Supernova Burst and Relic Neutrinos John Beacom, The Ohio State University



The Ohio State University's Center for Cosmology and AstroParticle Physics





Plan of the Talk

Introduction to Supernova Neutrinos

Focus on Burst Detection

What will we know after the next burst? What new capabilities do we need? What are my recommendations for Jinping?

Focus on Relic Detection

What do we know now? What new capabilities do we need? What are my recommendations for Jinping?

Concluding Remarks

Introduction to Supernova Neutrinos

SN 1987A: Our Rosetta Stone



Core-Collapse Supernova Basics



Type la (thermonuclear, few neutrinos)

Type II (core collapse, many neutrinos)



Neutrinos carry away the change in gravitational potential energy Δ (P.E.) ~ (-GM²/R)_{neutron-star} - (-GM²/R)_{stellar-core} ~ -3x10⁵³ erg approximately shared among all six flavors

Neutrinos are trapped by scattering interactions and diffuse out quasi-thermal with <E> \sim 15 MeV

 $\tau \sim \text{few seconds}$

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Importance of Supernova Neutrino Detection



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Distance Scales and Detection Strategies



Importance of the Spectrum



Focus on Burst Detection

Simple Estimate: Milky Way Burst Yields

Super-Kamiokande (32 kton water)

- $\sim 10^4$ inverse beta decay on free protons
- $\sim 10^2$ CC and NC with oxygen nuclei
- ~ 10² neutrino-electron elastic scattering (crude directionality)

KamLAND, MiniBooNE, Borexino, SNO+, etc (~ 1 kton oil)

- $\sim 10^2$ inverse beta decay on free protons
- ~ 10² neutron-proton elastic scattering
- ~ 10 CC and NC with carbon nuclei
- ~ 10 neutrino-electron elastic scattering

IceCube (10⁶ kton water)

Burst is significant increase over background rate Possibility of precise timing information

Much larger or better detectors are being proposed now

Key Problem: Incomplete Flavor Coverage

Need all flavors to measure the total emitted energy Comparable total energies expected

And need all flavors to test effects of neutrino mixing Temperature hierarchy expected



 ν_e Inadequate (~ 10² events in Super-K)

 $u_{\mu},
u_{ au}, ar{
u}_{\mu}, ar{
u}_{ au}$ Inadequate (~ 10² events in oil)

Need better detectors for the ν_{e} and ν_{x} flavors

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Isolating v_e (in oil)

Must measure final-state energy to get neutrino spectrum Use electrons (low energies) and carbon (high energies)



Competition: ~ 1-kton-scale detectors Borexino, KamLAND, SNO+ ~ 10-kton-scale detectors Super-K (+Gd), JUNO, DUNE

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Isolating v_e (in water)

Must measure final-state energy to get neutrino spectrum Use electrons (low energies) and oxygen (high energies)



Competition: ~ 1-kton-scale detectors Borexino, KamLAND, SNO+ ~ 10-kton-scale detectors Super-K (+Gd), JUNO, DUNE

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Isolating v_x (in oil)

Must measure final-state energy to get neutrino spectrum Only good option is free protons



KamLAND estimates (Dasgupta and Beacom 2011)

Competition: \sim 1-kton-scale detectors Borexino, KamLAND, SNO+ \sim 10-kton-scale detector JUNO

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Burst: Recommendations for Jinping Detector

SN Burst is secondary goal due to SN rate, competition But Jinping could make an important contribution

LS or WbLS is favored to improve measurement of v_e and v_x These are the hardest flavors to detect and isolate

Focus on neutron efficiency, quenching, directionality (?) Backgrounds, energy resolution, uptime, trigger all "easy"

Could promptly identify a supernova with own data Use "heartbeat" signal [Beacom and Vagins; Adams et al.]

Focus on Relic Detection

Simple Estimate: DSNB Event Rate



DSNB event rate in Super-Kamiokande is a few per year

Theoretical Framework

Signal rate spectrum in detector in terms of measured energy

$$\frac{dN_e}{dE_e}(E_e) = N_p \,\sigma(E_\nu) \,\int_0^\infty \left[(1+z) \,\varphi[E_\nu(1+z)] \right] \left[R_{SN}(z) \right] \left[\left| \frac{c \, dt}{dz} \right| dz \right]$$

Third ingredient: Detector Capabilities (well understood)

Second ingredient: Core-collapse rate (formerly very uncertain, but now known with good precision)

First ingredient: Neutrino spectrum (this is now the unknown)

Cosmology? Solved. Oscillations? Included. Backgrounds? See below.

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Predicted Flux and Event Rate Spectra



Horiuchi, Beacom, Dwek (2009)

Bands show full uncertainty range arising from cosmic supernova rate

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Key Problem: Large Detector Backgrounds



Malek et al. [Super-Kamiokande] (2003); energy units changed in Beacom (2011) – use with care

> See updated search and results in Bays et al. [Super-Kamiokande] (2012)

Amazing background rejection: nothing but neutrinos despite huge ambient backgrounds

Amazing sensitivity: factor ~100 over Kamiokande-II limit and first in realistic DSNB range

No terrible surprises

Challenges: *Decrease* backgrounds and energy threshold and *increase* efficiency and particle ID

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Benefits of Neutron Tagging for DSNB

Solar neutrinos: eliminated

- Spallation daughter decays: essentially eliminated
- Reactor neutrinos: now a visible signal
- Atmospheric neutrinos: significantly reduced

DSNB: *More signal, less background!*



Beacom, Vagins (2004)

(DSNB predictions now at upper edge of band)

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Relics: Recommendations for Jinping Detector

Supernova relics is secondary goal due to low signal rate But Jinping could make an important contribution

LS or WbLS is favored to reduce CC backgrounds (Super-K) High neutron efficiency, high light yield are essential

Need to focus on reducing NC backgrounds (KamLAND) Better detector, new analysis techniques could be decisive

Might be able to identify signal with ~ 1 event / few years Depends on convincing case for near-zero backgrounds

Concluding Remarks

Why Do We Need Multiple Detectors?

Different uptime --- don't miss the supernova

Different capabilities --- more complete measurements

Different challenges --- reduce uncertainties

Different detectors --- increase statistics

Different positions --- measure Earth effect on mixing

We probably only get one supernova!

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All-Sky Optical Monitoring to Leverage

Connection to astronomy crucial, but optical data are lacking Enter OSU's "Assassin" (All-Sky Automated Survey for SN)



Discovering and monitoring optical transients to 17th mag. See also Adams, Kochanek, Beacom, Vagins, Stanek (2013)

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Overall Recommendations for Jinping Detector

Choose technology on the basis of primary science goals Likely solar and geo- neutrinos, possibly WbLS demo

Decide how to compete with similar detectors Size, low-energy response, detector backgrounds

Make case that multiple detectors are needed Reduce systematics, increase statistics, test Earth effect

Consider ways to leverge investments Co-operate with ASAS-SN on prompt SN detection

Center for Cosmology and AstroParticle Physics



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