Neutrino opacities in neutron stars with kaon condensates

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Abstract

The neutrino mean free paths in hot neutron-star matter are obtained in
the presence of kaon condensates. The kaon-induced neutrino absorption
process, which is allowed only in the presence of kaon condensates, is consid-
ered for both nondegenerate and degenerate neutrinos. The neutrino mean
free path due to this process is compared with that for the neutrino-nucleon
scattering. While the mean free path for the kaon-induced neutrino absorp-
tion process is shown to be shorter than the ordinary two-nucleon absorption process by several orders of magnitude when temperature is not very high, the neutrino-nucleon scattering process has still a dominant contribution to the neutrino opacity. Thus, the kaon-induced neutrino absorption process has a minor effect on the thermal and dynamical evolution of protoneutron stars.
I. INTRODUCTION

Possible existence of kaon condensation in neutron star matter has been widely investigated in connection with its implications for astrophysical phenomena such as rapid cooling of neutron stars via neutrino emission and structural change due to the softening of nuclear equation of state (EOS) [1–4]. Stimulated by the absence of a pulsar signature in SN 1987A, a delayed collapse scenario has been proposed in which a first-order phase transition of a protoneutron star to a kaon-condensed neutron star is assumed [5]. According to this scenario, if the mass of a protoneutron star exceeds the maximum mass of a kaon-condensed neutron star (∼ 1.5$M_\odot$), the star becomes gravitationally unstable after the deleptonization or the initial cooling stage due to a significant softening of the EOS, and finally collapses into a low-mass black hole. A numerical simulation of a delayed collapse from a hot neutron star to a black hole was performed by Baumgarte et al. [6], where the nuclear EOS with kaon condensation at zero temperature was used.  

Recently, a delayed collapse of protoneutron stars has been studied by the use of the EOS of the kaon condensed phase at finite temperature which includes thermal effects and neutrino degeneracy [14–17]. In such an early stage of neutron star evolution, where temperature is high (several tens of MeV), the mean free paths of neutrinos are less than the radius of a neutron star. Then highly dense hadronic matter at high temperature of several tens of MeV is opaque to neutrinos, and neutrinos are trapped and become degenerate in stars. Yasuhira and Tatsumi have shown that not only thermal effects on the free energy but also neutrino degeneracy delays an onset of kaon condensation, and that the latter further suppresses the subsequent development of condensates, which causes the large modification of the EOS before and after the deleptonization stage [15]. Based on the static properties of protoneutron stars, they discussed gravitational stability of the protoneutron stars accompanying a phase transition to a kaon-condensed star during

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1 Other delayed collapse scenarios related to a transition to pion condensation [7,8], hyperon-mixed matter [9–11], or quark matter [12,13] have also been considered by several authors.
the deleptonization era. They obtained the range of the gravitational mass in which a
delayed collapse occurs.

There are some typical time scales associated with a delayed collapse of protoneutron
stars. It has been shown in Ref. [18] that a time scale for an appearance of kaon conden-
sation and its subsequent growth through nonequilibrium weak process, \( nn \rightarrow npK^- \), is
negligible as compared with the time scales for deleptonization and initial cooling of order
of ten seconds [18]. A time delay of a collapse of protoneutron stars is mainly caused by
deleptonization and initial cooling. In order to know the mechanisms of a delayed collapse
in detail and to estimate the deleptonization and cooling time scales, we have to pursue
dynamical and thermal evolution of a protoneutron star by taking into account neutrino
transport caused by neutrino diffusion. The neutrino opacity (the inverse of the mean
free path) plays an important role in neutrino transport [19]: During the deleptonization
era, neutrinos are highly degenerate with their chemical potential being of order of 200
– 300 MeV, and the total electron-lepton number fraction \( Y_{ie} (= Y_e + Y_{\nu_e}) \) amounts to
0.3–0.4. In this case, deleptonization proceeds through the neutrino chemical potential
diffusion such that

\[
\frac{\partial Y_{ie}}{\partial t} \propto \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ r^2 (D_2 + D_\bar{2}) \frac{\partial (\mu_{\nu_e}/T)}{\partial r} \right],
\]

where \( D_2 \) and \( D_\bar{2} \) are typical diffusion constants which are related to the Rosseland mean of
the neutrino opacities [20].\(^2\) Subsequently, during the initial cooling era, neutrinos become
nondegenerate (\( \mu_{\nu_e} \simeq 0 \)), and matter cools down through neutrino diffusion driven by the
temperature gradient such that

\[
C_v \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{7}{12} \sigma_{SB} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 T^3 \lambda^R \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right),
\]

where \( C_v \) is the specific heat , \( \sigma_{SB} \) the Stefan-Boltzmann constant, and \( \lambda^R \) is the Rosseland
mean free path [20,21].

The neutrino opacity originates from absorption and scattering processes. In a normal
phase, the neutrino absorption process \( \nu_e n \rightarrow e^- p \) as a one-nucleon process (we call this

\(^2\)Throughout this paper, the units \( \hbar = c = k_B = 1 \) are used.
process the direct absorption process throughout this paper, and abbreviate it to DA) is forbidden in case the temperature is less than a few tens of MeV. This is because the phase space is exponentially small for those degenerate nucleons that satisfy energy-momentum conservation.\(^3\) Therefore, a spectator nucleon \((N)\) participates in order to satisfy the kinematical condition, and the neutrino is absorbed through the two-nucleon process \(\nu_e nN \rightarrow e^- pN \ (N = p, n)\) \([21,24,25]\). In case the incident neutrino energy \(E_\nu\) is large or temperature is high enough, DA becomes possible. Some authors considered DA for the neutrino absorption processes \([20,26]\) and found that DA has a contribution to the neutrino mean free path comparable to the neutrino-nucleon scattering \((S)\) process, \(\nu_e N \rightarrow \nu_e N\), which has been considered as a main weak reaction giving the neutrino opacity \([21,25,27]\).

In the presence of kaon condensates, the following neutrino absorption process becomes possible as a unique process under the background of kaon condensates:

\[
\nu_e(p_\nu) + N(p_N) \rightarrow e^-(p_e) + N(p'_N) \ (N = p, n),
\]

which may be written symbolically as \(\nu_e N\langle K^-\rangle \rightarrow e^- N\) with \(\langle K^-\rangle\) being the classical kaon field.\(^4\) Throughout this paper, we call this process the kaon-induced absorption process, and abbreviate it to KA. In Ref. [17], the neutrino opacity for KA has been briefly mentioned.

\(^3\)In such a rather low temperature case, the kinematical condition for occurrence of DA is the same as that for the direct Urca process, \(n \rightarrow pe^- \tilde{\nu}_e, pe^- \rightarrow n\nu_e\), which is relevant to a neutron star cooling of ordinary evolutionary stage. This kinematical condition depends on the baryon density dependence of the nuclear symmetry energy which remains controversial \([22,23]\).

\(^4\)If the \(p\)-wave kaon-baryon interactions are taken into account, it is possible that \(p\)-wave kaon condensation may be realized from neutron-star matter accompanying hyperon excitations \([28,29]\) or from hyperonic matter \([30]\). Throughout this paper, we concentrate on the primary mechanisms of neutrino absorption process in kaon condensates, so that we simply consider the \(s\)-wave kaon condensation realized from protoneutron-star matter.
In this paper, we consider KA in detail and obtain the neutrino mean free path $\lambda(KA)$ for KA in both the nondegenerate ($\mu_\nu=0$) and degenerate ($\mu_\nu > 0$) neutrino cases. We use the EOS with kaon condensation at finite temperature [14,15] within a framework of chiral symmetry, which makes possible a consistent calculation of the EOS and neutrino processes. We compare $\lambda(KA)$ with other relevant mean free paths such as DA and S, and discuss the importance of KA in neutrino transport phenomena during the dynamical and thermal evolution of protoneutron stars including a phase transition to a kaon-condensed phase.

In Sec. II, we overview the chiral symmetry approach to kaon condensation. In Sec. III, the mean free paths for KA and S are derived in the nondegenerate neutrino case, and the numerical results are presented. The mean free paths are obtained and compared numerically in the degenerate neutrino case in Sec. IV. In Sec. V, rough estimates of the cooling time scale due to neutrino diffusion are given including the KA and S processes for a neutron star with kaon condensates. Summary and concluding remarks are given in Sec. VI.

