Constraints on new physics from core collapse supernovae





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Plan

I. Generalities on core-collapse SNae

II. How to constrain new physics?

III. Example: massive (MeV-GeV) sterile ν 's

Original results mostly based on P. Carenza et al Phys.Rev.D 109 (2024) 6,063010

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III. Example: massive (MeV-GeV) sterile ν 's

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Disclaimer on parts I-II:

Given the scope of the meeting and the diverse audience, I will provide a basic review of the key physics to trigger general interest

I will not provide reviews of alternatives or controversies, nor give an exhaustive bibliography.

I apologise in advance to experts!

I. Generalities on (core collapse) SNae

Stellar collapse & SN explosion

• The core of a massive star cannot sustain equilibrium by thermonuclear fusion beyond A~56 (Ni-Fe)





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Stellar collapse & SN explosion

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The degenerate iron core starts to collapse, halting when nuclear densities are reached (~incompressible).

A shock wave (SW) propagates outwards.

The SW energy is mostly dissipated by dissociating the outer layer of iron, and no explosion happens (prompt explosion fails)





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What's next? Neutrinos to the rescue!

The core (now a "T~O(10) MeV" p-n star) dissipates its binding energy into ν 's

 ν heating increases pressure behind shock front, rescuing stalled shock. Eventually, ejects star's outer mantle \rightarrow explosion. While it lasts, L_{ν} outshines whole universe!

Delayed v-heating (Bethe & Wilson '85)

Three phases of neutrino emission

Figures adapted from Fischer et al., 0908.1871, 10.8 M_{\odot} progenitor mass (spherical symmetry with Boltzmann ν transport)

Neutronization Burst

Accretion

Shock breakout

• De-leptonization ($e+p \rightarrow n+\nu_e$)

of outer core layers



• ν powered by infalling matter

Cooling

• Cooling on ν diffusion time scale



Emission timescale

Neutrinos are trapped in the core, emitted "diffusively", i.e.

 $\left(d^2 \sim \lambda \left(c t \right) \right)$

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where

I used

$$\left(\lambda = (\sigma n_B)^{-1} \sim 30 \,\mathrm{cm}\left(\frac{100 \,\mathrm{MeV}}{E}\right)\right)$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} n_B \sim (\mathrm{fm})^- \\ \sigma \sim G_\mathrm{F} E^2 \end{array}\right)$$

3

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$$\begin{bmatrix} n_B \sim (\text{fm})^{-3} \\ \sigma \sim G_F E^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left(t_{\rm diff} \sim 1\,{
m s}\left(rac{R}{10\,{
m km}}
ight)^2 \left(rac{E}{100\,{
m MeV}}
ight)^2
ight)$$

Nuclear densities and weak interactions determine the scale!

Energy scale set by gravity

Gravitational binding energy (Collapse to a NS, M~1.5 M_☉, R~15 km)

$$|U| \simeq \frac{3}{5} \frac{GM^2}{R} \sim 0.15 M_{\odot} c^2 \sim \text{few} \times 10^{53} \text{ erg}$$

Virial theorem (self-gravitating system)

$$\langle E_{\rm kin} \rangle = -\frac{1}{2} \langle \Phi_{\rm grav} \rangle$$

For a nucleon at the proto-neutron star

$$\left\langle \Phi_{
m grav}
ight
angle \simeq -rac{3}{2} rac{G_{
m N} M m_N}{R} \simeq -200 \, {
m MeV}$$

hence $E_{
u} \lesssim 100 \, {
m MeV}$ (Note: E-losses while diffusing)

"Figures of merit"

Supernova 1987A 23/02/1987

Sanduleak -69 202

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Supernova 1987A 23/02/1987

Gravitational binding energy

 $U \approx 3 \times 10^{53} \text{ erg} \approx 17\% \text{ M}_{\text{SUN}} \text{ c}^2$

Showing up as

99% Neutrinos

1% Kinetic energy of explosion (10% of this into CRs?)
0.01% γ, outshine host galaxy

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Rate

Only ~2 collapses/century in the Milky Way (but timescale comparable with large XXIth century accelerator projects...)





