Strangeness in Astrophysics

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Strangeness in Neutron Stars and Mergers



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What is a Neutron Star?





- produced in core collapse supernova explosions, usually observed as pulsars
- usually refer to compact objects with M≈1-2 M_☉ and R≈10-12 Km



- magnetic field : $B \sim 10^{8..16} G$
- temperature: T ~ 10 6...11 K
- observations: masses, radius, gravitational waves, cooling...





credit: P. Freire



Cooling



..also GW190425, GW190814

The Structure of Neutron Stars: The Inner Core



Figure 1: Schematic structure of a NS. The outer layer is a solid ionic crust supported by electron degeneracy pressure. Neutrons begin to leak out of nuclei at densities $\sim 4 \times 10^{11}$ g/cm³ (the neutron drip line, which separates inner and outer crust), where neutron degeneracy also starts to play a role. At densities $\sim 2 \times 10^{14}$ g/cm³, the crust-core boundary, nuclei dissolve completely. In the core, densities may reach up to ten times the nuclear saturation density $\rho_{sat} = 2.8 \times 10^{14}$ g/cm³ (the density in normal atomic nuclei).

The Inner Core



The Inner Core



Strange Baryons in the Inner Core

Watts et al. '16; Burgio and Fantina '18; Tolos and Fabbietti '20; Burgio, Schulze, Vidana and Wei '21



Nucleons and Leptons in the Inner Core

Neutrons, protons and electrons are in β-equilibrium

 $n \rightarrow p \ e^- \ \overline{\nu}_e$ $p \ e^- \rightarrow n \ \nu_e$

This equilibrium can be expressed in terms of the chemical potentials. Since the mean free path of the v_e is >> 10 Km, neutrinos freely escape

 $\mu_n = \mu_p + \mu_e$

Charge neutrality is also ensured by demanding

n_p= n_e

Note that baryon number is conserved too: $n = n_n + n_p$

Theoretical Approaches to nuclear EoS

The Equation of State (EoS) is a relation between thermodynamic variables describing the state of matter

Microscopic Ab-initio Approaches:

based on solving the many-body problem starting from two- and threebody interactions

- Variational method: APR, CBF,..
- Quantum Montecarlo: AFDMC..
- Coupled cluster expansion
- Diagrammatic: BBG (BHF), SCGF..
- Relativistic DBHF
- RG methods: SRG from *x*EFT..
- Lattice methods

Advantage: systematic addition of higher-order contributions Disadvantage: applicable up to? (SRG from $\chi EFT \sim 1-2 n_0$) Phenomenological Approaches: based on density-dependent interactions adjusted to nuclear observables and neutron star observations

- Non-relativistic EDF: Skyrme..
- Relativistic Mean-Field (RMF) and Relativistic Hartree-Fock (RHF)
- Liquid Drop Model: BPS, BBP,..
- Thomas-Fermi model: Shen
- Statistical Model: HWN,RG,HS..

Advantage: applicable to high densities beyond n₀ Disadvantage: not systematic

What about Hyperons?

A hyperon is a baryon containing one or more strange quarks

First proposed in 1960 by Ambartsumyan & Saakyan

Traditionally neutron stars were modeled by a uniform fluid of neutron rich matter in β -equilibrium $n \to p \ e^- \ \bar{\nu}_e$

but more exotic degrees of freedom might be expected, such as hyperons, due to:

- high value of density at the center and
- the rapid increase of the nucleon chemical potential with density

Hyperons might be present at $n \sim (2-3)n_0 \parallel \parallel$

Hyperon	Mass (MeV/c ²)
Λ	1115.57 ± 0.06
Σ^+	1189.37 ± 0.06
Σ^0	1192.55 ± 0.10
Σ^{-}	1197.50 ± 0.05
Ξ^0	1314.80 ± 0.8
Ξ^{-}	1321.34 ± 0.14
Ω^{-}	1672.43 ± 0.14

