Dirac CP phase in the neutrino mixing matrix and the Froggatt-Nielsen mechanism with det[$M_\nu$] = 0

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Abstract

We discuss the Dirac CP violating phase $\delta_{CP}$ in the Froggatt-Nielsen model for a neutrino mass matrix $M_\nu$ imposing a condition det[$M_\nu$] = 0. This additional condition restricts the CP violating phase $\delta_{CP}$ drastically. We find that the phase $\delta_{CP}$ is predicted in the region of $\pm (0.4 - 2.9)$ radian, which is consistent with the recent T2K and NOvA data. There is a remarkable correlation between $\delta_{CP}$ and $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$. The phase $\delta_{CP}$ converges to $\sim \pm \pi/2$ if $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ is larger than 0.5. Thus, the accurate measurement of $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ is important for a test of our model. The effective mass $m_{ee}$ for the neutrinoless double beta decay is predicted in the rage 3.3 – 4.0 meV.
1 Introduction

The Froggatt-Nielsen (FN) mechanism [1] is very attractive since it naturally explains the observed masses and mixing angles for quarks and leptons. It is well known that the magnitudes of observed mixing angles for quarks are given by powers of Wolfenstein parameter $\lambda \simeq 0.2$ [2]. This is nothing but the feature predicted by the FN mechanism. The lepton flavor mixing matrix, so called MNS matrix [3,4], exhibits two large mixing angles, and one rather small mixing angle of the order of Cabibbo angle. Surprisingly, this lepton mixing matrix is also explained by the FN mechanism [5–11].

Among various proposals, Ling and Ramond [10] presented a clear phenomenological discussion of neutrino masses and mixing angles in terms of Cabibbo angle $\lambda_C \simeq 0.225$ [12]. Their texture is still consistent with the recent precise data on the three neutrino mixing angles and two neutrino mass squared differences. However, this texture cannot predict the CP phase as we discuss later in this paper.

The neutrino oscillation experiments are now on a new step to confirm the CP violation in the lepton sector. Actually, the T2K and NO$\nu$A experiments indicate a finite CP phase [13–16]. Therefore, it is very interesting to extend the FN model to predict the Dirac CP violating phase.

In this paper, we discuss the Dirac CP violating phase in the FN model for the neutrino mass matrix $M_\nu$ imposing an additional condition $\det[M_\nu] = 0$ [17]. This flavor-basis independent condition of $\det[M_\nu] = 0$ is obtained easily by assuming two families of heavy right-handed neutrinos [18] in the framework of the seesaw mechanism [19,20]. It is also interesting that the Affleck-Dine scenario [21] for leptogenesis [22,23] requires the mass of the lightest neutrino to be $m_1 = 10^{-10}$ eV [24,25], which practically leads to our condition $\det[M_\nu] = 0$. We show that the phase $\delta_{CP}$ is predicted in a narrow region using the presently available data on the mass squared differences and the mixing angles.

In section 2, we discuss a texture of the neutrino mass matrix imposing $\det[M_\nu] = 0$ in the FN model, where neutrinos are supposed to be Majorana particles. In section 3, we show numerical results on $\delta_{CP}$, $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$, $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$ and $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$. The effective mass $m_{ee}$ that appears in the neutrinoless double beta decay is also discussed. The summary and discussion are given in section 4.
2 FN texture for leptons

Let us discuss lepton mass matrices in the framework of the FN model. We assign the FN charges of the FN broken $U(1)$ to the three left-handed leptons $\ell_{Li}$ as

$$\ell_{L1}, \ell_{L2}, \ell_{L3} : n + 1, n, n ,$$

(1)

where $n$ is a positive integer. Then, the mass matrix of the left-handed Majorana neutrinos is given in terms of the FN parameter $\lambda$, which is of the order of the Cabibbo angle $\lambda_C$, as follows:

$$M_\nu \sim \begin{pmatrix} \lambda^2 & \lambda & \lambda \\ \lambda & 1 & 1 \\ \lambda & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} .$$

