

Neutrino Oscillations in Matter

PhD Candidacy Exam

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April 19, 2016

OUTLINE

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

OVERVIEW

Introduction

- What are Neutrinos

- Neutrino Oscillations

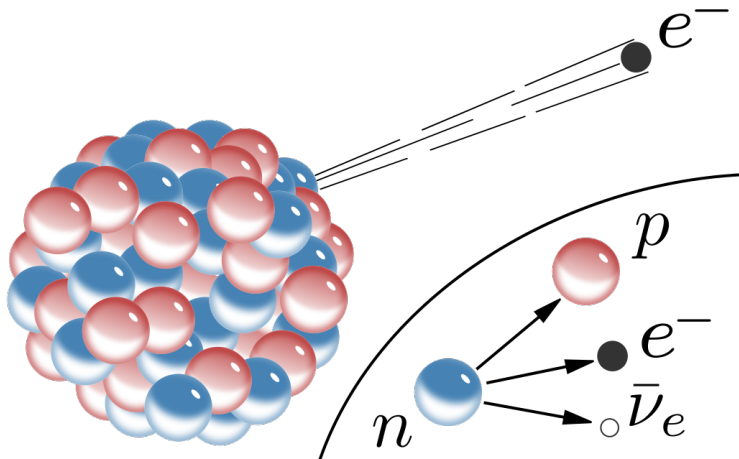
- Why Do Neutrino Oscillate

Matter Effect

Understanding Stimulated Oscillations

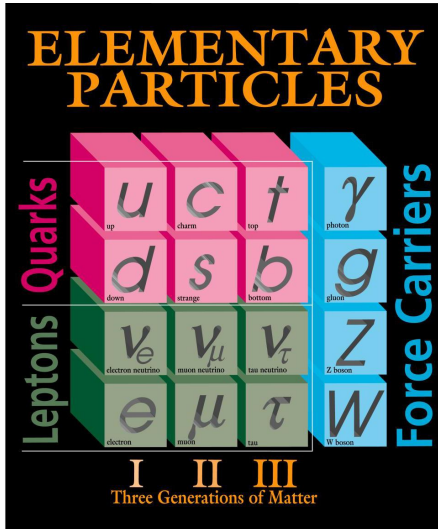
Summary & Future Work

WHAT ARE NEUTRINOS?



Beta decay and antineutrino production. Source: Beta_Decay@Wikipedia

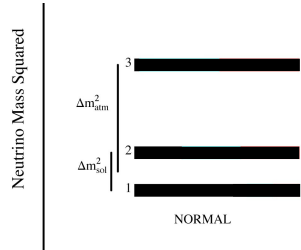
WHAT ARE NEUTRINOS?



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Neutrinos are

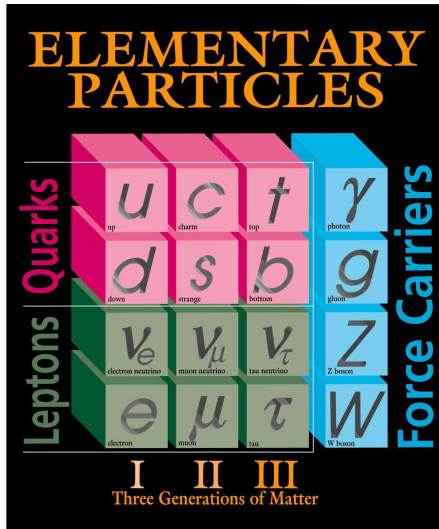
- fermions,
- electrically neutral,
- light.



Adapted from Olga Mena & Stephen Parke (2004)

Table of elementary particles. Source: Fermilab

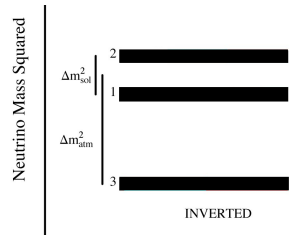
WHAT ARE NEUTRINOS?



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Neutrinos are

- fermions,
- electrically neutral,
- light.