 $p \ e^- \rightarrow n \ \nu_e$

β-stable hyperonic matter

 μ_N is large enough to make N->Y favorable

$$\begin{array}{l} n+n \rightarrow n+\Lambda \\ p+e^{-} \rightarrow \Lambda + v_{e^{-}} \\ n+n \rightarrow p+\Sigma^{-} \\ n+e^{-} \rightarrow \Sigma^{-} + v_{e^{-}} \end{array}$$

$$\mu_i = b_i \mu_n - q_i \mu_e$$
$$\sum_i x_i q_i = 0$$





Chatterjee and Vidana '16 Vidana '18 **The Hyperon Puzzle**

The Hyperon Puzzle



Experimental information is increasing, but still less than desirable:

- data from several single Λ - and few Ξ - hypernuclei, and few $\Lambda\Lambda$ -hypernuclei
- few YN scattering data
 (~ 50 points) due to
 difficulties in preparing
 hyperon beams and no
 hyperon targets available
- YN data from femtoscopy

The presence of hyperons in neutron stars is energetically probable as density increases. However, it induces a strong softening of the EoS that leads to maximum neutron star masses < $2M_{\odot}$

Solution?

- ➢ stiffer YN and YY interactions
- hyperonic 3-body forces
- ➢ push of Y onset by ∆-isobars or meson condensates
- quark matter below Y onset
- dark matter, modified gravity theories...

Solutions to the Hyperon Puzzle

I. Stiffer YN and YY interactions

mainly explored in RMF models: coupling of ϕ to hyperons to shift the onset of hyperons to higher densities Bednarek et al '12; Weissenborn et al '12; Oerte et al '15; Maslov et al '15..

results still compatible with $\Delta B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$ (⁶He_{$\Lambda\Lambda$})

Fortin et al '17

II. Hyperonic 3-body forces

not yet a general consensus: for some models $2M_{\odot}$ are reached Taktasuka et al '02 '08; Yamamoto et al '13 '14; for others M_{max} is $1.6M_{\odot}$ Vidana et al '11; while Lonardoni et al '15 shows no a conclusive outcome due to the strong dependence on ΛNN ; recently, ΛNN from χ EFT gives enough repulsion to $2M_{\odot}$ Logoteta et al '19 (or ΛNN and $\Lambda \Lambda N$ Tong et al '24), whereas Λ are unfavoured in NS Gerstung et al '20

Weissenborn et al '12



Solutions to the Hyperon Puzzle

III. Push of Y onset by Δ -isobars or meson condensates

appearance of another degree of freedom that push Y onset to higher densities. It might (or not) reach $2M_{\odot}$

Δ

Drago et al '14 '15, Jie Li et al '19 ; Ribes et al '19... **K condensate** Kaplan et al' 86, Brown et al '94; Thorsson et al '94; Lee '96; Glendenning et al '98..

IV. Quark matter below Y onset

early transition to quark matter below Y onset, with quarks providing enough repulsion to reach $2M_{\odot}$ Weissenborn et al '11; Klaehn et al '13; Bonanno et al '12; Lastowiecki et al '12, Zdunik and Haensel '12...

V. Others: modified gravity, dark matter..



Strange Mesons in the Inner Core

Kaon condensation in neutron stars

Kaplan and Nelson '86 Brown and Bethe '94



K⁻ feels attraction in the medium → Kaon condensation in neutron stars?

$$n \leftrightarrow p \ e^- \ ar{
u}_e \ o \ \mu_n = \mu_p + \mu_{e^-}$$

$$n \leftrightarrow p K^- \longrightarrow \mu_n = \mu_p + \mu_{K^-}$$

Antikaons are bosons. If $\mu_{K} \leq \mu_{e}$ for $\rho \geq \rho_{c}$, with ρ_{c} being a feasible density within neutron stars, antikaons will condensate



Glendenning '85 Kaon condensation irrelevant as (anti)kaons have to lower their mass drastically

Kaplan and Nelson '86

Medium effects on (anti)kaons can be important: kaon condensation is possible!

