



The *R*-Process Alliance: Fourth Data Release from the Search for *R*-process-enhanced Stars in the Galactic Halo*

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Abstract

This compilation is the fourth data release from the *R*-Process Alliance (RPA) search for *r*-process-enhanced stars and the second release based on “snapshot” high-resolution ($R \sim 30,000$) spectra collected with the du Pont 2.5 m Telescope. In this data release, we propose a new delineation between the *r*-I and *r*-II stellar classes at $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] = +0.7$, instead of the empirically chosen $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] = +1.0$ level previously in use, based on statistical tests of the complete set of RPA data released to date. We also statistically justify the minimum level of $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ for definition of the *r*-I stars, $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] > +0.3$. Redefining the separation between *r*-I and *r*-II stars will aid in the analysis of the possible progenitors of these two classes of stars and determine whether these signatures arise from separate astrophysical sources at all. Applying this redefinition to previous RPA data, the number of identified *r*-II and *r*-I stars changes to 51 and 121, respectively, from the initial set of data releases published thus far. In this data release, we identify 21 new *r*-II, 111 new *r*-I (plus 3 re-identified), and 7 new (plus 1 re-identified) limited-*r* stars out of a total of 232 target stars, resulting in a total sample of 72 new *r*-II stars, 232 new *r*-I stars, and 42 new limited-*r* stars identified by the RPA to date.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: [R-process \(1324\)](#); [Nucleosynthesis \(1131\)](#); [Metallicity \(1031\)](#); [Stellar abundances \(1577\)](#); [Population II stars \(1284\)](#); [Stellar atmospheres \(1584\)](#)

Supporting material: machine-readable tables

1. Introduction

Since the seminal work of Burbidge et al. (1957) and Cameron (1957), the rapid neutron-capture process (*r*-process) has been identified as a main physical mechanism responsible for the production of over half the elements in the universe heavier than iron, with the other half produced primarily by the slow neutron-capture process (*s*-process). Elemental production by the *s*-process likely occurs in shell burning in asymptotic

giant branch (AGB) stars (Herwig 2005; Bisterzo et al. 2010). On the other hand, astrophysical sources that facilitate the production and release of *r*-process elements remain the topic of active research. First proposed by Lattimer & Schramm (1974), neutron star mergers (NSMs) are currently favored as sites of the main *r*-process (Rosswog et al. 2014; Thielemann et al. 2017). Observationally, NSMs gained support as sources of heavy *r*-process material with the inference of lanthanide material synthesized by an NSM associated with the gravitational-wave signal detected by LIGO, GW170817 (Abbott et al. 2017; Chornock et al. 2017; Drout et al. 2017; Kilpatrick et al. 2017; Pian et al. 2017; Shappee et al. 2017). It is still

* This paper includes data gathered with the 2.5 m du Pont telescope located at Las Campanas Observatory, Chile.

unclear whether NSMs are sufficiently frequent or prolific r -process sources to be responsible for the majority of r -process material in the universe.

A prolific nucleosynthetic source occurring in the past leaves its elemental fingerprints on the universe through stellar photospheres, which largely retain records of the gas from which the star formed. In particular, very metal-poor (VMP; $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -2.0$) and extremely metal-poor (EMP; $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.0$) stars formed from gas that had not been enriched by many nucleosynthetic events prior to their birth. A strong nucleosynthetic event enriching this chemically primitive metal-poor gas would leave a clear elemental signature in VMP and EMP stellar photospheres. Indeed, at low metallicities (i.e., low $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$), distinct elemental signatures have been found over the past few decades, including stars enhanced with carbon—the so-called carbon-enhanced metal-poor, or CEMP, stars (see Beers & Christlieb 2005)—and neutron-capture elements with a variety of patterns involving production by the s -process, the r -process, and the recently suggested “intermediate” (i -) process (Cowan & Rose 1977; Dardelet et al. 2015; Hampel et al. 2016; Denissenkov et al. 2019), the astrophysical site(s) of which are still under discussion.

Of particular importance are the r -process-enhanced stars, which exhibit enhancement of the heavy r -process elements ($Z \geq 56$) in their photospheres. The level of enrichment by the r -process in metal-poor stars is quantified by europium ($Z = 63$), since this element is almost entirely produced by the r -process, and it is one of the easiest r -process elements to measure at optical wavelengths in stellar spectra. Currently, the r -process-enhanced stars are divided into two subclasses characterizing their enhancement: “ r -I,” with $+0.3 < [\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] \leq +1.0$, and “ r -II,” with $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] > +1.0$, corresponding to, respectively, a factor of over two and over 10 times enriched compared to the solar system (Beers & Christlieb 2005). Among the VMP stars in the Galaxy, the r -II stars account for roughly 3%–5% and the r -I stars about 15%–20%, according to the limited amount of previously published work (Barklem et al. 2005). Recent dedicated survey efforts by the R -Process Alliance (RPA) find slightly higher rates of nearly 8% of metal-poor stars displaying an r -II signature and 40% of an r -I signature (Hansen et al. 2018; Roederer et al. 2018b; Sakari et al. 2018a, 2018b, 2019; Ezzeddine et al. 2020). The main r -process patterns of the r -I and r -II stars are nearly identical, differing only by a scaling factor. It is currently unclear whether this difference in scaling is indicative of separate, more-or-less prolific r -process sources, or if the r -I and r -II stars share similar progenitors but with the r -I stars suffering more dilution by the natal gas of their birth environments.

The r -I and r -II stars are believed to record clear elemental signatures of single—or a few— r -process events, offering a window into possible r -process sources, such as NSMs. The most metal-poor r -I and r -II stars were originally thought to be enriched by an r -process source occurring at very early times in the Galactic history, placing a timescale on r -process events. Due to the short timescales required for the evolution of stars with masses >8 – $10 M_{\odot}$, core-collapse supernovae (CCSNe) were originally thought to be natural r -process sources (Truran et al. 1978), while the assumed long coalescence timescales for NSMs could not be accommodated with the expected short time required for the birth of the most metal-poor r -II stars (500 Myr to 1 Gyr). One way in which NSMs have again gained support is through the discovery of the ultra-faint dwarf

(UFD) galaxy Reticulum II (Ret II). Of nine stars observed, Ji et al. (2016) and Roederer et al. (2016) identified seven as r -II members—a much higher r -II fraction than that found in the general field populations of the Milky Way. (Only high upper limits on $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ for the remaining two stars could be determined, which does not rule them out as additional r -II stars.) The formation of r -process-enhanced stars in dwarf galaxy analogs of Ret II may alleviate the tension with the metal-poor nature of the r -II stars and the long coalescence timescales of NSMs, depending on the rate of star formation in this galaxy. A low-mass dwarf galaxy with few nucleosynthetic events will maintain its metal-poor nature longer than the Milky Way as a whole. Furthermore, Beniamini et al. (2016) and Ji et al. (2016) argue that the large number of CCSNe required could not simultaneously explain both the very low metallicity ($[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \sim -2.8$) and the strong r -process enrichment of Ret II and, rather, indicate that a single high-yield event (e.g., an NSM) having occurred early in the star formation history is more likely. Another type of rare and high-yield event with r -process elements (e.g., collapsars; Pruet et al. 2004; Surman & McLaughlin 2004; Miller et al. 2019; Siegel et al. 2019) may also be responsible for the material in UFDs similar to Ret II. However, these alternative exotic sites have not yet been definitively observed to occur.

In addition, many studies support a hierarchical merger origin of the Milky Way halo stars (e.g., Freeman & Bland-Hawthorn 2002; Bullock & Johnston 2005; Zolotov et al. 2009; Tumlinson 2010; Tissera et al. 2013, and references therein). Given that limited amounts of dilution are required in order to maintain the large over-abundances of r -process elements following an r -process event in environments similar to UFDs like Ret II, it is natural that the r -process-enhanced metal-poor halo stars were also accreted from such small galaxies by the Milky Way. Roederer et al. (2018a) investigated this hypothesis for highly r -process-enhanced stars in the halo by identifying dynamically linked groups of r -process-enhanced stars using data from the first RPA release (Hansen et al. 2018) and other sources. These dynamical groups could have once been members of satellite galaxies that hosted a prolific r -process event prior to their disruption into the Galactic halo. Additional explorations of this hypothesis are presently underway (e.g., Yuan et al. 2020; D. Gudín et al. 2020, in preparation).

