

Helium And Lead Observatory for supernova neutrinos

Stanley Yen, TRIUMF Int Workshop July 2012

Outline

- **1. Introduction**
- **2. Lead as a SN neutrino detection medium**
- **3. Construction of the HALO detector**
- **3. Extracting SN physics from HALO**
- **4. Ideas for a future HALO-2**

Neutrino astronomy of supernovae is in its infancy

SN 1987A 22 neutrinos detected in 3 detectors

Hard: neutrino detectors are very inefficient because neutrinos interact only via the weak interaction

visible light mean free path~microns

Fig. 1.1. A drawing of a section through the human eye with a schematic enlargement of the retina.

gamma rays $mfp \sim 10's$ of cm

neutrinos: $mfp \sim$ hundreds of parsecs

so even the largest neutrino detectors intercept only an infinitesimal fraction of the incident neutrinos, and sample only our galaxy and maybe a few nearby ones.

SN occur in our galaxy roughly every 30-50 years, so any detector of SN neutrinos must either

- piggyback on a detector primarily built and operated for other physics objectives (e.g. ICECUBE,Super-K, Borexino, SNO+)

OR

- be assembled from surplus parts to make a cheap dedicated SN neutrino detector (HALO)

A dedicated SN detector like HALO and LVD can patiently wait for decades without long downtime for calibrations and reconfigurations due to changing physics goals. This maximizes the chances of catching the SN neutrino burst of < 1 minute in duration.

For next galactic SN we would like precise information on

- **time**
- **-direction**
- **-neutrino flavor**
- **-neutrino energy**

mfp of neutrinos in nuclear density matter < 1 km < radius of proto-neutron star

so neutrinos are trapped and thermalize

 __ $mfp (v_e) < mfp (v_e) < mfp (v_x)$ x=µ, t

Neutrinosphere = surface of last scattering

T(ν^e) < T(anti-ν^e) < T(ν^x)

Figure 6. The neutrino spectrum without a phase transition (thick lines) and with a phase transition (thin lines). The case with a phase transition to strange quark matter results in a second peak in antineutrinos. The average energies of the emitted neutrinos increases also. Reprinted figure with permission from [26]. Copyright (2009) by the American Physical Society.

Sagert et al. arXiv:0902.2084v2 [astro-ph.HE] transition from neutron matter to uds quark matter would yield a second peak of electron anti-neutrinos.

Different physical processes for different neutrino flavors → need detectors with appropriate flavor sensitivity

Moreover

The initial neutrino composition and spectra are affected by flavor changes.

- **1. neutrino oscillations (MSW) induced by weak interaction with electrons in matter**
- **2. collective neutrino-neutrino interactions - only place in the universe where we can observe the effects of neutrinos scattering off each other**

→ neutrino flavor swapping

Initial spectra: Cool νe Hot ν^x Single spectral split: valid when $L(V_e) > L(V_x)$ **and IH** From Lisi, TAUP07

Figure 1. Initial fluxes (at $r = 10$ km, in arbitrary units) for different neutrino species as a function of energy. The fluxes are all proportional to $\phi^{i}(E)/\langle E \rangle$.

Figure 8. Multi-angle simulation in inverted hierarchy: Final fluxes (at $r = 200$ km, in arbitrary units) for different neutrino species as a function of energy. Initial fluxes are shown as dotted lines to guide the eye.

Final spectra with ν-ν collective effects, inverted hierarchy Hot νe Cool ν^x ↓ important effects on

SN dynamics & R-process nucleosynthesis

In this picture, the most dramatic effect occurs in the νe channel because the coolest species (ν^e) swaps with the hottest species (v_x).

Less dramatic in the anti-neutrino sector.

→ **we want a v_e - sensitive detector**

In the more general case when luminosity of electron-types do not dominate, more complicated multiple spectral splits, different for normal and inverted hierarchies.

from B. Dasgupta, JIGSAW10 conference, Mumbai

Need to have neutrino detectors with different flavor sensitivities

anti-νe proton rich detectors (scintillator, water Cerenkov) CC: anti- $v_a + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$ **Well covered by SK, ICECUBE, LVD, BOEXINO,SNO+.**

