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**PROSPECTS
TO MEASURE NEUTRINO OSCILLATION PATTERN
WITH VERY LARGE AREA UNDERGROUND DETECTOR
AT VERY LONG BASELINES**

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Abstract

Ammosov V., Garkusha V., Ivanilov A., Kabachenko V., Melnikov E., Novoskoltsev F., Soldatov A., Zaitsev A. Prospects to Measure Neutrino Oscillation Pattern with Very Large Area Underground Detector at Very Long Baselines: IHEP Preprint 2002-19. – Protvino, 2002. – p. 20, figs. 17, tables 7, refs.: 24.

The concept of a very long baseline neutrino experiment with quasi monochromatic neutrino beam and very large area underground detector is discussed. The detector could be placed in the existing 20 km tunnel at IHEP, Protvino. The High Intensity Proton Accelerators (HIPA) which are planned to be built in Japan (JAERI-KEK, baseline of ~ 7000 km) and Germany (GSI, baseline of ~ 2000 km) as well as the Main Injector at Fermilab (~ 7600 km) are considered as possible sources of neutrino beams. The oscillations are analysed in the three-neutrino scheme taking into account terrestrial matter effects. In the proposed experiment it is feasible to observe the oscillation pattern as a unique proof of the existence of neutrino oscillations. Precise measurements of disappearance oscillation parameters of the muon neutrinos and antineutrinos can be done within a reasonable time.

Аннотация

Аммосов А., Гаркуша В., Зайцев А., Иванчиков А., Кабаченко В., Мельников Е., Новоскольцев Ф., Солдатов А. Перспективы измерения картины осцилляций нейтрино на подземном детекторе сверхбольшой площади при сверхбольшой длине базы осцилляций: Препринт ИФВЭ 2002-19. – Протвино, 2002. – 20 с., 17 рис., 7 табл., библиогр.: 24.

Обсуждается концепция нейтринного эксперимента на детекторе сверхбольшой площади с квазимонохроматическим пучком нейтрино и при сверхбольшой длине базы осцилляций. Предполагается, что детектор будет размещен в существующем в ИФВЭ (Протвино) тоннеле длиной 20 км. В качестве возможных источников нейтрино рассматриваются протонные ускорители высокой интенсивности, которые планируется построить в Японии (JAERI-KEK, длина базы ~ 7000 км) и Германии (GSI, длина базы ~ 2000 км), а также главный инжектор в Фермилабе (~ 7600 км). Осцилляции исследуются в рамках трехнейтринной схемы с учетом эффектов вещества Земли. Предлагаемый эксперимент предоставляет уникальную возможность доказать существование нейтринных осцилляций при помощи непосредственного наблюдения осцилляторной картины. Точное измерение параметров осцилляций мюонных нейтрино и антинейтрино может быть проведено за разумное время.

Introduction

The observation of the atmospheric ν_μ disappearance [1,2] stimulated an impressive number of proposals of new experiments with neutrino beams from proton synchrotrons [3,4,5,6,7,8] and from neutrino factories [9]. Main goals of this new generation of experiments are the ultimate confirmation of neutrino oscillations and precise measurements of oscillation parameters, biases and model dependence.

Very long baseline (VLBL) neutrino-oscillation experiments with very large area (VLA) detectors are especially effective to observe the neutrino oscillation patterns and to measure precisely oscillation parameters. Here we consider the prospects to use underground detector placed in the existing UNK tunnel to carry out these measurements. As a source for neutrino beams we consider the high intensity proton accelerators which are planned to be built in Japan (JAERI-KEK, Tokaimura, baseline of ~ 7000 km) and Germany (GSI, Darmstadt, baseline of ~ 2000 km) as well as the existing Main Injector at Fermilab (~ 7600 km).

In the second section the physics justification of the proposed approach is given. The concept of a possible experimental lay-out including a neutrino focusing system and UNK underground detector are described in the third section. Physics performance is outlined in the fourth

1. Physics motivation

We propose to measure the ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ survival probabilities $P(\nu_\mu(\bar{\nu}_\mu) \rightarrow \nu_\mu(\bar{\nu}_\mu))$ as a function of the neutrino energy. The UNK underground detector will register muons from ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ charged current (CC) interactions in surrounding soil mainly. Expected effective mass will be at a ~ 1 Mton level for a few GeV neutrino energy.

The motivation of the oscillation approach is based on the observation of atmospheric ν_μ disappearance and a small level, if any, of reactor ν_e disappearance. Existing experimental data for the muon (electron) neutrino disappearance are analyzed in terms of the simple formula for oscillation probability $P(\nu_\mu(\nu_e) \rightarrow \nu_\mu(\nu_e)) = 1 - I_{\mu(e)} \cdot \sin^2(1.27 \cdot \Delta m^2 \cdot L/E)$ between two neutrino of different flavours (see Table 1 for the experimental restrictions on the parameters).

Table 1. Summary of experimental results on neutrino disappearance.

Experiments	Best values	Allowed region
Disappearance of atmospheric ν_μ [10]	$I_\mu = 1.$ $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$	$I_\mu > 0.84$ (99% CL) $1.2 \cdot 10^{-3} < \Delta m^2 < 4 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ (99% CL)
Disappearance of reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ [11]	–	$I_e < 0.1$ (90% CL)

At $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ and with a few GeV neutrino energy the oscillation length is in the region of $10^3 - 10^4 \text{ km}$. Therefore, the measurement of the $P(\nu_\mu(\bar{\nu}_\mu) \rightarrow \nu_\mu(\bar{\nu}_\mu))$ probability as a function of neutrino energy is a natural way to observe the neutrino oscillation pattern and to measure precisely the oscillation parameters for this pattern in the VLBL neutrino experiments.

The observation of atmospheric ν_μ disappearance is just an indication on neutrino oscillations but not a definite proof of it. Within the proposed approach different aspects of neutrino physics could be studied:

- Measurement of ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ disappearance patterns.

In the case of a simple oscillation pattern $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = 1 - I_\mu \cdot \sin^2(1.27 \cdot \Delta m^2 \cdot L/E)$ the precise measurements of Δm^2 and I_μ can be done for ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$.

- Search for no oscillations or non-standard oscillations.

The models of neutrino disappearance by decay [12] or nonstandard oscillations due to flavour changing neutrino interactions [13] could be checked with high sensitivity. Observation of more complicated oscillation pattern could be a signal, for example, of large extra dimensions [14].

- Measurement of the difference $\Delta_\mu = P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) - P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)$.

It can come from a fake *CPT* violation due to the terrestrial matter effects [15] and can be from a genuine *CPT* violation if it exists [16]. As fake *CPT* violation depends on the CP-violating phase, the proposed experiment could provide information on it as well.

Below we consider the simple oscillation model in vacuum as the baseline, concentrating on the ability to observe the oscillation pattern.

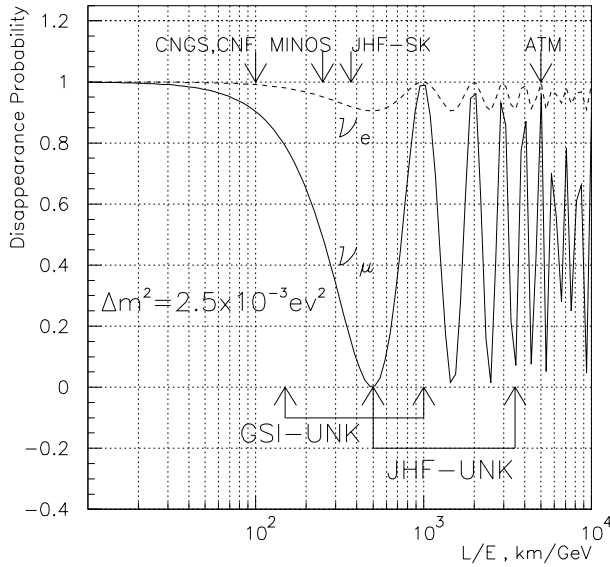


Fig. 1. $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu)$ and $P(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e)$ survival probabilities.

In the SK and MACRO detectors the neutrino direction is defined from the direction of muons which have wide angular distribution at low neutrino energy ($\langle E_{\nu_\mu} \rangle = 2.4 \text{ GeV}$). Therefore, only the average disappearance was observed. Thus the oscillation curve is clearly visible if

- oscillation phase $\phi_{osc} = 1.27 \cdot \Delta m^2 \cdot L/E \approx (2n + 1) \cdot \pi/2$, $n = 0, 1, \dots$;
- error $\delta\phi_{osc} < \pi/4$.

Fig. 1 shows the ν_μ and ν_e survival probabilities as functions of L/E . Arrows indicate the maximal L/E values which can be reached with the MINOS [5], the CERN-Gran Sasso (CNGS) [6], the JHF-SK [7] and the CERN Neutrino Factory (CNF) [9] planned experiments.

As it is seen in the figure CNF [9], CNGS [6] and MINOS [5] projects are at the beginning of the first wave of the oscillation curve, where oscillation patterns are not seen. The JHF-SK project [7] has some chance to observe an oscillation pattern for $\Delta m^2 > 3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$.

