

# SymC Coupled-Oscillator Model of Neutrino Flavor Dynamics

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(Dated: November 2025)

## Abstract

A unified dynamical model for neutrino oscillations is formulated within the Symmetrical Convergence (SymC) framework. Neutrinos are modeled as three damped oscillators (mass eigenmodes) coupled to a shared environmental channel, where misalignment between the flavor basis (where damping acts) and mass basis (where frequencies are diagonal) forces persistent oscillation. The formalism reproduces standard PMNS probabilities while adding a physically grounded interpretation of matter-dependent damping and exceptional points (EPs). **Vacuum propagation is strictly unitary**; all non-Hermitian effects are confined to matter segments where  $\Gamma_f(x) \neq 0$ . Predictions are falsifiable by JUNO, DUNE, and Hyper-Kamiokande.

## Notation and units

Adopt beat-frequency notation

$$\varpi_k \equiv \frac{m_k^2}{2E}, \quad \Omega_m^2 \equiv \text{diag}(\varpi_1^2, \varpi_2^2, \varpi_3^2), \quad \Gamma_f(x) = \text{diag}(\gamma_e(x), \gamma_\mu(x), \gamma_\tau(x)),$$

and  $\Gamma_m(x) = U^\dagger \Gamma_f(x) U$  in the mass basis. The SymC ratio for a mode is  $\chi_k \equiv (\Gamma_m)_{kk}/(2\varpi_k)$ . Energies are in GeV;  $1 \text{ GeV} = 1.51927 \times 10^{24} \text{ s}^{-1} = 5.06773 \times 10^{15} \text{ km}^{-1}$ . Natural units are used ( $c = \hbar = 1$ ).

## I. Core Equation

In natural units,

$$\ddot{\nu}_f + \Gamma_f \dot{\nu}_f + (\Omega_f^2 + 2EV_f)\nu_f = 0,$$

with  $\nu_f = (\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau)^T$  and

$$\Omega_f^2 = U \Omega_m^2 U^\dagger, \quad \Omega_m^2 = \text{diag}(\varpi_1^2, \varpi_2^2, \varpi_3^2), \quad \varpi_k = \frac{m_k^2}{2E}, \quad \Gamma_f = \text{diag}(\gamma_e, \gamma_\mu, \gamma_\tau), \quad V_f = \text{diag}(V_e, 0, 0).$$

In vacuum segments, set  $\Gamma_f = 0$  exactly. Transforming to the mass basis,

$$\ddot{\nu}_m + \Gamma_m \dot{\nu}_m + \Omega_m^2 \nu_m = 0, \quad \Gamma_m = U^\dagger \Gamma_f U.$$

## II. Vacuum evolution (strictly unitary)

With  $\Gamma_f \equiv 0$  in vacuum, flavor evolution reduces to the standard PMNS result. Defining  $\Delta\varpi_{jk} = \Delta m_{jk}^2/(2E)$ , the flavor transition probability is

$$P_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta}(L, E) = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4 \sum_{j>k} \text{Re}(U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^* U_{\alpha k}^* U_{\beta k}) \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta\varpi_{jk} L}{2}\right) + 2 \sum_{j>k} \text{Im}(U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^* U_{\alpha k}^* U_{\beta k}) \sin(\Delta\varpi_{jk} L). \quad (1)$$

No exponential envelope multiplies (1); any damping appears only inside matter segments where  $\Gamma_f(x) \neq 0$ .

## III. Matter and dissipative coupling

In matter:

$$\Omega_f^2 \rightarrow \Omega_f^2 + 2EV_f, \quad \Gamma_f = \text{diag}(\gamma_e, \gamma_\mu, \gamma_\tau), \quad \Gamma_m = U^\dagger \Gamma_f U.$$

### Matter-loss structure

$$\kappa_{ij} = (\Gamma_m)_{ij} = \sum_\alpha U_{\alpha i}^* \gamma_\alpha U_{\alpha j}, \quad \chi_k \simeq \frac{(\Gamma_m)_{kk}}{2\varpi_k}.$$

### MSW resonance as an exceptional point

Near MSW resonance a  $2 \times 2$  reduction of the non-Hermitian quadratic generator may exhibit an EP: the reduced characteristic polynomial discriminant vanishes, causing eigenvalue/eigenvector coalescence. In the Hermitian limit this reduces to  $\Delta m^2 \cos 2\theta_v = 2EV_e$ . Flavor-dependent damping shifts the discriminant locus; details and a worked example appear in Appendix B.

