

Neutrino oscillation in Dense Matter

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S. Luo, Phys. Rev. D 101, no.3, 033005 (2020), [arXiv:1911.06301 \[hep-ph\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.06301).



Matter Effect



- Effective Hamiltonian (in the flavor basis)

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \frac{1}{2E} V \begin{pmatrix} m_1^2 & & \\ & m_2^2 & \\ & & m_3^2 \end{pmatrix} V^\dagger + \begin{pmatrix} V_{CC} + V_{NC} & & \\ & V_{NC} & \\ & & V_{NC} \end{pmatrix}$$

Vacuum Hamiltonian

Matter Potential

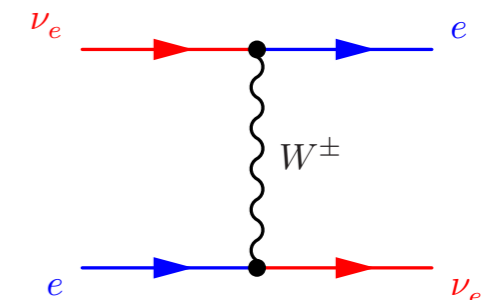
Only V_{CC} is relevant to neutrino oscillation in matter

For anti-neutrinos

$$V_{CC} \rightarrow -V_{CC}, \quad V_{NC} \rightarrow -V_{NC}$$

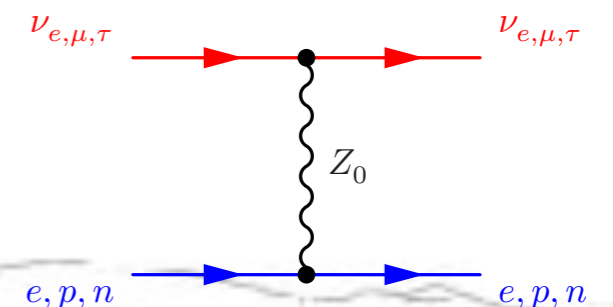
charged-current

$$V_{CC} = \sqrt{2}G_F N_e$$



neutral-current

$$V_{NC} = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}G_F N_n$$



- Effective Hamiltonian (in the flavor basis)

$$A_{CC} = 2EV_{CC}$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \frac{1}{2E} \left[(m_1^2 + A_{NC}) \cdot \mathbb{1} + V \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & \Delta m_{21}^2 & \\ & & \Delta m_{31}^2 \end{pmatrix} V^\dagger + \begin{pmatrix} A_{CC} & & \\ & 0 & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

Vacuum term

Matter term

Vacuum-Dominated

$$|A_{CC}| \ll \Delta m_{21}^2, |\Delta m_{31}^2|$$

Resonance

$$A_{CC} \sim \Delta m_{21}^2$$

(solar resonance)

$$A_{CC} \sim \Delta m_{31}^2$$

(atmospheric resonance)

Matter-Dominated

$$|A_{CC}| \gg \Delta m_{21}^2, |\Delta m_{31}^2|$$

(high energy, high density)

A_{CC} increase



Z. Z. Xing, S. Zhou & Y. L. Zhou, JHEP 05, 015 (2018)
 G. Y. Huang, J. H. Liu and S. Zhou, Nucl. Phys. B 931, 324-341 (2018)
 X. Wang and S. Zhou, JHEP 05, 035 (2019)
 Z. Z. Xing and J. Y. Zhu, Nucl. Phys. B 949, 114803 (2019)

Matter-Dominated Case



- In the limit $|A_{CC}| \rightarrow \infty$ ($\Delta m_{21}^2/|A_{CC}|, |\Delta m_{31}^2/A_{CC}| \rightarrow 0$)

three effective neutrino masses

$$\tilde{m}_1^2 \gg \tilde{m}_2^2 \simeq \tilde{m}_3^2$$

$$\tilde{m}_1^2 \rightarrow m_1^2 + A_{NC} + A_{CC} + \Omega_{11},$$

$$\tilde{m}_2^2 \rightarrow m_1^2 + A_{NC} + \Omega_{22} \cos^2 \tilde{\theta} + \Omega_{33} \sin^2 \tilde{\theta} - |\Omega_{23}| \sin 2\tilde{\theta},$$

$$\tilde{m}_3^2 \rightarrow m_1^2 + A_{NC} + \Omega_{33} \cos^2 \tilde{\theta} + \Omega_{22} \sin^2 \tilde{\theta} + |\Omega_{23}| \sin 2\tilde{\theta},$$

} nearly degenerate

effective leptonic mixing matrix

$$\tilde{V} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \tilde{\theta} & \sin \tilde{\theta} \\ 0 & -\sin \tilde{\theta} & \cos \tilde{\theta} \end{pmatrix}$$

