Effects of General Neutrino Interactions on Cosmic Neutrino Background

(Based on arXiv:2304.02505, I. K. Banerjee, UKD, N. Nath, S. S. Shariff)

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Outline

- * Introduction
- * Standard Big Bang Cosmology and CNB
- * Detection Methods @ PTOLEMY
- * GNI & their effects
- * Results
- Summary *



Outline

* Introduction

- CMB is the oldest directly observed radiation in the Universe, dating from the epoch of recombination
- Establishes the SM of cosmology, the Big Bang Theory (BBT) which along with CMB, predicts the existence of cosmic neutrino background (CNB)
- CNB: a relic radiation that decoupled from matter when the Universe was merely a second old
- Played a crucial role in primordial nucleosynthesis and in large scale structure formation
- CMB anisotropies \rightarrow an indirect imprint of the CNB \Rightarrow two crucial constraints pertaining to particle physics

(i) limit on the sum of neutrino masses ($\Sigma m_{\nu} < 0.12 \text{ eV}$) (ii) effective number of neutrino species ($N_{eff} = 2.99 \pm 0.17$)

Direct detection of CNB \Rightarrow further consolidation of BBT, new opportunities in ν (new?) physics





(Source: ESA/Planck Collaboration)

Outline

* Standard Big Bang Cosmology and CNB

A Brief (thermal) History of ν



(Source: a talk by J. Shergold)

At the early hot and dense stage of the Universe, equilibrium betweeen

* electrons and photons are maintained by electromagnetic interactions, $e^+\gamma \rightleftharpoons e^+\gamma$, $e^+e^- \rightleftharpoons \gamma\gamma$

* electrons and neutrinos are maintained by weak interactions, $e^+e^- \rightleftharpoons \nu_j \bar{\nu}_j, e^\pm \nu_j \rightleftharpoons e^\pm \nu_j, e^\pm \bar{\nu}_j \rightleftharpoons e^\pm \bar{\nu}_j$

As the Universe expands, particle densities are diluted and temperatures fall, weak interactions become ineffective to keep neutrinos in good thermal contact with the EM thermal bath

- such until today
- stopped and only $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ remained active
- photon and neutrino temperatures as $T_{\nu} = (4/11)^{1/3} T_{\gamma}$

At the time of neutrino decoupling the electromagnetic processes of e^{\pm} and photons were still going on, but as the temperature reduced to $2m_{e}$ i.e., 1.02 MeV, the reverse process in $e^+e^- \Rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

This transfer of entropy to photons effectively slows down the rate of decrease in the photon temperature in comparison to the neutrino temperature as the Universe expands

Since in a comoving volume total entropy remains conserved; this can be used to connect

Redshifted to today, the last relation implies, $T_{\nu,0} = (4/11)^{1/3} T_{\text{CMB}} \sim 1.9 \text{ K} \sim 1.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV}$

The frozen-out neutrinos (at least two states of them) are thus extremely non-relativistic today

The number density of neutrinos per degree of freedom

i.e., $6n_{\nu,0} = 336 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ for the entire decoupled neutrinos

- mass eigenstates
- timescale much less than one Hubble time [Eberle et. al, PRD 2004]

 $n_{\nu,0} = \frac{3\zeta(3)}{4\pi^2} T_{\nu,0}^3 \simeq 56 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Note that neutrinos are produced as flavour eigenstates which are a coherent superposition of

Flavour eigenstate decoupled neutrinos quickly decohere into their mass eigenstates on a

Assuming the decoherence do not affect the relative abundance, one can conclude that neutrinos with masses of interest are present in the Universe today as mass eigenstates, populated with an abundance mentioned above \Rightarrow and this is what constitutes CNB

Outline

* Detection Methods @ PTOLEMY



Difficulties

• Low cross-sections:

Usual weak interaction cross section for neutrinos,

For typical electromagnetic process, e.g.,

o Thresholds:

Traditional neutrino detection methods requires threshold (anti-)neutrino energies to be way higher than CNB neutrino energies, e.g., "inverse beta-decay" interactions with the protons in the water, producing positrons and neutrons requires anti-neutrinos with an energy above the threshold of 1.8 MeV



