

# Earth's Matter Effect in Neutrino Oscillation



Sanjib Kumar Agarwalla

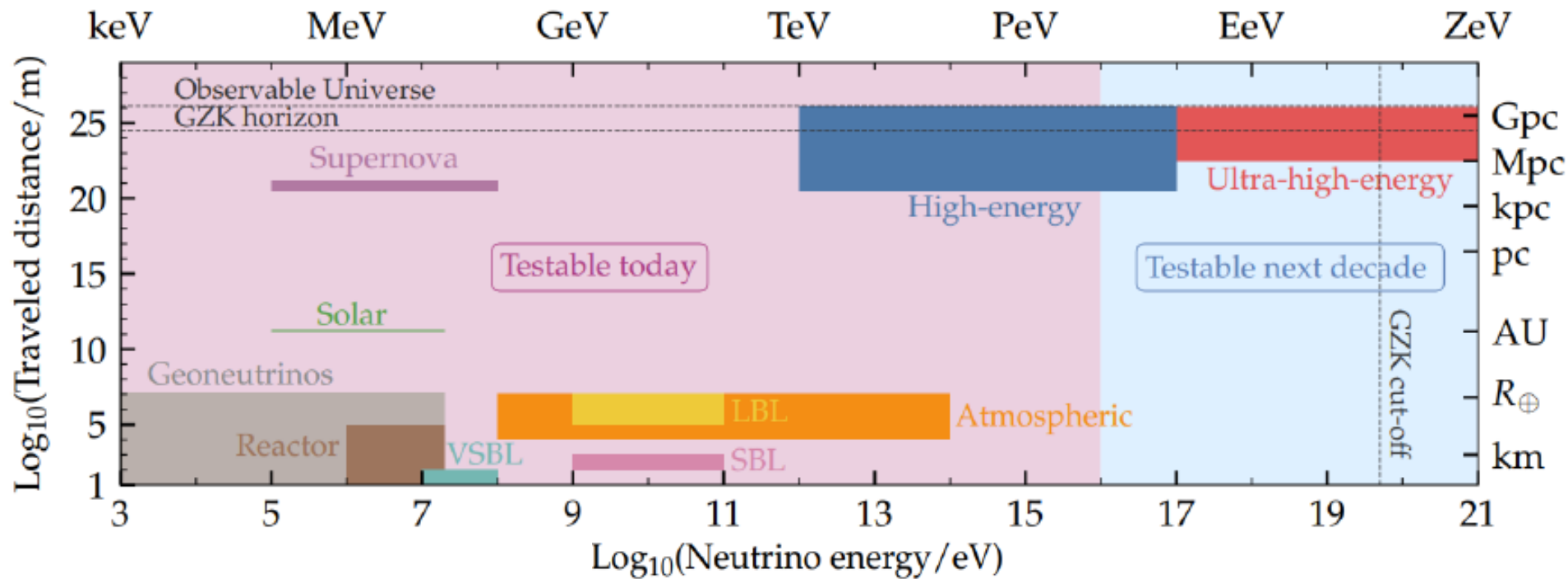
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Department of Physics and WIPAC, UW Madison, USA



# Panorama of Neutrinos: Across 18 orders in $E$ and 25 orders in $L$



Remarkable progress over the last two decades

Neutrinos detected from various **sources** having different **energy** and **distance** scales

Detection of **cosmic neutrinos** opened a new window onto the Universe

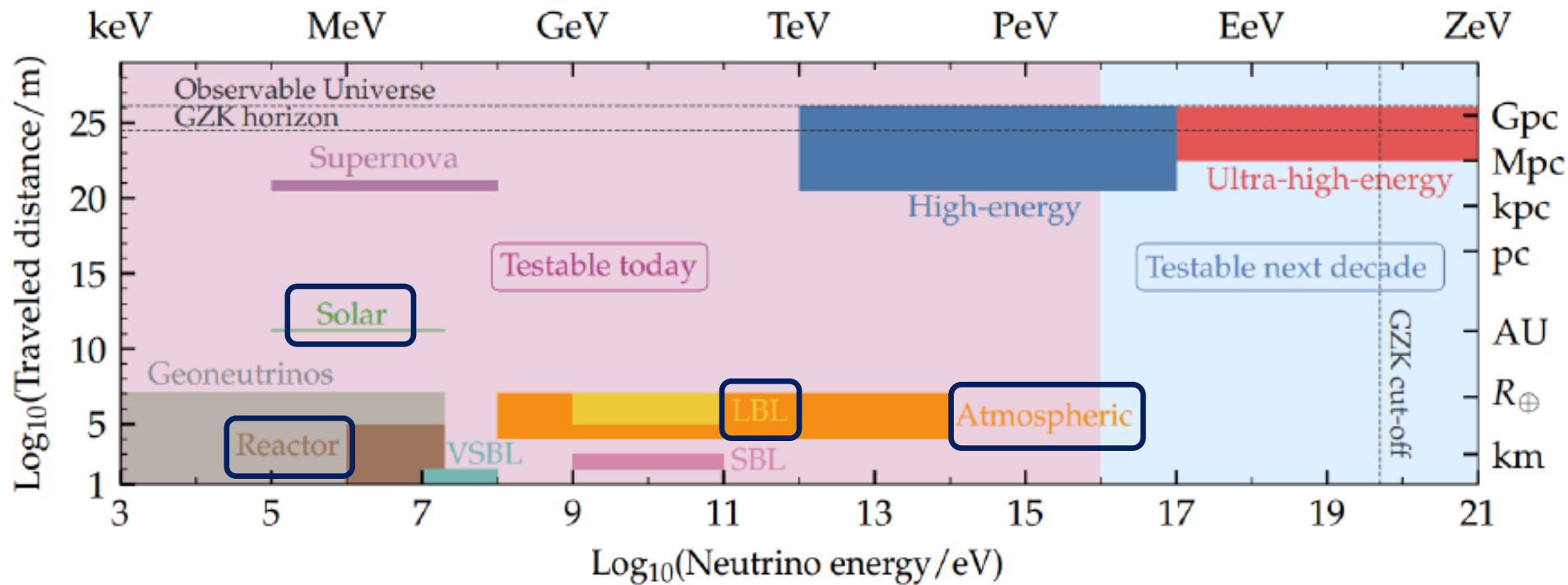


Era of Neutrino Astronomy began



2002 Nobel Prize to Raymod Davis Jr. (Sun) and Masatoshi Koshiba (Supernova)

# Neutrino Oscillation – A Signature for BSM Physics



Neutrinos change their flavor as they move in space and time → **Neutrinos Oscillate**

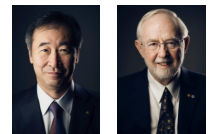
Solar, Atmospheric, Reactor, and Accelerator (LBL) experiments firmly established Neutrino Flavor Oscillation → **implies Neutrinos are Massive and Mix with each other**

Neutrinos are Massless in the basic Standard Model (SM) of particle physics

Physics **beyond the Standard Model (BSM)** necessary to explain non-zero  $\nu$  mass & mixing

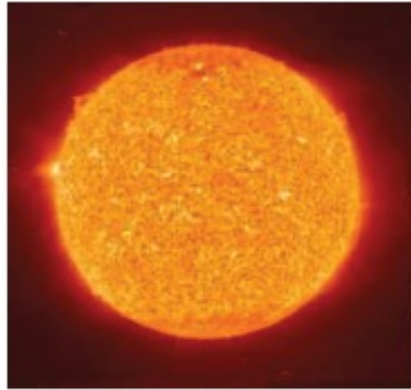


2015 Nobel Prize to Takaaki Kajita (Super-K) & Arthur B. McDonald (SNO)



# Golden Age of Neutrino Physics (1998 – 2022 & Beyond)

sun



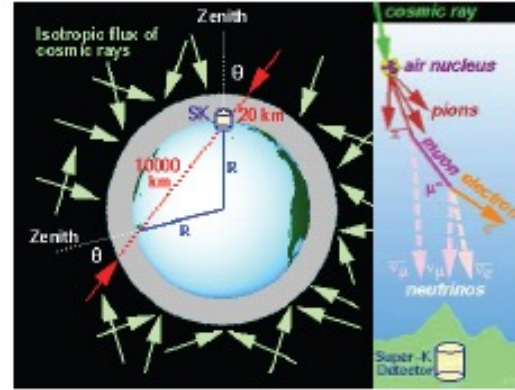
Homestake, SAGE, GALLEX  
SuperK, SNO, Borexino

reactors



KamLAND, CHOOZ  
Double Chooz, Daya Bay, RENO

atmosphere



SuperKamiokande  
IceCube, DeepCore

accelerators



K2K, MINOS, T2K  
NOvA

*Over the last two decades or so, marvelous data from world-class experiments*

- Solar neutrinos ( $\nu_e$ )
- Atmospheric neutrinos ( $\nu_\mu, \bar{\nu}_\mu, \nu_e, \bar{\nu}_e$ )
- Reactor anti-neutrinos ( $\bar{\nu}_e$ )
- Accelerator neutrinos ( $\nu_\mu, \bar{\nu}_\mu$ )



*Data from various neutrino  
**sources** and vastly different  
**energy** and **distance** scales*



*Neutrinos change their flavor  
as they move in space and time*

**We have just started our journey in the mysterious world of neutrinos**



# Three-Flavor Neutrino Oscillation Framework: Simple & Robust

It happens because flavor (weak) eigenstates do not coincide with mass eigenstates

$$c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij} \text{ and } s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\theta_{23}$  :  $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu)$  by Atoms.  $\nu$  and  $\nu$  beam  
 $\theta_{13}$  :  $P(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e)$  by Reactor  $\nu$   
 $\theta_{13}$  &  $\delta$  :  $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e)$  by  $\nu$  beam  
 $\theta_{12}$  :  $P(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e)$  by Reactor and solar  $\nu$

$$L/E = 500 \text{ km/GeV}$$

$$\Delta m_{31}^2 \sim 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

$$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) = \sin^2 2\theta_{ij} \sin^2 \left( 1.27 \Delta m_{ij}^2 \frac{L}{E} \right)$$

$$L/E = 15,000 \text{ km/GeV}$$

$$\Delta m_{21}^2 \sim 7.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$$

Three mixing angles:  $\theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \theta_{12}$  and one CP-violating (Dirac) phase  $\delta_{\text{CP}}$

$$\tan^2 \theta_{12} \equiv \frac{|U_{e2}|^2}{|U_{e1}|^2}; \quad \tan^2 \theta_{23} \equiv \frac{|U_{\mu 3}|^2}{|U_{\tau 3}|^2}; \quad U_{e3} \equiv \sin \theta_{13} e^{-i\delta}$$

3 mixing angles simply related to flavor components of 3 mass eigenstates

Over a distance  $L$ , changes in the relative phases of the mass states may induce flavor change

$$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4 \sum_{i>j} \text{Re}[U_{\alpha i}^* U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta i} U_{\beta j}^*] \sin^2 \Delta_{ij} - 2 \sum_{i>j} \text{Im}[U_{\alpha i}^* U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta i} U_{\beta j}^*] \sin 2\Delta_{ij}$$

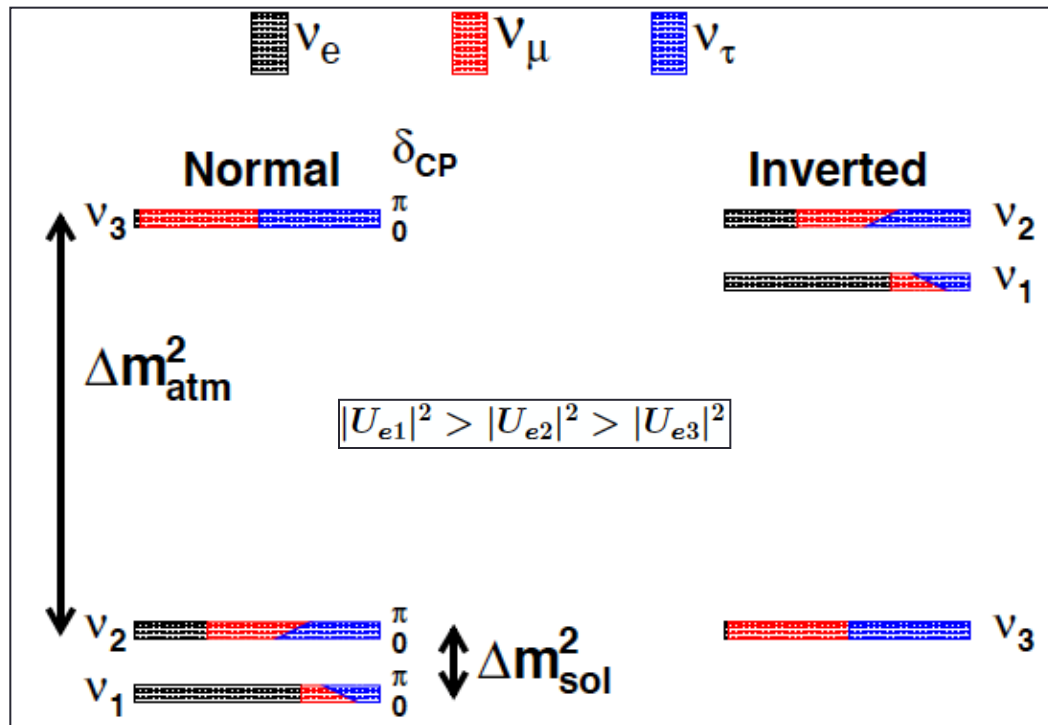
$$\Delta_{ij} = \Delta m_{ij}^2 L / 4E_\nu$$

$$\Delta m_{ij}^2 = m_i^2 - m_j^2$$

for antineutrinos replace  $\delta_{\text{CP}}$  by  $-\delta_{\text{CP}}$

# Neutrino Mass Ordering: Important Open Question

☐ The sign of  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  ( $m_3^2 - m_1^2$ ) is not known



Neutrino mass spectrum can be normal or inverted ordered

We only have a lower bound on the mass of the heaviest neutrino

$$\sqrt{2.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{eV}^2} \sim 0.05 \text{ eV}$$

We currently do not know which neutrino is the heaviest

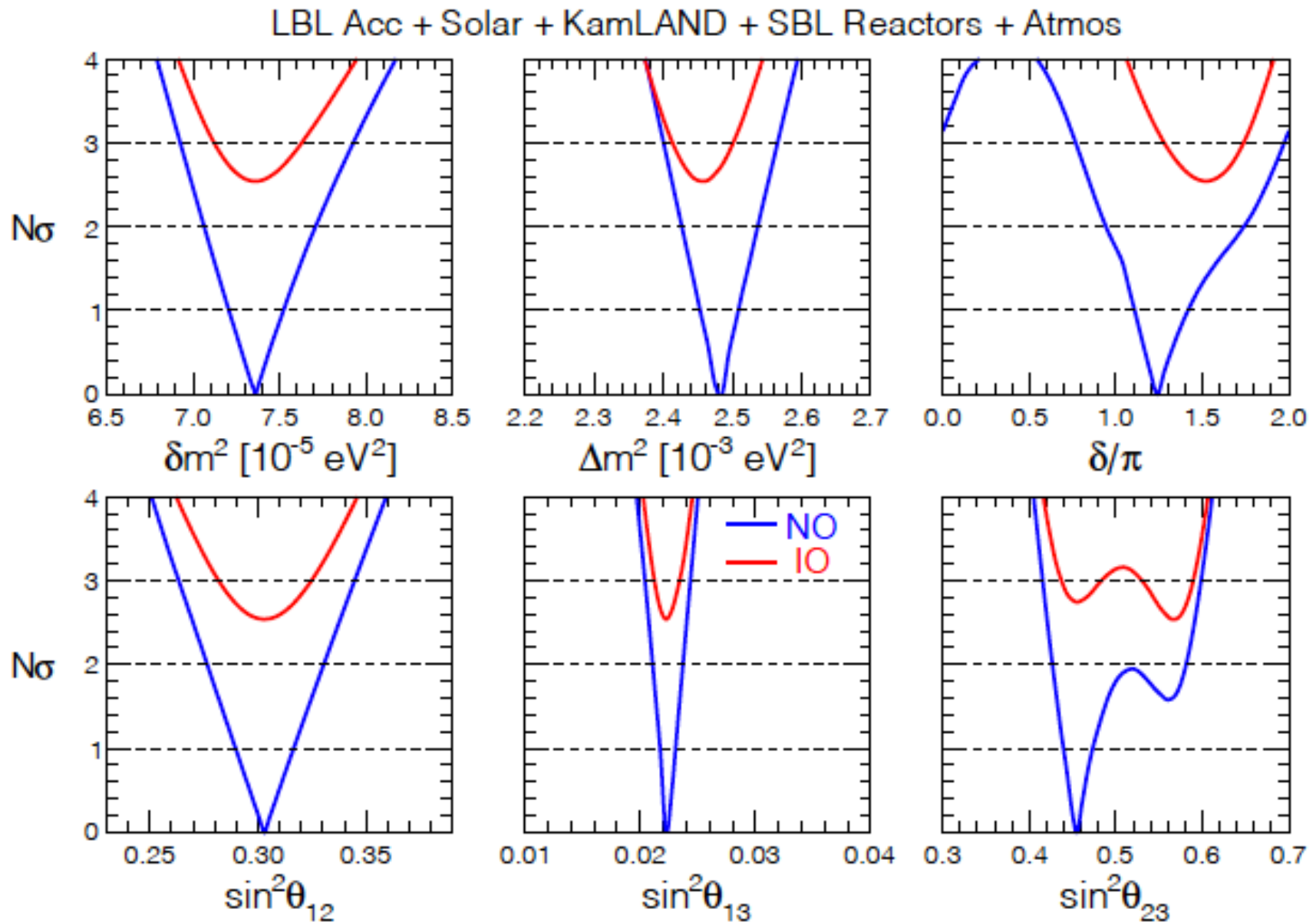
$$v_e \text{ component of } \nu_1 > v_e \text{ component of } \nu_2 > v_e \text{ component of } \nu_3$$

Matter effect inside the Sun played an important role to fix the ordering between  $m_2$  &  $m_1$

Matter effect inside the Earth will play a crucial role to fix the ordering between  $m_3$  &  $m_1$

**Mass Ordering Discrimination : A Binary yes-or-no type question**

# Global Fit of Neutrino Oscillation Parameters Circa 2021



Capozzi, Valentino, Lisi, Marrone, Melchiorri, Palazzo, arXiv:2107.00532v2 [hep-ph]

# Present Status of Neutrino Oscillation Parameters Circa 2021

Preference for Normal Mass Ordering ( $\sim 2.5\sigma$ ),  $\theta_{23} < 45$  degree and  $\sin\delta < 0$  (both at 90% C.L.)

Parameter	Ordering	Best fit	$3\sigma$ range	" $1\sigma$ " (%)
$\delta m^2 / 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$	NO, IO	7.36	6.93 – 7.93	2.3
$\sin^2 \theta_{12} / 10^{-1}$	NO, IO	3.03	2.63 – 3.45	4.5
$ \Delta m^2  / 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$	NO	2.485	2.401 – 2.565	1.1
	IO	2.455	2.376 – 2.541	1.1
$\sin^2 \theta_{13} / 10^{-2}$	NO	2.23	2.04 – 2.44	3.0
	IO	2.23	2.03 – 2.45	3.1
$\sin^2 \theta_{23} / 10^{-1}$	NO	4.55	4.16 – 5.99	6.7
	IO	5.69	4.17 – 6.06	5.5
$\delta / \pi$	NO	1.24	0.77 – 1.97	16
	IO	1.52	1.07 – 1.90	9
$\Delta\chi^2_{\text{IO-NO}}$	IO–NO	+6.5		

Capozzi, Valentino, Lisi, Marrone, Melchiorri, Palazzo, arXiv:2107.00532v2 [hep-ph]

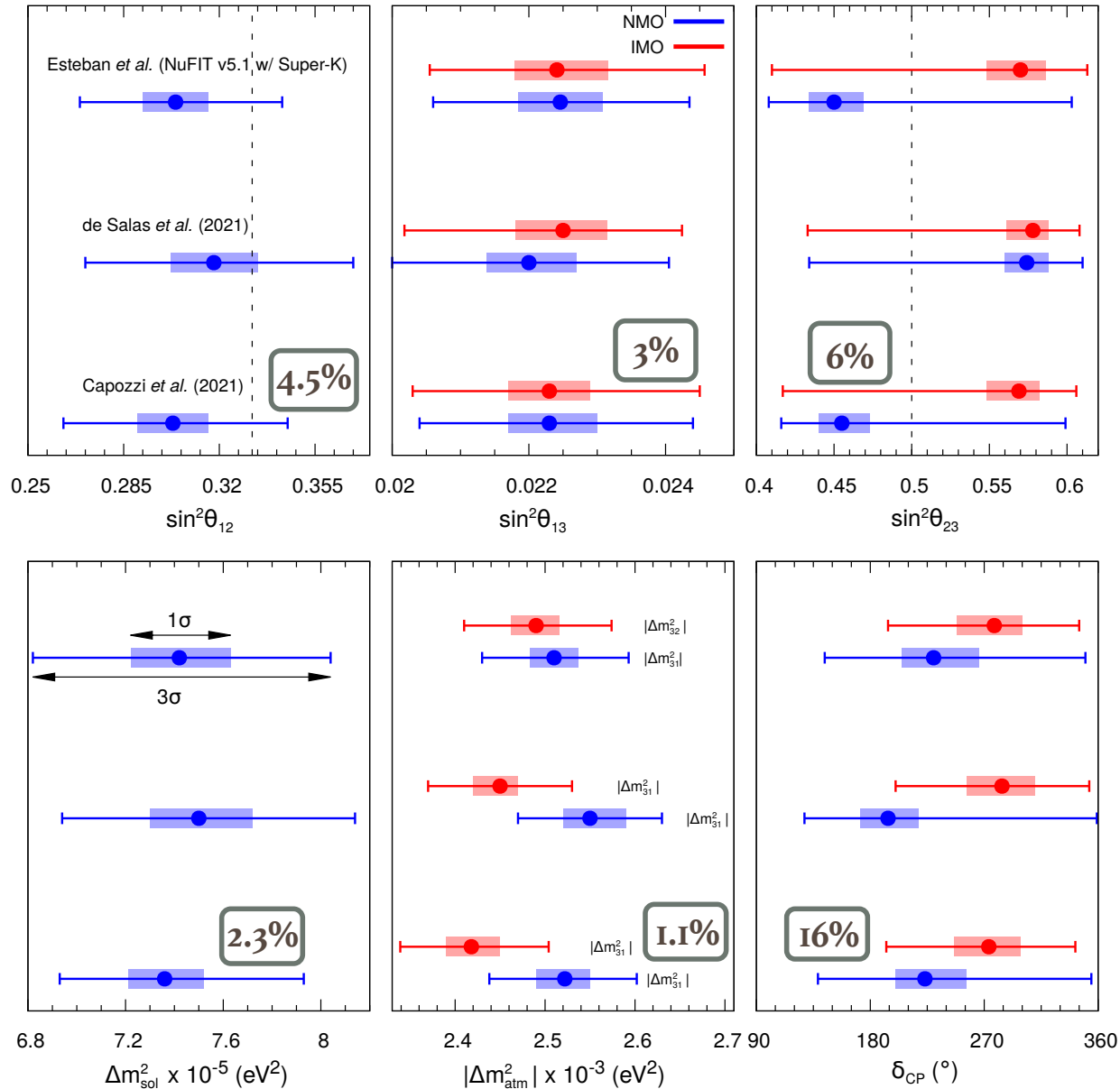
See also, Esteban, Gonzalez-Garcia, Maltoni, Schwetz, Zhou, arXiv:2007.14792v1 [hep-ph], NuFIT v5.1 w/SK

See also, de Salas, Forero, Gariazzo, Martinez-Mirave, Mena, Ternes, Tortolla, Valle, arXiv:2006.11237v2 [hep-ph]