the effective mixing matrix evolves to a two-flavor mixing matrix

$$\tilde{J} \rightarrow 0$$

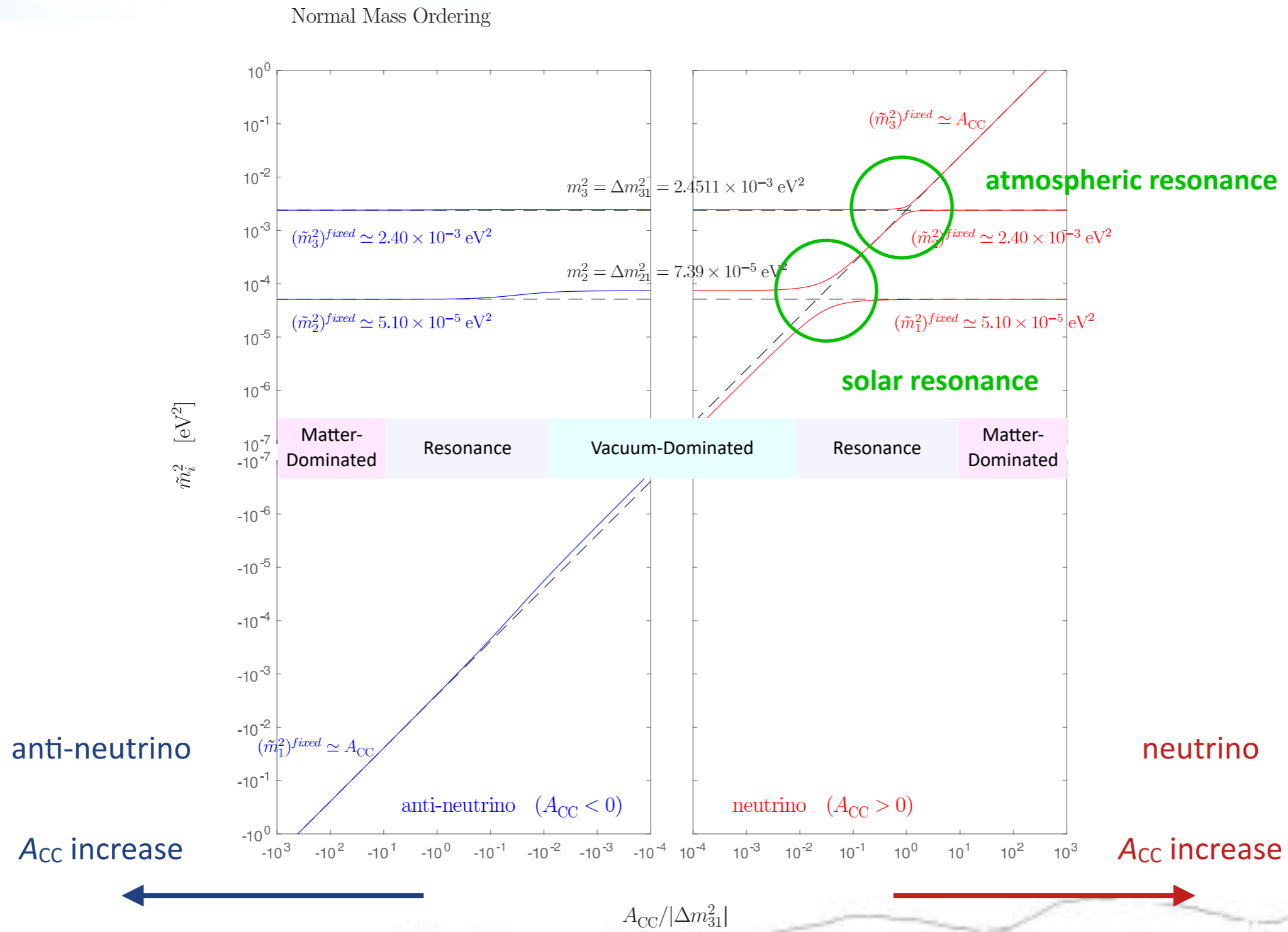
with

$$\tan 2\tilde{\theta} = \frac{2 |\Delta m_{21}^2 V_{\mu 2} V_{\tau 2}^* + \Delta m_{31}^2 V_{\mu 3} V_{\tau 3}^*|}{\Delta m_{21}^2 (|V_{\tau 2}|^2 - |V_{\mu 2}|^2) + \Delta m_{31}^2 (|V_{\tau 3}|^2 - |V_{\mu 3}|^2)}$$

$$\tilde{\theta} \approx \theta_{23}$$

$$\Omega \equiv V \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & \Delta m_{21}^2 & \\ & & \Delta m_{31}^2 \end{pmatrix} V^\dagger$$

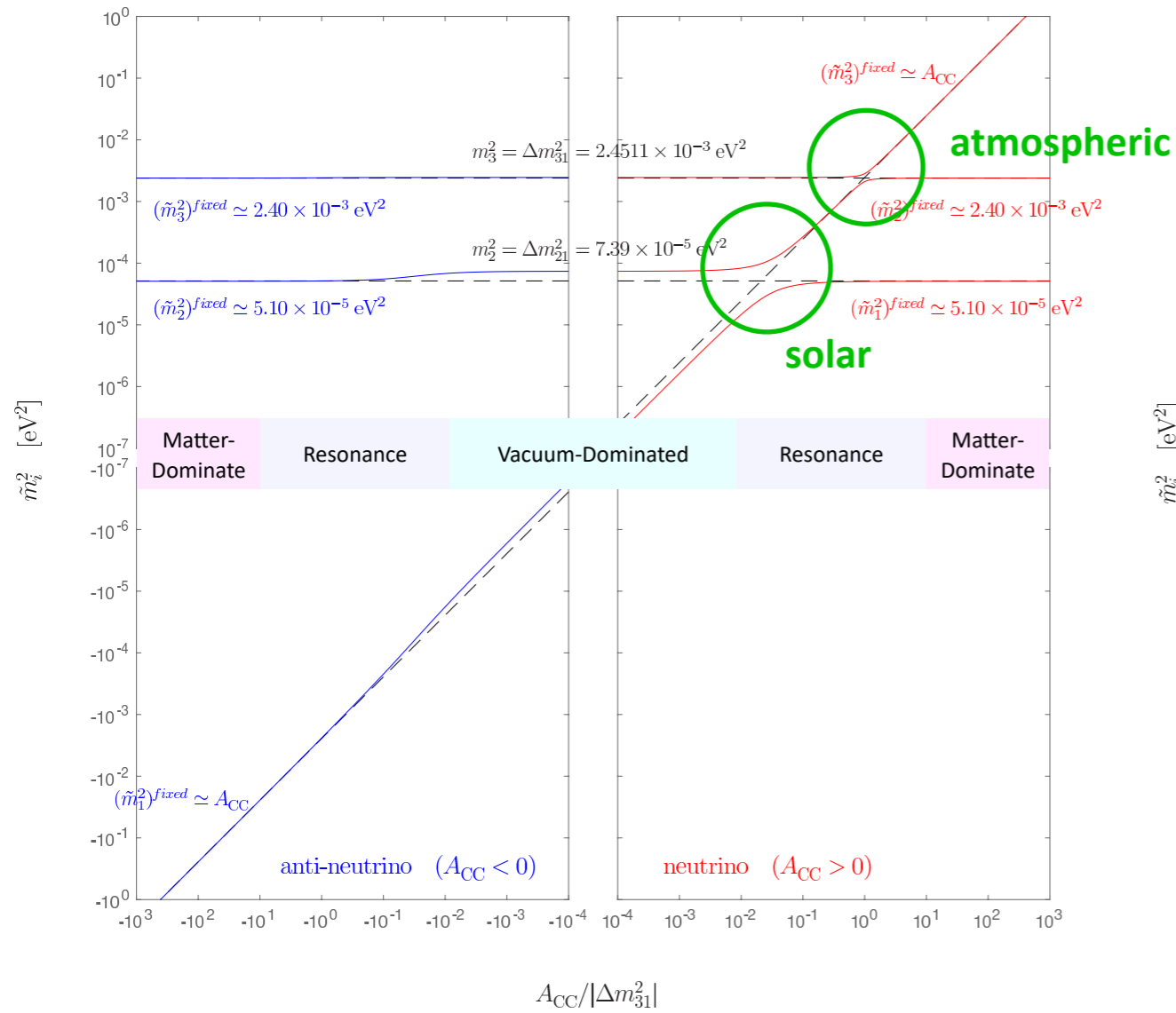
- three squared effective neutrino masses vary with A_{CC} (Normal Mass Ordering)