(2)

This mass matrix leads to the Normal Hierarchy (NH) of neutrino masses, and gives us evidently one large mixing angle between the second and third families of neutrinos. Namely, the FN charge of the left-handed leptons is chosen by the observed large mixing. The charged lepton mass matrix is given after fixing FN charges of the right-handed charged leptons to reproduce the observed mass hierarchy among the charged leptons. Assigning FN charges to the three right-handed charged leptons $e_{Ri}$ as

$$e_{R1}, e_{R2}, e_{R3} : 4, 2, 0 ,$$

(3)

the charged lepton mass matrix $M_E$ is given as

$$M_E \sim \begin{pmatrix} \lambda^5 & \lambda^3 & \lambda \\ \lambda^4 & \lambda^2 & 1 \\ \lambda^4 & \lambda^2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} ,$$

(4)

which gives the mass ratio in terms of $\lambda$ as follows:

$$\frac{m_e}{m_\tau} \sim \lambda^5 , \quad \frac{m_\mu}{m_\tau} \sim \lambda^2 .$$

(5)

These mass ratios are consistent with observed ones for about $\lambda \simeq 0.2$.

We move to the diagonal basis of the charged lepton mass matrix in order to reduce the number of free parameters. Then, the rotation of the left-handed lepton doublets to diagonalize the charged lepton mass matrix does not change the powers of $\lambda$ in the entries of the neutrino
mass matrix of Eq. (2). Therefore, we discuss the following neutrino mass matrix in the diagonal basis of the charged lepton mass matrix:

$$M_{\nu} = m_0 \begin{pmatrix} a\lambda^2 & b\lambda & c\lambda \\ b\lambda & d & e \\ c\lambda & e & f \end{pmatrix},$$  

(6)

where $a - f$ are dimensionless complex parameters with their magnitudes of the order $1$.

By using the freedom of phase redefinition of the left-handed lepton fields, we take the diagonal elements to be real. Then, we have three CP phases in the mass matrix. Now, we parameterize the mass matrix in order to analyze the neutrino mixing numerically as

$$M_{\nu} = m_0 \begin{pmatrix} a\lambda^2 & b\lambda e^{i\phi_b} & c\lambda e^{i\phi_c} \\ b\lambda e^{i\phi_b} & d & e e^{i\phi_e} \\ c\lambda e^{i\phi_c} & e e^{i\phi_e} & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$  

(7)

where $a - e$ are redefined as real parameters of the order 1.

Let us determine the magnitude of $\lambda$ from the observed charged lepton mass ratios in Eq. (5). We use the $m_e/m_\tau$ ratio to fix $\lambda$, since it has the strongest $\lambda$ dependence among charged lepton mass ratios as seen in Eq. (5). Then, we obtain $\lambda \simeq 0.20$ from the $m_e/m_\tau$ ratio. Taking into account the order one coefficients in those mass ratios in Eq. (5), $\lambda = 0.20$ can explain all lepton mass ratios consistently. We take $\lambda = 0.18 \sim 0.22$ considering the ambiguity of $10\%$ for $\lambda$ in our numerical computation. We have now nine parameters $m_0, a - e, \phi_b, \phi_c$ and $\phi_e$, where the $m_0$ has dimension of a mass, but others are dimensionless parameters.

Let us impose a flavor-basis independent condition that the determinant of the neutrino mass matrix vanishes, that is $\det[M_{\nu}] = 0$. This condition gives two constraints on the parameters, and then the neutrino mass matrix has now just seven free parameters which can be fully determined by future feasible experiments. We see below that thanks to this condition, we can predict the CP violating phase $\delta_{CP}$, which is defined in the Particle Data Group [12].

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1Due to the rotation of the left-handed lepton doublets, the magnitude of the coefficients $a - f$ may be rather enlarged. We address this point in the section 4.

2The ambiguity of the coefficients $a - e$ due to the rotation of the left-handed lepton doublets is partially absorbed by taking account of the ambiguity of $10\%$ for $\lambda$. 

