

# Neutrino Oscillations in Matter

PhD Candidacy Exam

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# OUTLINE

1. Introduction
  - What are Neutrinos
  - Neutrino Oscillations
  - Why Oscillations
2. Matter Effect
  - Matter Interaction
  - MSW Effect
  - Solar Neutrino Problem
  - Stimulated Neutrino Oscillations
3. Understanding Stimulated Oscillations
  - Hamiltonian, and Basis
  - Single Frequency Matter Profile
4. Summary & Future Work

# OVERVIEW

## Introduction

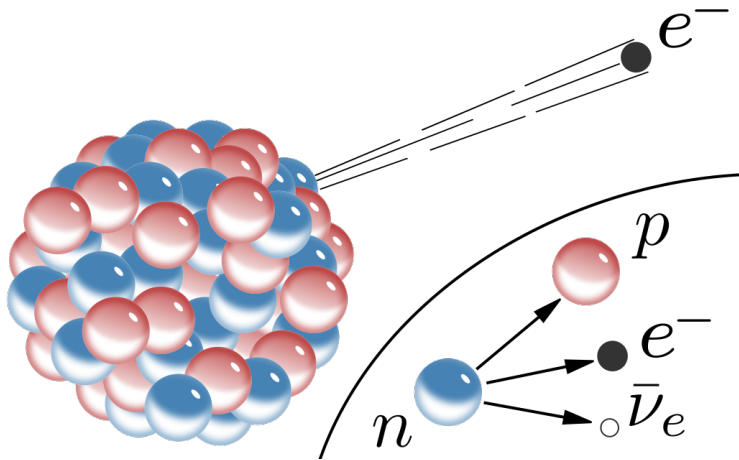
- What are Neutrinos
- Neutrino Oscillations
- Why Oscillations

## Matter Effect

## Understanding Stimulated Oscillations

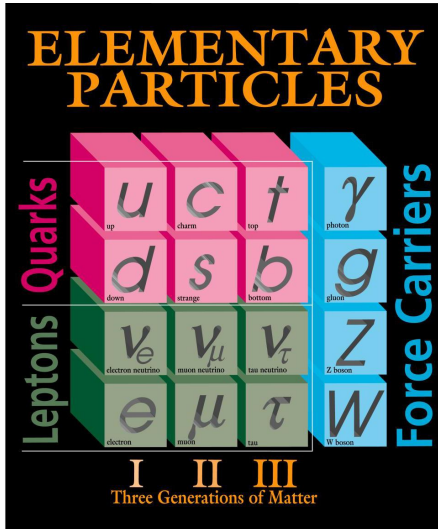
## Summary & Future Work

# WHAT ARE NEUTRINOS?



Beta decay and antineutrino production. Source: Beta\_Decay@Wikipedia

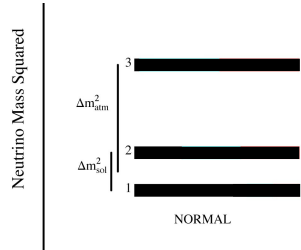
# WHAT ARE NEUTRINOS?



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Neutrinos are

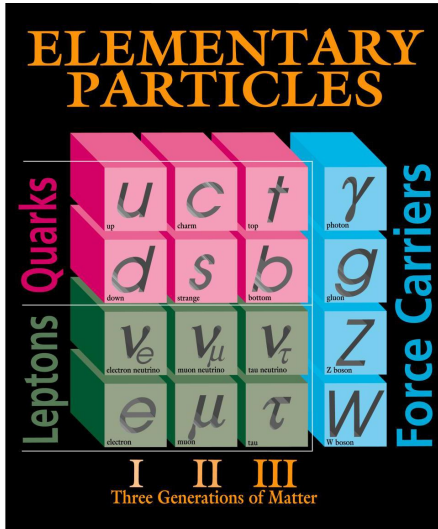
- fermions,
- electrically neutral,
- light.



Adapted from Olga Mena & Stephen Parke (2004)

Table of elementary particles. Source:  
Fermilab

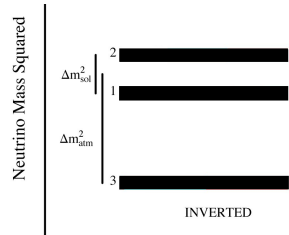
# WHAT ARE NEUTRINOS?



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Neutrinos are

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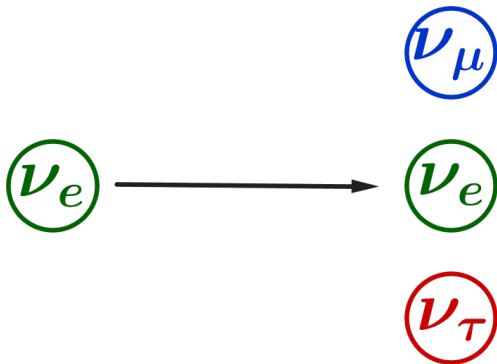
Table of elementary particles. Source:  
Fermilab