- three squared effective neutrino masses vary with A_{CC}

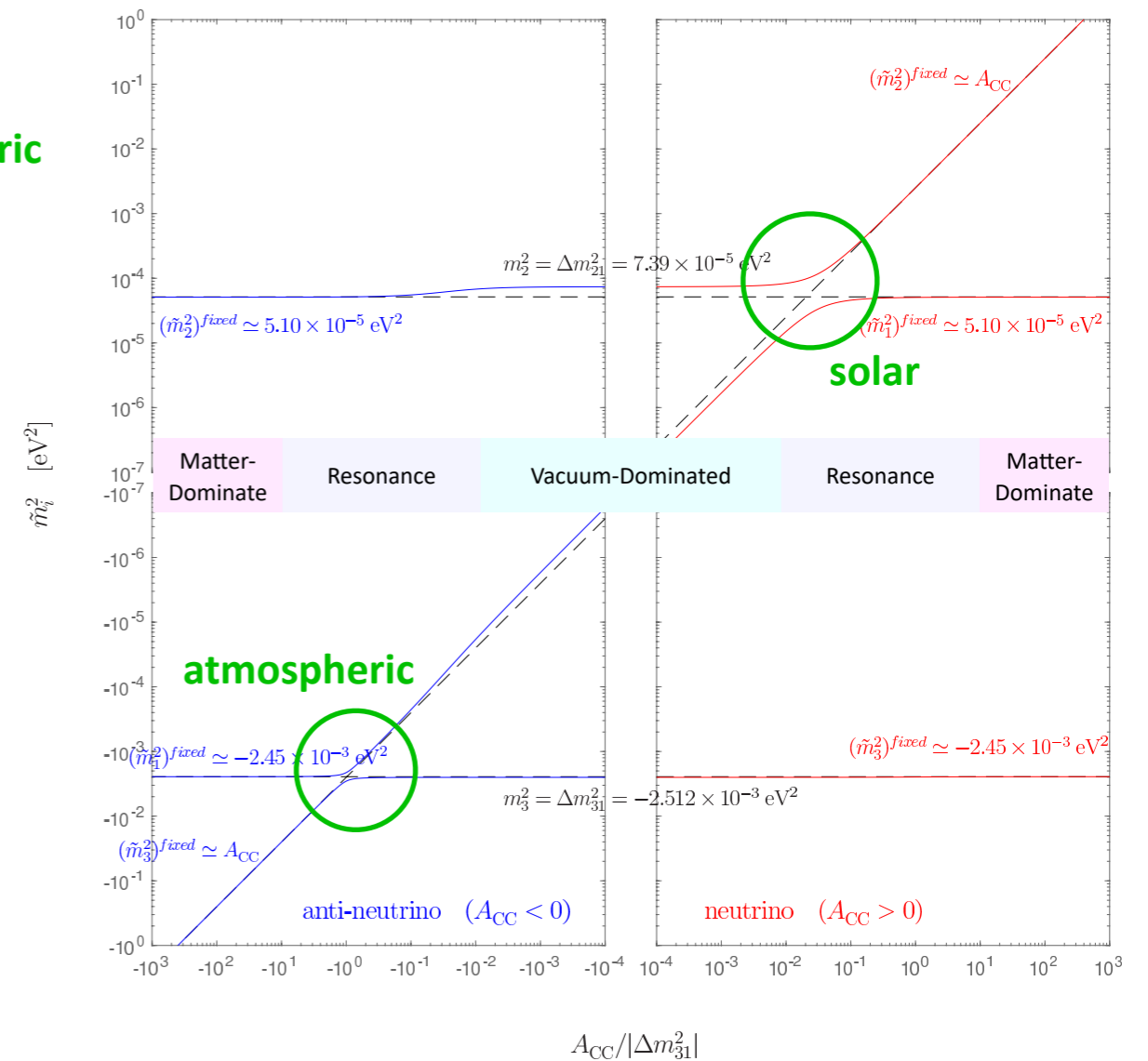
Normal Mass Ordering

Normal Mass Ordering

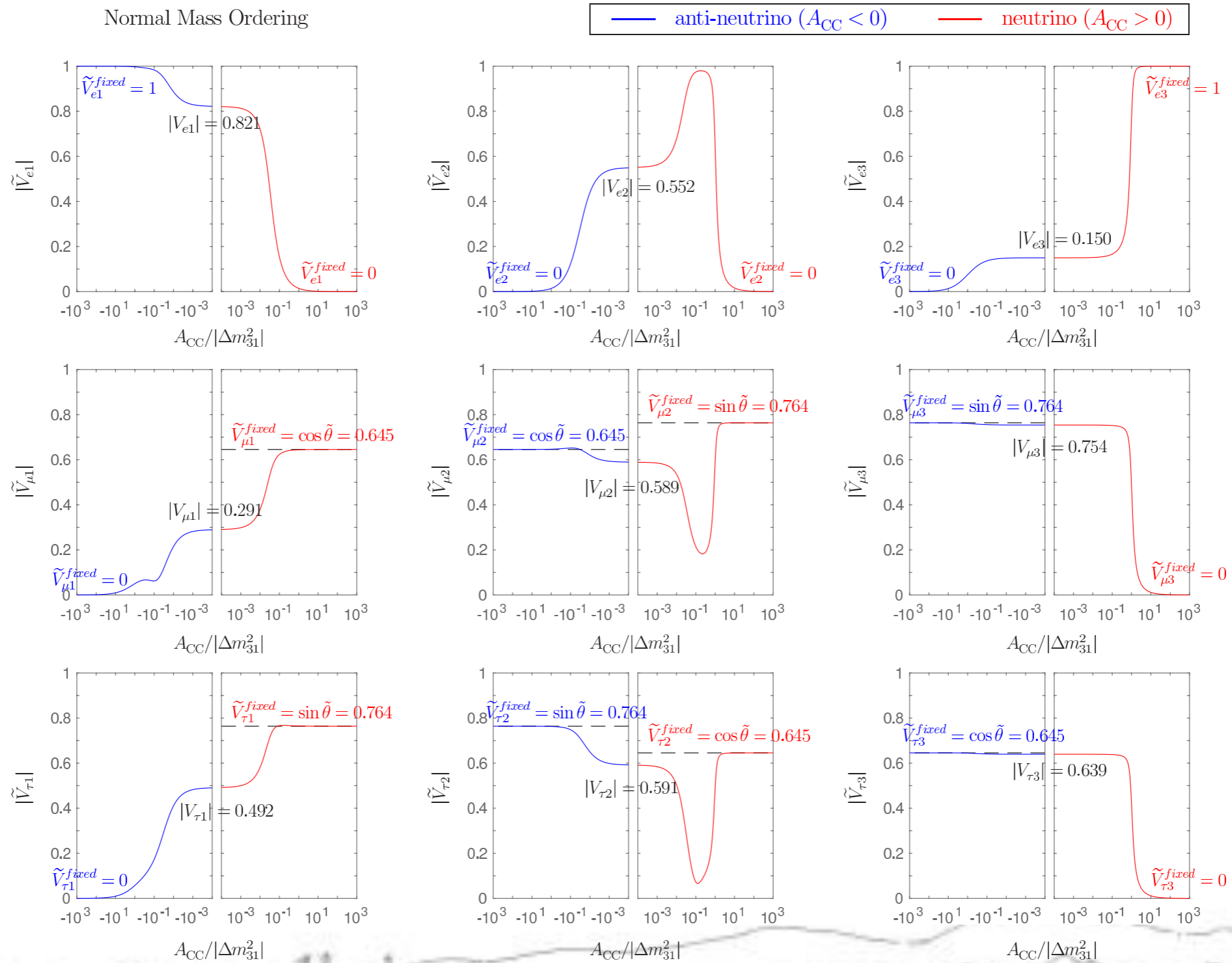


Inverted Mass Ordering

Inverted Mass Ordering



- effective leptonic mixing matrix vary with A_{CC}



Matter-Dominated Case



- In the limit $|A_{CC}| \rightarrow \infty$ ($\Delta m_{21}^2/|A_{CC}|, |\Delta m_{31}^2/A_{CC}| \rightarrow 0$)

neutrino oscillation probabilities

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{P}(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e) \approx 1, & \tilde{P}(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu) \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\tilde{\theta} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta\tilde{m}_{32}^2 L}{4E}, \\
 \tilde{P}(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu) \approx 0, & \tilde{P}(\nu_\tau \rightarrow \nu_\tau) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_\tau \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\tau) \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\tilde{\theta} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta\tilde{m}_{32}^2 L}{4E}, \\
 \tilde{P}(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\tau) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\tau) \approx 0, & \tilde{P}(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\tau) \approx \sin^2 2\tilde{\theta} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta\tilde{m}_{32}^2 L}{4E}, \\