# Remarkable Precision on Neutrino Oscillation Parameters

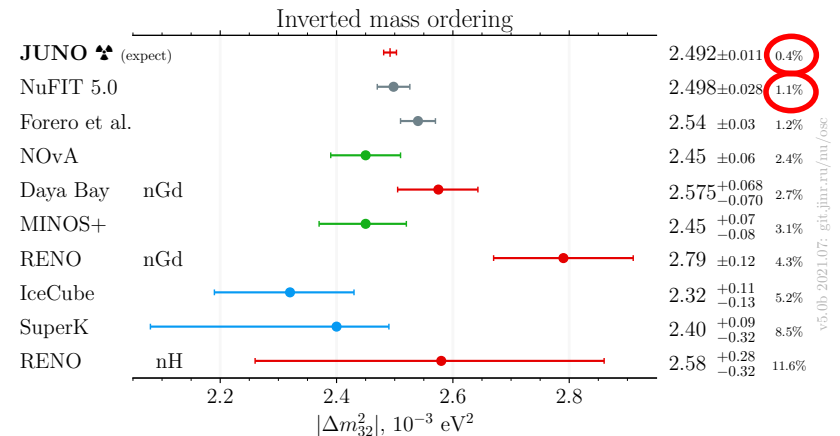
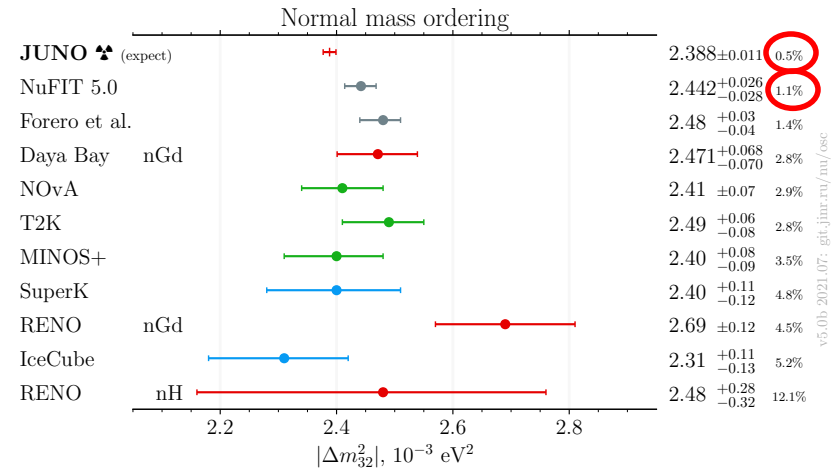
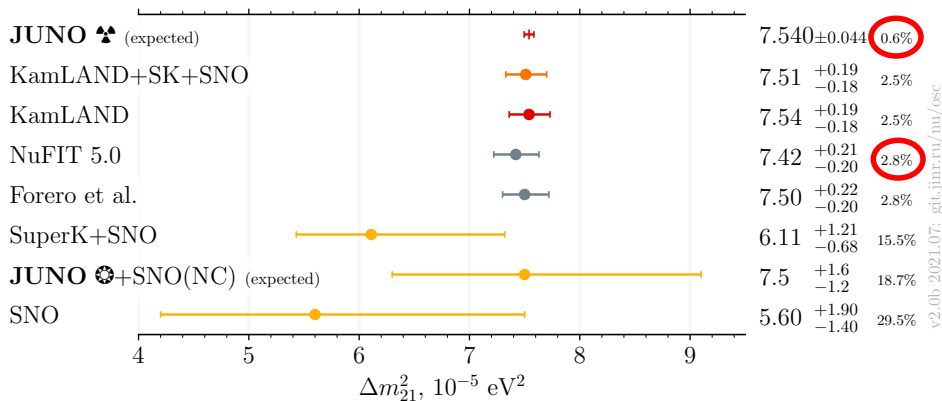
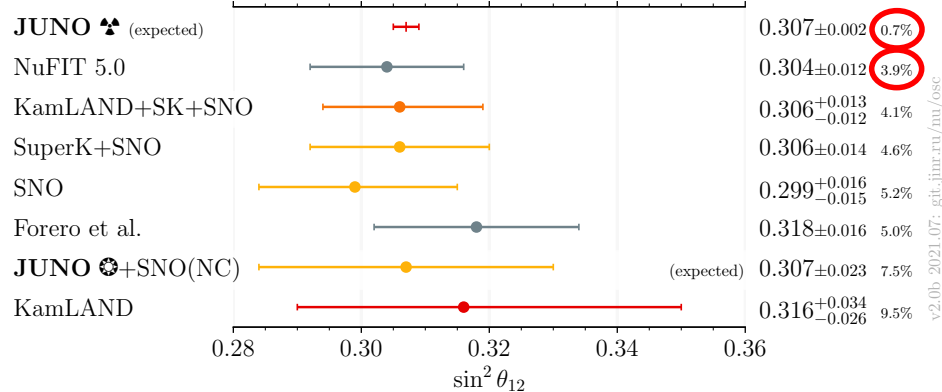
Huge boost for the discovery of NMO, CPV, and  $\theta_{23}$  Octant

Robust three-flavor neutrino oscillation paradigm





# Very Bright Future Ahead: Triumph of JUNO



Maxim Gonchar (JUNO Collaboration) EPS-HEP 2021, July 26

JUNO will improve significantly our knowledge on neutrino oscillation parameters. These developments are crucial to probe sub-leading three-flavor effects in next-generation long-baseline experiments for the discovery of NMO, leptonic CPV, and Octant of 2-3 mixing angle

# *Neutrino Oscillations in Matter: MSW Effect*

- The MSW Effect (Wolfenstein, 1978; Mikheyev and Smirnov, 1985)
- Matter can change the pattern of neutrino oscillations significantly
- Resonant enhancement of oscillations and resonant flavor conversion possible
- Responsible for the flavor conversion of solar neutrinos (LMA MSW solution established)



Lincoln Wolfenstein



Stanislav Mikheyev



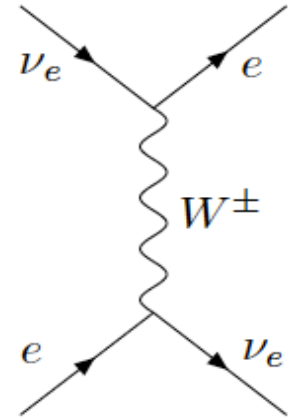
Alexei Smirnov

# Neutrino Oscillations in Matter: MSW Effect

Neutrino propagation through matter modify the oscillations significantly

**Coherent forward** scattering of neutrinos with matter particles

Charged current interaction of  $\nu_e$  with electrons creates an **extra potential for  $\nu_e$**



MSW matter term:  $A = \pm 2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E$  or  $A(\text{eV}^2) = 0.76 \times 10^{-4} \rho (\text{g/cc}) E(\text{GeV})$

$N_e$  = electron number density , + (-) for **neutrinos** (**anti-neutrinos**) ,  $\rho$  = matter density in Earth

**Matter term changes sign when we switch from neutrino mode to antineutrino mode**

$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) - P(\bar{\nu}_\alpha \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\beta) \neq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{even if } \delta_{CP} = 0, \text{ causes fake CP asymmetry}$

**Matter term modifies oscillation probability differently depending on the sign of  $\Delta m^2$**

$\Delta m^2 \simeq A \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad E_{\text{res}}^{\text{Earth}} = 6 - 8 \text{ GeV} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{Resonant conversion – Matter effect}$

	$\nu$	$\bar{\nu}$
$\Delta m^2 > 0$	MSW	-
$\Delta m^2 < 0$	-	MSW



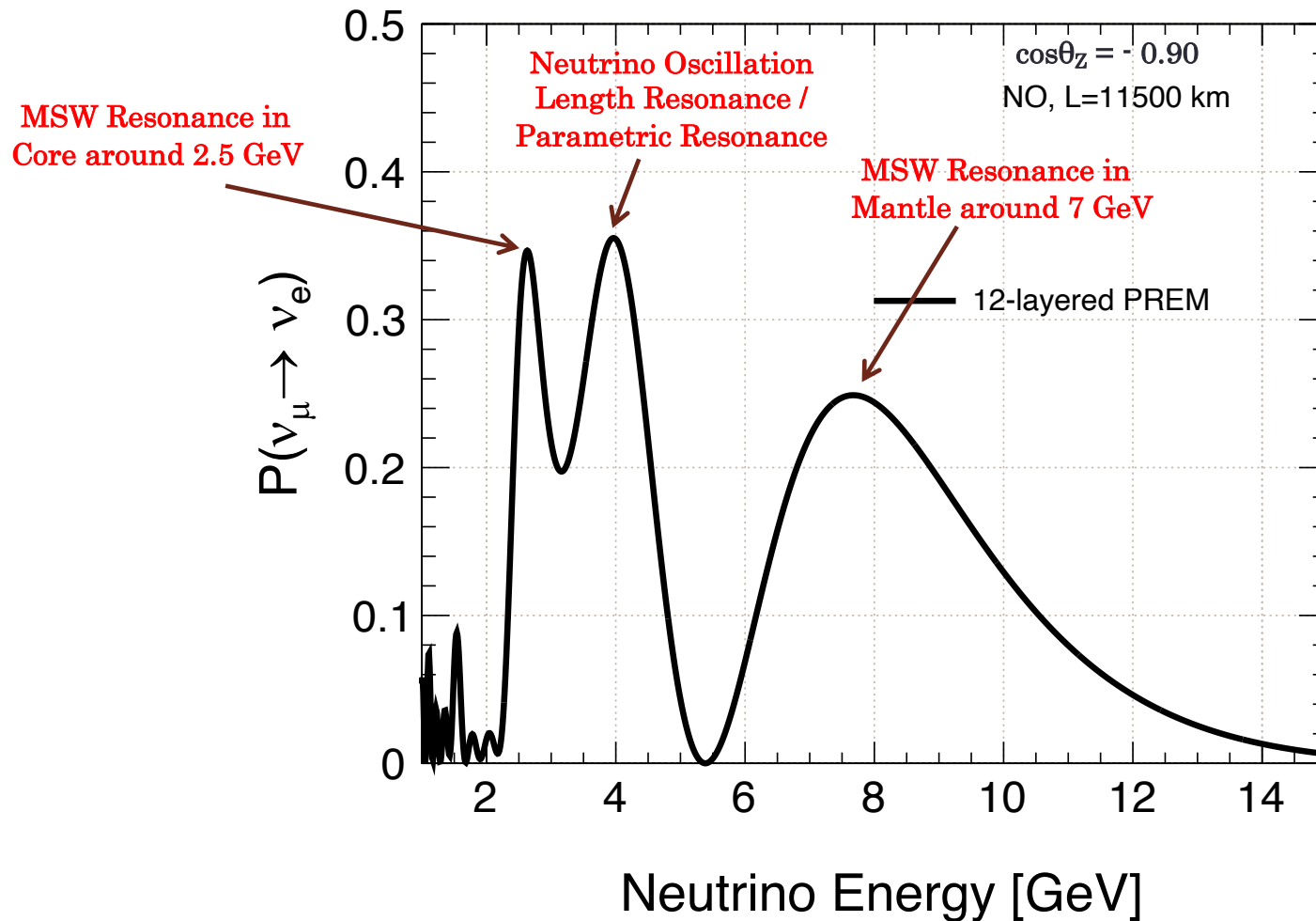
**Resonance occurs for **neutrinos** (**anti-neutrinos**) if  $\Delta m^2$  is **positive** (**negative**)**

# *Neutrino Oscillation Length Resonance / Parametric Resonance*

- Oscillations of atmospheric neutrinos inside the Earth can feel this resonance when neutrino trajectories cross the core of the Earth
- The probabilities of  $\nu$  flavor transitions can be strongly enhanced if the oscillation phase undergoes certain modification in matter
- This can happen if the variation of the matter density along the neutrino path is correlated in a certain way with the change of the oscillation phase
- This amplification of the neutrino oscillation probability in matter due to specific phase relationships has an interesting property that it can accumulate if the matter density profile along the neutrino path repeats itself (periodic)

**Petcov 1998, Liu and Smirnov 1998, Akhmedov 1998**

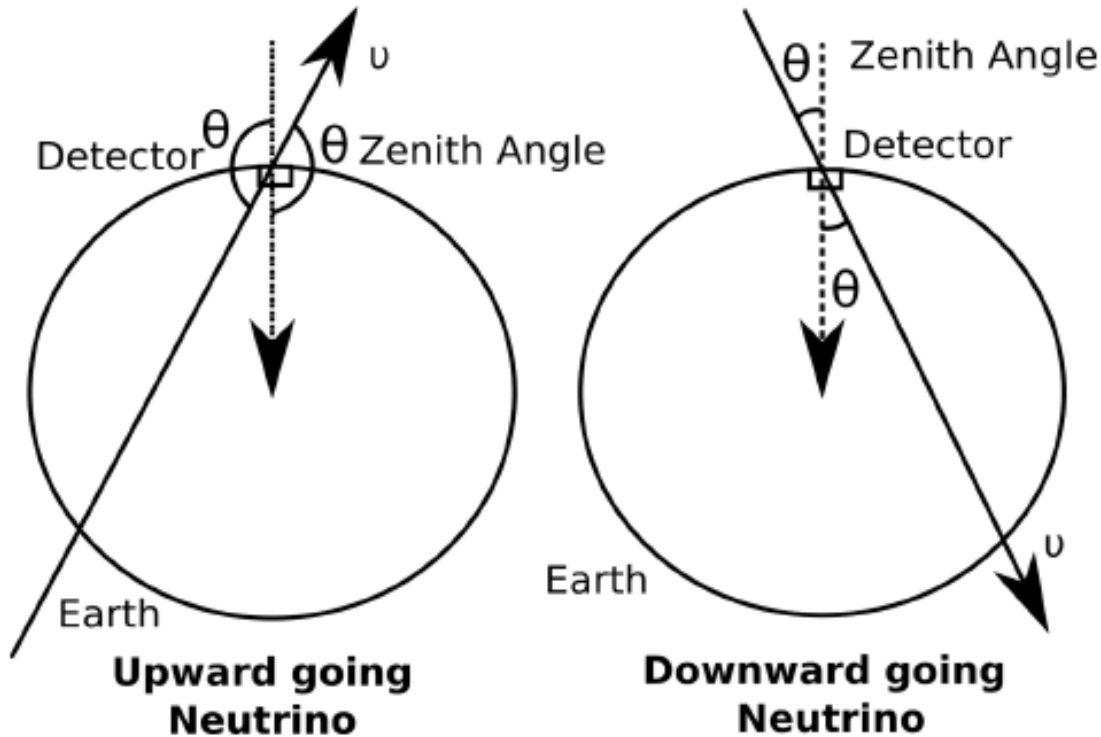
# The Resonances inside the Earth



$$E_{\text{res}} \equiv \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 \cos 2\theta_{13}}{2 \sqrt{2} G_F N_e} \simeq 7 \text{ GeV} \left( \frac{4.5 \text{ g/cm}^3}{\rho} \right) \left( \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2}{2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2} \right) \cos 2\theta_{13}$$



# Upward and Downward Directions for Atmospheric Neutrinos



Upward-going neutrinos:

$$\pi/2 < \theta < \pi$$

$$-1 < \cos \theta < 0$$

$$L_\nu \approx 2R \cos \theta_\nu$$

Downward-going neutrinos:

$$0 < \theta < \pi/2$$

$$0 < \cos \theta < 1$$

$$L_\nu \approx 0$$

$$L_\nu = \sqrt{(R + h)^2 - (R - d)^2 \sin^2 \theta_\nu} - (R - d) \cos \theta_\nu$$

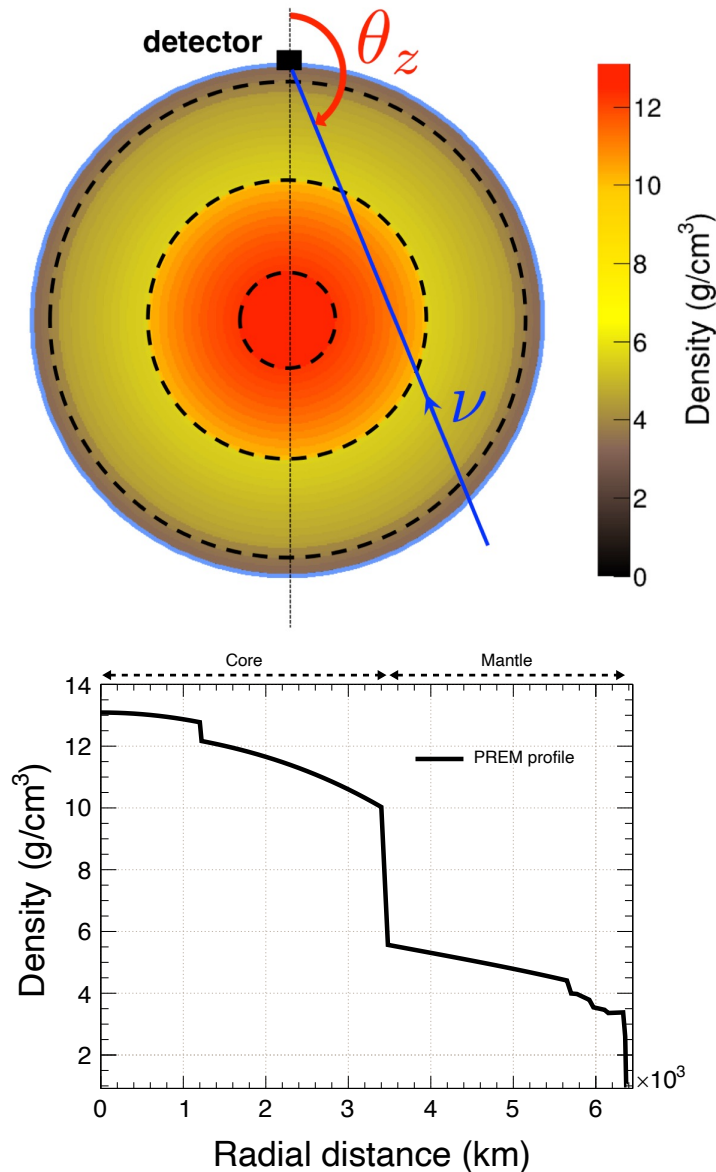
R = radius of Earth (6371 km)

h = average  $\nu$  production height from surface ( $\sim 10$  to  $25$  km)

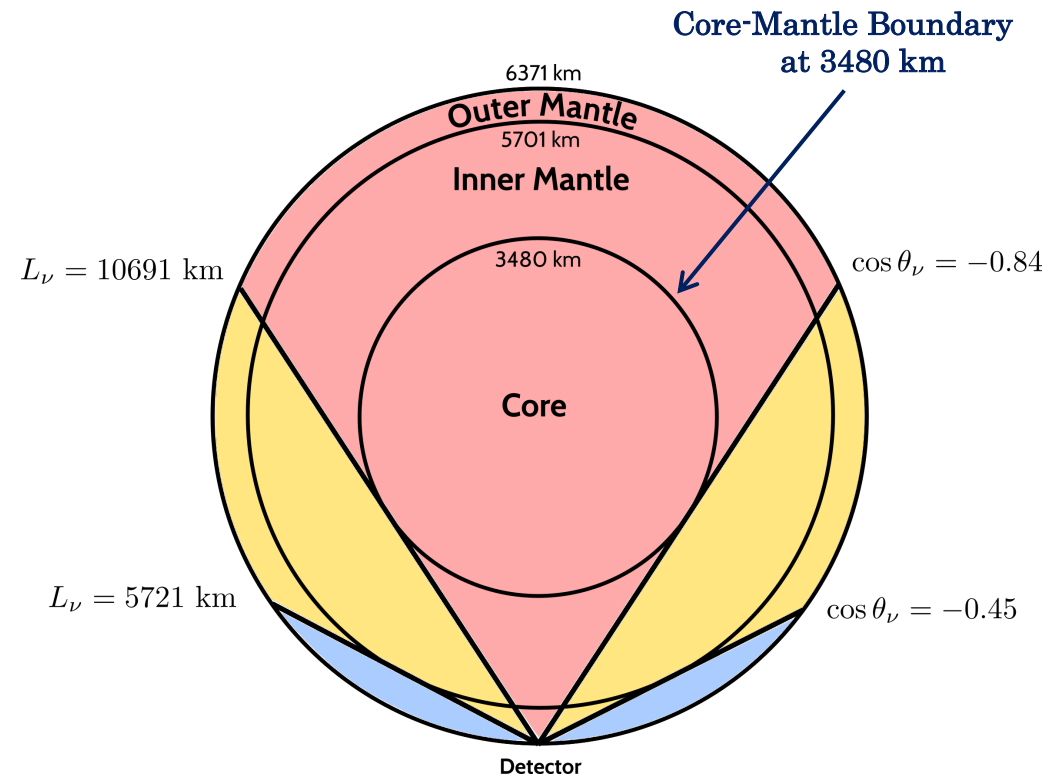
d = depth of the detector underground ( $\sim 100$  m to  $2$  km)

Upward-going neutrinos feel Earth's matter effect during oscillations inside Earth – key for neutrino oscillation tomography of Earth

# PREM and Neutrino Trajectories Deep Inside the Earth



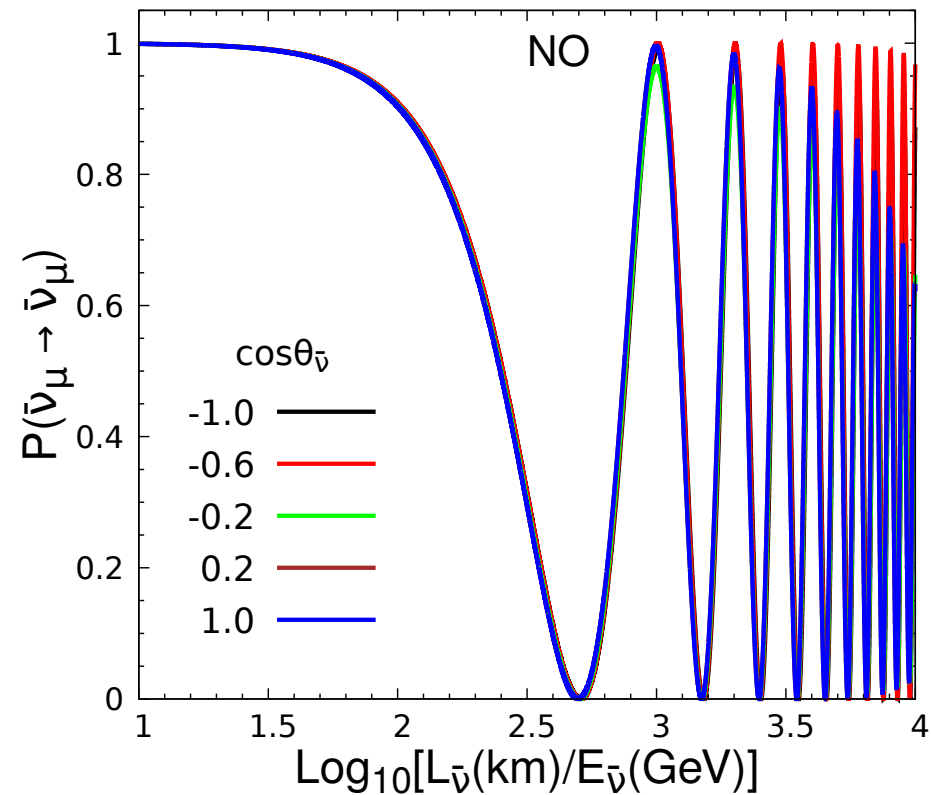
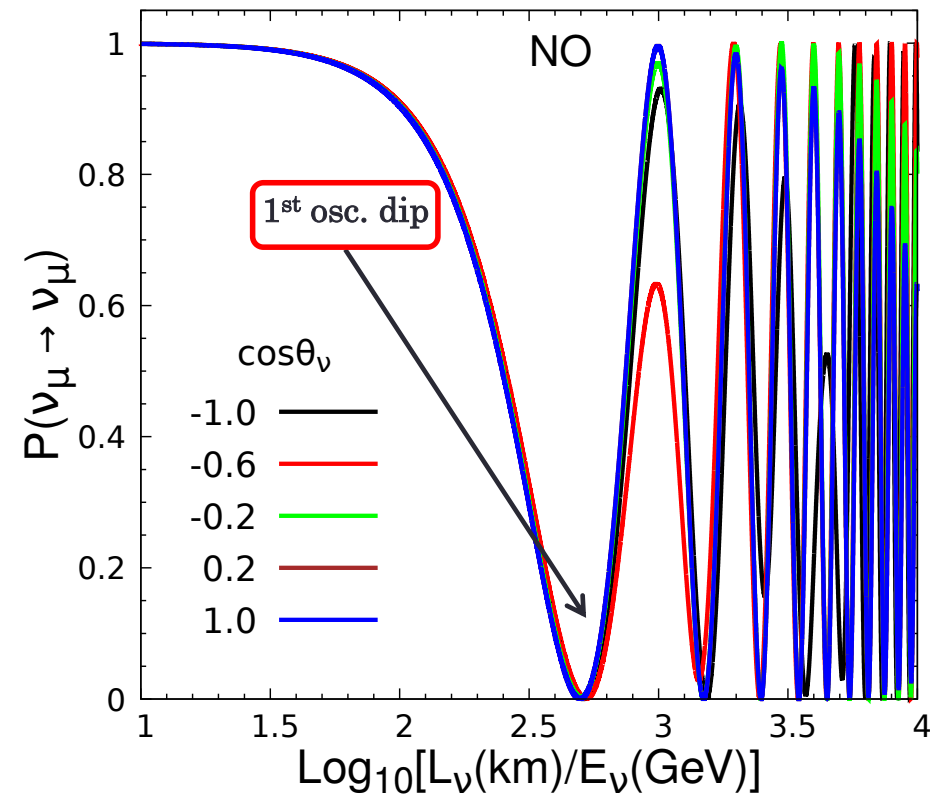
The gravitational and seismic measurements are used to infer the radial density distribution inside Earth – known as Preliminary Reference Earth Model (PREM)