Kungliga Svenska Veteriskapsakademien har den 8 oktober 2002 beslutat att med det N O B E L P R I S

som detta år tillerkännes den som inom fysikens område gjort den viktigasteupptäckten eller uppfinningen med ena hälften genensamt belöna Matsattost i L Koshiba oge Rapnow Davis jr för banbrytände insatser inom astrofysiken, särskilt för detektion ar kosmiska neutriner

SN 1987A: Validation of the basic picture of massive star death

Ingredients for "flux-energy-timescale":

powered by gravitational collapse,

signal from diffusion via weak reactions in medium with nuclear densities



No hint for extra E-loss channels; future high-statistics signal (SK, HK, IC...): Room for surprises? 6

II. Constraints to new physics: Why/how?

(Each can be turned into a signature...)

Cannot cool too fast : signal duration

Cooling time ~ U/L If extra cooling source beyond known ν 's, L increases, the signal shortens



Ideal coolant (best constraints): particles copiously produced in the core, but freely escaping (do not pay the diffusive price to stream out)

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 $L_x \lesssim$ (fudge factor) L_{ν}

Rough constraint on exotics imposed by SN1987A & validated by simulations

Translates into luminosity/unit mass = emissivity $\leq 10^{19} \text{ ergs } g^{-1} s^{-1}$ (Raffelt criterion)

 L_x depends on (high) powers of coupling, hence little dependence on fudge factor.

Explosion cannot be too energetic

lf

Core radius< λ_x (mean-free-path) < Stellar Radius

can raise the deposited energy, leading to too energetic explosions, compared to the weakest ones observed.



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Current studies suggest the bound into energy released in e.m. form at the level of

$E < E_{vis} \sim 10^{50} - 10^{51} \text{ erg}$

(Typically applied to decaying particles, or to scattering mfp with electrons/baryons)

ν & γ emission can't exceed measurements

The emission 'outside the star', in photons (soft gammas) or neutrinos should be consistent with upper limits / detected spectra

Can be applied to SN1987A, to SNe in the Milky Way, or to SN all over universe



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NASA Solar Maximum Mission

no photons above background @ 25 < E (MeV)<100 for 232.2 s after the first SN1987A ν arrival.



 $\varphi_{\gamma} \lesssim 1.38 \text{ cm}^{-2}$



X-ray / soft-gamma (XMM-Newton, Integral...): emitted positrons, eventually annihilating, contribute to a diffusion-established steady-state Galactic signal

Which particle physics models/parameters?

Mostly those involving light (sub-GeV, kinematically accessible) and weakly coupled (to escape the core, interact little/decay sufficiently far) states

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Often of the "portal" type (renormalisable operators extending the SM)

 $\epsilon F'_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}_V \subset \mathcal{L}_V$ Vector coupled to hypercharge

 $\epsilon S^2 |H|^2 \subset \mathcal{L}_S$ Neutral singlet scalar

 $\epsilon(LH)N\subset \mathcal{L}_N$ Neutral singlet fermion

(Typically with flavour structure)

[dim 5, NR] $\frac{a}{f_A}F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}\subset \mathcal{L}_a$ Neutral (pseudo)scalar

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$$\begin{split} \epsilon F'_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}_Y\subset \mathcal{L}_V & \text{Vector coupled to hypercharge} \\ \epsilon S^2|H|^2\subset \mathcal{L}_S & \text{Neutral singlet scalar} \\ \epsilon(LH)N\subset \mathcal{L}_N & \text{Neutral singlet fermion} \\ \text{(Typically with flavour structure)} \end{split}$$
 $[\dim 5, \text{NR}] \quad \frac{a}{f_A}F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}\subset \mathcal{L}_a & \text{Neutral (pseudo)scalar} \end{split}$

Or violation of symmetries, like L-violation; typically not as competitive; see Kolb, Tubbs and Dicus, ApJL 255 (1982), L57 or Lychkovskiy, Blinnikov, and Vysotsky 1010.0883

III. Sterile ν 's in SNae

Working in mixing the 2-flavour limit, $\nu_{\alpha} = \cos \theta_{\alpha s} \nu_{\ell} + \sin \theta_{\alpha s} \nu_{H}$ $\nu_{s} = -\sin \theta_{\alpha s} \nu_{\ell} + \cos \theta_{\alpha s} \nu_{H}$ $|U_{\alpha s}|^{2} \simeq \frac{1}{4} \sin^{2} 2\theta_{\alpha s} \simeq \theta_{\alpha s}^{2}$ for small mixing when one can loosely identify $\nu_{4} \sim \nu_{s}$