Adapted from Olga Mena & Stephen Parke (2004)

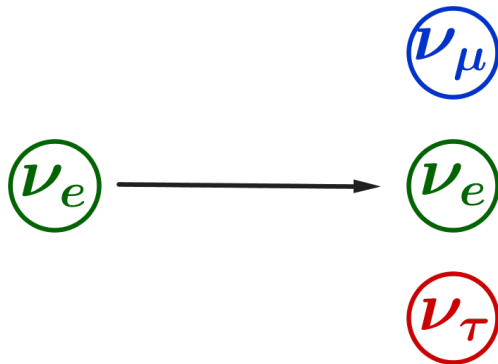
Table of elementary particles. Source:
Fermilab

WHAT IS NEUTRINO OSCILLATION?

Neutrino Oscillation

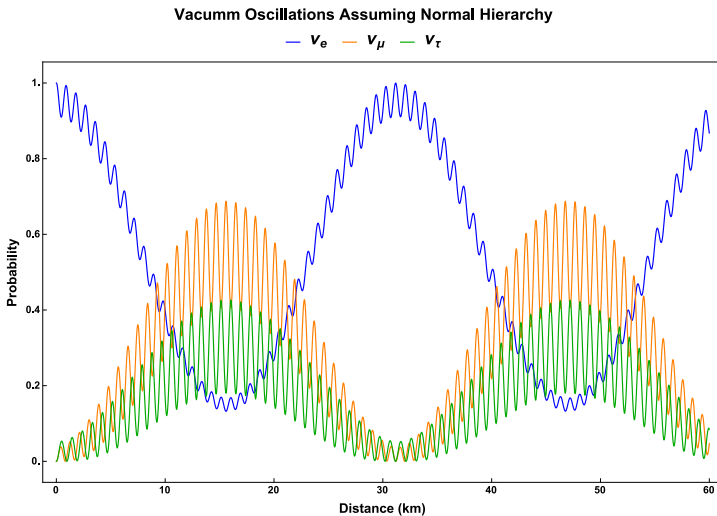
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Neutrino Flavor Conversion



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

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

θ_v : vacuum mixing angle

WHY DO NEUTRINOS OSCILLATE?

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θ_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 θ_v determines flavor oscillation amplitude.

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Matter Effect

- Matter Interaction

- MSW Effect

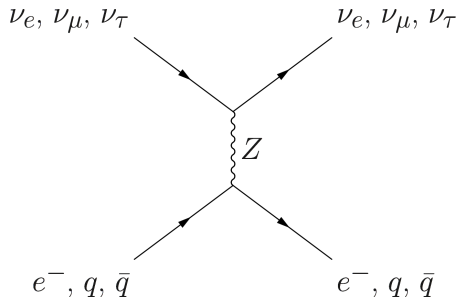
- Solar Neutrino Problem

- Stimulated Neutrino Oscillations

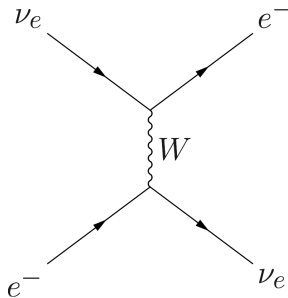
Understanding Stimulated Oscillations

Summary & Future Work

MATTER INTERACTION



Neutral current interaction between
 ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ ,
and e^- , quarks and antiquarks.



Charged current interaction between
 ν_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 λ_0 as an example,

Significance of θ_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

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

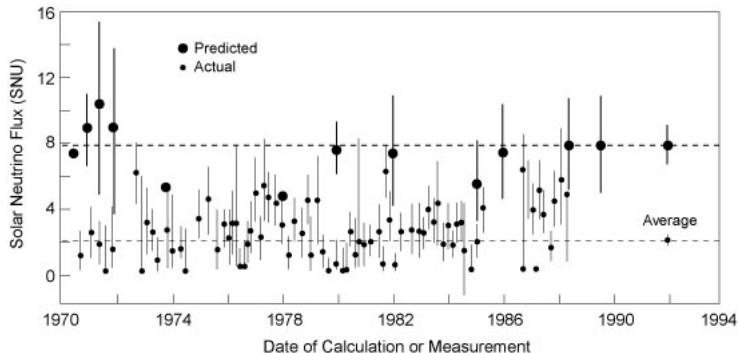
$$\tan 2\theta_m(x) = \frac{\omega_v \sin 2\theta_v}{\omega_v \cos 2\theta_v - \lambda(x)}.$$