Green shoots:



(Source: Vitagliano et. al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 2020)

- The methods of detection will require: (i) removing or regulating the threshold cross-sections
- coherent neutral current scattering)) (ii) direct detection by neutrino capture on β -decaying nuclei energy neutrinos or protons/nuclei from unknown sources

(ii) enhance the event rate -(a) using exorbitantly large number of targets, (b) increasing the

Several methods to detect CNB have been proposed — broadly three main categories: (i) direct detection of coherent CNB elastic scattering with target nuclei through momentum transfer [mainly two types — (a) $\mathcal{O}(G_F)$ effect (e.g., Stodolsky effect), (b) $\mathcal{O}(G_F^2)$ effect (e.g.,

(iii) indirect detection by finding spectral distortion through CNB interaction with ultra-high

Neutrino capture by β -decaying nuclei

- near the β -decay endpoint energy [Weinberg, Phys. Rev. 1962]
- Usual β -decay of an unstable nucleus,
 - $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+1) + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$
- In this case there exists a threshold-less reaction of neutrino capture $(A,Z) + \nu_{e} \rightarrow (A,Z+1) + e^{-1}$
- using relevant kinematics [Cocco et. al, JCAP 2007]



(Source: a talk by G. Mangano)

Original idea — a large neutrino chemical potential distorts the electron (positron) spectrum

Clearly, β -decays create a background for the neutrino capture, but that can be distinguished



A $2m_{\nu}$ gap in the electron spectrum centered around Q_{β}

(ν -capture spectrum)

PTOLEMY

- target in the process ${}^{3}\text{H} + \nu_{e} \rightarrow {}^{3}\text{He} + e^{-}$ [Baracchini, arXiv:1808.01892]
- Tritium is the best option, since distribution of electrons instantly
 - (iii) large cross section of neutrino capture $\sim 3.7 \times 10^{-45} \text{cm}^2$
- One of the drawbacks is that it is insensitive to other neutrino flavours, $\nu_{\mu,\tau}$

PTOLEMY experiment (Princeton Tritium Observatory for Light-Early Universe Massiveneutrino Yield) aims to detect the CNB by capturing electron neutrinos on a 100 g tritium

(i) low $Q_{\beta} \approx 18.6 \text{ keV} \Rightarrow$ easier to observe an effect of m_{ν} in the high-energy end of energy

(ii) lifetime $\tau \sim 12 \text{ yr} \Rightarrow$ small enough to have a high decay rate, but large enough not to decay

PTOLEMY: Detection Rate

time. So, the capture rate of relic neutrinos by tritium nuclei

where $N_H = M_T / m_{^3H} \sim 2 \times 10^{25}$ is the number of tritium nuclei for $M_T = 100$ g,

 $\bar{\sigma}v_j \sim 3.7 \times 10^{-45} \text{cm}^2$, $n_{\nu,0} \approx 56 \Rightarrow \text{total rate}$, $\Gamma_{\text{CNB}} \approx 3.9 \text{ yr}^{-1} \sum |U_{ej}|^2 f_{c,j}$, where the factor after

the summation is $\gtrsim 1$

- Dirac case, i.e., $\Gamma_{CNB}^{M} = 2\Gamma_{CNB}^{D}$ [Long et. al, JCAP 2014]
- 2017

Since flavour eigenstates are a composition of mass eigenstates with different masses, while propagating, relic neutrinos quickly decohere into those, in a time scale less than one Hubble

 $\Gamma_{\text{CNB}} = \sum_{i} \Gamma_{j} = N_{H} \sum_{i} |U_{ej}|^{2} \int \frac{d^{3} p_{j}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \sigma(p_{j}) v_{j} f_{j}(p_{j}) \approx N_{H} \sum_{i} |U_{ej}|^{2} \bar{\sigma} v_{j} f_{c,j} n_{\nu,0}$

An important observation is that the capture rate in the Majorana case is twice as that of the

This assertion changes in the presence of additional particles, interactions etc. [Arteaga et. al, JHEP]

Outline

* GNI & their effects

Generalised Neutrino Interactions (GNI)