The abstract goal of the RPA is to understand the r -process, which cannot be done effectively with the handful of r -II stars that were identified before the RPA was established. Accordingly, Phase II of the RPA is to identify 75–100 new r -II stars to build a robust catalog of observational r -process signatures with which to use in future analyses. This Phase II data release is an interim update on the RPA Search for R -Process-Enhanced Stars in the Galactic Halo, expanding on the work of Hansen et al. (2018), Sakari et al. (2018a), and Ezzeddine et al. (2020). In this phase, we obtain “snapshot” (resolving power of $R \sim 25,000$ – $35,000$ and signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) ~ 30) high-resolution spectra of stars that have been spectroscopically (or in some cases, photometrically) validated as metal-poor in previous studies with medium-resolution spectra (see, e.g., RPA Phase I; Placco et al. 2018). This resolving power and S/N is sufficient for determining Sr, Ba, and Eu abundances (or meaningful upper limits) in order to identify and characterize the stars with r -process enrichment among our targets. Using the previous definitions of the split between r -I and r -II stars,

Table 1
Observation Log

2MASS Stellar ID	R.A.	Decl.	V mag ^a	MJD	Exp (s)	S/N 4129 Å	RV_{helio} (km s ⁻¹)	RV_{err} (km s ⁻¹)	Source ^b
J00002416–1107454	00 00 24.0	–11 07 44.4	12.0	58080.06763	3123	40	–106.81	0.21	S
J00023429–1924590	00 02 34.3	–19 24 59.0	10.9	58077.04492	1100	28	–100.36	0.22	R
J00041581–5815524	00 04 15.8	–58 15 52.5	10.9	58075.05943	1100	25	+184.69	0.27	R
J00062986–5049319	00 06 29.8	–50 49 30.0	10.5	58074.10377	906	42	+214.56	0.39	SH
J00093394–1857008	00 09 34.0	–18 57 01.1	11.2	58081.06715	1200	46	–67.34	0.23	R
J00154806–6253207	00 15 48.1	–62 53 20.7	11.0	58075.02570	1200	28	+204.55	0.44	R
J00172430–3333151	00 17 24.3	–33 33 15.1	12.2	57985.00459	1200	25	–17.33	0.28	R
J00182832–3900338	00 18 28.3	–39 00 32.4	11.2	58076.02986	1400	31	+346.12	0.21	R
J00223225–4839449	00 22 32.2	–48 39 43.2	11.1	58075.04273	1200	27	+243.54	0.20	R
J00374325–1204391	00 37 43.3	–12 04 39.2	11.1	57985.00459	800	35	–27.84	0.41	R

Notes.^a RAVE DR5 V magnitudes are from Munari et al. (2014), B&B are from Henden & Munari (2014).^b R: RAVE (Kordopatis et al. 2013; Kunder et al. 2017), B: B&B (Schlaufman & Casey 2014), L: LAMOST (Deng et al. 2012), S: SkyMapper (Wolf et al. 2018), M: Meléndez et al. (2016), H: Hamburg/ESO (Christlieb et al. 2008), and D: SAGA Database (Suda et al. 2017).

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

this data release adds four new r -II stars, 128 new r -I stars, and 7 new limited- r stars (of 232 total targets) to the cumulative progress of the RPA. As we discuss below, it is now appropriate, based on the RPA data collected to date, to specify a different division point in [Eu/Fe] for the separation of r -I and r -II stars, thus revising these totals.

2. Observations

The data in this fourth RPA data release—the third reporting snapshot, high-resolution spectroscopy taken with Southern Hemisphere telescopes—were obtained over a total of 20 nights in 2017 March, May, August, September, and November.

Target stars were selected after medium-resolution spectroscopic validation as metal poor and with effective temperatures useful for the identification of r -process elements (generally $4250 < T_{\text{eff}} < 5750$ K), e.g., as reported by Placco et al. (2018, 2019). Prior to medium-resolution validation, most targets were originally selected using the criteria described in Meléndez et al. (2016) from the RAdial Velocity Experiment (RAVE; Steinmetz et al. 2006; Kordopatis et al. 2013; Kunder et al. 2017; Matijević et al. 2017), and others were drawn from surveys such as SkyMapper (Wolf et al. 2018), Best & Brightest (B&B; Schlaufman & Casey 2014), Hamburg/ESO (Christlieb et al. 2008), and the Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fibre Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST; Deng et al. 2012).

High-resolution ($R \sim 30,000$) spectra were obtained with the Echelle spectrograph on the du Pont 2.5 m telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory, using the $1'' \times 4''$ slit and 2×1 on-chip binning. The spectra cover a wavelength range from 3860 to 9000 Å for our 232 relatively bright stars ($10 \lesssim V \lesssim 13$) with low metallicities ($-3 \lesssim [\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \lesssim -1$). Data were reduced using the Carnegie Python Distribution²³ (CarPy; Kelson 1998; Kelson et al. 2000; Kelson 2003). Heliocentric radial velocities (RVs) were measured with the *fxcor* task in IRAF²⁴ (Tody 1986, 1993), using order-by-order cross

correlation between the target and select RV standards: HD 14412 (7.46 km s⁻¹), HD 96700 (12.84 km s⁻¹), HD 146775 (–30.15 km s⁻¹), HD 22879 (120.40 km s⁻¹), and HD 189625 (–28.13 km s⁻¹), from Soubiran et al. (2013). For each target, the RV is found by taking the weighted average of each order’s individual radial-velocity measurements, following the iterative removal of 2σ outliers. On average, 15 orders with strong, unsaturated features were used for cross correlation of each spectrum. The uncertainties on our measured RVs are calculated from the standard error of the mean of the individual order-by-order cross-correlation results from *fxcor*. The S/N per resolution element of each spectrum in the region of the 4129 Å Eu II line was estimated by taking the square root of the total continuum counts. An S/N of ~ 30 at 4129 Å is sufficient for the Phase II snapshot determination of Eu abundances. The computed heliocentric RVs and S/N for each target are listed in Table 1, along with the R.A., decl., V magnitude, median Julian date (MJD) of the observation, and the exposure times.

3. Stellar Parameter Derivations and Abundance Analysis*3.1. Atmospheric Parameters*

For consistency between RPA data releases, we derive stellar parameters spectroscopically following RPA Data Release 1 (DR1; Hansen et al. 2018), in which the equivalent-width measurements of Fe I and Fe II lines are used to find the stellar parameters assuming 1D local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE), based on ATLAS9 model atmospheres (Castelli & Kurucz 2003). First, the equivalent widths (EWs) of a large number of Fe lines are measured (on average, 82 Fe I and 20 Fe II lines). The Fe I and Fe II EWs are listed for each star in Table 2. Next, we use the 2017 version of MOOG (Snedden 1973), including the treatment of Rayleigh scattering described in Sobeck et al. (2011),²⁵ to derive an Fe abundance for each line. The effective temperature (T_{eff}) is derived by minimizing the trend of Fe I abundances as a function of the transition excitation potential. Spectroscopically derived atmospheric parameters using 1D LTE models systematically

²³ <http://code.obs.carnegiescience.edu/>²⁴ IRAF is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under cooperative agreement with the NSF.²⁵ <https://github.com/alexji/moog17scat>

Table 2
Fe I and Fe II Equivalent Width Measurements

2MASS Stellar ID	Species	λ (Å)	χ (eV)	$\log gf$	EW (mÅ)	$\log \epsilon$
J00002416–1107454	26.0	3948.10	3.24	−0.59	62.0	5.06
J00002416–1107454	26.0	3977.74	2.20	−1.12	90.7	4.95
J00002416–1107454	26.0	4001.66	2.17	−1.90	64.6	5.13
J00002416–1107454	26.0	4032.63	1.48	−2.38	70.1	4.88
J00002416–1107454	26.0	4058.22	3.21	−1.18	29.7	5.01
J00002416–1107454	26.0	4067.98	3.21	−0.53	61.8	4.94
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
J00002416–1107454	26.1	5316.62	3.15	−1.78	98.0	5.35
J00002416–1107454	26.1	5325.55	3.22	−3.16	19.1	5.36
J00002416–1107454	26.1	5362.87	3.20	−2.62	43.6	5.30
J00002416–1107454	26.1	5534.85	3.25	−2.87	21.7	5.17

