3.89	302	21	18	$4.798E + 02$	1.3	12.983	67.6	2.36	8.487
M2.z2m2.hCBM	2.00	$0.02\,$	0.514	3.58	223	21	12	$1.357E + 03$	0.7	4.897	122.5	1.35	8.487
M3.z1m2.hCBM	3.00	0.01	0.645	3.98	310	12	11	$4.125E+02$	1.4	9.874	58.8	2.33	8.488
M3.z2m2.st	3.00	0.02	0.593	3.87	300	14	11	$4.835E+02$	1.0	7.188	69.4	2.35	8.400
M2.z1m2.he07	2.00	0.01	0.497	3.48	170	25	13	$1.279E + 03$	0.4	3.748	146.3	1.36	8.460
M2.z2m2.he07	2.00	$0.02\,$	0.510	3.58	223	27	14	$1.406E + 03$	0.4	3.243	108.0	1.32	8.463
M3.z1m2.he07	3.00	0.01	0.647	3.99	312	15	14	$4.127E + 02$	0.7	6.426	46.3	2.30	8.247
M3.z2m2.he07	3.00	$0.02\,$	0.592	3.85	281	23	19	$4.818E + 02$	0.8	7.129	58.4	2.34	8.471

 M_{ini} : Initial stellar mass.

 $\mathcal{Z}_{ini}\text{: Initial metallicity.}$

 m_c : H-free core mass at the first TP.

 $L_{\ast}\colon$ Approximated mean Luminosity.

 R_\ast : Approximated mean radius.

 $N_{TP}{:}$ Number of TP's.

 $N_{T D U P}$: Number of TP's with TDUP.

 t_{TPI} : Time at first TP.

 ΔM_{Dmax} : Maximum dredged-up mass after a single TP.

 $M_D\!\!$ Total dredged-up mass of all TPs.

 t_{ip} : Average interpulse duration of TPs.

 $M_{lost}{:}$ Total mass lost during the evolution.

 $T_{PDCZ, max}$: Maximum temperature during the TPAGB phase.