As one can see in the figure the oscillation pattern in principle could be measured for the atmospheric ν_μ . However to do this, a precise reconstruction of the neutrino direction is

Translation of these conditions to the energy resolution gives

$$\frac{\delta E_\nu}{E_\nu} < \frac{1}{2(2n+1)}.$$

It means that the soft restriction is for $n = 0$ and 1, i.e., for the first and the second minima.

If we look at the Earth globes, the 1-st condition can be fulfilled if neutrino beams are sent to Protvino from the Fermilab MI, the JHF or the GSI (see expected JHF-UNK and GSI-UNK L/E regions on Fig. 1). In the Table 2 the possible characteristics of beams from the MI, the JHF and the GSI are presented.

Table 2. Comparison of neutrino sources for UNK VLBL neutrino oscillation experiment.

Parameter	JHF, Japan	GSI, Germany*	MI FNAL, USA
Baseline from the UNK, km	7000	2000	7600
Tilt angle, degree	33	9	34
Proton momentum, GeV/ c	50	50	120
Cycle time, s	3	3	2
One turn time, μs	5	4	10
Proton intensity/spill	$3.3 \cdot 10^{14}$	$1 \cdot 10^{14}$	$4 \cdot 10^{13}$
Protons/s	$1 \cdot 10^{14}$	$3 \cdot 10^{13}$	$2 \cdot 10^{13}$
π^+ yield/ p at 7 GeV/ c	0.05	0.05	0.12
π^+ yield/s at 7 GeV/ c	$5 \cdot 10^{12}$	$1.7 \cdot 10^{12}$	$2.4 \cdot 10^{12}$
Duty factor	$1.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$1.3 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$5 \cdot 10^{-6}$

* Assumed parameters

Below we consider the JHF and the GSI as neutrino beam sites in comparison.

2. Experimental lay-out

2.1. Concept of experiment

Sketch of the general experimental lay-out is shown in Fig. 2.

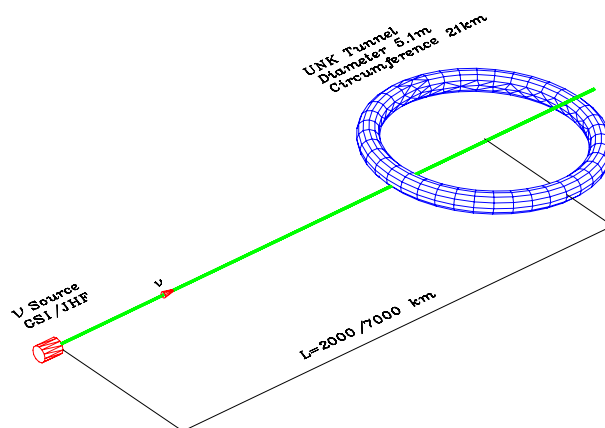


Fig. 2. General experimental lay-out.

Far neutrino source from the JHF (baseline of 7000 km) or GSI (baseline of 2000 km) have to point to the UNK tunnel which is ~ 50 m underground in average. For such kind of distances, to have enough statistics, we should think about a detector with effective mass at the 1 Mton level. In such a case it is possible to use the surrounding soil of the UNK tunnel as neutrino target. It is proposed to cover the UNK tunnel walls by scintillation counters. For such an experimental concept, the UNK detector, which can be considered as a huge double scintillator counter, will count mainly muons from ν_μ ($\bar{\nu}_\mu$) CC interactions in the surrounding soil.

The circumference length of the UNK tunnel is ~ 21 km, and the diameter is ~ 5 m. It means that an area of about $\sim 10^5$ m² can be used for a very long baseline neutrino experiment. Dimensions and time resolution of individual scintillation counters will allow us to select muons from the expected neutrino direction.

To suppress the cosmic ray background the fast (one turn) extraction of the proton beam and the synchronization of a neutrino source and of the UNK detector [17] are ultimately needed.

To observe the neutrino oscillation pattern we intend to use a few (at least three) neutrino energy settings with a reasonable energy resolution and just count the double coincidences in the UNK detector. Ratios of the measured to expected counts at different energy settings will provide the possibility to observe ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ oscillation patterns in the disappearance mode.

If we assume that at least the $n = 1$ minimum should be detected then

$$\frac{\delta E_\nu}{E_\nu} < 0.15.$$

The ideal ν_μ disappearance curves and also the smeared curves for $\delta E_\nu/E_\nu = 0.36$ (a WB like beam) and $\delta E_\nu/E_\nu = 0.15$ (a NB like beam) as a function of the neutrino energy for $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ eV² for the GSI and JHF cases are shown in Fig. 3.

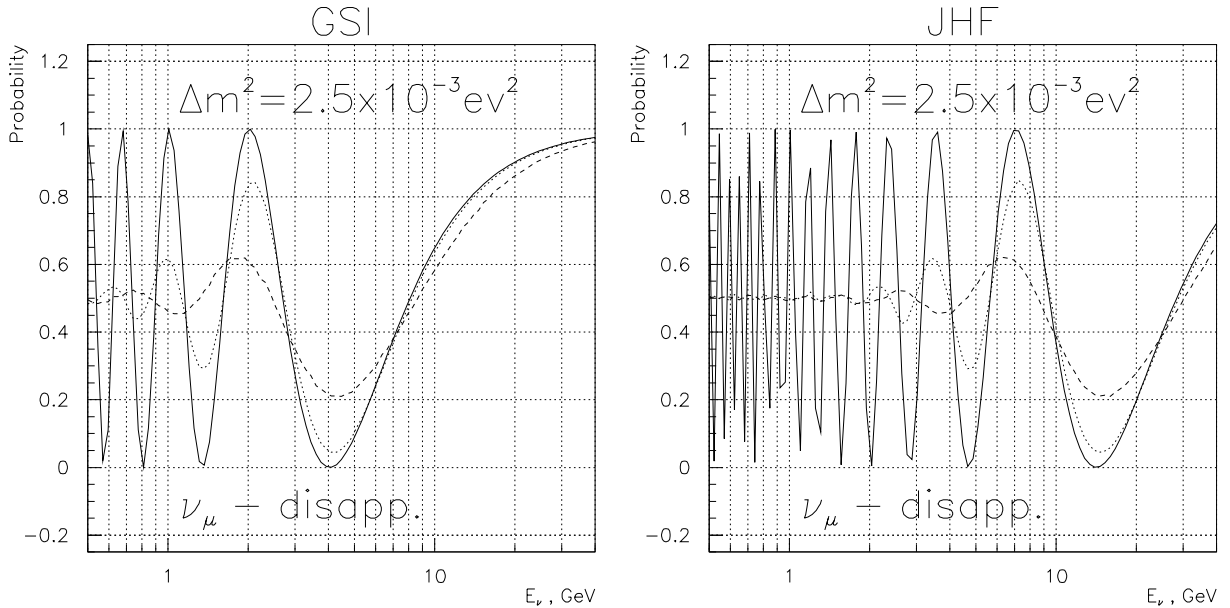


Fig. 3. Ideal (solid line), smeared for $\delta E_\nu/E_\nu = 0.36$ (dashed line) and for $\delta E_\nu/E_\nu = 0.15$ (dotted line) oscillation curves for the GSI and the JHF cases.

The importance of the $\delta E_\nu/E_\nu = 0.15$ condition for a clear observation of the neutrino oscillation pattern is seen from this figure.

The proposed concept can be considered as a further development of the atmospheric neutrino experiments with upward-down-going muons. Here we already know:

- the exact distance from source to detector;
- the type of neutrino (ν_μ or $\bar{\nu}_\mu$);
- the neutrino energy.

2.2. Concept of the neutrino focusing system

To estimate the possible ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ event rates in the UNK detector we used the focusing system based on the magnetic horns, which were optimized for the NuMI Project [18]. This focusing system (Fig. 4) can provide desired $\delta E_\nu/E_\nu = 0.15$ condition.

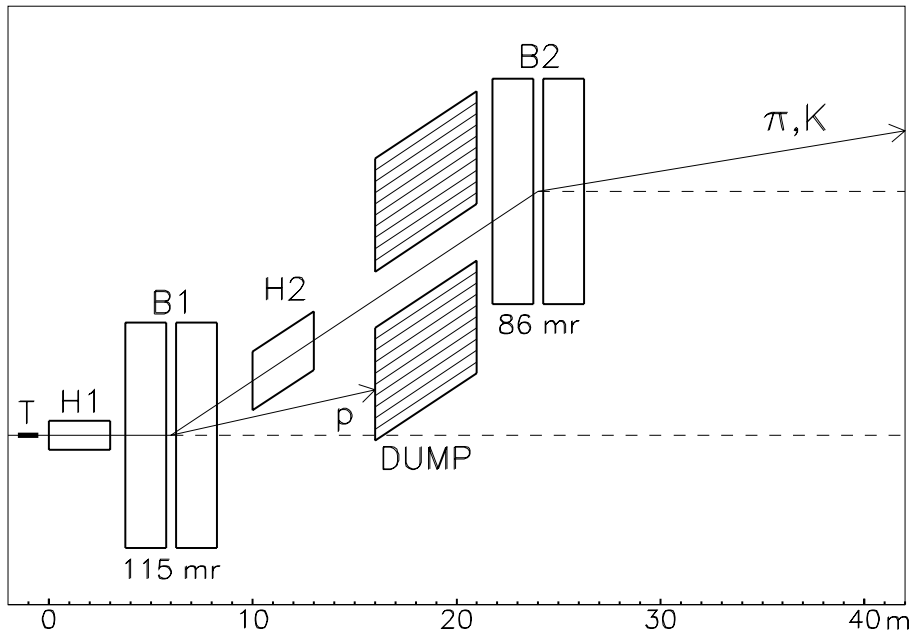


Fig. 4. The layout of the focusing system.