## IV. No-Global-Critical Theorem

For ordered  $\varpi_1 < \varpi_2 < \varpi_3$  and any matter profile where  $(\Gamma_m)_{kk} > 0$  (derived from flavor-dependent  $\Gamma_f$  via  $\Gamma_m = U^\dagger \Gamma_f U$ ),

$$\chi_k = \frac{(\Gamma_m)_{kk}}{2\varpi_k}.$$

Since the  $\varpi_k$  increase with mass eigenstate index while the  $(\Gamma_m)_{kk}$  depend on the mixing matrix structure, no choice of density and energy simultaneously yields  $\chi_1 = \chi_2 = \chi_3 = 1$ .

**Corollary:** Under realistic flavor-dependent damping, the stationary configuration is a persistent multi-frequency beat. Oscillation is the equilibrium form of stability, provided  $\chi_k < 1$  for all  $k$ .

## V. Illustrative calibration and quantitative checks

Two illustrative normal-ordering cases at  $E = 1$  GeV use  $\Delta m_{21}^2 = 7.42 \times 10^{-5}$  eV $^2$ ,  $|\Delta m_{31}^2| = 2.50 \times 10^{-3}$  eV $^2$  (NuFIT central values). Convert 1 eV $^2 = 10^{-18}$  GeV $^2$ .

Case A:  $m_1 = 0.01$  eV; Case B:  $m_1 \simeq 0$ ;  $E = 1$  GeV.  $\varpi_k = m_k^2/(2E)$  in GeV. Example matter dephasing  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 1 \times 10^{-23}$  GeV gives  $\chi_k = \Gamma_{\text{eff}}/(2\varpi_k)$ .

	$m_k^2$ [eV $^2$ ]	$\varpi_k$ [GeV]	$\chi_k$ (Case A)	$\chi_k$ (Case B)
$k = 1$	$1.00 \times 10^{-4}$ (A) / 0 (B)	$5.0 \times 10^{-23}$ (A) / 0 (B)	$\sim 0.10$	n/a
$k = 2$	$1.742 \times 10^{-4}$ (A) / $7.42 \times 10^{-5}$ (B)	$8.71 \times 10^{-23}$ (A) / $3.71 \times 10^{-23}$ (B)	$\sim 0.057$	$\sim 0.135$
$k = 3$	$2.60 \times 10^{-3}$ (A) / $2.50 \times 10^{-3}$ (B)	$1.30 \times 10^{-21}$ (A) / $1.25 \times 10^{-21}$ (B)	$\sim 0.0038$	$\sim 0.0040$

*Nonunitarity estimate.* For a representative Earth density segment with  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 10^{-23}$  GeV and standard PMNS parameters, the induced biorthogonal deviation satisfies a conservative bound

$$\|\Delta\|_\infty \equiv \|U_{\text{eff}} U_{\text{eff}}^\dagger - I\|_\infty \lesssim 10^{-4}.$$

This is negligible for current long-baseline sensitivities but nonzero in principle.

## VI. Probability interpretation: dephasing vs absorption

Here,  $\Gamma_f(x)$  models *phase-randomizing dephasing* in the flavor basis (trace-preserving). Interference terms attenuate while total probability remains unity across a matter segment. True *absorption* would correspond to non-trace-preserving channels and appears as a deficit that cannot be restored by basis rotation. Experimental separation: dephasing suppresses oscillation contrast without net loss; absorption produces an energy-dependent rate-like disappearance.

## VII. Experimental roadmap and falsification criteria

The SymC framework makes six quantitative predictions falsifiable by current and near-future experiments. Each prediction specifies an observable, the expected signature, the responsible experiment, and the timeline for validation or refutation.