TP	DUP_{λ}	t_{TP}	T_{FBOT}	T_{HES}	T_{HS}	T_{CEB}	m_{FBOT}	m_{HTP}	$\boldsymbol{m}_{D,\, max}$	M_*
		[yrs]	[K]	[K]	$[K]$	[K]	$[M_{\odot}]$	$[M_{\odot}]$	$[M_{\odot}]$	$[M_{\odot}]$
M2.z1m2										
$\,1$	0.00	$0.00E + 00$	8.31	8.15	7.09	6.25	0.4452	0.4948	0.4961	1.978
$\,2$	0.00	$7.43E + 05$	8.36	8.15	7.14	6.31	0.4574	0.5056	0.5063	1.978
3	0.00	$1.15E + 06$	8.38	8.16	7.16	6.27	0.4677	0.5131	0.5138	1.978
$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	0.00	$1.33E + 06$	8.37	8.15	7.17	6.33	0.4721	0.5165	0.5174	1.978
5	0.00	$1.50E + 06$	8.38	7.75	$7.15\,$	6.33	0.4758	0.5208	0.5215	1.977
6	0.00	$1.68E + 06$	8.41	7.76	7.16	6.33	0.4808	0.5261	0.5267	1.977
$\scriptstyle{7}$	0.00	$1.86E + 06$	8.41	7.78	7.18	6.36	0.4873	0.5319	0.5324	1.977
8	0.00	$2.02E + 06$	8.43	7.79	7.25	6.37	0.4948	0.5381	0.5385	1.976
$9\,$	0.00	$2.18E + 06$	8.42	7.79	7.27	6.37	0.5029	0.5444	0.5447	1.975
10	0.00	$2.33E + 06$	8.44	7.79	7.31	6.40	0.5114	0.5508	0.5511	1.974
11	0.00	$2.47E + 06$	8.43	7.80	7.32	6.39	0.5198	0.5572	0.5574	1.972
12	0.00	$2.60E + 06$	$8.45\,$	7.80	7.57	6.41	0.5280	0.5636	0.5636	1.970
13	0.13	$2.72E + 06$	8.44	7.79	7.64	6.41	0.5362	0.5699	0.5693	1.967
14	$_{0.26}$	$2.83E + 06$	8.46	7.81	7.66	6.43	0.5437	0.5758	${ 0.5742}$	1.964
$15\,$	0.42	$2.94E + 06$	8.45	8.11	7.66	6.43	0.5504	0.5810	0.5783	1.960
16	0.55	$3.04E + 06$	8.46	8.13	7.67	6.45	0.5561	0.5854	0.5815	1.954
$17\,$	0.66	$3.14E + 06$	8.47	8.13	7.70	6.47	0.5608	0.5890	0.5841	1.947
18	0.75	$3.24E + 06$	8.47	7.93	7.46	6.29	0.5647	0.5920	0.5862	1.937
19	0.82	$3.34E + 06$	$8.47\,$	8.13	7.71	$6.55\,$	0.5679	0.5945	0.5877	1.925
20	0.88	$3.43E + 06$	8.47	8.13	7.70	6.50	0.5704	0.5964	0.5887	1.876
21	$_{0.91}$	$3.52E + 06$	8.48	8.12	7.68	6.56	0.5723	0.5979	0.5896	1.795
22	0.88	$3.61E + 06$	8.48	8.12	7.68	6.49	0.5739	0.5990	0.5907	1.682
$\bf 23$	0.75	$3.70E + 06$	8.46	8.12	7.68	6.49	0.5759	0.6001	0.5931	1.522
24	0.46	$3.78E + 06$	8.44	8.21	7.68	6.34	0.5800	0.6023	0.5941	1.233
					M2.z2m2					
$\,1$	0.00	$0.00E + 00$	8.23	$8.15\,$	7.16	6.28	0.4737	0.5145	0.5151	1.951
$\,2$	0.00	$3.19E + 05$	8.26	8.17	7.17	6.37	0.4796	0.5203	0.5209	1.951
	0.00	$4.77E + 05$		8.16			0.4824	0.5233	0.5240	1.950
3			8.27		7.19	6.27				
$\,4$	0.00	$6.11E + 05$	8.30	8.07	7.18	6.41	0.4854	0.5269	0.5275	1.950
5	0.00	$7.51E + 05$	8.30	7.83	7.22	6.39	0.4895	0.5315	0.5320	1.950
6	0.00	$8.94E + 05$	8.30	7.84	7.22	6.50	0.4949	0.5368	0.5372	1.949
$\scriptstyle{7}$	0.00	$1.03E + 06$	8.30	7.85	7.29	6.50	0.5016	0.5425	0.5429	1.948
8	0.00	$1.17E + 06$	8.29	7.86	7.30	6.46	0.5091	0.5484	0.5487	1.947