The 50 GeV primary proton beam is used to produce pions in the ~ 2 interaction lengths graphite target T. Two 3 m long magnetic horns H1–H2 with parabolic shaped inner conductors are used to focus the resulting pion beam down a drift space where pions will decay to muon neutrinos. Four 2 m long dipoles B1–B2 with 400 mm gaps are used to obtain a beam of secondaries with relatively small $\Delta p/p$. The total length of the decay region is equal to 400 m including the 40 m length target area and the 360 m length decay pipe of 1 m radius.

This focusing system may be tuned to different neutrino energy ranges by scaling the dipole currents and by corresponding adjustment of the target location, keeping the current in both horns at its nominal value of 200 kA. Energy spectra of ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ CC events in the UNK detector are shown in Fig. 5 for a few different neutrino energy settings. The optics layout, event rates and backgrounds are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Focusing system and neutrino beam parameters. Target positions are given with respect to the upstream end of the first horn. The baseline is 7000 km.

Beam energy range, GeV	1.0–2.3	2.3–5.0	5.0–9.0	6.0–15.	8.0–19.
Target $Z_{upstream}$, m	−0.34	−0.34	−1.94	−2.64	−3.34
Mean energy, GeV	1.7	3.5	7.0	10.5	14.0
Energy spread HWHH, %	~16	~16	~14	~14	~13
ν_μ events/kTon/ 10^{21} pot	0.45	1.5	2.8	2.1	0.33
Fraction of $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ events, %	0.8	0.4	0.3	≤ 0.3	≤ 0.3
$\bar{\nu}_\mu$ events/kTon/ 10^{21} pot	0.11	0.38	0.49	0.27	0.033
Fraction of ν_μ events, %	≤ 16	≤ 6	≤ 10	≤ 17	≤ 30

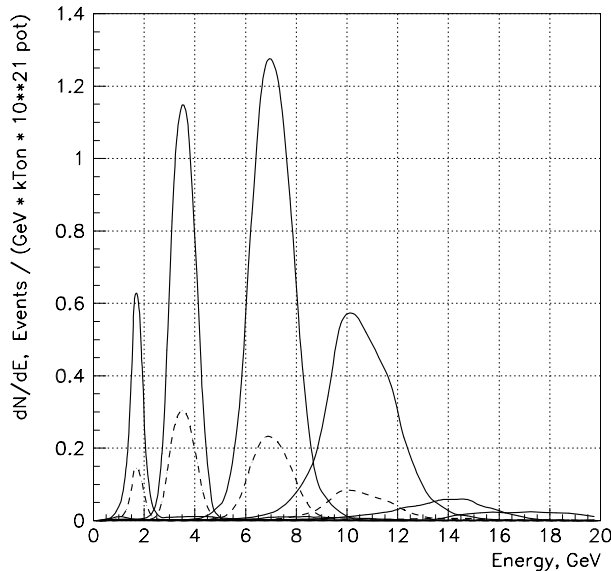


Fig. 5. Energy spectra of the ν_μ (solid lines) and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ (dashed lines) CC events in the UNK detector for the 1.7; 3.5; 7.0; 10.5 and 14.0 GeV energy settings.

One should note the following:

1. Three tune-ups of the considered focusing system span together the energy range from 1.7 to 7 GeV and tune-ups intermediate between these three can be easily achieved. The more complicated configuration of a focusing system (with obviously smaller focusing efficiency for some particular tune-up) is required to provide neutrino beams with $\langle E_\nu \rangle$ from 1.7 up to 13–14 GeV.
2. To obtain more intensive neutrino beams with ~ 3 and 6 events/kTon/ 10^{21} pot for $\langle E_\nu \rangle = 3.5$ and 7.0 GeV, respectively, one may use a rectilinear focusing system with horns at the same positions but without dipoles. In this case the energy spreads of beams (HWHH) are of about 37%.

2.3. Concept of detector

The proposed baseline design for the UNK detector relies on the known plastic scintillator extrusion technology. The UNK detector uses extruded plastic scintillator which is read out by wavelength-shifting (WLS) bars coupled to photomultipliers. Some of the features which make plastic scintillator attractive are:

- High efficiency for crossing particles registration.
- Fast scintillation timing.
- Ease of calibration procedure.
- Long-term stability and reliability.

- Production potential — the plastic scintillator facility at IHEP, Protvino allows to produce the full amount of scintillator within 2–3 years.
- Low maintenance — the plastic scintillator detector is quite robust and will require little maintenance in the underground tunnel conditions.

The proposed detector consists of scintillating counters (10 mm thickness, 50 cm width and up to 6 m length) which cover the walls of the UNK tunnel. The proposed transverse coverage of the UNK tunnel is presented in Fig. 6.

The adjacent scintillation counters are coupled with each other through the WLS-shifter (3 mm thickness, 10 mm width) for light collection along the 6 m length (see Fig. 7) and thus all counters in one 6 m cylindrical section form the continuous circular chain.

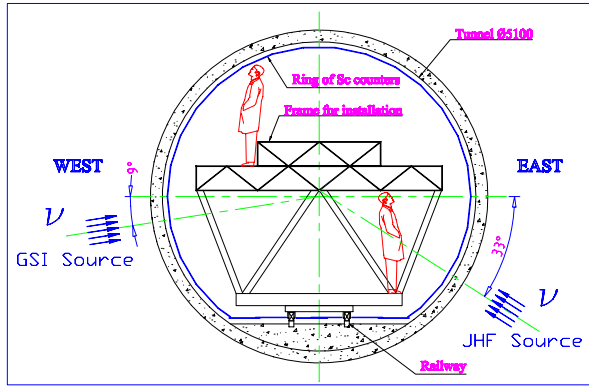


Fig. 6. The proposed transverse coverage of the UNK tunnel.

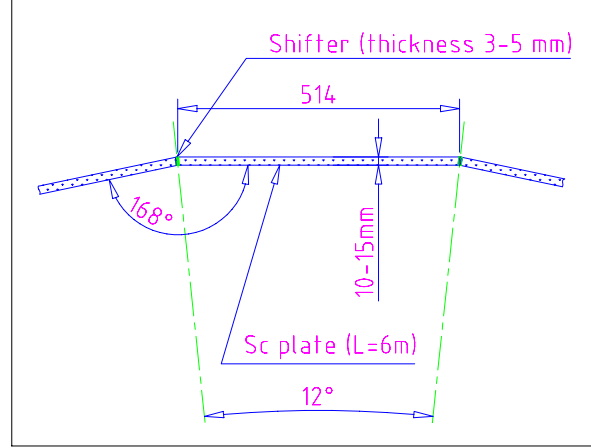


Fig. 7. The scintillation counters coupling.

Scintillation counters based on polystyrene with PTP and POPOP fluorescence dopants can be produced by extrusion technology at the IHEP, Protvino scintillator production facility. The PMMA-based WLS-shifter bars with Kumarin-30 Fluorescence doping will be used. The light attenuation length for such WLS-shifter is of 3 m [19,20]. The scintillator (decay time 2.3 ns; emission peak 420 nm; attenuation length 20 cm at 420 nm) and WLS bars (decay time 2.7 ns; emission peak 460 nm; attenuation length up to 3 m at 460 nm) are wrapped in white material (e.g. TYVEK) and black paper. The light is collected from both sides of the WLS-shifter bar using the 1" PMTs. A green extended phototube FEU-115M from MELZ (Moscow, Russia) [21] can be used for light collection. The PMT has an average quantum efficiency of 15% at 500 nm with a gain around 10^6 . The estimations show that the signal for muon, crossing the scintillating strip near the PMT will be ~ 25 ph.el. Signals from phototubes are delivered to the QDCs and TDCs.

The coordinate resolution is estimated as ~ 30 cm along the tile and ~ 10 cm in transversal direction using the TDC and QDC information.

Each cylinder section with diameter 5.1 m and length 6 m, contains 32 counters. Trigger is defined as coincidence of at least two nonadjacent scintillation counters and performed only within neutrino source spill time.

In the Table 4 main features of the UNK underground detector are given.

