Supernova neutrino signals by liquid Argon detector and neutrino magnetic moment

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Abstract

We study $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ signals from a supernova with strong magnetic field detected by a 100 kton liquid Ar detector. The change of neutrino flavors by resonant spin-flavor conversions, matter effects, and neutrino self-interactions are taken into account. Different neutrino signals, characterized by the total event numbers of $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ and neutronization burst event, are expected with different neutrino oscillation parameters and neutrino magnetic moment. Observations of supernova neutrino signals by a 100 kton liquid Ar detector would constrain oscillation parameters as well as neutrino magnetic moment in either normal and inverted mass hierarchies.

1. Introduction

Identification of very large neutrino magnetic moment ($\mu_\nu \gg 10^{-18} \mu_B$, where $\mu_B$ is Bohr magneton) is one of important traces of particle physics beyond the standard model. Neutrino experiments have constrained the upper limit of the neutrino magnetic moment as $\mu_\nu < 5.8 \times 10^{-11} \mu_B$ [1]. If neutrinos are Majorana particles and they have magnetic moment, they have only transition magnetic moment. The magnetic moment enables a spin precession between a left-handed neutrino $\nu_L$ and a right-handed antineutrino $\bar{\nu}_R$ with different flavors in a strong magnetic field (e.g., [2]). This is the resonant spin-flavor (RSF) conversion.

Supernova (SN) neutrino is a good indicator observing the effects of neutrino magnetic moment. The magnetic field of Fe core of a presupernova is expected to attain $10^{19}$ gauss [3]. Proton-neutron stars should have stronger magnetic field since observations of pulsars have magnetic field of $\sim 10^{12}$ gauss. If neutrinos are Majorana particles and have large transition magnetic moment ($\mu_\nu \gg 10^{-12} \mu_B$), the RSF conversion is expected to occur in innermost region of SN ejecta (e.g., [4–7]). The final neutrino spectra also have influences of Mikheyev–Smirnov–Wolfenstein (MSW) effects (e.g., [8]) and neutrino self-interactions (e.g., [9]). The influence of the RSF conversion, which will be observed in water-Cherenkov detector, on SN $\nu_e$ signal has been predicted [4–6,10]. The observations of $\bar{\nu}_e$ signals are expected to reveal the effects of the RSF conversions in inverted mass hierarchy.

A liquid Ar detector distinguishes $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ events by charged-current (CC) reactions, events by neutral-current (NC) reactions and electron scattering of all flavors of neutrinos and antineutrinos. Especially, many events of $\bar{\nu}_e$ will be observed owing to large cross section of $^{40}\text{Ar}(\nu_e, e^-)$ reaction. Previous studies have estimated the SN neutrino events by liquid Ar detector taking into account the MSW effects [11,12] and neutrino self-interactions [13]. ICARUS experiment (e.g., [14]) is proposed as the usage of a 3 kton liquid Ar detector. The experiment with the 600 ton detector T600 started at the underground laboratory in Gran Sasso [15]. In Long-Baseline Neutrino Experiment Project it is proposed to construct three 17 kton liquid Ar detectors at DUSEL [16]. Development of a very large liquid Ar detector with 100 kton is expected.

We investigate possible SN neutrino signals observed by a 100 kton liquid Ar detector taking into account the RSF conversions, MSW effects, and neutrino self-interactions. We evaluate the
SN neutrino events for $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ by the CC reactions and all flavors of neutrinos and antineutrinos by the NC reactions. In this Letter, we report for the first time the possibility that the effects of the RSF conversions and large neutrino magnetic moment are extracted from SN signals in both normal and inverted mass hierarchies.

2. Model

2.1. SN neutrino model

We used a SN model adopted in [10,17]. The SN progenitor is evolved from a 15 $M_{\odot}$ star [18]. We used the SN density profiles at 0, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 s after the core bounce [17] to see the shock effect of the RSF conversions and the MSW effects. When the RSF conversions are taken into account, the SN magnetic field transverse to the neutrino propagation at the radius $r$ was assumed to be $B(r) = 10^{11} (8 \text{ cm}/r)^2$ gauss [4,10]. The electron fraction in the innermost hot-bubble and wind region where the mass coordinate is smaller than 1.43 $M_{\odot}$ was assumed to be $Y_e = 0.49$. The electron fraction of the outer region was assumed to be the same as that of the progenitor model. We assumed that the SN magnetic field and the electron fraction do not change after the shock arrival. We should note that the magnetic field and the electron fraction after the shock propagation are still uncertain. They would change complicatedly. The distance from the SN was set to be 10 kpc.