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

Transition Probability

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

SOLAR NEUTRINO PROBLEM



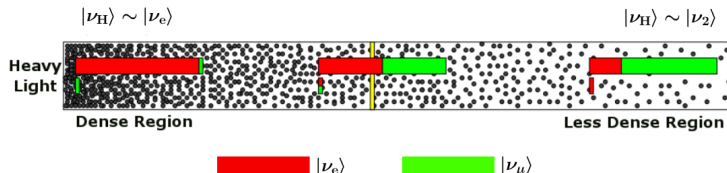
Chlorine detector (Homestake experiment) results and theory predictions.
SNU: 1 event for 10^{36} target atoms per second. Kenneth R. Lang (2010)

MSW EFFECT AND SOLAR NEUTRINOS

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

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

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



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

MSW EFFECT

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

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

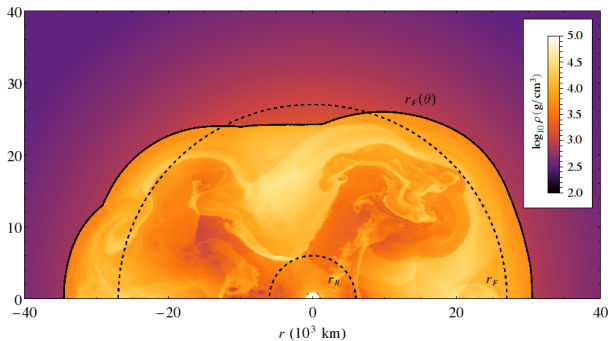


$$\mathbf{H} = \left(\frac{-\omega_v}{2} \cos 2\theta_v + \frac{\lambda(x)}{2} \right) \sigma_3 - \frac{\omega_v}{2} \sin 2\theta_v \sigma_1$$

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 λ_0 ,

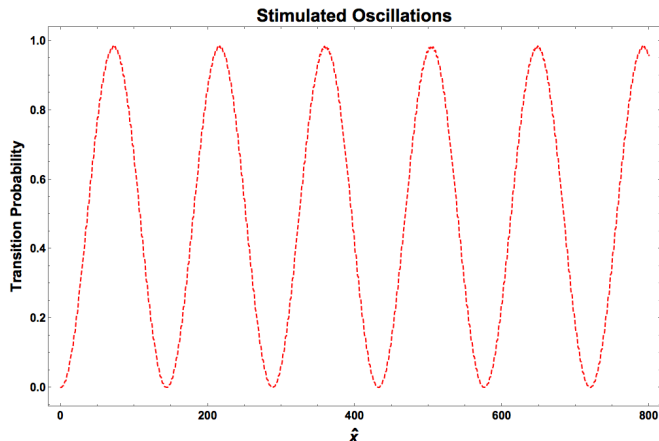
$$H_{\text{background}} = -\frac{\omega_m}{2} \sigma_3.$$