Table 4. Main parameters of the UNK detector.

Item	Value
Counter dimensions	$10 \times 500 \times 6000 \text{ mm}^3$
Time resolution	1 ns
Coordinate resolution	25 cm
Inefficiency	$4 \cdot 10^{-5}$
Number of counters in the cylinder section	32
Total number of sections	3500
Total number of counters	112000
Total weight of scintillator	3400 Ton
Total volume of the UNK tunnel	400000 m^3

3. Physics performance

3.1. Statistics

To estimate the statistics of the experiment we performed a Monte-Carlo simulation of the detector response for the simple oscillation approach of vacuum oscillations $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = 1 - I_\mu \cdot \sin^2(1.27 \cdot \Delta m^2 \cdot L/E)$. We used the coverage of the UNK tunnel shown in Fig. 6. We concentrated our study on the selection of ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ CC events. The following criteria were applied for selection:

1. Presence of two hits in two non-adjacent scintillation counters.
2. Time difference between hits greater than 10 ns.
3. “Tracks” pointing to the neutrino source.
4. Angle between neutrino and “track” directions less than 30° in each plane, and “track” direction below horizon.
5. $0.7 < \beta = v/c < 1$.

In the Table 5 the CC and NC event rates for different neutrino energy settings are presented.

Table 5. Number of events in case of no oscillation for 10^7 s running time for each energy setting.

E_ν , GeV	ν_μ				$\bar{\nu}_\mu$			
	CC		NC		CC		NC	
	GSI	JHF	GSI	JHF	GSI	JHF	GSI	JHF
1.7	560	160	12	4	150	50	3	0.7
3.5	3400	1100	70	18	1100	360	15	3.3
7.0	12000	4200	200	40	2800	1000	30	9
14.0	2800	1000	34	9	380	130	4	1.1

As it is seen a reasonable number of CC events can be selected for the NBB with $E_\nu > 2$ GeV within one year of running (10^7 s) for the JHF and GSI cases.

Fig. 8 shows the dependence of the detector effective mass for the CC and NC events as a function of the neutrino energy. Fig. 9 shows (a) CC $\bar{\nu}_\mu/\nu_\mu$ effective mass ratio and (b) $\nu_\mu\text{NC}/\nu_\mu\text{CC}$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu\text{NC}/\bar{\nu}_\mu\text{CC}$ event ratios.

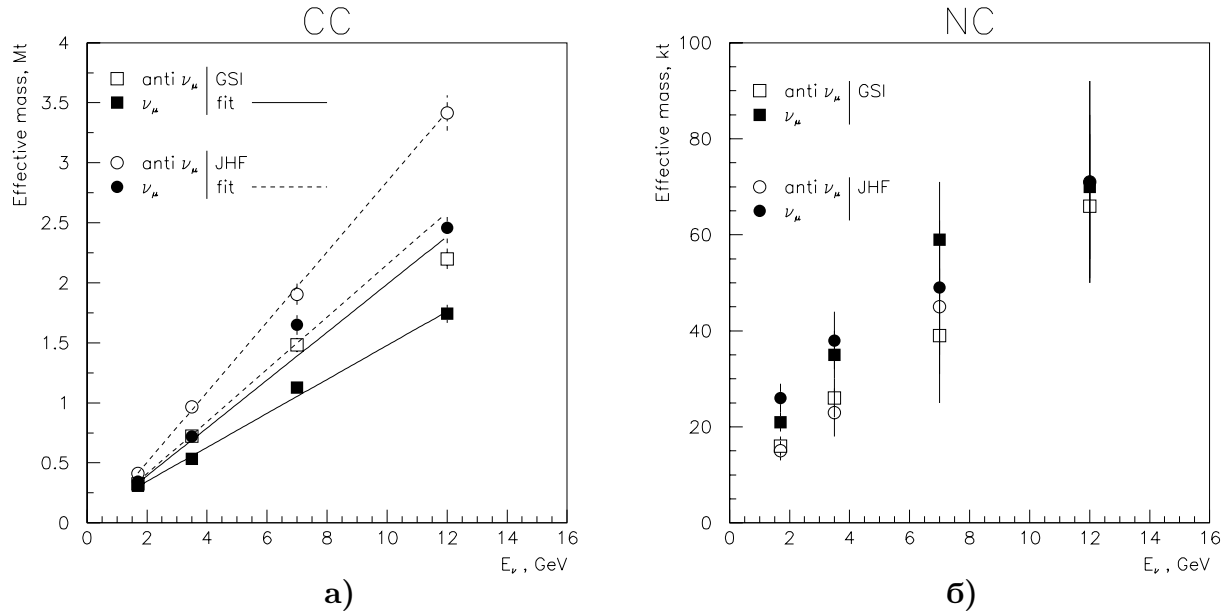


Fig. 8. Effective mass for a) CC ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ events, b) NC ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ events as a function of the neutrino energy.

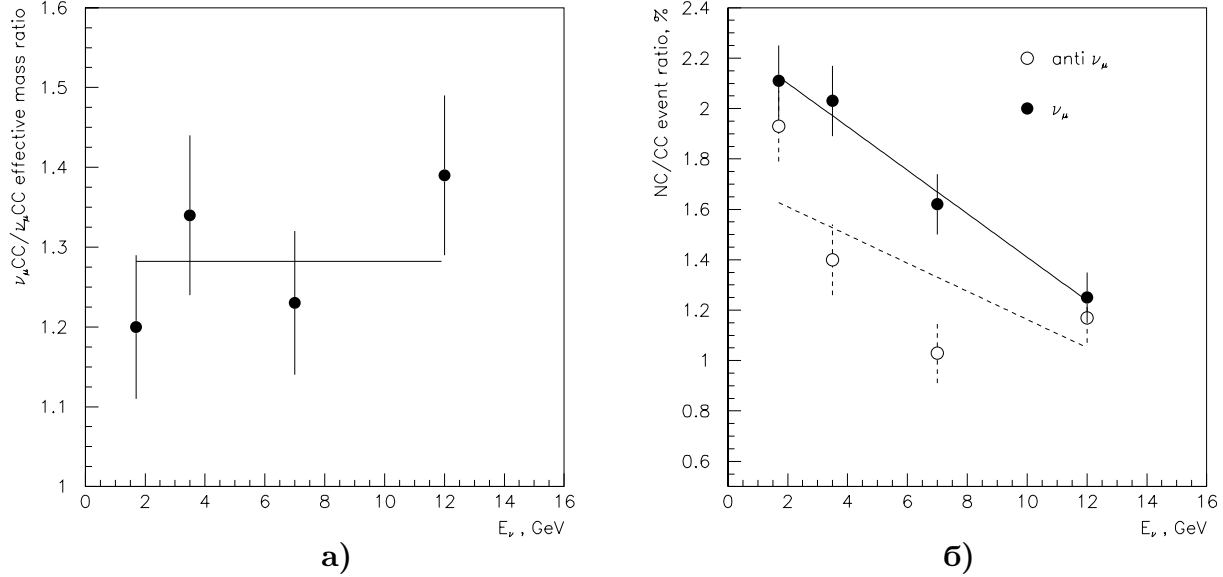


Fig. 9. Ratio a) $\bar{\nu}_\mu \text{CC} / \nu_\mu \text{CC}$ for effective masses, b) $\nu_\mu \text{NC} / \nu_\mu \text{CC}$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu \text{NC} / \bar{\nu}_\mu \text{CC}$ for events.

As it is seen the CC effective mass linearly increases with the increase of E_ν reflecting the muon range increase. Slight increase of the NC effective mass is seen as well. The $\bar{\nu}_\mu \text{CC} / \nu_\mu \text{CC}$ ratio for effective masses is ~ 1.3 due to the different y -dependence of $\bar{\nu}_\mu \text{CC}$ and $\nu_\mu \text{CC}$ cross sections. The NC/CC ratio is about few percent for $E_\nu \sim 2$ GeV. The efficiency for $\nu_e \text{CC}$ and $\nu_\tau \text{CC}$ is comparable with that for $\nu_\mu \text{NC}$. Thus such kind of detector is a natural $\nu_\mu \text{CC}$ event selector.

To estimate the experimental sensitivity of the oscillation pattern measurements we select three-four neutrino energy settings where oscillations are maximal or minimal for $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$. The statistics for each setting was restricted to 1000 CC events assuming that there is no oscillation. This restriction is reasonable assuming systematic uncertainties of about $\sim 3\%$ for the expected number of events using the proposed NBB. In the Table 6 we present these energy settings with the expected statistics (no oscillation), values of pot's and exposure times for ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ cases for the JHF and the GSI. As it is seen from this table the oscillation pattern measurements can be carried out in a reasonable time even in the worse $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ case.

Table 6. Estimation of running time needed for 10^3 events at each energy setting.