II. CHIRAL SYMMETRY APPROACH TO KAON CONDENSATION

We first give an outline of the kaon-condensed state on the basis of chiral symmetry. In the framework of $SU_L(3) \times SU_R(3)$ current algebra and PCAC, the s-wave $K^-$ condensed state, $|K^->$, is generated by a chiral rotation of the normal state $|0>$ as $|K^-> = \hat{U}_K|0>$, with the unitary operator $\hat{U}_K$ given by

$$\hat{U}_K \equiv \exp(i\mu_K t Q_{em}) \exp(i\theta Q_5^5),$$

where $\mu_K$ is the kaon chemical potential, $\theta$ the chiral angle which represents the order parameter of the system, and $Q_{em}$ ($Q_5^5$) the electromagnetic charge (the axial-vector charge). The classical $K^-$ field is then given as

$$\langle \hat{K}^- \rangle \equiv \langle K^-|\hat{K}^-|K^-\rangle = \langle 0|\hat{U}_K^{-1}\hat{K}^-\hat{U}_K|0\rangle = \frac{f}{\sqrt{2}} \sin \theta \exp(+i\mu_K t),$$
where \( f \) is the meson decay constant. Here we take the numerical value of \( f \) to be the pion decay constant \((=93 \text{ MeV})\), following the previous papers instead of the kaon decay constant\((=113 \text{ MeV})\), which amounts to taking the lowest-order value in the chiral perturbation theory.

Recently this framework has been extended to take into account the quantum and/or thermal fluctuations around the condensate, in accordance with chiral symmetry \([14]\). The effective partition function \( Z_{\text{chiral}} \) at temperature \( T \) can be formally written in the form of the imaginary-time path integral \((\beta = 1/T)\):

\[
Z_{\text{chiral}} = N \int [dU][dB][d\bar{B}] \exp \left[ \int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^3x \left\{ L_{\text{chiral}}(U, B) + \delta L(U, B) \right\} \right],
\]

where \( L_{\text{chiral}}(U, B) = L_0(U, B) + L_{SB}(U, B) \) being the Kaplan-Nelson Lagrangian \([1]\) and is represented with the octet baryon field, \( B \), and the chiral field, \( U = \exp\left[ i\lambda_a \phi_a / f \right] \in SU(3) \), with the Goldstone fields \( \phi_a \). \( \delta L \) is the induced SB term as a result of introduction of chemical potentials, \( \mu_K (= \mu_Q : \text{the charge chemical potential}) \) and the baryon chemical potential \( \mu_B \),

\[
\delta L = -\frac{f^2 \mu_K}{4} \text{tr}\{[T_{em}, U] \partial U^\dagger / \partial \tau + \partial U / \partial \tau [T_{em}, U^\dagger]\} \\
- \frac{\mu_K}{2} \text{tr}\{B^\dagger ([\xi^\dagger [T_{em}, \xi] + [\xi [T_{em}, \xi^\dagger]]) , B]\} \\
- \frac{f^2 \mu_K^2}{4} \text{tr}\{[T_{em}, U][T_{em}, U^\dagger]\} + \mu_B \text{tr}\{B^\dagger B\} - \mu_K \text{tr}\{B^\dagger [T_{em}, B]\}
\]

with \( U = \xi^2 \) and \( T_{em} = \text{diag}(2/3, -1/3, -1/3) \).

The local coordinates around the condensed point on the chiral manifold are introduced by the following parameterization for \( U \):

\[
U = \zeta U_f \zeta (\xi = \zeta U_f^{1/2} u^\dagger = u U_f^{1/2} \zeta), \quad \zeta = \exp(i \langle M \rangle / \sqrt{2} f),
\]

where \( \langle M \rangle \) represents the condensate, \( \langle M \rangle = V_+ \langle K^+ \rangle + V_- \langle K^- \rangle \), with \( K^\pm = (\phi_4 \mp i \phi_5)/\sqrt{2} \) and the V-spin operators \( V_\pm = (\lambda_4 \pm i \lambda_5)/2 \), while \( U_f = \exp[i \lambda_a \phi_a / f] \) means the fluctuation field. The chiral angle \( \theta \) is related to the classical fields \( \langle K^\pm \rangle \) through the equation \( \theta^2 = 2 \langle K^+ \rangle \langle K^- \rangle / f^2 \). Here we can easily see that the chiral transformation in
\( \hat{U}_K, \exp(i\theta Q^5_4) \), exactly corresponds to \( \zeta \) in this framework. Accordingly, defining a new baryon field \( B' \) by way of

\[
B' = u^\dagger Bu, \tag{9}
\]

we can see that

\[
\mathcal{L}_{\text{chiral}}(U, B) = \mathcal{L}_0(U_f, B') + \mathcal{L}_{SB}(\zeta U_f \zeta, uB'u^\dagger),
\]

\[
\delta \mathcal{L}(U, B) = \delta \mathcal{L}(\zeta U_f \zeta, uB'u^\dagger). \tag{10}
\]

Thus only the SB terms prescribe the \( KN \) dynamics in the condensed phase; we can easily see that the \( KN \) sigma terms, \( \Sigma_{Ki}(i = n, p) \), stem from \( \mathcal{L}_{SB} \), while the Tomozawa-Weinberg term from \( \delta \mathcal{L} \) [14].

We then evaluate the partition function \( Z_{\text{chiral}} \). During this course, there appear the excitation spectra of kaonic modes with energies \( (E^K_\pm) \). The mode with \( E^K_- \) is the Goldstone mode and exhibits the Bogoliubov spectrum, which stems from the spontaneous breaking of \( V \)-spin symmetry in the condensed phase [14]. Under the relevant approximation, they are reduced to the simple form

\[
E^K_\pm(p) \simeq \sqrt{p^2 + m^*_K \cos \theta + b^2} \pm (b + \mu_K \cos \theta), \tag{11}
\]

where \( m^*_K = m_K^2 - \rho_B/f^2(\Sigma_{Kp}x + \Sigma_{Kn}(1 - x)) \) with \( m^*_K \) being the effective mass of kaons and proton fraction \( x = \rho_p/\rho_B \), and \( b = \rho_B(1 + x)/(4f^2) \), which stems from the Tomozawa-Weinberg term representing the \( KN \) s-wave interaction.

Eventually the effective thermodynamic potential \( \Omega_{\text{chiral}} = -T \ln Z_{\text{chiral}} \) reads, up to the one-loop order,

\[
\Omega_{\text{chiral}} = \Omega_c + \Omega^{th}_K + \Omega_N, \tag{12}
\]

where \( \Omega_c \) is the classical kaon contribution,

\[
\Omega_c = V[-f^2m_K^2(\cos \theta - 1) - 1/2 \cdot \mu^2_Kf^2 \sin^2 \theta], \tag{13}
\]

and the thermal kaon contribution is given as follows;
\[ \Omega_K^{th} = TV \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \ln(1 - e^{-\beta E_K(p)})(1 - e^{-\beta E_K(p)}). \] (14)

It is to be noted that the zero-point-energy contribution of kaons is very tiny [14] [31] and we may discard it. \( \Omega_N \) denotes the nucleon contribution,

\[ \Omega_N = \Omega_N^{kin} + \Omega_N^{pot}, \] (15)

which consists of the kinetic and potential contributions;

\[ \Omega_N^{kin} = -2TV \sum_{n,p} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \ln(1 + e^{-\beta(E_i(p) - \mu_i)}), \]
\[ \Omega_N^{pot} = -\rho_B \frac{\partial E_{pot}^N}{\partial \rho_B} \] (16)

with the potential energy \( E_{pot}^N \). \( \mu_i(i = p, n) \) are the chemical potentials of nucleons: \( \mu_n = \mu_B, \mu_p = \mu_B - \mu_K \) under chemical equilibrium. The single-particle energies for nucleons are given as

\[ E_p(p) = \frac{p^2}{2m_N} - \left( \Sigma_{Kp} + \mu_K \right) (1 - \cos \theta) + \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial E_{pot}^N}{\partial \rho_p}, \]
\[ E_n(p) = \frac{p^2}{2m_N} - \left( \Sigma_{Kn} + \frac{\mu_K}{2} \right) (1 - \cos \theta) + \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial E_{pot}^N}{\partial \rho_n}. \] (17)

Sometimes it is convenient to use the shifted chemical potentials, \( \mu_0^i(i = p, n) \), defined by

\[ \mu_0^p = \mu_p + (\Sigma_{Kp} + \mu_K) (1 - \cos \theta) - \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial E_{pot}^N}{\partial \rho_p}, \]
\[ \mu_0^n = \mu_n + (\Sigma_{Kn} + \mu_K/2) (1 - \cos \theta) - \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial E_{pot}^N}{\partial \rho_n}, \] (18)

which make the \( \Omega_N^{kin} \) in Eq. (16) to be in a simple form,

\[ \Omega_N^{kin} = -2TV \sum_{n,p} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \ln(1 + e^{-\beta(p^2/2m_N - \mu_0^i)}) \] (19)

