Searching for Traces of Planck-Scale Physics with High Energy Neutrinos

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High energy cosmic neutrinos provide a sensitive test of Lorentz invariance violation (LIV) as may be a consequence of quantum gravity theories. We consider the effects of LIV on the propagation of high energy neutrinos over cosmological distances using a class of non-renormalizable, Lorentz violating operators in an effective field theory description of LIV. We assume a generic scenario for the redshift distribution of extragalactic neutrino sources and employ Monte Carlo techniques to follow superluminal neutrino propagation. We include kinematically allowed energy losses of superluminal neutrinos caused by both vacuum pair emission (VPE) and neutrino splitting. We compare the spectra that we derive with that obtained by IceCube in order to determine the implications of our results regarding Planck-scale physics. We find that if the drop off in the neutrino flux above \( \sim 2 \text{ PeV} \) is caused by LIV a potentially significant pileup effect would be produced just below the drop-off energy in the case of \textit{CPT}-even operator dominance. However, a clear drop off effect would \textit{not} be observed if the \textit{CPT}-odd, \textit{CPT}-violating term dominates.