

**Non-Fermi liquid corrections to the neutrino mean free path in dense quark matter**Kausik Pal<sup>1,2</sup> and Abhee K. Dutt-Mazumder<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>*High Energy Physics Division, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, 1/AF Bidhannagar, Kolkata 700064, India*<sup>2</sup>*Department of Physics, Serampore College, Serampore 712201, India*

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We calculate the neutrino mean free path with non-Fermi liquid corrections in quark matter from scattering and absorption processes for both degenerate and nondegenerate neutrinos. We show that the mean free path decreases due to the non-Fermi liquid corrections, leading to  $l_{\text{mean}}^{-1} \sim [\dots + \dots C_F^2 \alpha_s^2 \ln(m_D/T)^2]$ . This reduction results in a higher rate of scattering.

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

Recently, there has been a substantial effort to study the properties of cold and warm quark matter. Such studies are important to understanding the properties of the astrophysical compact objects like neutron stars and pulsars. There have been a lot of experimental efforts, like the Einstein Laboratory, ROSAT, CHANDRA, and XMM, where various measurements are performed to understand the properties of neutron stars [1–3].

There is a possibility that, at the core of neutron stars, the density may go up to 5 ~ 6 times the normal nuclear matter density where the matter is not expected to be in the hadronic phase [4,5]. In fact, under such a scenario, one expects that it would be more appropriate to describe the core of such dense stars as degenerate quark matter [6], which is our main interest in the present work.

It is known that the newly born neutron stars cool via the emissions of neutrinos and antineutrinos within a few minutes, involving the direct [7–9] or the modified URCA processes [8,10]. The direct URCA reactions can proceed in neutron-rich matter if the ratio of the proton number density to the total baryon number density exceeds a critical value which follows from the energy and momentum conservation properties [11]. In the modified URCA process, another nucleon catalyzes the reaction to occur under situations where the direct URCA reaction is forbidden.

For quark matter, the dominant contribution to the emission of neutrinos is given by the quark analogous of  $\beta$  decay and the electron capture [9]. These reactions are named as “quark direct URCA” processes which have been studied in detail by Iwamoto [7,8]. Our main focus here is to calculate the neutrino mean free path (MFP), as mentioned earlier, for cold and warm QCD matter. Previously, the MFP of quark matter was derived in Ref. [7], where the calculations were restricted to the leading order by assuming free Fermi gas interactions. Here, we plan to go beyond leading order to include “plasma” or “quasiparticle” effects arising out of the interacting ground state. This, as we show, gives rise to logarithmic corrections to the MFP in contrast to what one

expects from the usual Fermi liquid theory (FLT) [12,13]. Similar non-Fermi liquid behavior of various thermodynamical quantities has recently drawn significant attention [4,5,9,14–16].

For example, in [4,14], the authors have computed the leading contribution to the interaction part of specific heat and entropy when the temperature is much smaller than the chemical potential of quark matter. It has been shown, in the case of specific heat, for ideal gas, the leading-order term goes as  $\mathcal{O}(\mu^2 T)$ , while the correction term involves  $\mathcal{O}(T^3)$ . In the interacting case, as shown in Ref. [14], the correction to the leading-order contribution involves non-analytic terms, known as non-Fermi liquid (NFL) corrections, which have been discussed extensively in [4,5,9,14–16]. Ref. [15] examined NFL effects in the normal phase of high density QCD matter both using the Dyson-Schwinger equation and the renormalization group theory. Like specific heat, the magnetic susceptibility shows that similar non-Fermi liquid behavior has been shown in [16]. Being motivated by this series of works, we undertake the present investigation to estimate and see the consequences of such effects in the case of the neutrino MFP.