Three-Layered Model of Earth

**PREM is not a measured profile!**

# Oscillation Dip



location of 1<sup>st</sup> oscillation dip → consider muon survival probability in 2-flavor oscillations

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{23} \cdot \sin^2 \left( 1.27 \cdot |\Delta m_{32}^2| (\text{eV}^2) \cdot \frac{L_\nu (\text{km})}{E_\nu (\text{GeV})} \right)$$

$$\theta = 45^\circ$$

$$\Delta m^2 = 2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

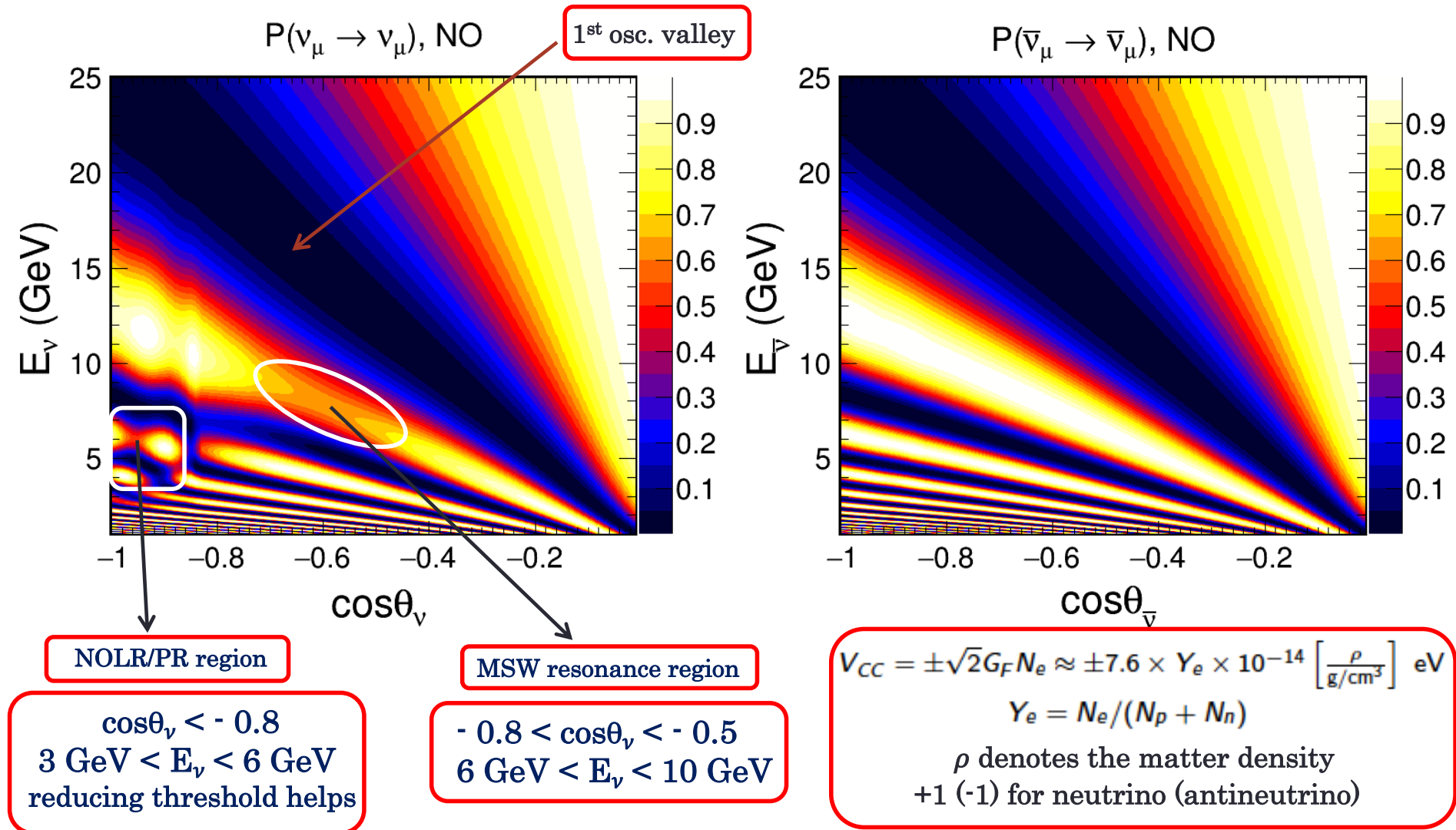
$$\frac{1.27 \Delta m^2 L}{E} = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\frac{L}{E} = \frac{\pi}{2 \times 1.27 \times \Delta m^2} = 515.35$$

$$\log_{10} \left( \frac{L}{E} \right) = 2.71$$

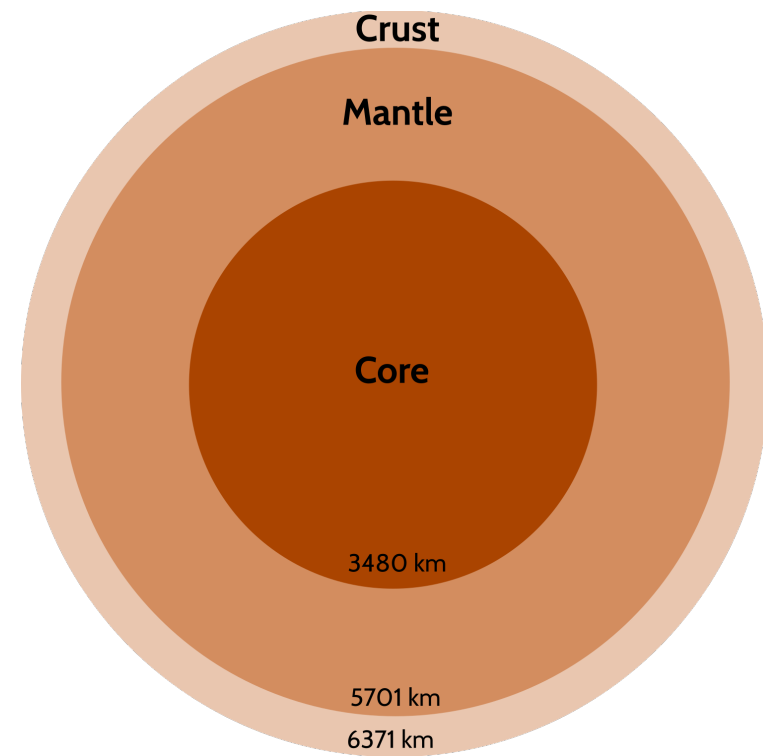
# Oscillation Valley

Neutrinos (antineutrinos) feel Earth's matter effect for normal (inverted) mass ordering

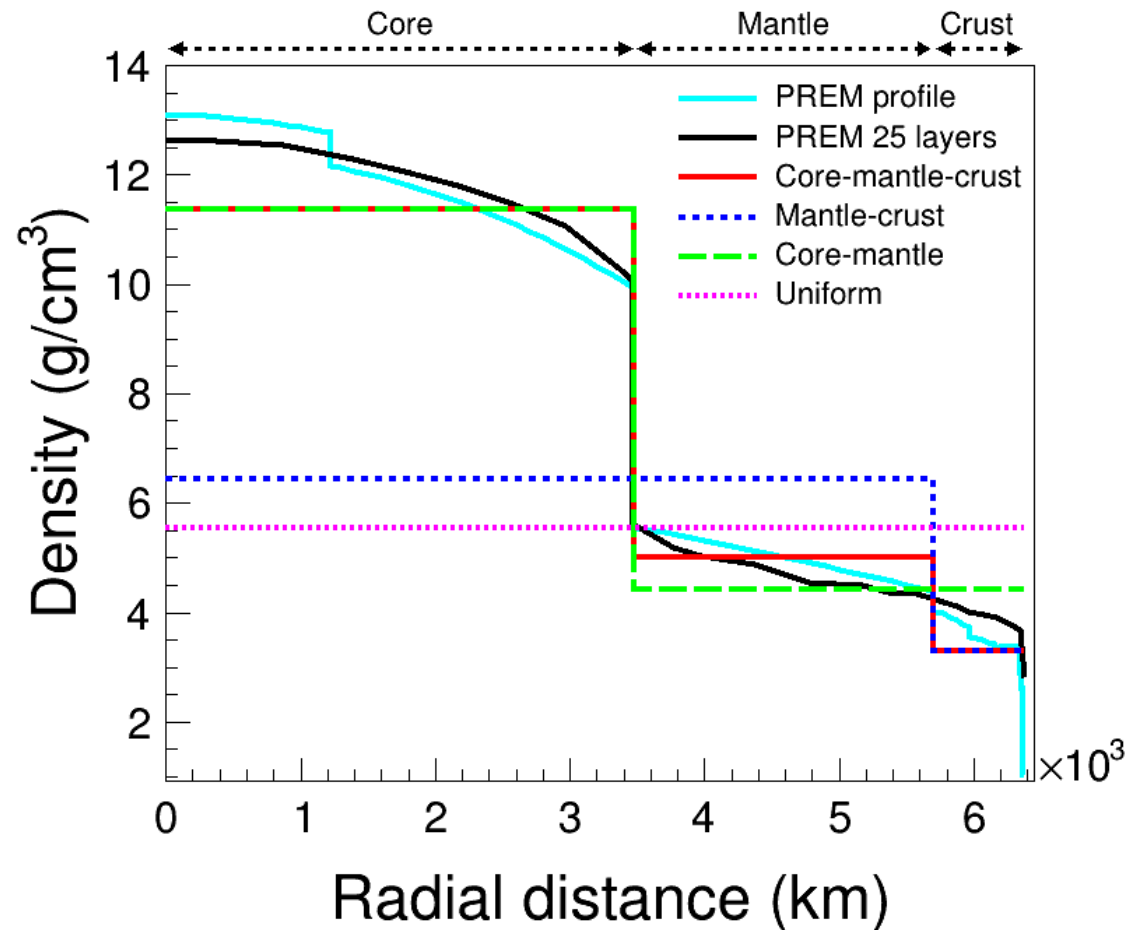


Kumar, Khatun, Agarwalla, Dighe, EPJC 81 (2021) 2, 190 **Note: MSW or NOLR/PR resonances have not been observed yet!**

# Various Radial Density Profiles of Earth



Three-Layered Model of Earth



Anil Kumar and Sanjib Kumar Agarwalla, JHEP 08 (2021) 139

While constructing alternative profiles of Earth, the radius & mass of Earth remain invariant

Atmospheric neutrino experiments can distinguish between these alternative profiles of Earth utilizing neutrino oscillations in the presence of Earth's matter in multi-GeV energy range



# *Neutrino Oscillation Tomography with Atmospheric Neutrinos*

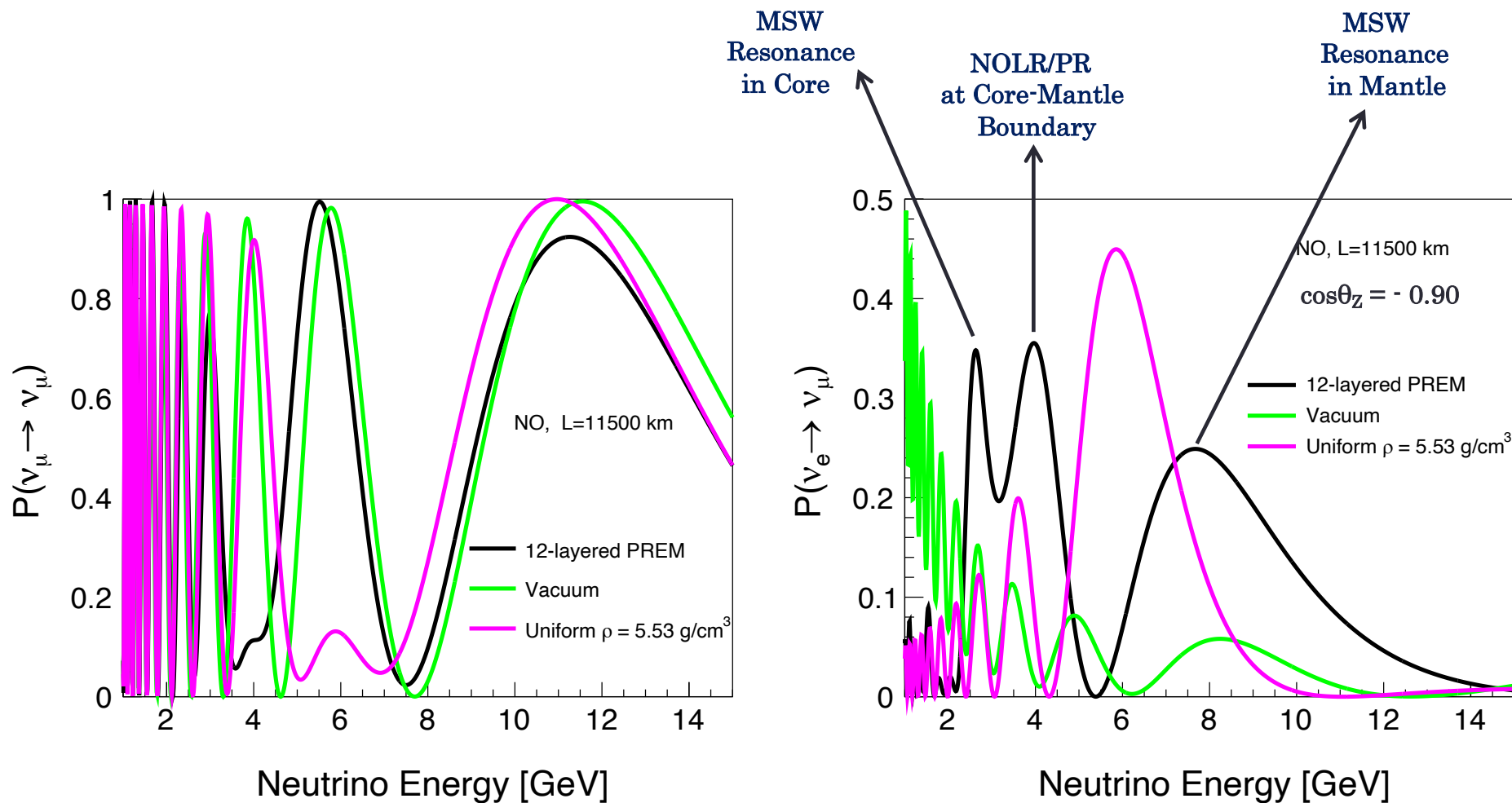
Atmospheric neutrinos have access to sub-GeV (resonance matter effect in core) and multi-GeV (resonance matter effect in mantle) energy ranges with a wide range of baselines passing through Earth's mantle and core

The recent advancement in the precision measurements of neutrino oscillation parameters opens the avenue to perform a rich neutrino oscillation tomography using currently running and upcoming atmospheric neutrino experiments.

**One can address the following important issues related to Earth:**

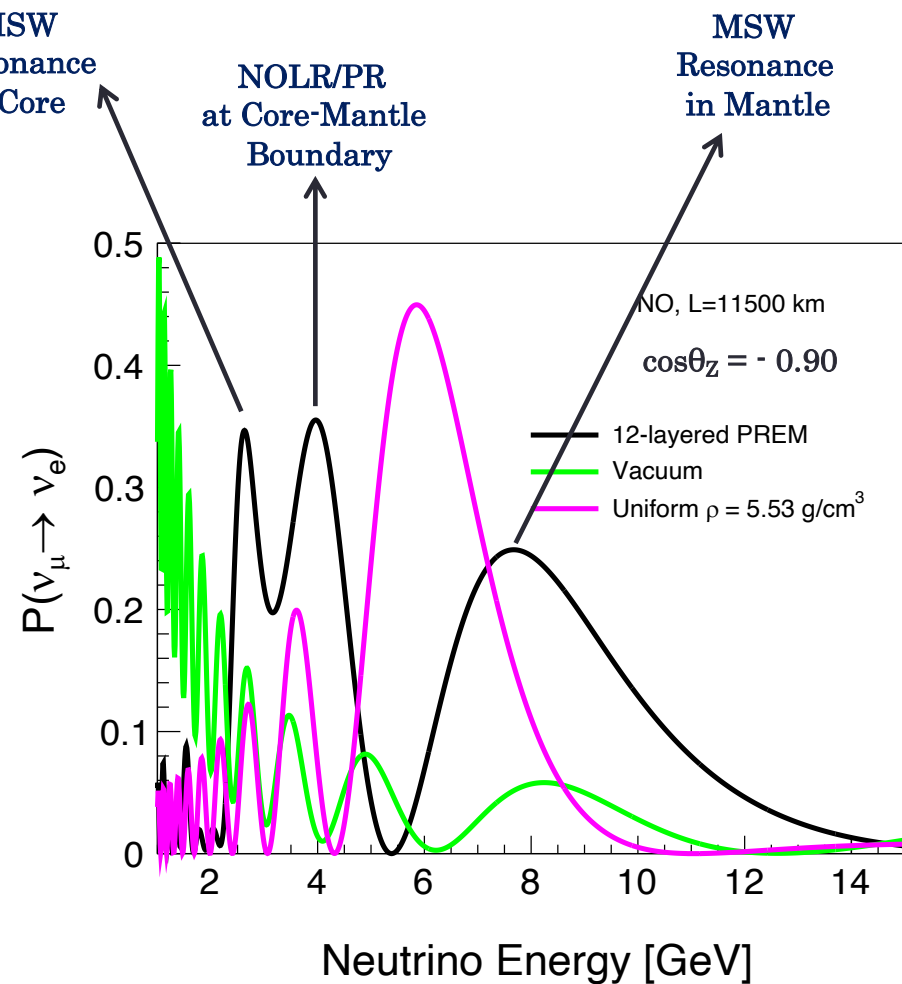
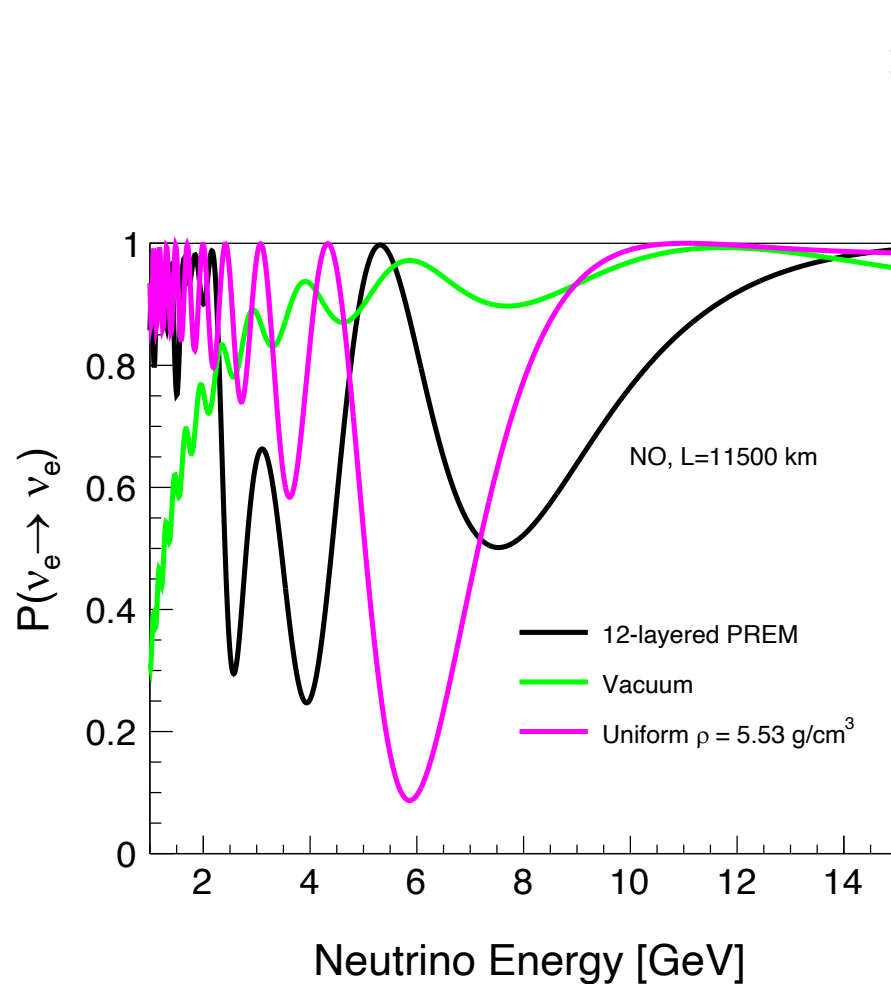
- Observing the presence of Earth matter
- Ruling out the homogeneous matter
- Measurement of mass of Earth
- Validating the presence of core
- Location of core-mantle boundary (CMB)
- Measurement of the density of core and mantle
- Chemical composition of core

# Neutrino Oscillation Probabilities for a Core-Passing Track-Like Events



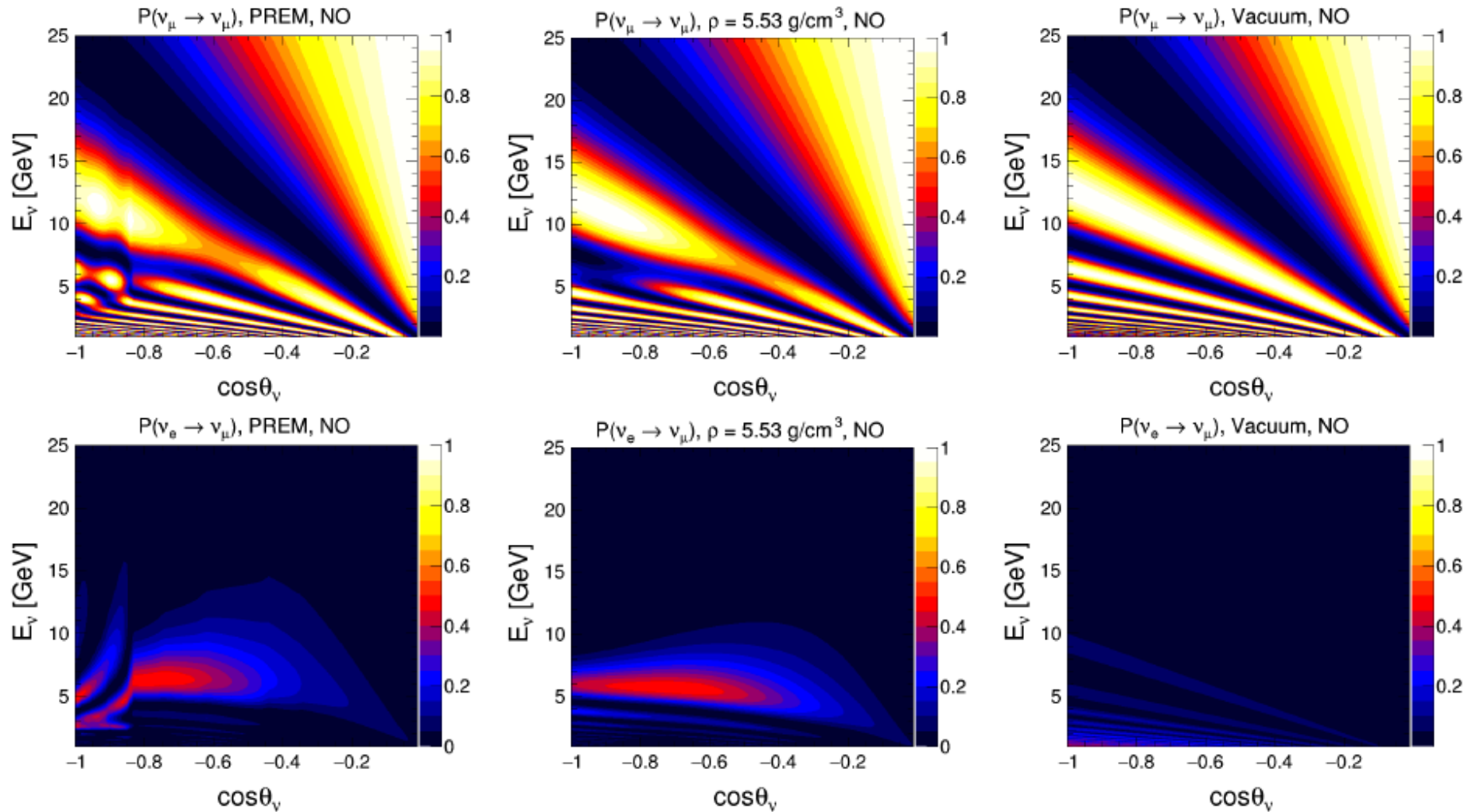
We get similar oscillation patterns for antineutrinos with inverted mass ordering