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4
3 Numerical Analysis

Let us present our numerical analysis of the neutrino mass matrix in Eq.(7). The free parameters \(a - e\) are of the order one. We scan them in the region of \(0.7 \sim 1.3\) by generating random numbers in the linear scale. Our choice of the parameter region of \(0.7 \sim 1.3\) is justified later by the predicted mixing of \(\sin^2 \theta_{23}\). The parameter \(\lambda\) is essentially given by the FN model. As discussed in the previous section, the charged lepton mass hierarchy indicates \(\lambda \simeq 0.2\). In our numerical analysis, we also scan it at random with the linear scale in the region \(\lambda = 0.18 \sim 0.22\). Furthermore, the extension of the scanning region, for example, \(0.5 \sim 2\) is not favored because the hierarchies between \(a\lambda^2\) and \(b\lambda(c\lambda)\), and between \(b\lambda(c\lambda)\) and \(d\), are no longer distinguishable, and then the FN scheme with \(\lambda \simeq 0.2\) becomes meaningless.

The CP violating phases \(\phi_b\), \(\phi_c\) and \(\phi_e\) are also scanned in the full region of \(-\pi \sim \pi\) by generating random numbers in the linear scale.

Now we explain how to obtain our predictions in our figures. By scanning the parameters of \(a - e\) and three phases with \(\lambda = 0.18 \sim 0.22\), we generate a neutrino mass matrix. The parameter \(m_0\) is determined to reproduce the observed values of \(\Delta m_{23}^2\) and \(\Delta m_{12}^2\) at 2\(\sigma\) interval in Table 1. In practice, \(m_0\) is also scanned randomly in the linear scale up to the upper bound of the total neutrino mass 0.2 eV, which is given by the cosmology observation [12]. Actually, the obtained \(m_0\) is in the region of \((0.025 - 0.035)\) eV. It is noticed, in the case of \(\text{det}[M_e] = 0\), \(m_0\) is easily determined by the experimental data of \(\Delta m_{12}^2\) and \(\Delta m_{23}^2\) because of \(m_1 = 0\).

Then, we obtain the calculated three mixing angles. If these predicted mixing angles are OK for the experimental data in Table 1, we keep the point. Otherwise, we disregard the point. We continue this procedure to obtain \(10^4\) points, which satisfy the experimental data.

| observable   | best fit and 1\(\sigma\) | 2\(\sigma\) interval |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| \(\Delta m_{23}^2\) | \(2.524^{+0.094}_{-0.040} \times 10^{-3}\text{eV}^2\) | \((2.44 \sim 2.56) \times 10^{-3}\text{eV}^2\) |
| \(\Delta m_{12}^2\) | \(7.50^{+0.17}_{-0.17} \times 10^{-5}\text{eV}^2\) | \((7.16 \sim 7.88) \times 10^{-5}\text{eV}^2\) |
| \(\sin^2 \theta_{23}\) | \(0.441^{+0.027}_{-0.021}\) | \(0.39 \sim 0.63\) |
| \(\sin^2 \theta_{12}\) | \(0.306 \pm 0.012\) | \(0.28 \sim 0.33\) |
| \(\sin^2 \theta_{13}\) | \(0.02166 \pm 0.00075\) | \(0.020 \sim 0.023\) |

Table 1: Results of the global analysis of the neutrino oscillation experimental data for NH of neutrino masses [20], where observables are defined in Particle Data Group [12].
3.1 Prediction of mixing angles