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

- Two-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

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

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

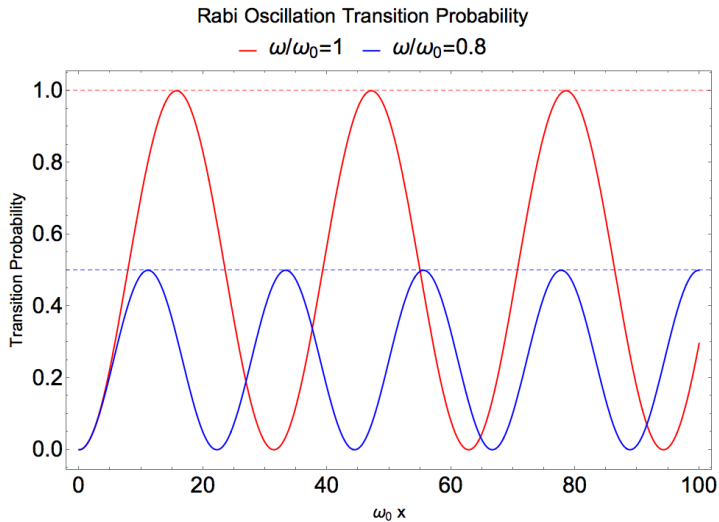
$$E_1 = -\frac{\omega_0}{2}$$

Incoming light

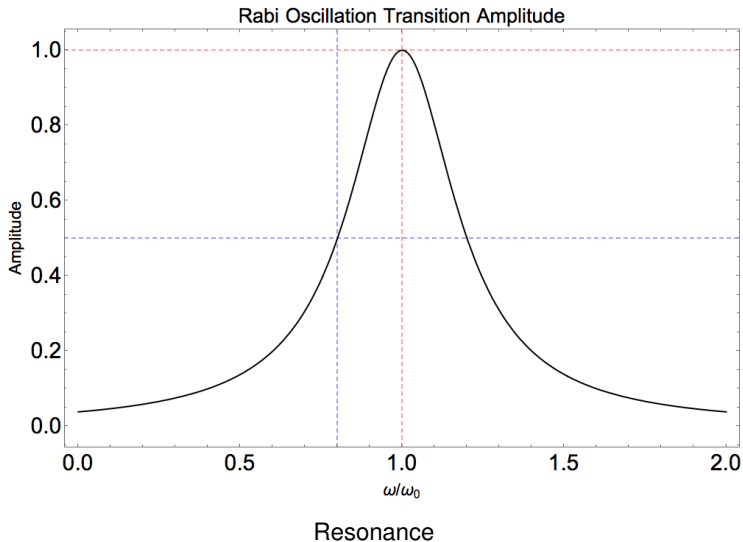


Frequency : ω

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: ω_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

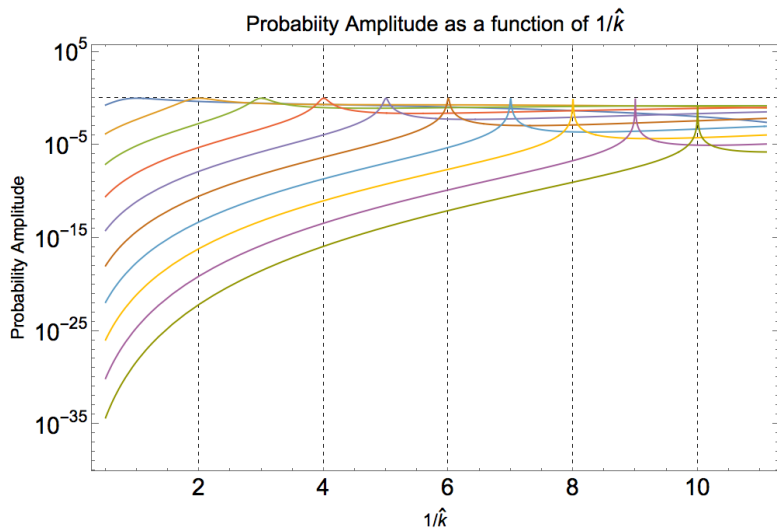
$$P_{L \rightarrow H}^{(n)} = \frac{\left| \hat{B}_n / 2 \right|^2}{\left| \hat{B}_n / 2 \right|^2 + (n\hat{k} - 1)^2} \sin^2 \left(\frac{q^{(n)}}{2} x \right),$$