Here, following Prakash et al. [32], we have introduced the effective potential-energy for nucleons in the form,

\[ E_{pot}^N = E_{sym}^N + E_V^N, \] (20)
both of which cannot be given by the Kaplan-Nelson Lagrangian. $E_N^{\text{sym}}$ represents the symmetry energy contribution,

$$E_N^{\text{sym}} = V \rho_B (1 - 2x)^2 S_{\text{pot}}(u); \quad (u = \rho_B / \rho_0; \rho_0 = 0.16 \text{fm}^{-3})$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

where the function $S_{\text{pot}}(u)$ reads,

$$S_{\text{pot}}(u) = (S_0 - (2^{2/3} - 1)(3/5)E_F^0)F(u)$$  \hspace{1cm} (22)

with the constraint $F(u = 1) = 1$ to reproduce the empirical symmetry energy $S_0 \approx 30 \text{MeV}$ at the nuclear density $\rho_0$. $E_F^0$ is the Fermi energy at $\rho_0$. Hereafter we use $F(u) = u$ for an example. The residual potential contribution $E_N^V$ renders

$$E_N^V/V = \frac{1}{2}Au^2 \rho_B + \frac{Bu^2 + \rho_B}{1 + B'u^2} + 3u \rho_B \sum_{i=1,2} C_i \left( \frac{\Lambda_i}{p_F^i} \right) \left( \frac{p_f}{\Lambda_i} - \arctan \frac{p_F^i}{\Lambda_i} \right).$$  \hspace{1cm} (23)

We choose the parameter set $(A,B,B',\sigma,C_i,\Lambda_i)$ for compression modulus to be $K_0 = 240 \text{MeV}$ for normal nuclear matter.

Using the thermodynamic relations,

$$S_{\text{chiral}} = -\frac{\partial \Omega_{\text{chiral}}}{\partial T}, \quad Q_i = -\frac{\partial \Omega_{\text{chiral}}}{\partial \mu_i}, \quad E_{\text{int}} = \Omega_{\text{chiral}} + TS_{\text{chiral}} + \sum \mu_i Q_i,$$  \hspace{1cm} (24)

we can find entropy, charge and internal energy, respectively.

The total thermodynamic potential $\Omega_{\text{total}}$ is given by adding the one for leptons (electrons, muons and neutrinos), $\Omega_l$, $\Omega_{\text{total}} = \Omega_{\text{chiral}} + \Omega_l$;

$$\Omega_l = -2TV \sum_{e,\mu,\nu} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ \ln(1 + e^{-\beta(E_i(p) - \mu_i)}) + \ln(1 + e^{-\beta(E_i(p) + \mu_i)}) \right],$$  \hspace{1cm} (25)

with $E_i(p) = E_i(p) = \sqrt{m_i^2 + p^2}$ ($i = e, \mu, \nu_e, \nu_{\mu}$).

### III. NONDEGENARATE NEUTRINO CASE

In the nondegenerate case, the neutrino chemical potential may be set equal to zero, so that the abundance of neutrinos and antineutrinos are small, $(Y_\nu, Y_{\bar{\nu}} \ll 1)$. The antineutrino processes, $\bar{\nu}_e Ne^- \rightarrow N(K^-)$, $\bar{\nu}_e N \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e N$, have an equal contribution to the reaction rates with the neutrino processes, so that we here consider only the neutrino processes.
A. Kaon-induced neutrino absorption process (KA)

The inverse of the mean free path, for (3), consists of two contributions:

\[ \frac{1}{\lambda(\text{KA})} = \sum_{N=p,n} \frac{1}{\lambda^{(N)}(\text{KA})}, \]  

(26)

where \( \lambda^{(N)}(\text{KA}) \) is the mean-free path for the process, \( \nu_eN\langle K^- \rangle \rightarrow e^-N \). Each mean free path is given as

\[ \frac{1}{\lambda^{(N)}(\text{KA})} = \frac{V^3}{V (2\pi)^9} \int d^3p_N \int d^3p_e \int d^3p'_N \delta(E_e + E'_N - E_{\nu} - E_N - \mu_K) \times S_a W^{(N)}_{fi,a} \quad \text{(for } N = p, n), \]

(27)

where \( V \) is the normalization volume, \( S_a = f(p_N)[1 - f(p_e)](1 - f(p'_N)) \) being the statistical factor with the Fermi-Dirac distribution function \( f(p_i) = 1/[\exp \{(E_i - \mu_i)/T\} + 1] \), and \( W^{(N)}_{fi,a} \) is the transition rate:

\[ W^{(N)}_{fi,a} = (2\pi)^3 V \delta^{(3)}(p_e + p'_N - p_{\nu} - p_N) \sum_{\text{spins}} |M^N_a|^2 \cdot \frac{1}{V^3}, \]

(28)

with the squared matrix element \( \sum_{\text{spins}} |M^N_a|^2 \). The summation is taken over the initial and final nucleon spins. One can see from the energy delta function in Eq. (27) that the system is supplied with the energy through the kaon chemical potential \( \mu_K \), which comes from the time dependence of the classical kaon field (5). KA has a close connection to the kaon-induced Urca (KU) process,

\[ N\langle K^- \rangle \rightarrow Ne^-\bar{\nu}_e, \]

(29a)

\[ Ne^- \rightarrow N\langle K^- \rangle \nu_e, \]

(29b)

which gives a rapid cooling mechanism of kaon-condensed neutron stars [33,34]: The mean free path for KA for the nondegenerate neutrino case is related to the neutrino emissivity \( E^{(N)}(\text{KU-F}) \) for the forward process of KU [ (29a), denoted as KU-F ] as

\[ E^{(N)}(\text{KU-F}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3p_{\nu} E_{\nu} \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda^{(N)}(\text{KA})(-E_{\nu}, T)}. \]

(30)
1. Squared matrix elements

The effective weak Hamiltonian is of the current-current interaction type, \( \mathcal{H}_W = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} J^\mu \cdot l_\mu + \text{h.c.} \) with \( l_\mu = \bar{\psi} e \gamma_\mu (1 - \gamma_5) \psi \) being the charged leptonic current and the charged hadronic current, \( J^\mu_h = \cos \theta_C (V^\mu_{1+2} - A^\mu_{1+2}) + \sin \theta_C (V^\mu_{4+5} - A^\mu_{4+5}) \), where \( \theta_C (\approx 0.24) \) is the Cabibbo angle, and \( V^\mu_a \) and \( A^\mu_a \) are the vector and axial-vector currents, respectively. In the kaon-condensed state \( |K^-\rangle \), the matrix elements are given from the transformed Hamiltonian \([34,23]\)

\[
\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_W = \hat{U}_K^{-1} \mathcal{H}_W \hat{U}_K = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \tilde{J}^\mu_h t_\mu + \text{h.c.} ,
\]

where the effective hadronic current \( \tilde{J}^\mu_h \) is given in a model-independent way by the use of current algebra:

\[
\tilde{J}^\mu_h = \hat{U}_K^{-1} J^\mu_h \hat{U}_K = e^{-i\mu \kappa t} \left[ \cos \theta_C \left( (V^\mu_{1+2} - A^\mu_{1+2}) \cos(\theta/2) + i(V^\mu_{6\rightarrow 7} - A^\mu_{6\rightarrow 7}) \sin(\theta/2) \right) \right. \\
+ \left. \sin \theta_C \left( (V^\mu_4 - A^\mu_4) + i \cos \theta (V^\mu_6 - A^\mu_6) - i \sin \theta (V^\mu_4 - A^\mu_4) \right) \right] ,
\]

where \( V^\mu_V \equiv \frac{1}{2}(V^\mu_3 + \sqrt{3}V^\mu_8) \) and \( A^\mu_V \equiv \frac{1}{2}(A^\mu_3 + \sqrt{3}A^\mu_8) \).