# WHAT IS NEUTRINO OSCILLATION?

**Neutrino Oscillation**

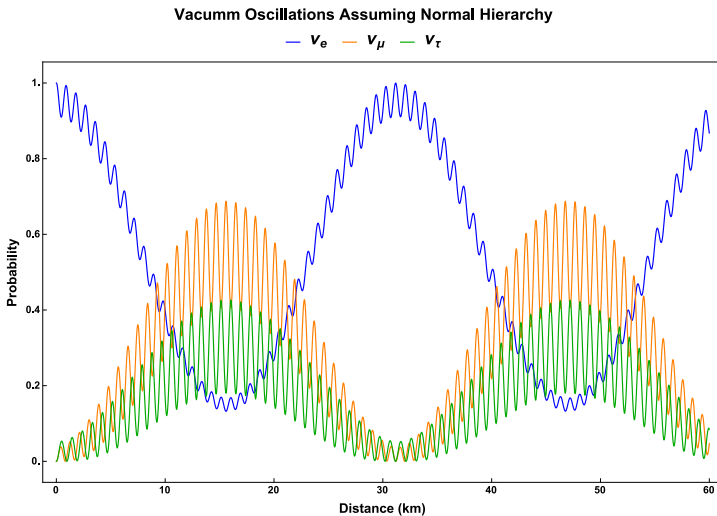
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**Neutrino Flavor Conversion**



Neutrino Oscillations

# WHAT IS NEUTRINO OSCILLATION?



Probabilities of finding neutrinos to be in each flavors.



# WHY DO NEUTRINOS OSCILLATE?

## Equation of Motion

$$i\partial_x |\Psi\rangle = \hat{\mathbf{H}} |\Psi\rangle$$

- ▶ Basis: Hamiltonian diagonalized basis/mass basis/propagation basis,  $\{|\nu_1\rangle, |\nu_2\rangle\}$ .

▶

$$\mathbf{H} = -\frac{\omega_v}{2}\sigma_3, \quad \text{where } \omega_v = \frac{\delta m^2}{2E} = \frac{m_2^2 - m_1^2}{2E}.$$

- ▶ The system can be solved given initial condition of the amplitudes of the two eigenstates  $(\langle\nu_1|\Psi(0)\rangle, \langle\nu_2|\Psi(0)\rangle)^T$ ,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle\nu_1|\Psi(x)\rangle \\ \langle\nu_2|\Psi(x)\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \langle\nu_1|\Psi(0)\rangle \exp(i\omega_v x/2) \\ \langle\nu_2|\Psi(0)\rangle \exp(-i\omega_v x/2) \end{pmatrix}$$

# WHY DO NEUTRINOS OSCILLATE?

## Flavor basis

Neutrino wave function in flavor basis  $\{|\nu_e\rangle, |\nu_\mu\rangle\}$  is related to state in energy basis  $\{|\nu_1\rangle, |\nu_2\rangle\}$  through

$$\begin{pmatrix} |\nu_e\rangle \\ |\nu_\mu\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_v & \sin \theta_v \\ -\sin \theta_v & \cos \theta_v \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} |\nu_1\rangle \\ |\nu_2\rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

$\theta_v$ : vacuum mixing angle

# WHY DO NEUTRINOS OSCILLATE?

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$\theta_v$ : vacuum mixing angle

## Hamiltonian H

Mass basis

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\omega_v}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= -\frac{\omega_v}{2} \sigma_3 \end{aligned}$$

Flavor basis

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\omega_v}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -\cos 2\theta_v & \sin 2\theta_v \\ \sin 2\theta_v & \cos 2\theta_v \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{\omega_v}{2} (-\cos 2\theta_v \sigma_3 + \sin 2\theta_v \sigma_1) \end{aligned}$$

# NATURE OF NEUTRINO OSCILLATION

## Transition Probability

$$P(|\nu_e\rangle \rightarrow |\nu_\mu\rangle) = \sin^2(2\theta_v) \sin^2(\omega_v x/2)$$

- ▶  $\omega_v = (m_2^2 - m_1^2)/2E$  determines oscillation wavelength.
- ▶ Mixing angle  $\theta_v$  determines flavor oscillation amplitude.

# OVERVIEW

Introduction

Matter Effect

- Matter Interaction

- MSW Effect

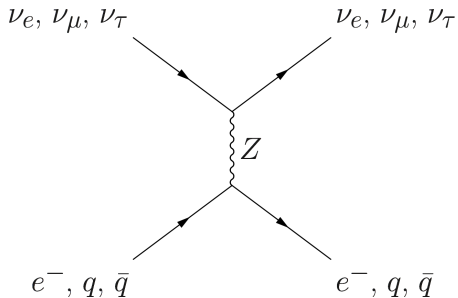
- Solar Neutrino Problem

- Stimulated Neutrino Oscillations

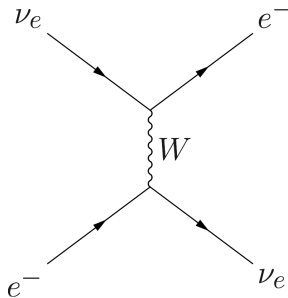
Understanding Stimulated Oscillations

Summary & Future Work

# MATTER INTERACTION



Neutral current interaction between  
 $\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$ ,  
and  $e^-$ , quarks and antiquarks.