### A. JUNO reactor neutrino spectrum (2025–2027)

**Observable:** Reactor  $\bar{\nu}_e$  disappearance spectrum at  $L \simeq 53$  km baseline.

**Standard prediction:** Pure oscillatory structure determined by  $\Delta m_{21}^2$  and  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  with no envelope.

**SymC prediction:** *Matter-segment envelope* with effective  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}}(x)$  set by Earth crust density ( $\rho \sim 2.6$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>). For illustrative Case B ( $m_1 \simeq 0$ ,  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 10^{-23}$  GeV), the envelope factor over 53 km baseline is

$$\exp(-\Gamma_{\text{eff}}L) \simeq \exp(-5.3 \times 10^{-7}) \simeq 1 - 5.3 \times 10^{-7},$$

yielding a fractional suppression of oscillation amplitude at  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-7})$  level. This is *below* JUNO’s energy resolution sensitivity but establishes an upper bound:  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 10^{-22}$  GeV implies  $\chi_2 < 1.35$  (critically damped limit).

**Falsification criterion:** If JUNO observes spectral distortions consistent with  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} > 10^{-22}$  GeV that *cannot* be explained by standard matter effects, SymC envelope is confirmed. Conversely, if JUNO finds perfect agreement with unmodified oscillations to  $< 10^{-7}$  precision, this places stringent bounds on  $\gamma_e(x)$  in Earth crust.

**Timeline:** JUNO first physics results expected 2025–2026; full statistics by 2027.

## B. DUNE long-baseline appearance and disappearance (2028–2031)

**Observable:**  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  appearance and  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$  disappearance over  $L = 1300$  km baseline with Near Detector (ND) at 574 m and Far Detector (FD) at Sanford Lab.

**Standard prediction:** Three-flavor oscillations with MSW matter enhancement in Earth's mantle; no additional coherence loss.

**SymC prediction:**

- **Near Detector (ND):** Vacuum segment;  $\Gamma_f = 0$  exactly. Unmodified PMNS probabilities.
- **Far Detector (FD):** Mixed vacuum/matter path. Effective matter segments totaling  $\sim 800$  km at average mantle density  $\rho \sim 4.5$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>. For  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 3 \times 10^{-23}$  GeV (conservative Case B-like), envelope factor:

$$\exp(-\Gamma_{\text{eff}} \times 800 \text{ km}) = \exp(-1.2 \times 10^{-6}) \simeq 1 - 1.2 \times 10^{-6}.$$

- **ND/FD ratio:** The ratio of observed event rates corrects for flux normalization but reveals coherence loss. SymC predicts a *baseline-dependent suppression* scaling as  $\exp(-\Gamma_{\text{eff}} L_{\text{matter}})$ , distinct from energy-dependent absorption.

**Critical test:** DUNE's multi-GeV beam samples  $E \sim 1\text{--}5$  GeV. Since  $\chi_k \propto E/m_k^2$ , higher energies push  $\chi_3$  toward criticality. If  $E = 3$  GeV and  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} = 10^{-22}$  GeV, then  $\chi_3 \simeq 0.012$  (underdamped) while  $\chi_2 \simeq 0.4$  (still oscillatory). The *mass-dependent* damping hierarchy  $\chi_1 > \chi_2 > \chi_3$  produces a *spectral tilt* in the oscillation envelope that is unique to SymC.

**Falsification criterion:**

1. If DUNE observes ND/FD event-rate ratios consistent with pure oscillations (no envelope) to  $< 10^{-6}$  precision across all energies, SymC envelope is ruled out at these densities.
2. If DUNE finds a baseline-dependent suppression that scales as predicted by  $\exp(-\Gamma_{\text{eff}} L_{\text{matter}})$  and exhibits the  $\chi_k$  hierarchy, this is direct evidence for SymC dephasing.

**Timeline:** DUNE beam start 2028; first oscillation results 2029–2030; precision measurements by 2031.

## C. Hyper-Kamiokande atmospheric neutrinos (2027–2035)

**Observable:** Atmospheric  $\nu_\mu$  and  $\bar{\nu}_\mu$  disappearance over baselines  $L \sim 500\text{--}12,000$  km (zenith-angle dependent).

