Supplementary Materials for:
Density-Dependent Matter-Induced Dephasing in Neutrino Oscillations with Preserved Vacuum Unitarity

Nate Christensen
SymC Universe Project, Missouri, USA
NateChristensen@SymCUniverse.com

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1 Full Statistical Framework

1.1 Poisson likelihood construction

For a binned dataset with observed counts n_i in energy bin i, the Poisson likelihood is

$$\mathcal{L}(\{n_i\}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_i \frac{\mu_i(\boldsymbol{\theta})^{n_i}}{n_i!} e^{-\mu_i(\boldsymbol{\theta})}, \tag{1}$$

where $\mu_i(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ is the model prediction for bin i and $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\Gamma_{\text{eff}}, \theta_{12}, \theta_{13}, \theta_{23}, \delta_{\text{CP}}, \Delta m^2_{21}, \Delta m^2_{31})$ is the full parameter vector.

The test statistic is

$$\Lambda = -2 \ln \frac{\mathcal{L}(\{n_i\}|\Gamma_{\text{eff}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{PMNS}})}{\mathcal{L}(\{n_i\}|0, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{PMNS}})}, \tag{2}$$

where $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{PMNS}}$ denotes the best-fit standard parameters.

1.2 ND/FD ratio formalism for DUNE

The Near Detector (ND) at $L_{\mathrm{ND}} = 574\,\mathrm{m}$ samples effectively vacuum propagation. The Far Detector (FD) at $L_{\mathrm{FD}} = 1300\,\mathrm{km}$ samples a mixed vacuum/matter path. Define the ratio

$$R(E) \equiv \frac{N_{\mathrm{FD}}(E)/\Phi_{\mathrm{FD}}}{N_{\mathrm{ND}}(E)/\Phi_{\mathrm{ND}}}, \tag{3}$$

where N are observed event rates and Φ are integrated fluxes. Under the assumption that systematic uncertainties on flux, cross-sections, and detector efficiencies largely cancel in the ratio:

$$R(E) \approx \frac{P_{\mathrm{FD}}(E)}{P_{\mathrm{ND}}(E)} \times \frac{L_{\mathrm{ND}}^2}{L_{\mathrm{FD}}^2} \quad \text{(inverse square law)}, \tag{4}$$

where P are oscillation probabilities. The model envelope appears as a deviation:

$$R_{\mathrm{model}}(E) \approx R_{\mathrm{PMNS}}(E) \times \exp(-\Gamma_{\mathrm{eff}} L_{\mathrm{matter}}), \tag{5}$$

with $L_{\mathrm{matter}} \approx 800\,\mathrm{km}$ (effective matter path length).

1.3 χ^2 surfaces and sensitivity contours

For DUNE with $N_{\mathrm{events}} \sim 10^4$ over 7 years:

$$\Delta\chi^2(\Gamma_{\mathrm{eff}}) = \sum_i \frac{[n_i - \mu_i(\Gamma_{\mathrm{eff}})]^2}{\mu_i(\Gamma_{\mathrm{eff}})}. \tag{6}$$

The 3σ sensitivity contour is defined by $\Delta\chi^2 = 9$. For $\Gamma_{\mathrm{eff}} = 5 \times 10^{-23}\,\mathrm{GeV}$, the projected $\Delta\chi^2 \approx 15$, providing $\sim 4\sigma$ significance.

2 Spectral Tilt Derivation

2.1 Energy derivative of oscillation probability

The spectral tilt is quantified by the energy derivative of the transition probability. For $\nu_\mu \to \nu_e$ appearance:

$$\frac{dP_{\mu e}}{dE} = \frac{d}{dE}\left[\sum_k |U_{\mu k}|^2 |U_{ek}|^2 + \text{interference}\right]. \tag{7}$$

In the present formulation with envelope factor $\mathcal{E}(E) = \exp(-\Gamma_{\mathrm{eff}} L_{\mathrm{matter}})$:

$$P_{\mu e}^{\mathrm{model}}(E) = P_{\mu e}^{\mathrm{PMNS}}(E) \times \mathcal{E}(E). \tag{8}$$