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

Table 3
Model Atmospheric Parameters

2MASS Stellar ID	T_{eff} (K)	$\log g$ (cgs)	[Fe/H]	$\sigma_{[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]}$	N Fe I	N Fe II	ξ (km s ^{−1})
J00002416–1107454	4693	1.37	−2.40	0.12	90	26	2.11
J00023429–1924590	4400	1.15	−2.22	0.14	32	15	2.97
J00041581–5815524	4375	1.50	−2.32	0.17	30	12	2.81
J00062986–5049319	4647	0.75	−2.59	0.15	86	27	2.36
J00093394–1857008	4815	1.78	−1.85	0.14	115	27	1.56
J00154806–6253207	4725	1.78	−2.30	0.15	60	16	2.09
J00172430–3333151	4764	1.73	−2.29	0.13	69	16	2.02
J00182832–3900338	4639	1.34	−1.75	0.13	60	17	2.09
J00223225–4839449	4648	1.40	−1.75	0.15	102	21	2.15
J00374325–1204391	4695	1.31	−2.40	0.13	98	23	1.98

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

disagree with photometric determinations. Therefore, to correct the offset between the spectroscopic and photometric temperature scales, we use the following relation from Frebel et al. (2013) to adjust the temperature:

$$T_{\text{eff,corrected}} = T_{\text{eff,initial}} - 0.1 \times T_{\text{eff,initial}} + 670.$$

As our sample is dominated by cool stars, this temperature shift is, on average, about 200 K, ranging from about 60 K for the warmest stars and up to about 400 K for the coolest stars. The microturbulent velocity (ξ) is found by minimizing the abundance trend with reduced equivalent width. Finally, the surface gravity ($\log g$) is adjusted until the average Fe II abundance agrees with the Fe I abundance, and the metallicity ([Fe/H]) is set by the Fe I abundance.

Assuming LTE can often underestimate the iron abundance relative to non-LTE and therefore affect the determination of stellar parameters, especially for increasingly metal-poor stars. Based on the low surface gravity and low-temperature non-LTE Fe I abundance correction models in Lind et al. (2012), we find that the average non-LTE correction to the [Fe I/H] abundance is less than +0.2 dex for the stars in this sample that have [Fe/H]_{LTE} between −3 and −2. The correction decreases with both increasing metallicity and increasing surface gravity and becomes negligible at [Fe/H] > −1. This estimated correction is also supported by empirical fits to ultra-metal-poor stars in Ezzeddine et al. (2017), which show that for lower-metallicity stars, [Fe/H]_{LTE} between −3 and −2, the non-LTE correction to

the iron abundance can range between 0.13 and 0.27 dex, and a star with [Fe/H] $\approx$ −1.0 has a negligible −0.01 dex correction. However, for lower-metallicity stars with [Fe/H] $\approx$ −3.0, this correction increases to nearly 0.3 dex, which dominates over the statistical line-by-line uncertainty. As most of the targets in this sample have metallicities between $-3 \leq [\text{Fe}/\text{H}]_{\text{LTE}} \leq -2$, the non-LTE effect to the iron abundance is at least on the order of the statistical line-by-line uncertainty and can significantly affect the derived atmospheric parameters. To be consistent with previous RPA data releases, we assume LTE in the current study. However, in future RPA data analyses, non-LTE effects will be homogeneously incorporated into the iron abundances and stellar parameter determinations.

The (LTE) model atmospheric parameters are listed in Table 3. Figure 1 shows the final derived surface gravities as a function of the derived effective temperature (after the applied correction) compared to 12 Gyr, α -enhanced, metal-poor isochrones for a $0.8 M_{\odot}$ star at different metallicities (Demarque et al. 2004), showing that our sample is mainly comprised of metal-poor giants and validating our medium-resolution efforts. These isochrones do not extend to the hot and low-gravity AGB region, where some of our target stars populate Figure 1. A few of our target stars were more metal-rich than previously estimated from the medium-resolution spectroscopic validation described in Placco et al. (2018), but overall that method was effective for identifying metal-poor stars.

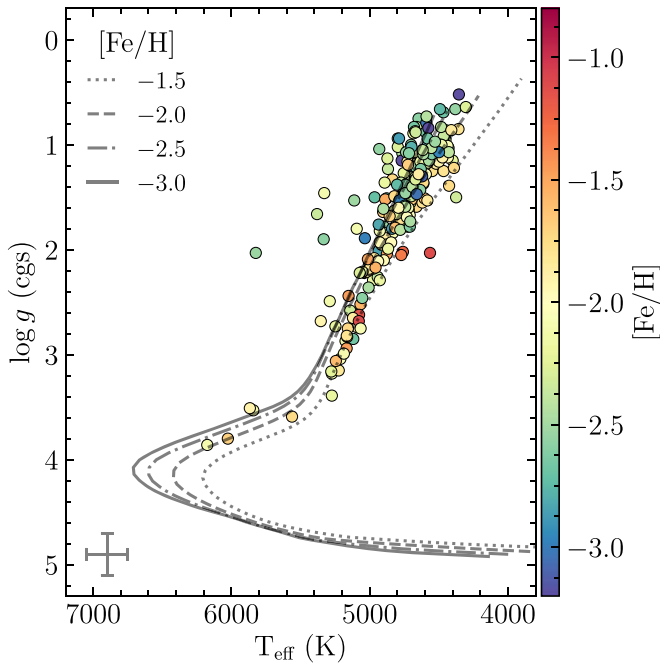


Figure 1. Surface gravity ($\log g$) vs. effective temperature (T_{eff}) measurements for our target stars. Solid, dotted-dashed, dashed, and dotted lines are 12 Gyr, α -enhanced isochrones for $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -3.0, -2.5, -2.0$, and -1.5 , respectively (Demarque et al. 2004). The error bar in the lower-left corner represents standard uncertainties of 150 K and 0.2 dex on T_{eff} and $\log g$, respectively.

3.2. Abundances

We derive abundances for C, Sr, Ba, and Eu from spectral synthesis using MOOG, in order to make an initial classification of each target into either *r*-I, *r*-II, limited-*r*, CEMP, or no *r*-process enhancement (“non-RPE”). For the estimation of the stellar abundances, we use α -enhanced ($[\alpha/\text{Fe}] = +0.4$) ATLAS9 model atmospheres (Castelli & Kurucz 2003). Line lists for each region of interest are generated with `linemake`.²⁶ These line lists include CH, C₂, and CN molecular lines (Brooke et al. 2013; Masseron et al. 2014; Ram et al. 2014; Sneden et al. 2014), as well as isotopic shift and hyperfine-structure information for Ba and Eu (Lawler et al. 2001; Gallagher et al. 2010). We use the solar isotopic ratios in Sneden et al. (2008) for neutron-capture elements with hyperfine-splitting effects.

The C abundances were primarily derived by fitting the entire CH *G* band at 4313 Å. For cooler CEMP stars, where the *G* band is saturated, abundances were derived from the C₂ Swan band at 5161 Å. The Sr abundances were derived from two strong lines, at 44077 Å and 44215 Å, which can be significantly blended with Fe (and ⁶⁶Dy, if present). We derive Ba abundances from lines at 45853 Å, 46141 Å, and 46496 Å. Eu abundances are mainly derived from the 44129 Å, 44205 Å, and 44435 Å features. Since the 44435 Å line is heavily blended by a neighboring Fe feature, and 44205 Å by C and Ca, the 44129 Å feature is primarily used to derive the Eu abundance. The 44205 Å feature may be significantly blended with C if the target is C-enhanced. However, since most of our targets do not have enhanced C, the 44205 Å line was minimally affected. Figure 2 shows key Sr, Ba, and Eu

features in a limited-*r*, *r*-I, and *r*-II star along with their synthesized abundance.

3.3. Abundance Uncertainties

In this section, we estimate the uncertainties on the derived abundances from constant stellar parameter uncertainties. First, we assume a conservative typical uncertainty on effective temperature of 150 K, 0.2 dex on surface gravity, and 0.2 km s^{−1} on microturbulence. We do not vary the metallicity but instead use the random uncertainty associated with the line-by-line variation between iron abundances, i.e., $\sigma_{[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]}$ in Table 3. Then, we choose spectra that represent the parameter ranges for our targets, i.e., a somewhat hot star (~ 5000 K) with $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \approx -2.0$, a cooler star (~ 4500 K) with $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \approx -2.5$, and a moderate temperature star (~ 4800 K) with $\log g \approx 1.0$. With these three representative targets, we vary each of the stellar parameters within the above uncertainties individually and rederive the best-fit abundances for C, Sr, Ba, and Eu.