Charged current interaction between  
 $\nu_e$  and  $e^-$

# MATTER INTERACTION

Hamiltonian with matter interaction in flavor basis ( $\omega_V = \delta m^2/2E$ ):

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{\omega_V}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -\cos 2\theta_V & \sin 2\theta_V \\ \sin 2\theta_V & \cos 2\theta_V \end{pmatrix} \pm \sqrt{2} G_F n_e(x) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

► Vacuum Hamiltonian

► Matter interaction

# MATTER INTERACTION

Hamiltonian with matter interaction in flavor basis ( $\omega_v = \delta m^2/2E$ ):

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{\omega_v}{2} (-\cos 2\theta_v \sigma_3 + \sin 2\theta_v \sigma_1) + \frac{\lambda(x)}{2} \sigma_3$$

► Vacuum Hamiltonian

► Matter interaction

►  $\lambda(x) = \sqrt{2}G_F n_e(x)$



# MSW EFFECT

## Hamiltonian in Vacuum

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{vacuum}} = \frac{\omega_v \cos 2\theta_v}{2} \sigma_3 + \frac{\omega_v \sin 2\theta_v}{2} \sigma_1$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{H} &= \frac{\lambda(x) - \omega_v \cos 2\theta_v}{2} \sigma_3 + \frac{\omega_v \sin 2\theta_v}{2} \sigma_1 \\ &= \frac{\omega_m(x) \cos 2\theta_m(x)}{2} \sigma_3 + \frac{\omega_m(x) \sin 2\theta_m(x)}{2} \sigma_1,\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_m(x) &= \sqrt{(\lambda(x) - \omega_v \cos 2\theta_v)^2 + \omega_v^2 \sin^2 2\theta_v}, \\ \tan 2\theta_m(x) &= \frac{\omega_v \sin 2\theta_v}{\omega_v \cos 2\theta_v - \lambda(x)}.\end{aligned}$$

# MSW EFFECT

Constant matter profile  $\lambda_0$  as an example,

Significance of  $\theta_m$

Define matter basis  $\{|\nu_L\rangle, |\nu_H\rangle\}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} |\nu_e\rangle \\ |\nu_\mu\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_m & \sin \theta_m \\ -\sin \theta_m & \cos \theta_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} |\nu_L\rangle \\ |\nu_H\rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

In matter basis

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{matter-basis}} = -\frac{\omega_m}{2} \sigma_3$$

# MSW RESONANCE

## Hamiltonian with Matter Potential

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{H} &= \frac{\lambda(x) - \omega_v \cos 2\theta_v}{2} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_3 + \frac{\omega_v \sin 2\theta_v}{2} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 \\ &= \frac{\omega_m(x) \cos 2\theta_m(x)}{2} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_3 + \frac{\omega_m(x) \sin 2\theta_m(x)}{2} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1\end{aligned}$$

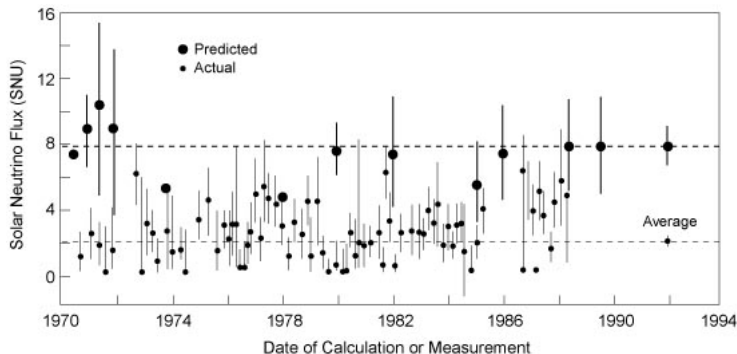
$$\tan 2\theta_m(x) = \frac{\omega_v \sin 2\theta_v}{\omega_v \cos 2\theta_v - \lambda(x)}.$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} |\nu_e\rangle \\ |\nu_\mu\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_m & \sin \theta_m \\ -\sin \theta_m & \cos \theta_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} |\nu_L\rangle \\ |\nu_H\rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

## Transition Probability

$$P(|\nu_e\rangle \rightarrow |\nu_\mu\rangle) = \sin^2(2\theta_m) \sin^2(\omega_m x)$$

# SOLAR NEUTRINO PROBLEM



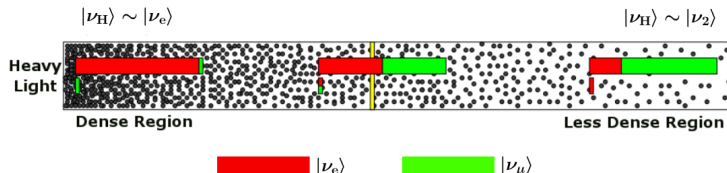
Chlorine detector (Homestake experiment) results and theory predictions.  
SNU: 1 event for  $10^{36}$  target atoms per second. Kenneth R. Lang (2010)

# MSW EFFECT AND SOLAR NEUTRINOS

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{\lambda(x) - \omega_\nu \cos 2\theta_\nu}{2} \sigma_3 + \frac{\omega_\nu \sin 2\theta_\nu}{2} \sigma_1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} |\nu_L\rangle \\ |\nu_H\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_m & -\sin \theta_m \\ \sin \theta_m & \cos \theta_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} |\nu_e\rangle \\ |\nu_\mu\rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{matter-basis}} = -\frac{\omega_m}{2} \sigma_3$$



Yellow bar is the resonance point. Red:  $|\nu_e\rangle$ . Green:  $|\nu_\mu\rangle$ . Adapted from Smirnov, 2003.