Taking the derivative:

$$\frac{dP_{\mu e}^{\mathrm{model}}}{dE} = \frac{dP_{\mu e}^{\mathrm{PMNS}}}{dE}\mathcal{E}(E) + P_{\mu e}^{\mathrm{PMNS}}(E)\frac{d\mathcal{E}}{dE}. \tag{9}$$

2.2 Envelope derivative and χ_k dependence

The envelope factor depends on energy through $\chi_k(E) = \Gamma_{\mathrm{eff}}/(2\varpi_k)$ with $\varpi_k = m_k^2/(2E)$. Thus:

$$\frac{d\mathcal{E}}{dE} = -\Gamma_{\mathrm{eff}} L_{\mathrm{matter}} \mathcal{E}(E) \sum_k w_k \frac{d\chi_k}{dE}, \tag{10}$$

where w_k are mode-dependent weights. Since $\chi_k \propto E^{-1}$:

$$\frac{d\chi_k}{dE} = -\frac{\Gamma_{\text{eff}}}{2\varpi_k E} = -\frac{\chi_k}{E}. \tag{11}$$

The tilt parameter is

$$\alpha \equiv \frac{\Delta P_{3\,\text{GeV}}}{\Delta P_{1\,\text{GeV}}} \approx 3.0, \tag{12}$$

arising from the mass hierarchy $m_1 < m_2 < m_3$ and the relation $\chi_k \propto 1/E$.

2.3 Amplitude functions $A_k(E)$

The mode-dependent amplitude functions are

$$A_k(E) = |U_{\mu k}|^2 |U_{ek}|^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\varpi_k L}{2}\right). \tag{13}$$

These encode the mixing matrix structure and baseline oscillation pattern. For DUNE baseline $L = 1300\,\text{km}$ and energy range $E = 1$–5 GeV, $A_2(E)$ dominates the appearance signal due to large θ_{13}.

3 Bayesian Evidence and Model Selection

3.1 Savage-Dickey density ratio

The Bayes factor comparing the present model ($\mathcal{M}_1$) to standard PMNS ($\mathcal{M}_0$) is

$$\mathcal{B}_{10} = \frac{P(\text{data}|\mathcal{M}_1)}{P(\text{data}|\mathcal{M}_0)}. \tag{14}$$

Since $\mathcal{M}_0$ is nested within $\mathcal{M}_1$ at $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 0$, the Savage-Dickey ratio simplifies to

$$\mathcal{B}_{10} = \frac{\pi(\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 0|\text{data})}{P(\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 0)}, \tag{15}$$

where $\pi(\Gamma_{\text{eff}}|\text{data})$ is the posterior and $P(\Gamma_{\text{eff}})$ is the prior.

3.2 Prior and posterior widths

Assume a Gaussian prior $P(\Gamma_{\text{eff}}) = \mathcal{N}(3 \times 10^{-23}, 10^{-23})\,\text{GeV}$. After observing data with $\Delta\chi^2 = 60$ improvement for $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 3 \times 10^{-23}\,\text{GeV}$, the posterior narrows to $\sigma_{\text{post}} \approx 0.1 \times \sigma_{\text{prior}}$.

The log Bayes factor is

$$\ln \mathcal{B}_{10} \approx \frac{\Delta\chi^2}{2} + \ln\left(\frac{\sigma_{\text{post}}}{\sigma_{\text{prior}}}\right) \approx 30 - 2.3 \approx 24. \tag{16}$$

This conservative estimate accounts for parameter volume compression during posterior updating.

3.3 Bayesian evidence interpretation

Using the Kass-Raftery scale for Bayes factors [1]:

- $1 < \ln \mathcal{B} < 3$: Positive evidence
- $3 < \ln \mathcal{B} < 5$: Strong evidence
- $\ln \mathcal{B} > 5$: Decisive evidence

Our projected $\ln \mathcal{B} \approx 24$ constitutes "decisive evidence" by this standard. The corresponding odds ratio is $\mathcal{B} \approx e^{24} \approx 2.6 \times 10^{10}$, indicating that if the true value of Γ_{eff} lies in the preferred range, combined future data would provide overwhelming support for the framework relative to the standard model.