Table 4 reports the abundance variations after changing the atmospheric parameters individually. We report both the systematic uncertainty (σ_{sys}) from the atmospheric parameters as well as the total uncertainty when the random error on the metallicity is included (σ_{tot}). Note that it is more appropriate to use σ_{sys} when using the $\log \epsilon$ abundances and σ_{tot} for $[\text{X}/\text{Fe}]$ abundances. On average, the uncertainty on the $[\text{Sr}/\text{Fe}]$, $[\text{Ba}/\text{Fe}]$, and $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ abundances round to 0.2 dex. The average random uncertainty from $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ is 0.14 dex for stars in this data release. These average uncertainties are represented in Figures 3 and 6 by an error bar in the corner.

4. Results

Final derived Fe, C, Sr, Ba, and Eu abundances for our 232 program stars are listed in Table 5, along with their *r*-process classification. All $[\text{X}/\text{Y}]$ abundances use the solar system measurements from Asplund et al. (2009). The neutron-capture elements—Sr, Ba, and Eu—indicate which neutron-capture processes dominated the elemental production preceding the formation of these stars; the absorption features of these elements are among the strongest of all neutron-capture elements for stars with similar atmospheric parameters. Together, these five elements provide a comprehensive overview of the nucleosynthetic history of each star. This work focuses especially on characterizing the neutron-capture nucleosynthesis signatures in halo stars.

The Sr, Ba, and Eu abundances are used to both determine the dominant source of the neutron-capture elements and also to quantify various regions of the *r*-process pattern. In particular, Ba and Eu abundances can be used as a metric for whether the neutron-capture elements in each star were primarily synthesized through an *s*- or *r*-process (Frebel 2018, and references therein). In essence, if the *r*-process dominated the production of neutron-capture elements, the observed ratio of Ba to Eu will be less than the Solar value, or $[\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}] < 0$. Alternatively, the $[\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}]$ abundance is greater than Solar if the *s*-process dominated the production of neutron-capture elements. In the neutron-capture elemental abundance pattern, the “first *r*-process peak” is approximately indicated by the Sr abundance, while Ba is approximately representative of the second abundance peak. Current studies argue that the light *r*-process elements (i.e., the first *r*-process peak) could originate from a separate *r*-process source (the limited *r*-process) than

²⁶ <https://github.com/vmplacco/linemake>

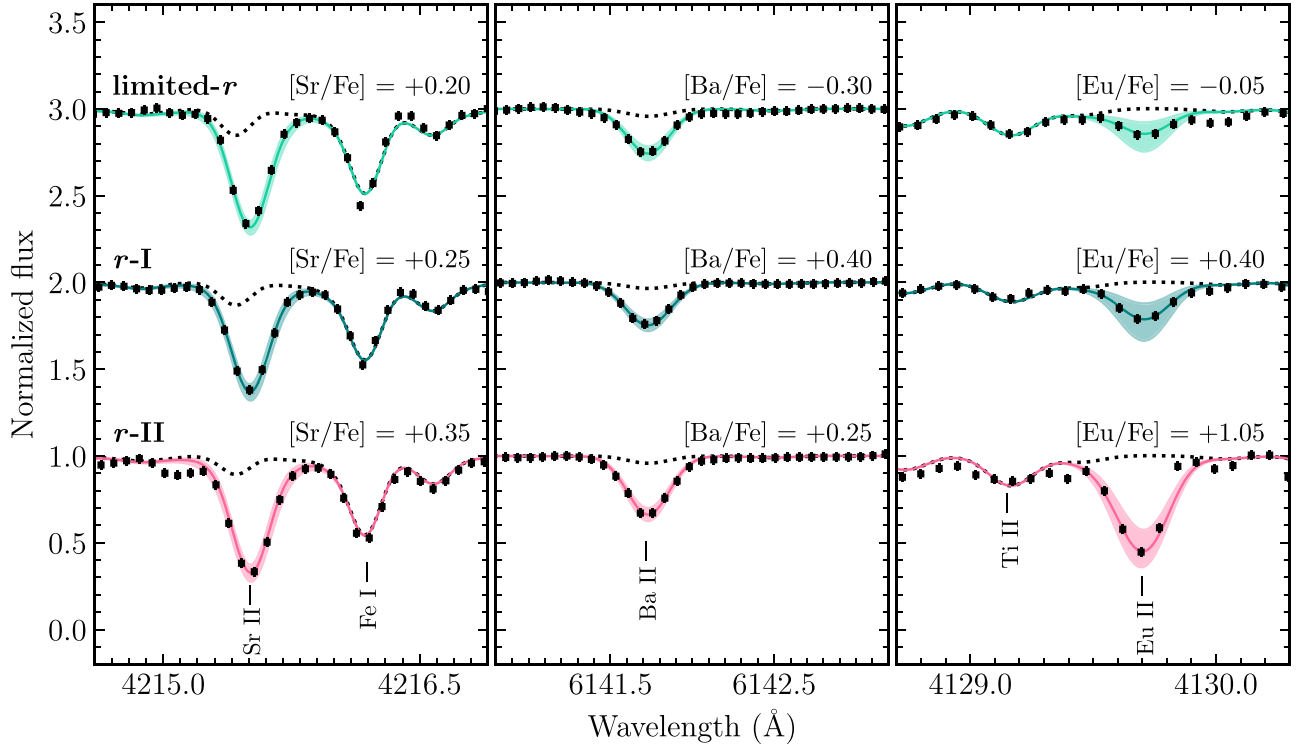


Figure 2. Scaled spectrum snippets (points) in the regions of interest for a limited- r star (top, J10344785–4823544), an r -I star (middle, J20194310–3158163), and an r -II star (bottom, J03422816–6500355). The MOOG syntheses for Sr II (left), Ba II (middle), and Eu II (right) are shown for no abundance (dashed line) and the best-fit case (colored line), with a conservative ± 0.30 dex uncertainty (shaded), which more than accommodates the random uncertainty due to S/N and systematic uncertainties in the atmospheric parameters.

Table 4
Abundances Uncertainties for Example Stars

	T_{eff} ± 150 K	$\log g$ ± 0.2 dex	ξ ± 0.2 km s $^{-1}$	[Fe/H] $\pm \sigma_{[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]}$	σ_{sys}	σ_{tot}
J16285613–1014576	5078	1.80	2.07	−1.93		
[C/Fe]	± 0.23	∓ 0.05	∓ 0.05	∓ 0.11	± 0.24	± 0.26
[Sr/Fe]	± 0.11	± 0.06	∓ 0.04	∓ 0.11	± 0.13	± 0.17
[Ba/Fe]	± 0.11	± 0.07	∓ 0.12	∓ 0.11	± 0.18	± 0.21
[Eu/Fe]	± 0.07	± 0.06	∓ 0.03	∓ 0.11	± 0.10	± 0.15
J20504869–3355289	4549	1.09	2.33	−2.63		
[C/Fe]	± 0.32	∓ 0.10	∓ 0.03	∓ 0.14	± 0.34	± 0.36
[Sr/Fe]	± 0.15	± 0.04	∓ 0.11	∓ 0.14	± 0.19	± 0.24
[Ba/Fe]	± 0.08	± 0.05	∓ 0.08	∓ 0.14	± 0.12	± 0.19
[Eu/Fe]	± 0.10	± 0.05	∓ 0.01	∓ 0.14	± 0.11	± 0.18
J04014897–3757533	4797	1.02	2.32	−2.28		
[C/Fe]	± 0.33	∓ 0.08	∓ 0.05	∓ 0.13	± 0.34	± 0.37
[Sr/Fe]	± 0.10	± 0.06	∓ 0.14	∓ 0.13	± 0.18	± 0.22
[Ba/Fe]	± 0.08	± 0.07	∓ 0.08	∓ 0.13	± 0.13	± 0.19
[Eu/Fe]	± 0.08	± 0.05	∓ 0.02	∓ 0.13	± 0.10	± 0.16

that which synthesized the second and third r -process peaks (Truran et al. 2002; Honda et al. 2006; Wanajo & Ishimaru 2006). Thus, the ratio of Sr to Ba quantifies the amount of limited- r production. These considerations motivate using the relative abundances of Sr, Ba, and Eu to determine whether the elements in each originated primarily from a limited- r , s -process, or r -process production site.