# Neutrino Oscillation Probabilities for a Core-Passing Cascade-Like Events



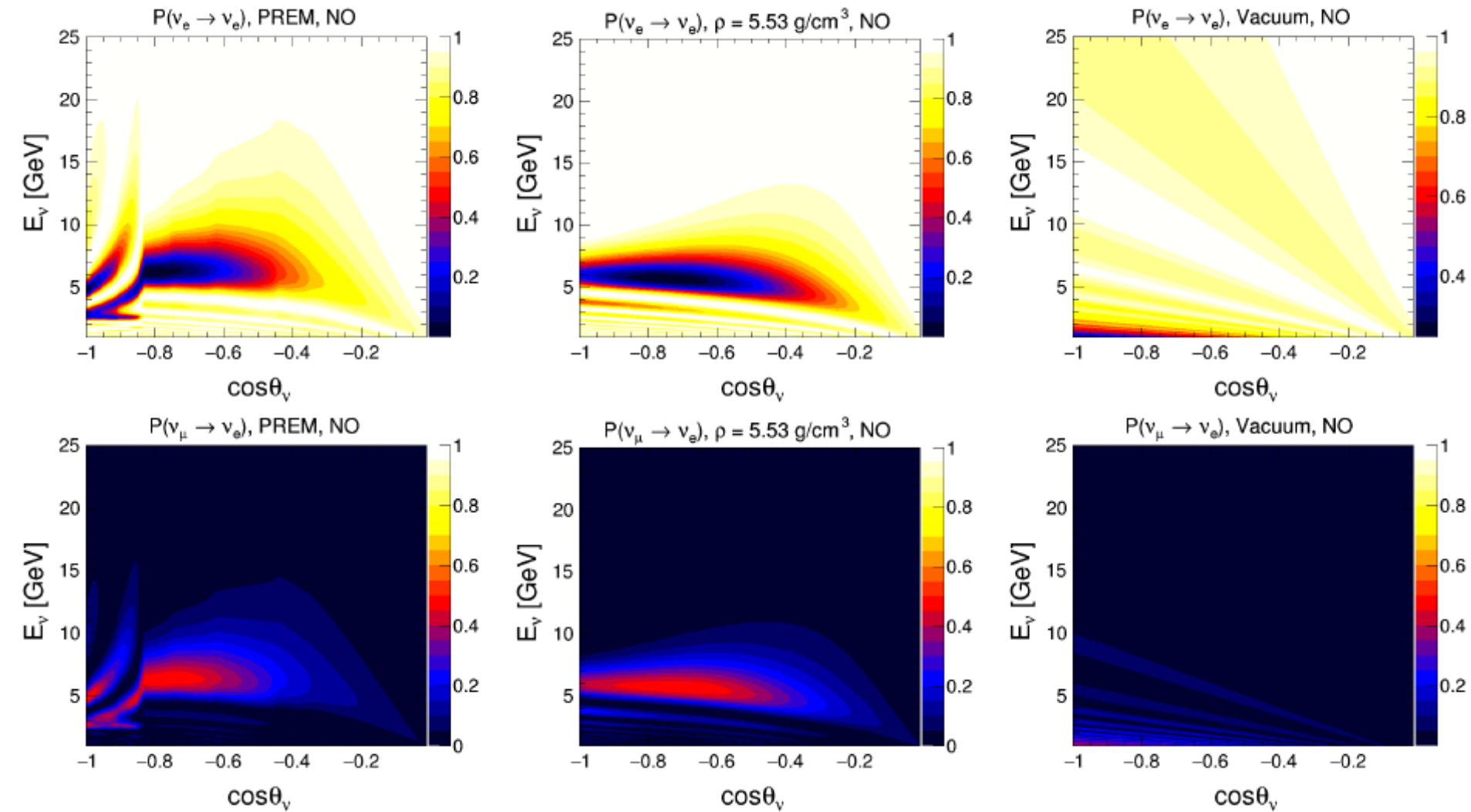
We get similar oscillation patterns for antineutrinos with inverted mass ordering

# Neutrino Oscillograms for a Core-Passing Track-Like Events



We get similar oscillograms for antineutrinos with inverted mass ordering

# Neutrino Oscillograms for a Core-Passing Cascade-Like Events

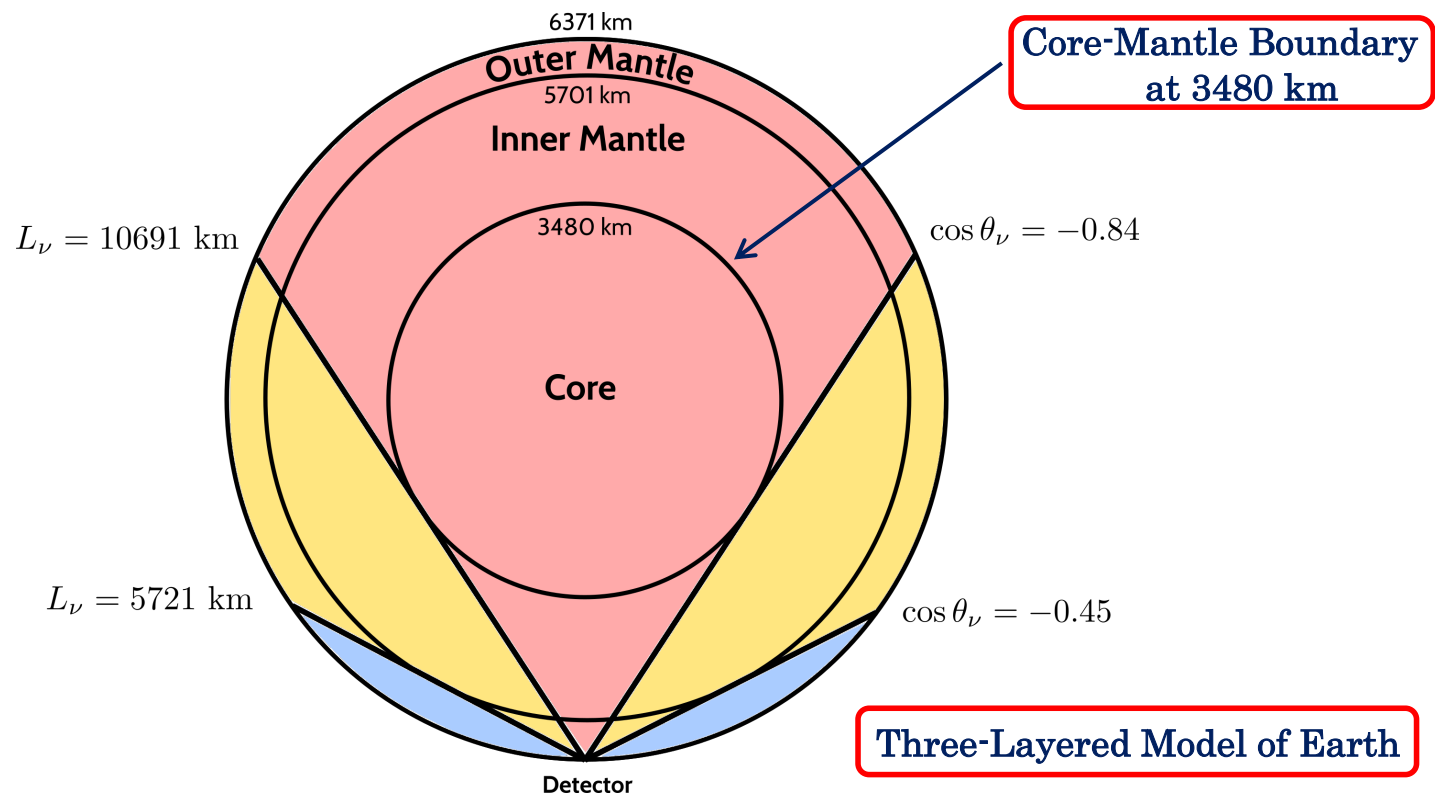


We get similar oscillograms for antineutrinos with inverted mass ordering

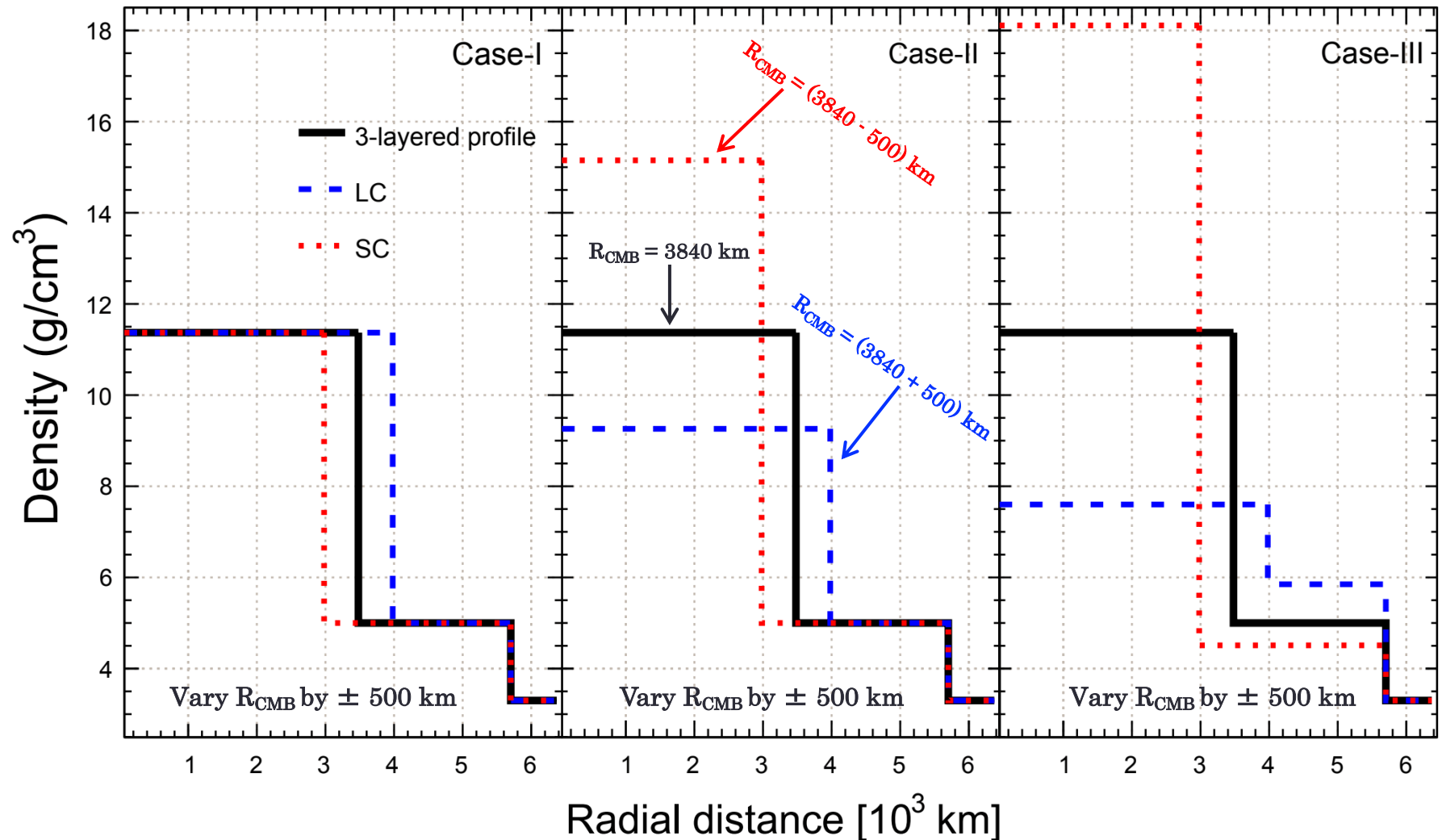


# Locating Core-Mantle Boundary (CMB) using Atmospheric Neutrinos

A. K. Upadhyay, A. Kumar, S. K. Agarwalla, and A. Dighe, in preparation



# A Few Toy Models of Earth with Varying CMB

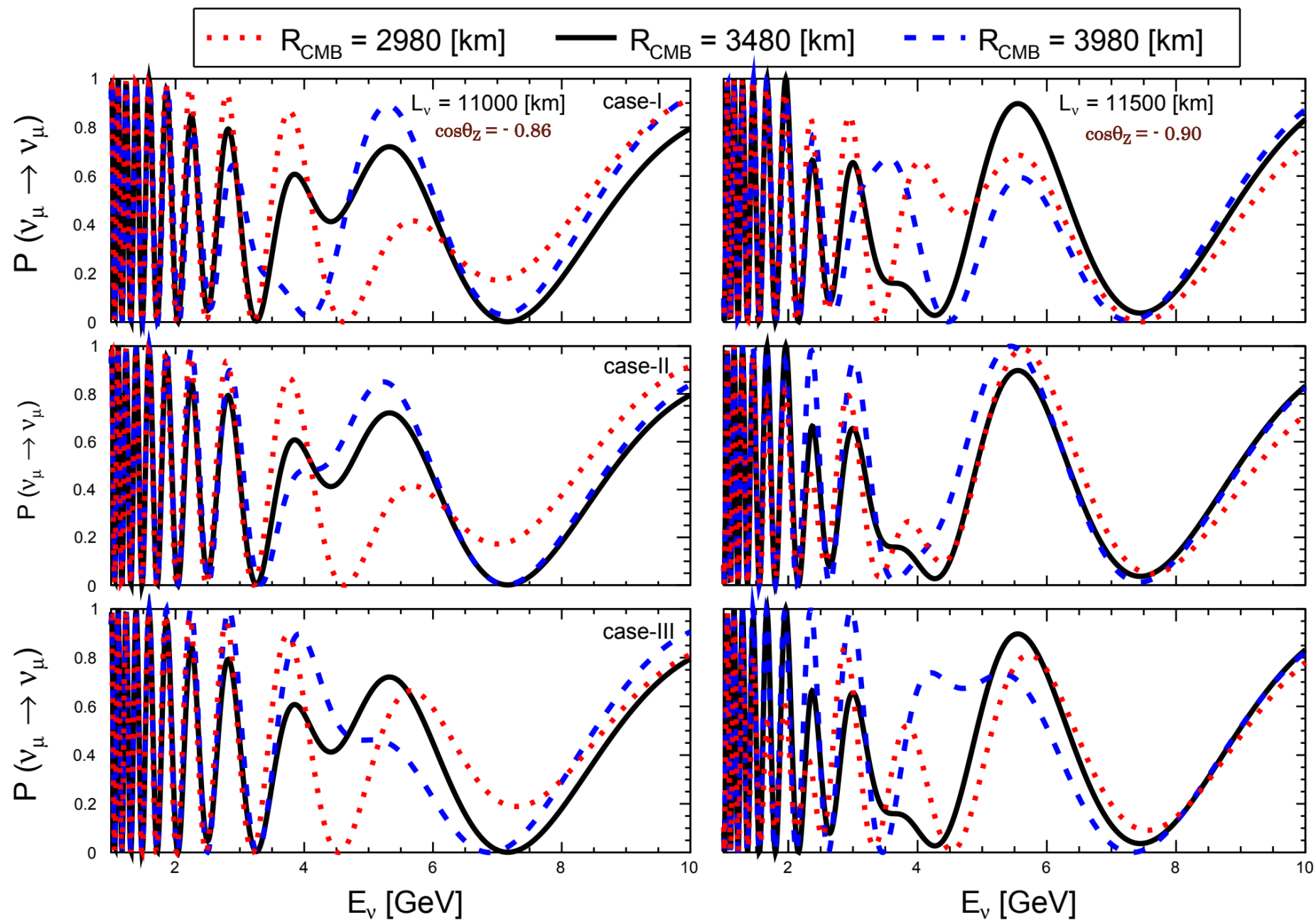


**Case-I:** Densities of all layers fixed and  $M_{\oplus}$  is not invariant

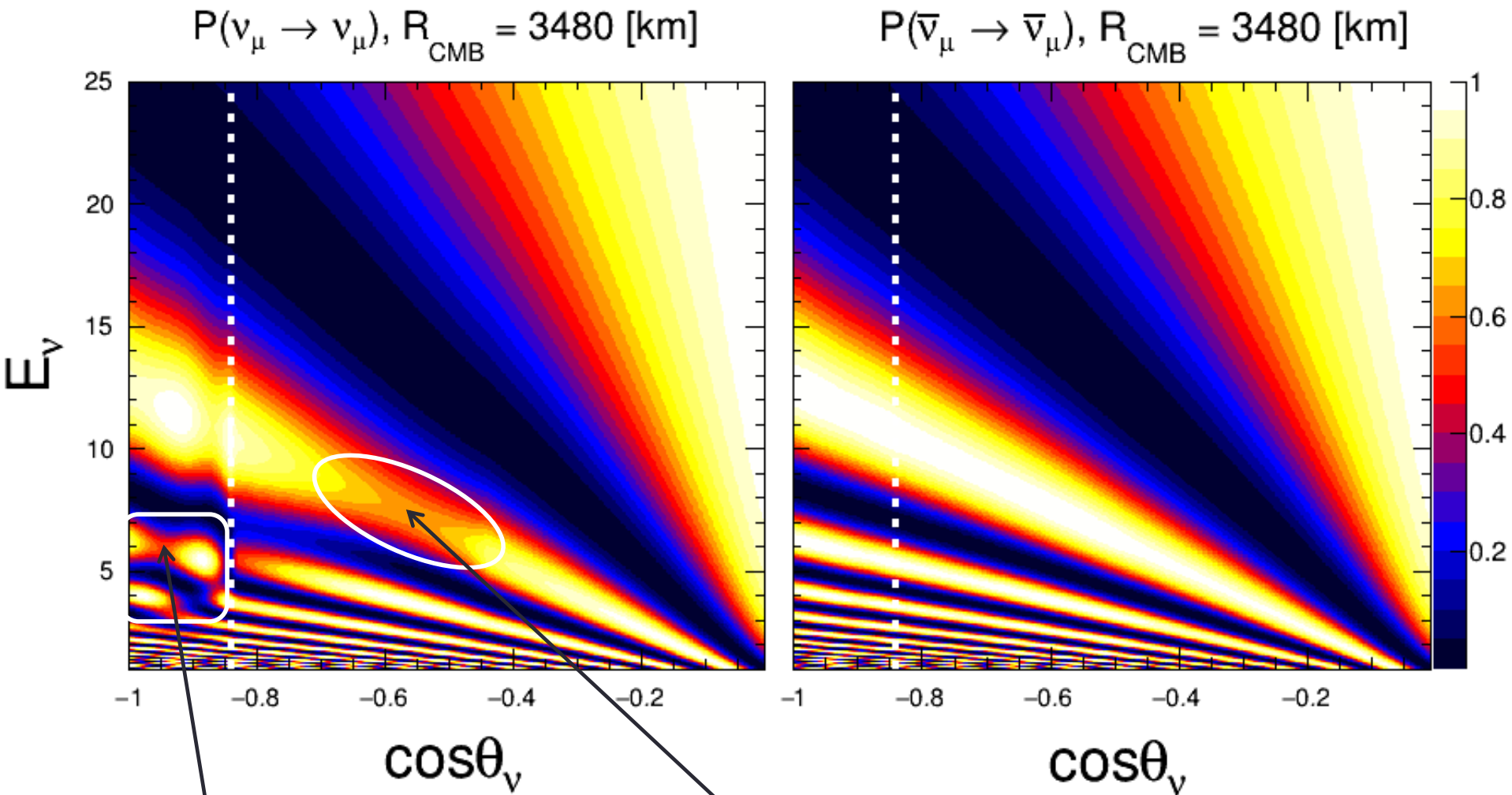
**Case-II:** Densities of inner & outer mantle fixed. Core density varies to keep  $M_{\oplus}$  invariant

**Case-III:** Core & inner mantle densities vary to keep their masses fixed. Outer mantle density fixed &  $M_{\oplus}$  invariant

# Muon Neutrino Survival Probabilities with Varying CMB



# Muon Neutrino Survival Oscillograms with Standard CMB



Non-Adiabatic Neutrino Oscillation  
Length Resonance (NOLR) or Parametric  
Resonance (PR) Region

$\cos\theta_\nu < -0.8$   
 $3 \text{ GeV} < E_\nu < 6 \text{ GeV}$

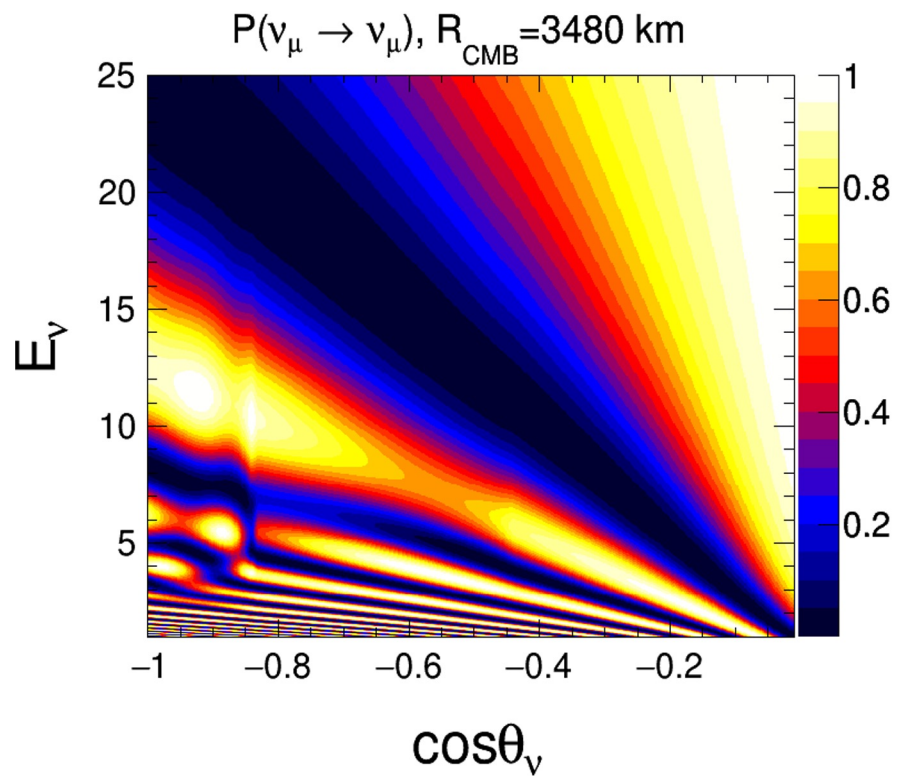
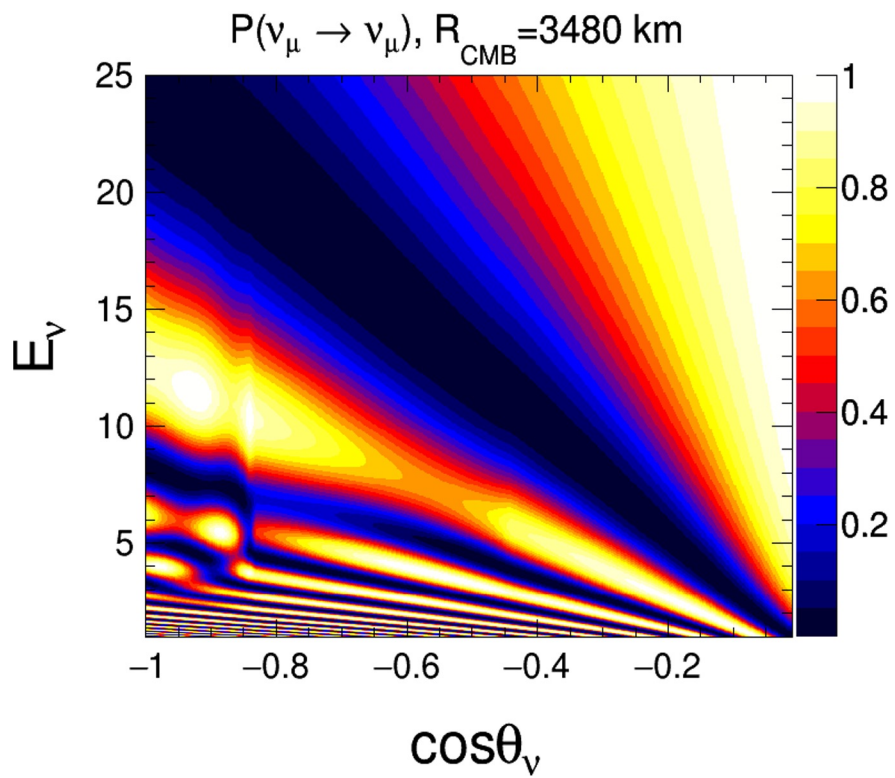
Adiabatic MSW Resonance Region