In FLT, quarks are treated as quasiparticles, and their energy ( $E$ ) is regarded as a functional of the distribution function [12,13,17–20]. FLT is restricted to the low-lying excitations near the Fermi surface, where the lifetime of quasiparticles is long enough. Therefore, it is an important tool to study the properties of nuclear (or quark) matter. In Ref. [21], it has been argued that the exchange of dynamically screened transverse gluons introduces infrared divergences in the quark self-energies that lead to the breakdown of the Fermi liquid description of cold and dense QCD in perturbation theory. A detailed study of non-Fermi liquid aspects of the normal state was presented in Ref. [5]. There, the spectral density, dispersion relation, and width of quasiparticles with momenta near the Fermi surface were derived at  $T = 0$  by implementing a renormalization group resummation of the leading logarithmic infrared divergences associated with the emission of soft dynamically screened transverse gluons [4,5].

We have already mentioned that such anomalous corrections are ultimately connected to the absence of

magnetic screening of gluons via Landau damping. One such calculation, which we find to be the most relevant for the present purpose, was performed in [9]. It was shown that the emissivity that receives logarithmic corrections is enhanced due to non-Fermi liquid effects. It might not be out-of-context here to recall two important works on the neutrino mean free path in QED plasma. One is due to Tubbs and Schramm [22], and the other is done by Lamb and Pethick [23]. In [22], the resultant mean free path was calculated in the neutronized core and just outside the core. It is concluded, in [23], that neutrino degeneracy reduces the neutrino mean free path, which suggests that neutrinos may flow out of the core rather slowly.

In our work, we show that the neutrino mean free path receives logarithmic corrections where the dressed gluon propagator is used instead of the bare propagator. In fact, we generalize the [8,22,23] results by incorporating the NFL corrections for the quark matter. The corrections to the MFP for degenerate and nondegenerate neutrinos, as we shall see, will involve different powers of  $\alpha_s$ .

In the interior of a neutron star, there are two distinct phenomena for which the neutrino mean free path is calculated: one is absorption, and the other one involves the scattering of neutrinos [8]. The corresponding mean free paths are denoted by  $l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{abs}}$  and  $l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{scatt}}$ . It is to be noted that one also defines another MFP, known as the transport mean free path, which enters into the calculation of the diffusion coefficient. The scattering MFP, on the other hand, is related to the relaxation time that characterizes the rate of change of the neutrino distribution function [8]. One can combine  $l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{scatt}}$  with  $l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{abs}}$  to define the total mean free path [24],

$$\frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{total}}} = \frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{abs}}} + \frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{scatt}}}. \quad (1)$$

## II. MEAN FREE PATH

In this section, we calculate neutrino mean free paths in quark matter, including NFL corrections both for degenerate and nondegenerate neutrinos. When the neutrino chemical potential ( $\mu_\nu$ ) is considered to be much larger than the temperature ( $T$ ), the neutrinos become degenerate, and, for nondegenerate neutrinos,  $\mu_\nu \ll T$ . In our model, the Lagrangian density is described by [7]

$$\mathcal{L}_{Wx}(x) = \frac{G}{\sqrt{2}} l_\mu(x) \mathcal{J}_W^\mu(x) + \text{H.c.}, \quad (2)$$

where the weak coupling constant is  $G \approx 1.166 \times 10^{-11}$  in MeV units, and  $l_\mu$  and  $\mathcal{J}_W^\mu$  are the lepton and hadron charged weak currents, respectively. The weak currents are

$$l_\mu(x) = \bar{e} \gamma_\mu (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_e + \bar{\mu} \gamma_\mu (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_\mu + \dots, \quad (3)$$

$$\mathcal{J}_W^\mu(x) = \cos\theta_c \bar{u} \gamma^\mu (1 - \gamma_5) d + \sin\theta_c \bar{u} \gamma^\mu (1 - \gamma_5) s + \dots, \quad (4)$$

where  $\theta_c$  is the Cabibbo angle ( $\cos^2\theta_c \approx 0.948$ ) [25].

