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Tau Tridents at Accelerator Neutrino Facilities

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We present the first detailed study of Standard Model neutrino tridents involving tau leptons at the near detectors of accelerator neutrino facilities. These processes were previously thought to be negligible, even at future facilities like DUNE, based on approximations that underestimated the tau trident cross sections. Our full $2 \to 4$ calculation, including both coherent and incoherent scatterings, reveals that the DUNE near detector will get a non-negligible number of tau tridents, which is an important background to new physics searches. We identify promising kinematic features that may allow the distinction of tau tridents from the usual neutrino charged-current background at DUNE and thus could establish the observation of tau tridents for the first time. We also comment on the detection prospects at other accelerator and collider neutrino experiments.

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