 \tilde{P}(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e) \approx 0, & \tilde{P}(\nu_\tau \rightarrow \nu_\mu) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_\tau \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu) \approx \sin^2 2\tilde{\theta} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta\tilde{m}_{32}^2 L}{4E}, \\
 \tilde{P}(\nu_\tau \rightarrow \nu_e) &\approx \tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_\tau \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e) \approx 0, & &
 \end{aligned}$$

where

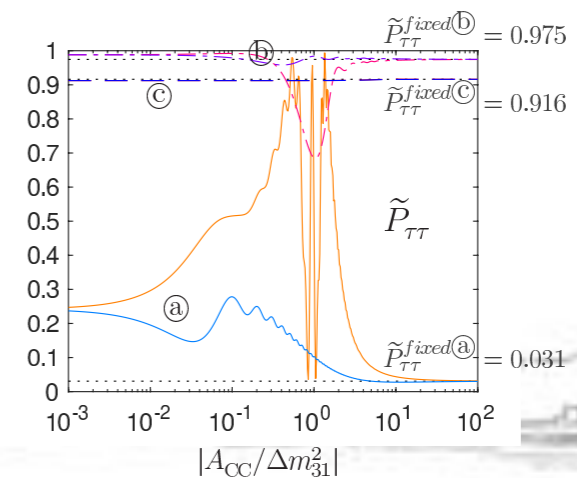
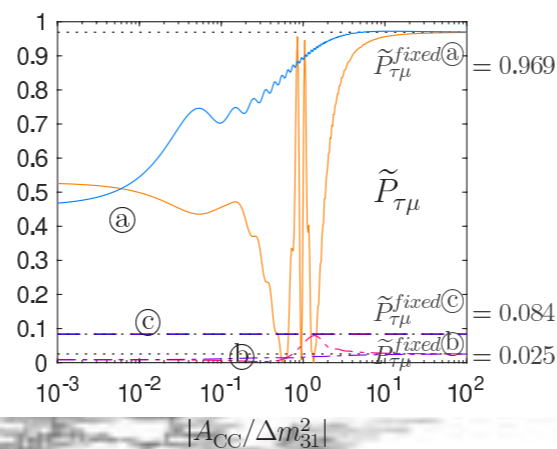
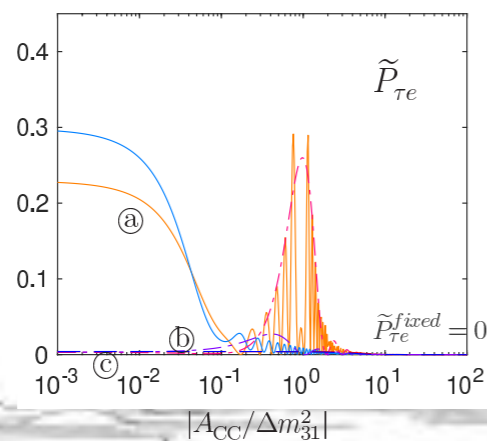
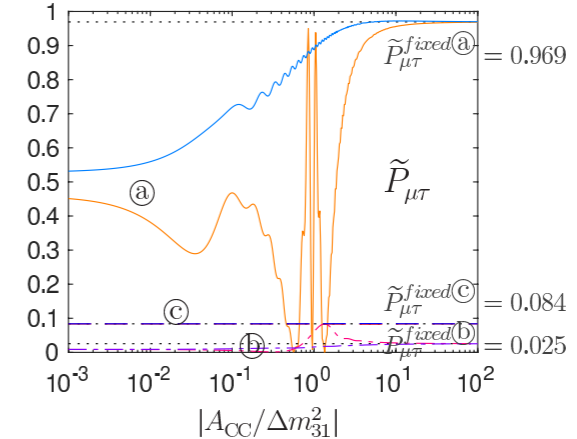
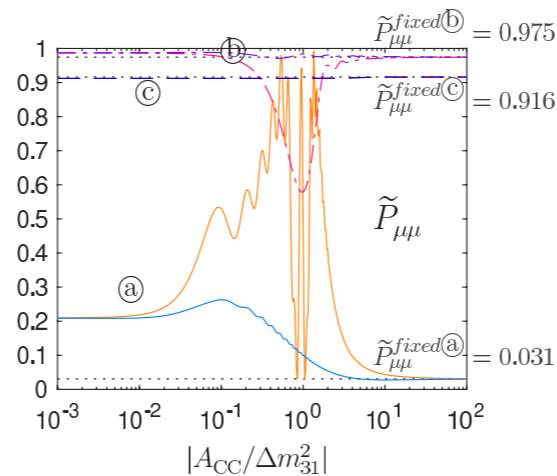
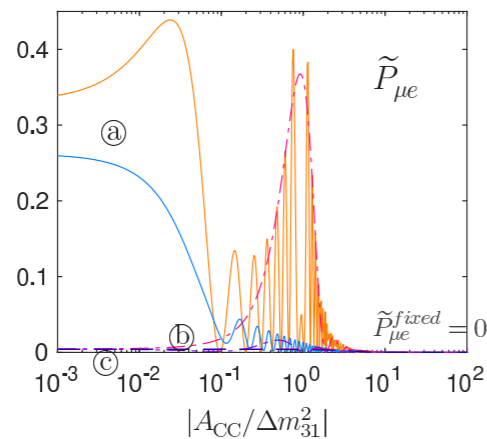
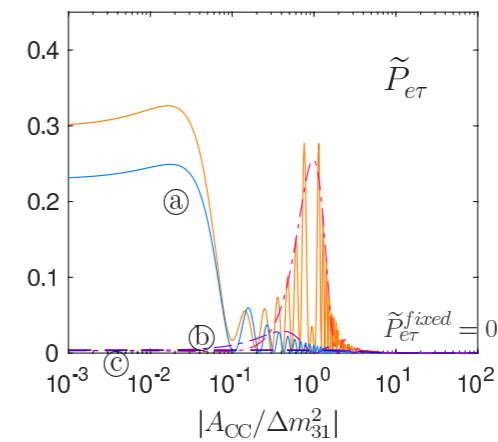
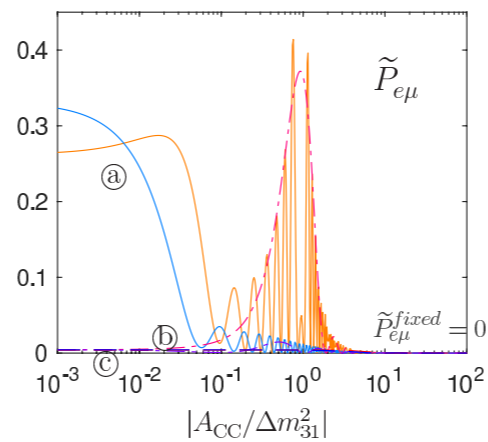
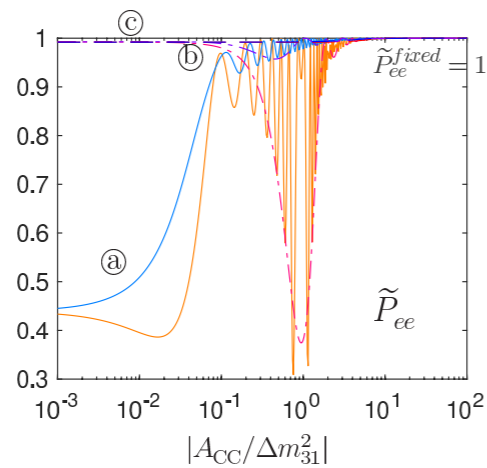
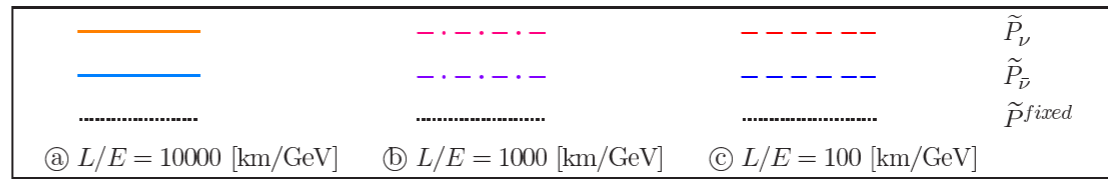
$$\Delta\tilde{m}_{32}^2 \approx [\Delta m_{21}^2 (|V_{\tau 2}|^2 - |V_{\mu 2}|^2) + \Delta m_{31}^2 (|V_{\tau 3}|^2 - |V_{\mu 3}|^2)] \cos 2\tilde{\theta} + 2|\Delta m_{21}^2 V_{\mu 2} V_{\tau 2}^* + \Delta m_{31}^2 V_{\mu 3} V_{\tau 3}^*| \sin 2\tilde{\theta}$$