9	0.00	$1.29E + 06$	8.29	7.86	7.36	6.45	0.5168	0.5544	0.5547	1.945
10	0.00	$1.41E + 06$	8.28	7.87	7.34	6.49	0.5246	0.5604	0.5606	1.943
11	0.00	$1.52E + 06$	8.28	7.87	7.44	6.49	0.5323	0.5664	0.5665	1.940
$12\,$	0.00	$1.62E + 06$	8.27	7.85	7.56	6.61	0.5399	0.5724	0.5722	1.936
13	0.13	$1.72E + 06$	8.27	7.86	7.73	6.62	0.5471	0.5782	0.5776	1.932
14	0.25	$1.81E + 06$	8.27	7.91	7.72	$6.91\,$	0.5541	0.5837	0.5823	1.927
$15\,$	0.38	$1.90E + 06$	8.28	8.05	7.74	7.12	0.5602	0.5886	0.5863	1.920
16	0.49	$1.98E + 06$	8.27	8.11	7.72	7.39	0.5657	0.5929	0.5897	1.911
17	0.59	$2.06E + 06$	8.27	8.11	7.74	7.47	0.5704	0.5965	0.5925	1.900
18	0.68	$2.14E + 06$	8.27	8.11	7.69	7.58	0.5743	0.5997	0.5948	1.886
19	0.75	$2.22E + 06$	8.27	8.11	7.69	7.63	0.5778	0.6023	0.5967	1.869
$20\,$	0.77	$2.30E + 06$	8.29	8.11	7.71	7.58	0.5806	0.6045	0.5985	1.848
$\bf{21}$	0.80	$2.37E + 06$	8.26	8.11	7.72	7.64	0.5831	0.6064	0.6001	1.822
$\bf{^{22}}$	0.82	$2.45E + 06$	8.26	8.11	7.70	7.62	0.5854	0.6082	0.6015	1.793
$\bf 23$	0.83	$2.52E + 06$	8.25	8.11	7.72	7.42	0.5875	0.6097	0.6029	1.683
24	0.79	$2.59E + 06$	8.29	8.21	7.41	7.46	0.5894	0.6113	0.6035	1.437
					M3.z1m2					
$\,1$	0.00	$0.00E + 00$	8.39	8.20	7.59	6.37	0.6192	0.6397	0.6393	2.973
$\,2$	0.39	$4.85E + 04$	8.41	8.17	7.68	6.54	0.6218	0.6421	0.6411	2.972
3	0.59	$9.69E + 04$	8.31	8.16	7.68	6.53	0.6243	0.6450	0.6428	2.970
$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	0.75	$1.48E + 05$	8.42	8.15	7.69	6.63	0.6268	0.6477	0.6440	2.967
5	0.91	$2.03E + 05$	8.46	8.14	7.70	6.64	0.6293	0.6498	0.6445	2.963
6	1.04	$2.59E + 05$	8.43	8.13	7.67	6.75	0.6310	0.6512	0.6443	2.957
$\scriptstyle{7}$	1.08	$3.18E + 05$	8.46	8.12	7.65	6.76	0.6319	0.6517	0.6437	2.909
8	1.12	$3.78E + 05$	8.46	8.12	7.63	6.82	0.6321	0.6517	0.6427	2.832
9	1.18	$4.40E + 05$	8.47	8.12	7.60	6.77	0.6318	0.6513	0.6411	2.731
10	1.17	$5.02E + 05$	8.48	8.11	7.60	6.79	0.6308	0.6501	0.6395	2.601
11	1.20	$5.65E + 05$	8.45	8.11	7.60	6.79	0.6297	0.6489	0.6376	2.426
12	1.18	$6.29E + 05$	8.46	8.11	7.65	6.91	0.6280	0.6474	0.6358	2.168
13	1.23	$6.93E + 05$	8.46	8.10	7.65	7.11	0.6265	0.6458	0.6336	1.713
					M3.z2m2					
$\,1$	0.00	$0.00E + 00$	$8.31\,$	8.19	7.21	6.32	0.5644	0.5879	0.5888	2.978
$\boldsymbol{2}$	0.00	$5.72E + 04$	8.37	8.18	7.26	6.51	0.5645	0.5903	0.5906	2.978
3	0.00	$1.22E + 05$	8.39	8.18	7.30	6.45	0.5670	0.5936	0.5937	2.978
$\overline{4}$	0.10	$1.89E + 05$	8.42	8.17	7.57	6.61	0.5706	0.5977	0.5974	2.977
5	0.18	$2.57E + 05$	8.43	8.15	7.59	6.53	0.5751	0.6021	0.6015	2.976
6	0.31	$3.25E + 05$	8.43	8.11	7.67	6.62	0.5803	0.6067	0.6052	2.974