# MSW EFFECT

Suppose  $\omega_v = (m_2^2 - m_1^2)/2E < 0$ ,

$$\mathbf{H} = -\frac{\omega_v}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -\cos 2\theta_v & \sin 2\theta_v \\ \sin 2\theta_v & \cos 2\theta_v \end{pmatrix} + \sqrt{2}G_F n_e(x) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

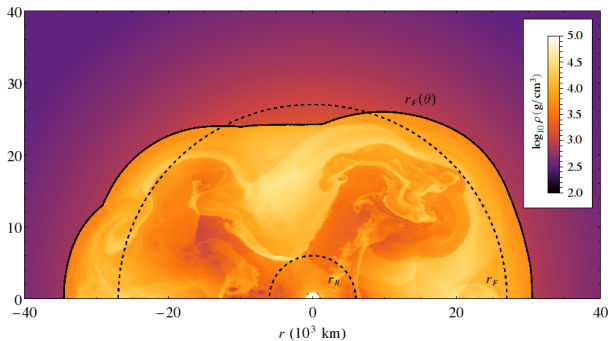


$$\mathbf{H} = \left( \frac{-\omega_v}{2} \cos 2\theta_v + \frac{\lambda(x)}{2} \right) \sigma_3 - \frac{\omega_v}{2} \sin 2\theta_v \sigma_1$$

# SUPERNOVA MATTER DENSITY PROFILE

## Why Do We Care

Astrophysical environments: supernovae, accretion disks etc



Supernova shock and turbulence. E. Borriello, et al (2014)

$$\Delta n_e(r) = \sum_n c_n \sin(k_n r + \phi_n)$$

# STIMULATED NEUTRINO OSCILLATIONS

## Matter Profile

$$\lambda(x) = \lambda_0 + \delta\lambda(x)$$

## Basis

Background matter basis: Hamiltonian is diagonalized with only background matter profile  $\lambda_0$ ,

$$H_{\text{background}} = -\frac{\omega_m}{2} \sigma_3.$$

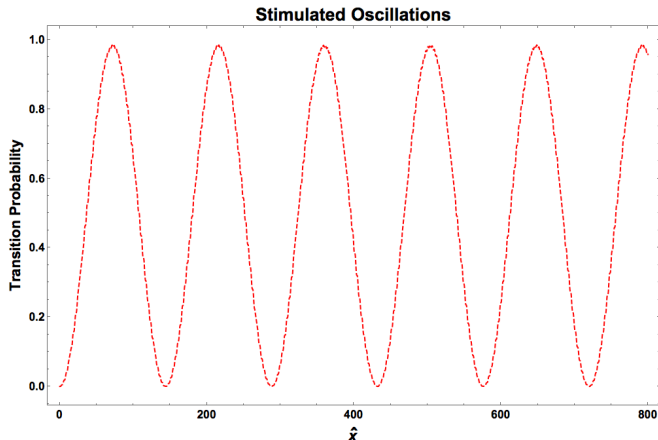
## Hamiltonian

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{1}{2} (-\omega_m + \delta\lambda(x) \cos 2\theta_m) \sigma_3 - \frac{\delta\lambda(x)}{2} \sin \theta_m \sigma_1.$$



# STIMULATED NEUTRINO OSCILLATIONS

P. Krastev and A. Smirnov (1989); J. Kneller et al (2013);  
K. Patton et al (2014);



Stimulated oscillations.  $\lambda(x) = \lambda_0 + A \sin(kx)$  with  $\hat{x} = \omega_m x$ ,  $A = 0.1\omega_m$ ,  
 $k = 0.995\omega_m$ ,  $\theta_m = \pi/6$

# OVERVIEW

Introduction

Matter Effect

Understanding Stimulated Oscillations  
Hamiltonian, and Basis  
Single Frequency Matter Profile

Summary & Future Work

# UNDERSTANDING STIMULATED OSCILLATIONS

Matter profile

$$\lambda(x) = \lambda_0 + A \sin(kx),$$

Hamiltonian in Background Matter Basis

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{1}{2} (-\omega_m + \delta\lambda(x) \cos 2\theta_m) \boldsymbol{\sigma}_3 - \frac{\delta\lambda(x)}{2} \sin \theta_m \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1.$$

A Better Basis

Define new basis  $\{|\tilde{\nu}_L\rangle, |\tilde{\nu}_H\rangle\}$  is related to background matter basis  $\{|\nu_L\rangle, |\nu_H\rangle\}$  through

$$\begin{pmatrix} |\nu_L\rangle \\ |\nu_H\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\eta(x)} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\eta(x)} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} |\tilde{\nu}_L\rangle \\ |\tilde{\nu}_H\rangle \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\eta(x) - \eta(0) = -\frac{\omega_m}{2}x + \frac{\cos 2\theta_m}{2} \int_0^x \delta\lambda(\tau) d\tau.$$

# SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

Hamiltonian in new basis

$$\tilde{\mathbf{H}} = -\frac{\delta\lambda(x)}{2} \sin 2\theta_m \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{2i\eta(x)} \\ e^{-2i\eta(x)} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & h \\ h^* & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hamiltonian in New Basis

$$\begin{aligned} h &\equiv -\frac{\delta\lambda(x)}{2} e^{2i\eta(x)} \\ &= \frac{i}{4} \left[ \exp \left( i(k + \omega_m)x + i \cos 2\theta_m \frac{A}{k} \cos(kx) \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \exp \left( i(-k + \omega_m)x + i \cos 2\theta_m \frac{A}{k} \cos(kx) \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

# RABI OSCILLATION

## Rabi Oscillation

### Hamiltonian

$$\begin{pmatrix} -\omega_0/2 & \alpha\omega_0 e^{i\omega x} \\ \alpha\omega_0 e^{-ikx} & \omega_0/2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$E_2 = \frac{\omega_0}{2}$$