$$\tan 2\tilde{\theta} = \frac{2|\Delta m_{21}^2 V_{\mu 2} V_{\tau 2}^* + \Delta m_{31}^2 V_{\mu 3} V_{\tau 3}^*|}{\Delta m_{21}^2 (|V_{\tau 2}|^2 - |V_{\mu 2}|^2) + \Delta m_{31}^2 (|V_{\tau 3}|^2 - |V_{\mu 3}|^2)} \quad \Omega \equiv V \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & \Delta m_{21}^2 & \\ & & \Delta m_{31}^2 \end{pmatrix} V^\dagger$$

$$\Delta\tilde{m}_{32}^2 \approx \Delta m_{32}^2, \quad \tilde{\theta} \approx \theta_{23}$$

- neutrino oscillation probabilities vary with A_{CC} (with fixed L/E)

Normal Mass Ordering



When ν s passing through a WD



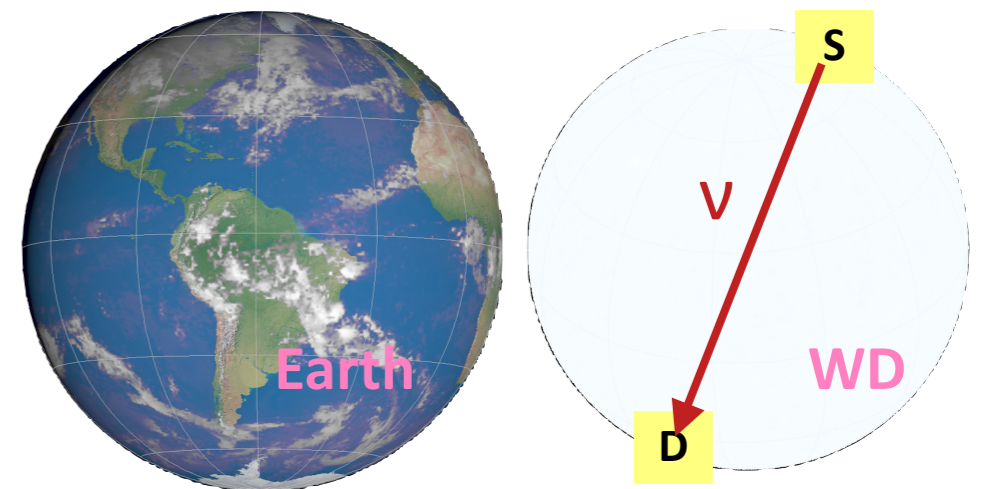
- Let's try to carry out a long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiment on a typical **white dwarf** with $M \sim 0.7M_{\odot}$, $R \sim 10^4$ km

$$\rho \sim 2 \times 10^6 \text{ g/cm}^3 \quad (n_e \sim 6 \times 10^{29} \text{ cm}^{-3} \sim 10^6 N_A \text{ cm}^{-3})$$

very dense \rightarrow give rise to significant matter effect

no longer undergo fusion reaction

\rightarrow does not radiate large amount of neutrinos



the approximate mean free path $\ell = (\sigma\rho/m_p)^{-1} \sim 0.9 \times 10^{13} (E/\text{MeV})^{-2} \text{ cm}$

