

We consider the case background density close to MSW resonance density. The width of the n th mode is

$$B_n = \tan 2\theta_m n k J_n(A \cos 2\theta_m / k).$$

As the background density approaches MSW resonance density, we have

$$\cos 2\theta_m \rightarrow 0.$$

We know that the Bessel function for small argument becomes

$$J_n(z) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\Gamma(n+1)} (z/2)^n, \quad \text{for small } z.$$

Then we can calculate the width for such background densities,

$$B_n = \tan 2\theta_m n k \frac{(A \cos 2\theta_m / (2k))^n}{\Gamma(n+1)} = \tan 2\theta_m k \frac{(A \cos 2\theta_m / (2k))^n}{\Gamma(n)}.$$

We simplify it to

$$B_n = \sin 2\theta_m \cos 2\theta_m \frac{k(A/2k)^n}{(n-1)!}$$

Since

$$A/2k < 1$$

we always have

$$B_1 > B_2.$$

It seems that the approximation to use only first order is quite robust. For small matter perturbation A , we always have the first mode being the most important mode.

Then the only example that I can think of to break the approximations in the second section is to choose

$$k \sim 0.5\omega_m.$$