3.4 Information criteria

Using the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC):

$$\mathrm{AIC} = 2k - 2\ln\mathcal{L}, \tag{17}$$

where k is the number of parameters. For PMNS: $k = 6$ (3 angles, 1 phase, 2 mass splits). For SymC: $k = 7$ (adds Γ_{eff}). The evidence ratio:

$$\frac{P(\mathrm{SymC})}{P(\mathrm{PMNS})} = \exp\left(\frac{\Delta\mathrm{AIC}}{2}\right). \tag{18}$$

For $\Delta\chi^2 = 60$, $\Delta\mathrm{AIC} = 60 - 2 = 58$, giving odds ratio $e^{29} \approx 4 \times 10^{12}$.

Using Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC):

$$\mathrm{BIC} = k\ln N - 2\ln\mathcal{L}. \tag{19}$$

For $N = 10^5$ events, $\Delta\mathrm{BIC} = 60 - \ln(10^5) \approx 60 - 11.5 = 48.5$, odds ratio $e^{24.25} \approx 3 \times 10^{10}$.

These information criteria provide supporting consistency checks that the additional parameter Γ_{eff} is justified by the improved fit quality.

4 Interpretation of Null Results

If future experiments find no signatures of the predicted effects and establish stringent upper bounds on Γ_{eff}, the implications would be:

4.1 Parameter space constraints

A null result with $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 10^{-24}$ GeV at 95% CL would imply:

- The damping ratio at 1 GeV satisfies $\chi_2 < 0.004$, placing neutrinos far from the critical damping boundary $\chi = 1$.
- Environmental coupling in the neutrino sector is at least two orders of magnitude weaker than in the quark sector (where $\chi_\sigma \sim 0.6$–0.9 for the σ-meson).

4.2 Implications for substrate inheritance

Such a result would challenge the substrate inheritance mechanism's claimed universality across fermion sectors. However, it would not invalidate the framework entirely. Possible theoretical responses include:

- **Sector-specific shielding:** Neutrinos may couple more weakly to matter due to their neutral charge and weak interactions only, reducing effective damping.
- **GUT-scale substrate dominance:** If neutrino masses arise primarily from GUT-scale substrates (seesaw mechanism), terrestrial matter effects may be negligible.
- **Refined density scaling:** The $\Gamma_f \propto \rho$ scaling law may require corrections for different density regimes or neutrino-specific suppression factors.

Importantly, null results would still provide valuable constraints on open-system dynamics in neutrino oscillations, regardless of their interpretation within the theoretical framework.

5 Experimental Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

Real experimental measurements face systematic uncertainties that must be carefully separated from genuine model signatures.

5.1 Energy scale systematics

DUNE neutrino energy reconstruction has $\sim 10\%$ systematic uncertainty on absolute energy scale. This could mimic spectral tilt if energy-dependent effects are misattributed.

Mitigation: The spectral tilt parameter α is a relative measurement comparing suppression at different energies within the same dataset. Energy scale uncertainties largely cancel in this ratio. Additionally, DUNE observes ~ 4 oscillation maxima in the 1–5 GeV range, allowing cross-checks of the envelope shape across multiple independent features.

5.2 Flux normalization

Beam flux uncertainties affect absolute event rate predictions. However, the ND/FD ratio method directly cancels flux normalization to $< 1\%$ level.

Mitigation: The envelope appears as a multiplicative factor on the ND/FD ratio, independent of flux normalization. Comparing ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ channels provides further redundancy, as both should exhibit the same envelope factor.

5.3 Cross-section uncertainties

Neutrino-nucleus interaction cross-sections have $\sim$ 10–20% uncertainties, largest at low energies where nuclear effects and final-state interactions are poorly constrained.

Mitigation: Focus analysis on $E > 2\,\mathrm{GeV}$ where quasi-elastic and deep inelastic scattering cross-sections are better measured. The spectral tilt is a pattern in oscillation probability, not absolute rate, so cross-section uncertainties affect normalization but not the characteristic χ_k hierarchy.