The mean free path is determined by the quark-neutrino interaction in dense quark matter via weak processes. We consider the simplest  $\beta$  decay reactions: the absorption process

$$d + \nu_e \rightarrow u + e^- \quad (5)$$

and also its inverse relation

$$u + e^- \rightarrow d + \nu_e. \quad (6)$$

The neutrino mean free path is related to the total interaction rate due to neutrino emission averaged over the initial quark spins and summed over the final state phase space and spins. It is given by [8]

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{abs}}(E_\nu, T)} &= \frac{g}{2E_\nu} \int \frac{d^3 p_d}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_d} \int \frac{d^3 p_u}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_u} \int \frac{d^3 p_e}{(2\pi)^3} \\ &\times \frac{1}{2E_e} (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(P_d + P_\nu - P_u - P_e) |M|^2 \\ &\times \{n(p_d)[1 - n(p_u)][1 - n(p_e)] \\ &- n(p_u)n(p_e)[1 - n(p_d)]\}, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where  $g$  is the spin and color degeneracy, which, in the present case, is considered to be 6. Here,  $E$ ,  $p$ , and  $n_p$  are the energy, momentum, and distribution function for the corresponding particle.  $|M|^2$  is the squared invariant amplitude averaged over the initial  $d$  quark spin and summed over final spins of the  $u$  quark and electron as given by [8]

$$|M|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\sigma_u, \sigma_d, \sigma_e} |M_{fi}|^2 = 64G^2 \cos^2\theta_c (P_d \cdot P_\nu)(P_u \cdot P_e). \quad (8)$$

Here, we work with the two-flavor system, as the interaction involving strange quarks is Cabibbo-suppressed [4,9].

### A. Degenerate neutrinos

We now consider the case of degenerate neutrinos, i.e., when  $\mu_\nu \gg T$ ; or, in other words, we consider trapped neutrino matter. So, in this case, both the direct [Eq. (5)] and inverse [Eq. (6)] processes can occur, and both the terms in Eq. (7) under curly brackets [8] are retained. Consequently, the  $\beta$  equilibrium condition becomes  $\mu_d + \mu_\nu = \mu_u + \mu_e$ . Neglecting the quark-quark interactions and by using Eqs. (7) and (8), for the mean free path, one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{abs},D}} &= \frac{3}{4\pi^5} G^2 \cos^2 \theta_c \int d^3 p_d \int d^3 p_u \int d^3 p_e (1 - \cos \theta_{d\nu}) \\ &\times (1 - \cos \theta_{ue}) \delta^4(P_d + P_\nu - P_u - P_e) \\ &\times [1 + e^{-\beta(E_\nu - \mu_\nu)}] n(p_d) [1 - n(p_u)] [1 - n(p_e)]. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

In the square bracket, the second term  $e^{-\beta(E_\nu - \mu_\nu)}$  is due to the inverse process [Eq. (6)]. Since the masses of the  $u$  and  $d$  quarks and electrons are very small, one can neglect the mass effect on the mean free path. To carry out the momentum integration, we define  $p \equiv |p_d + p_\nu| = |p_u + p_e|$  as a variable. Following the procedure described by Iwamoto [8], one has

$$\sin \theta_{d\nu} d\theta_{d\nu} = \frac{p dp}{p_f(d) p_f(\nu)}, \quad (10)$$

$$(1 - \cos \theta_{d\nu})(1 - \cos \theta_{ue}) \simeq \frac{p^4 - 2p^2 p_f^2 + p_f^4}{4p_f(d) p_f(\nu) p_f(u) p_f(e)} \quad (11)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} d^3 p_d &= 2\pi \sin \theta_{d\nu} d\theta_{d\nu} p_d^2 dp_d = 2\pi \frac{p_f(d)}{p_f(\nu)} p dp \frac{dp_d}{dE_d} dE_d \\ &= 2\pi \frac{p_f(d)}{p_f(\nu)} p dp \frac{dp_d}{d\omega}, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