History of proposals for using lead as a neutrino detection medium

- SNBO, Supernova Burst Observatory, D. B. Cline et al., Nucl. Phys. B 14A (1990) 348.
- LAND, Lead Astronomical Neutrino Detector, C.K. Hargrove et al., Astroparticle Physics 5 (1996) 183.
- OMNIS, OMNIS-UK, P.F. Smith, Astroparticle Physics, 8 (1997) 27.
- Lead Perchlorate, S. Elliott, Phys.Rev.C62:065802,2000
- ADONIS, R Talaga
- HALO, Helium and Lead Observatory, C. Duba, 3rd SNOLAB Workshop, 2004

Surface Facility

 10^6 $\frac{1}{2}$

 Ω

2000

WIPP

Depth, Feet of Standard Rock

6000

8000

4000

F

E

10000

Underground Laboratory

Underground Facilities

plus a suite of dark matter search experiments

SNO Cavern

SNO+

(liquid

scint.)

HALO (Helium And Lead Observatory)

A detector of opportunity in SNOLAB assembled from surplus equipment

- **79 tons of hollow lead blocks from a decommisioned cosmic ray monitoring station (value \$1 M)**
- **the 3He neutron detectors from the 3rd phase of the SNO experiment (value \$6 M)**
- **the SNO electronics**
- **neutrino interactions with Pb knocks out neutrons which thermalize and are then detected by the 3He counters – no direct measurement of neutron or ν energy**

Comparative ν-nuclear cross-sections

from C. Virtue, Haνse11 Conference

Adapted from S. Elliot et al.

ratio of 2n : 1n emissions gives a rough measure of neutrino energy

Roughly speaking, the hotter the neutrino energy spectrum, the larger the ratio 2n : 1n (but depends on SHAPE of spectrum as well).

figure from K. Scholberg, plotted from cross section calc. of Engel, McLaughlin and Volpe, PRD 67, 013005

Large neutron excess blocks p→ n nuclear transition, favours n→p, thus sensitive to v_e CC

σ a rapid function of E, sensitive to enhancement of high E tail of ν_ρ (fig. from S. Elliot et al.) csx from Engel, McLaughlin and Volpe)

In 79 tonnes of lead for a SN @ 10kpc^t,

- Assuming FD distribution with T=8 MeV for v_a 's, V, S .
- = 68 neutrons through v_e charged current channels
	- · 30 single neutrons
	- · 19 double neutrons (38 total)
- = 20 neutrons through v, neutral current channels
	- 8 single neutrons
	- · 6 double neutrons (12 total)

 \sim 88 neutrons liberated; ie. \sim 1.1 n/tonne of Pb +- cross-sections from Engel, McLaughlin, Volpe, Phys. Rev. D 67, 013005 (2003)

cf. ~49 events for 600 tonnes of LAr. (ES: 8, v_e : 3, v_e : 38)

multiplied by neutron detection efficiency of 43% = 38 neutrons detected

Another rate estimate, K. Scholberg

Livermore: Totani et al., APJ 496, 216 (1998) , astro-ph/9710203

GKVM: Gava, Kneller, Volpe and McLaughlin PRL 103, 071101 (2009)

Pb blocks cleaned and painted to immobilize white lead carbonate powder

Super Nova Early Warning System Borexino LVD → トラックスト
■ トラックステ **Gerriche** IceCube **Himley SECT** 1.5 kilotesters 2.5 successions HALO SNOT RUSH CHARLES SNOT

SK

Backgrounds and SNEWS

- A trigger condition of 6 neutrons in a 2 second window gives sensitivity out to ~ 20 kpc (for T=8 MeV)
- Fast and thermal neutrons in SNOLAB occur at 4000 and 4100 neutrons/m2/day respectively
- A background event rate of 150 mHz from all sources will randomly satisfy the trigger condition once per month. We take this as the target false alert rate for SNEWS (presently at 170 mHz with partial shielding)
- Bulk α contamination in the CVD nickel tubes gives a negligible 22 +/- 1 events in neutron window per day for the whole array
- Cosmic ray muon rate is \leq 2 per day, some of which will cause create neutrons through spallation

Would HALO be sensitive to mass hierarchy and flavor swapping?

Constraining models with 2n : 1n ratio

K. Scholberg, APS March 2012

Figure 1. Initial fluxes (at $r = 10$ km, in arbitrary units) for different neutrino species as a function of energy. The fluxes are all proportional to $\phi^{i}(E)/\langle E \rangle$.

Figure 8. Multi-angle simulation in inverted hierarchy: Final fluxes (at $r = 200$ km, in arbitrary units) for different neutrino species as a function of energy. Initial fluxes are shown as dotted lines to guide the eye.