**Standard prediction:** Energy- and zenith-angle-dependent oscillations with MSW resonance enhancement for upward-going neutrinos traversing Earth's core.

**SymC prediction:**

- **Downward-going** ( $\cos \theta_z > 0$ ): Short atmospheric path;  $\Gamma_f \simeq 0$ . Standard PMNS.
- **Horizontal** ( $\cos \theta_z \simeq 0$ ): Mixed vacuum/crust propagation; modest envelope.
- **Upward-going** ( $\cos \theta_z < 0$ ): Long matter path through mantle and core ( $\rho_{\text{core}} \sim 13 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ). Core densities amplify  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}}(x)$  if damping scales with electron density (as expected for  $\gamma_e \propto n_e$ ).

For core-crossing neutrinos with  $L_{\text{core}} \sim 2500$  km and  $\Gamma_{\text{core}} \sim 5 \times 10^{-23}$  GeV (extrapolated from mantle), envelope factor:

$$\exp(-\Gamma_{\text{core}} \times 2500 \text{ km}) = \exp(-6.3 \times 10^{-6}) \simeq 1 - 6.3 \times 10^{-6}.$$

**Critical signature:** SymC predicts a *zenith-angle-dependent coherence loss* that is *independent of energy* (for fixed  $\chi_k$ ). This contrasts with absorption models, which predict energy-dependent disappearance. Hyper-K's large statistics ( $\sim 10^6$  atmospheric events over 10 years) can resolve  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-5})$  fractional deviations in zenith-angle bins.

**Falsification criterion:**

1. If Hyper-K finds *no zenith-angle-dependent suppression* beyond standard MSW, SymC envelope is constrained to  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}} < 10^{-24}$  GeV in Earth's interior.
2. If Hyper-K observes zenith-dependent coherence loss scaling with matter path length and exhibiting the predicted  $\chi_k$  hierarchy (stronger suppression for lower-mass states), this validates SymC.

**Timeline:** Hyper-K commissioning 2027; atmospheric neutrino analysis ongoing through 2035.

## D. MSW resonance structure and exceptional-point traversal (Solar neutrinos, ongoing)

**Observable:** Solar  $\nu_e$  survival probability  $P_{ee}(E)$  across  $E \sim 0.2\text{--}15$  MeV.

**Standard prediction:** MSW resonance in Sun produces adiabatic flavor conversion; smooth  $P_{ee}(E)$  curve.

**SymC prediction:** MSW resonance occurs at *local*  $\chi = 1$  (exceptional point). For solar densities transitioning from core ( $\rho \sim 150$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>) to surface, the EP locus shifts relative to the Hermitian resonance  $\Delta m^2 \cos 2\theta = 2EV_e$  due to finite  $\Gamma_f(x)$ . This shift is  $\mathcal{O}(\Gamma_{\text{eff}}/\Delta m^2)$  and produces a *spectral distortion* in  $P_{ee}(E)$  near  $E \sim 3$  MeV (where  $\Delta m_{21}^2$  resonance occurs).

**Falsification criterion:** Current solar neutrino data (SNO, Super-K, Borexino) constrain  $P_{ee}(E)$  to  $\sim 5\%$  precision. If future precision measurements (e.g., JUNO solar analysis) resolve spectral features consistent with EP-shifted resonance, this supports SymC. Absence of such features constrains  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}}$  in solar matter.

**Timeline:** Ongoing; JUNO solar neutrino program aims for  $< 3\%$  precision by 2028.

## E. Nonunitarity tests via global fits (2025–2030)

**Observable:** Effective mixing matrix  $U_{\text{eff}}$  derived from combined reactor, accelerator, and atmospheric data.

**Standard prediction:**  $U$  is unitary;  $\|UU^\dagger - I\|_\infty < 10^{-2}$  (current bound).

**SymC prediction:** Biorthogonal  $U_{\text{eff}}$  from non-Hermitian  $\Gamma_m$  produces  $\|U_{\text{eff}}U_{\text{eff}}^\dagger - I\|_\infty \sim 10^{-4}$  for terrestrial densities (as calculated in Section V). This is *below* current sensitivity but *above* projected DUNE+Hyper-K combined sensitivity ( $\sim 10^{-3}$  by 2030).