$$d^3 p_u = 2\pi \frac{p_f(u) p_f(e)}{p} dE_e \frac{dp_u}{d\omega} d\omega, \quad (13)$$

where we denote the single particle energy  $E_{d(u)}$  as  $\omega$ . For the free case,  $dp/d\omega$  is the inverse quark velocity. It is well-known that this slope of the dispersion relation changes in matter due to scattering from the Fermi surface and excitation of the Dirac vacuum. The modified dispersion relation can be obtained by computing the on-shell one-loop self-energy. For quasiparticles with momenta close to the Fermi momentum, the one-loop self-energy is dominated by the soft gluon exchanges [26]. The quasiparticle energy  $\omega$  satisfies the relation [26,27]

$$\omega = E_p(\omega) + \text{Re}\Sigma(\omega, p(\omega)), \quad (14)$$

where we have approximated only to the real part of self-energy, since the imaginary part of  $\Sigma$  turns out to be negligible compared to its real part [14,16]. The detailed analysis can be obtained in [27,28].

In the relativistic case, when the Fermi velocity  $v_f$  is close to the velocity of light  $c$ , the exchange of magnetic gluons becomes important. In the nonrelativistic case, it is suppressed by a factor  $(v/c)^2$  with respect to the exchange of electric gauge bosons and is usually neglected. The magnetic interaction, as stated before, is screened only dynamically, and the problem remains for the static gluons [26,29]. Therefore, to obtain a finite result, a suitable

resummation has to be performed [30,31]. The analytical expressions for one-loop quark self-energy can be written as [14–16,21,26]

$$\Sigma = \frac{g^2 C_F}{12\pi^2} (\omega - \mu) \ln\left(\frac{m_D}{\omega - \mu}\right) + i \frac{g^2 C_F}{12\pi} |\omega - \mu|. \quad (15)$$

It exhibits a logarithmic singularity close to the Fermi surface, i.e., when  $\omega \rightarrow \mu$ . Thus, the long-ranged character of the magnetic interactions spoils the normal Fermi liquid behavior [12,13,17–20]. The breakdown of the Fermi liquid picture is associated with the vanishing of the discontinuity of the distribution function at the Fermi surface [5,21]. This nonperturbative nature of the self-energy gives rise to the non-Fermi liquid behavior. Here,  $m_D$  is a cutoff factor and should be an order of the Debye mass. Differentiating Eq. (14) with respect to  $p$ , we obtain  $\frac{dp(\omega)}{d\omega}$  at leading order in  $\frac{T}{\mu}$  as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dp(\omega)}{d\omega} &\simeq \left(1 - \frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} \text{Re}\Sigma(\omega)\right) \frac{E_p(\omega)}{p(\omega)} \\ &= \left[1 + \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{3\pi} \ln\left(\frac{m_D}{T}\right)\right] \frac{E_p(\omega)}{p(\omega)}, \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where  $\alpha_s$  is the strong coupling constant,  $C_F = (N_c^2 - 1)/(2N_c)$ , and  $N_c$  is the color factor. Using Eqs. (9), (11)–(13), and (16), the neutrino mean free path can be determined for two conditions. For  $|p_f(u) - p_f(e)| \geq |p_f(d) - p_f(\nu)|$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{abs},D}} &= \frac{4}{\pi^3} G^2 \cos^2 \theta_c \frac{\mu_u \mu_e^3}{\mu_\nu^2} \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\mu_e}{\mu_u}\right) + \frac{1}{10} \left(\frac{\mu_e}{\mu_u}\right)^2\right] \\ &\times [(E_\nu - \mu_\nu)^2 + \pi^2 T^2] \left[1 + \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{3\pi} \ln\left(\frac{m_D}{T}\right)\right]^2. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

To derive the above, Eq. (17), we use the result of the integral [8,32]