4.1. Revisiting the [Eu/Fe] r -I and r -II Cutoff Value

Figure 3 shows the [Eu/Fe] abundances as a function of metallicity from this work and previous RPA data releases. The majority of the targets were identified as r -I stars, with eight as limited- r stars, under the current r -I and limited- r definitions. Using the value [Eu/Fe] $> +1.0$, as employed by the RPA up to now, only four new r -II stars were identified in the present data release.

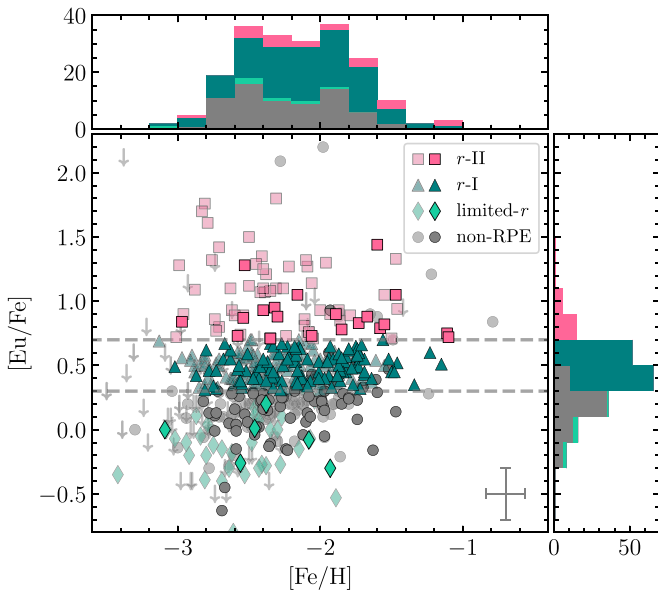


Figure 3. Derived $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ abundances as a function of metallicity for the stars in this sample, labeled by r -process enhancement type: non-RPE (circles), r -II (squares), r -I (triangles), and limited- r (diamonds). Upper limits on $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ are indicated by a downward arrow. Also shown are the current RPA-identified r -process-enhanced stars (same labeling, lighter colors). Horizontal dashed lines indicate $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] = +0.3$ and $+0.7$, showing the new suggested cutoff levels on $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ for r -I and r -II classification. See Section 4.1 for details.

The four stars with $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] > +1.0$ and $[\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}] < 0.0$ are J03422816–6500355, J05383296–5904280, J07103110–7121522, and J07202253–3358518. They are all of moderate temperature and together span about 1 dex in metallicity. This rate ($\sim 1.7\%$) indicates a decrease relative to the previous success rate of RPA efforts, which have either agreed with or exceeded the expected r -II discovery rate among VMP stars of 3%–5%, as estimated by Christlieb et al. (2004) and Barklem et al. (2005). This decrease is likely the result of the extension to higher metallicity of our present sample compared with previous RPA data releases.

The distribution of $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ abundances found in metal-poor stars is likely to be a continuum, unless different classes of r -process progenitors contribute significantly different amounts of lanthanides, which remains uncertain at present. A simple Kolmogorov–Smirnov test fails to rule out the null hypothesis that r -I and r -II stars from the full RPA sample to date are drawn from the same parent distribution of $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, as has been previously speculated based on smaller samples (e.g., Barklem et al. 2005). Still, it is operationally useful to differentiate between moderately and extremely r -process-enhanced stellar signatures to investigate whether these stars have different r -process sources. With the availability of the now myriad amount of data from RPA efforts, we can reconsider where this split between r -I and r -II stars should lie, based on the data in hand.

Without appeal to any particular physical models, we agnostically consider the existence of two or three distinct populations within the entire $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ distribution (note that we include the limited- r stars for this exercise). To mitigate concerns of the sample size ($N=471$) contributing to misinterpretation, we consider the r -I and r -II boundaries resulting from the robust partitioning technique known as k -medoids (Kaufman & Rousseeuw 1990). Similar to the k -means algorithm, this partitioning procedure seeks to minimize

the distance between cluster members to determine cluster centers. We consider the cases $k = 2$ and $k = 3$ clusters separately and evaluate the resulting $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ classifications. In the case of two clusters, the boundary is determined to occur at $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] = +0.4 \pm 0.2$, whereas the three-cluster case results in the boundaries $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] = +0.3 \pm 0.1$ and $+0.7 \pm 0.2$ for r -I and r -II classification, respectively. Increasing the number of clusters did not significantly reduce the information loss, so we do not consider $k > 3$ cases.

We evaluate the extent to which the $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ distribution is better represented by two or three components with a Gaussian mixture model via the Akaike information criterion (AIC; Akaike 1973). This criterion appropriately weights the goodness of fit with the simplicity of the model, mitigating the effects of overfitting when arbitrarily adding additional components to the model. Using a two-component Gaussian mixture model suggests a slightly higher degree of information loss (AIC = 284) than a three-component mixture (AIC = 278), from which we conclude that that sample $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ distribution is more appropriately represented by three distinct populations, given the assumption of normally distributed components. Note that the AIC for a four-component mixture increases to 290, reiterating that more than three populations will overfit the data in hand. Furthermore, the AIC presumes well-populated Gaussians, for which three components are sufficient to fit the current amount of data. This analysis does not preclude the possibility of four populations existing when more data are available in the future. Figure 4 depicts the resulting r -I and r -II classification boundaries, as well as the final three-component Gaussian mixture model.

Adopting the split at $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] > +0.7$ to distinguish r -II stars from r -I stars, the new classifications of r -I and r -II are now

$$\begin{aligned} r - \text{I}: & \quad 0.3 < [\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] \leq +0.7, \quad [\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}] < 0 \\ r - \text{II}: & \quad [\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] > +0.7, \quad [\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}] < 0. \end{aligned}$$

Note that Roederer et al. (2018a) also proposed a division at $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] = +0.7$, based on the simple observation that this value effectively excluded most metal-poor stars in the globular cluster and disk populations from the r -II class. This redefinition does not affect the limited- r class, which are still defined as $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}] < +0.3$, $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}] > +0.5$, and $[\text{Sr}/\text{Eu}] > 0.0$ as in Frebel (2018). With this new classification of r -I and r -II, we identify a total of 21 new r -II, 111 new r -I, and 7 new limited- r stars in this data release. The number of previously identified r -I and r -II stars (before the RPA was established) changes from 136 and 28 to 99 and 65, respectively, using data in the JINAbase compilation (Abomalima & Frebel 2018). In the future, as we gather more data about the Milky Way halo, especially at higher metallicities ($[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \gtrsim -2$), we might consider a metallicity-dependent separation, which may further help distinguish between r -process progenitors at different times throughout Galactic history.

Figure 5 is a summary of the classification of metal-poor stars based on the RPA data releases to date, using this new definition. Including this data release, RPA efforts now total 72 r -II, 232 r -I, and 42 limited- r stars among the 595 targets with snapshot and portrait spectra that have been analyzed to date in Hansen et al. (2018), Roederer et al. (2018b), Sakari et al. (2018a, 2018b, 2019) and Ezzeddine et al. (2020).

Table 5
Neutron-capture Abundances and Subclass Assignments

2MASS Stellar ID	[Fe/H]	[C/Fe]	[C/Fe] _c	[Sr/Fe]	[Ba/Fe]	[Eu/Fe]	Subclass
J00002416–1107454	–2.40	–0.33	+0.24	–0.32	–0.27	+0.50	<i>r</i> -I
J00023429–1924590	–2.22	–0.64	+0.06	+0.08	–0.27	+0.56	<i>r</i> -I
J00041581–5815524	–2.32	–0.66	–0.16	+0.72	+0.30	+0.95	<i>r</i> -II
J00062986–5049319	–2.59	–0.65	+0.11	–0.45	–0.70	–0.15	non-RPE
J00093394–1857008	–1.85	–0.17	+0.06	+0.13	+0.23	+0.46	<i>r</i> -I
J00154806–6253207	–2.30	–0.55	–0.33	+0.30	+0.08	+0.40	<i>r</i> -I
J00172430–3333151	–2.29	–0.07	+0.23	+0.35	+0.05	+0.59	<i>r</i> -I
J00182832–3900338	–1.75	–0.35	+0.14	+0.28	+0.07	+0.57	<i>r</i> -I
J00223225–4839449	–1.75	–0.25	+0.20	–0.05	+0.10	+0.65	<i>r</i> -I
J00374325–1204391	–2.40	–0.20	+0.42	0.00	–0.27	+0.28	non-RPE

Notes.