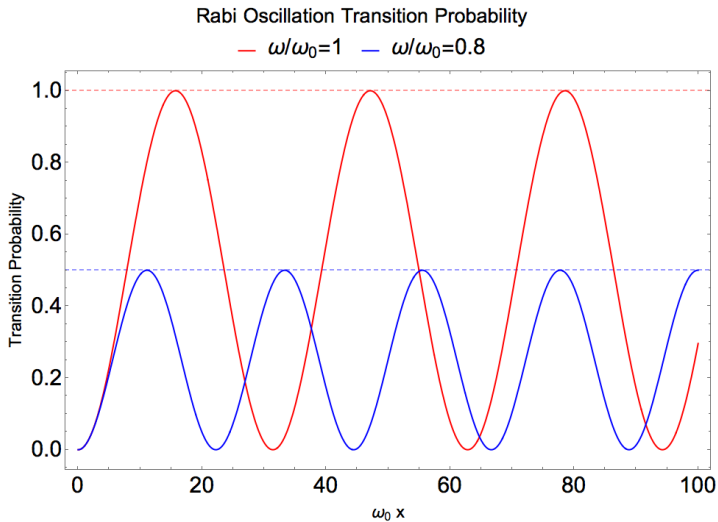
$$E_1 = -\frac{\omega_0}{2}$$

Incoming light

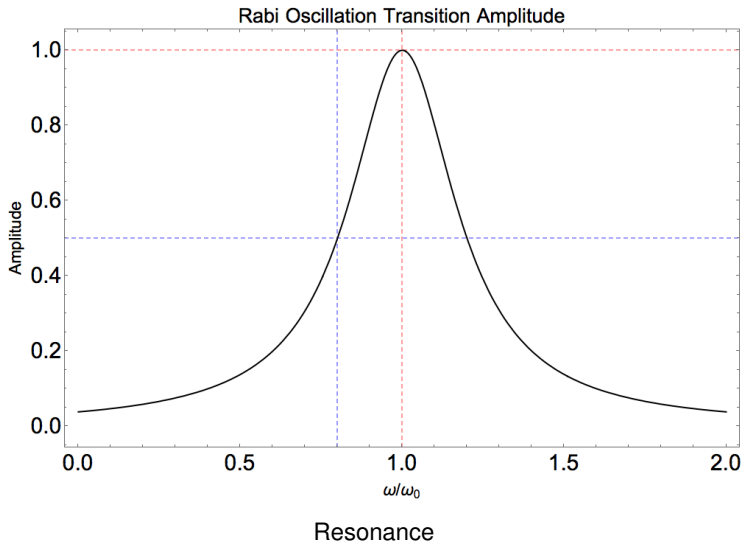


Frequency :  $\omega$

# RABI OSCILLATIONS



# RABI OSCILLATIONS



# SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

## Off-diagonal Term in Our System

$$\tilde{\mathbf{H}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & h \\ h^* & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h \propto \left[ \exp \left( i(k + \omega_m)x + i \cos 2\theta_m \frac{A}{k} \cos(kx) \right) - \exp \left( i(-k + \omega_m)x + i \cos 2\theta_m \frac{A}{k} \cos(kx) \right) \right]$$

Jacobi-Anger expansion

$$e^{i\beta \cos(kx)} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} i^n J_n(\beta) e^{inkx},$$

where  $J_n(\beta)$  are Bessel's functions of the first kind.



# SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

## Scaled Quantities

Characteristic scale:  $\omega_m$

- ▶  $\hat{A} = A/\omega_m$
- ▶  $\hat{k} = k/\omega_m$
- ▶  $\hat{x} = \omega_m x$
- ▶  $\hat{h} = h/\omega_m$

# SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

## Rotation Wave Approximation

The off-diagonal element of Hamiltonian

$$\tilde{\mathbf{H}} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{2}\hat{B}_n e^{i(n\hat{k}-1)\hat{x}} \\ \frac{1}{2}\hat{B}_n^* e^{-i(n\hat{k}-1)\hat{x}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\hat{B}_n = -(-i)^n n \hat{k} \tan 2\theta_m J_n(\hat{A} \cos 2\theta_m / \hat{k})$ .

# SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

## Transition Probability

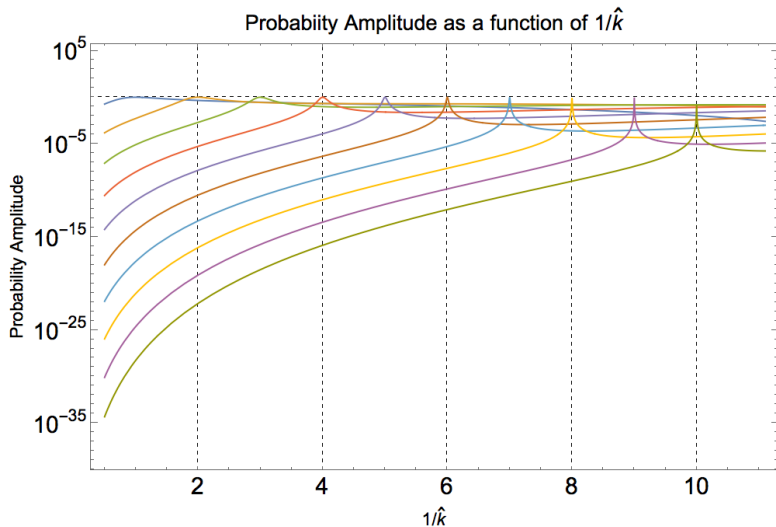
$$P_{L \rightarrow H}^{(n)} = \frac{\left| \hat{B}_n / 2 \right|^2}{\left| \hat{B}_n / 2 \right|^2 + (n\hat{k} - 1)^2} \sin^2 \left( \frac{q^{(n)}}{2} x \right),$$