ν source	E_ν , GeV	ν_μ			$\bar{\nu}_\mu$		
		Nev	pot, 10^{21}	time, 10^7 s	Nev	pot, 10^{21}	time, 10^7 s
JHF	5.7	1000	0.35	0.35	1000	1.4	1.4
	7.1	1000	0.23	0.23	1000	1.1	1.1
	9.4	1000	0.32	0.32	1000	1.3	1.3
	14.0	1000	1.00	1.00	-	-	-
	Total		1.9	1.9	Total	3.8	3.8
GSI	2.0	1000	0.35	1.04	400	0.56	1.67
	4.0	1000	0.07	0.22	1000	0.24	0.72
	8.0	1000	0.02	0.07	1000	0.12	0.36
	Total		0.44	1.33	Total	0.92	2.75

3.2. Background

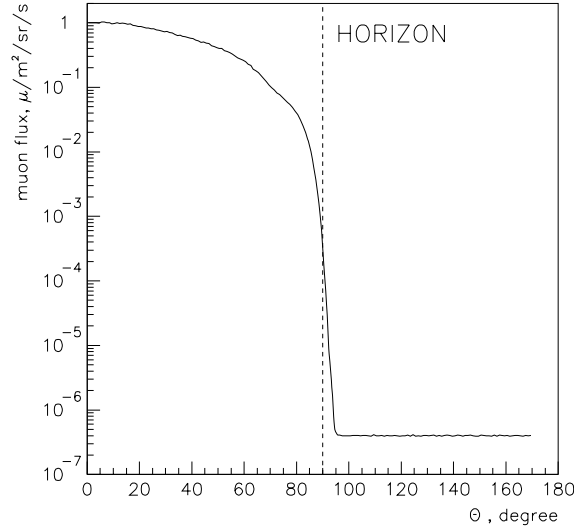


Fig. 10. Muon flux as a function of zenith angle θ for the UNK underground detector (50 m depth in average).

tor for an average depth of 50 m. It is seen that the flux sharply drops down to the value of $4 \cdot 10^{-7} \mu \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{sr}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ at $\theta = 90^\circ$. This constant value for $\theta > 89.5^\circ$ is defined by muons from atmospheric neutrino interactions. It means that we should accept only muons below horizon ($\theta > 90^\circ$). This cut reduces the statistics for the GSI neutrino source by $\sim 20\%$. We estimate

The experiment sensitivity depends on the background level. It is expected that the main background is due to the cosmic muons. Three sources of this background can be considered:

- $\mu b1$ cosmic muons which coincide in direction with accepted solid angle of muons from the neutrino source;
- $\mu b2$ cosmic muons which interact in the surrounding soil and produce through-going secondary particles within the accepted neutrino source direction;
- $\mu b3$ cosmic muons which move in the direction opposite to the accepted solid angle for the neutrino source but with wrong TOF identification.

The $\mu b1$ background can be estimated knowing the muon flux as a function of the zenith angle θ .

Fig. 10 shows this muon flux for the UNK detec-

this background as $N_{\mu b1} = T \cdot \Phi(\mu) \cdot \Omega \cdot S \cdot D = 0.8 \mu$ for an exposure time $T = 10^7$ s (one year), a solid angle $\Omega = 1$ sr, a muon flux $\Phi(\mu) = 4 \cdot 10^{-7} \mu \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{sr}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$, a detector area $S = 10^5 \text{ m}^2$ and a duty factor $D = 2 \cdot 10^{-6}$.

The $\mu b2$ background is estimated using the MACRO background measurements [22]. It was found that each down-going muon produces the $2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ registered up-going particles. It is estimated that for the UNK detector this background is $N_{\mu b2} = 40 \mu$ for one year exposure ($T = 10^7$ s). Therefore, it is the most significant source of cosmic muon background. It can be further reduced using the RF structure of the beam.

We estimate the $\mu b3$ background as the value of $N_{\mu b3} = 0.2 \mu$ for 10^7 s assuming $\Phi(\mu) = 1 \mu \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{sr}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ and the 6σ separation for the TOF system (10^{-7} probability for the Gaussian).

For the first glance the cosmic muon background is not so severe for our experimental conditions and is $< 20\%$ for the worse $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ case at low energies. However, it should be noted that the background is sensitive to the detector characteristics like tails of coordinate and time resolutions which were not taken into account. Obviously, a direct measurement of the background in the UNK tunnel is needed.

3.3. Sensitivity

To estimate the sensitivity of the UNK neutrino experiment to ν_μ disappearance oscillation parameters we used the values of $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ and $I_\mu = 0.95$ and selected the neutrino energy settings with the expected numbers of CC events (no oscillation) presented in Table 6. Fig. 11 shows the simulated probability values $P = N_{osc}/N_{exp}$ with error bars, the fitted curve and the obtained ideal oscillation curve for the GSI and the JHF cases as examples for the identification and measurement of the neutrino oscillation patterns.

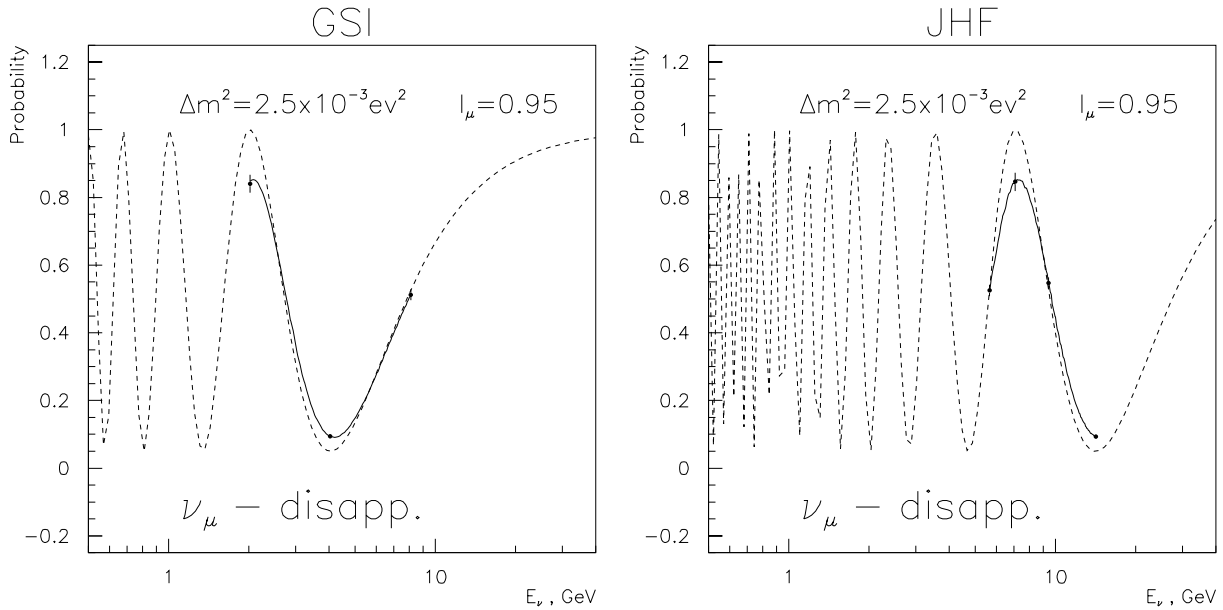


Fig. 11. Simulated oscillation pattern (full points), fitted (solid line) and ideal (dashed line) oscillation curves for the GSI and the JHF cases using ν_μ data, presented in Table 6.

The estimated sensitivity for the GSI case is

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\Delta m^2} &= 2.7 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2 \text{ and} \\ \sigma_{I_\mu} &= 0.01,\end{aligned}$$

and for the JHF case is

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\Delta m^2} &= 1.5 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2 \text{ and} \\ \sigma_{I_\mu} &= 0.01.\end{aligned}$$

So, in this experiment the relative errors $\sim 1\%$ can be achieved for Δm^2 and I_μ . These sensitivities can be reached in the Δm^2 regions as presented in Table 7.

Table 7. The Δm^2 region accessible to the experiment.

ν source	Δm^2 in 10^{-3} eV^2
GSI	$1.5 < \Delta m^2 < 6$
JHF	$0.5 < \Delta m^2 < 4$

The measurement of $\Delta_\mu = P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) - P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)$ as a function of the neutrino energy can allow to estimate the values of effective CPT violation parameters $\delta_\mu = \Delta m^2 - \Delta \bar{m}^2$ and $\epsilon_\mu = I_\mu - I_{\bar{\mu}}$ with a relative precision of $\sim 2\%$ and of $\sim 1\%$, respectively.

Such a precision allows to observe oscillation or decay neutrino patterns, to measure precisely the neutrino oscillation parameters in the simple case of oscillation, to search for fake and genuine CPT violation effects at a few percent level and to search for complicated oscillation behaviour.

3.4. Terrestrial matter effects

The analysis given before was based on a simple approximate formula $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = 1 - I_\mu \sin^2(1.27 \Delta m^2 \cdot L/E)$ for two-neutrino oscillation in vacuum, which contain two independent parameters only. In this section we consider more realistic approach including terrestrial matter effects. We restrict ourselves only by analysis in the framework of mixing between three known neutrino. This scheme is compatible with the existing data on solar and atmospheric neutrino observation as well as reactor neutrino experiments. Four-neutrino scheme with light sterile neutrino is required only by LSND experiment, which is still not confirmed. Moreover, recent analysis tells us that this scheme is unsatisfactory as explanation of all experimental evidences for neutrino oscillations and is marginally acceptable [23].