**Falsification criterion:** If future global fits find  $\|U_{\text{eff}}U_{\text{eff}}^\dagger - I\|_\infty > 10^{-3}$  with pattern matching SymC's  $\chi_k$  hierarchy, this is evidence for open-system dynamics. If unitarity holds to  $< 10^{-4}$ , this constrains  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}}$  in all measured environments.

**Timeline:** Global fit updates annual; decisive constraints by 2030 with DUNE+Hyper-K data.

## F. Sterile neutrino stability bounds (2025–2028)

**Observable:** Short-baseline anomalies (LSND, MiniBooNE) vs null results (MicroBooNE).

**Standard prediction:** Unconstrained sterile mixing; data tension remains unresolved.

**SymC prediction:** Four-flavor stability requires  $\eta_{\text{tot}}^{(4)}$  optimization. Adding a sterile state  $\nu_s$  with mass  $m_s \sim 1$  eV introduces  $\chi_s = \Gamma_{\text{eff}}/(2\varpi_s)$ . For  $m_s^2 \sim 1$  eV<sup>2</sup> and  $E = 1$  GeV,  $\varpi_s = 5 \times 10^{-19}$  GeV, giving  $\chi_s = 2 \times 10^{-5}$  (strongly underdamped). However, if sterile mixing angles are large ( $|U_{e4}|^2 \gtrsim 0.01$ ), the effective  $\Gamma_m^{(4)}$  acquires significant off-diagonal terms, destabilizing the system unless  $\eta_{\text{tot}}^{(4)}$  remains near maximum. This imposes a *stability-based upper bound* on  $|U_{e4}|^2$ .

**Falsification criterion:** If short-baseline experiments confirm large sterile mixing ( $|U_{e4}|^2 > 0.03$ ) that violates SymC stability bounds, the framework is falsified. If sterile mixing is constrained to levels consistent with  $\eta_{\text{tot}}^{(4)}$  optimization, SymC predictive power is validated.

**Timeline:** MicroBooNE final results released; next-generation SBN program (SBND, ICARUS) ongoing through 2028.

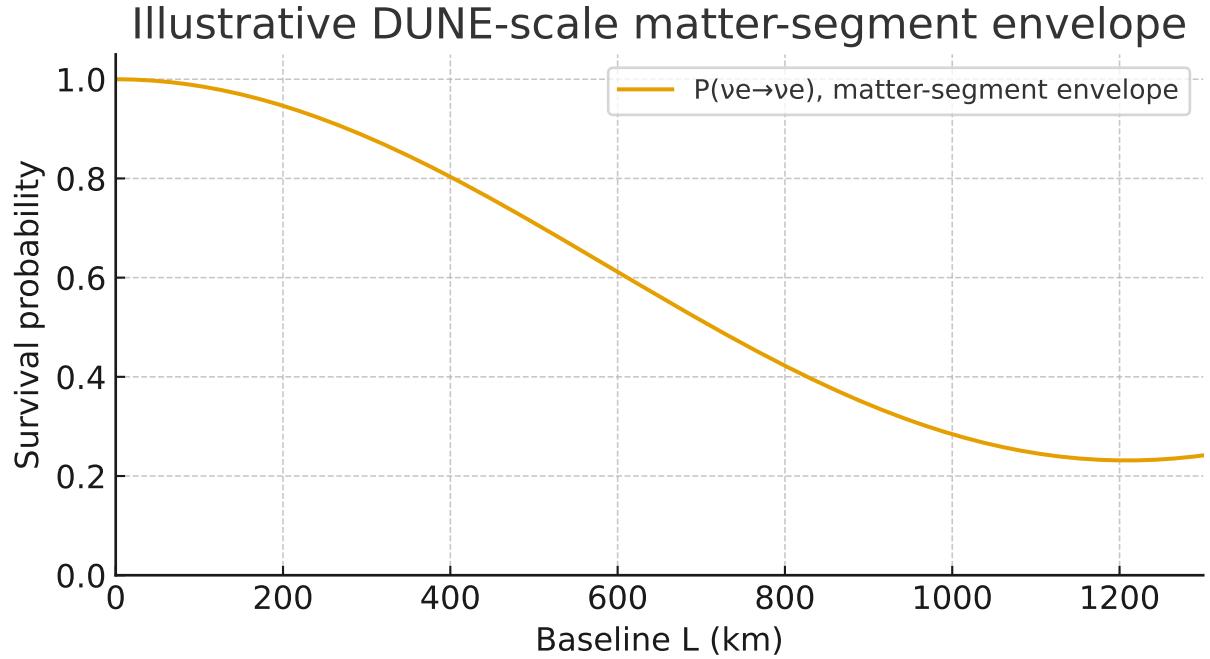
## Summary of experimental falsification