We assumed the time evolution of the neutrinos emitted from the neutrino sphere as follows. The neutrino flux decreases exponentially with the time scale of $\tau_{\nu} = 3$ s. The total neutrino energy is set to be $3 \times 10^{53}$ ergs, corresponding to the binding energy of a 1.4 $M_{\odot}$ neutron star (e.g., [10]). The neutrino energy is equipartitioned to each flavor of neutrinos. We considered two spectral types of the neutrino energy spectra, which obey Fermi distributions. The neutrino temperatures in Spectral Type 1 were set to be ($T_{\nu_e}, T_{\nu_\mu}, T_{\nu_\tau}$) = (3.2 MeV, 5 MeV, 6 MeV), where $T_{\nu_e}, T_{\nu_\mu}$, and $T_{\nu_\tau}$ mean the temperatures of $\nu_e$, $\nu_\mu$, and $\nu_\tau$, respectively [10,19]. The neutrino chemical potential of each flavor was set to be zero. In Spectral Type 2, the temperatures and chemical potentials of the neutrinos were set as ($T_{\nu_e}, T_{\nu_\mu}, T_{\nu_\tau}$) = (3.5 MeV, 4 MeV, 7 MeV) and ($\mu_{\nu_e}, \mu_{\nu_\mu}, \mu_{\nu_\tau}$) = (7.4 MeV, 10 MeV, 0 MeV). This set corresponds to the neutrino spectra of the Livermore model [17,20].

In the case of inverted mass hierarchy, neutrino self-interactions change neutrino-flavors in the innermost region inside RSF-H resonance. We considered the flavor conversion by neutrino interactions in inverted mass hierarchy. The energy splitting in neutrino spectra was taken into account in accordance with [21]. Electron neutrinos above the critical energy $E_{\nu}$ are converted from $\nu_{\mu,\tau}$. In the case of antineutrinos, $\bar{\nu}_e$ is converted from $\bar{\nu}_{\mu,\tau}$ approximately in all energy range. The critical energy $E_{\nu}$ is 8.16 MeV and 7.55 MeV for Spectral Types 1 and 2, respectively.

We set the neutrino oscillation parameters in accordance with the observational constraints [22–24]. The squared mass differences $\Delta m^2_{ij} = m^2_i - m^2_j$ were set to be $\Delta m^2_{21} = 7.6 \times 10^{-5}$ $\text{eV}^2$ and $|\Delta m^2_{31}| = 2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ $\text{eV}^2$. The mixing angles $\theta_{12}$ and $\theta_{13}$ were set to be $\sin^2 2\theta_{12} = 0.87$ and $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 1$. The mixing angle $\theta_{23}$ was set to be $\sin^2 2\theta_{23} = 0.04$ as a large value corresponding to an adiabatic MSW-H resonance and $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 10^{-6}$ as a small value corresponding to a non-adiabatic MSW-H resonance. Mass hierarchy was also considered as a parameter. When the RSF conversion was taken into account, the strength of the neutrino transition magnetic moment was set to be $10^{-12} \mu_B$. We numerically solved the neutrino flavor change in accordance with [10].

2.2. Neutrino detection

We considered the neutrino detection by a liquid Ar detector. The fiducial volume of the liquid Ar detector was assumed to be 100 kton. This is about 30 times larger than the volume of ICARUS liquid Ar detector. The detection efficiency of electrons and positrons is assumed to be unity when the energy of electrons and positrons is larger than $E_{th} = 5 \text{ MeV}$ and otherwise zero. The energy resolution was taken as $\Delta(E) = 0.11 \sqrt{E_{\nu}(\text{MeV})} + 0.025E_{\nu} \text{ MeV}$ [14]. In this study, we evaluated the total event numbers of the CC reactions $^{40}\text{Ar}(\nu_e, e^-)$, $^{40}\text{Ar}(\bar{\nu}_e, e^+)$, and the NC reactions $^{40}\text{Ar}(\nu, v^\pm)$. The rates of the neutrino events and electron and positron energy spectra of them were evaluated using the same procedure described in [10]. The cross sections of the neutrino reactions with $^{40}\text{Ar}$ were taken from [11].