In the case of three-neutrino scheme, unitary matrix which transforms neutrino mass eigenstates into flavour ones can be written in the standard form

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & \tilde{s}_{13}^* \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}\tilde{s}_{13}s_{23} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}\tilde{s}_{13}s_{23} & c_{13}s_{23} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}\tilde{s}_{13}c_{23} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}\tilde{s}_{13}c_{23} & c_{13}c_{23} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

where $\tilde{s}_{13} = s_{13}e^{i\delta}$, $s_{ij} \equiv \sin \theta_{ij}$ and $c_{ij} \equiv \cos \theta_{ij}$. The matrix has four independent parameters: three mixing angles θ_{ij} ($i < j$) and CP violating phase δ . In general there exist two additional Majorana specific phases, but they do not contribute to the lepton number conserving oscillations and are omitted in Eq. 1. Four parameters in matrix U , together with two squared mass differences for neutrino, say $\Delta m_{21}^2 \equiv m_2^2 - m_1^2$ and $\Delta m_{32}^2 \equiv m_3^2 - m_2^2$, form six parameter set which defines full oscillation pattern. At present, the best fit values for these parameters lie

in two distinct statistically significant regions called *large mixing angle* (LMA) and *low mass* (LOW) [23]. They are the two solutions which we will keep in mind in further investigation. We do not intend to explore the all allowed parameter space. Rather, we are going to answer general questions such as the principal possibility to measure CP violation parameter δ or the possibility to distinguish LMA and LOW solutions.

Differential equations which describe propagation of neutrino flavour states on a distance L look as follows

$$i \frac{d}{dL} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \left[\frac{1}{2E} U \begin{pmatrix} -\Delta m_{21}^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta m_{32}^2 \end{pmatrix} U^\dagger + \begin{pmatrix} A(L) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right] \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

$$A(L) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} G_F N_A \rho(L).$$

Here E is the energy of neutrino beam, $A(L)$ is the potential induced by coherent interaction of electron neutrinos with electrons in the matter, G_F is the Fermi constant, N_A is Avogadro's number and $\rho(L)$ denotes the Earth matter density. Equations for antineutrinos are obtained from Eq. 2 by replacement $(U, A) \rightarrow (U^*, -A)$. Fake CPT violation appears due to the different sign at A for neutrino and antineutrino. In the vacuum $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)$.

In our analysis we solve these equations numerically with density profile $\rho(L)$ taken from the Preliminary Reference Earth Model [24]. As for the mixing angles and neutrino squared mass differences, we choose two sets of the parameters corresponding to the aforementioned LMA and LOW regions

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta m_{21}^2 &= 1.4 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ eV}^2 \\ \theta_{12} &= 35^\circ && \text{Point 1 (LMA)} \\ |\Delta m_{32}^2| &= 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2 \\ \theta_{23} &= 40^\circ \\ \theta_{13} &= 13^\circ, && (3) \\ \Delta m_{21}^2 &= 1.0 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ eV}^2 && \text{Point 2 (LOW)} \\ \theta_{12} &= 35^\circ. \end{aligned}$$

These values will be used as reference points in parameter space but we will also consider variations in some of parameters in the experimentally allowed limits.

To characterize the effects of fake CPT violation due to the non-zero matter density it is convenient to introduce asymmetry between $\nu_\mu - \bar{\nu}_\mu$ oscillation probabilities

$$A_{CPT} = \frac{P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) - P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)}{P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) + P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)}. \quad (4)$$

Before discussion the results of our calculations we make some general remarks.

1. Without loss of generality one may take for mixing angles and phase in matrix U the following values

$$\theta_{ij} \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}] \quad \text{and} \quad \delta \in [-\pi, \pi].$$

From Eq. 2 one can show that, in the constant matter density approximation, $P(\nu_\mu(\bar{\nu}_\mu) \rightarrow \nu_\mu(\bar{\nu}_\mu))$ does not alter under the change $\delta \rightarrow -\delta$. The experiment under discussion could not distinguish δ and $-\delta$.

2. When any of the mixing angles in matrix U is zero, the dependence on phase δ in oscillation probabilities disappear. In the experimentally allowed parameter space θ_{13} is the smallest angle and it is the only one which is compatible with zero ($0 \leq s_{13}^2 \leq 0.05$ and zero value minimizes the χ^2 function for global fit of present data [23]).

3. In the limit $\Delta m_{21}^2 \rightarrow 0$ the dependence on angle θ_{12} and phase δ is dropped out in Eq. 2. Therefore, there is no chance to determine these two parameters in discussed experiments when LOW solution is realized in Nature.

4. In the limit $\Delta m_{21}^2 \rightarrow 0$, the changing in sign of Δm_{32}^2 is equivalent to passing from Eq. 2 for neutrinos to equations for antineutrinos, i.e., $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu; \Delta m_{32}^2) = P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu; -\Delta m_{32}^2)$. Therefore, the sign of asymmetry A_{CPT} , if not zero, may reflect the sign of Δm_{32}^2 even in the case $\Delta m_{21}^2 \neq 0$.

5. For the LOW solution (for which $\Delta m_{21}^2 = 0$ is very good approximation) the matter influence on oscillation pattern is sensitive to the value of θ_{13} . At $\theta_{13} = 0$ Eq. 2 decouples into two pieces: electron neutrino does not take part in oscillations while muon and tau neutrinos oscillate as in vacuum and A_{CPT} vanishes. This is not so for the LMA solution, zero value of θ_{13} does not lead to the decoupling due to the non-negligible value of Δm_{21}^2 and deviation of A_{CPT} from zero may be significant. Hence, the measurement of near zero value of A_{CPT} at all energies will point out on the LOW solution with small θ_{13} .

Numerical results In all figures presented below we use the oscillation probability smeared with energy, assuming NB like beam with energy spread $\delta E/E = 0.15$.

Figs. 12 and 13 illustrate the matter influence on the oscillation profile for the case of GSI and JHF, respectively. All curves correspond to phase $\delta = 0^\circ$ and $\Delta m_{32}^2 > 0$. The difference between neutrino and antineutrino oscillation curves is seen directly, especially it is impressive for the case of JHF. It is interesting to note, that in the last case there is not only difference in amplitude but also a phase shift, which reaches up to ~ 1 GeV.

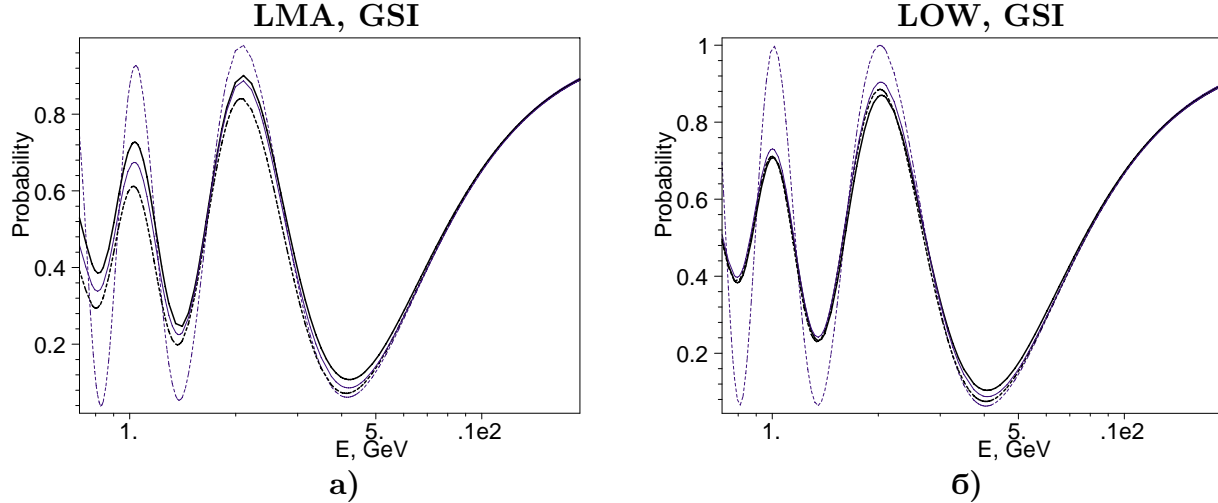


Fig. 12. Survival probability as function of beam energy for the GSI ($L = 2000$ km): **a)** Point 1, **b)** Point 2 (Eq. 3). Thick solid line shows $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu)$ in matter smeared with $\delta E_\nu/E_\nu = 0.15$, thick dashed line shows smeared $P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)$ in matter. For comparison, smeared vacuum oscillation curve (thin solid line) and vacuum oscillation curve without smearing (thin dashed line) are also plotted. All curves correspond to $\delta = 0^\circ$.