First, we discuss the mixing angle $\theta_{23}$ by imposing $\det[M_{\nu}] = 0$. This mass matrix leads to a large mixing angle $\theta_{23}$ naturally since all elements of the submatrix for the second and third families are of the order one. We can predict the magnitude of $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ by using only the experimental data $\Delta m_{23}^2$ and $\Delta m_{12}^2$ with $2\sigma$ error-bar in Table 1. We show the frequency distribution of the predicted $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ in Fig. 1, where $\lambda = 0.18 \sim 0.22$ and $a - e = 0.7 \sim 1.3$ are taken. It is remarkable that predicted $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ lies inside the experimental allowed region of $2\sigma$. The prediction almost distributes around 0.5 symmetrically. The predicted region of $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ depends on our choice of $a - e = 0.7 \sim 1.3$. That is to say, our choice of $a - e = 0.7 \sim 1.3$ nicely predicts $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ for the fixed $\lambda = 0.18 \sim 0.22$. For example, an extension of the scanning region such as $a - e = 0.5 \sim 1.5$ leads to $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ which lies over the experimental allowed region. This is a reason why we take $a - e = 0.7 \sim 1.3$ in this paper.

Let us use the constraint from the data $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$ with $2\sigma$ error-bar in Table 1 in addition to the data of $\Delta m_{23}^2$ and $\Delta m_{12}^2$. The predicted $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ is shown in Fig.2. The frequency distribution of $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ is remarkably changed. It is asymmetric around 0.5 as seen in Fig.2. The region $\sin^2 \theta_{23} < 0.5$ is favored. It may be interesting to comment that this prediction is not changed.
even if the data of \( \sin^2 \theta_{13} \) is added. Thus, the input of \( \sin^2 \theta_{12} \) pushes \( \sin^2 \theta_{23} \) toward a region smaller than 0.5. It is interesting that the peak of the frequency distribution is around 0.44, which is the best fit value of the experimental data as seen in Table 1.

We add a comment that the distribution plot of Fig.2 covers all region of the experimental interval of \( \Delta m^2_{23} \) and \( \Delta m^2_{12} \) in Table 1. It also covers all region of the experimental interval of \( \sin^2 \theta_{12} \) as seen later in Fig. 8.

Figure 3: The frequency distribution of the predicted \( \sin \theta_{13} \), where the blue (cyan) corresponds to the case with (without) \( \det[M_\nu] = 0 \). Only the experimental data of \( \Delta m^2_{23} \) and \( \Delta m^2_{12} \) are used as inputs. The vertical red lines denote the observed \( \sin \theta_{13} \) interval at 2\( \sigma \).

Figure 4: The predicted region on the plane of \( \sin^2 \theta_{12} \) and \( \sin^2 \theta_{13} \) under the condition of \( \det[M_\nu] = 0 \), where only the experimental data of \( \Delta m^2_{23} \) and \( \Delta m^2_{12} \) are used as inputs. The scattered plot is shown in the experimental allowed region with 3\( \sigma \). The red lines denote the observed interval at 2\( \sigma \).

The other mixing angles \( \theta_{12} \) and \( \theta_{13} \) are also predictable. We show the frequency distribution of the predicted \( \sin \theta_{13} \) with/without imposing \( \det[M_\nu] = 0 \) in Fig. 3, where only the experimental data of \( \Delta m^2_{23} \) and \( \Delta m^2_{12} \) are used as inputs. The tiny \( \sin \theta_{13} \) is still allowed in spite of the \((1,3)\) matrix element being of the order \( \lambda \) in Eq.(7) unless the condition of \( \det[M_\nu] = 0 \) is imposed. It is remarkable that the condition of \( \det[M_\nu] = 0 \) excludes the smaller region than 0.07 for \( \sin \theta_{13} \) as seen in Fig.3. Thus, the condition of \( \det[M_\nu] = 0 \) leads to \( \sin \theta_{13} \simeq 0.1 \) naturally.