$-0.8 < \cos\theta_\nu < -0.5$   
 $6 \text{ GeV} < E_\nu < 10 \text{ GeV}$

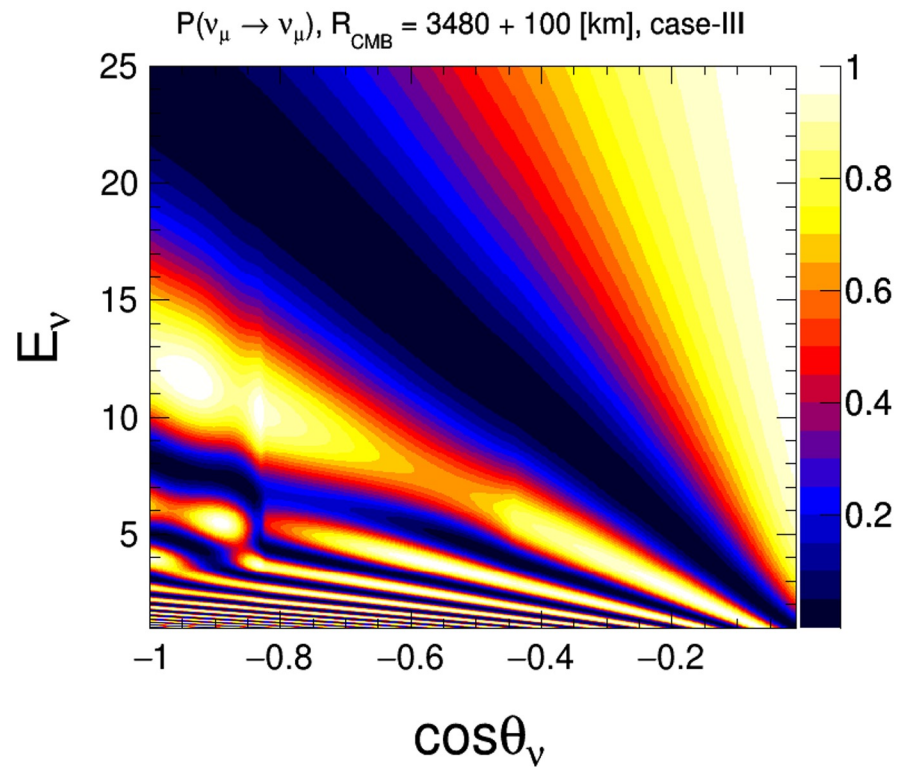
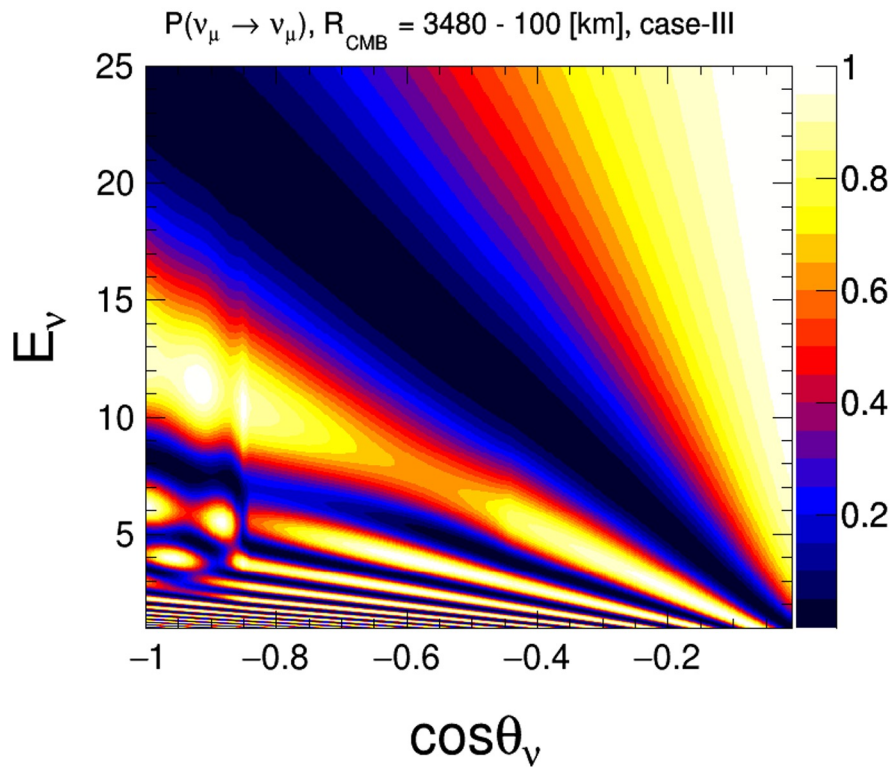
Neutrinos experience  
matter effect for NO

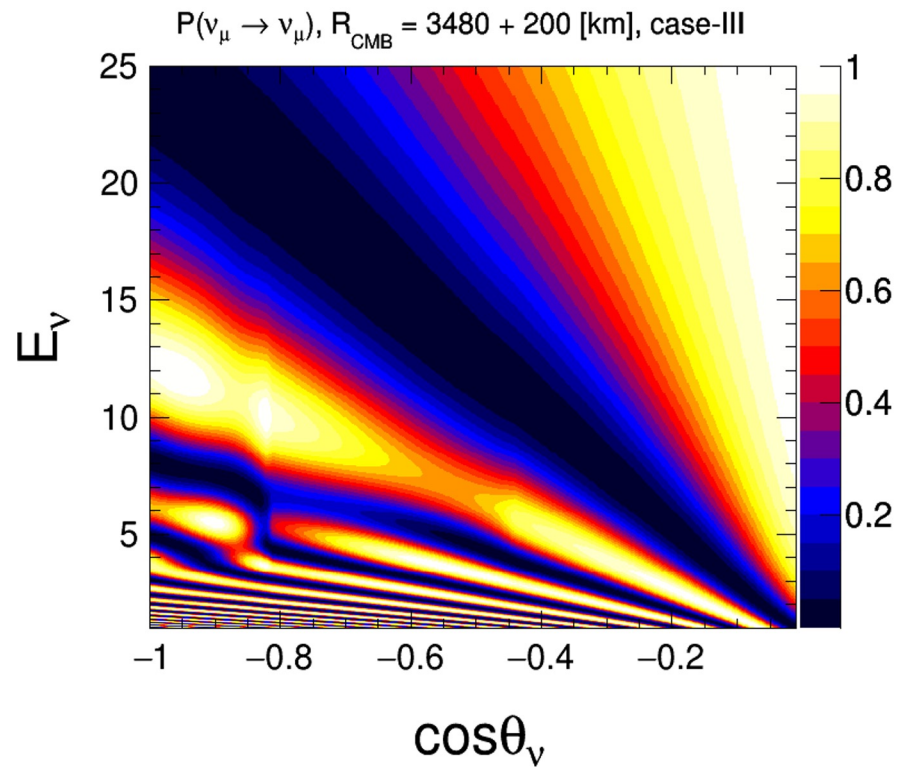
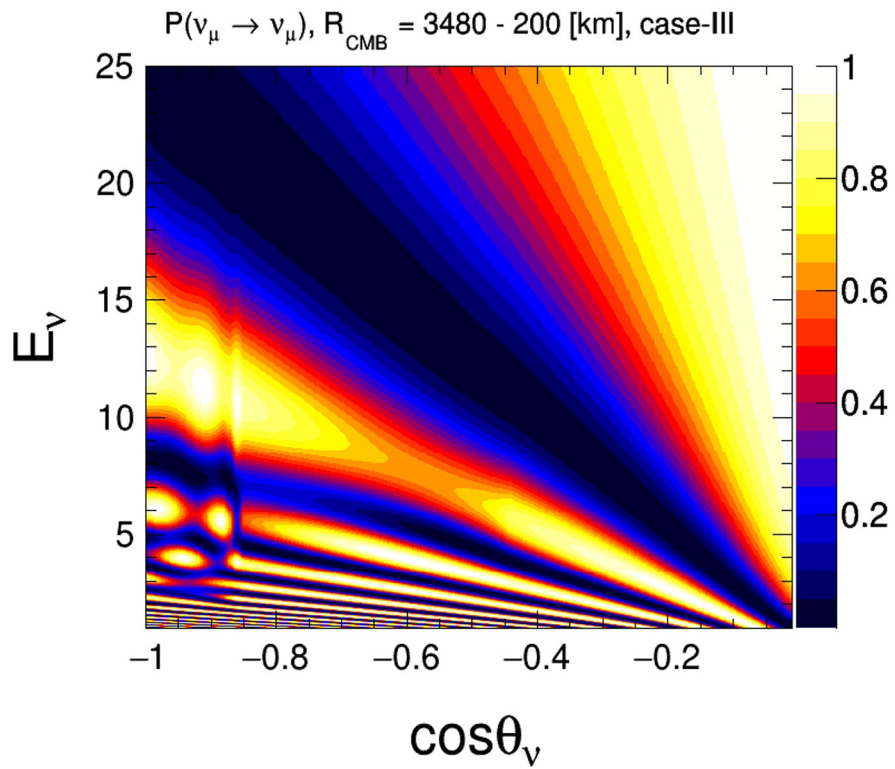
Antineutrinos experience  
matter effect for IO

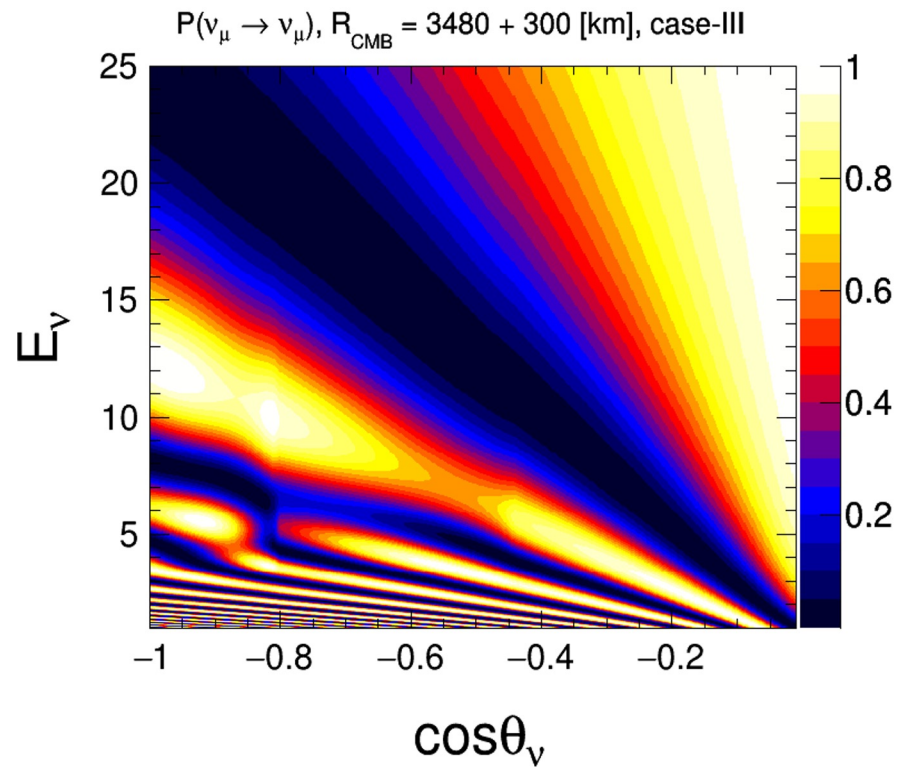
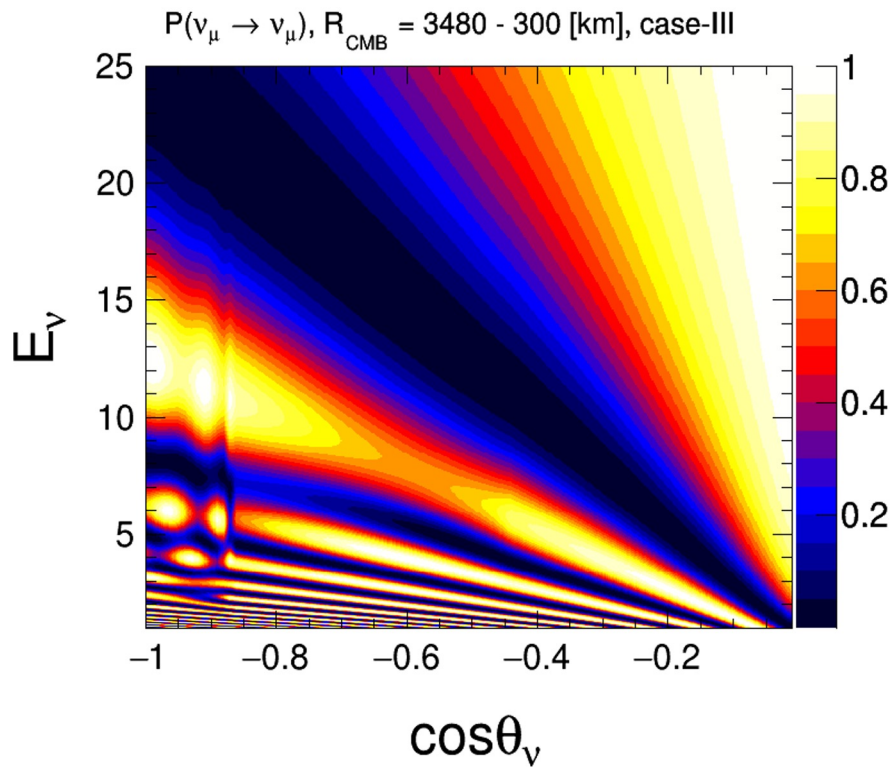
# Case - III

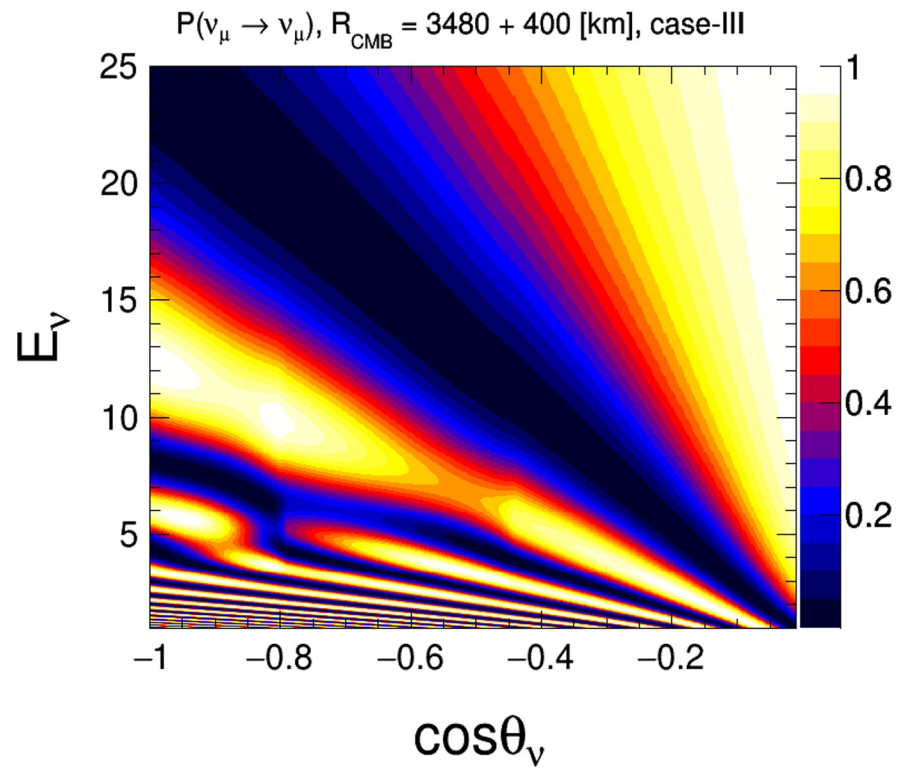
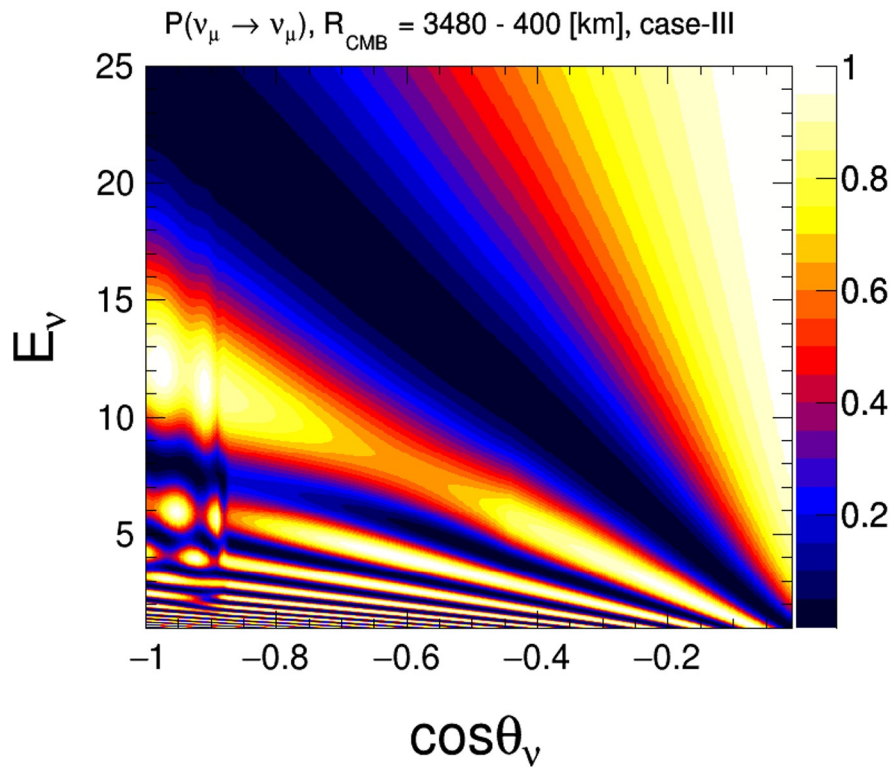


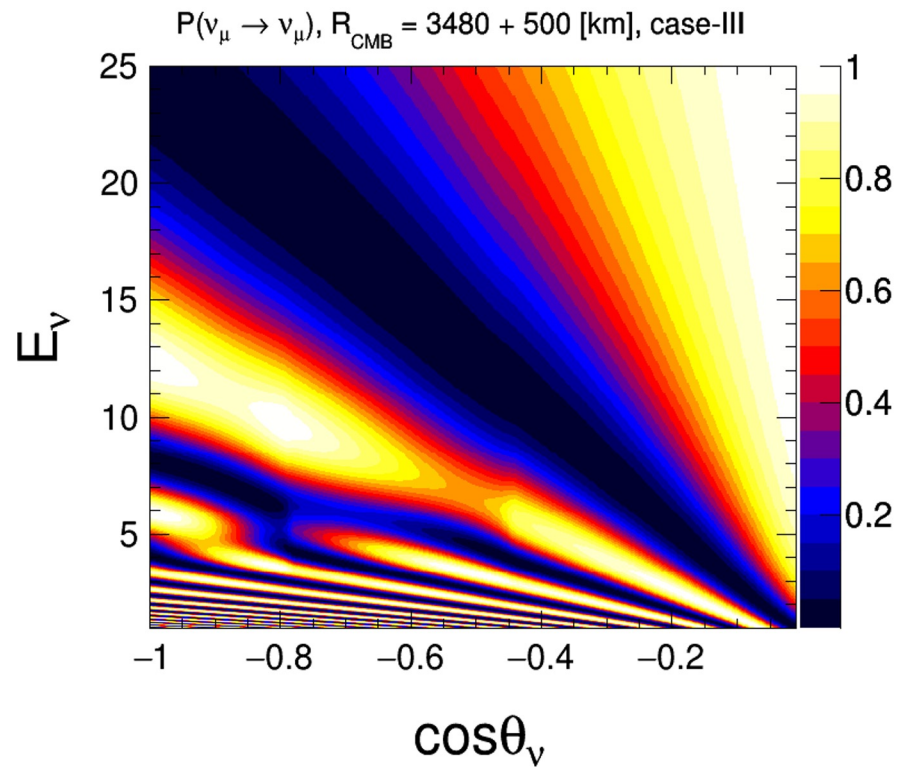
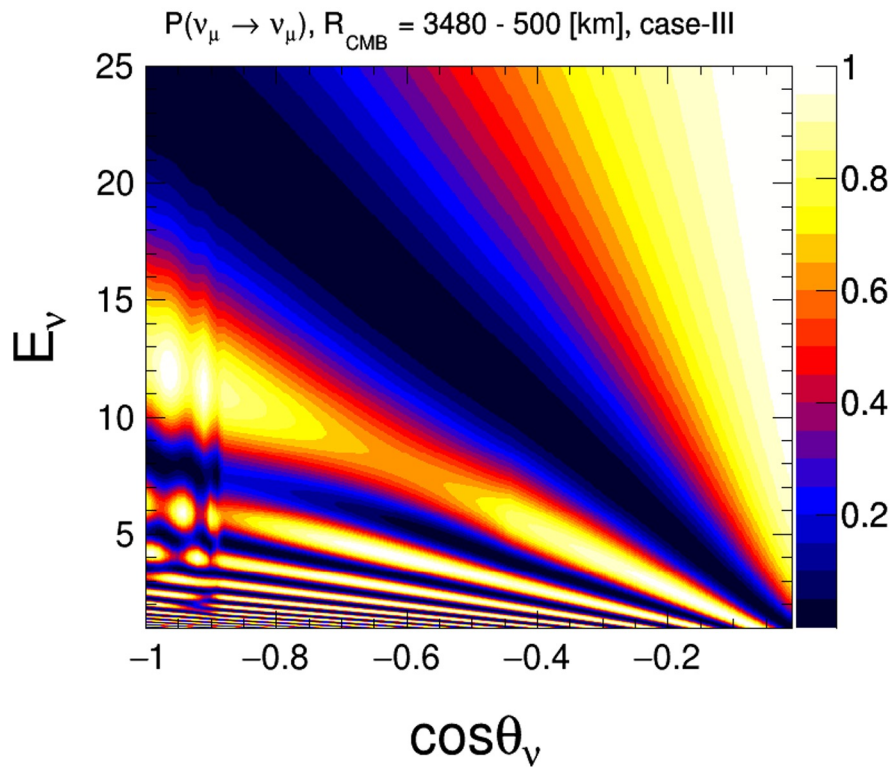