The spin-summed squared matrix element is then written as

\[
\sum_{\text{spins}} |M^N_a|^2 = \frac{G_F^2}{2} H^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(\text{KA}) L^{\mu\nu}
\]

where \( H^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(\text{KA}) \) is the hadronic tensor for KA:

\[
H^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(\text{KA}) = \sum_{s,s'=\pm 1/2} \langle N', s' | \tilde{J}_{h,\mu} | N, s \rangle \langle N, s | \tilde{J}^\dagger_{h,\nu} | N', s' \rangle ,
\]

and \( L^{\mu\nu} \) the leptonic tensor:

\[
L^{\mu\nu} = 2 \left[ (p_\nu)^\mu (p_\nu)^\nu + (p_\nu)^\mu (p_\nu)^\nu - (p_\nu \cdot p_\epsilon) g^{\mu\nu} - i \epsilon^{\mu\nu\eta\zeta} (p_\nu)_\eta (p_\epsilon)_\zeta \right] / (p_\nu)^0 (p_\epsilon)^0 .
\]

For KA, the matrix elements in the hadronic tensor (34) come from the last term in the transformed hadronic current (32), which is proportional to \( \sin \theta \).
For nonrelativistic nucleons, the vector and axial-vector currents are reduced to

\[ V_3^\mu = \frac{1}{2} \tau_3 \delta_0^\mu, \quad A_3^\mu = \frac{g_A}{2} \tau_3 \sigma_i^i \delta_0^\mu \]
\[ V_8^\mu = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} Y \delta_0^\mu, \quad A_8^\mu = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} Y \tilde{g}_A \sigma_i^i \delta_i^\mu \quad \text{(for } i = 1 - 3) \quad (36) \]

with \( Y \) being the hypercharge (\( Y=1 \) for the nucleon), \( g_A(= D + F = 1.25) \), and \( \tilde{g}_A(= F - D/3 = 0.17) \) the axial-vector coupling strengths, where \( D=0.81, F=0.44 \). It is to be noted that the matrix elements \( H^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(KA) \) are the same as those for KU. We refer to Refs. [23,34] for the expression of \( H^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(KU) \).

After taking the angular average of the reduced squared matrix element \( H^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(KA)L_{\mu\nu} \) and assuming that its momentum dependence is small, one obtains

\[
\overline{H}^{(0)}_{\mu\nu}(KA)L_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 \theta_C \sin^2 \theta \left\{ 16 + 3(g_A + 3\tilde{g}_A)^2 \right\}, \quad (37a)
\]
\[
H^{(n)}_{\mu\nu}(KA)L_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 \theta_C \sin^2 \theta \left\{ 4 + 3(g_A - 3\tilde{g}_A)^2 \right\}. \quad (37b)
\]

The expression for the mean free path is reduced to

\[
1/\lambda^{(N)}(KA) = 2\pi \frac{V^3}{(2\pi)^9} \frac{G_F^2}{2} \left( \frac{2\pi}{\lambda^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(KA)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} H^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(KA)L_{\mu\nu} I^{(N)}(KA), \quad (38)
\]

where \( I^{(N)}(KA) \) is the phase space integral, the expression of which is given in Appendix A. The phase space integral \( I^{(N)}(KA) \) may be performed numerically.

2. Low-temperature approximation

The phase space integral \( I^{(N)}(KA) \) [see Eq. (A1)] is rewritten in the form

\[
I^{(N)}(KA) = \frac{\tilde{m}_N^2 T^5}{E_\nu} \int_{-\tilde{\mu}_N}^{\infty} dx_2 \int_{-\infty}^{\tilde{\mu}_N} dx_4 (x_2 + x_4 + \tilde{E}_\nu + \tilde{\mu}_K) \times \frac{1}{[\exp(x_2) + 1]} \frac{1}{[\exp(x_4) + 1]} \frac{1}{[\exp(-(x_2 + x_4 + \tilde{E}_\nu)) + 1]} F_a, \quad (39)
\]

where \( ^{\tilde{}} \) stands for a dimensionless quantity divided by the temperature \( T \) (e.g., \( \tilde{E}_\nu \equiv E_\nu/T \)), and \( x_2 \equiv \tilde{E}_N - \tilde{\mu}_N, x_4 \equiv -\tilde{E}_N' + \tilde{\mu}_N \) with \( \mu_N \) being the chemical potential of the nucleon \( N \).
For low-temperature cases, analytic formula for the mean-free path \( \lambda^{(N)}(KA) \) is obtained after the following approximations are made: (i) \( \tilde{\mu}_N \to \infty \) in the lower and upper bounds in the integrals in Eq. (39) since \( T \ll \mu_N \). (ii) \( |p_N| = E_\nu \ll |p'_N|, |p_e| \) since the neutrino is thermal \( [E_\nu = O(T)] \). In this limit, \( F_a \to 8\pi^2\bar{E}_\nu \). (iii) The factor \( x^2 + x^4 + \tilde{\mu} K \) in the integrand of Eq. (39), which is equal to \( \tilde{\mu} e \) due to energy conservation, is replaced by \( \tilde{\mu} e \left( = \mu_e / T \right) \).

The result is

\[
1/\lambda^{(N)}(KA)(E_\nu, T) = \frac{G^2}{16\pi^3} \frac{H_{\mu\nu}^{(N)}(KA) L^{\mu\nu}}{m_N^2 \mu_e T^2} \frac{\pi^2 + \bar{E}_\nu^2}{1 + e^{-E_\nu}}. \tag{40}
\]

By the substitution of Eq. (37), \( \lambda_p \) and \( \lambda_n \) are estimated as

\[
1/\lambda^{(p)}(KA) = (6.14 \times 10^{-5}) \sin^2 \theta \frac{\mu_e}{m_\pi} \left( \frac{T}{1\text{MeV}} \right) \frac{\pi^2 + \bar{E}_\nu^2}{1 + e^{-E_\nu}} \text{[m}^{-1} \text{]}, \tag{41a}
\]

\[
1/\lambda^{(n)}(KA) = (1.37 \times 10^{-5}) \sin^2 \theta \frac{\mu_e}{m_\pi} \left( \frac{T}{1\text{MeV}} \right) \frac{\pi^2 + \bar{E}_\nu^2}{1 + e^{-E_\nu}} \text{[m}^{-1} \text{]}, \tag{41b}
\]

where the electron chemical potential \( \mu_e \) is divided by the pion mass \( m_\pi \) (=140 MeV) since numerically \( \mu_e = O(m_\pi) \). From Eqs. (38), (A1), and (A2), one can see that a factor \( T^2 \) in Eq. (41) comes from the energy integral for the electron and incoming and outgoing nucleons \( (T^3) \) with the energy-conserving delta function \( (T^{-1}) \). In general, the temperature dependence of the phase-space integral \( [\text{Eq. (39)}] \) is complicated. However, the analytic formulae Eqs. (41a) and (41b) in the low-temperature approximation have a simple scaling property,

\[
1/\lambda^{(N)}(KA)\left( \frac{T}{T_0} E_\nu, T \right) = \left( \frac{T}{T_0} \right)^2 \cdot 1/\lambda^{(N)}(KA)(E_\nu, T_0), \tag{42}
\]

as far as the temperature dependences of the parameters \( \theta, \mu_e \) are neglected. \(^5\) The scaling property (42) should be compared with that for the mean free path \( \lambda \) for the absorption process, \( \nu_e nn \to e^-pn \), in the normal neutron-star matter: \( 1/\lambda \left( \frac{T}{T_0} E_\nu, T \right) = \left( \frac{T}{T_0} \right)^4 \cdot 1/\lambda(E_\nu, T_0) \) \[25\].

\(^5\)As seen in Table I, the temperature dependence of the parameters are weak for \( T \lesssim 40 \text{ MeV} \). See also \[15\].
B. Neutrino scattering process (S) in kaon condensates

In order to discuss a role of kaon-induced absorption processes in comparison with the neutrino-nucleon scattering process, we derive for the neutrino mean free path $\lambda^{(N)}(S)$ due to the neutrino-nucleon scattering process

$$\nu_e(p_\nu) + N(p_N) \rightarrow \nu_e(p'_\nu) + N(p'_N) \quad \text{(for } N = p, n)$$

(43)

in a kaon-condensed phase.

The mean free path is given by

$$1/\lambda^{(N)}(S) = 2\pi \frac{V^3}{V^3} \int d^3 p_N \int d^3 p'_N \int d^3 p'_N \delta(E'_\nu + E'_N - E_\nu - E_N) S_s W_{fi,s}^{(N)}$$

(44)

where $S_s \equiv f(p_N)[1 - f(p'_N)]\left[1 - f(p'_\nu)\right]$ is the statistical factor, and $W_{fi,s}^{(N)}$ is the transition rate:

$$W_{fi,s}^{(N)} = (2\pi)^3 V^3 \delta^{(3)}(p'_\nu + p'_N - p_\nu - p_N) \sum_{\text{spins}} |M_s^{N}|^2 \cdot \frac{1}{V^3}$$

(45)

with the squared matrix element $\sum_{\text{spins}} |M_s^{N}|^2$. The chemical potential $\mu_\nu$ appearing in the distribution function of the neutrino $f(p'_\nu)$ is set equal to zero for nondegenerate neutrinos.