The Supernova model

- Focus on the cooling phase of a 18 M_☉ SN progenitor (ID spherical symmetry; GR hydro model, based on the AGILE BOLTZTRAN code)
- FD distributions assumed for the active leptons (note degenerate e, mildly degenerate n,p!)
- Mean field treatment for nucleon distributions
- Inclusion of μ 's (non-vanishing bckg density)

$$\eta_i = \frac{\mu_i - m_i}{T}$$

$$Y_e = \frac{n_e m_p}{\rho} \to \frac{Z}{A}$$



Sterile neutrino production

• 'Perturbative' approach: reference SN solution used as background for the collisional (not oscillation, negligible!) production of sterile neutrinos.

$$\frac{\partial f_s}{\partial t} = \mathcal{C}_{\text{coll}}(f)$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{coll}} = \frac{1}{2E_s} \int d^3 \hat{p}_2 d^3 \hat{p}_3 d^3 \hat{p}_4 \Lambda(f_s, f_2, f_3, f_4) S |M|^2_{12 \to 34} \delta^4(p_s + p_2 - p_3 - p_4) (2\pi)^4$$

 $\Lambda(f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4) = (1 - f_1)(1 - f_2)f_3f_4 - f_1f_2(1 - f_3)(1 - f_4)$

Process	$ U_{a4} ^{-2} \mathcal{M} ^2$
$\nu_{\alpha} + \bar{\nu}_{\alpha} \leftrightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\alpha} + \nu_{4}$	$64G_F^2(p_1 \cdot p_3)(p_2 \cdot p_4)$
$\nu_{\alpha} + \nu_{\alpha} \leftrightarrow \nu_{\alpha} + \nu_{4}$	$32G_F^2(p_1 \cdot p_2)(p_3 \cdot p_4)$
$\nu_{\beta} + \bar{\nu}_{\beta} \leftrightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\alpha} + \nu_4$	$16G_F^2(p_1 \cdot p_3)(p_2 \cdot p_4)$
$\bar{\nu}_{lpha} + \bar{\nu}_{eta} \leftrightarrow \bar{\nu}_{eta} + \nu_4$	$16G_F^2(p_1 \cdot p_3)(p_2 \cdot p_4)$
$\nu_{\alpha} + \nu_{\beta} \leftrightarrow \nu_{\beta} + \nu_{4}$	$16G_F^2(p_1 \cdot p_2)(p_3 \cdot p_4)$
$e^+ + e^- \leftrightarrow \bar{ u}_{lpha} + u_4$	$64G_F^2[\tilde{g}_L^2(p_1 \cdot p_4)(p_2 \cdot p_3) + g_R^2(p_1 \cdot p_3)(p_2 \cdot p_4) - \tilde{g}_L g_R m_e^2(p_3 \cdot p_4)]$
$\nu_{lpha} + e^- \leftrightarrow e^- + \nu_4$	$64G_F^2[\tilde{g}_L^2(p_1 \cdot p_2)(p_3 \cdot p_4) + g_R^2(p_1 \cdot p_3)(p_2 \cdot p_4) - \tilde{g}_L g_R m_e^2(p_1 \cdot p_4)]$
$ u_{lpha} + e^+ \leftrightarrow e^+ + u_4$	$64G_F^2[g_L^2(p_1 \cdot p_3)(p_2 \cdot p_4) + \tilde{g}_R^2(p_1 \cdot p_2)(p_3 \cdot p_4) - \tilde{g}_L g_R m_e^2(p_1 \cdot p_4)]$
$\nu_{\alpha} + N \leftrightarrow N + \nu_4$	$ \mathcal{M} ^2_{AA} + \mathcal{M} ^2_{VA} + \mathcal{M} ^2_{VV}$
$\mu^- + N \leftrightarrow N' + \nu_4$	$ \mathcal{M} ^2_{AA} + \mathcal{M} ^2_{VA} + \mathcal{M} ^2_{VV}$
$\mu^- + \nu_e \leftrightarrow e^- + \nu_4$	$64G_F^2(p_1\cdot p_2)(p_3\cdot p_4)$