3. Results

Flavor changes by the RSF conversions and the MSW effects are very complicated. The neutrino flavors are converted in accordance
The final neutrino flux of \( v_\nu \) [\( \phi_{v_\nu} \text{ (fin)} \)] and \( \bar{v}_\nu \) [\( \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} \text{ (fin)} \)] with the relation of the original flux neutrino flux \( v_\nu \) [\( \phi_{v_\nu} \text{ (init)} \)]. The neutrino flux \( \phi_{v_\nu} \) means the original flux of \( v_\nu, v_\tau \), \( \bar{v}_\nu, \bar{v}_\tau \). The first column is model of neutrino oscillation parameters: the adiabaticity of the RSF-H resonance (R or M), the adiabaticity of the MSW-H resonance (A or N), and the mass hierarchy (N or I). For example, RAN means adiabatic RSF-H resonance, adiabatic MSW-H resonance, and the normal mass hierarchy. In inverted mass hierarchy, the \( \nu_\mu \) flux above the critical energy \( E_C \) is written. See text for details.

| Model | \( \phi_{v_\nu} \text{ (init)} \) | Pattern | \( \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} \text{ (fin)} \) | Pattern |
|-------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| RAN   | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} \) | d       | \( \phi_{v_\nu} \) | d       |
| RAI   | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} + \phi_{\nu_\tau} / 2 \) | a       | \( (1 + \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu}) / 2 \) | a       |
| RNN   | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} \) | c       | \( \phi_{v_\nu} \) | d       |
| RNI   | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} + \phi_{\nu_\tau} / 2 \) | a       | \( (1 + \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu}) / 2 \) | c       |
| MAN   | \( \phi_{v_\nu} \) | e       | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} \) | a       |
| MAI   | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + (1 + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\nu_\tau}) / 2 \) | b       | \( (\phi_{v_\nu} + \phi_{\nu_\tau}) / 2 \) | b       |
| MNN   | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} \) | c       | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} \) | a       |
| MINI  | \( \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + (1 + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\nu_\tau}) / 2 \) | b       | \( (1 + \cos^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{v_\nu} + \sin^2 \theta_{13} \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu}) / 2 \) | c       |

with schematic diagram of effective masses of neutrinos and antineutrinos in Fig. 1 (see also [6,7]). This figure also indicates the locations of three RSF resonances, i.e., RSF-H, RSF-X, and RSF-L (e.g., [7,10]) and two MSW resonances, i.e., MSW-H and MSW-L (e.g., [8]). The adiabaticities of these resonances depend on the electron-number density gradient, neutrino energy, the mixing angles, the mass difference, and the stellar magnetic field (e.g., [4,7,8]).

We evaluated the final flux of \( v_\nu \) and \( \bar{v}_\nu \) as a function of the initial neutrino flux. The relation of the final flux of \( v_\nu \) and \( \bar{v}_\nu \) to the initial neutrino flux is listed in Table 1. Here we assumed that \( |U_{e1}|^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{12}, \ |U_{e2}|^2 = \sin^2 \theta_{12}, \ |U_{e3}|^2 = 0 \), respectively, for simplicity. We also assumed that the resonances of RSF-X and RSF-L are non-adiabatic and the MSW-L resonance is adiabatic. We note in inverted mass hierarchy that the neutrino flux above the critical energy \( E_C \) is converted as \( (\phi_{v_\nu} + \phi_{\nu_\tau}) / 2, (\phi_{v_\nu} + \phi_{\bar{v}_\nu}) / 2 \) and \( \phi_{\nu_\tau} \). The antineutrino flux is converted as \( (\phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} + \phi_{\bar{v}_\tau}) / 2, (\phi_{\bar{v}_\nu} + \phi_{v_\bar{\nu}}) / 2 \) by neutrino self-interactions before the RSF conversions.

In Table 1, there are eight models of neutrino oscillation parameters: the adiabaticities of the RSF-H and MSW-H resonances and the mass hierarchies. We denote these models as three characters. The first character means the adiabaticity of the RSF-H resonance; “R” means the RSF-H is adiabatic, i.e., the RSF conversion is effective, and “M” means that the RSF-H resonance is non-adiabatic thus the RSF conversion does not work. The second character means the adiabaticity of the MSW-H resonance: “A” means adiabatic and “N” means non-adiabatic. The third character means the mass hierarchy: “N” and “I” correspond to “normal” and “inverted” mass hierarchies, respectively.

Generally, the temperatures of SN neutrinos indicate the relation of the four models are different from the corresponding ratios with the mass hierarchies. We denote these models as three characters.
shock effect is not taken into account, the numerical result is consistent with the theoretical estimation. For example, the event ratio for $\bar{\nu}_e$ increases with [pattern a] $N_{\bar{\nu}_e}(\text{RAI}) < \text{pattern b} \ N_{\bar{\nu}_e}(\text{MAN})$, and [pattern c] $N_{\bar{\nu}_e}(\text{RNN}), N_{\bar{\nu}_e}(\text{MNN}) < \text{pattern d} \ N_{\bar{\nu}_e}(\text{RAN}) < \text{pattern e} \ N_{\bar{\nu}_e}(\text{MAN})$.