1. Squared matrix elements

The scattering processes are mediated by the effective weak Hamiltonian of a type

$$H_{W,Z} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} J^\mu_{Z,\mu} \cdot l_{Z,\mu} + \text{h.c.}$$

where $l^\mu_{Z,\mu} \equiv [\bar{\psi}_\nu \gamma_\mu (1 - \gamma_5) \psi_\nu]$ is the neutral leptonic current, and $J^\mu_{Z}$ is the neutral hadronic current:

$$J^\mu_{Z} = h^\mu_3 - 2 \sin^2 \theta_W h^\mu_{\text{em}}$$

$$= \left(V^\mu_3 - A^\mu_3\right) - 2 \sin^2 \theta_W \left(V^\mu_3 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} V^\mu_3\right).$$

(47)
where \( \theta_W \) is the Weinberg angle (\( \sin^2 \theta_W \simeq 0.23 \)), and \( h_{em}^{\mu} \) is the electromagnetic current. The chirally transformed hadronic current is given by\(^6\)

\[
\bar{J}_Z^\mu = \hat{U}_K^{-1} J_Z^\mu \hat{U}_K \\
= V_3^\mu - A_3^\mu + \frac{1}{2} (\cos \theta - 1) (V_\nu^\mu - A_\nu^\mu) + \frac{1}{2} \sin \theta (V_5^\mu - A_5^\mu) \\
- 2 \sin^2 \theta_W \left\{ V_3^\mu + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} V_8^\mu + (\cos \theta - 1) V_\nu^\mu - \sin \theta A_5^\mu \right\} .
\]

The spin-summed squared matrix element for the scattering process (43) is then written as

\[
|M_{s}^{(N)}|^2 = \frac{G^2}{2} H_{\mu\nu}^{(N)}(S) L_{Z}^{\mu\nu},
\]

where \( H_{\mu\nu}^{(N)}(S) \) is the hadronic tensor for \( S \):

\[
H_{\mu\nu}^{(N)}(S) = \sum_{s, s' = \pm 1/2} \langle N', s'| \bar{J}_{Z,\mu}^\dagger |N, s\rangle \langle N, s| \bar{J}_{Z,\nu} |N', s' \rangle,
\]

and \( L_{Z}^{\mu\nu} \) is the leptonic tensor for the incoming and outgoing neutrino pair:

\[
L_{Z}^{\mu\nu} = 2 \left[ (p_\nu')^\nu (p_\nu')^\mu + (p_\nu)^\nu (p_\nu')^\mu - (p_\nu \cdot p_\nu') g^{\mu\nu} - i \epsilon^{\mu\nu\eta\zeta} (p_\nu)_\eta (p_\nu')_\zeta \right] / [(p_\nu)^0 (p_\nu')^0] .
\]

By the use of Eq.(36), each component of the hadronic tensor is given by

\[
H_{00}^{(p)}(S) = \frac{1}{2} (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W)^2 \cos^2 \theta \\
H_{0i}^{(p)}(S) = 0 \\
H_{ij}^{(p)}(S) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ g_A - \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos \theta) (g_A + 3 \bar{g}_A) \right\}^2 \delta_{ij} \quad (i, j = 1 \sim 3)
\]

for \( N = p \), and

\[
H_{00}^{(n)}(S) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W) (1 - \cos \theta) \right\}^2 \\
H_{0i}^{(n)}(S) = 0
\]

\(^6\)In Ref. [35], the neutral current processes for neutrino emissivities in kaon condensates have also been considered. However, the resulting matrix element for the neutron process, \( n \rightarrow n \nu \bar{\nu} \), is different from ours.
\[ H_{ij}^{(n)}(S) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ g_A - \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos \theta)(g_A - 3g_A) \right\}^2 \delta_{ij} \quad (i, j = 1 \sim 3) \]  (53)

for \( N = n \).

The reduced squared matrix elements are given by

\[ H_{\mu\nu}^{(p)}(S)L_{Z}^{\mu\nu} = (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W)^2 \cos^2 \theta (1 + \cos \theta_13) \]
\[ + \left\{ g_A - \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos \theta)(g_A + 3g_A) \right\}^2 (3 - \cos \theta_13) \]  (54)

for \( N = p \), and

\[ H_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(S)L_{Z}^{\mu\nu} = \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W)(1 - \cos \theta) \right\}^2 (1 + \cos \theta_13) \]
\[ + \left\{ g_A - \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos \theta)(g_A - 3g_A) \right\}^2 (3 - \cos \theta_13) \]  (55)

for \( N = n \), where \( \theta_13 \) is the angle between the momenta \( p_1 \) and \( p_3 \).

By taking the angular average \((\cos \theta_13 \rightarrow 0)\), one obtains

\[ H_{\mu\nu}^{(p)}(S)L_{Z}^{\mu\nu} = (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W)^2 \cos^2 \theta + 3 \left\{ g_A - \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos \theta)(g_A + 3g_A) \right\}^2 , \]  (56a)

\[ H_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(S)L_{Z}^{\mu\nu} = \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{2} (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W)(1 - \cos \theta) \right\}^2 + 3 \left\{ g_A - \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos \theta)(g_A - 3g_A) \right\}^2 . \]  (56b)

In the limit \( \theta \rightarrow 0 \), the reduced squared matrix elements Eqs. (56a) and (56b) tend to \((1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W)^2 + 3g_A^2 \) and \(1 + 3g_A^2 \), respectively. Thus the scattering process is not unique to kaon condensation but is operative even in the normal phase so far as the kinematical condition is satisfied.

2. Phase-space integrals

After performing the phase-space integrals in (44), one obtains

\[ 1/\lambda^{(N)}(S) = \frac{G_F^2}{2(2\pi)^5} H_{\mu\nu}^{(N)}(S)L_{Z}^{\mu\nu} I^{(N)}(S) \]  (57)

with

\[ I^{(N)}(S) = \frac{1}{E_{\nu}} \int_{0}^{\infty} |p_N|d|p_N| \int_{0}^{\infty} |p'_N|d|p'_N| E'_{\nu}\Theta(E'_{\nu}) f_N(p_N)[1 - f_N(p'_N)] F_s(E_{\nu}, |p_N|, E'_{\nu}, |p'_N|) , \]  (58)
where $E_\nu (=|p_\nu|)$ is the neutrino energy, $\Theta(x) = 1$ for $x > 0$, $\Theta(x) = 0$ for $x < 0$, and $E'_\nu$ is related by

$$E'_\nu \equiv \frac{p_N^2}{2m_N} - \frac{p'_N^2}{2m_N} + E_\nu$$

(59)

The function $F_s$ is the same as $F_a$ in Eq. (A2) but that $|p_e|$ in the argument of $F_a$ is to be replaced with $|p'_\nu| (=E'_\nu)$.

\section*{C. Numerical results in the nondegenerate neutrino case}

We discuss the numerical results of the mean free path $\lambda(KA)$ for KA in the nondegenerate neutrino case. First we check the validity of the analytic formulae for $\lambda(KA)$ obtained in the low-temperature approximation. Secondly we compare $\lambda(KA)$ with the other dominant mean free paths for scattering processes in kaon condensates and those in the normal (noncondensed) neutron-star matter. The parameters needed for obtaining the results are listed in Table I. These values have been obtained by Yasuhira and Tatsumi based on the EOS at finite temperature for kaon condensation in a neutrino-free case ($Y_e = 0$) [15]. Note that $\mu_0^p$ and $\mu_0^n$ in the table are not the naive chemical potentials for the nucleons, but they appear in the Fermi distribution functions (see Eqs. (18), (19)).

In this paper, the possible range of temperature $T$ of the kaon-condensed matter is taken to be $0-60$ MeV. In the framework of Ref. [15], the critical density for the onset of kaon condensation is $\rho_{\text{crit}} = 0.49$ fm$^{-3}$ at zero temperature and $\rho_{\text{crit}} = 0.54$ fm$^{-3}$ at $T=60$ MeV for a neutrino-free case. Thus the density $\rho_B = 0.57$ fm$^{-3}$ in Table I corresponds to the weaker condensation especially for high temperatures, while the density $\rho_B = 0.72$ fm$^{-3}$ corresponds to the stronger condensation over the relevant temperatures.