- tensor type
 - relevant Lagrangian can be written as

 $\mathcal{L}_{\rm eff} = -\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{ud} U_{ej} \left\{ \left[\bar{e} \gamma^{\mu} (1 - \gamma^5) \nu_j \right] \left[\bar{u} \gamma_{\mu} (1 - \gamma^5) d \right] + \sum_{l,q} \epsilon_{lq} \left[\bar{e} \mathcal{O}_l \nu_j \right] \left[\bar{u} \mathcal{O}_q d \right] \right\} + \mathrm{h.c.}$

- elements, respectively

GNI: general class of neutrino interactions of scalar, pseudoscalar, vector, axial-vector and

We are interested in the effect of GNIs in relic neutrino capture on β -decaying tritium; the

The dimensionless ϵ_{lq} are the GNI parameters, V_{ud} and U_{ei} are the CKM and PMNS matrix

The operators \mathcal{O}_l and \mathcal{O}_q are the relevant lepton and quark currents, which are given as



can be absorbed in the CKM matrix elements V_{ud} and the axial-vector charge g_A , as $\left| \tilde{V}_{ud} \right|^2 \approx \left| V_{ud} \right|^2 (1 + \epsilon_{LL} + \epsilon_{LR} + \epsilon_{RL} + \epsilon_{RR})^2$

 $\tilde{g}_A \approx g_A \frac{1 + \epsilon_{LL} - \epsilon_{LR} + \epsilon_{RR} - \epsilon_{RL}}{1 + \epsilon_{LL} + \epsilon_{LR} + \epsilon_{RR} + \epsilon_{RL}}$

* Relevant hadronic matrix elements can be represented by form factors,

$$\left\langle p\left(p_{p}\right) | \bar{u}d | n\left(p_{n}\right) \right\rangle = g_{S}\left(q^{2}\right) \overline{u_{p}}\left(p_{p}\right) u_{n}\left(p_{n}\right) ,$$

 $\left\langle p\left(p_{p}\right)\left| \bar{u}\sigma^{\mu\nu}\left(1\pm\gamma^{5}\right)d\right| n\left(p_{n}\right)\right\rangle = g_{T}\left(q^{2}\right)\overline{u_{p}}\left(p_{p}\right)\sigma^{\mu\nu}\left(1\pm\gamma^{5}\right)u_{n}\left(p_{n}\right) ,$

 $\left\langle p\left(p_{p}\right)\left| \bar{u}\gamma^{\mu}\left(1\pm\gamma^{5}\right)d\right| n\left(p_{n}\right)\right\rangle = \overline{u_{p}}\left(p_{p}\right)\gamma^{\mu}\left[g_{V}\left(q^{2}\right)\pm g_{A}\left(q^{2}\right)\gamma^{5}\right]u_{n}\left(p_{n}\right)\right.$

* The relic neutrino capture cross-section in the presence of GNI for a neutrino mass eigenstate *j* can be given as,

$$SSM\left(h_{j}\right)v_{j} = \frac{G_{F}^{2}}{2\pi}\left|V_{ud}\right|^{2}\left|U_{ej}\right|^{2}F_{Z}\left(E_{e}\right)\frac{m_{\mathrm{He}}}{m_{\mathrm{H}}}E_{e}p_{e}\mathcal{M}_{j}\left(\epsilon_{lq}\right)$$

* Not all GNI parameters can be relevant though; vector and axial-vector GNIs come along with SM couplings and hence





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Numerical analysis

For this first we define the β -decay spectrum,

and the CNB neutrino capture rate,



These help us defining the respective number of events as,



 $\frac{d\bar{\Gamma}_{\text{CNB}}}{dE_e}(E_e) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}(\Lambda/\sqrt{8\ln 2})} \sum_{i=1}^{3} \Gamma_j \exp\left[-\frac{[E_e - (E_{\text{end}} + m_j + m_{\text{lightest}})]^2}{2(\Lambda/\sqrt{8\ln 2})^2}\right]$