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty dE_d \int_0^\infty dE_u \int_0^\infty dE_e [1 + e^{-\beta(E_\nu - \mu_\nu)}] n(p_d) [1 - n(p_u)] \\ \times [1 - n(p_e)] \delta(E_d + E_\nu - E_u - E_e) \\ \simeq \frac{1}{2} [(E_\nu - \mu_\nu)^2 + \pi^2 T^2]. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Similarly, for  $|p_f(d) - p_f(\nu)| \geq |p_f(u) - p_f(e)|$ , the corresponding expression for the mean free path can be obtained by replacing  $\mu_u \leftrightarrow \mu_d$  and  $\mu_e \leftrightarrow \mu_\nu$  in Eq. (17). Since quarks and electrons are assumed to be massless, the chemical equilibrium condition gives  $p_f(u) + p_f(e) = p_f(d) + p_f(\nu)$ , which we use to derive Eq. (17).

The other major contribution to the mean free path arises from quark-neutrino scattering. The neutrino scattering process from degenerate quarks is given by

$$q_i + \nu_e(\bar{\nu}_e) \rightarrow q_i + \nu_e(\bar{\nu}_e) \quad (19)$$

for each quark component of the flavor  $i(= u \text{ or } d)$ . The scattering mean free path of the neutrinos in the degenerate case can be calculated similarly, as evaluated by Lamb and Pethick in [23] for electron-neutrino scattering. Assuming  $m_{q_i}/p_{f_i} \ll 1$  and including the non-Fermi liquid correction through phase space, the mean free path is given by

$$\frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{scatt},D}} = \frac{3}{16} n_{q_i} \sigma_0 \left[ \frac{(E_\nu - \mu_\nu)^2 + \pi^2 T^2}{m_{q_i}^2} \right] \times \left[ 1 + \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{3\pi} \ln\left(\frac{m_D}{T}\right) \right]^2 \Lambda(x_i). \quad (20)$$

Here,  $m_{q_i}$  is the quark mass.  $C_{V_i}$  and  $C_{A_i}$  are the vector and axial vector coupling constants given in Table II of Ref. [8]. In Eq. (20), if we drop the color factor and the second square bracketed term, we obtain the results reported in [23] for dense and cold QED plasma with  $m_q$  replaced by  $m_e$ . In Eq. (20), the constants  $\sigma_0 \equiv 4G^2 m_{q_i}^2 / \pi$  [22], and  $n_{q_i}$  is the number density of the quarks, given by

$$n_{q_i} = 2 \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\beta(E_{q_i} - \mu_{q_i})}}, \quad (21)$$

where 2 is the quark spin degeneracy factor. The explicit form of  $\Lambda(x_i)$  can be written as [8,23]

$$\Lambda(x_i) = \frac{4}{3} \frac{\text{Min}(\mu_\nu, \mu_{q_i})}{\mu_{q_i}} \left[ (C_{V_i}^2 + C_{A_i}^2) \left( 2 + \frac{1}{5} x_i^2 \right) + 2C_{V_i} C_{A_i} x_i \right], \quad (22)$$

and  $x_i = \mu_\nu / \mu_{q_i}$  if  $\mu_\nu < \mu_{q_i}$ , and  $x_i = \mu_{q_i} / \mu_\nu$  if  $\mu_\nu > \mu_{q_i}$ .

## B. Nondegenerate neutrinos

We also derive the mean free path for nondegenerate neutrinos, i.e., when  $\mu_\nu \ll T$ . For nondegenerate neutrinos, the inverse process (6) is dropped. Hence, we neglect the second term in the curly braces of Eq. (7). In this case, only those fermions whose momenta lie close to their respective Fermi surfaces can take part in a reaction. It is to be mentioned here, if quarks are treated as free, as discussed in [8,33,34], the matrix element vanishes, since  $u$  and  $d$  quarks and electrons are collinear in momenta. The inclusion of strong interactions between quarks relaxes these kinematic restrictions, resulting in a nonvanishing squared matrix amplitude. Since the neutrinos are produced thermally, we neglect the neutrino momentum in the energy-momentum conservation relation [8]. This is not the case for degenerate neutrinos where  $p_\nu \gg T$ , and, therefore, such an approximation is not valid there. By doing an angular average over the direction of the outgoing neutrino, from Eq. (8), the squared matrix element is given by [9]