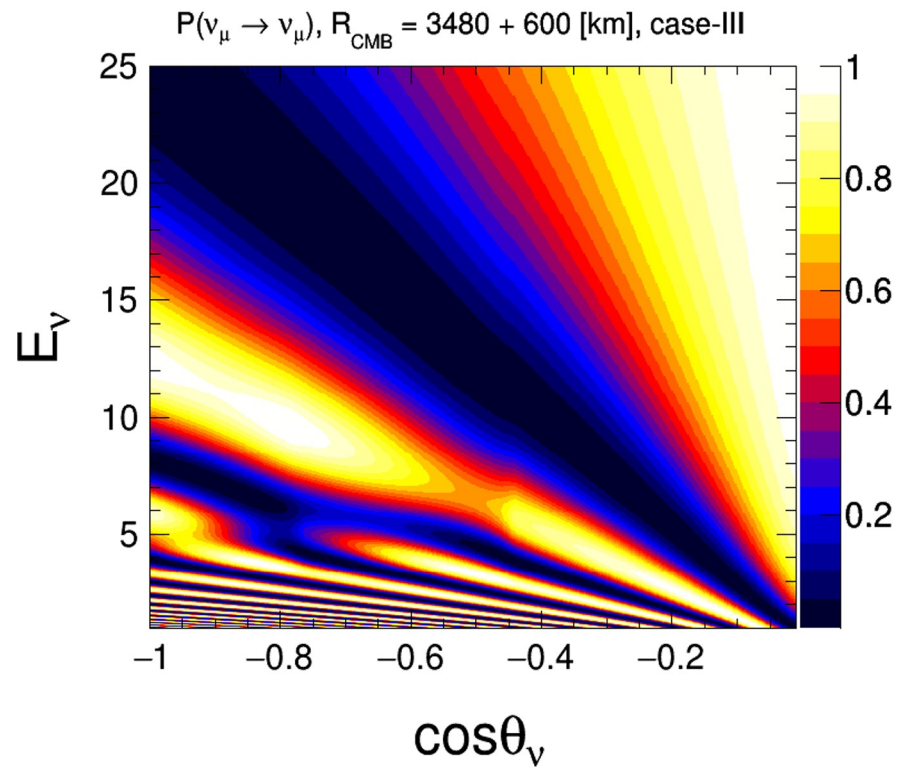
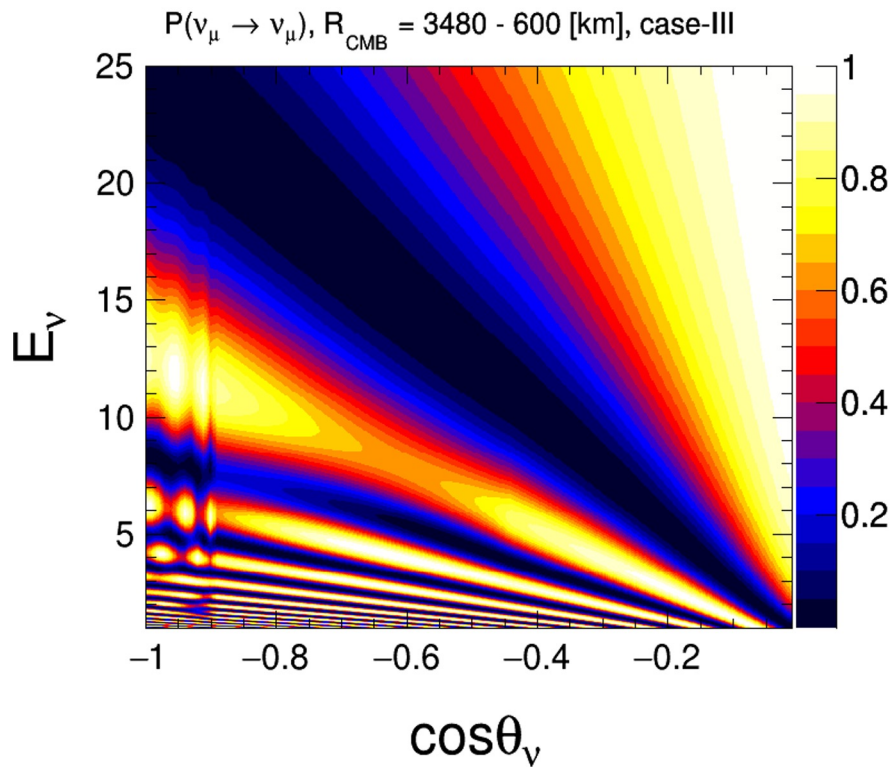


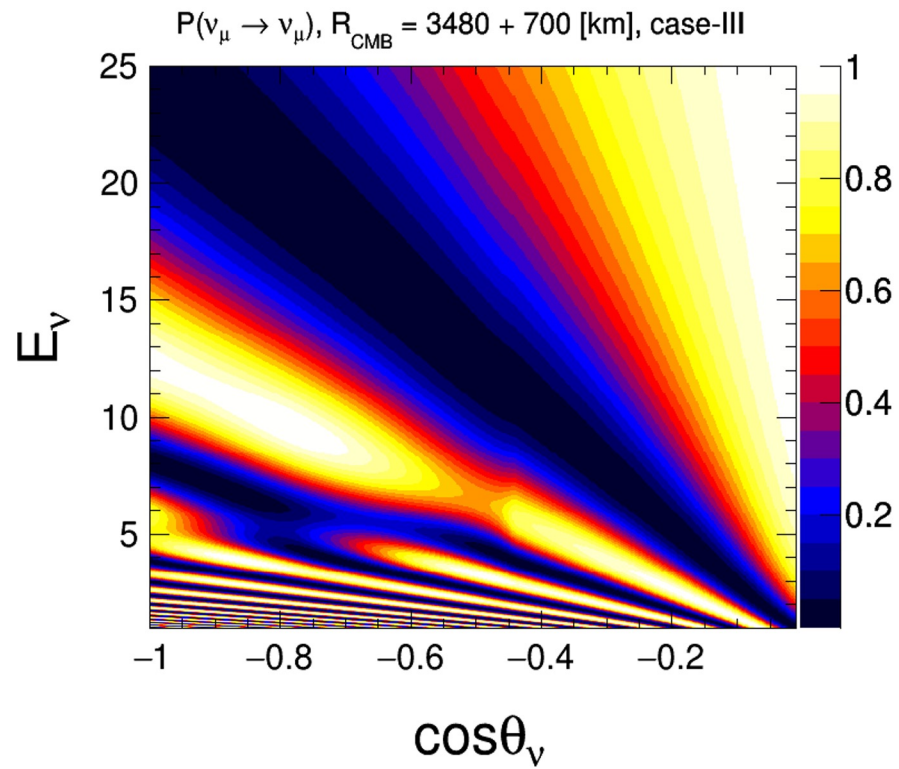
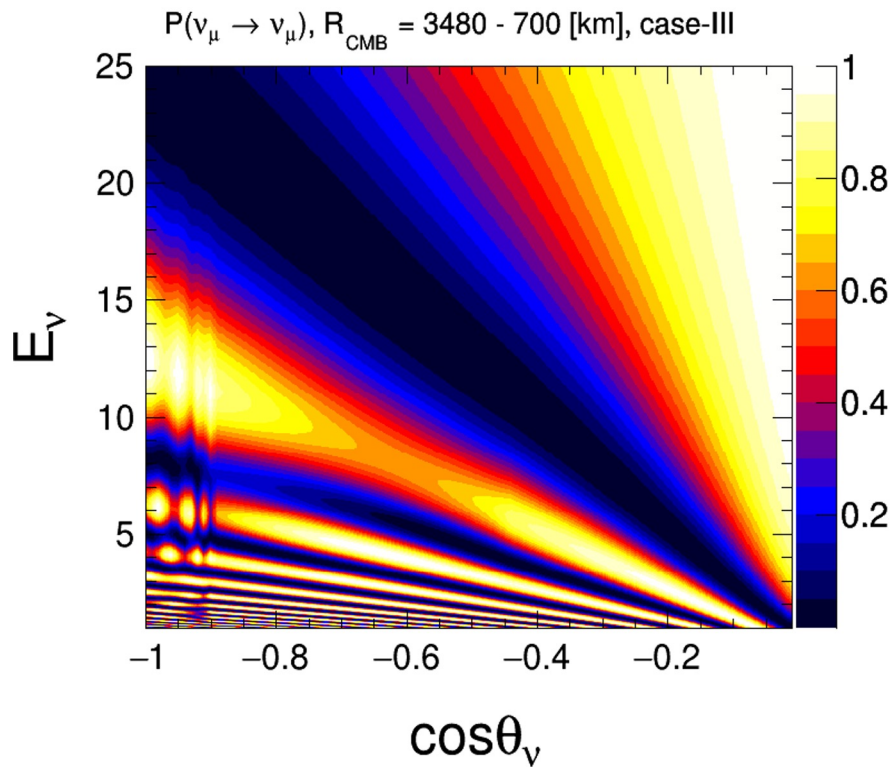




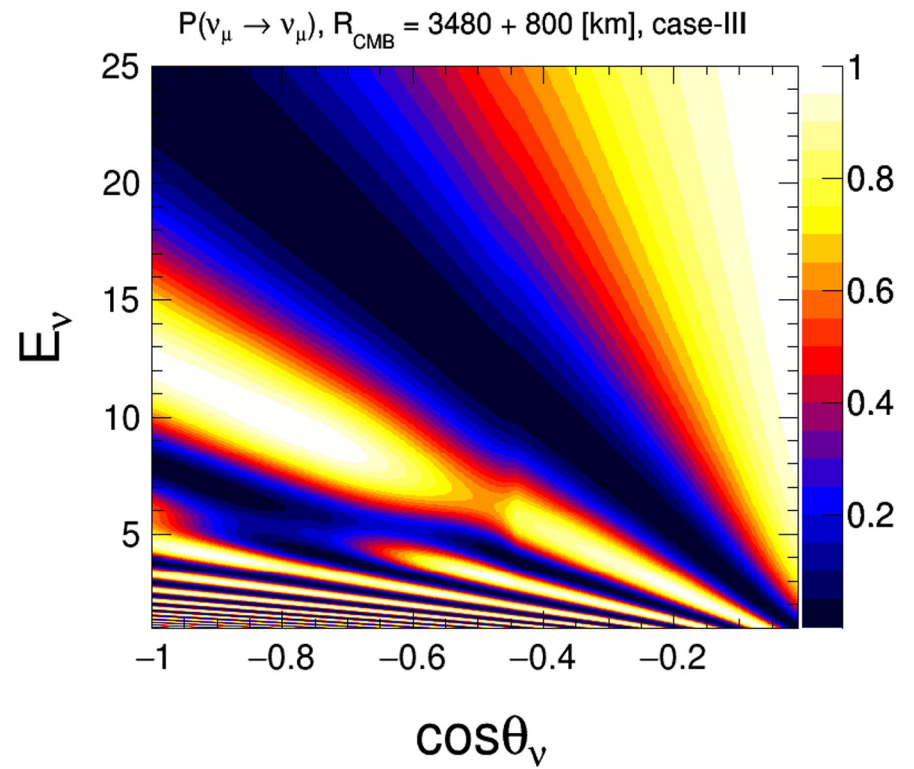
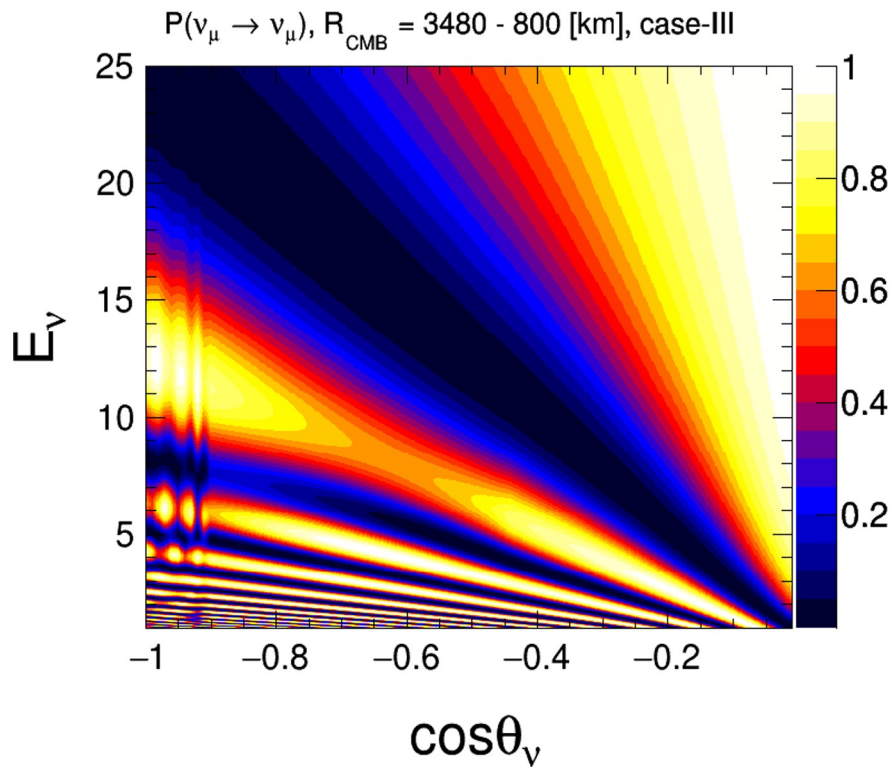


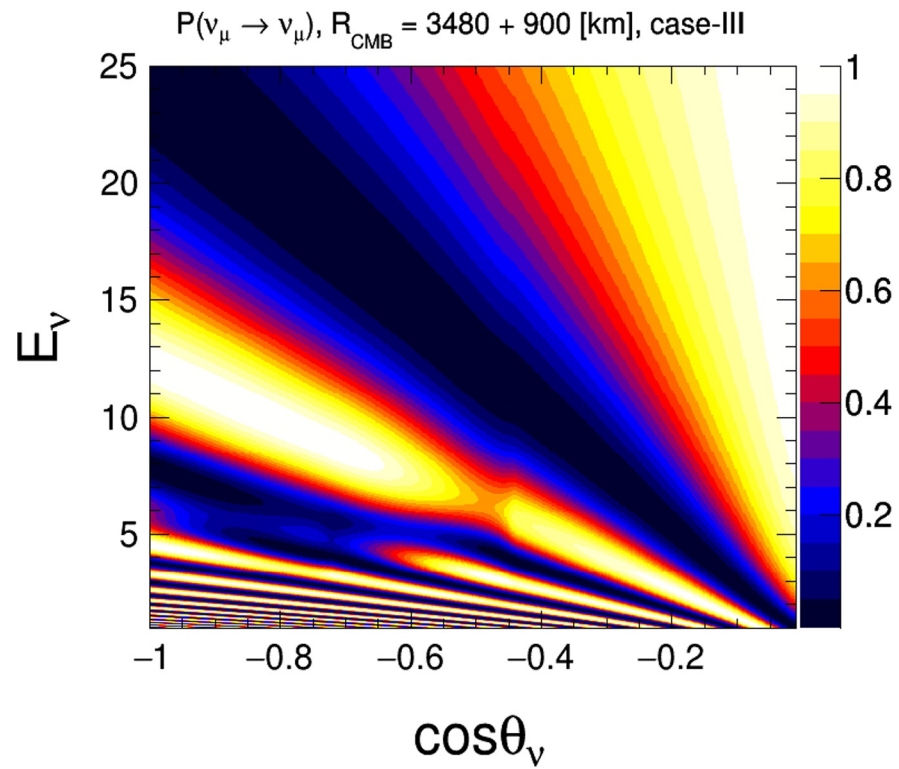
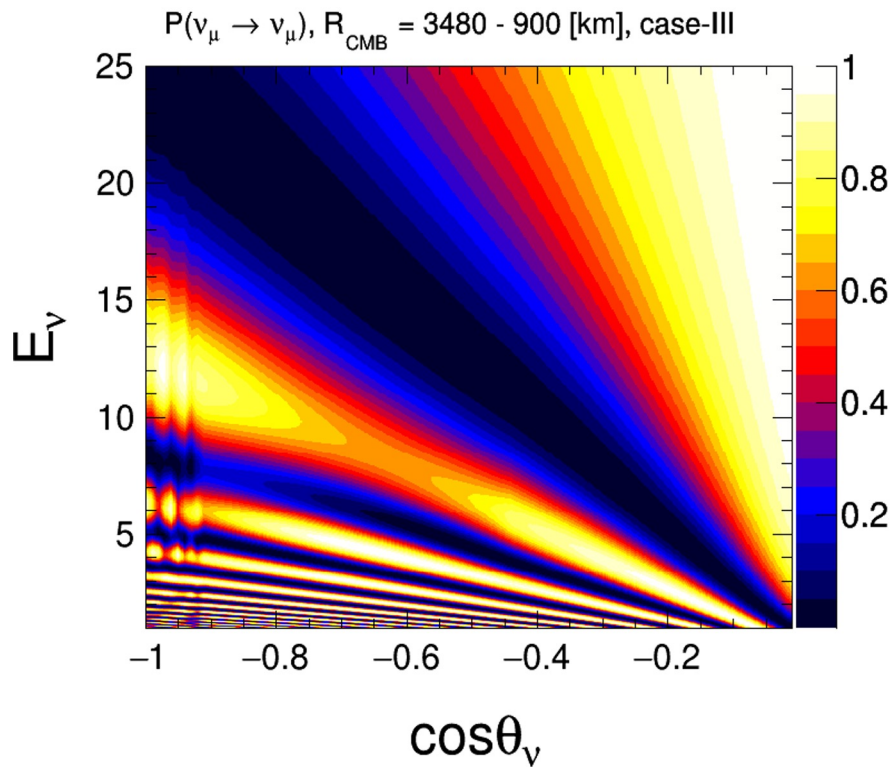


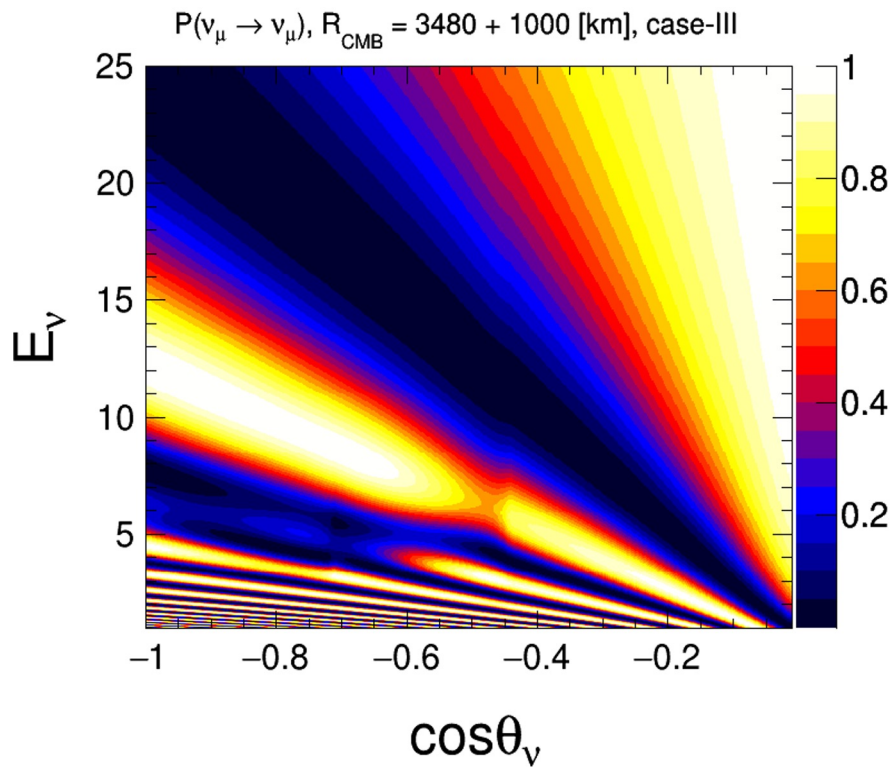
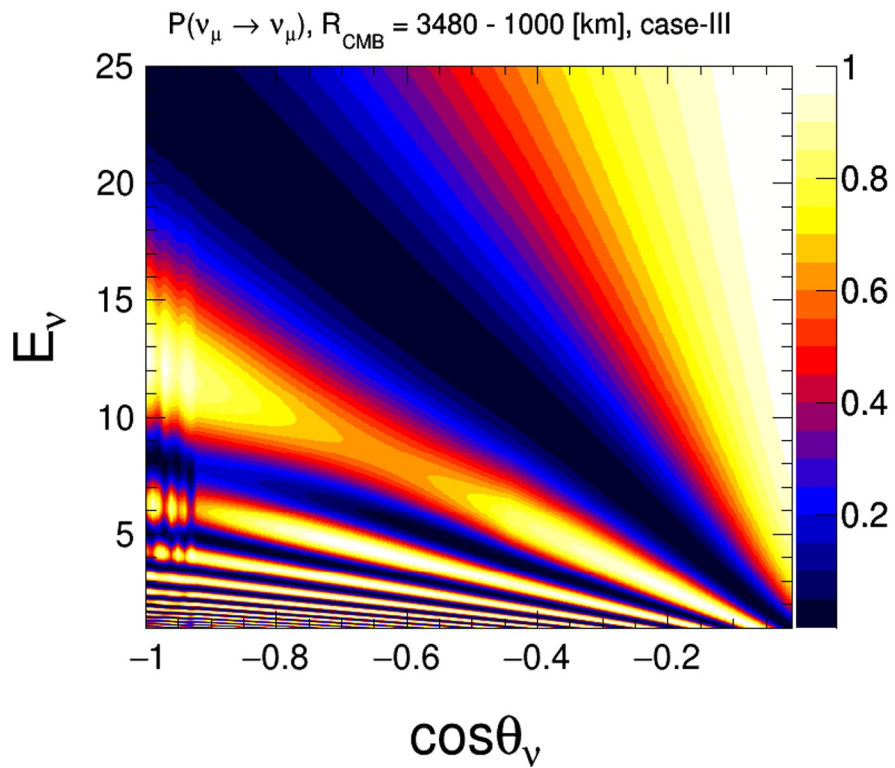


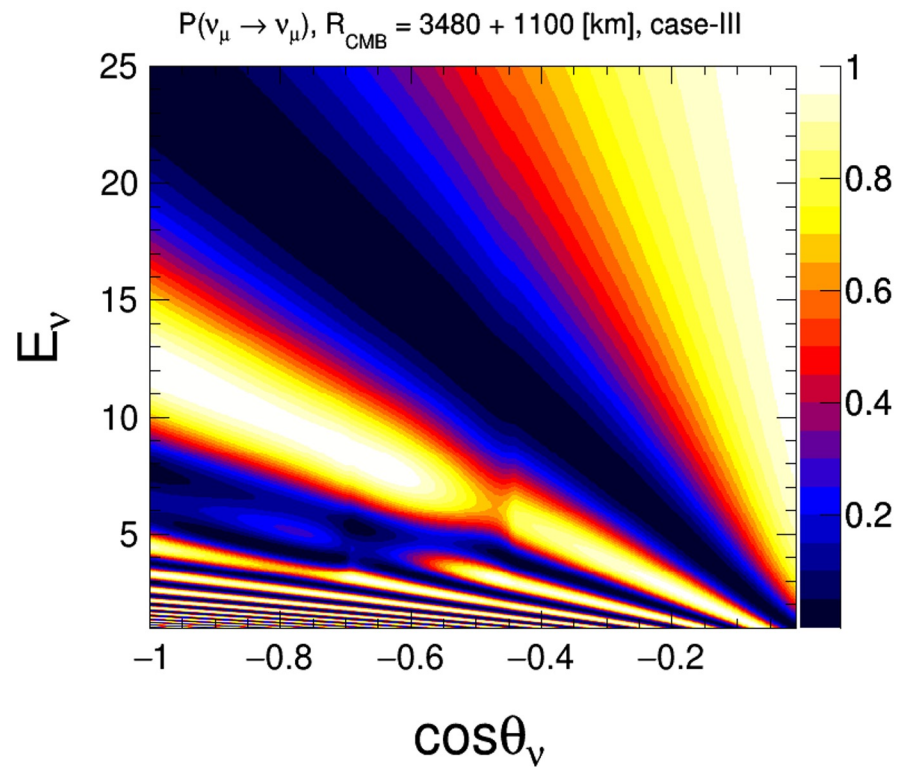
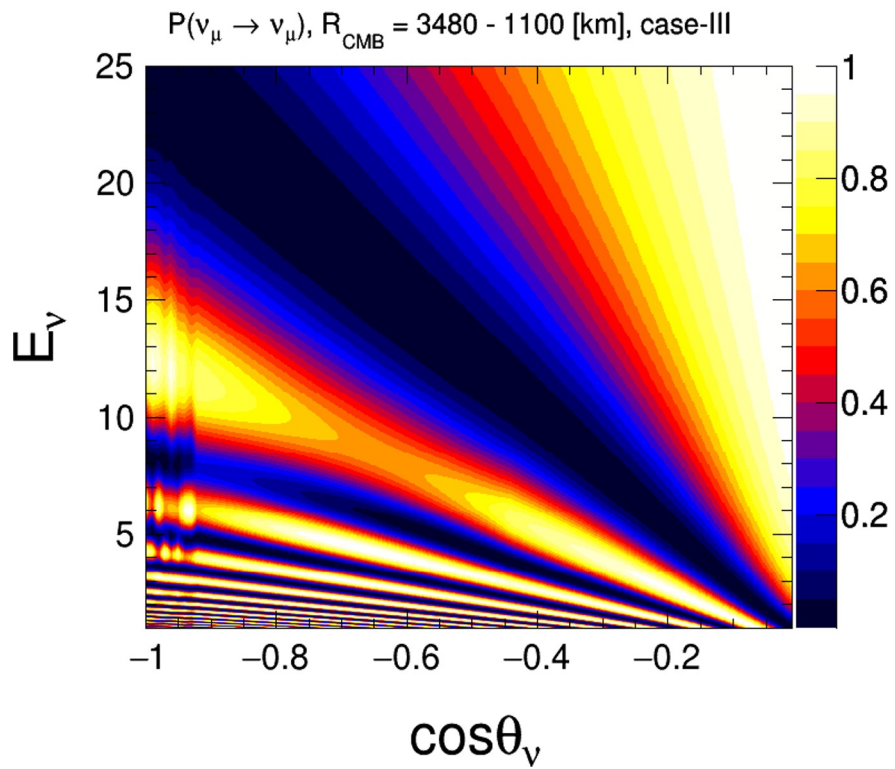