 $N_{\beta}^{i}(E_{\text{end}}, m_{j}, U_{ej}) = T \int_{E_{-\delta/2}}^{E_{i}+\delta/2} \frac{d\Gamma_{\beta}}{dE_{e}} dE_{e}$ $N_{\text{CNB}}^{i}(E_{\text{end}}, m_{j}, U_{ej}) = T \int_{E_{i}-\delta/2}^{E_{i}+\delta/2} \frac{d\bar{\Gamma}_{\text{CNB}}}{dE_{e}} dE_{e}$

Numerical analysis (some more definitions)

We define the χ^2 as follows,

where $N_{\text{GNI-th}}^{i}(E_{\text{end}}, m_j, U_{ej}, \epsilon_{lq}) = N_{\beta}^{i}(E_{\text{end}}, m_j, U_{ej}) + N_{\text{GNI-CNB}}^{i}(E_{\text{end}}, m_j, U_{ej}, \epsilon_{lq}) + N_{\text{Bkg}}$

and $N_{exp}^{i}(E_{end}, m_{j}, U_{ej}) = N_{tot}^{i}(E_{end}, m_{j}, U_{ej}) \pm \sqrt{N_{tot}^{i}(E_{end}, m_{j}, U_{ej})}$

with $N_{tot}^{i}(E_{end}, m_{j}, U_{ej}) = N_{\beta}^{i}(E_{end}, m_{j}, U_{ej}) + N_{CNB}^{i}(E_{end}, m_{j}, U_{ej}) + N_{Bkg}$

 $\chi^{2} = \sum_{i} \frac{N_{exp}^{i}(E_{end}, m_{j}, U_{ej}) - N_{GNI-th}^{i}(E_{end}, m_{j}, U_{ej}, \epsilon_{lq})}{\sqrt{N_{tot}^{i}}}$

Outline

* Results

One parameter analysis

• One parameter χ^2 analysis for the parameters ϵ_{LS} , ϵ_{LT} , ϵ_{RS} , and ϵ_{RT}



χ^2 values at 90% CL
[-3.8, 1.9]
$\left[-0.19, 0.19 ight], \left[0.4, 0.8 ight]$
[-3.5, 1.5]
[-0.15, 0.75]



Two parameter analysis

• Two parameter χ^2 analysis for the parameters ϵ_{LS} , ϵ_{LT} , ϵ_{RS} , and ϵ_{RT}



Electron spectrum in presence of GNI



Number of CNB events

- number of CNB capture events per year is approximately 4.5

	GNI	Values
	ϵ_{LS}	(-1, -3.8)
	ϵ_{LT}	(0.3, 0.8)
	ϵ_{RS}	(-1, -3.5)
	ϵ_{RT}	(0.31, 0.75
633	****************	

For illustration here we make a few comments about the exact number of CNB events

In the presence of GNI the number of CNB events will be different from the SM prediction

For the SM, e.g., if $m_{\text{lightest}} = 50 \text{ meV}$ and the experimental resolution $\Delta = 20 \text{ meV}$ then the

In the presence of GNIs, e.g., with the same parameters and 10 yrs of exposure time -

(Min., Max.) # of evts.

(38, 104)(10, 108)(37, 89)

(7, 90)

Outline



Summary

- ***** A successful detection of the CNB can help us look back deeper than CMB
- different values
- ***** We explored the impact of GNIs in the detection of CNB through PTOLEMY
- *

* We have confined ourselves to the scalar and tensor couplings for both left- and righthanded neutrinos, i.e., ϵ_{IS} , ϵ_{IT} , ϵ_{RS} , and ϵ_{RT}

* Many of the as yet unmeasured parameters such as the temperature and number density of the CNB can be predicted from theory, extended scenarios could result in significantly

GNIs arising due to vector and axial couplings can be absorbed in the CKM elements and hence using only (inverse) *β*-decay processes one cannot test these new physics couplings

Summary

- one-parameter χ^2 -analysis
- of the β -decay of tritium in the presence of GNIs
- the experimental data
- stringent bounds on the different orderings from the PTOLEMY data
- of neutrino mass

* The 90% confidence level values of the four GNI parameters have been taken from the