for ν with $E \lesssim 10 \text{ MeV}$, $\ell \gtrsim 9 \times 10^5 \text{ km}$ \rightarrow attenuation can be neglected

for ν with $E \gtrsim 0.2 \text{ MeV}$, the oscillation is matter-dominated

- oscillation probabilities vary with neutrino energy E

vacuum oscillation

pass through WD

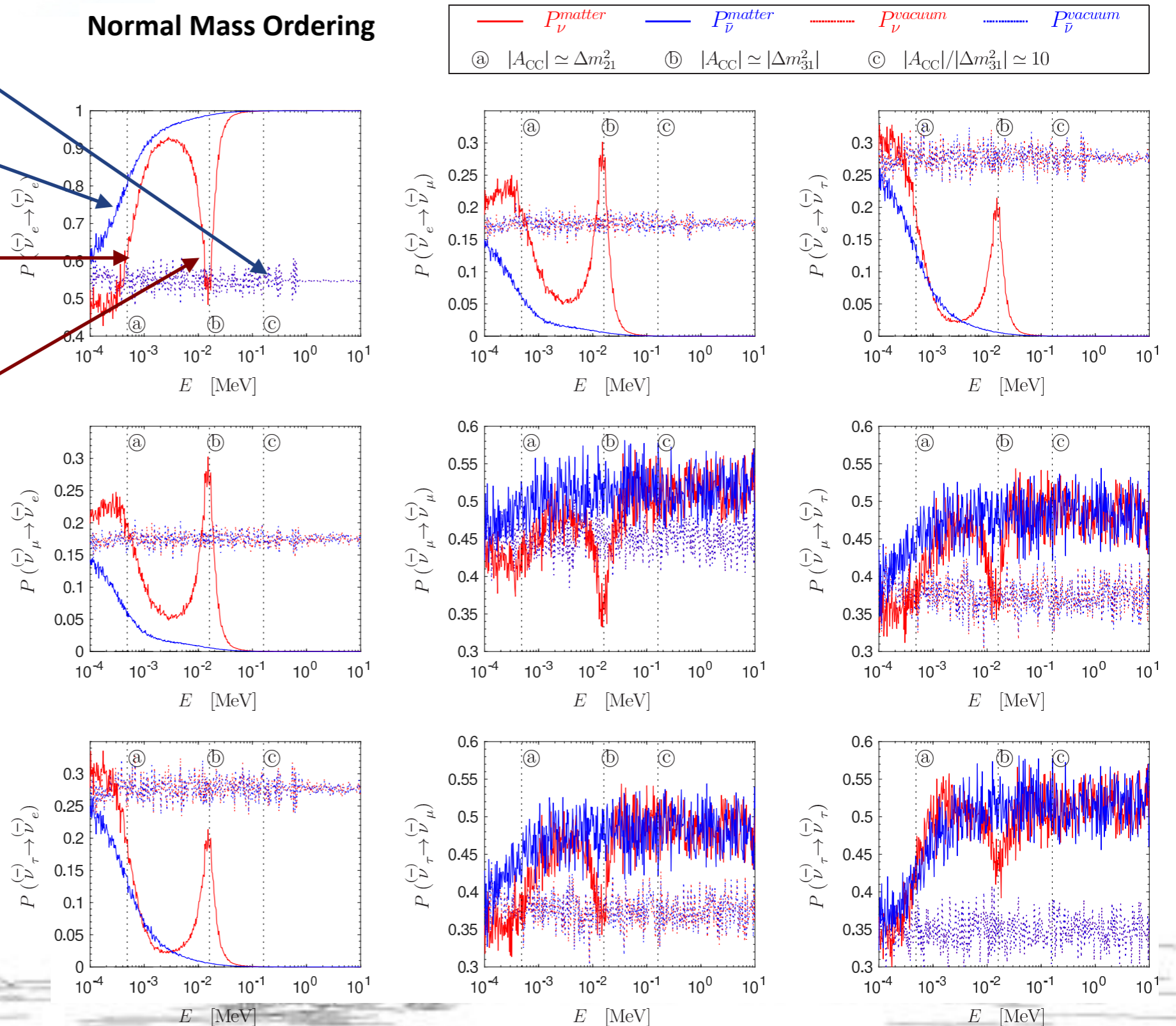
a significant slope at around the solar resonance

a hump at around the atmospheric resonance

the corresponding E of the slope / hump may indicate the electron density of the compact object

