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The Diffuse Supernova Neutrino Background in Super-Kamiokande

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Neutrinos have played a key role in astrophysics, from the characterization of nuclear fusion processes in the Sun to the observation of supernova SN1987A and multiple extragalactic events. The Super-Kamiokande experiment has played a major part in past in these astrophysical studies by investigating low energy $O(10)$ MeV neutrinos and currently exhibits the best sensitivity to the diffuse neutrino background from distant supernovae. Discovering and characterizing this signal however presents significant challenges due to important backgrounds from cosmic muon spallation and atmospheric neutrinos. Reducing these backgrounds will require implementing state-of-the-art neutron tagging algorithms to discriminate between different types of interactions, as well as a thorough characterization of spallation-inducing mechanisms. Here, I present an overview of the search for the DSNB in Super-Kamiokande, and discuss how the current strategies will evolve after the SuperK-Gd upgrade.

Collaboration name

Super-Kamiokande

Primary author: GIAMPAOLO, Alberto (LLR - Ecole Polytechnique)

Presenter: GIAMPAOLO, Alberto (LLR - Ecole Polytechnique)

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