^a Also analyzed in Sakari et al. (2018a).

^b Casey & Schlafman (2015) have also analyzed this star and find [Eu/Fe] < +0.50.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

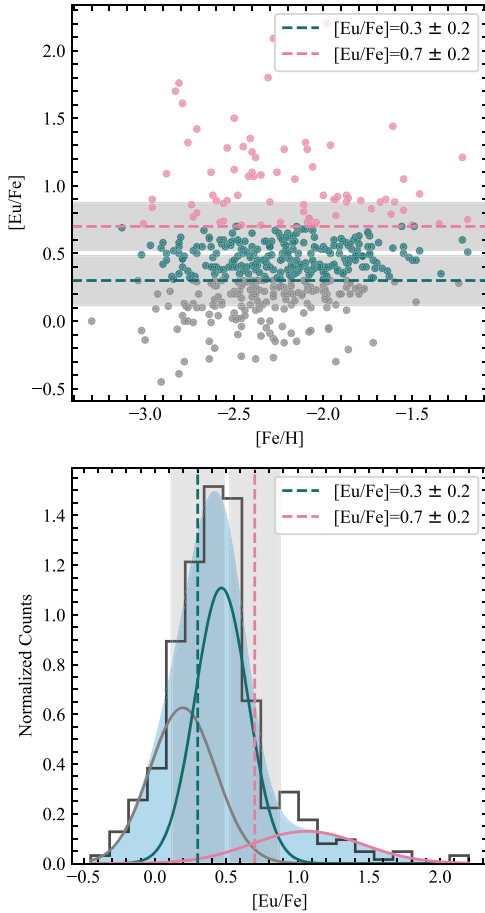


Figure 4. Top: scatter plot of [Eu/Fe] as a function of metallicity for RPA stars (excluding upper limits) colored by the average k -medoids grouping with $k = 3$. Bottom: histogram of all RPA [Eu/Fe] abundances compared to Gaussian mixture model with three components. Teal and pink lines with gray shaded regions correspond to the average with their standard deviations of the k -medoids decision boundaries defining r -I and r -II.

4.2. Other Neutron-capture Signatures

The [Sr/Ba] and [Ba/Eu] abundance ratios for RPA stars are plotted in Figure 6 as functions of [Fe/H], [Ba/Fe], and [Eu/Fe]. Stars classified as limited- r occupy the high-[Sr/Ba],

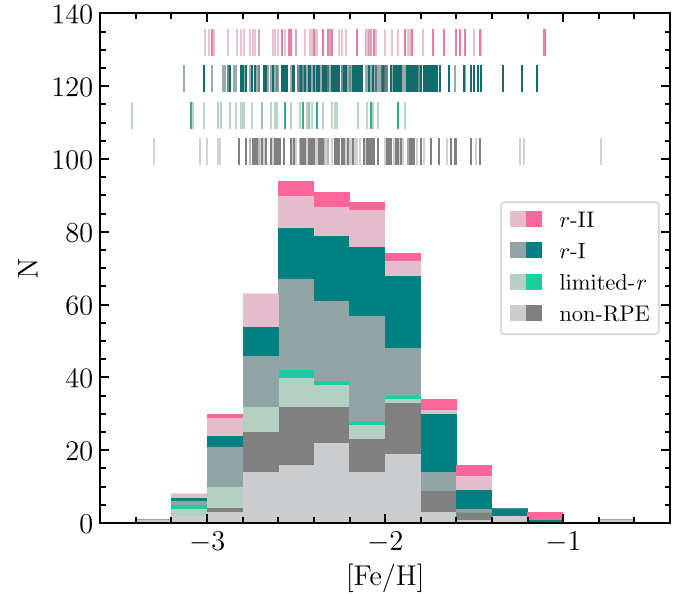


Figure 5. [Fe/H] histograms of r -process-enhanced stars identified by the RPA. Darker colors represent this data release, and lighter colors are all previous RPA work (Hansen et al. 2018; Roederer et al. 2018b; Sakari et al. 2018a, 2018b, 2019; Ezzeddine et al. 2020). At the top, stripe density plots of [Fe/H] for the individual classes are shown.

low-[Eu/Fe] end of the scatter (Figure 6(c)). There are no apparent correlations between the [Sr/Ba] and metallicities for r -I and r -II stars (Figure 6(a)). Instead, r -I and r -II stars are found in roughly equal proportions across a range of low metallicities, implying that the production sites of Sr and Ba are generally uncorrelated in metal-poor stars. However, we note that all identified limited- r stars thus far are VMP ([Fe/H] ≤ -2.0). This lack of limited- r stars at higher metallicities can also be seen in Figure 3, in which the spread of [Eu/Fe] abundances dramatically decreases at higher metallicity. Côté et al. (2019) discuss this narrowing in detail and investigate which r -process sites might be responsible for this behavior. For example, a limited- r mechanism could have dominated at early times, then became more rare as metallicity increased.

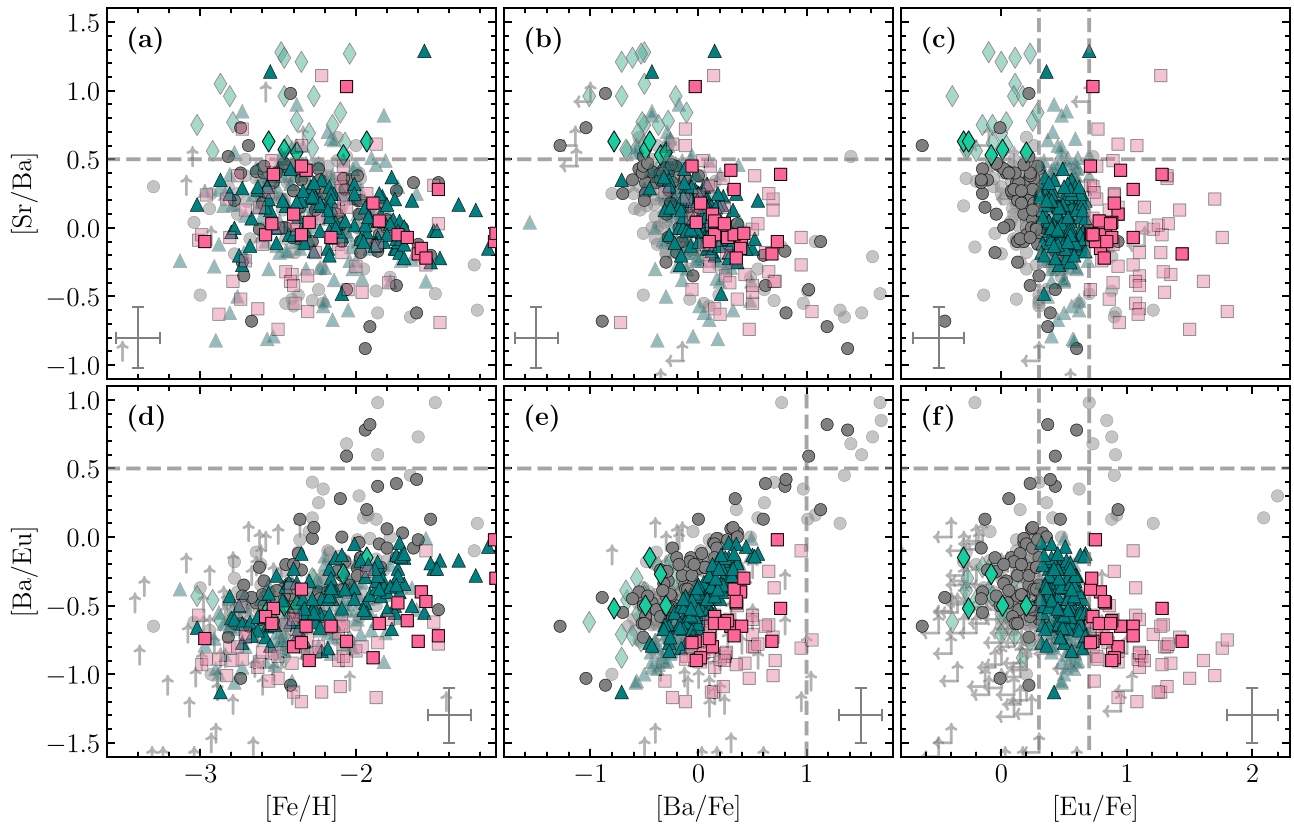


Figure 6. Abundance ratios vs. $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ (panels (a) and (d)), $[\text{Ba}/\text{Fe}]$ (panels (b) and (e)), and $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ (panels (c) and (f)) for $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}]$ (panels (a)–(c)) and $[\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}]$ (panels (d)–(f)) for stars in this sample (dark colors) and previous RPA data releases (light colors). Dashed lines denote the adopted classification cutoffs for r -II, r -I, limited- r , and s -process signatures (see the text for details).