where

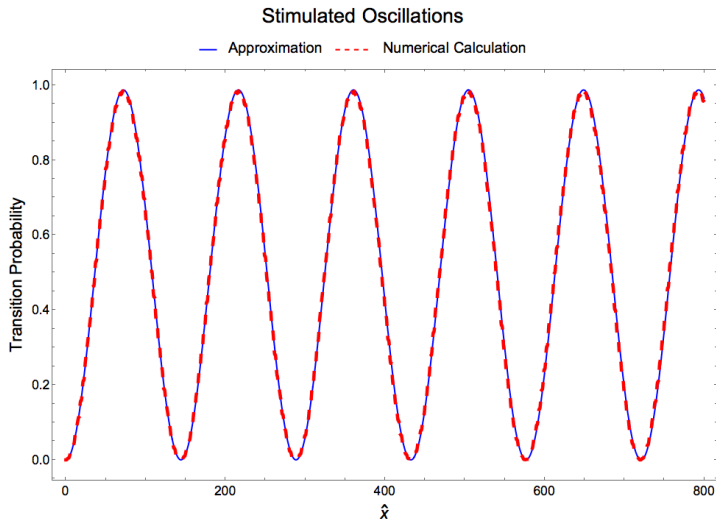
$$q^{(n)} = \sqrt{\left| \Gamma^{(n)} / 2 \right|^2 + (n\hat{k} - 1)^2}, \quad \text{frequency of oscillations}$$

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

SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE

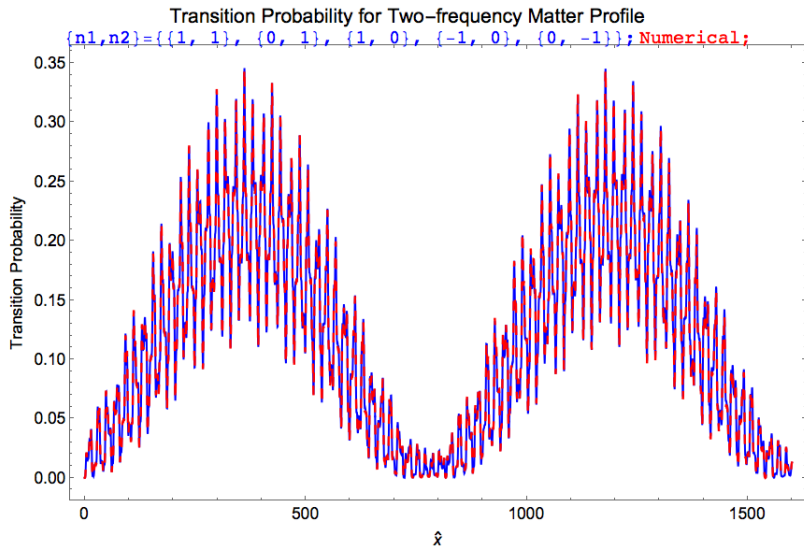


SINGLE FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



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

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

I am very thankful to my advisor Professor Huaiyu Duan, and everyone in our group Dr. Sajad Abbar, and Dr. Shashank Shalgar, for all the help in both research and life.

Supported by DOE EPSCoR grant #DE-SC0008142 at UNM.