On the other hand, the predicted region of \( \theta_{12} \) is rather broad. It is understandable that the \((1,2)\) entry of the neutrino mass matrix in Eq.(7) could be drastically reduced after the large rotation of the second and third family axes since both \((1,2)\) and \((1,3)\) entries are of the order \( \lambda \). In particular, a large cancellation in the \((1,2)\) entry is required to satisfy the condition
det\([M_\nu]\) = 0, since the \((3,3)\) entry is much larger than the \((2,2)\) entry after the large rotation. In fact, the predicted region for \(\sin^2 \theta_{12}\) contains the region around 0. We present the predicted region on the plane of \(\sin^2 \theta_{12}\) and \(\sin^2 \theta_{13}\) with the condition of \(\det[M_\nu] = 0\) in Fig. 4, where the scattered plot is shown in the experimental allowed region with 3\(\sigma\). It is concluded that the predicted \(\theta_{12}\) and \(\theta_{13}\) are completely consistent with the experimental data. Now, we try to predict the CP violating phase \(\delta_{CP}\) in the next subsection.

### 3.2 Prediction of \(\delta_{CP}\)

In order to predict the CP violating phase \(\delta_{CP}\) precisely, we also use the data of all mixing angles, \(\theta_{23}\), \(\theta_{12}\) and \(\theta_{13}\), in addition to \(\Delta m^2_{23}\) and \(\Delta m^2_{12}\). At first, we show the calculated frequency distribution of \(\delta_{CP}\) without imposing \(\det[M_\nu] = 0\) in Fig.5. The vertical dashed lines denote the observed \(\delta_{CP}\) interval at 90\% C.L. in the recent T2K experiment \[14\]. We see that the predicted \(\delta_{CP}\) lies in the all region \(-\pi \sim \pi\).

However, when \(\det[M_\nu] = 0\) is imposed on the neutrino mass matrix in Eq.\((7)\), \(\delta_{CP}\) is predicted around \(\pm \frac{\pi}{2}\) as seen in Fig.6, where blue (cyan) corresponds to the case with (without) \(\det[M_\nu] = 0\). The CP conserved case \(\delta_{CP} = 0, \pm \pi\) is excluded. The allowed region of \(\delta_{CP}\) is...
±(0.4 ∼ 2.9) radian, which is consistent with the observed δ_CP interval −(0.39 ∼ 3.13) radian at 90% C.L. by using the Feldman-Cousins method for NH in the recent T2K experiment [14]. Thus, the condition of det[M_ν] = 0 is essential for the prediction of δ_CP.

We also discuss the correlations among mixing angle θ_{23} and CP violating phase δ_CP. We show the plot δ_CP versus sin^2θ_{23} in Fig.7, where det[M_ν] = 0 is imposed. As sin^2θ_{23} increases, the predicted range of δ_CP becomes narrow. If sin^2θ_{23} is larger than 0.5, δ_CP converges toward ±π/2. Actually, the allowed region of δ_CP is ±(0.7 ∼ 2.4) radian. More accurate measurements of sin^2θ_{23} will be important to test our model.

We show the allowed region in the plane of sin^2θ_{12} and sin^2θ_{23} in Fig.8, where det[M_ν] = 0 is imposed. The region where both of sin^2θ_{12} and sin^2θ_{23} are large is excluded.

![Figure 7: The predicted δ_CP versus sin^2θ_{23} with imposing det[M_ν] = 0. The horizontal red lines denote the experimental bounds for sin^2θ_{23} with 2σ. The vertical dashed lines denote the observed δ_CP interval at 90% C.L. in the T2K experiment [14].](image1)

![Figure 8: The allowed region in the plane of sin^2θ_{12} and sin^2θ_{23} with imposing det[M_ν] = 0. The red lines denote the experimental bounds for sin^2θ_{12} and sin^2θ_{23} with 2σ.](image2)

3.3 Prediction of the effective mass m_{ee}

Finally, we discuss the effective neutrino mass responsible for the neutrinoless double beta decay

\[ m_{ee} = \left| \sum_{i=2}^{3} m_i U_{ei}^2 \right| , \tag{8} \]
where $U_{ei}$ denotes the MNS mixing matrix element. We show the frequency distribution of the predicted $m_{ee}$, which lies in the range $m_{ee} = 3.35 - 4.00$ meV, in Fig.9, where $\det[M_\nu] = 0$ is imposed.

![Figure 9](image-url)  
Figure 9: The frequency distribution of the predicted $m_{ee}$ with imposing $\det[M_\nu] = 0$.  