Interestingly, there is a downward trend of high $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}]$ with increasing $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ abundance (Figure 6(c)). At $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}] > +0.5$, most stars have somewhat low $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$ and are thus classified as limited- r stars. Fewer stars have both high $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}]$ and an r -I signature, and even fewer stars with high $[\text{Sr}/\text{Ba}]$ are considered r -II. This apparent upper limit could suggest a possible constraint on limited- r production by prolific main r -process sources. The r -II stars with high $[\text{Sr}/\text{Eu}]$, by definition, show evidence for at least one robust r -process source and also for a potential secondary limited- r production site, since they exhibit an over-abundance of both Sr and Eu but a relative under-abundance of Ba. Our ability to refine and interpret these apparent behaviors will only increase as the size of the RPA sample continues to expand.

We also identify some stars with high $[\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}]$ and high $[\text{Ba}/\text{Fe}]$ (Figure 6(e)); the neutron-capture elements in these stars are dominated by s -process production. We identify three new s -process-enhanced stars based on these high Ba ratios and label them as such in Table 5. Slightly lower on the $[\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}]$ scale are stars with a more mixed neutron-capture element signature showing an apparent combination of an r -process and s -process pattern, notably with $0.0 < [\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}] \leq +0.5$ (Frebel 2018). Based on this criterion only, we identify 10 new stars with moderately high $[\text{Ba}/\text{Eu}]$ abundance ratios. It is currently unclear how the neutron-capture element abundance pattern in these stars is formed. For one star it has been identified to be a combination of enrichment by first an r -process and then an s -process, earning the label of “ $r+s$ ” (RAVE J094921.8–161722; see Gull et al. 2018 for details). For the majority of these stars, this two-component enrichment cannot be invoked to explain their abundance patterns, and it

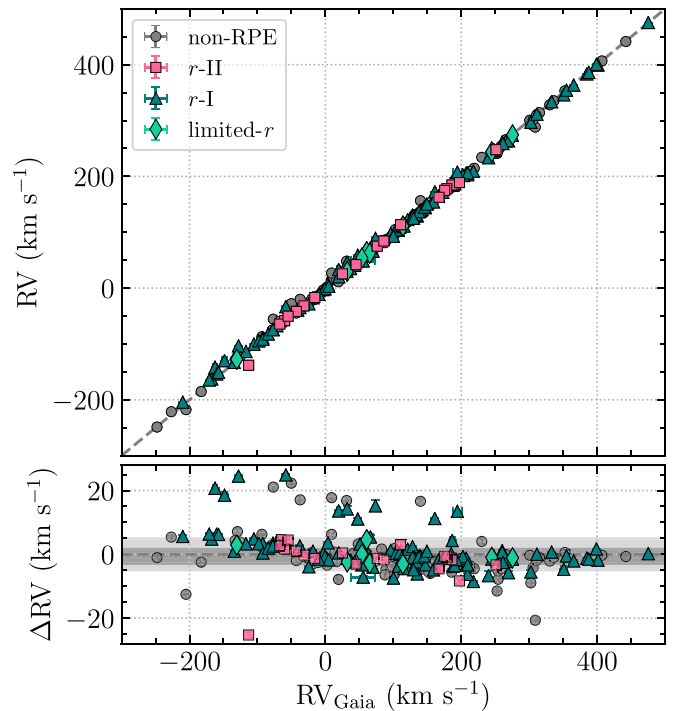


Figure 7. Radial velocities (RVs) reported by Gaia DR2 for our target stars, compared to RVs measured by this work. Stars with RVs different by more than 5 km s^{-1} (outside of the light-gray band in the bottom panel) are reported in Table 6. The dark-gray dotted line and the dark-gray band in the lower panel show the average and standard deviation of the residuals for stars within the light-gray band ($-0.64 \pm 2.35 \text{ km s}^{-1}$).

Table 6
Radial Velocities (in km s^{-1}) from Literature and This Data Release for Possible Binaries

Stellar ID	RV	RV _{err}	RV _{literature}	RV _{err}	Δ RV
J00374325–1204391	–27.84	0.41	–50.14 ^a –48.60 ^b –51.2 ^c	0.48 1.74 ...	+22.30 +20.76 +23.4
J01213447–2528002	+33.17	0.26	+19.57 ^a +23.62 ^b	2.26 0.60	+13.60 +9.55
J01265856+0135153	–221.38	0.92	–226.79 ^a –211.4 ^d	1.70 ...	+5.41 +10.0
J01311599–4016510	–33.31	0.38	–58.21 ^a	0.28	+24.90
J01371888–1729037	–204.31	0.55	–209.90 ^a –210.1 ^c –209.90 ^f	0.77 0.3 0.30	+5.59 +5.9 +5.65
J03142084–1035112	+241.24	0.10	+252.71 ^a +239.3 ^d	4.46 ...	–11.47 +1.9
J03190629–0819306	+293.47	0.61	+302.39 ^a +304.99 ^b	0.21 2.70	–8.92 –10.81
J03425812–3047217	+296.96	0.62	+302.48 ^a +323.8 ^d +302.13 ^b	0.31 ... 0.70	–5.52 –26.8 –5.17
J04014897–3757533	+156.55	0.17	+139.92 ^a +139.77 ^b +139.1 ^c	0.51 0.80 ...	+16.63 +16.78 +17.5
J04315411–0632100	+209.37	0.27	+217.89 ^a +211.64 ^b	0.43 2.20	–8.52 –2.27
J04411241–6518438	+288.28	1.27	+308.93 ^a +292.18 ^b	1.95 1.28	–20.65 –3.47
J05311779–5810048	+129.19	0.31	+135.32 ^a +133.38 ^b	1.04 1.56	–6.13 –4.19
J05381700–7516207	+58.73	0.34	+47.66 ^a +52.91 ^b +43.0 ^c	1.05 0.68 ...	+11.07 +12.15 +22.1
J05383296–5904280	+189.02	0.37	+197.35 ^a +196.65 ^b	0.41 0.54	–8.33 –7.63
J06014757–5951510	+246.53	0.22	+254.34 ^a +253.64 ^b	0.31 0.56	–7.81 –7.11
J06420823–5116448	+15.43	0.27	+9.16 ^a +8.57 ^b	0.80 0.87	+6.27 +6.86
J07265723–5647500	+71.75	0.62	+66.31 ^a +63.29 ^b	3.33 1.11	+5.44 +9.75
J09255655–3450373	+203.06	0.39	+209.35 ^a +210.11 ^b	0.27 0.59	–6.29 –7.05
J10025125–4331098	+233.46	1.53	+240.13 ^a	1.93	–6.67
J10251539–3554026	+248.87	0.45	+254.10 ^a +254.68 ^b	0.59 3.62	–5.23 –5.81
J10302845–7543299	+263.78	0.54	+269.53 ^a +270.29 ^b	0.31 0.86	–5.75 –6.51
J10540994–1347522	+180.23	0.77	+185.81 ^a +188.7 ^d	1.76 ...	–5.58 –8.5
J11404726–0833030	+172.22	0.10	+161.00 ^a +160.33 ^b	1.63 0.84	+11.22 +11.89
J14165685+1215598	–87.15	0.82	–93.43 ^a	2.10	+6.28
J15141994–4359554	+148.50	0.97	+154.50 ^a	0.98	–6.00
J15360493+0247300	–20.03	0.23	–37.11 ^a	2.56	+17.08
J19050116–1949280	+95.31	0.35	+101.60 ^a +99.51 ^b	0.57 1.38	–6.29 –4.20
J19175585–5440147	+48.08	0.54	+31.22 ^a +25.51 ^b	0.68 3.94	+16.86 +22.47
J19445483–4039459	+92.74	0.30	+100.17 ^a +99.52 ^b	0.53 0.58	–7.43 –6.78
J19451414–1729269	+46.23	0.80	+32.00 ^a +35.45 ^b +30.4 ^g	1.66 0.54 ...	+14.23 +10.78 +15.8
J20194310–3158163	–130.00	0.30	+30.60 ^f –148.51 ^a –153.43 ^b	0.20 3.34 0.56	+15.63 +18.51 +23.43