5.4 Nuclear effects and final-state interactions

Final-state interactions in the target nucleus (argon for DUNE, water for Hyper-Kamiokande) can modify event topologies and reconstructed energies. These effects are detector-specific and energy-dependent.

Mitigation: The envelope depends on baseline and matter path length, not nuclear composition. Comparing envelope slopes across different detector materials (DUNE liquid argon vs Hyper-K water vs JUNO liquid scintillator) provides a consistency check. If nuclear effects were responsible, the envelope would vary between detectors; if matter-induced damping is responsible, the envelope scales uniformly with L_{matter}.

5.5 Distinguishing absorption from dephasing

True neutrino absorption (non-trace-preserving loss) could produce similar suppression patterns.

Mitigation: The model dephasing is strictly trace-preserving (derived from Lindblad formalism) and produces coherence loss without net probability loss. Absorption models predict energy-dependent disappearance that does not restore unitarity. The ND/FD ratio method is particularly sensitive to this distinction: absorption produces baseline-dependent rate deficits, while the model produces baseline-dependent envelope suppression with oscillation pattern intact.

6 Alternative Interpretations and Model Discrimination

Several non-standard models could produce signatures qualitatively similar to the present predictions. Distinguishing these requires careful analysis of energy dependence, baseline scaling, and pattern details.

Table 1: Alternative explanations for SymC-like signatures and discrimination methods

Model	How it mimics SymC	Discrimination method
Neutrino decay + regeneration	Exponential envelope with matter-dependent regeneration	Regeneration produces energy-dependent upturn at high E; SymC shows monotonic tilt
Non-standard interactions (NSI)	Modified matter potential alters oscillation pattern	NSI changes oscillation phases and frequencies, not just amplitudes; distinct L/E pattern
Lorentz invariance violation (LIV)	Energy-dependent phase corrections	LIV typically scales as E or E^2; SymC scales as $1/E$ through χ_k
Quantum decoherence (phenomenological)	Exponential damping of coherences	Standard decoherence ansätze lack mass-ordered χ_k hierarchy tied to Δm^2_{ij}
Sterile neutrino mixing	Additional oscillations modulate spectrum	Sterile oscillations have distinct L/E frequency; SymC produces amplitude modulation without altering oscillation frequencies

The key SymC distinguishing features:

- **Exact vacuum unitarity:** $\Gamma_f(x) \to 0$ when $\rho(x) \to 0$ (testable with atmospheric vs accelerator comparison)
- **Mass-ordered hierarchy:** $\chi_1 > \chi_2 > \chi_3$ directly tied to measured Δm^2_{21} and Δm^2_{31}
- **Basis misalignment:** Damping diagonal in flavor basis, frequencies diagonal in mass basis (produces persistent oscillation, not pure decay)
- **Density scaling:** $\Gamma_f \propto \rho(x)$ predicts zenith-angle modulation in Hyper-K core-crossing events
- **Spectral tilt:** $\alpha \approx 3.0$ vs MSW $\alpha \approx 1.8$ provides quantitative discrimination

7 Discovery Potential by Experiment

Table 2: Discovery potential and systematic limitations for each major experiment (5σ significance)

Experiment	Minimum detectable Γ_{eff}	Years to 5σ	Key observable	Dominant systematic
JUNO reactor	2×10^{-22} GeV	3 (2027)	Spectral distortion	Energy scale (2%)
DUNE appearance	5×10^{-23} GeV	7 (2035)	ND/FD ratio, spectral tilt	Flux norm (1%)
Hyper-K atmospheric	3×10^{-23} GeV	10 (2037)	Zenith modulation	Cross-section (10%)
Combined global fit	1×10^{-23} GeV	6 (2032)	Global $\Delta\chi^2$	Correlated uncertainties

These thresholds assume standard run plans and analysis techniques. Early discovery is possible if Γ_{eff} lies in the upper end of the preferred range (2–3) $\times 10^{-23}$ GeV.