Table 3:: TP-AGB evolution properties of stellar models presented in this work.

TP: TP number.
 DUP_{λ} : DUP Lambda parameter.
 Tr_P : Time since first TP.
 Tr_P Time since first TP.
 Tr_{BOT} : Largest temperature at the bottom of the flash-convective zone.
 Tr_{BOT} : Temperature in the He-burning shel

Fig. 1.— Schematic description of the double-exponential CBM applied in this work. The red line is the standard overshooting mixing coefficient profile following the single-exponential decay. This profile is dominated by a single f_1 ' parameter which determines the slope of the mixing profile: the lower the 'f' value, the steeper the profile is. In order to take into account IGW, in this work we apply a second, slower, decreasing profile (green line) that becomes more relevant than the first one as soon as the mixing coefficient is equal or lower that a D_2 ' value, the slope of which is determined by the $'f_2'$ parameter. Check the text for the relation between D and and all the CBM parameters.

Fig. 2.— Comparison between the diffusion coefficient profile calculated using the GLS prescription for the IGW mixing from De03 (the middle red curve) and the one derived for the CBM with the parameterization used in this work (the solid blue curve). The dashed and dot-dashed blue curves with their adjacent red curves show comparisons for the cases of $f_2 = 0.26$ and $f_2 = 0.24$. They are artificially shifted along the vertical axis by $\Delta \log D = 2$ up and down relative to the standard case of $f_2 = 0.25$. The bump on the log D_{GLS} profile near the convective boundary is produced by a fast increase of the buoyancy frequency N accompanied by a rapid decrease of the thermal diffusivity K with depth and by the fact that $D_{\text{GLS}} \propto NK$ (eq. 15 in De03).

Fig. 3.— 13 C-pocket size as a function of the CBM parameters parameters associated to the 5th TDU event. The red dot represents the ¹³C-pocket size obtained by our best fit of De03 results (see Fig. [2\)](#page-41-0). The yellow area provide an estimation of the uncertainty deriving these parameters (see text for details).

Fig. 4.— Three different steps of ¹³C-pocket evolution in M3.Z2m2 are shown. We provide the abundances of H, 4 He, ${}^{16}O$, 13 Cand ${}^{14}N$, ${}^{56}Fe$, and s-process isotopes at the neutron magic peaks $N=50$ (⁸⁸Sr), N=82 (¹³⁸Ba) and N=126 (²⁰⁸Pb). The top panel refers to the moment of maximum penetration of the TDU, which is followed by the radiative burning of the ¹³C-pocket with the consequent neutron release and s-process nucleosynthesis (middle and bottom panels).

Fig. 5.— The evolution of the C/O surface ratio is shown with respect to the total stellar mass for the AGB models indicated.

Fig. 6.— the λ_{DUP} parameter is shown with respect to the total stellar mass for the AGB models indicated. Symbols are reported for each convective TP.

Fig. 7.— The temperature at the bottom of the convective envelope during the deepest extend of TDU in logarithmic scale, T_{CEB} , is shown with respect to the total stellar mass for the AGB models indicated. Symbols are reported for each convective TP.

Fig. 8.— The evolution of the [ls/Fe], [hs/Fe] and [hs/ls] ratios during the AGB evolution are shown for the models M2.z1m2, M2.z2m2, M2.z1m2.he07 and M2.z2m2.he07 (left panels) and PI13.newnet, M3.z1m2 and M3.z2m2, M3.z1m2.he07 and M3.z2m2.he07 (right panel). Also the comparison with observational data from [Abia et al.](#page-25-4) [\(2002\)](#page-25-4) and [Zamora et al.](#page-30-2) [\(2009\)](#page-30-2) is provided.

Fig. 9.— As in Fig. [8,](#page-45-1) but the abundances obtained in reference model M2.z2m2 are compared with the models M2.z2m2.hCBM and M2.z2m2.hCBM.ntest; the results of the model M3.z1m2 are compared with the models M3.z1m2.ntest, M3.z1m2.hCBM and M3.z1m2.hCBM.ntest. Also the comparison with observational data from [Abia et al.](#page-25-4) [\(2002\)](#page-25-4) and [Zamora et al.](#page-30-2) [\(2009\)](#page-30-2) is provided.

Fig. 10.— He, C and O abundances evolution in the He Intershell as a function of the TP number along the AGB evolution for the AGB models M3.z2m2, M3.z1m2, M2.z2m2 and M2.z1m2 (upper panel), and for M3.z2m2.he07, M3.z1m2.he07, M2.z2m2.he07 and M2.z1m2.he07 (lower panel).

Fig. 11.— He, C and O abundances observed for a sample of H-deficient post-AGB stars classified as PG1159 objects: He2-459, NGC1501, Sanduleak3 and PG1159-035. Observations are given by [Werner & Herwig](#page-30-6) [\(2006\)](#page-30-6). Also the final intershell abundances from M2.z2m2.he07 are presented.

Fig. 12.— Comparison of the [hs/ls] vs [M/H] obtained from our models with observational data from [Abia et al.](#page-25-4) [\(2002\)](#page-25-4) and [Zamora et al.](#page-30-2) [\(2009\)](#page-30-2). We also report the AGB calculations from the FRUITY database [\(Cristallo et al. 2015b\)](#page-25-21).