\subsection*{1. Comparison of numerically integrated results with analytic formulae}

In Fig. 1, we show the mean free paths $\lambda(KA)$ as functions of the neutrino energy $E_\nu$ for several temperatures ($T=10, 20, 40, 60$ MeV) and baryon number densities.
Fig. 1 (a) is for $\rho_B=0.57 \text{ fm}^{-3}$ and Fig. 1 (b) is for $\rho_B=0.72 \text{ fm}^{-3}$. The solid lines denote the results with the numerical integration for the phase space integral $I^{(N)}(KA)$ [Eq. (39)], while the dashed lines denote the results with the analytic formulae Eq. (41) in the low-temperature approximation. For temperatures $T \lesssim 10 \text{ MeV}$, where the low-temperature approximations (i)–(iii) [see III A 2] are obviously valid, the analytic results almost agree with the numerically integrated results for the neutrino energies less than the thermally averaged neutrino energy $\langle E_\nu \rangle \equiv \frac{7\pi^4}{180\zeta(3)} T \simeq 3.15T$ with $\zeta(3)$ the zeta function. Even at $T=60 \text{ MeV}$, one finds $2.7 \lesssim \lambda(KA)(\text{numerical}) /\lambda(KA)(\text{analytic}) \lesssim 3.4$ for $\rho_B=0.57 \text{ fm}^{-3}$, and $0.97 \lesssim \lambda(KA)(\text{numerical}) /\lambda(KA)(\text{analytic}) \lesssim 4.5$ for $\rho_B=0.72 \text{ fm}^{-3}$ for $0 < E_\nu < 200 \text{ MeV}$. For lower temperatures, the agreement between $\lambda(KA,\text{numerical})$ and $\lambda(KA,\text{analytic})$ is better. Therefore, the analytic formulae may be safely applied to see qualitative dependences of the $\lambda(KA)$ on the temperature $T$ and neutrino energy $E_\nu$.

Qualitatively, the approximations (i) $\bar{\mu}_N \to \infty$ and (ii) $F_a \to 8\pi^2\bar{E}_\nu$ in the phase space integrals $I^{(N)}(KA)$ make the phase space larger than the actual one, which leads to shorter mean free paths than $\lambda(KA)(\text{numerical})$. On the other hand, the approximation (iii) $\bar{E}_e \to \bar{\mu}_e$ restricts the phase space, which leads to longer mean free paths than $\lambda(KA)(\text{numerical})$. These competing effects determine the relative magnitude of $\lambda(KA)(\text{analytic})$ compared with $\lambda(KA)(\text{numerical})$.

The mean free path $\lambda(KA)$ decreases monotonically with the increase in the neutrino energy $E_\nu$ at a fixed temperature. It also decreases with the increase in temperature $T$ at a fixed neutrino energy as far as the dependence of the parameters on the temperature is weak ($T \lesssim 40 \text{ MeV}$). These dependences on $T$ and $E_\nu$ can be understood from the analytic formula for $\lambda(KA)$ [Eq. (41)]. For $T \gtrsim 60 \text{ MeV}$ and $\rho_B=0.57 \text{ fm}^{-3}$, a large part of kaon condensates changes into thermal kaons, and the amplitude of kaon condensation ($\propto \sin^2 \theta$) is weakened [see Table I]. As a result, the mean free path $\lambda(KA)$ becomes long as compared with that for $T=40 \text{ MeV}$.

As is expected, $\lambda(KA)$ is shorter than that for the ordinary two-nucleon process, $\nu, nN \to e^- pN$ [21,25] by several orders of magnitude when the temperature $T$ is not very
2. Comparison between absorption and scattering processes

Here we compare the mean free paths for KA with those for S \[(43)\]. All the results have been obtained by performing the phase space integrals numerically. In Fig. 2 (a), the mean free paths \(\lambda(KA)\) (solid lines) and those \(\lambda(S)\) for S (dashed lines) are shown as functions of the neutrino energy \(E_\nu\) for several temperatures \((T=10, 20, 40, 60 \text{ MeV})\) and baryon number densities \(\rho_B\). Fig. 2 (a) is for \(\rho_B=0.57 \text{ fm}^{-3}\) and Fig. 2 (b) is for \(\rho_B=0.72 \text{ fm}^{-3}\).

For \(E_\nu \lesssim 10 \text{ MeV}\), \(\lambda(S)\) is much larger than \(\lambda(KA)\), because the allowable phase space is restricted much for S. However, \(\lambda(S)\) gets smaller than \(\lambda(KA)\) for \(E_\nu \gtrsim 20 \text{ MeV}\). At low temperatures, \(T \lesssim 10 \text{ MeV}\), the S process is almost forbidden for \(E_\nu \sim 0\). On the other hand, at high temperatures, \(T \gtrsim 40 \text{ MeV}\), it is operative even at \(E_\nu \sim 0\), because the outgoing neutrino which has enough energy and momentum with \(O(T)\) \((\sim \text{a few tens of MeV})\) contributes to the reaction. In Table II, we list the reduced squared matrix elements for KA and S. The matrix elements for S are larger than those for KA by one or two orders of magnitude. Therefore, once there is a sufficient phase space for the energetic neutrino, the reaction rate for S easily becomes larger than that for KA. The difference in the matrix elements between KA and S mainly comes from the following facts: (1) The KA process is Cabibbo-suppressed by the term proportional to \(\sin^2 \theta_C\) in Eq. (37). (2) The matrix elements for KA in Eq. (37) contain a factor proportional to \(\sin^2 \theta\) which is small for a weak condensate. On the other hand, the S process is free from these suppression factors.

In Fig. 3, the mean free paths for KA (solid lines) and S (dashed lines) are shown as functions of baryon number density \(\rho_B\) for several temperatures \((T=20, 40, 60 \text{ MeV})\). The neutrino energy \(E_\nu\) is set equal to the thermally averaged value, \(\langle E_\nu \rangle (\sim 3.15T)\). The arrows denote the critical densities for kaon condensation at temperatures \(T=20, 40, 60\)
MeV [15]. The mean free paths $\lambda(\text{KA})$ depend sensitively on density, reflecting the combining effects of the chiral angle $\theta$ and charge chemical potential $\mu_e(=\mu_K)$ which appear in Eq. (41) within the low-temperature approximation: The chiral angle $\theta$ monotonically increases with increasing density as kaon condensation develops, while the kaon chemical potential $\mu_K$ decreases with increasing density [23,15] and it vanishes at $\rho_B^* \simeq 0.80\text{ fm}^{-3}$, beyond which it becomes negative [15]. As a net effect, the matrix elements (37) for KA increase with density except for density near $\rho_B^*$, and the mean free path $\lambda(\text{KA})$ decreases with density. Near the typical density $\rho_B^*$, due to the small value of $\mu_K$, $\lambda(\text{KA})$ becomes long and increases monotonically with density. On the other hand, the dependence of the mean free paths $\lambda(S)$ on density is small. Over the relevant densities, $\lambda(\text{KA})$ is always longer than $\lambda(S)$ at a fixed temperature.

From the above discussions on Figs. 1 and 2, it is concluded that the KA process has a minor effect on the evolution of protoneutron stars as compared with the S process in most cases of neutrino energies and temperatures for nondegenerate neutrinos.

IV. DEGENERATE NEUTRINO CASE

A. Relevant reactions

Here we consider neutrino opacities with kaon condensates in the degenerate neutrino case ($\mu_\nu > 0$). We take into account the relevant reactions as follows: (i) the kaon-induced neutrino absorption process (KA) [ (3) ]. (ii) the neutrino-nucleon scattering process (S), and (iii) the direct neutrino absorption process (DA),

The mean free path $\lambda(\text{KA})$ diverges at $\rho_B = \rho_B^*$. For $\rho_B > \rho_B^*$ ($\mu_K < 0$), positrons appear in place of electrons, and the KA process (3) is replaced by $\nu_e N\langle K^-\rangle e^+ \rightarrow N$. However, the negative value for $\mu_K$ should not be taken seriously, because it has been demonstrated that the monotonous decrease of $\mu_K$ with density $\rho_B$ is saturated and $\mu_K$ remains positive over the relevant densities after relativistic corrections are taken into account [36,37].
\[ \nu_e(p_\nu) + n(p) \rightarrow e^-(p_e) + p(p') . \]  

(60)

The mean free path for the DA process, \( \lambda(\text{DA}) \), is given as

\[ \frac{1}{\lambda(\text{DA})} = \frac{G_F^2}{2(2\pi)^5} \frac{H_{\mu\nu}(\text{DA})L^{\mu\nu}I(\text{DA})}{H_{\mu\nu}(\text{DA})L^{\mu\nu}I(\text{DA})} , \]

(61)

where

\[ I(\text{DA}) = \frac{1}{E_\nu} \int_0^\infty |p|d|p|\int_0^\infty |p'|d|p'|E_3 \Theta(E_3)f(p)[1 - f(E_3)][1 - f(p')]F(E_\nu, p, E_3, p') , \]

(62)

with

\[ E_3 \equiv \frac{p^2}{2m_N} - \frac{p'^2}{2m_N} + E_\nu . \]

(63)

The reduced squared matrix element after angular averaging, \( \overline{H_{\mu\nu}(\text{DA})L^{\mu\nu}} \), is given by

\[ \overline{H_{\mu\nu}(\text{DA})L^{\mu\nu}} = 4(1 + 3g_A^2) \cos^2 \theta_C \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} . \]

(64)

It is to be noted that the expression is the same as that for the direct URCA process, \( n \rightarrow p e^- \bar{\nu}_e, pe^- \rightarrow n \nu_e \), which is relevant to the neutron star cooling. For details of the derivation of (64), See Ref. [23].