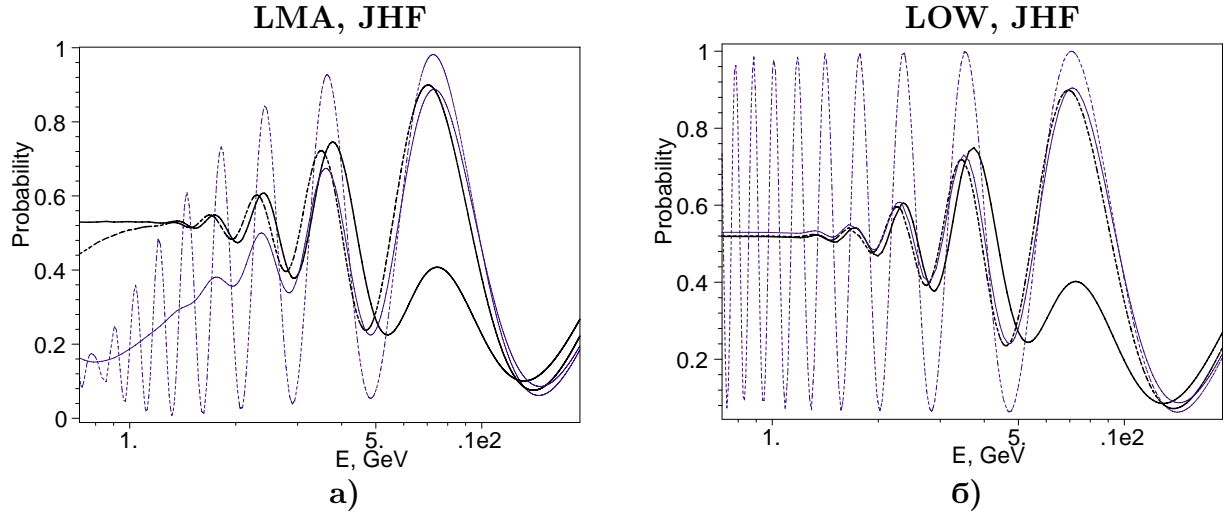


Fig. 13. The same as in Fig. 12, but for the JHF case ($L = 7000$ km).

Asymmetry A_{CPT} is plotted in the Figs. 14 and 15 as function of beam peak energy. One can see that asymmetry has absolute maximum both for GSI and JHF cases. As for the JHF case, maximum in asymmetry appears near the position of the first maximum of the oscillation curve where the difference between neutrino and antineutrino probabilities is enormous. In the GSI case the absolute differences between neutrino and antineutrino at first minimum and maximum of oscillation curve are approximately the same and, therefore, maximum in asymmetry occurs at first oscillation minimum.

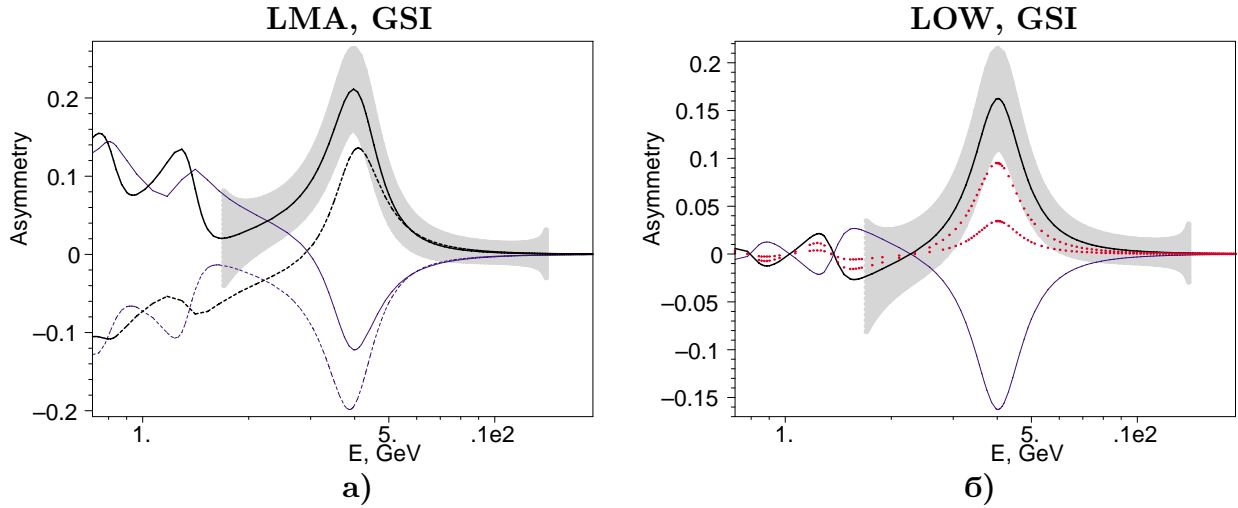


Fig. 14. Neutrino-antineutrino asymmetry as function of beam peak energy for the GSI ($L = 2000$ km): **a)** Point 1, **b)** Point 2 (Eq. 3). Thick lines correspond to positive Δm_{32}^2 while thin lines to negative ones. Solid lines are for $\delta = 0^\circ$, dashed lines are for $\delta = 180^\circ$. Wide grey strip shows errors in asymmetry with $\delta = 0^\circ$ and $\Delta m_{32}^2 > 0$. Errors correspond to statistics for 10^7 s running time. Dotted lines in (b) are for $s_{13}^2 = 0.01$ and 0.03 ($\Delta m_{32}^2 > 0$); correspondence is as follows: the smaller the angle θ_{13} the smaller the asymmetry.

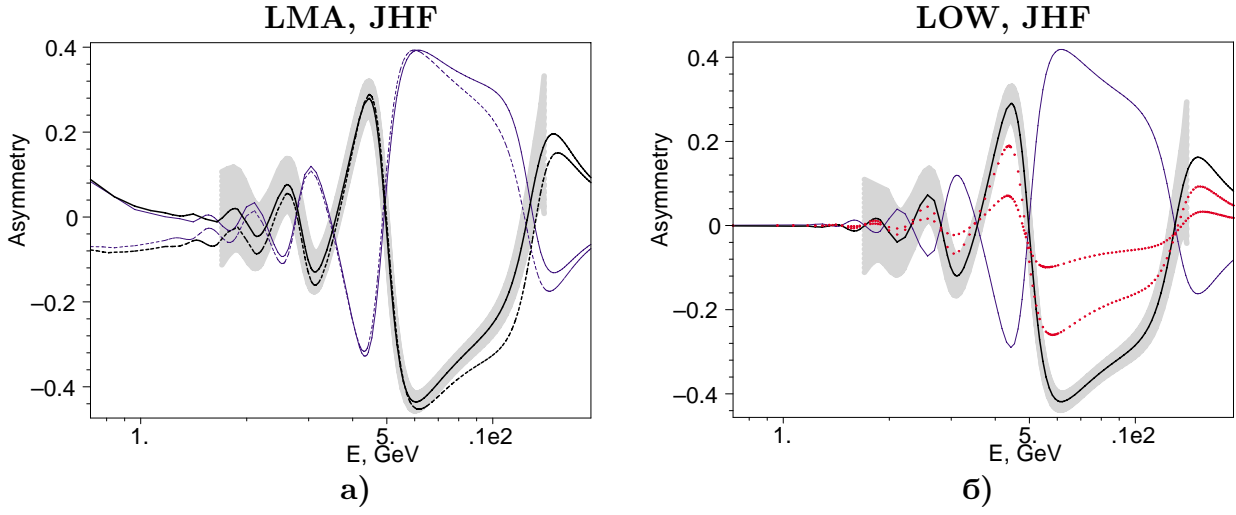


Fig. 15. The same as in Fig. 14, but for the JHF case ($L = 7000$ km).

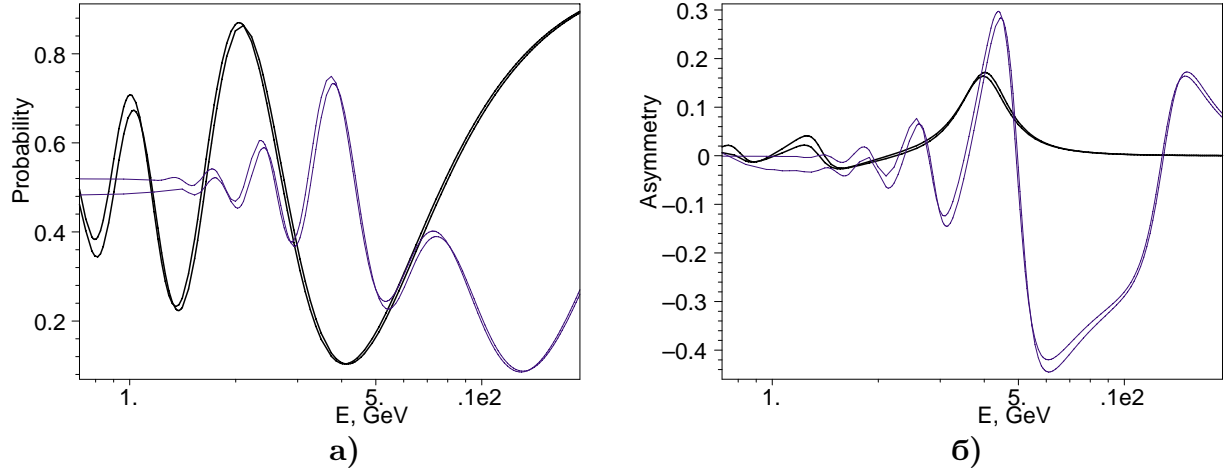


Fig. 16. Worse case to study: Point 1 and $\delta = 90^\circ$ vs. Point 2 and any δ . **a)** $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu)$; **b)** Asymmetry. Two thick lines correspond to GSI ($L = 2000$ km), Points 1 and 2, two thin lines correspond to JHF ($L = 7000$ km), Points 1 and 2.