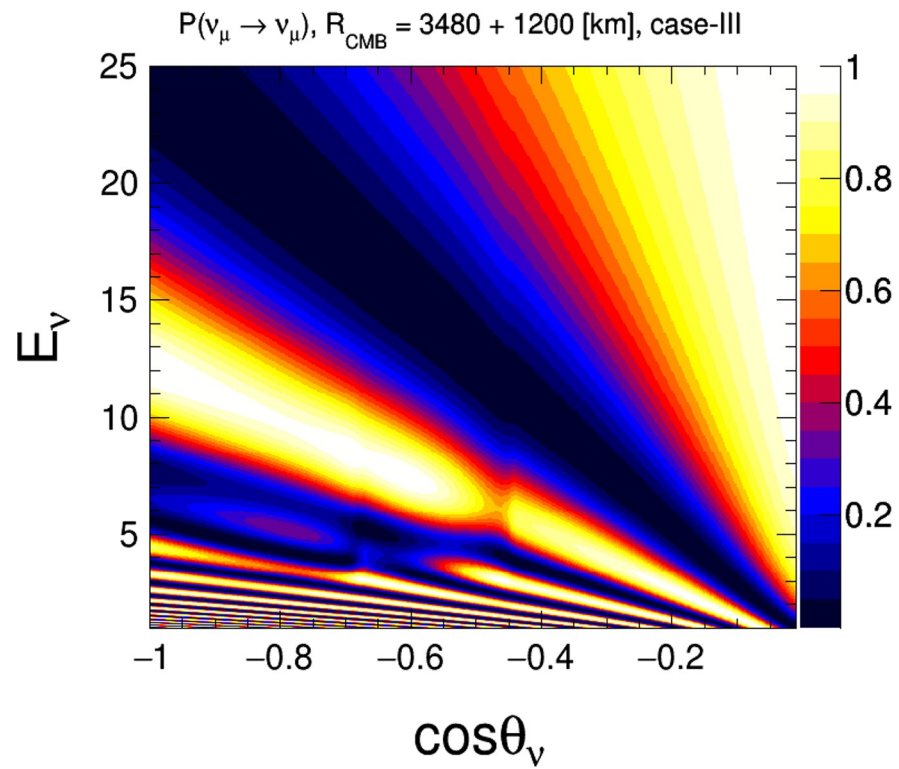
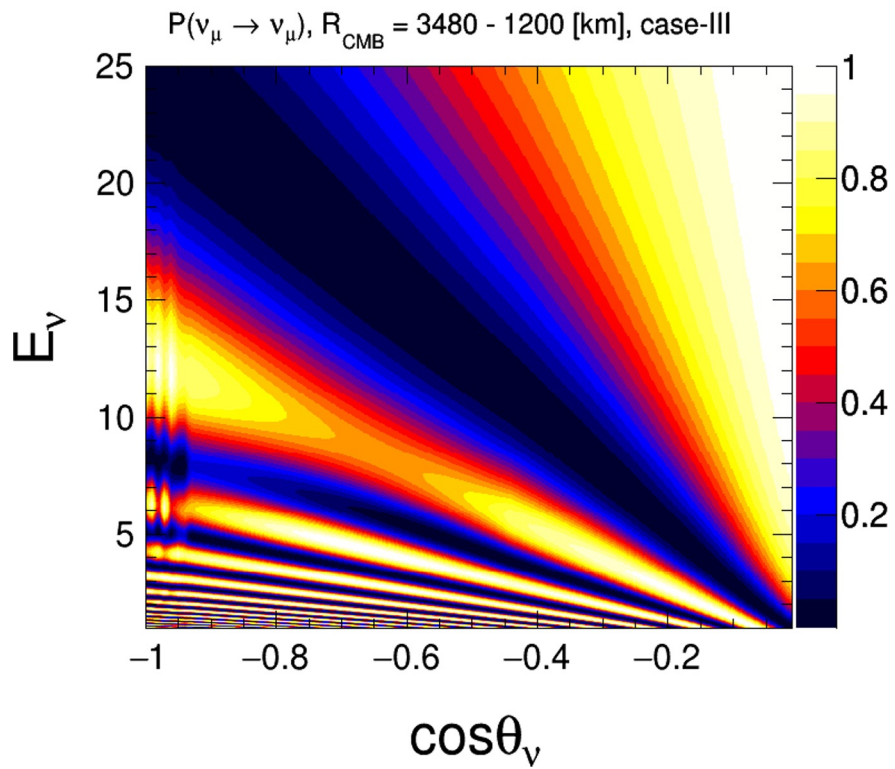




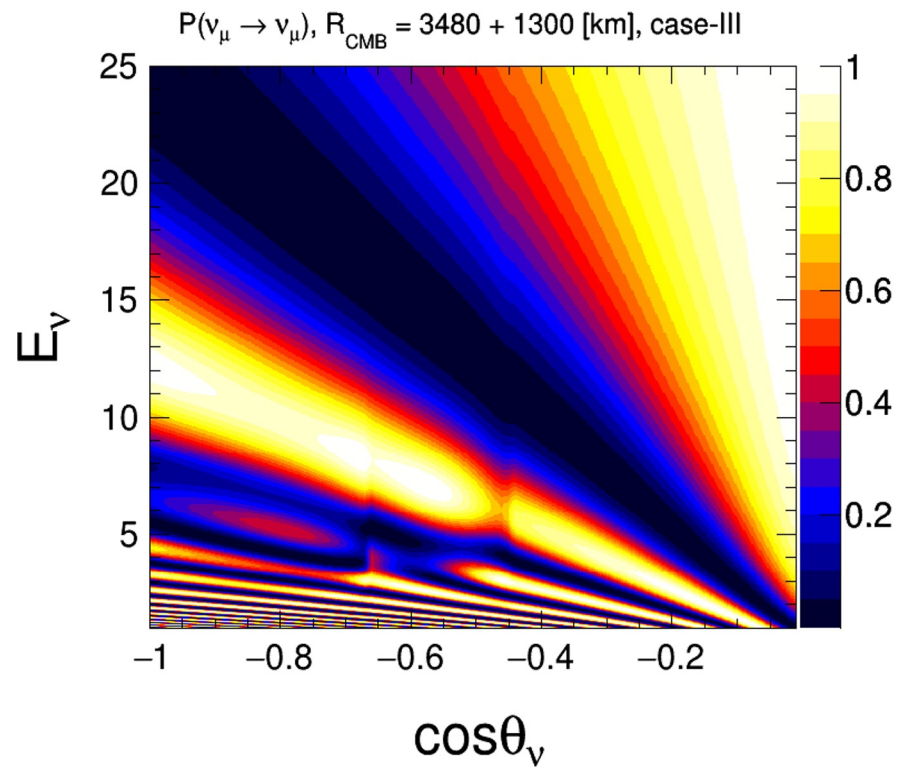
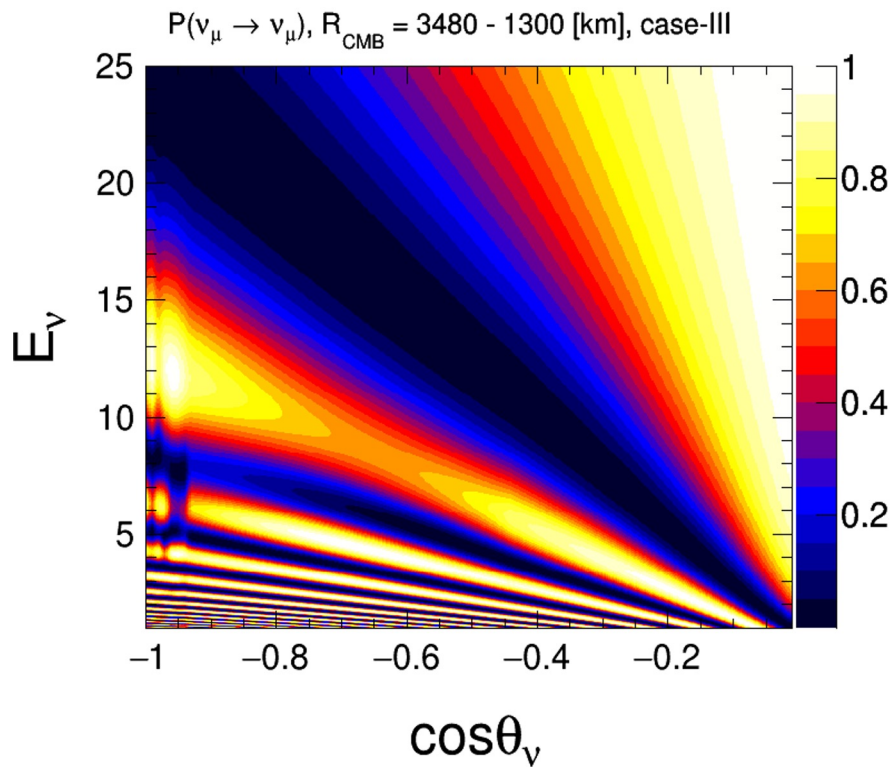


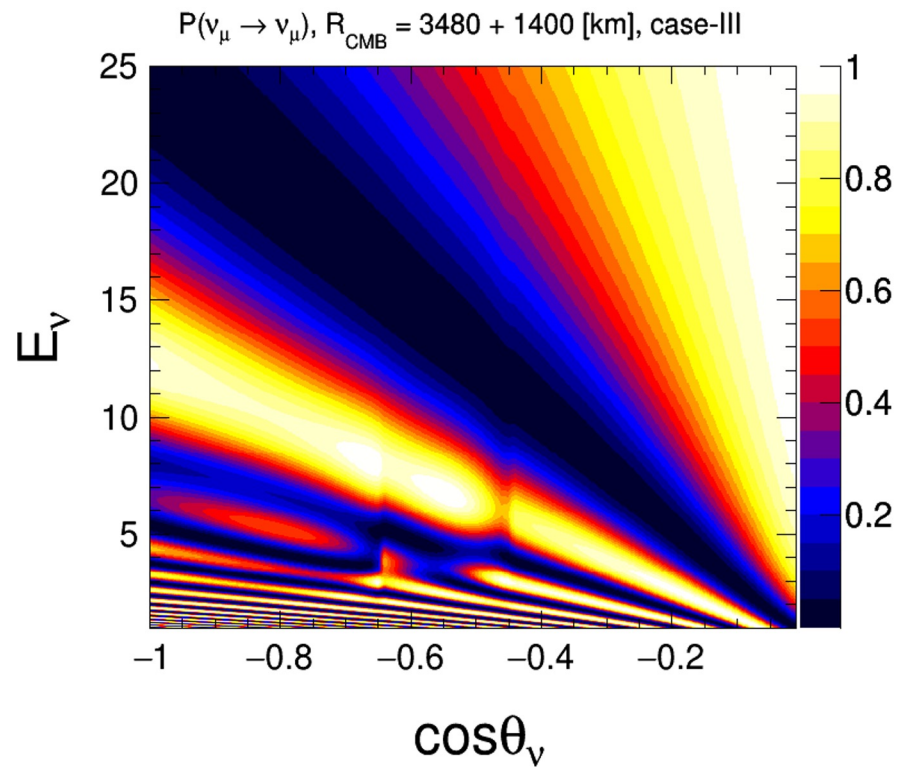
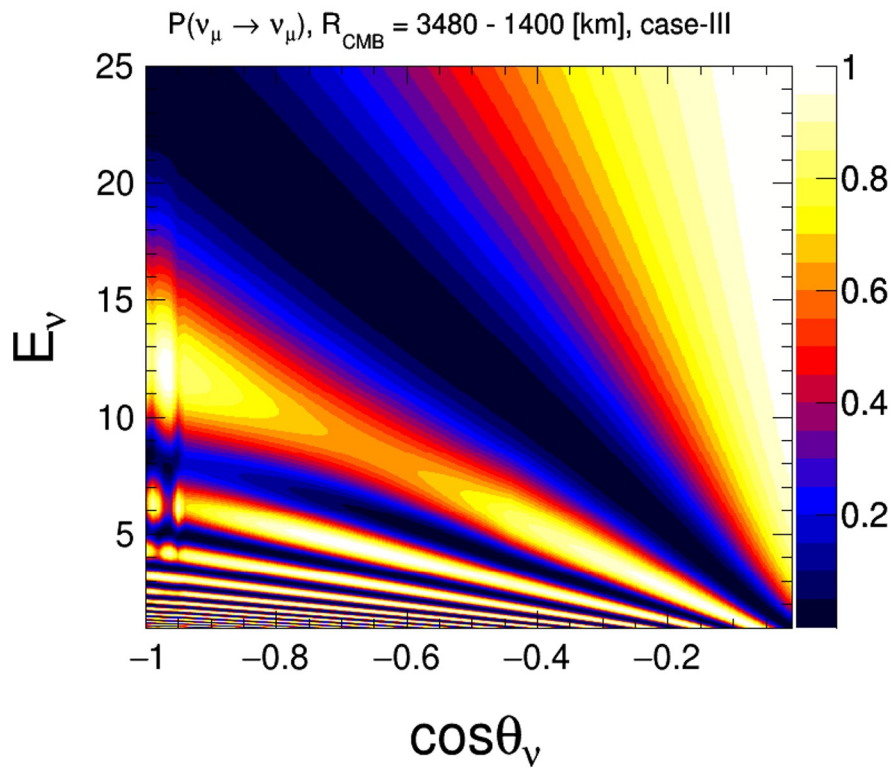




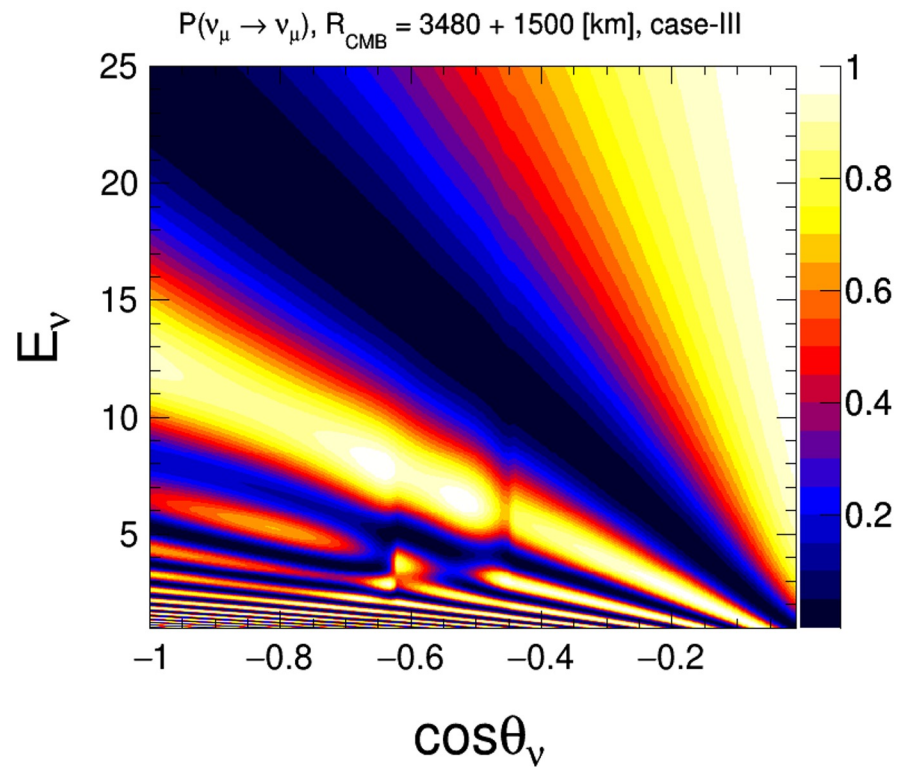
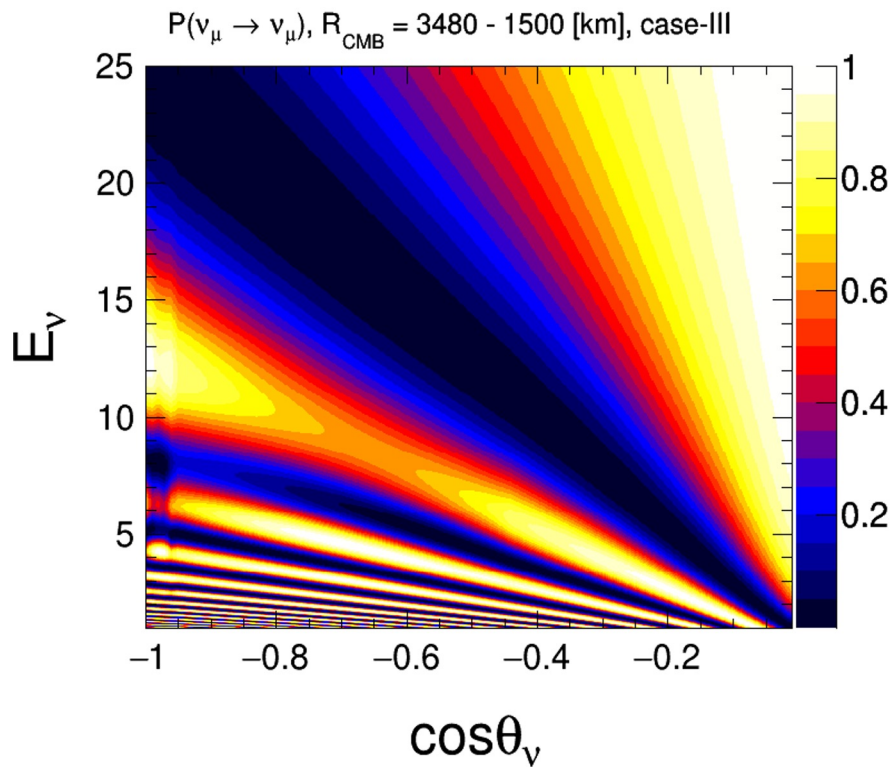


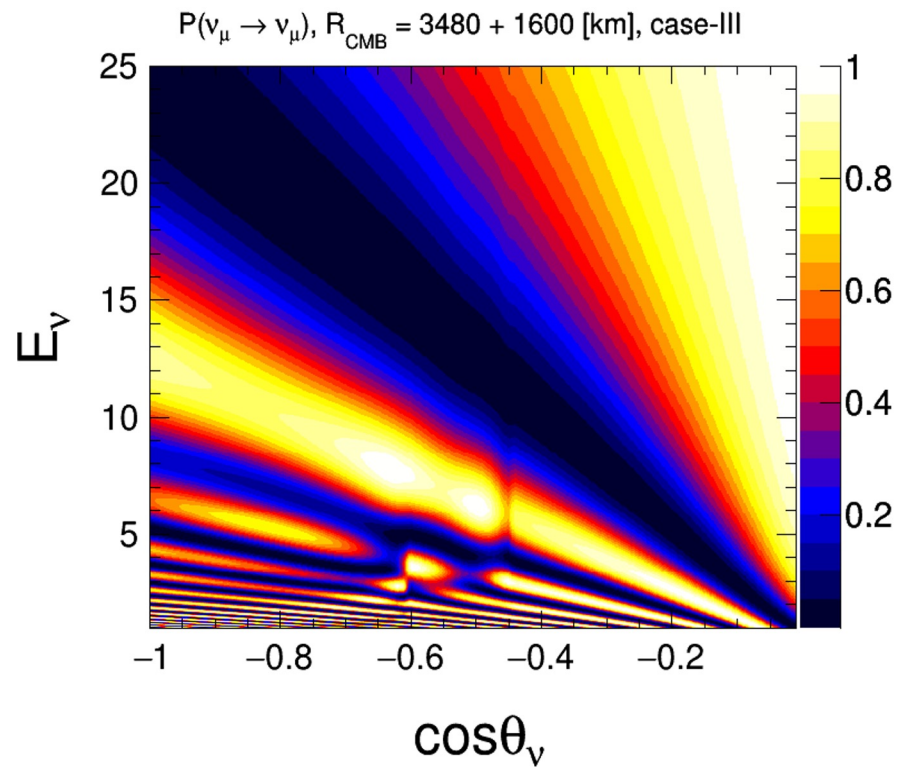
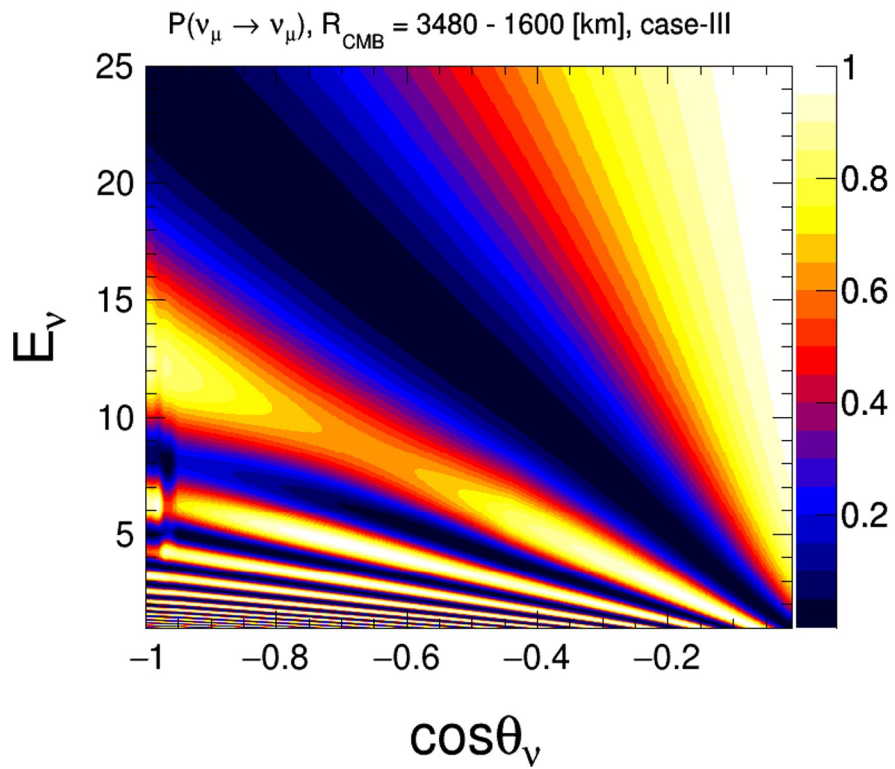