$$|M|^2 = 64G^2 \cos^2 \theta_c p_f^2 (V_d \cdot P_\nu)(V_u \cdot P_e) \\ = 64G^2 \cos^2 \theta_c p_f^2 E_\nu \mu_e \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{\pi}, \quad (23)$$

where  $V = (1, v_f)$  is the four-velocity. To calculate Eq. (23), we have used the chemical equilibrium condition  $\mu_d = \mu_u + \mu_e$ , and also, the relations derived from the Fermi liquid theory are given by [9]

$$v_F = 1 - \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{2\pi}, \quad \delta\mu = \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{\pi} \mu. \quad (24)$$

Putting  $|M|^2$  in Eq. (7), we have

$$\frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{abs,ND}}} = \frac{3C_F \alpha_s}{4\pi^6} G^2 \cos^2 \theta_c \int d^3 p_d \int d^3 p_u \\ \times \int d^3 p_e \delta^4(P_d + P_\nu - P_u - P_e) n(p_d) \\ \times [1 - n(p_u)][1 - n(p_e)]. \quad (25)$$

Neglecting the neutrino momentum in the neutrino momentum conserving  $\delta$  function, the integrals can be decoupled into two parts. Following the procedure of Iwamoto [8], the angular integral is given by

$$\mathcal{A} = \int d\Omega_d \int d\Omega_u \int d\Omega_e \delta(p_d - p_u - p_e) \\ = \frac{8\pi^2}{\mu_d \mu_u \mu_e} \quad (26)$$

and the other part by

$$\mathcal{B} = \int_0^\infty p_d^2 \frac{dp_d}{dE_d} dE_d \int_0^\infty p_u^2 \frac{dp_u}{dE_u} dE_u \\ \times \int_0^\infty p_e^2 dE_e \delta(E_d + E_\nu - E_u - E_e) \\ \times n(p_d)[1 - n(p_u)][1 - n(p_e)]. \quad (27)$$

Changing the variables to  $x_d = (E_d - \mu_d)\beta$ ,  $x_u = -(E_u - \mu_u)\beta$ , and  $x_e = -(E_e - \mu_e)\beta$  and denoting the single particle energy  $E_{u(d)}$  as  $\omega$ , we have, from Eq. (27),

$$\mathcal{B} = \int_{-\infty}^\infty dx_d dx_u dx_e \frac{dp_d(\omega)}{d\omega} \frac{dp_u(\omega)}{d\omega} p_d^2 p_u^2 p_e^2 \\ \times \delta(x_d + x_u + x_e + \beta E_\nu) n(x_d) n(-x_u) n(-x_e). \quad (28)$$

As the contribution dominates near the Fermi surfaces, the extension of the lower limit is a reasonable approximation [32,35].

Using Eq. (16) and performing the integration of Eq. (28) following the procedure defined in [16,32,35], we have

$$\mathcal{B} = \mu_d^2 \mu_u^2 \mu_e^2 \frac{(E_\nu^2 + \pi^2 T^2)}{2(1 + e^{-\beta E_\nu})} \left[ 1 + \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{3\pi} \ln\left(\frac{m_D}{T}\right) \right]^2. \quad (29)$$

Using Eqs. (25), (26), and (29), the mean free path at leading order in  $T/\mu$  is given by