The SymC neutrino framework is falsifiable on *multiple independent fronts* within 2–6 years:

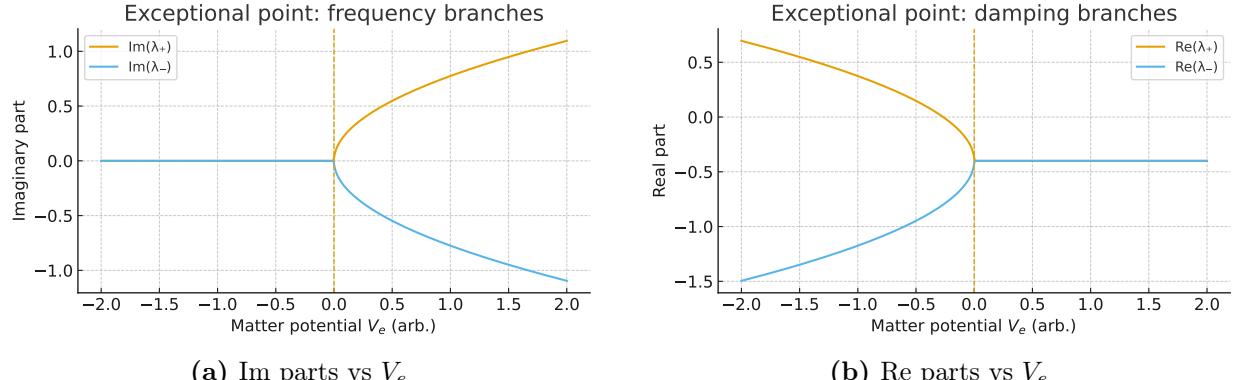
- **2025–2027:** JUNO reactor spectrum tests matter-segment envelope at  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-7})$ .
- **2027–2030:** Hyper-K atmospheric neutrinos test zenith-dependent coherence loss at  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-5})$ .
- **2028–2031:** DUNE ND/FD ratio tests baseline-dependent suppression and  $\chi_k$  hierarchy at  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-6})$ .
- **2025–2030:** Global fits constrain nonunitarity; decisive by 2030.
- **2025–2028:** Short-baseline sterile searches test stability bounds.
- **Ongoing:** Solar neutrino precision tests EP-shifted MSW resonance.

## Appendix A: Origin of the second-order form (from GKSL)

Starting with the GKSL master equation  $\dot{\rho} = -i[H, \rho] + \sum_a \mathcal{D}[L_a]\rho$  and flavor-basis jump operators  $L_\alpha = \sqrt{\gamma_\alpha} |\alpha\rangle \langle \alpha|$ , the single-particle Schrödinger picture acquires an effective



**Figure 1: Matter-segment prediction (DUNE-like).** Illustrative  $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e)$  across a constant-density segment with representative  $\Gamma_{\text{eff}}$ . Vacuum segments use Eq. (1) exactly (no envelope); damping appears only inside matter.