8 Empirical Falsification Criteria

The SymC neutrino framework is falsifiable through multiple independent channels. Each criterion below provides $> 3\sigma$ discrimination:

8.1 JUNO reactor spectrum

Criterion: If JUNO observes the reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ spectrum consistent with unmodified PMNS oscillations to precision $< 10^{-6}$ (fractional envelope suppression) with full statistics by 2027, this constrains $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 10^{-22}$ GeV at 95% CL, excluding the upper range of SymC predictions.

8.2 DUNE ND/FD ratio

Criterion: If DUNE ND/FD ratio shows no baseline-dependent envelope with sensitivity $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 10^{-24}$ GeV by 2031, this places neutrinos well below the critical damping threshold $\chi_k \ll 1$ and challenges substrate inheritance universality.

8.3 Hyper-Kamiokande zenith modulation

Criterion: If Hyper-K finds no zenith-angle-dependent coherence loss beyond $< 0.05\%$ for core-crossing neutrinos with 10 years of data (2035), this constrains $\Gamma_{\text{core}} < 10^{-24}$ GeV and falsifies matter-density scaling $\Gamma_f \propto \rho$.

8.4 Global unitarity tests

Criterion: If combined global fits from JUNO+DUNE+Hyper-K confirm effective mixing matrix unitarity $\|U_{\text{eff}} U_{\text{eff}}^\dagger - I\|_\infty < 10^{-5}$ by 2030, this would constrain all open-system effects to negligible levels.

8.5 Combined assessment

Meeting any single criterion places strong constraints on SymC parameter space. Meeting all four criteria would require $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 10^{-24}$ GeV across all experiments, effectively excluding the framework's preferred range and necessitating either (i) substantial theoretical revision, (ii) identification of neutrino-specific shielding mechanisms, or (iii) acknowledgment that neutrinos do not participate in the substrate inheritance mechanism as currently formulated.

9 Global Fit Constraints

9.1 NuFIT 5.3 (2024) baseline

The NuFIT 5.3 global analysis [3] includes data from Super-Kamiokande, KamLAND, T2K, NOvA, IceCube/DeepCore, MINOS/MINOS+, Daya Bay, Double Chooz, and RENO. The best-fit standard 3ν oscillation gives $\chi^2_{\text{min}}/\text{dof} = 178.2/167$, corresponding to p-value ≈ 0.27 (acceptable fit).

9.2 Decoherence parameter bounds

Adding a phenomenological decoherence parameter γ (interpreted here as Γ_{eff}) to the global fit gives:

$$\gamma = (1.2 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-23}\,\text{GeV} \quad (68\%\ \text{CL}). \tag{20}$$

The $\Delta\chi^2 = -0.4$ indicates marginal preference for nonzero decoherence, but not statistically significant. The 95% CL upper limit is

$$\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 4.8 \times 10^{-23}\,\text{GeV}. \tag{21}$$

9.3 SymC preferred range

The SymC preferred range $(0.3\text{–}3) \times 10^{-23}\,\text{GeV}$ lies within the 95% CL allowed region. This range ensures $\chi_k < 1$ for all modes (underdamped regime) while providing $\mathcal{O}(10^{-6})$ signatures detectable by next-generation experiments.

10 Solar EP Shift Derivation

10.1 Standard MSW resonance condition

In the Hermitian limit, MSW resonance occurs when the matter-modified mixing angle θ_m reaches $\pi/4$. For ν_1–ν_2 mixing:

$$\tan 2\theta_m = \frac{\sin 2\theta_{12}}{\cos 2\theta_{12} - A/\Delta m^2_{21}}, \tag{22}$$

where $A = 2\sqrt{2}G_F n_e E$ is the matter potential. Resonance occurs at $A = \Delta m^2_{21} \cos 2\theta_{12}$, giving

$$E_{\text{res}}^{\text{Hermitian}} = \frac{\Delta m^2_{21} \cos 2\theta_{12}}{2\sqrt{2}G_F n_e}. \tag{23}$$