- sterile ν assumed to free stream and thus $f_s \rightarrow 0$ in Λ
- No feedback, but space & time-dependent calculation

Sterile neutrino decays

- For E-release and out-of-SN signals, crucial to take into account decays
- Significantly different lifetimes and b.r.'s above vs. below the μ , π masses; flavour also matters



Process	$\Gamma/G_F^2 m_4^3 U_{\mu4} ^2$	Threshold (MeV)
$\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\mu \gamma$	$9\alpha m_4^2/2048\pi^4$	0
$\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\mu \nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_\mu$	$m_4^2/384\pi^3$	0
$\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\mu \nu_{e(\tau)} \bar{\nu}_{e(\tau)}$	$m_4^2/768\pi^3$	0
$ u_4 \rightarrow u_\mu e^+ e^-$	$(\tilde{g}_L^2 + g_R^2)m_4^2/192\pi^3$	1.02
$\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_e e^+ \mu^-$	$m_4^2/384\pi^3(2(1-m_\mu^2/m_4^2)(2+9m_\mu^2/m_4^2)+2m_\mu^2/m_4s^2(1-m_\mu^2/m_4^2))$	106.2
	$(-6 - 6m_{\mu}^2/m_4^2 + m_{\mu}^4/m_4^4 + 6\log m_{\mu}^2/m_4^2))$	
$\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\mu \pi^0$	$f_{\pi}^2/32\pi(1-m_{\pi}^2/m_4^2)^2$	139.6
$\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\mu \mu^+ \mu^-$	Neglected	211.2
$\nu_4 \rightarrow \mu^- \pi^+$	$ V_{u\bar{d}} ^2 f_{\pi}^2 / 32\pi ((1 - m_{\mu}^2 / m_4^2)^2 - m_{\pi}^2 / m_4^2 (1 + m_{\mu}^2 / m_4^2)) \sqrt{(1 - (m_{\pi}^2 + m_{\mu}^2) / m_4^2)^2 - 4m_{\pi}^2 m_{\mu}^2 / m_4^4}$	245.3

Constraints from cooling & explosion energy





Solid : $\boldsymbol{\nu}_{\mu}$ -mixed

Dashed : ν_{τ} -mixed

Dot-dashed : NC scattering with *p*,*n* neglected



Constraints from lack of photon appearance



Synoptic view of bounds/forecasts

 Nice complementarity astro vs. cosmo vs. colliders!



Synoptic view of bounds/forecasts

SN

10²

 $v_4 \rightarrow \overline{v}_{\tau} \overline{v}_a v_a$

 $\nu_4 \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{\tau} \pi^0$

- Nice complementarity astro vs. cosmo vs. colliders!
- Still room for discoveries with spectacular signatures!

L. Mastrototaro et al. '20

10

E(MeV)

10¹⁰

dF/dE (cm⁻² MeV⁻¹) 10⁸ 10⁷

10⁶

1



Expectations in SK (just $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$) $F_{\bar{\nu}_e} = \bar{P}_{ee}(E)F^0_{\bar{\nu}_e} + [1 - \bar{P}_{ee}(E)]F^0_{\bar{\nu}_x}(E)$ Channel Number of



most distinctive signature: Spectral bump(s) at E_{pos} >50 MeV

Improved perspectives at next generation detectors and combining more channels.

Channel	Number of events	
	NH	IH
SN $\bar{\nu}_e$	5280	5640
$ u_4 ightarrow \pi^0 ar{ u}_{ au}$	141	470
$ u_4 ightarrow u_ au u_a ar u_a$	115	182

Some dependence on mass hierarchy, but does not change the conclusion



- Recap of delayed ν -heating explosion mechanism ("Standard Model" of CC SNae)
- Principles and observables with sensitivity to BSM physics (and 'type')
- Application to 'massive' (MeV-GeV) sterile neutrinos (as motivated in low-scale models of ν masses)

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- Most interesting open region for future Lab searches (DUNE, SHiP, MATHUSLA...) $|0^{-9} \le |U_{\mu4}|^2 \le |0^{-6}| m_4 \ge 500 \text{ MeV}$

(Similar range could also lead to energetic bump in a future CC SN signal)

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If mixing with ν_{τ} , DUNE could definitely probe masses down to ~10 MeV at large mixings (overlap between SN and laboratory experiments is minimal or absent)