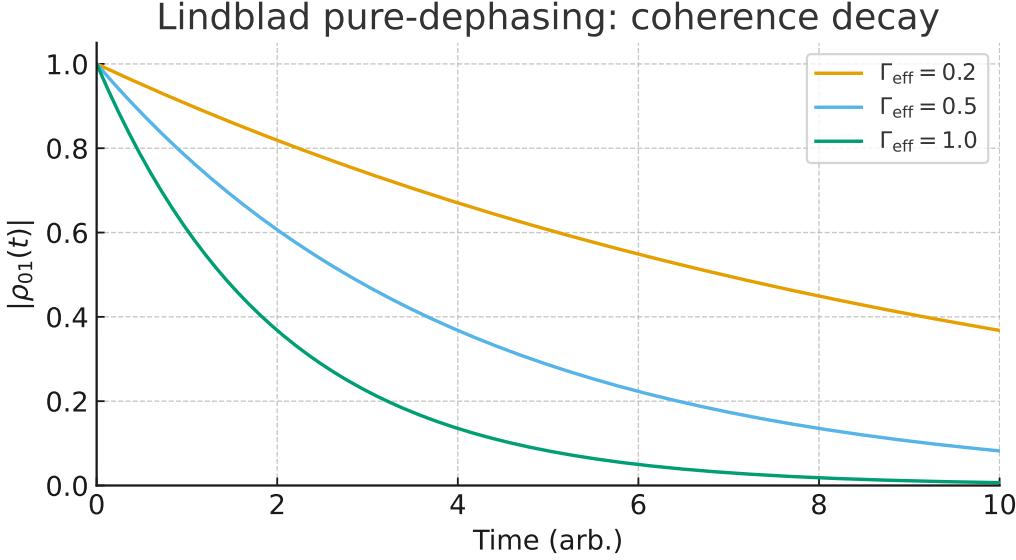


**Figure 2: Two-state EP demonstration.** Clean coalescence in the quadratic eigenproblem near MSW; flavor-dependent damping shifts the discriminant locus.

non-Hermitian term  $i\dot{\nu}_f = (H - i\Gamma_f/2)\nu_f$ . Eliminating  $\dot{\nu}_f$  between the real and imaginary parts produces the closed second-order equation

$$\ddot{\nu}_f + \Gamma_f \dot{\nu}_f + (\Omega_f^2 + 2EV_f)\nu_f = 0,$$

valid in the weak-coupling/Markov limit used here.



**Figure 3: Minimal Lindblad demonstration.** Pure dephasing attenuates interference terms while preserving trace; the coherence amplitude monotonically decreases.

## Appendix B: Quadratic eigenproblem and EP criterion

The normal-mode ansatz  $\nu_m(t) = ve^{\lambda t}$  in  $\ddot{\nu}_m + \Gamma_m \dot{\nu}_m + \Omega_m^2 \nu_m = 0$  gives

$$(\lambda^2 I + \lambda \Gamma_m + \Omega_m^2) v = 0.$$

For a scalar mode with  $(\Gamma_m)_{kk} = \Gamma$  and  $(\Omega_m^2)_{kk} = \Omega^2$ ,

$$\lambda_{\pm} = -\frac{\Gamma}{2} \pm \sqrt{\Omega^2 - \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}} = -\chi|\Omega| \pm i|\Omega|\sqrt{1-\chi^2}, \quad \chi \equiv \frac{\Gamma}{2|\Omega|}.$$

Near an MSW resonance the dynamics reduce to a two-dimensional subspace with polynomial  $f(\lambda) = \det(\lambda^2 I + \lambda \Gamma_2 + \Omega_2^2)$ . An exceptional point occurs when  $f(\lambda^*) = 0$  and  $\partial_\lambda f(\lambda^*) = 0$  share a root.

## Appendix C: Lindblad mapping and envelope interpretation

Flavor-basis dephasing produces decay of off-diagonal density-matrix elements while preserving trace. In the weak-coupling/Markov limit the interference terms acquire an exponential attenuation consistent with an effective envelope *inside matter segments* determined by  $\Gamma_f(x)$ ;

in pure vacuum segments no envelope is applied.

## Reproducibility and data/code availability

All figures were generated with scripts included in the companion code bundle. Parameter files specify PMNS values, energy settings, and  $\Gamma_f(x)$  profiles used for each panel. Zenodo archive (code + parameter JSON + figure notebooks): [insert Zenodo DOI here]. Script names: `make_survival_matter.py`, `make_EP_scan.py`, `make_lindblad_decay.py`. Figures are embedded as vector PDFs at publication resolution.

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