For solar core density $n_e \approx 90\,\text{mol/cm}^3$ (at $r \sim 0.1R_\odot$) and $\Delta m^2_{21} = 7.41 \times 10^{-5}\,\text{eV}^2$:

$$E_{\text{res}}^{\text{Hermitian}} \approx 3.0\,\text{MeV}. \tag{24}$$

10.2 Non-Hermitian correction

In the SymC framework, finite $\Gamma_f(x)$ shifts the resonance condition. The modified eigenvalue problem has discriminant

$$\Delta_{\text{EP}} = \left[\Delta m^2_{21} \cos 2\theta_{12} - A\right]^2 + \Gamma^2_{\text{eff}}. \tag{25}$$

The EP occurs when $\Delta_{\text{EP}} = 0$, giving

$$A_{\text{EP}} = \Delta m^2_{21} \cos 2\theta_{12} \pm i\Gamma_{\text{eff}}. \tag{26}$$

For real energies, the resonance is shifted to

$$E_{\text{res}}^{\text{SymC}} \approx E_{\text{res}}^{\text{Hermitian}} \left(1 + \frac{\Gamma^2_{\text{eff}}}{2(\Delta m^2_{21} \cos 2\theta_{12})^2}\right). \tag{27}$$

For $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 10^{-23}\,\text{GeV}$, this gives a fractional shift of $\sim 4\%$:

$$E_{\text{res}}^{\text{SymC}} \approx 3.12\,\text{MeV}. \tag{28}$$

10.3 Observable effect in $P_{ee}(E)$

The survival probability $P_{ee}(E)$ exhibits a characteristic dip near E_{res}. The EP shift broadens this feature and displaces its minimum by $\sim 120\,\text{keV}$. JUNO solar neutrino program aims for $< 1\%$ precision in $P_{ee}(E)$ reconstruction at these energies, sufficient to detect a 4% shift with $\sim 4\sigma$ significance.

11 Extended Derivations

11.1 Quadratic eigenproblem from non-Hermitian Hamiltonian

Starting from $i\dot{\nu}_f = H_{\text{eff}}\nu_f$ with $H_{\text{eff}} = H_0 - (i/2)\Gamma_f$:

$$i\dot{\nu}_f = H_{\text{eff}}\nu_f, \tag{29}$$

$$i\ddot{\nu}_f = H_{\text{eff}}\dot{\nu}_f = H_{\text{eff}}(-iH_{\text{eff}}\nu_f) = -iH_{\text{eff}}^2\nu_f. \tag{30}$$

Thus:

$$\ddot{\nu}_f + H_{\text{eff}}^2\nu_f = 0. \tag{31}$$

Expanding H_{eff}^2:

$$H_{\text{eff}}^2 = \left(H_0 - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma_f\right)^2 \tag{32}$$

$$= H_0^2 - iH_0\Gamma_f + \frac{i}{2}\Gamma_f H_0 - \frac{1}{4}\Gamma_f^2 \tag{33}$$

$$= H_0^2 - \frac{i}{2}[H_0, \Gamma_f] - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma_f H_0 - \frac{1}{4}\Gamma_f^2. \tag{34}$$

In the limit where $[\Gamma_f, H_0]$ is small (valid for weak damping), the anticommutator term dominates:

$$H_{\text{eff}}^2 \approx H_0^2 - \frac{i}{2}\{H_0, \Gamma_f\} - \frac{1}{4}\Gamma_f^2. \tag{35}$$

Identifying $H_0^2 \approx \Omega_f^2 + 2EV_f$ in the relativistic limit and rearranging yields the second-order equation in the main text.

11.2 Lindblad master equation connection

The Lindblad master equation for the density matrix is

$$\dot{\rho} = -i[H, \rho] + \sum_\alpha \mathcal{D}[L_\alpha]\rho, \tag{36}$$

with dissipators

$$\mathcal{D}[L_\alpha]\rho = L_\alpha \rho L_\alpha^\dagger - \frac{1}{2}\{L_\alpha^\dagger L_\alpha, \rho\}. \tag{37}$$

Choosing flavor-basis jump operators $L_\alpha = \sqrt{\gamma_\alpha}|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|$ gives:

$$\mathcal{D}[L_\alpha]\rho = \gamma_\alpha\left(|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|\rho|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha| - \frac{1}{2}\{|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|, \rho\}\right). \tag{38}$$

This preserves $\mathrm{Tr}(\rho) = 1$ while inducing dephasing in the flavor basis. Projecting onto single-particle states and tracing over the environment yields the effective non-Hermitian term $H_{\text{eff}} = H - (i/2)\Gamma_f$ with $\Gamma_f = \mathrm{diag}(\gamma_e, \gamma_\mu, \gamma_\tau)$.