![Figure 10](image-url)  
Figure 10: The frequency distribution of the predicted $\delta_{CP}$ by scanning $a-e = 0.5 \sim 2$, where the blue (cyan) corresponds to the case with (without) $\det[M_\nu] = 0$. The vertical dashed lines denote the observed $\delta_{CP}$ interval at 90% C.L. in the T2K experiment.

4 Summary and Discussion

We have discussed the mixing angles and the Dirac CP violating phase in the framework of the FN model with the flavor-basis independent condition $\det[M_\nu] = 0$. It is remarkable that $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ is predicted inside of the experimental allowed region of $2\sigma$, where we have used only the data of $\Delta m_{23}^2$ and $\Delta m_{12}^2$. Here, we have taken the order one parameters to be $a-e = 0.7 \sim 1.3$ and the FN parameter $\lambda = 0.18 \sim 0.22$. We have found that the predicted $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$ and $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$ are also completely consistent with the experimental data. Our numerical results depend on the scanning region $a-e = 0.7 \sim 1.3$. The condition of $\det[M_\nu] = 0$ is essential for the nontrivial prediction of $\delta_{CP}$. The allowed region of $\delta_{CP}$ is consistent with the recent T2K and NOνA data. The CP conservation $\delta_{CP} = 0, \pm \pi$ is excluded.

In order to see the effect of the order one parameters $a-e$ on our prediction of $\delta_{CP}$, we present the frequency distributions of $\delta_{CP}$ for $a-e = 0.5 \sim 2$ in Fig.10. As the region of the parameter
$a - e$ expands, the frequency distribution becomes broader. Notice that the hierarchies in the neutrino mass matrix $M_\nu$ predicted by the FN mechanism becomes obscure with such a large region of the parameters $a - e$ as stressed in section 3. In conclusion, we claim that $\text{det}[M_\nu] = 0$ predicts $\delta_{CP}$ as seen in Fig.6 if the FN flavor structure is sharp.

It is helpful to comment on why $\text{det}[M_\nu] = 0$ rules out $\delta_{CP} = 0, \pm \pi$ as seen in Fig. 6. The five neutrino experimental data, two mass squared differences and three mixing angles, are possibly reproduced by six parameters $a - e$ and $m_0$ without complex phases because of enough number of free parameters. Then, neutrino sector is the CP conserved one. When $\text{det}[M_\nu] = 0$ is imposed, we have five real parameters, and so we cannot reproduce the experimental data if $a - e$ are constrained around 1 without the CP violating phase. Thus, the CP conserved case $\delta_{CP} = 0, \pm \pi$ is ruled out by the condition $\text{det}[M_\nu] = 0$.

The condition of $\text{det}[M_\nu] = 0$ is derived easily by assuming two families of heavy right-handed neutrinos in the framework of the seesaw mechanism. Notice that the neutrino mass matrix $M_\nu$ in Eq.(2) is determined only by the FN charges of the left-handed leptons after the integration of the right-handed neutrinos.

It is emphasized that the scenario with the two family heavy right-handed neutrinos is not necessarily required. In practice, we have checked that our prediction of $\delta_{CP}$ is not changed in the case of $m_1$ being smaller than $10^{-4}$eV. However, we do not address the model with tiny $m_1$ since it is beyond the scope of our work.

We have also found the remarkable correlation between $\delta_{CP}$ and $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$. If $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ is larger than 0.5, $\delta_{CP}$ converges to around $\pm \pi/2$. We expect the accurate measurement of $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ will be done in near future experiments. The effective mass in the neutrinoless double beta decay $m_{ee}$ is also predicted to be $m_{ee} = 3.3 - 4.0$ meV.

We should note that our results are consistent with the conclusions in [27], where an exchange symmetry between two heavy right-handed neutrinos is further imposed. The CP violating phase $\delta_{CP}$ is predicted near by the maximal value $\pm \frac{\pi}{2}$ due to the exchange symmetry.

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