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

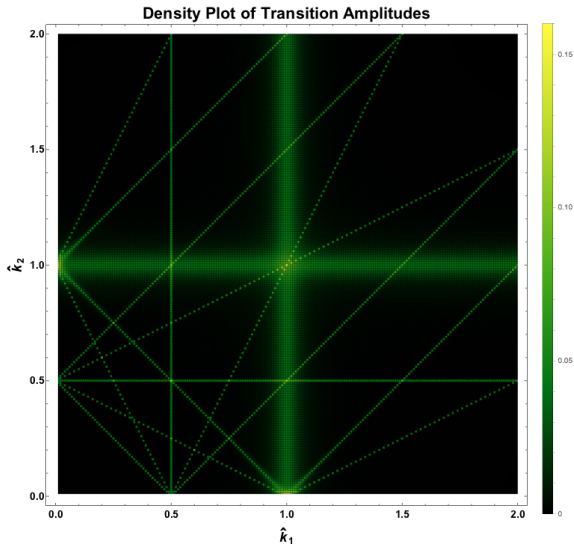
Resonance Lines

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

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

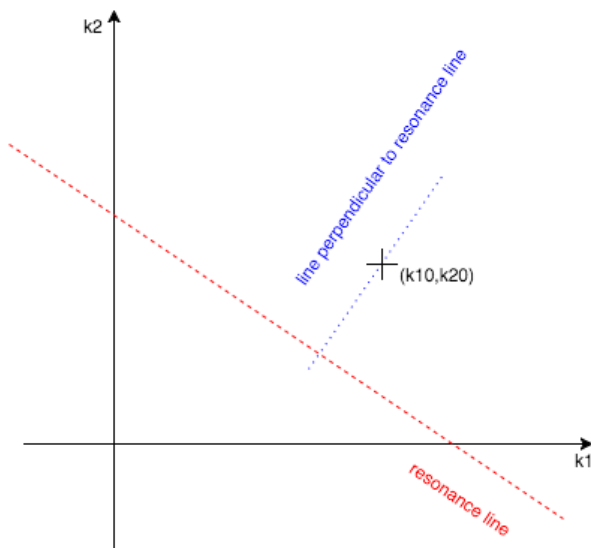
in $\{\hat{k}_1, \hat{k}_2\}$ plane. \Rightarrow Resonance width for each point on resonance lines.

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

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

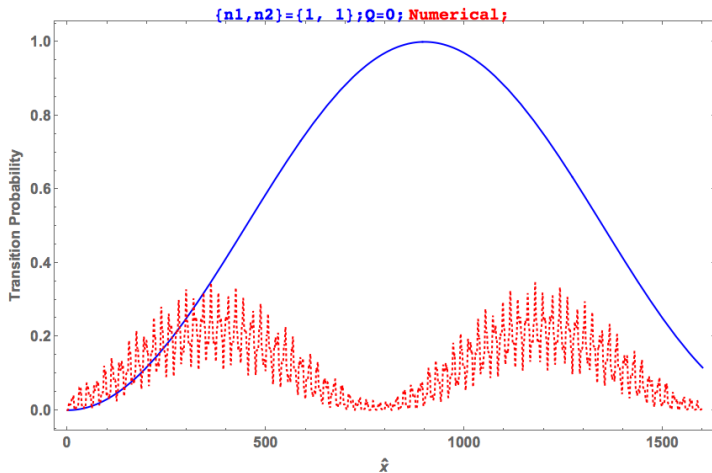
Distance to Resonance Line

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

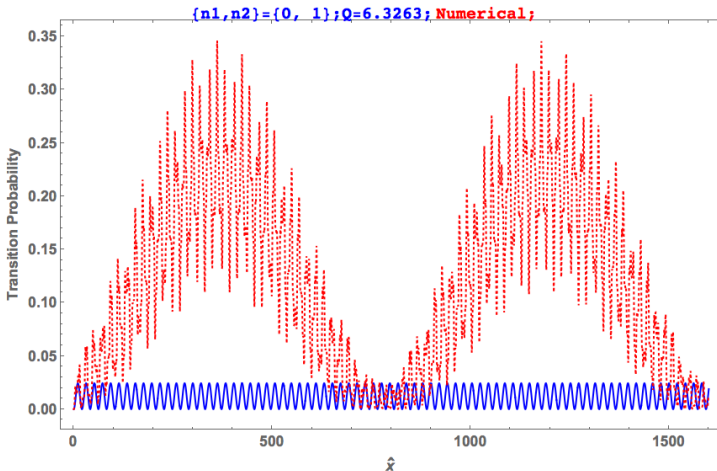
Distance to Resonance Width Ratio

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

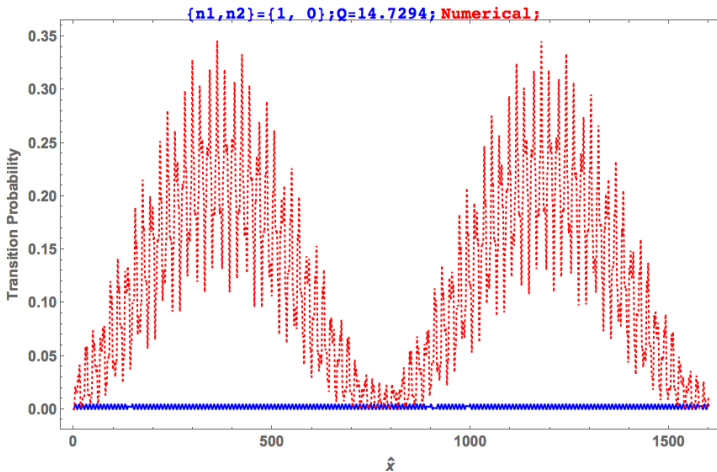
TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



