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Induced neutrino charge in a magnetized medium

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In standard model of electroweak interaction, neutrino charge in vacuum vanishes and this follows from the requirement of anomaly cancelation ($SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$).

In a thermal medium in presence of an external electro-magnetic field, neutrino can interact with photon, mediated by the corresponding charged leptons (real or virtual). Thus it acquires an effective charge. In this theory, this comes from the vector type and axial vector type vertex of

weak interaction. In absence of magnetic field only the vector type vertex contributes [1]. On the other hand in a magnetized plasma, the axial vector part also start contributing to the effective charge of neutrino. This contribution is dominant to order $\frac{eB}{m_e^2}$ for $eB < m_e^2$,

when B is the magnetic field. The size of the contribution is: $e_{eff}^{\nu_a} \sim -(3.036 \times 10^{-12}) \left[g_A e \left(\frac{B}{B_c} \right) \frac{1}{\pi^{3/2}} \right] \left(\sqrt{\frac{m_e}{T}} \right) e^{-m_e/T} \cosh(\mu/T) (1 - \lambda) \cos \theta$.

In this equation, for electron neutrinos, $g_A = (-1 + 1/2)$ and for mu and tau neutrinos

$g_A = (1 - 1/2)$, $B_c \sim \frac{m_e^2}{e}$, m_e is the electron mass, e is electron charge, T is temperature, μ is the chemical potential, λ happens to be the helicity of the (Dirac type) neutrino and θ is the angle between the neutrino momentum and the magnetic field.

In an earlier paper we had obtained this result [2].

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In this paper we estimate the contribution

to neutrino effective charge from the vector type (coupling constant g_V) vertex $e_{eff}^{\nu_V}$ coming from the polarization tensor $\Pi_{\mu\nu}$ in a magnetized medium. For electron type neutrinos $g_V = 1 - (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W)/2$, and for tau and mu type neutrino $g_V = -(1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W)/2$.

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We note that keeping PCT symmetry in view, the leading powers of B and μ that appears in the expression of $e_{eff}^{\nu_V}$ is of order $(eB)^2$ and μ^2 . We further elucidate on the direction dependence of this charge that is a manifestation of loss of isotropy due to the presence of an external field. The expression of the induced charge from the vector type vertex happen to be:

$$\begin{aligned} e_{eff}^{\nu_V} &= \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} g_V \left(\frac{e^2}{m_e^2} \right) \left(1.68 \pi^{\frac{3}{2}} \right) e^{-\frac{\sqrt{m_e}}{T}} \cos(\theta) \\ & \left(1 - \frac{\lambda k}{\omega} \right) \left(\frac{T}{m_e} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \left(\frac{m_e}{T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \left(\frac{eB}{m_e^2} \right)^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

In the ultra-relativistic limit the neutrinos with $\lambda = -1$ acquire the charge, the other helicity state remains charge neutral. We conclude this work by inferring on astrophysical and cosmological consequences of the same.

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Session

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Authors: Mr CHAUBEY, Ankur (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India); Dr GANGULY, Avijit K. (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India); Ms SINGH, Damini (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India); Mr JAISWAL, Rajeev Ratn (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India); Prof. SINGH, Venktesh (Department of Physics, Central University of South Bihar, Gaya-824246, Bihar, INDIA)

Presenter: Mr CHAUBEY, Ankur (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India)

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