Thick lines in Figs. 14 and 15 corresponds to positive Δm_{32}^2 , while thin lines to negative one. Solid lines in Figs. 14(b) and 15(b), which are for values of parameters at Point 2 (Eq. 3), demonstrate the reflection of asymmetry under the changing in sign of Δm_{32}^2 . Such a behaviour is kept, in the energy region near the asymmetry maximum, even for the parameters at Point 1, in spite of the not so large hierarchy between Δm_{21}^2 and Δm_{32}^2 . Clear distinction between the positive and negative signs of Δm_{32}^2 is lost only at lower energies. One may conclude that at energies near the asymmetry maximum the sign of Δm_{32}^2 is defined unambiguously, whatever solution, LMA or LOW, is realized in Nature.

To illustrate the sensitivity to the angle θ_{13} for LOW region we present in Figs. 14(b) and 15(b) the additional curves for asymmetry corresponded to $s_{13}^2 = 0.01$ and 0.03 . It is clear that the JHF, in contrast to the GSI case, is in a position to resolve small values of angle θ_{13} .

As was mentioned early, the experiment may be sensitive to the CP violating phase δ only for LMA solution. In Figs. 14(a) and 15(a) solid lines present the asymmetry for $\delta = 0$, while dashed lines are for $\delta = 180^\circ$. One can see that at low energies, say, at ~ 1 GeV, the values of asymmetry are large enough and clearly separated for these boundary values of δ . It is in contrast with the behaviour of asymmetry for LOW region of parameters, where it approaches to zero at low energies. As a consequence, the observation of non-zero value of asymmetry at low energy will discriminate between LMA and LOW solutions, on the one hand, and will allow to determine the value of δ , on the other hand. The measurement of near zero value of A_{CPT} at low energies will be less informative: there exist some values of parameters when oscillation patterns for LOW and LMA solutions are very close. Fig. 16 illustrates possible worse case to study for the parameters of Point 1 with $\delta = 90^\circ$ and Point 2.

One should note that the using of NB like beam is important, first of all, for the precise measurement of the shape of oscillation curve and, hence, for the precise measurement of oscillation parameters like Δm^2 or amplitude I_μ . In contrast with this, the low energy measurement does not require NBB. Rather, one should use WB like beam to compensate the decreasing in statistics at low energies.

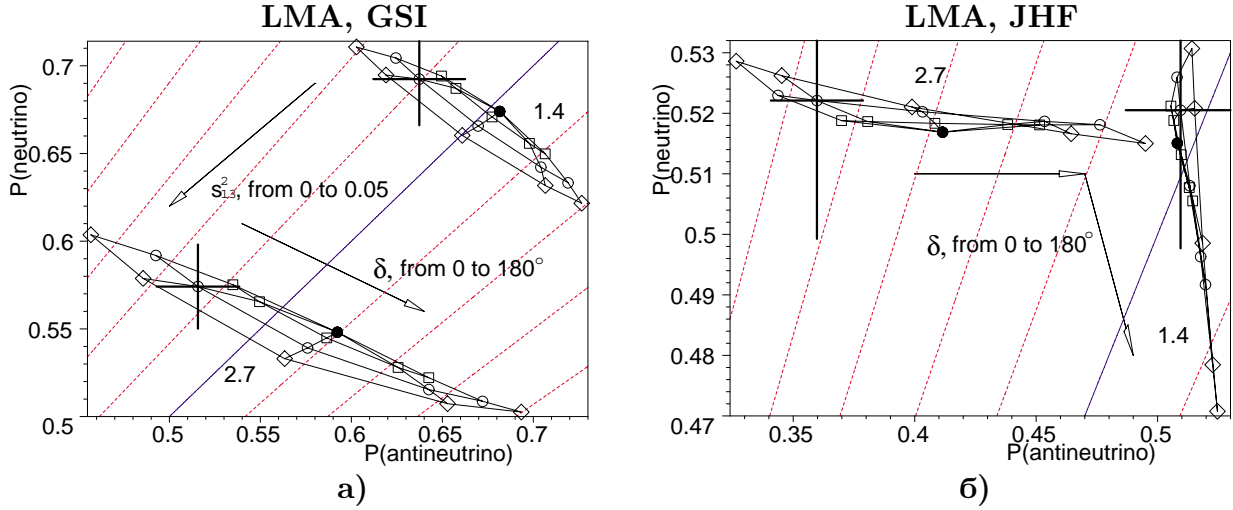


Fig. 17. $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu)$ vs. $P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)$ at $E = 1$ GeV in dependence on phase δ and s_{13}^2 for Point 1: a) for GSI, b) for JHF. Regions for $\Delta m_{21}^2 = 1.4 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ eV}^2$ and $\Delta m_{21}^2 = 2.7 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ eV}^2$ are marked by "1.4" and "2.7", respectively. One point corresponds to $s_{13}^2 = 0$ (black circle) and five points with $\delta = 0^\circ, 45^\circ, 90^\circ, 135^\circ$ and 180° (marked by the same symbols) are plotted for the values of $s_{13}^2 = 0.01$ (boxes), 0.03 (circles) and 0.05 (diamonds). Straight line grid presents different values of asymmetry $A_{CPT} = 0$ (solid line), ± 0.04 , ± 0.08 , ... (dashed lines). The errors for point $s_{13}^2 = 0.03$ and $\delta = 45^\circ$, which correspond to the statistics of 10^3 events in the absence of oscillations, are plotted.

The sensitivity to δ depends on the value of s_{13}^2 and the maximal sensitivity is for maximal allowed value of $s_{13}^2 = 0.05$. To comprehend the influence of s_{13}^2 we calculated $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu)$ and $P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)$ at beam energy $E = 1$ GeV for various values of s_{13}^2 and δ . Fig. 17 presents the results of these calculations. It contains two distinct regions which correspond to $\Delta m_{21}^2 = 1.4 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ eV}^2$ and $\Delta m_{21}^2 = 2.7 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ eV}^2$. One can see that for the case of GSI there is one-to-one correspondence between points in the plane $(P(\nu_\mu), P(\bar{\nu}_\mu))$ and values (s_{13}^2, δ) . The typical errors, plotted for one point ($s_{13}^2 = 0.03, \delta = 45^\circ$), allows to conclude that parameters s_{13}^2 and δ

could be, in principle, disentangled and determined simultaneously. The situation for the case of JHF is more involved. The one-to-one correspondence is lost and the relative variations in oscillation probabilities with s_{13}^2 and δ are smaller than in the GSI case. Qualitatively this can be understood as the increasing role of matter effects. The last ones become dominant even at relatively low energies, where the sensitivity to δ is maximal.

Considered in this section topics allow to make a comparison between GSI and JHF as the sites for neutrino beam source. If LMA solution is realized in Nature, GSI can provide more information on oscillation parameters in the low energy measurements. JHF is more sensitive to the parameters of LOW region at higher energies where the matter effects maximize asymmetry A_{CPT} .

4. Conclusion

The VLBL neutrino oscillation experiment (baseline of 2000–7000 km) with the UNK \sim 1 Mton underground detector will provide:

- Observation of the oscillation patterns for the ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ disappearance in the $0.5 \cdot 10^{-3} < \Delta m^2 < 6 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ range using the NB neutrino beam.
- Direct observation of the matter effects by comparison of ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ oscillation curves.

It allows to extract important physical information such as

1. Measurement of the Δm_{32}^2 and the intensity of oscillations with the accuracy at the level of $\sim 1\%$.
2. Measurement of $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$ down to the value of ~ 0.01 .
3. Unambiguous determination of the sign of Δm_{32}^2 by the sign of asymmetry A_{CPT} for $\sin^2 \theta_{13} \gtrsim 0.01$.
4. Distinction between LMA and LOW solutions outside the case of some exceptional values of mixing matrix parameters.
5. Determination of CP violating phase δ in the case of LMA solution.

Thus, the experiment allows to prove the standard scenario of neutrino oscillations, to measure precisely essential oscillation parameters as well as to search for new phenomena.

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