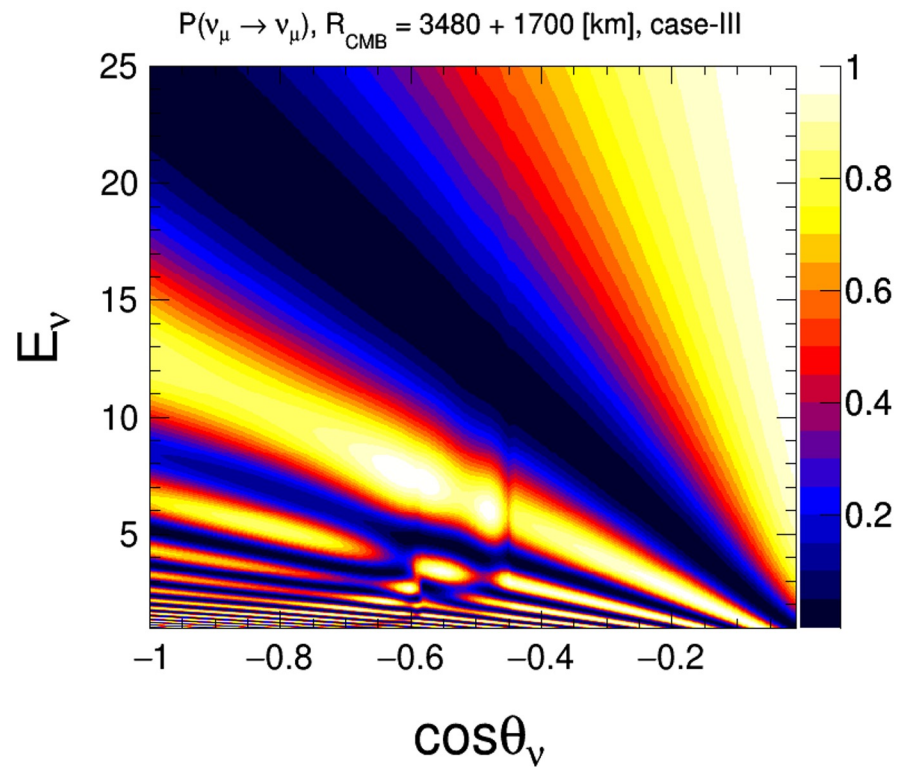
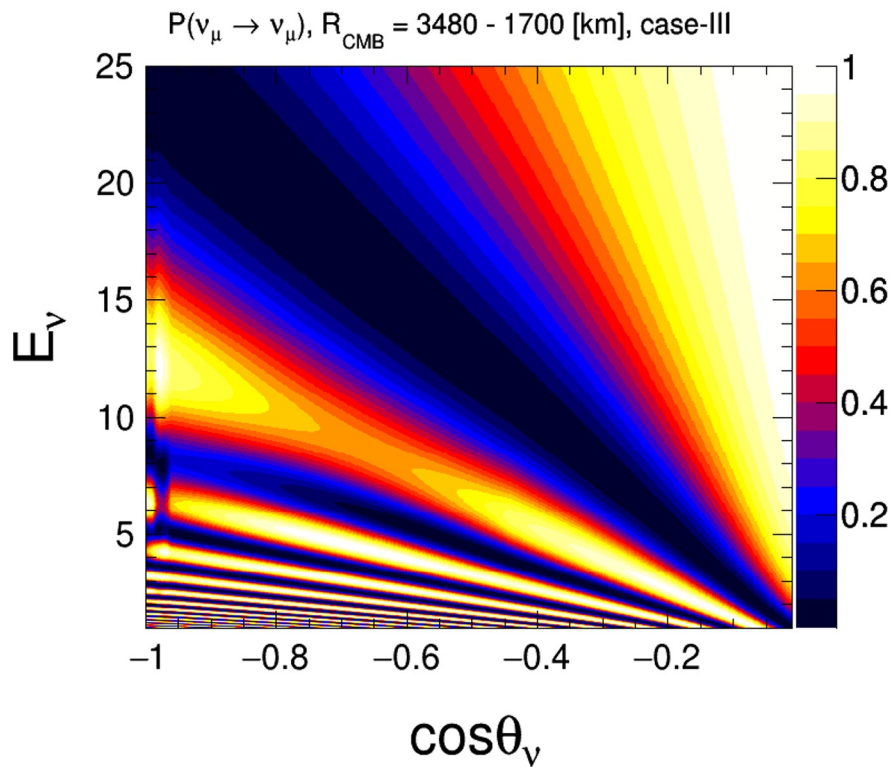


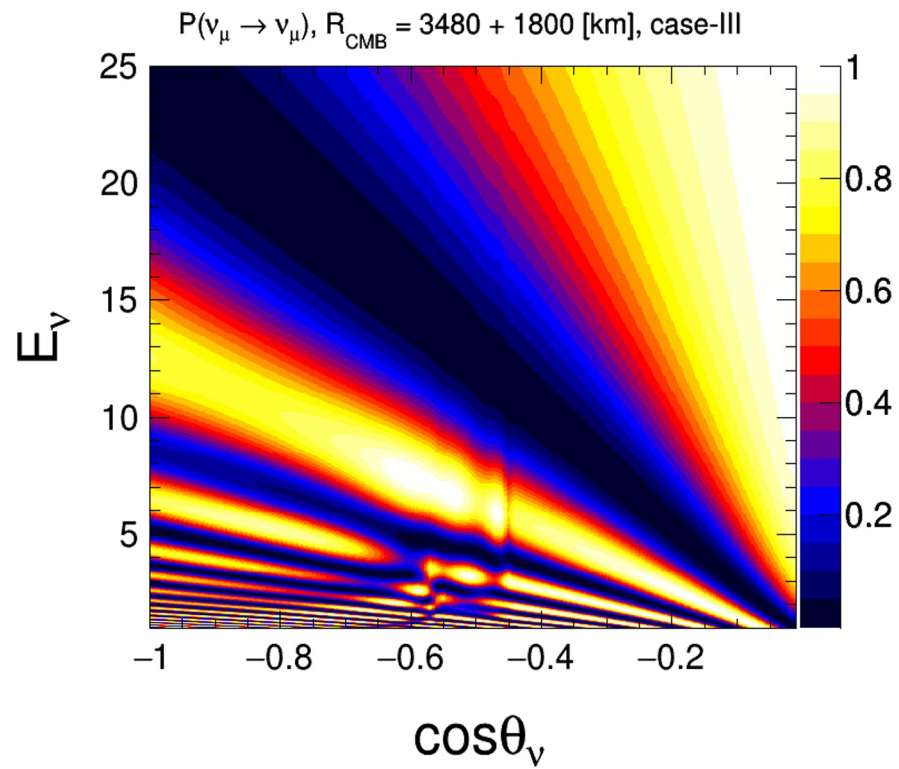
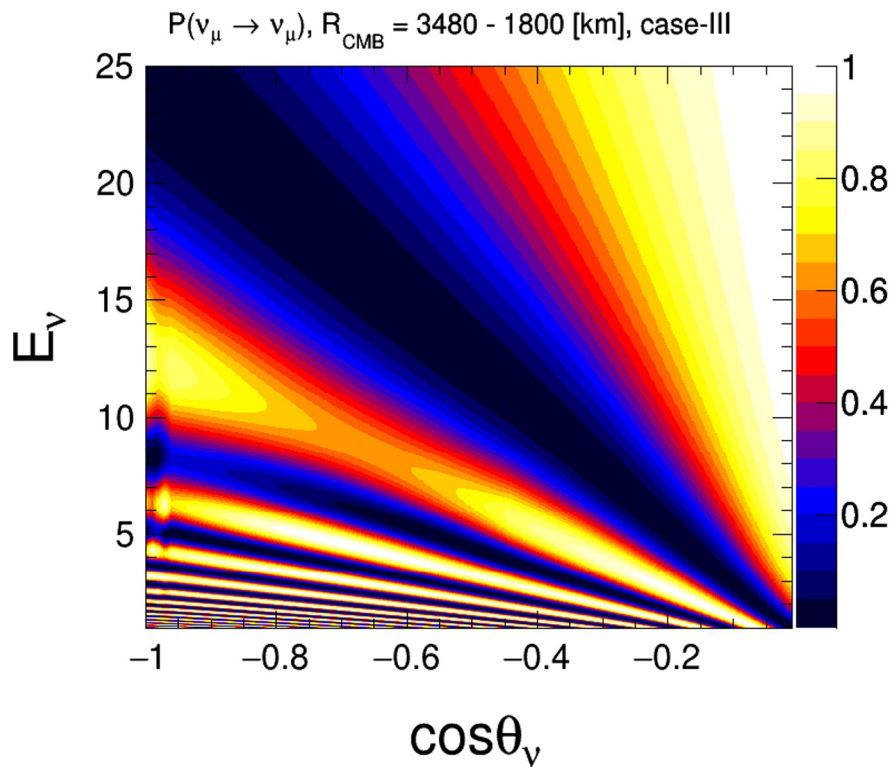


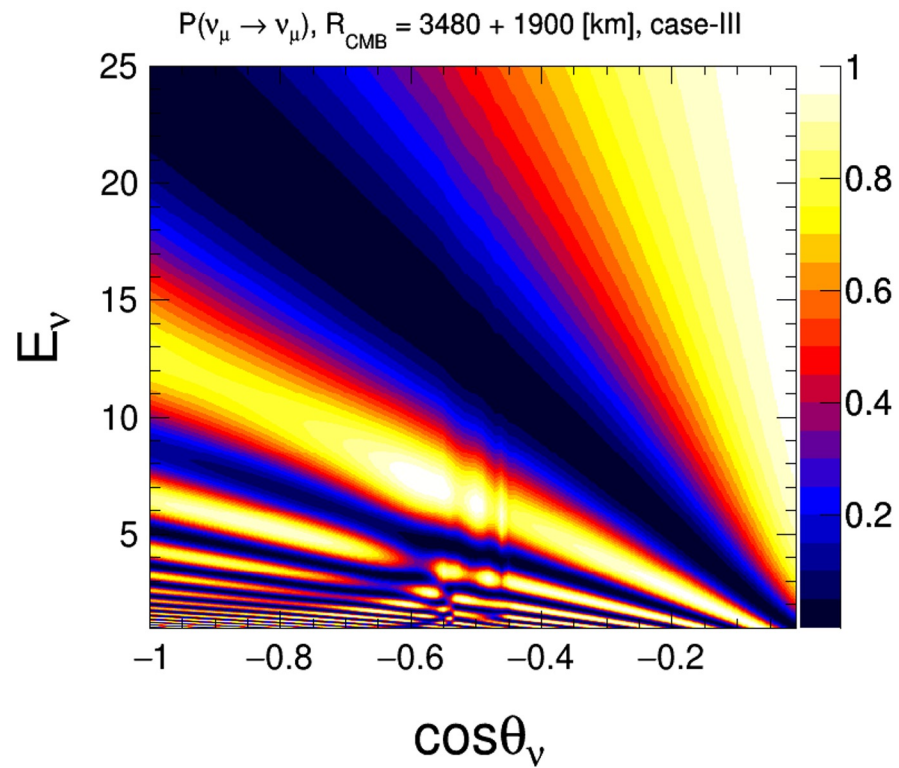
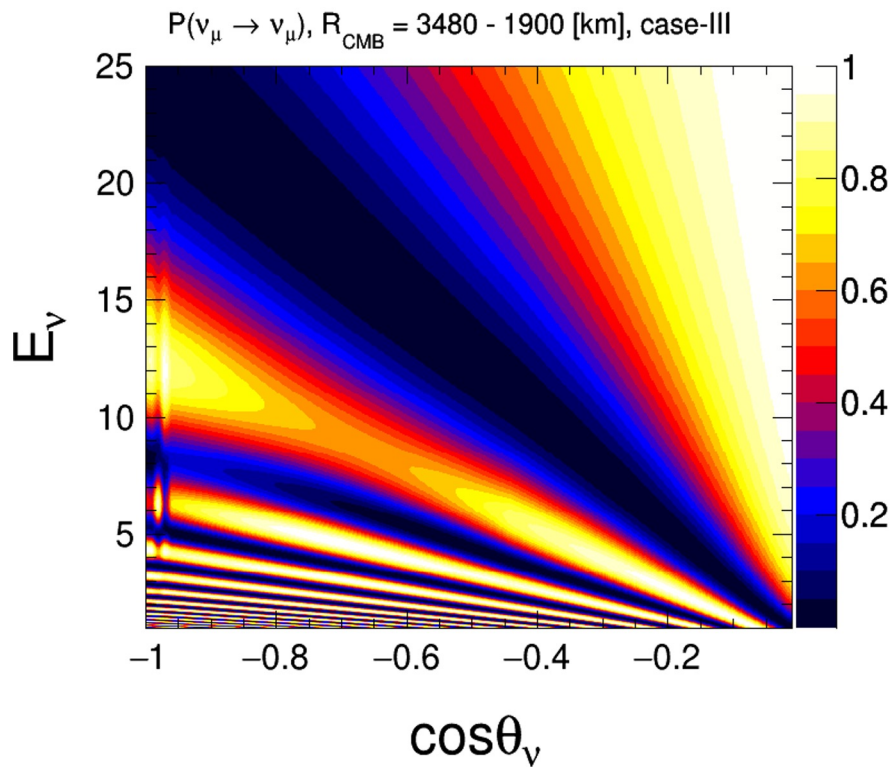




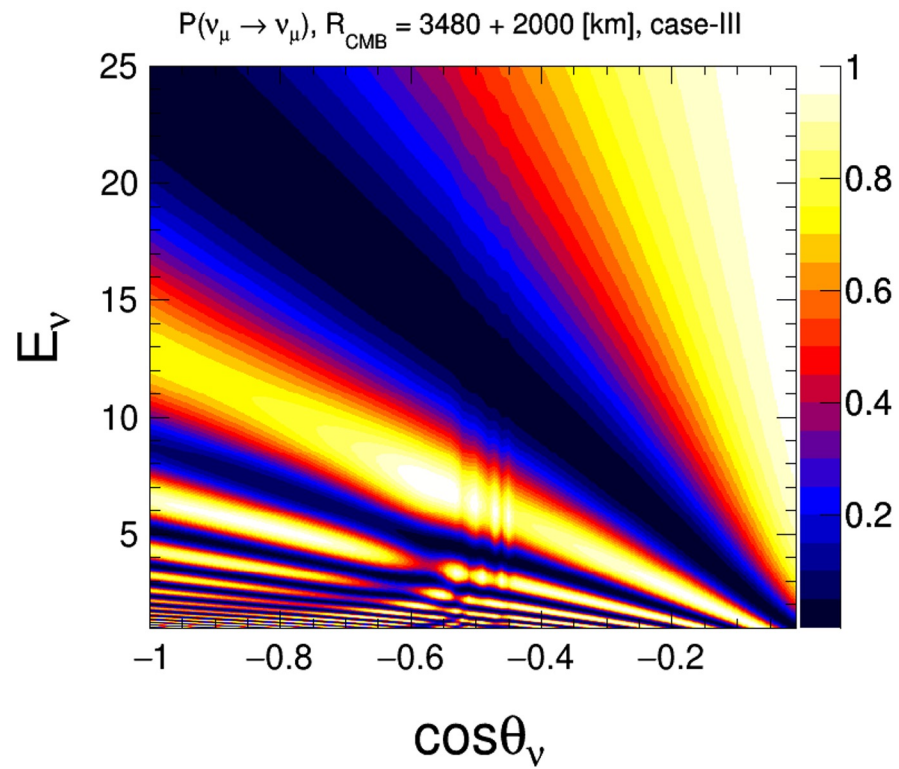
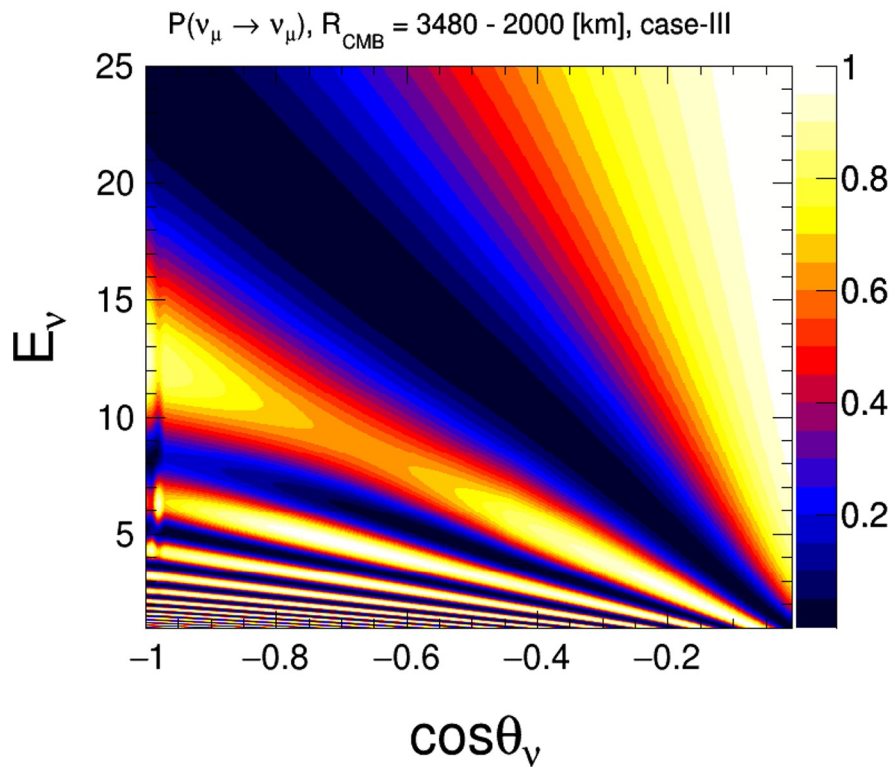










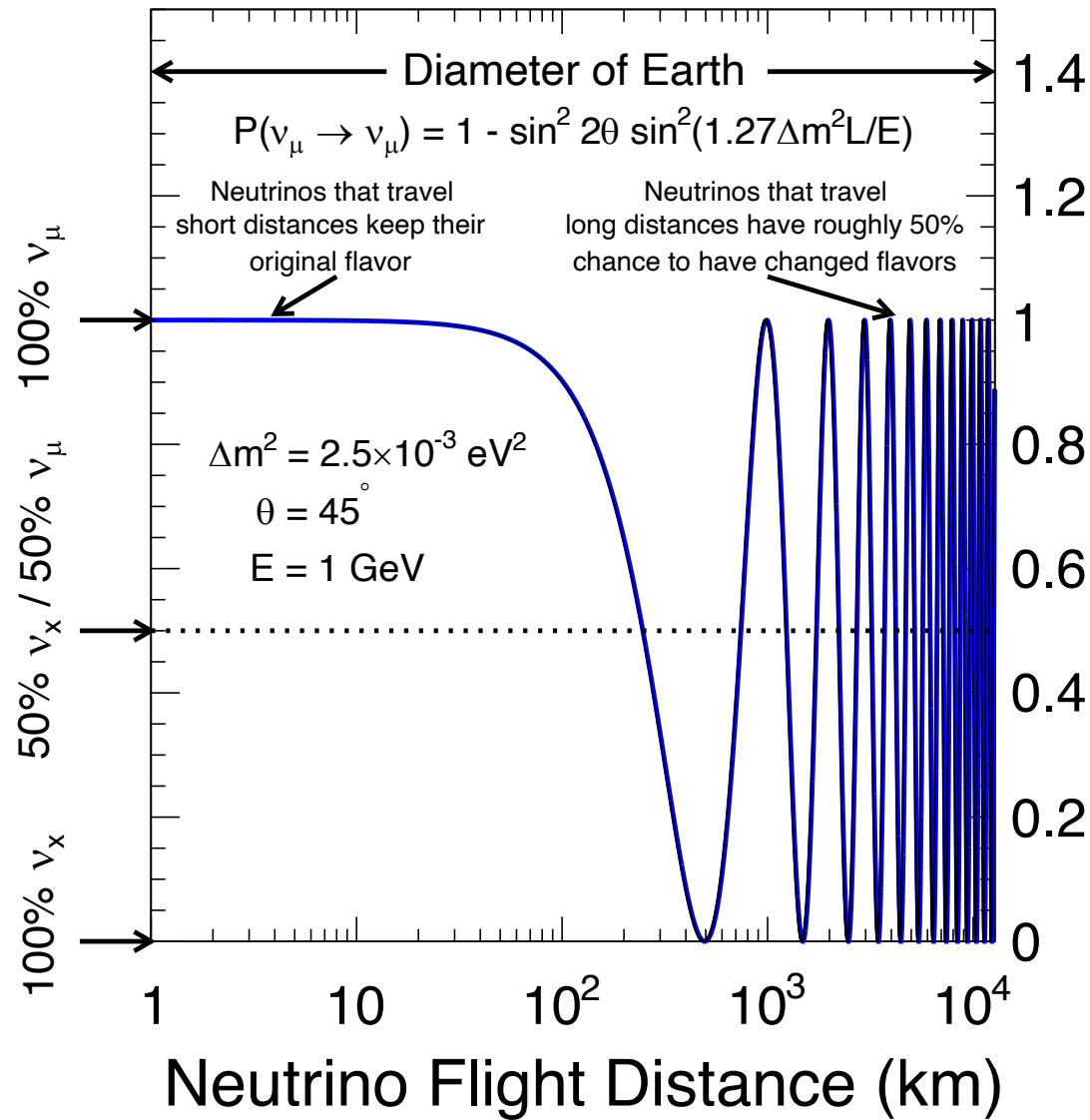


## *Concluding Remarks*

- Earth's matter effect modifies the mass-squared differences and mixing angles when neutrino passes through deep inside Earth which in turn alter the oscillation probabilities significantly
- Earth's matter effect plays an important role to address the pressing fundamental unknowns in three-flavor neutrino oscillation paradigm such as neutrino mass ordering, CP violation, octant of 2-3 mixing angle
- In the precision era, accurate understanding of matter effect opens the avenue to perform neutrino oscillation tomography of Earth complementary to seismic and gravitational measurements

**Thank you!**





Simple two-flavor neutrino oscillation as seen by Super-K

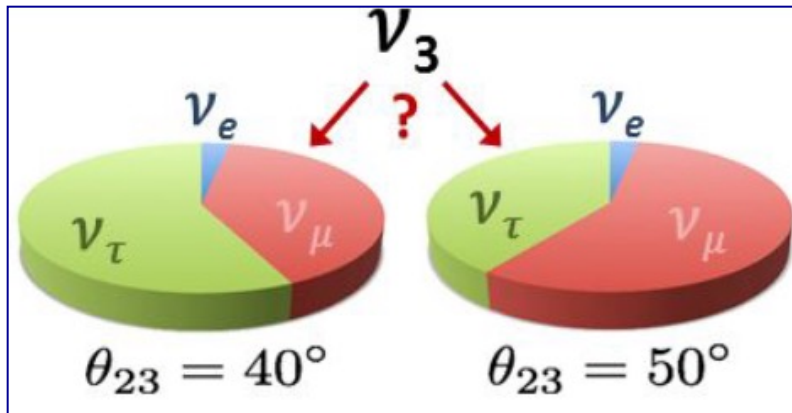
## Octant of 2-3 Mixing Angle: Important Open Question

→ In  $\nu_\mu$  survival probability, the dominant term is mainly sensitive to  $\sin^2 2\theta_{23}$

→ If  $\sin^2 2\theta_{23}$  differs from 1 (recent hints), we get two solutions for  $\theta_{23}$

→ One in lower octant (LO:  $\theta_{23} < 45^\circ$ )

→ Other in higher octant (HO:  $\theta_{23} > 45^\circ$ )



**Octant ambiguity of  $\theta_{23}$**

Fogli and Lisi, hep-ph/9604415

$\nu_\mu$  to  $\nu_e$  oscillation channel can break this degeneracy  
preferred value would depend on the choice of neutrino mass ordering

# Leptonic CP-violation: Important Open Question

*Is CP violated in the neutrino sector, as in the quark sector?*

Mixing can cause CPV in neutrino sector, provided  $\delta_{CP} \neq 0^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$

Need to measure the CP-odd asymmetries:

$$\Delta P_{\alpha\beta} \equiv P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta; L) - P(\bar{\nu}_\alpha \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\beta; L) \quad (\alpha \neq \beta)$$

$$\Delta P_{e\mu} = \Delta P_{\mu\tau} = \Delta P_{\tau e} = 4J_{CP} \times \left[ \sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{2E}L\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{32}^2}{2E}L\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{13}^2}{2E}L\right) \right]$$

Jarlskog CP-odd Invariant  $\rightarrow J_{CP} = \frac{1}{8} \cos \theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{23} \sin 2\theta_{12} \sin \delta_{CP}$

Three-flavor effects are key for CPV, need to observe interference

Conditions for observing CPV:

- 1) Non-degenerate masses ✓
- 2) Mixing angles  $\neq 0^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$  ✓
- 3)  $\delta_{CP} \neq 0^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$  (Hints)