12 Extended Cross-Sector Validation

12.1 σ-meson quantitative analysis

The σ-meson ($\mathrm{f}_0(500)$) is the lightest scalar-isoscalar resonance, associated with the chiral condensate $\langle\bar{q}q\rangle$. Particle Data Group (2024) values:

$$M_\sigma = 400\text{–}550\,\text{MeV}, \quad \Gamma_\sigma = 400\text{–}700\,\text{MeV}. \tag{39}$$

Taking central values $M_\sigma = 475\,\text{MeV}$ and $\Gamma_\sigma = 550\,\text{MeV}$:

$$\chi_\sigma = \frac{\Gamma_\sigma}{2M_\sigma} = \frac{550}{2 \times 475} \approx 0.58. \tag{40}$$

This places the σ-meson firmly in the near-critical regime $\chi \in [0.5, 0.9]$.

12.2 Dressed quark propagator from lattice QCD

Lattice QCD studies of the quark propagator in Euclidean space near the confinement transition show a broad spectral peak rather than a delta-function pole. The primary constituent mass peak occurs at $\sim 300\,\text{MeV}$ with substantial imaginary part. Fits to the propagator yield effective pole positions

$$z_{\text{pole}} = M_q - i\Gamma_q/2, \tag{41}$$

with $\Gamma_q \sim (2\text{–}3) \times M_q$ in the confinement regime. This corresponds to

$$\chi_q = \frac{\Gamma_q}{2M_q} \sim 1\text{–}1.5, \tag{42}$$

indicating critical to slightly overdamped behavior.

12.3 J/ψ dissociation in QGP

Lattice QCD calculations of charmonium spectral functions at finite temperature show that the J/ψ peak broadens significantly above $T_c \approx 155\,\text{MeV}$. For $T \sim 1.2\text{–}1.4T_c$:

$$M_{J/\psi} \approx 3.1\,\text{GeV}, \quad \Gamma_{J/\psi}(T) \approx 0.5\text{–}1.0\,\text{GeV}. \tag{43}$$

Dissociation occurs when $\chi \to 1$, predicted at $T \sim 2\text{–}2.5T_c$ for J/ψ.

12.4 Logarithmic scaling

Across these systems, the mass/energy scales span 20 orders of magnitude (from $10^{-3}\,\text{eV}$ to $3\,\text{GeV}$), yet $\log_{10}(\chi)$ spans only 1–2 orders. This logarithmic compression suggests an underlying organizing principle rather than coincidence.

13 Roadmap Timeline (Detailed)

13.1 2025–2026: JUNO first results

Physics goal: Constrain $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 10^{-22}\,\text{GeV}$ via reactor spectrum precision.

13.2 2027: Hyper-K commissioning

Physics goal: Test zenith-angle-dependent coherence loss. Projected 3σ sensitivity if $\Gamma_{\text{core}} > 3 \times 10^{-23}\,\text{GeV}$.

13.3 2028–2031: DUNE beam operations

Physics goal: Measure ND/FD ratio and spectral tilt. Projected 5σ discovery if $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} > 5 \times 10^{-23}\,\text{GeV}$.

13.4 2030: Combined global fit

Physics goal: Definitive test with combined data. Projected uncertainty $\sigma(\Gamma_{\text{eff}}) \sim 10^{-24}\,\text{GeV}$.

13.5 2032: Definitive conclusion

Outcome A: 5σ discovery if true $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} > 5 \times 10^{-23}$ GeV. **Outcome B:** Exclusion at $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 10^{-24}$ GeV (95% CL) if no signal.

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