all the probabilities are averaged over a Gaussian energy resolution of 5%

Normal Mass Ordering



- oscillation probabilities vary with neutrino energy E

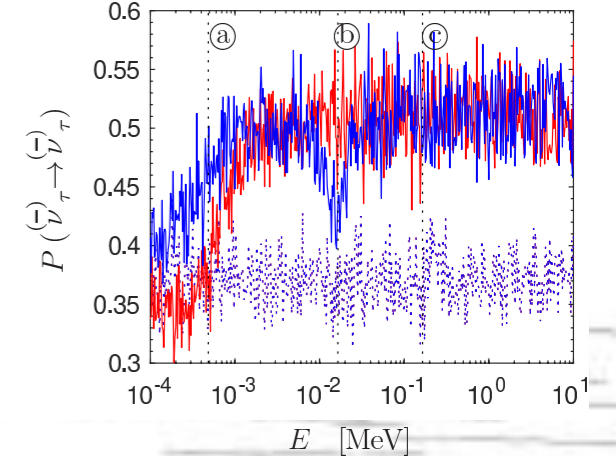
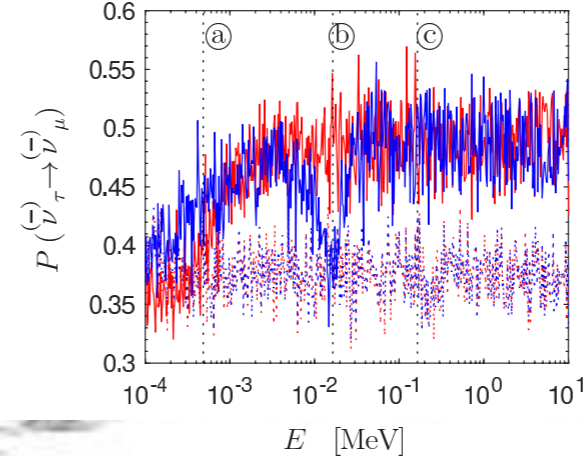
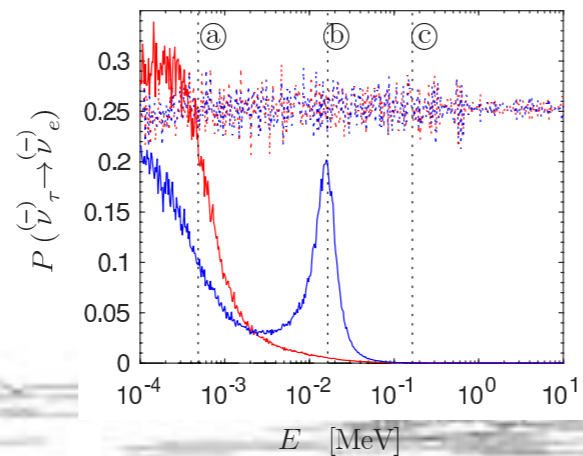
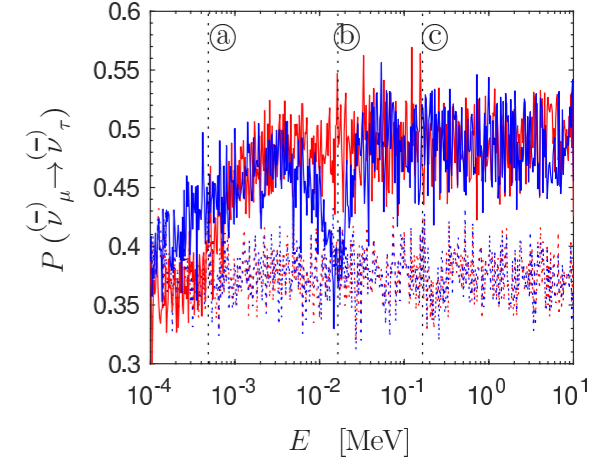
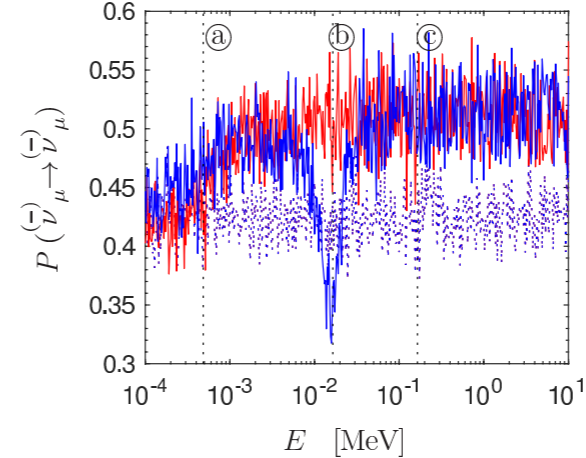
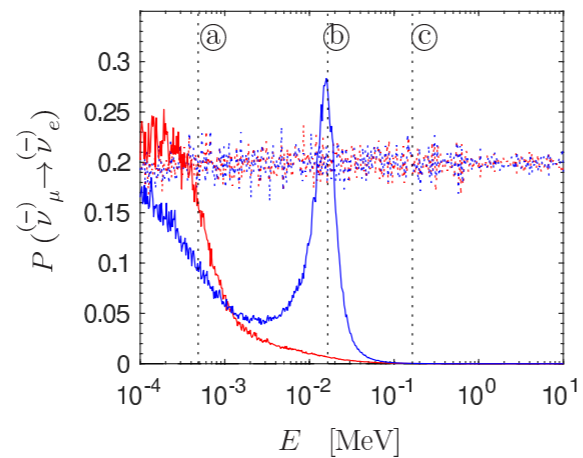
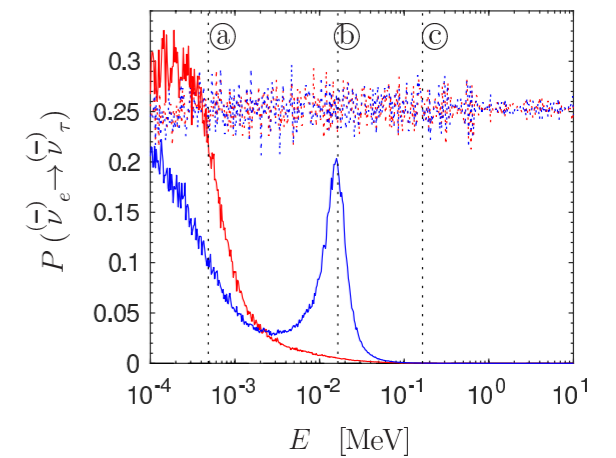
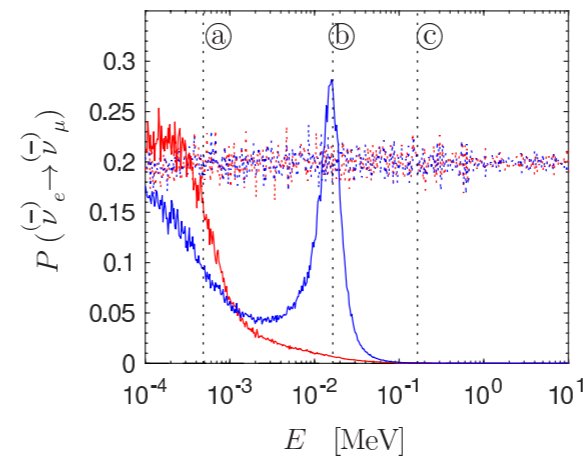
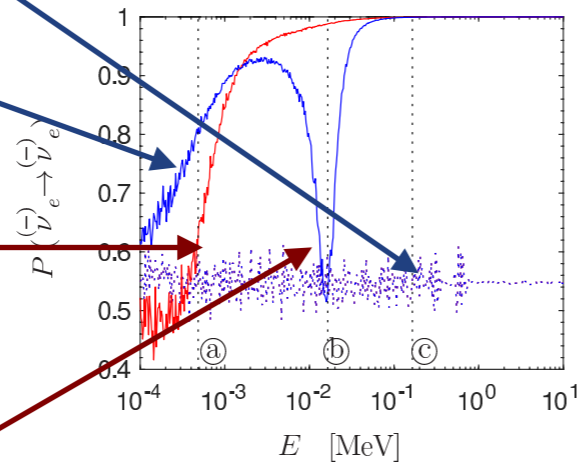
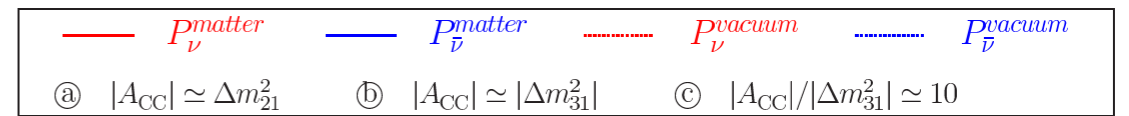
vacuum oscillation