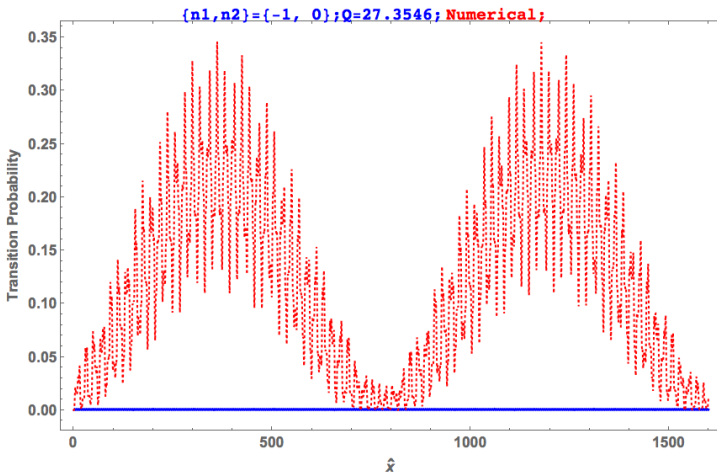
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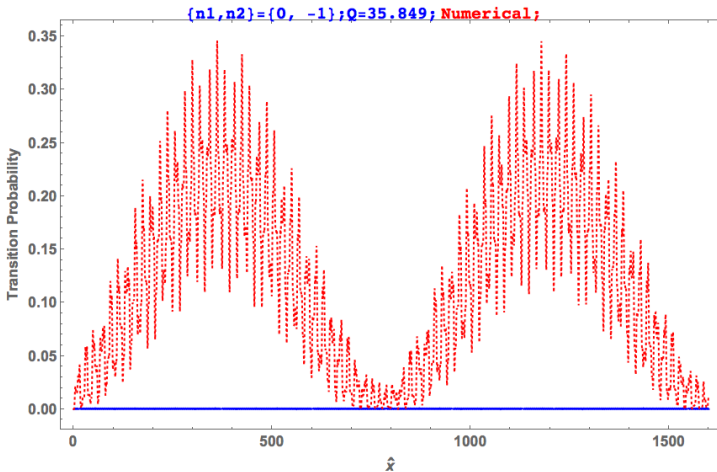
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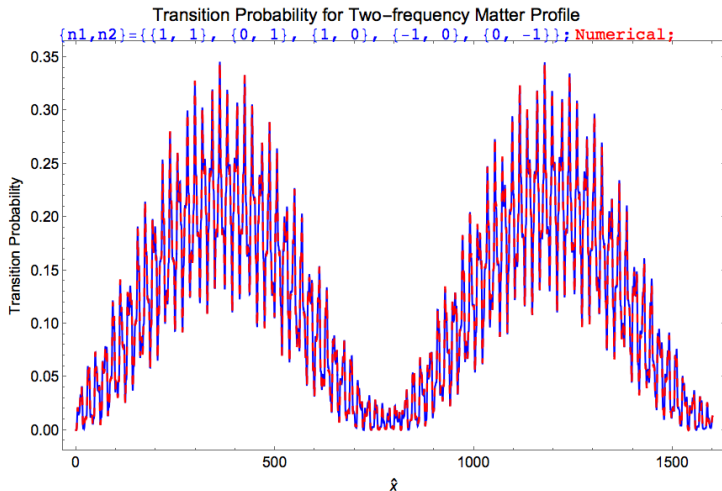
TWO-FREQUENCY MATTER PROFILE



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