The expressions of the mean free paths for KA and S [ (38) and (57), respectively] are the same as those for nondegenerate neutrinos. For KA, however, it is to be noted that the statistical factor for the electron, \( 1/[\exp\{-x_2 + x_4 + \bar{E}_\nu\} + 1] \), in the reduced expression for the phase-space integral \( I^{(N)}(\text{KA}) [ (39) ] \) is to be replaced by \( 1/[\exp\{-x_2 + x_4 + \bar{E}_\nu - \bar{\mu}_\nu\} + 1] \) with \( \bar{\mu}_\nu = \mu_\nu/T \), which results from the chemical equilibrium relation, \( \mu_e - \mu_K = \mu_\nu \) in the degenerate neutrino case. As a result, the analytic formula \( \lambda^{(N)}(\text{KA}) \) in the low-temperature approximation is also modified from that for nondegenerate neutrinos by replacement \( \bar{E}_\nu \rightarrow \bar{E}_\nu - \bar{\mu}_\nu \) in Eqs. (40) and (41), and written as

\[ 1/\lambda^{(N)}(\text{KA})(E_\nu, T)_{\text{degenerate } \nu} = \frac{G_F^2}{16\pi^3} \frac{H^{(N)}_{\mu\nu}(\text{KA})L^{\mu\nu}m_N^2 \mu_e T^2 \pi^2 + (\bar{E}_\nu - \bar{\mu}_\nu)^2}{1 + e^{-(E_\nu - \bar{\mu}_\nu)}} . \]

(65)

for degenerate neutrinos.
B. Numerical results in the degenerate neutrino case

In Fig. 4, the mean free paths for KA (solid lines), DA (dash-dotted lines), and S (dashed lines) are shown as functions of the neutrino energy $E_{\nu}$ for $\rho_B=0.72$ fm$^{-3}$, the lepton fraction $Y_{le}=0.4$, and $T=20, 40, 60$ MeV. All the results are obtained from the numerical integration for the phase space. In Table III, the physical parameters for the EOS with kaon condensates for several temperatures $T$ and $\rho_B=0.72$ fm$^{-3}$ in the neutrino-trapping case with $Y_{le}=0.4$ are listed. It is to be noted that, for $Y_{le}=0.4$, the critical density for kaon condensation is larger than 0.62 fm$^{-3}$ [see Ref. [15]], so that we show only the $\rho_B=0.72$ fm$^{-3}$ case for the mean free paths in the presence of kaon condensation.

For most of the incident neutrino energy $E_{\nu}$, DA and S have dominant contributions to the opacities as compared with KA. At a typical energy $E_{\nu} = \mu_{\nu}$ ($\simeq 300$ MeV), $\lambda(KA)=10$ [m] $\rightarrow$ 4 [m], while $\lambda(DA)\sim \lambda(S)=0.2$ [m] $\rightarrow$ 0.03 [m] as $T=20$ MeV $\rightarrow$ 60 MeV. In Table IV, the reduced matrix elements for KA, DA, and S [Eqs. (37), (64), and (56), respectively] for several temperatures $T$ and $\rho_B=0.72$ fm$^{-3}$ in the degenerate neutrino case are listed. The matrix element for KA is smaller than those for S and DA by one or two orders of magnitude, which stems from both effects of the Cabibbo-suppression and the different $\theta$-dependence of the matrix element for KA as compared with S and DA, just as was seen in the nondegenerate neutrino case. This difference in the matrix elements mainly causes the difference of the mean free paths.

Next we compare the mean free path for KA with that for nondegenerate neutrinos [see Figs. 2 (b) and 4]. For the incoming neutrino energy $E_{\nu}$ being far below the chemical potential of neutrino (i.e., $E_{\nu} \ll \mu_{\nu} = \mu_e - \mu_K < \mu_e \sim 350$ MeV), the difference of energy or momentum between the incoming and outgoing degenerate leptons is large in the degenerate neutrino case. This large difference leads to kinematical restriction of the allowable phase space for KA. Thus the mean free paths for KA for degenerate neutrinos are much larger than those for nondegenerate neutrinos at given $E_{\nu}$ and $T$. The significant reduction of the reaction rate for KA is also seen from the exponentially damping factor.
exp(\tilde{\mu}_\nu) in the analytic expression Eq. (65) of the mean free path for KA in the degenerate neutrino case. For a large $E_\nu(\sim \mu_\nu)$, the mean free paths for KA for both degenerate and nondegenerate neutrinos are the same order of magnitude.

Also for the S process, the allowable phase space is much restricted for the incoming neutrino energy $E_\nu \ll \mu_\nu$, because the outgoing neutrino is degenerate with $\mu_\nu \sim 300$ MeV. Thus the mean free paths for S for degenerate neutrinos with $E_\nu \ll \mu_\nu$ are much larger than those for nondegenerate neutrinos at given $E_\nu$ and $T$, while for a large $E_\nu(\sim \mu_\nu)$, the mean free paths for S for both degenerate and nondegenerate neutrinos are the same order of magnitude.

V. COOLING TIME SCALE BY NEUTRINO DIFFUSION

We estimate a cooling time scale in the nondegenerate neutrino case driven by neutrino diffusion taking into account both the KA and S processes. We take a simple neutron star model having a kaon-condensed core with uniform density $\rho_B$, temperature $T$ and a radius $r$. The cooling time scale for neutrino diffusion is roughly estimated from Eq. (2) as

$$\tau = (\lambda^R)^{-1} r^2 C_V \sigma_{SB}^{-1} T^{-3},$$

(66)

where the Rosseland mean free path $\lambda^R$ is given by

$$\lambda^R = \frac{\int dE_\nu E_\nu^3 \left[ \lambda(KA)^{-1} (1 + e^{-E_\nu/T}) + \lambda(S)^{-1} \right]^{-1} \frac{\eta}{\pi} (1 + e^{E_\nu/T})^{-1} \, dE_\nu}{\int dE_\nu E_\nu^3 \, d(1 + e^{E_\nu/T})^{-1}}. \quad \text{(67)}$$

For simplicity, the free Fermi gas model is used for estimation of $C_V$. The time scale $\tau$ is listed in Table V for $\rho_B=0.57$ fm$^{-3}$ and $r=5$ km. One has several tens of second for $\tau$ for $T=10-40$ MeV. As is discussed in Sec. III C 2, the main contribution to the opacities comes from the S process, and the KA process is negligible. If we take into account nuclear correlation effects on the opacities which have been recently considered by several authors [20,26,38–40], the inverse of the Rosseland mean opacity would become large and thus
the cooling time $\tau$ would be reduced as compared with those without nuclear correlation effects.

VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

On the basis of chiral symmetry, we have obtained the neutrino mean free paths relevant to protoneutron stars with kaon condensates in both nondegenerate and degenerate neutrino cases. The matrix elements have been obtained by the use of current algebra, and mean free paths have been numerically calculated with the help of the parameters consistently obtained with the kaon-condensed EOS at finite temperatures. The mean free path for the kaon-induced neutrino absorption process (KA) has been compared with that for the neutrino-nucleon scattering process (S) and the direct neutrino absorption process (DA). It has been shown that the mean free path for KA is longer than those for S and DA by roughly one or two orders of magnitude at fixed temperature, density and neutrino energy in both nondegenerate and degenerate neutrino cases. Thus it is concluded that KA is not important as compared with DA and S for dynamical and thermal evolution of protoneutron stars in both the deleptonization stage where neutrinos are degenerate and the initial cooling stage where neutrinos are nondegenerate.

Recently, it has been suggested that coherent scattering off a droplet with kaon condensates in a mixed phase may have a dominant contribution to the neutrino opacity [41]. This process can occur in the presence of droplets as a result of a first order phase transition [42]. However, it has also been shown that stability of a mixed phase largely depends on charge screening and surface effects so that these effects should be carefully taken into account for the discussion of the presence of the mixed phase [43–47].