* These sets of values are used to obtain the electron spectrum around the endpoint energy

* Analyzing this nature we can get an idea regarding the values of the GNI parameters from

* These features can be used to confirm the neutrino mass orderings or at least put more

* In the future, when there will be more insight regarding the experimental resolution, studies of this kind can lead to a deeper understanding of the m_{lightest} and also the ordering



Back-up slides

Utility of detecting CNB

- Currently CMB sets our limit to look back in time, CNB will help see further
- CNB is a rare source of non-relativistic neutrinos
- high momentum
- Caveat: neutrinos are assumed to be stable

Detecting it can reveal certain neutrino properties which are otherwise difficult to measure at

A few technical points

Helicity; Chirality; Dirac; Majorana:

- helicities and chiralities
- coincide, after all neutrinos are not massless
- While neutrinos are free-streaming their helicity is conserved but not chirality
- helicity can be flipped
- case

At the freeze-out neutrinos were ultra-relativistic, so there was no distinction between their

As they cool down, they remain no longer ultra-relativistic and helicity and chirality do not

If the neutrinos are not completely free-streaming but have some kind of interaction then the

This can redistribute relative abundances in Dirac case, but nothing is affected in the Majorana

A few technical points

Clustering:

- Since neutrinos have some tiny masses they can not escape gravitational effects
- enhanced [Mertsch et. al, JCAP 2020]
- proposed experiments like PTOLEMY

They can be trapped in gravitational potential wells of galaxies or cluster of galaxies if the CNB neutrinos have velocities smaller than the escape velocity [Ringwald and Wong, JCAP 2004]

This may lead to a local overdensity of neutrinos and the standard density of 56 cm⁻³ can be

This is not at the level that can be measured exactly even with a few years running of the

Stodolsky effect ($\mathcal{O}(G_{\rm F})$ effect)

- PRL, 1975; Duda et. al PRD, 2001
- Requirements to have the energy splitting ΔE_{ρ} , (ii) breaking of isotropy (Earth velocity)
- N_{e} polarised electrons in the presence of CNB experiences a total torque $N_{\rho}\tau_{\rho} \sim N_{A}ZM |\Delta E_{\rho}|/Am_{A}$
- torsion balance can, in principle, be used to measure the effect

The presence of a neutrino background acts as a potential that changes the energy of atomic electron spin states, analogous to the Zeeman effect in the presence of a magnetic field [Stodolsky,

(i) net neutrino chemical potential (for Dirac case) or net helicity (for Majorana case)

Result depend on Dirac/Majorana, relativistic/non-relativistic, clustered/unclustered

Typically, $\Delta E_e \sim G_F g_A \beta_{\oplus} n_{\nu} \Rightarrow$ a torque $\tau_e \sim |\Delta E_e|$ on each electron, such that a ferromagnet with

This can induce a linear acceleration on a ferromagnet with some spatial extent, and Cavendish

Coherent scattering ($\mathcal{O}(G_{\rm F}^2)$ effect)

- In the Earth's rest frame the momentum transfer per scattering is:

This induces a small macroscopic acceleration in a target with total mass M, $a \sim \frac{1}{M} N_T \beta_{\nu} \sigma_{\nu N} n_{\nu} \langle \Delta p \rangle$

nuclei, leading to vastly enhanced cross sections

As the Earth moves through the sea of CNB neutrinos, a target on Earth experiences, by elastic scattering, momentum transfer from neutrinos [Freedman, PRD 1974; Shergold, JCAP 2021]

 $\langle \Delta p \rangle_R \approx \beta_{\bigoplus} \frac{E_{\nu}}{c}$ for relativistic ν

 $\langle \Delta p \rangle_{NC,NR} \approx \beta_{\oplus} \frac{4T_{\nu}}{c}$ for non-clustering non-relativistic ν

 $\langle \Delta p \rangle_{CNR} \approx \beta_{\oplus} cm_{\nu}$ for clustering non-relativistic ν

Applicable when coherence can only be maintained over a single nucleus; relic neutrinos with macroscopic wavelengths $\lambda_{\nu} \sim O(mm)$ should be capable of maintaining coherence over many