Brown, Kubodera, Rho and Thorsson'92; Thorsson, Prakash and Lattimer '94; Fujii, Maruyama, Muto and Tatsumi '96; Li, Lee and Brown '97; Knorren, Prakash and Ellis '95; Schaffner and Mishustin '96; Glendenning and Schaffner-Bielich '98 '99

Renewed interest on antikaon-nucleon interaction



Knorren, Prakash and Ellis '95

Hyperonization on kaon condensation

Knorren, Prakash and Ellis '95

electron fraction decreases once hyperons appear, thus, the presence of hyperons increases the critical density for kaon condensation



Later on different groups have worked on **improved relativistic-mean field models** to include kaon condensation and to fulfill neutron star properties and to study proto-neutron stars, supernova or neutron star mergers



Using microscopic unitarized schemes...

The condition $\mu_{e_{-}} \ge m^*_{K_{-}}$ for a given ρ_c implies that m _{K-} - m^{*}_{K-} (ρ_c) ≈ 200, 300 MeV.

However, unitarized schemes based on meson-exchange models or chiral Lagrangians predict a moderate attraction in nuclear matter

Lutz '98 Ramos and Oset '00 Tolos, Polls, Ramos '01 Tolos, Ramos and Oset '06 Tolos, Cabrera and Ramos '08 Cabrera, Tolos, Aichelin and Bratkovskaya'14...

Kaon condensation seems very unlikely!





Neutron Star Mergers

Blacker, Kochankovski, Bauswein, Ramos and LT '24

14



Bauswein and Stergioulas '15

check the thermal behaviour!!!

f_{peak} using finite-temperature nucleonic and hyperonic EoSs

 $f_{peak}^{1.75}$ taking these EoSs at T=0 and assume a "nucleonic" thermal behaviour with $\Gamma_{th} = 1.75$

calculate $\Delta f \equiv f_{peak} - f_{peak}^{1.75}$

conclusion

hyperonic models lead to systematically higher frequencies by up to $\Delta f \sim 150$ Hz, being small but potentially sizeable

similar behaviour of hyperonic models with a tiny amount of hyperons (in blue) to nucleonic models





$\Delta f vs \overline{\Gamma}_{th}$ (average thermal index)

$$\Gamma(\rho_B, T) \equiv 1 + \frac{P_{\text{th}}}{\epsilon_{\text{th}}}$$

$$P_{\text{th}} = P(\rho_B, T) - P(\rho_B, T = 0)$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{th}} = \epsilon(\rho_B, T) - \epsilon(\rho_B, T = 0)$$

conclusions

- hyperons lead to a smaller thermal index compared to nucleons
- a frequency shift larger for hyperonic models
- $\overline{\Gamma}_{th} = 1.75$ is a good choice for "nucleonic" thermal behavior



presence of hyperons linked to two directly measurable quantities

Blacker, Kochankovski, Bauswein, Ramos and LT '24



black line: least-squares quadratic fit to the purely nucleonic models

 $f_{\text{peak}}\,vs\,\Lambda_{1.75}$

<u>conclusion</u>

the presence of hyperons seems more likely if the postmerger frequency is high compared to the fit

some caveats..

- enough statistical power in GW
 measurements?
- T=0 EoS carry information on hyperons
- dependence on abundance of hyperons and hyperon threshold density
- other exotic degrees of freedom leading to a frequency shift

Disclaimer:

this talk has been focused on EoS but viscous processes important for dynamics of neutron stars and mergers, such as bulk viscosity Jones '71 '01, Lindblom & Owen '02, Haensel, Levenfish & Yakovlev '02, van Dalen and Dieperink '04, Chatterjee & Bandyopadhyay '07, Gusakov and Kantor '08, Haskell and Andersson '10, Ofengeim, Gusakov, Haensel and Fortin '19, Alford & Haber '21...





Haensel, Levenfish and Yakovlev '02

tidal heating in mergers



Viscous processes including strangeness for another talk!

Space missions



and multimessenger astronomy

in search for strangeness



Mission





A lot of observational and theoretical effort has been invested in studying the role of strangeness in neutron stars and mergers

The presence of hyperons in neutron stars is energetically probable as density increases. However, it induces a strong softening of the EoS that leads to maximum neutron star masses $< 2M_{\odot}$. This is known as The Hyperon Puzzle

The presence of (anti-)kaons in neutron stars is controversial

Need of new routes to search for strangeness in mergers

Present and future: NICER, eXTP, STROBE-X... and multimessenger astronomy



https://compose.obspm.fr/



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