For future work, the neutrino opacities can be applied to a dynamical simulation of a delayed collapse scenario of a protoneutron star accompanying a phase transition to a kaon-condensed phase with consistently taking into account modification of the EOS during the deleptonization and subsequent initial cooling era.
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APPENDIX A: PHASE SPACE INTEGRALS FOR KA

The phase space integral \( I^{(N)}(KA) \) for KA in Eq. (38) is given by

\[
I^{(N)}(KA) = \int_0^\infty |p_N|^2 dp_N \int_0^\infty |p_e|^2 dp_e \int_0^\infty |p_N'|^2 dp_N' S_\alpha \delta(E_e + E_N' - E_N - \mu_K) \cdot A
\]

with \( A \) being the angular integral:

\[
A = \int d\Omega_N \int d\Omega_e \int d\Omega_N' \delta^{(3)}(p_e + p_N' - p_N - p_e')
= \frac{32\pi}{|p_e||p_N||p_e'||p_N'|} \int_0^\infty \frac{\sin(|p_e||x|) \sin(|p_N||x|) \sin(|p_e|x) \sin(|p_N'|x)}{x^2} dx
= F_a(|p_e|, |p_N|, |p_e'|, |p_N'|) / (|p_e||p_N||p_e'||p_N'|),
\]

(A2)

The function \( F_a \) may be written as

\[
F_a(|p_e|, |p_N|, |p_e'|, |p_N'|) = -16\pi (F_1 - F_2)
\]

with

\[
F_1 \equiv \begin{cases} 
\pi \min(|p_e|, |p_N|) & \text{for } 0 < |p_e| + |p_N'| < |p_e| - |p_N| \\
\pi(|p_e| + |p_N| - |p_e' - p_N'|)/4 & \text{for } |p_e| - |p_N| < |p_e| + |p_e' - p_N'| < |p_e| + |p_N| \\
0 & \text{for } |p_e| + |p_N| < |p_e| + |p_e' - p_N'| 
\end{cases}
\]

(A3)

and

\[
F_2 \equiv \begin{cases} 
\pi \min(|p_e|, |p_N|) & \text{for } 0 < |p_e| - |p_N'| < |p_e| - |p_N| \\
\pi(|p_e| + |p_N| - |p_e - p_N'|)/4 & \text{for } |p_e| - |p_N| < |p_e| - |p_e - p_N'| < |p_e| + |p_N| \\
0 & \text{for } |p_e| + |p_N| < |p_e| - |p_N'| 
\end{cases}
\]

(A4)

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T. Tatsumi, M. Yasuhira and D. N. Voskresensky, Proc. of 7th Int. Sympo. of “Nuclei in the Cosmos”, Nucl. Phys. A, in press (nucl-th/0209091).
| $\rho_B$ (fm$^{-3}$) | $T$ (MeV) | $\theta$ (rad) | $\mu_p^0$ (MeV) | $\mu_n^0$ (MeV) | $\mu_K$ (MeV) | $\mu_e$ (MeV) |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0.57            | 10        | 0.67           | 62             | 105            | 164           | 164           |
|                 | 20        | 0.64           | 58             | 102            | 163           | 163           |
|                 | 40        | 0.58           | 39             | 89             | 158           | 158           |
|                 | 60        | 0.37           | 7              | 69             | 157           | 157           |
| 0.72            | 10        | 1.16           | 101            | 98             | 45            | 45            |
|                 | 20        | 1.15           | 98             | 95             | 44            | 44            |
|                 | 40        | 1.13           | 86             | 83             | 42            | 42            |
|                 | 60        | 1.08           | 63             | 63             | 46            | 46            |

**TABLE I.** Physical parameters for the EOS with kaon condensates for several temperatures $T$ and baryon number densities $\rho_B$ without trapped neutrinos (the electron lepton fraction $Y_{e} = 0$)[15].

| $\rho_B$ (fm$^{-3}$) | $T$ (MeV) | $H_{\mu\nu}^{(p)}$ (KA) $L_{\mu\nu}$ | $H_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}$ (KA) $L_{\mu\nu}$ | $H_{\mu\nu}^{(p)}$ (S) $L_{Z_{\mu\nu}}$ | $H_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}$ (S) $L_{Z_{\mu\nu}}$ |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0.57            | 20        | 0.13                            | 0.029                           | 4.1                             | 5.4                             |
|                 | 40        | 0.11                            | 0.024                           | 4.2                             | 5.5                             |
|                 | 60        | 0.048                           | 0.011                           | 4.5                             | 5.6                             |
| 0.72            | 20        | 0.30                            | 0.067                           | 2.9                             | 5.0                             |
|                 | 40        | 0.29                            | 0.065                           | 3.0                             | 5.0                             |
|                 | 60        | 0.28                            | 0.062                           | 3.1                             | 5.0                             |

**TABLE II.** The reduced squared matrix elements for KA and S for several temperatures $T$ and baryon number densities $\rho_B$ for nondegenerate neutrinos.
### TABLE III. Physical parameters for the EOS with kaon condensates for several temperatures $T$ and $\rho_B=0.72$ fm$^{-3}$ in the neutrino-trapping case ($Y_{le} = 0.4$)\cite{15}.

| $T$ (MeV) | $\theta$ (rad) | $\mu_p^0$ (MeV) | $\mu_n^0$ (MeV) | $\mu_K$ (MeV) | $\mu_e$ (MeV) | $\mu_\nu$ (MeV) |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 20        | 0.60           | 92              | 102             | 48             | 364            | 315             |
| 40        | 0.53           | 78              | 91              | 52             | 353            | 301             |
| 60        | 0.42           | 55              | 71              | 51             | 334            | 283             |

### TABLE IV. The reduced squared matrix elements for KA, DA, and S for several temperatures $T$ and $\rho_B=0.72$ fm$^{-3}$ in a degenerate neutrino case ($\mu_\nu > 0$).

| $T$ (MeV) | $H_{\mu\nu}^{(p)}(KA)L_{\mu\nu}$ | $H_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(KA)L_{\mu\nu}$ | $H_{\mu\nu}(DA)L_{\mu\nu}$ | $H_{\mu\nu}^{(p)}(S)L_Z^{\mu\nu}$ | $H_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(S)L_Z^{\mu\nu}$ |
|-----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 20        | 0.11                             | 0.026                            | 20                            | 4.1                              | 5.5                              |
| 40        | 0.090                            | 0.020                            | 20                            | 4.3                              | 5.5                              |
| 60        | 0.060                            | 0.013                            | 21                            | 4.4                              | 5.6                              |

### TABLE V. The Rosseland mean free paths $\lambda_R$ [Eq. (67)] and the initial cooling time scales $\tau$ by neutrino diffusion [Eq. (66)] estimated at several temperatures $T$ for a simplified neutron star model.

| $T$ (MeV) | $\lambda_R$ (m) | $\tau$ (sec) |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| 10        | 2.5             | 33           |
| 40        | 0.07            | 70           |
FIG. 1. (a) The mean free paths $\lambda(KA)$ for $KA$ as functions of the neutrino energy $E_{\nu}$ for several temperatures ($T=10, 20, 40, 60$ MeV) and the baryon number density $\rho_B = 0.57$ fm$^{-3}$ in the nondegenerate neutrino case. The solid lines denote the results with numerical integration for the phase space integral $I^{(N)}(KA)$ [ Eq. (39) ] , while the dashed lines denote the results with the analytic formulae Eq. (41) in the low-temperature approximation. (b) The same as Fig. 1 (a) but for the baryon number density $\rho_B = 0.72$ fm$^{-3}$ .
FIG. 2. (a) The mean free paths $\lambda$(KA) (solid lines) and $\lambda$(S) (dashed lines) as functions of the neutrino energy $E_\nu$ for several temperatures ($T=10, 20, 40, 60$ MeV) and the baryon number density $\rho_B=0.57$ fm$^{-3}$ for the nondegenerate neutrinos. (b) The same as Fig. 2 (a) but for the baryon number density $\rho_B=0.72$ fm$^{-3}$.

FIG. 3. The mean free paths for KA (solid lines) and S (dashed lines) as functions of density $\rho_B$ at temperatures $T=20, 40, 60$ MeV for nondegenerate neutrinos. The neutrino energy $E_\nu$ is set to be the thermally averaged value ($E_\nu \simeq 3.15T$). The arrows denote the critical densities for kaon condensation at temperatures $T=20, 40, 60$ MeV.
\[ Y_{\text{Le}} = 0.4 \quad \rho_B = 0.72 \text{ fm}^{-3} \]

FIG. 4. The mean free paths for KA (solid lines), DA (dash-dotted lines) and for S (dashed lines) as functions of the neutrino energy \( E_\nu \) for \( \rho_B = 0.72 \text{ fm}^{-3} \), the lepton fraction \( Y_{\text{le}} = 0.4 \), and \( T = 20, 40, 60 \text{ MeV} \) for degenerate neutrinos.