Total neutron rate in Pb increased by x3.7

2n : 1n ratio increased by 2.1

But we don't know a priori the absolute neutrino flux, the neutrino temperature at the time of emission, maybe not even the distance to the SN.

To say that we see 3.7 times as many neutrons in HALO as predicted by model X fluxes could either mean there is flavor swapping, or that the the model X fluxes are wrong, or we got the distance to the SN wrong.

To say that the measured 2n : 1n ratio is larger than predicted by model X and hence the neutrino spectrum is hotter than expected, could mean flavor swapping, or that the neutrino source is hotter than the model predicts.

A more robust signature of flavor swapping is obtained if we compare data from detectors of different flavor sensitivities. A hot νe spectrum (higher rate than expected in Pb) together with a cold ν^x spectrum (lower rate than expected for neutral current scattering) is more robust signature of flavor swappping.

Experimental Observables:

- **νe CC (+NC) rate and 2n:1n ratio in Pb (HALO)**
- **anti-νe CC rate and energy spectrum on Hydrogen (SuperK, SNO+)**
- **some neutral current processes (excitation of 15.11 MeV state in 12C, νp elastic scattering in SNO+)**

HALO What's hot

- **low cost; assembled from surplus equipment**
- **low maintenance, high livetime (~ 30 years between galactic SN)**
- **flavour selective primary sensitivity to v_e**

HALO What's not

- **no pointing capability**
- **cannot distinguish CC (pure ν^e) from NC (all flavours)**
- **high trigger threshold ~ 18 MeV for CC**
- **no measure of neutrino energy except by 1n to 2n ratio**
- **no measurements of ν^e Pb cross sections**
- **small mass of only 79 metric tonnes = 600 t LAr (ICARUS)**
	- **expect ~25 40 neutrons detected from a SN at galactic centre**
- **high cost of 3He makes scaling up impractical**
- **A Future SN ν_a Detector?**
- **LAr TPC offers good resolution, low trigger threshold, sensitivity to v_e** if e-can be distinguished from e⁺ **but not cheap to operate for decades (See D. Cline, next talk)**
- **water Cerenkov loaded with Pb salts?**
- **after demise of SNO, no NC detector**
	- **an iron detector ? (instrument MINOS with neutron counters)**
	- **NC excitation of 15.11 state in 12C in liquid scint.**
	- **ν-p elastic scattering (hard; very little light)**

An idea from the past: Cerenkov detector with lead perchlorate solution Steve Elliot, "Measuring Supernova Neutrino Temperatures with Lead Perchlorate", Phys Rev C62, 065802 (2000)

- Pb perchlororate hydrate $\mathsf{Pb}(\mathsf{CIO}_{_3})$ $_{2}$.3H₂O has very high solubility in water 499.7 grams / 100 g water (225 g of elemental Pb per 100 g water)
- rate (v_e on Pb) : rate (anti- v_e on H) ~ 3:1
- measuring amount and direction of Cerenkov light produced by outgoing electron gives a measure of the direction and energy of the neutrino and selects only CC channel
- unfortunately a dangerously unstable and reactive substance which would never be allowed in an underground laboratory

hot aqueous lead acetate?

lead acetate in water at 55 deg C is as good as lead perchlorate at room temperature; rock at SNOLAB naturally at 42 C

glycerol+lead acetate?

lead acetate more soluble in glycerol than water, but temperature dependence is unknown – gives yellow solution

Lead acetate in water

Temp rate(Pb):rate(H)

Even at 20 C, a PbAc solution would give a substantial and recognizable signal → one of the modules of Hyper-K ?

A more familiar use of lead acetate....

even though lead acetate is listed as toxic and carcinogenic! Will they be a corporate sponsor of our next detector?

lead acetate trihydrate highly soluble in glacial acetic acid

makes clear transparent solution

85% as good as lead perchlorate

Future lead acetate Cerenkov detector ???

Anyone have surplus PMT's ?

Amount of prompt Cerenkov light from outgoing electron measures the electron and hence the neutrino energy → observe the spectral

 splits that are the hallmark of flavor swapping

time structure of light output discriminates CC from NC

Summary

- **a variety of neutrino detectors with different flavor sensitivitiewill be required to do a flavor decomposition of the neutrino flux from the next supernova in our galaxy**
- **HALO is the first SN neutrino detector with primary sensitivity to ν^e**
- **some ideas for bigger and better versions**

The HALO Collaboration

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