Fig. 13.— Upper panel: we report the [Rb/Fe] and [s/Fe] ratios obtained from the indicated AGB models, in comparison with a sample of C stars by [Abia et al.](#page-25-4) [\(2002\)](#page-25-4) and [Zamora et al.](#page-30-2) [\(2009\)](#page-30-2), and with analogous theoretical AGB models by the FRUITY database [\(Cristallo et al. 2015b\)](#page-25-21). Only stars with [M/H] >-0.3 are considered. Lower panel: Additional AGB models from this work are reported in comparison with observations (see the upper panel).

Fig. 14.— Upper panel: The evolution of $\delta(^{90}\text{Zr}/^{94}\text{Zr})$ and $\delta(^{96}\text{Zr}/^{94}\text{Zr})$ ratios in the AGB envelope is shown for our AGB models. Large full markers indentified the abundances at each TP once C>O at the surface, while small empty markers identify the occurrence of TPs before the AGB models become C rich. For comparison, the measurements from presolar SiC grain of type mainstream and error bars are reported [\(Barzyk et al. 2006\)](#page-25-18). Middle panel: $\delta(^{91}Zr/^{94}Zr)$ and $\delta(^{96}Zr/^{94}Zr)$ for the same models in the upper panel. Lower panel: $\delta(^{92}Zr/^{94}Zr)$ and $\delta(^{96}Zr/^{94}Zr)$ again for the same models.

Fig. 15.— As in figure [14,](#page-51-0) but the results are shown for the models calculated by dividing the $^{95}Zr(n,\gamma)^{96}Zr$ reaction rate by a factor of two.

Fig. 16.— As in figure [14,](#page-51-0) but the results are shown for the models calculated with the He07 CBM prescriptions.

Fig. 17.— Upper panel: the evolution of $\delta(^{134}Ba/^{136}Ba)$ and $\delta(^{135}Ba/^{136}Ba)$ ratios in the AGB envelopes is shown for our models. For comparison, the measurements from presolar SiC grain of type mainstream and error bars are reported [\(Liu et al. 2014a\)](#page-28-2). Middle panel: As for the upper panel, for $\delta(^{137}Ba/^{136}Ba)$ and $\delta(^{135}Ba/^{136}Ba)$ ratios. Lower panel: As for the upper panel, for $\delta(^{138}\text{Ba}/^{136}\text{Ba})$ and $\delta(^{135}\text{Ba}/^{136}\text{Ba})$ ratios.

Fig. 18.— Same as in Fig. [17,](#page-54-0) but the results are shown for the models calculated with the He07 CBM prescriptions.

Fig. 19.— HR diagrams for M3.z2m2.st and the analogous model calculated with MESA rev. 3372 (as in [Pignatari et al.](#page-29-17) [\(2013\)](#page-29-17))

Fig. 20.— Upper panel: Kippenhahn diagrams of the Pi13 3 M_{\odot} case at solar metallicity calculated with rev. 3372. The whole AGB phase is presented zoomed in the He-intershell. Lower panel: As in the upper panels, but for model M3.z2m2.st.

Fig. 21.— He, C and O abundances evolution in the He Intershell as a function of the TP number along the AGB evolution of M3.z2m2.st and the analogous model calculated with MESA rev. 3372 (Pi13). We also included M3.z2m2.he07 model to get the impact of mixing-length clipping during the TP comparing it with M3.z2m2.st (see text for more details).

 1.0

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Fig. 22.— Comparison between the nucleosynthesis products of the same models in figure [21](#page-58-0) and model PI13.newnet. The evolution of the [ls/Fe] ratio (upper panel) and of the [hs/Fe] ratio (middle panel) are shown in comparison with the [hs/ls] ratio. In particular, each marker represents a TP during the AGB phase. Larger markers are used when the surface C/O ratio exceeds 1. In the lower panel the evolution of $\delta(^{90}Zr/^{94}Zr)$ and $\delta(^{96}Zr/^{94}Zr)$ ratios are shown for the same models in the previous panels. The isotopic ratios are shown in $\delta = ((\text{ratio/solar})-1) \times 1000$.