Table 6
(Continued)

Stellar ID	RV	RV _{err}	RV _{literature}	RV _{err}	Δ RV
J20233743–1659533	–141.72	0.23	–162.43 ^a –157.44 ^b	3.05 1.34	+20.71 +15.72
J20504869–3355289	–153.72	0.22	–160.02 ^a –158.76 ^b	0.39 0.56	+6.30 +5.04
J20554594–3155159	–151.07	0.19	–157.29 ^a –155.06 ^b	0.25 0.65	+6.22 +3.99
J21055865–4919336	+207.72	0.19	+194.24 ^a +169.90 ^b	6.10 1.71	+13.48 +37.82
J21080151–6555366	+81.27	0.27	+87.72 ^a +88.44 ^b	0.39 0.38	–6.45 –7.17
J21103411–6331354	–122.35	0.23	–129.48 ^a –130.56 ^b	0.44 1.54	+7.13 +8.21
J21314253–1459110	+11.39	0.30	+19.24 ^a +17.79 ^b	2.87 0.91	–7.85 –6.40
J22125424–0235414	–103.40	0.40	–127.91 ^a –127.05 ^b –145.8 ^h	0.95 1.29 ...	+24.51 +23.65 +42.4
J22161170–5319492	+88.90	1.71	+73.70 ^a +73.39 ^b	0.44 1.69	+15.20 +15.51
J22223324–1314488	+26.96	0.25	+9.19 ^a +11.07 ^b	0.55 0.73	+17.77 +15.89
J22233596–5301145	+146.88	0.26	+152.56 ^a +153.6 ⁱ	0.29 1.4	–5.68 –6.7
J22372037–4741375	–138.25	0.26	–112.98 ^a –107.5 ^d	4.45 ...	–25.27 –30.8
J22585069–3923437	–55.60	0.40	–76.68 ^a	1.63	+21.08
J23425814–4327352	+48.53	0.22	+55.66 ^a	17.69	–7.13
J23490902–2447176	–164.58	0.22	–170.94 ^a –167.46 ^b	0.68 0.90	+6.36 +2.88
J23552837+0421179	–217.70	0.41	–205.18 ^a	3.38	–12.52

Note. Sources are defined as follows.

^a Gaia DR2, Gaia Collaboration et al. (2018).

^b RAVE DR5, Kunder et al. (2017).

^c Ruchti et al. (2011).

^d Beers et al. (2017).

^e Ishigaki et al. (2012).

^f Gontcharov (2006).

^g Roederer et al. (2014).

^h RAVE DR3, Siebert et al. (2011).

ⁱ Schlafman & Casey (2014).

(This table is available in machine-readable form.)

has been speculated to be the signature of the *i*-process (Dardelet et al. 2015; Hampel et al. 2016). A higher-resolution, higher-S/N spectroscopic follow-up (“portrait” RPA spectra) on the 10 candidate *r*+*s* stars could provide a distinct definition for this new classification of stars, as well as distinguish them from the *r*/-*s*- and *i*-process classes.

4.3. Radial-velocity Variations

The heliocentric RVs measured from our high-resolution spectra are displayed in Figure 7, compared with the Gaia DR2 reported values (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016, 2018). We find that 47 of our targets (20%) have a measured RV that differs by more than 5 km s^{–1} from the Gaia DR2 measurement; these stars are listed in Table 6. In addition to a measurement by Gaia, many of these stars are found in RAVE DR5 (Kunder et al. 2017), which provides another RV measurement for comparison. The spread of all RV differences between RAVE

and Gaia can be fit by two Gaussian functions, where the broader Gaussian has a standard deviation of 2.6 km s^{–1} (Steinmetz et al. 2020). Interestingly, the average RV difference between our high-resolution RV measurements and the Gaia measurements of non-possible-binary stars is -0.65 ± 2.35 km s^{–1}. Other spectroscopic surveys also find an negative offset of RVs compared to Gaia (–0.3 for RAVE and –0.2 for the Apache Point Observatory Galactic Evolution Experiment (APOGEE); see Steinmetz et al. 2018, 2020). A few other sources of RV estimates for our program stars are available as well and are provided in Table 6. Note that most spectroscopic surveys that report an RV (including Gaia DR2 and RAVE) do not include gravitational redshift or stellar atmosphere corrections, which are expected to be -0.3 ± 0.2 km s^{–1} for giants (Zwitter et al. 2018). For consistent comparison, such corrections are also omitted from our RV measurements.

Some of the program stars in Table 6 suffer from low S/N spectra (e.g., J10540994–1347522 and J14165685+1215598), increasing the uncertainty in the cross-correlation routine; for completeness, we retain these stars in the list of possible binaries. Although low S/N effects may lead to a few false positives, the most promising binary candidates are those where the previous literature measurements differ and where the reported Gaia uncertainty is large ($>1.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). Note that the Gaia uncertainty is based on deviations from an average over multiple epochs. Therefore, a higher uncertainty can indicate possible binarity by reflecting a spread in the individual RV measurements. On average, the RVs of stars in this RPA data release had eight transits used by Gaia DR2 for their RV measurements.

J04411241–6518438 (HD 30229) is a known Population II field binary with a very low eccentricity and an orbital period of about 140 days (Pasquini & Lindgren 1994). J05381700–7516207 has several RV measurements, all of which differ from each other outside of their uncertainty. This star is also an *r*-II star, with an extreme [Eu/Fe] enhancement (+1.28), designating it an interesting target for a high-resolution follow-up and RV monitoring. Only one of the possible binaries listed in Table 6 exhibits a high level of carbon enhancement: J03142084–1035112, with [C/Fe] = +0.76. For this star, only upper limits on the Ba and Eu abundances could be determined from our existing spectra. Detailed follow-up, both with higher-resolution spectroscopy and RV monitoring, can reveal how the observed elemental abundances are affected by mixing and binary interactions, especially for CEMP stars (Choplin 2019), to further understand the evolution of the elements.

5. Summary and Discussion

This data set constitutes the fourth data release of the RPA search for *r*-process-enhanced stars, culminating in a current total of 595 metal-poor stars with Phase II (snapshot) spectroscopy in the total published sample (Hansen et al. 2018; Roederer et al. 2018b; Sakari et al. 2018a, 2018b, 2019; Ezzeddine et al. 2020). Another ~ 1000 snapshot spectra of candidates have already been taken with a number of telescopes in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and will be released in due course.

Quantified chemical identifications provide clues as to the formation history of the Milky Way, since stars with similar metallicities and levels of *r*-process enrichment have also been found to be dynamically linked in small associations (see, e.g., Roederer et al. 2018a; Yuan et al. 2020). Current and future RPA efforts will help to refine the mapping of *r*-process-enhanced stars into their parent dynamical groups, so that we may learn more about the natal environment in which the *r*-process occurred in each of these now-disrupted systems. By identifying entire systems of *r*-process-enhanced stars that likely shared a common birthplace and star formation history, we can test the dilution hypothesis of nucleosynthetic events, i.e., whether the heavy-element material in *r*-I and *r*-II stars came from similar sources, but the *r*-I stars have simply been diluted by larger masses of baryons in their natal mini-halos, leading to smaller enhancements. Tarumi et al. (2020) suggest other alternatives to account for the different levels of *r*-process enhancements in the UFDs Ret II and Tuc-III (and by extension, to the *r*-I and *r*-II stars in the halo field) based on the locations of their progenitor NSMs.

Future data releases by the RPA will continue to increase the number of stars with identified *r*-process signatures and perhaps reveal new ones for investigations of the various proposed nucleosynthetic sites. Fresh investigations of actinide production, for example, are being used to distinguish between specific *r*-process sites and the conditions that produce these heavy elements (Eichler et al. 2019; Holmbeck et al. 2019a). Furthermore, the identification of dynamical groups that include *r*-process-enhanced stars are useful to constrain theoretical models of *r*-process production; see, e.g., Holmbeck et al. (2019b) and D. Gudin et al. (2020, in preparation).

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Facility: du Pont 2.5 m telescope.

Software: matplotlib (Hunter 2007), CarPy (Kelson 1998; Kelson et al. 2000; Kelson 2003), IRAF (Tody 1986, 1993), MOOG (Snedden 1973), linemake (<https://github.com/vmplacco/linemake>), ATLAS9 (Castelli & Kurucz 2003).

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