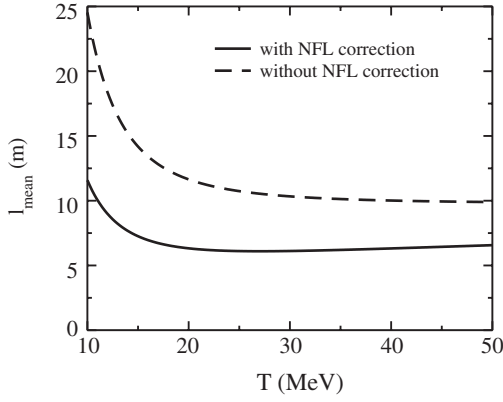


FIG. 1. Neutrino mean free path in quark matter for degenerate neutrinos.

$$\frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{abs,ND}}} = \frac{3C_F\alpha_s}{\pi^4} G^2 \cos^2\theta_c \mu_d \mu_u \mu_e \frac{(E_\nu^2 + \pi^2 T^2)}{(1 + e^{-\beta E_\nu})} \times \left[ 1 + \frac{C_F\alpha_s}{3\pi} \ln\left(\frac{m_D}{T}\right) \right]^2. \quad (30)$$

The first term is known from [8], and the additional terms are higher-order corrections to the previous results derived in the present work.

For the scattering of nondegenerate neutrinos in quark matter, the expression of the mean free path was given by Iwamoto [8]. We incorporate the anomalous effect which enters through phase space modification, giving rise to

$$\frac{1}{l_{\text{mean}}^{\text{scatt,ND}}} = \frac{C_{V_i}^2 + C_{A_i}^2}{20} n_{q_i} \sigma_0 \left(\frac{E_\nu}{m_{q_i}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{E_\nu}{\mu_i}\right) \times \left[ 1 + \frac{C_F\alpha_s}{3\pi} \ln\left(\frac{m_D}{T}\right) \right]^2. \quad (31)$$

Here, we have assumed  $m_{q_i}/p_{f_i} \ll 1$  and the constants  $\sigma_0$  and number density  $n_{q_i}$  defined earlier.

### III. RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Armed with the results of the previous sections, we now estimate the numerical values of the neutrino mean free paths. Here,  $E_\nu$  is set to be equal to  $3T$ , and  $m_q = 10$  MeV [8,24]. For the quark chemical potential, following

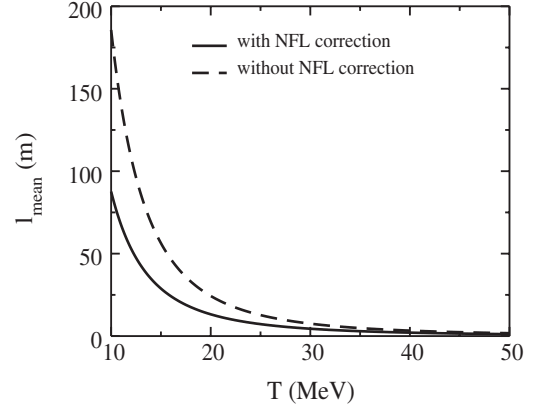


FIG. 2. Neutrino mean free path in quark matter for nondegenerate neutrinos.

Ref. [9], we take  $\mu_q \approx 500$  MeV corresponding to densities  $\rho_b \approx 6\rho_0$ , where  $\rho_0$  is the nuclear matter saturation density. The electron chemical potential is determined by using the charge neutrality and beta equilibrium conditions, which yields  $\mu_e = 11$  MeV. The other parameters used are the same as in [9].

From Fig. 1, we find that, for degenerate neutrinos, the anomalous logarithmic terms reduce the value of the mean free path appreciably both in the low and high temperature regime. Figure 2 shows that, for nondegenerate neutrinos, NFL corrections are quite large at low temperature, while, at higher temperature, they tend to merge. It is interesting to see, from these two plots, that NFL corrections to the MFP in degenerate neutrinos are less than those of nondegenerate neutrinos. This reduced mean free path is expected to influence the cooling of the compact stars. It is also to be noted that all the results presented above are restricted to the leading log approximation which can be extended to take the next-to-leading-order corrections into account [36]. We plan to undertake such investigations in a future publication [37].

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