Some other proposals:

- enhancing capture cross sections [Bauer et. al, PRD, 2021]
- significant role here [Bernal et. al, PRL, 2021]
- Indirect methods:

(i) Cosmic ray neutrino attenuation — most pronounced when the incident cosmic ray scatters from a relic neutrino resonantly resulting in a narrow absorption line in the cosmic ray spectrum analogous to the GZK cutoff [Weiler, PRL, 1982] (ii) Atomic de-excitation — using Pauli exclusion principle [Yoshimura et. al, PRD, 2015]

Using accelerators: CoM energy requirements for thresholded neutrino capture processes can be met by running an accelerated beam of ions through the CNB. This offers the additional advantage of being able to tune the neutrino energy to hit a resonance, in doing so significantly

Using neutrino decay: The electromagnetic decay of neutrinos from CNB would result in a background of photons; the spectral lines from relic neutrino decays could be observed using line intensity mapping, which could place competitive bounds on the neutrino lifetime and provide direct evidence for the cosmic neutrino background; neutrino electromagnetic moment plays

Cross-section (BSM)

The expression for the cross-section can be given as, $\sigma_{j}^{\text{BSM}}\left(h_{j}\right)v_{j} = \frac{G_{F}^{2}}{2\pi}\left|\tilde{V}_{ud}\right|^{2}\left|U_{ej}\right|^{2}F_{Z}\left(E_{e}\right)\frac{m_{\text{He}}}{m_{\text{H}}}E_{e}p_{e}\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{j}\left(\epsilon_{lq}\right) \text{ where }$ $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{j}\left(\epsilon_{lq}\right) = \frac{g_{V}^{2}}{\mathscr{D}_{1}^{2}}\left((1+\epsilon_{LL}+\epsilon_{LR})^{2}+(\epsilon_{RR}+\epsilon_{RL})^{2}\right) + g_{S}^{2}\left(\epsilon_{LS}^{2}+\epsilon_{RS}^{2}\right) + 48g_{T}^{2}\left(\epsilon_{LT}^{2}+\epsilon_{RT}^{2}\right)$ $+\frac{3\tilde{g}_{A}^{2}}{\mathcal{D}_{2}^{2}}\left((1+\epsilon_{LL}-\epsilon_{LR})^{2}+(\epsilon_{RR}-\epsilon_{RL})^{2}\right)$ $+\frac{2m_e}{E_e\mathscr{D}_1^2}\left[g_V^2(1+\epsilon_{LL}+\epsilon_{LR})(\epsilon_{RR}+\epsilon_{RL})+g_S^2\epsilon_{RS}\epsilon_{LS}+48g_T^2\epsilon_{LT}\epsilon_{RT}\right]$ $+\frac{2m_e}{E_e\mathcal{D}_2^2}3\tilde{g}_A^2(1+\epsilon_{LL}-\epsilon_{LR})(\epsilon_{RR}-\epsilon_{RL})$

 $+\frac{2g_{S}g_{V}}{\mathscr{D}_{1}^{2}}\left[\frac{m_{e}}{E_{e}}\left(\epsilon_{LS}(1+\epsilon_{LL}+\epsilon_{LR})+\epsilon_{RS}(\epsilon_{RR}+\epsilon_{RL})\right)+\left(\epsilon_{RS}(1+\epsilon_{LL}+\epsilon_{LR})+\epsilon_{LS}(\epsilon_{RR}+\epsilon_{RL})\right)\right]$ $-\frac{24\tilde{g}_{A}g_{T}}{\mathfrak{D}_{1}\mathfrak{D}_{2}}\left[\frac{m_{e}}{E_{e}}\left(\epsilon_{LT}(1+\epsilon_{LL}-\epsilon_{LR})+\epsilon_{RT}(\epsilon_{RR}-\epsilon_{RL})\right)+\left(\epsilon_{RT}(1+\epsilon_{LL}-\epsilon_{LR})+\epsilon_{LT}(\epsilon_{RR}-\epsilon_{RL})\right)\right]$

PTOLEMY: Detection Rate





(Source: PTOLEMY Collaboration, JCAP 2019)