where

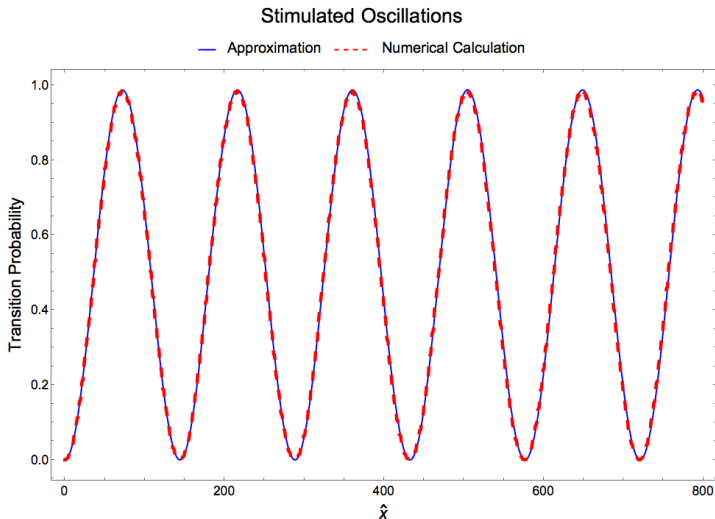
$$q^{(n)} = \sqrt{\left| \Gamma^{(n)} / 2 \right|^2 + (n\hat{k} - 1)^2}, \quad \text{frequency of oscillations}$$

$$\Gamma^{(n)} = \left| \hat{B}_n \right|, \quad \text{width of resonance } (n\hat{k} \text{ as parameter})$$

# SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

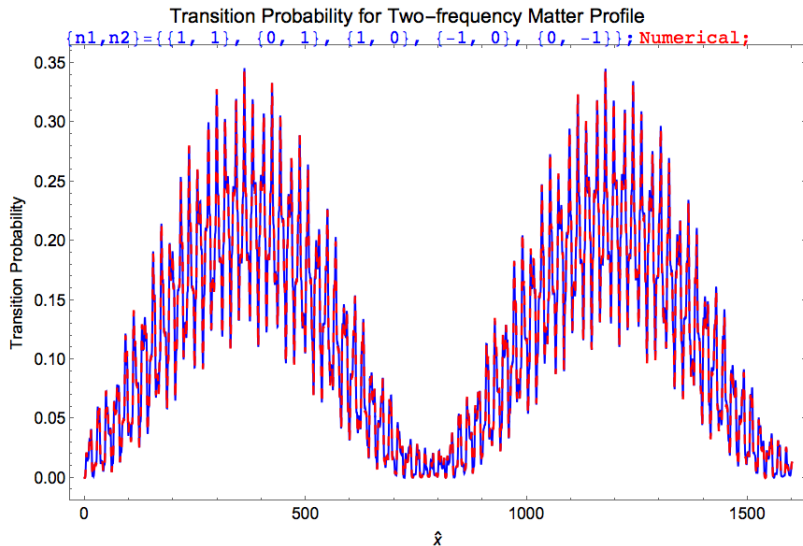


# SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



$$\hat{A} = 0.1, \hat{k} = 0.995, \theta_m = \pi/6$$

# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



$$\lambda(x) = \lambda_0 + A_1 \sin(k_1 x) + A_2 \sin(k_2 x). \quad \hat{k}_1 = 0.3, \hat{k}_2 = 0.7, A_1 = A_2 = 0.1, \\ \theta_m = \pi/5.$$

# OVERVIEW

Introduction

Matter Effect

Understanding Stimulated Oscillations

**Summary & Future Work**

# SUMMARY & FUTURE WORK

- ▶ The fact that neutrino flavor states are not mass states causes vacuum oscillations.
- ▶ MSW resonance happens when matter potential cancels out the vacuum diagonal elements of the Hamiltonian.
- ▶ Even matter profile doesn't match MSW requirement, variation in matter profile can cause resonances.
- ▶ Single frequency perturbations in matter profile is a combination of many Rabi oscillations.
- ▶ How to understand and calculate systems with multi-frequency matter profile (turbulence).
- ▶ Combine periodic or even turbulent matter profile with neutrino self-interaction.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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# BACKUP SLIDES

BACKUP SLIDES

# PARAMETERS USED FOR VACUUM OSCILLATIONS

$$\theta_{12} = 33.36/180\pi; \theta_{13} = 8.66/180\pi; \theta_{23} = 40/180 * \pi; \delta_{cp} = 0;$$
$$m_1^2 = 0.01; m_2^2 = m_1^2 + 0.000079; E = 1\text{MeV}$$

# SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

## Why Does It Work?

$$J_n(n \operatorname{sech} \alpha) \sim \frac{e^{-n(\alpha - \tanh \alpha)}}{\sqrt{2\pi n \tanh \alpha}}, \quad \text{for large } n$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\Gamma \propto \hat{B}_n \propto \frac{e^{-n(\alpha - \tanh \alpha)}}{\sqrt{2\pi n \tanh \alpha}}$$

Small perturbation  $\Rightarrow$  Small  $\hat{A} \Rightarrow$  Large  $\alpha \Rightarrow$  Drops fast at large  $n$ .

# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

## Matter Profile

$$\lambda(x) = \lambda_0 + \delta\lambda(x), \quad \delta\lambda(x) = A_1 \sin(k_1 x) + A_2 \sin(k_2 x).$$

# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE $\hat{h} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} \hat{B}_n e^{i(n\hat{k}-1)\hat{x}},$

## Hamiltonian Off-diagonal Element

Apply Jacobi-Anger expansion,

$$\hat{h} = \sum_{n_1=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n_2=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} \hat{B}_{n_1, n_2}(\hat{k}_1, \hat{k}_2) e^{i(n_1 \hat{k}_1 + n_2 \hat{k}_2 - 1)\hat{x}},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} & \hat{B}_{n_1, n_2}(\hat{k}_1, \hat{k}_2) \\ &= -(-i)^{n_1+n_2} (n_1 \hat{k}_1 + n_2 \hat{k}_2) J_{n_1} \left( \frac{\hat{A}_1 \cos 2\theta_m}{\hat{k}_1} \right) J_{n_2} \left( \frac{\hat{A}_2 \cos 2\theta_m}{\hat{k}_2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Which terms are important?

# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

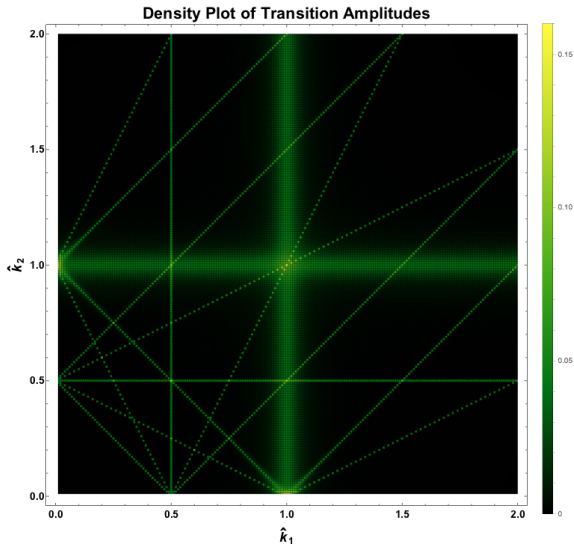
## Resonance Lines

There are still resonances, i.e., (almost) zero phases, on lines

$$n_{1,0}\hat{k}_1 + n_{2,0}\hat{k}_2 - 1 = 0$$

in  $\{\hat{k}_1, \hat{k}_2\}$  plane.  $\Rightarrow$  Resonance width for each point on resonance lines.

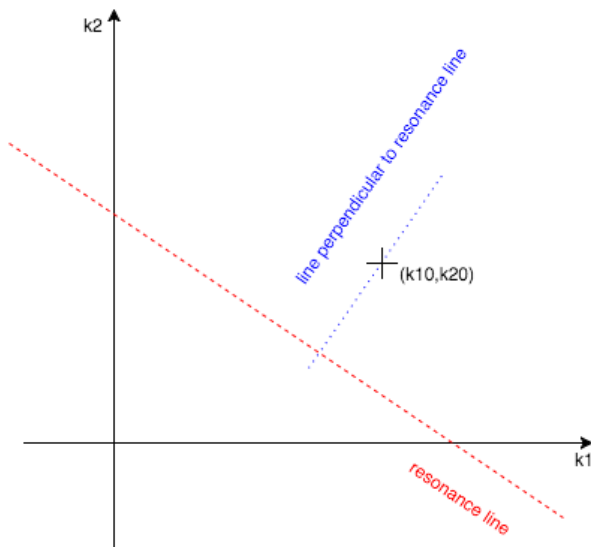
# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE $\hat{h} \equiv \sum_{n_1} \sum_{n_2} \frac{1}{2} \hat{B}_{n_1, n_2}(\hat{k}_1, \hat{k}_2) e^{i(n_1 \hat{k}_1 + n_2 \hat{k}_2 - 1)\hat{x}}$



Density plot of transition amplitudes calculated using only one term out of the whole summation in Hamiltonian.  $n_1, n_2 \in [-2, 2]$



# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



Resonance line, distance to resonance, and width

# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

Width

$$\Gamma_2 = \frac{\hat{B}_{n_1, n_2}(\hat{k}_{1, \text{intercept}}, \hat{k}_{2, \text{intercept}})}{\sqrt{n_1^2 + n_2^2}}.$$