When the RSF conversions are effective, the event ratios with shock effect are different from those without shock effect. On the other hand, the ratios with ineffective RSF conversion cases hardly depend on the shock effect. This is because the time when the shock arrives at the MSW-H resonance is later than the shock arrival time to the RSF-H resonance and most of neutrinos have passed until the shock arrival at the MSW-H resonance. If we obtain large difference between the event ratios for $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ with the shock effect and those without the shock effect, we can discuss the possibility of the RSF conversions.

Neutrization burst is another special neutrino signal appearing at the core bounce. The spectra of the neutronization burst are quite different from the total neutrino signal and the main component of the neutronization burst is $\nu_e$. The neutrinos in the neutronization burst are scarcely affected by neutrino self-interactions. Most of the released neutrinos are $\nu_e$ in neutronization burst, so that the interaction of $\nu_e$ and other flavor of neutrinos and antineutrinos is quite small. The neutrino signal depends on neutrino oscillation parameters. The effects of RSF conversions and the MSW effects on $\nu_e$ have been investigated in [4,6]. We investigate both $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ signals in the neutronization burst. Fig. 2 shows three patterns of the detection of the neutronization burst. Table 3 indicates the final flux of $\nu_e$ [$\phi_{\nu_e} (\text{fin})$] and $\bar{\nu}_e$ [$\phi_{\bar{\nu}_e} (\text{fin})$] in the neutronization burst. The first column is model of neutrino oscillation parameters as described in Table 1.

| Model | $\phi_{\nu_e} (\text{fin})$ | $\phi_{\bar{\nu}_e} (\text{fin})$ | Pattern |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| RAN   | 0               | 0               | A      |
| RAI   | $\cos^2 \theta_{12} \phi_{\nu_e}$ | 0               | B      |
| RNN   | $\sin^2 \theta_{12} \phi_{\nu_e}$ | 0               | B      |
| MAN   | 0               | 0               | A      |
| MAI   | $\sin^2 \theta_{12} \phi_{\nu_e}$ | 0               | B      |
| MNN   | $\sin^2 \theta_{12} \phi_{\nu_e}$ | 0               | B      |
| MNI   | $\sin^2 \theta_{12} \phi_{\nu_e}$ | 0               | B      |

NC reactions will indicate different signals by different oscillation parameters for most cases. The shock effect in the total CC events of $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ will clarify whether the RSF conversions are effective or not. This suggests the upper limit of the product of neutrino magnetic moment and the SN magnetic field. The detection of neutronization burst signal by $\bar{\nu}_e$ or $\nu_e$ detector or no detection gives additional constraint to the oscillation parameters.

Even if the initial neutrino spectra are expected less precisely, we would constrain some oscillation parameters and neutrino magnetic moment. Large and small $\nu_e$ events with large $\nu_e$ events and no detection of neutronization burst should be the evidence for models RAN and MAN, respectively. Small $\nu_e$ event, large $\bar{\nu}_e$ event, and no detection of neutronization burst will indicate the evidence for model RNI. As first discussed in [6], the detection of neutronization burst in $\bar{\nu}_e$ signal is a strong evidence for model RAI. Small $\bar{\nu}_e$ event will confirm this evidence. Small $\bar{\nu}_e$ event with the detection of the neutronization burst in $\bar{\nu}_e$ signal will exclude the possibility of large neutrino magnetic moment enough to bring about the RSF conversions.

We have shown that the shock effect appears in the event number ratios of $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ signals when the RSF conversions are effective. However, if a SN explodes jet-like, different time dependence will be seen by the adiabaticity change of the MSW-H resonance [25]. Magneto-hydrodynamatic simulations of SNe indicated that magnetically-driven jet explosion is induced by strong toroidal magnetic field [26]. Under such explosions the points and adiabaticities of the RSF and MSW resonances would be quite different from those in spherical explosions. Thus, the investigation of the neutrino signal from magnetically-driven SNe taking into account the RSF conversion is fascinating. Analyses with optical observations...
of SNe [27] help distinguishing the effects by the RSF conversions and jet-like explosion of the SN.

4. Conclusions

We have investigated traces of large neutrino magnetic moment, the RSF conversions, in SN neutrino signals observed by a 100 kton liquid Ar detector. We predict that different signals will be observed in the event number ratios of the CC $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ reactions to the NC reactions with different oscillation parameters in both normal and inverted mass hierarchies. Large shock effect will be found in the total event number ratios when the RSF conversions are effective. Combined with the signals of the neutronization burst, the $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ signals would constrain neutrino oscillation parameters and the neutrino magnetic moment. The observations of both $\nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ will open the possibility for constraining neutrino oscillation parameters as well as neutrino magnetic moment.

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