pass through WD

a significant slope at around the solar resonance

a hump at around the atmospheric resonance

Inverted Mass Ordering



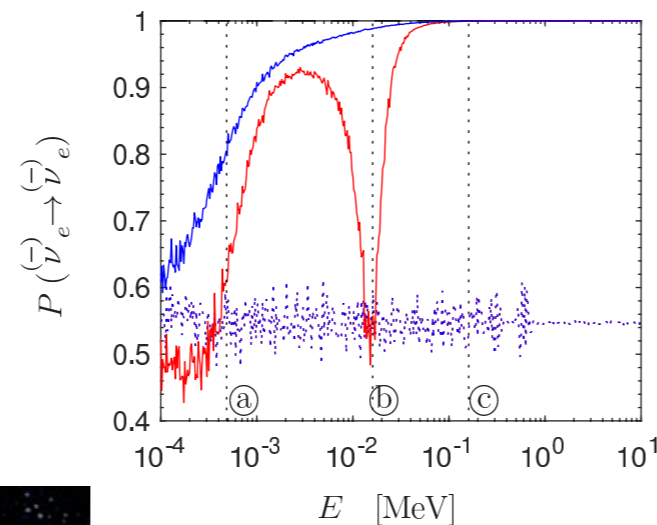
the presence / absence of this resonance hump in the neutrino / anti-neutrino spectrum may tell the neutrino mass ordering

all the probabilities are averaged over a Gaussian energy resolution of 5%

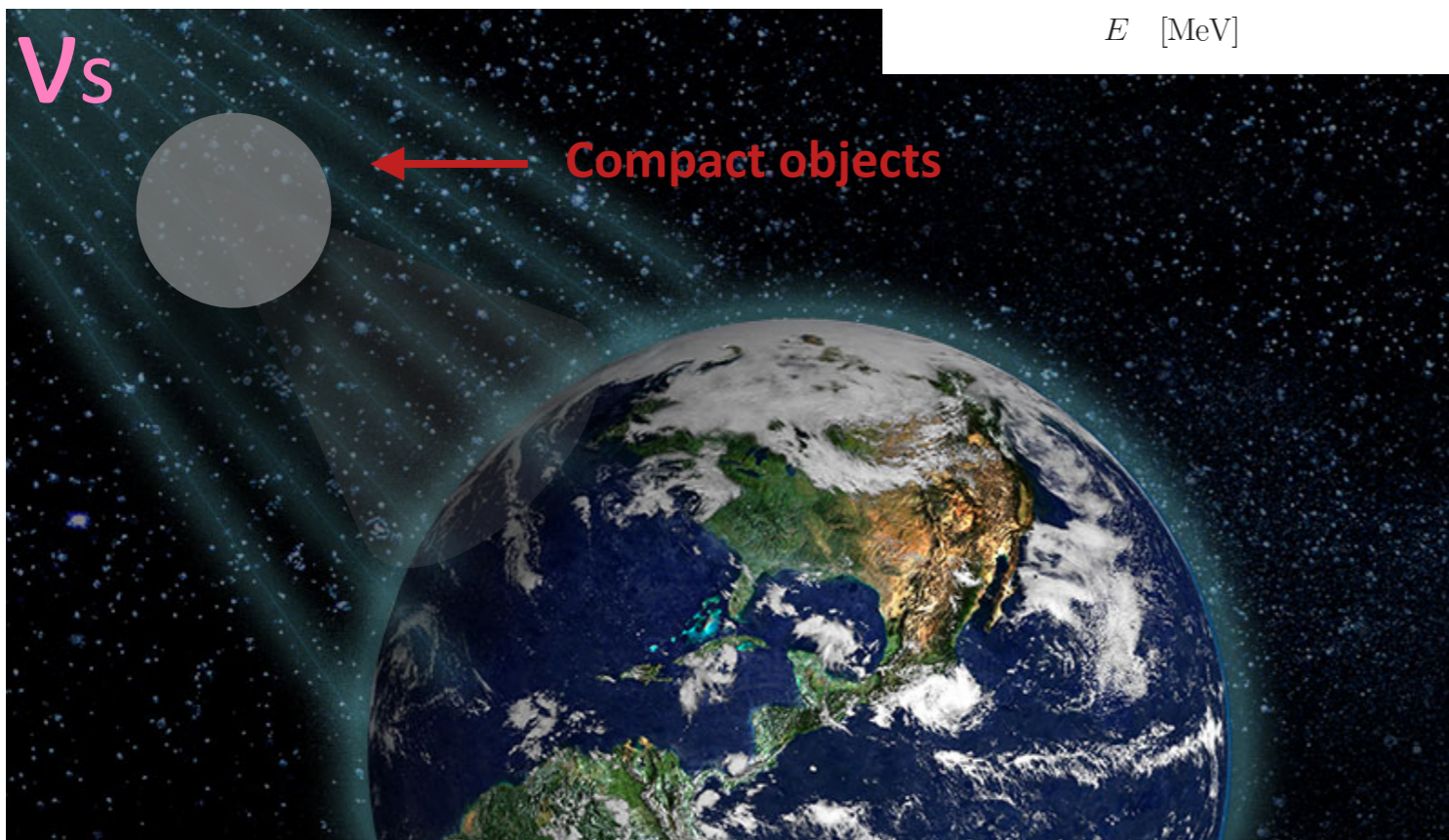
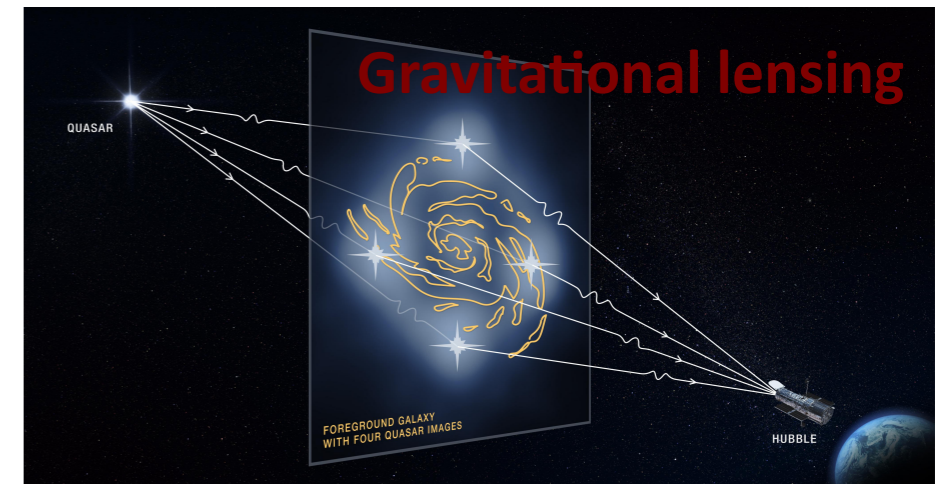
Weak “Lensing” Effect



$$\tilde{P}(\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e)$$



Neutrino spectrum may be distorted by this “weak lens”



- This could be a new “weak” view to uncover those hidden compact objects
- Though still a long way to go ...
 - spectrum & flavor composition of ν sources
 - size and constituents of compact objects
 - distribution of compact objects in space
 - capability of detector
 -



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Thank you!