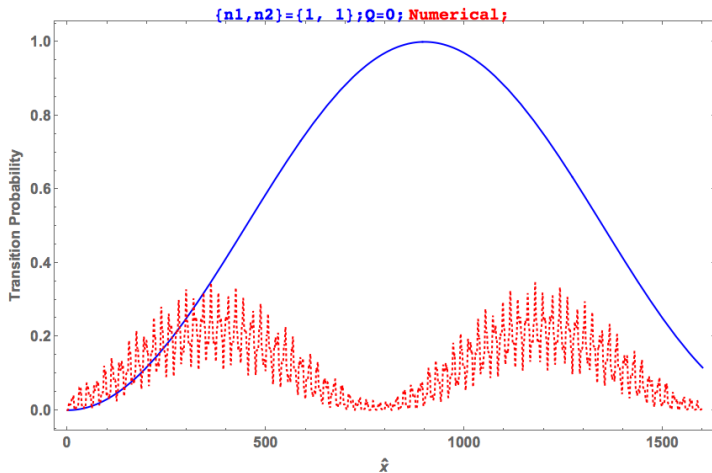
Distance to Resonance Line

$$d = \frac{|n_1 \hat{k}_{10} + n_2 \hat{k}_{20} - 1|}{\sqrt{n_1^2 + n_2^2}}.$$

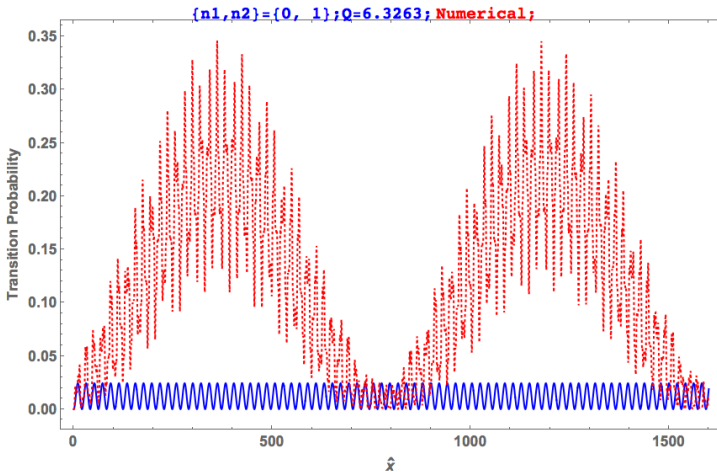
Distance to Resonance Width Ratio

$$Q_2 = \frac{d}{\Gamma_2}.$$

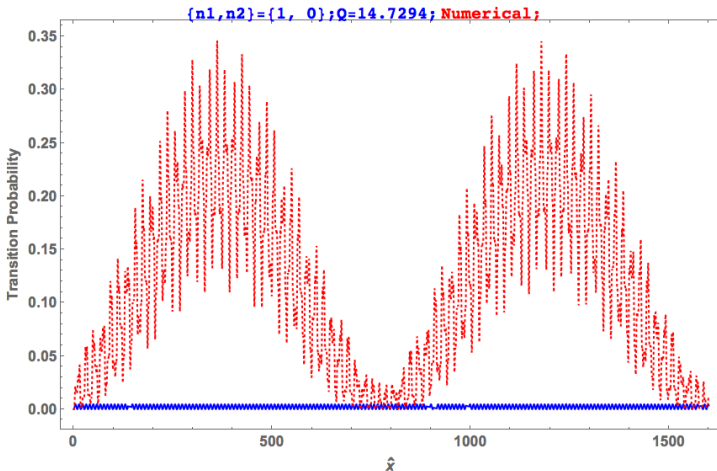
# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



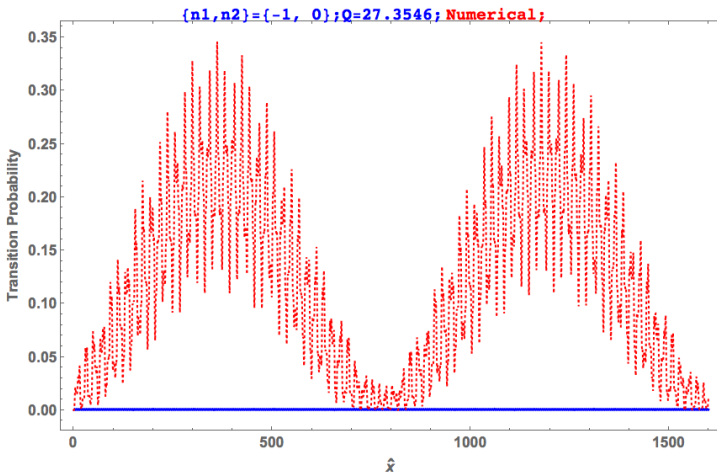
# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



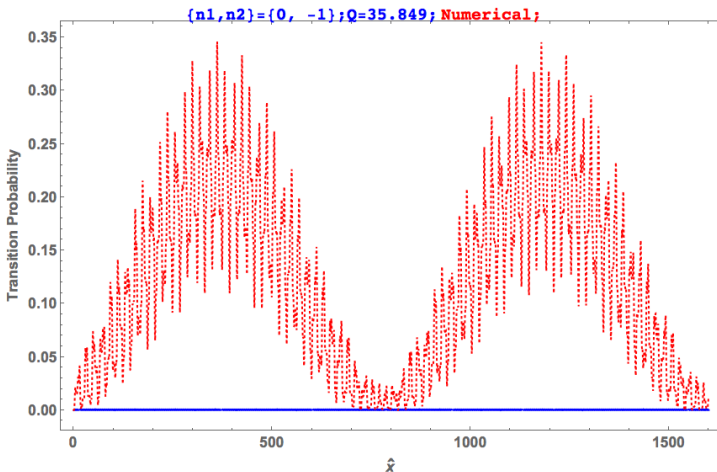
# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



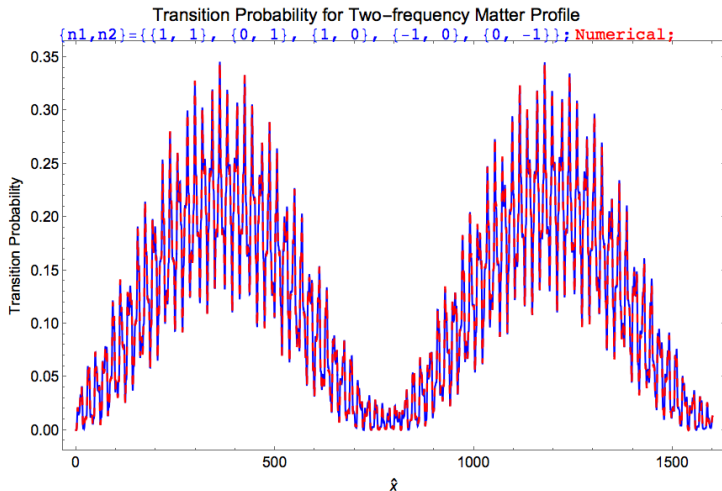
# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



# TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE





# BESSEL'S FUNCTION

$$J_n(\beta) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m}{m! \Gamma(m+n+1)} \left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)^{2m+n}$$

# REFERENCES I