

Transport in Conformal Quantum Fluids

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Why study transport in (nearly perfect) quantum fluids?

Transport without quasi-particles? Model system for QGP, strange metals, etc.

Fluid dynamics is the universal effective description of non-equilibrium many body systems. Description is “most effective” in nearly perfect fluids.

Fluid-gravity correspondence: Can (strongly coupled) fluids teach us something about quantum gravity?

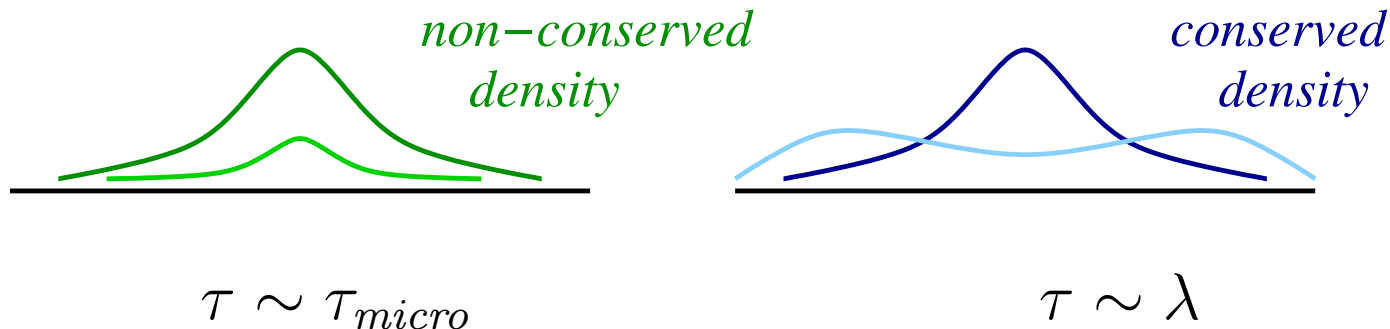
Hydrodynamics

Hydrodynamics (undergraduate version): Newton's law for continuous, deformable media.



Fluids: Gases, liquids, plasmas, ...

Hydrodynamics (postmodern): Effective theory of non-equilibrium long-wavelength, low-frequency dynamics of any many-body system.



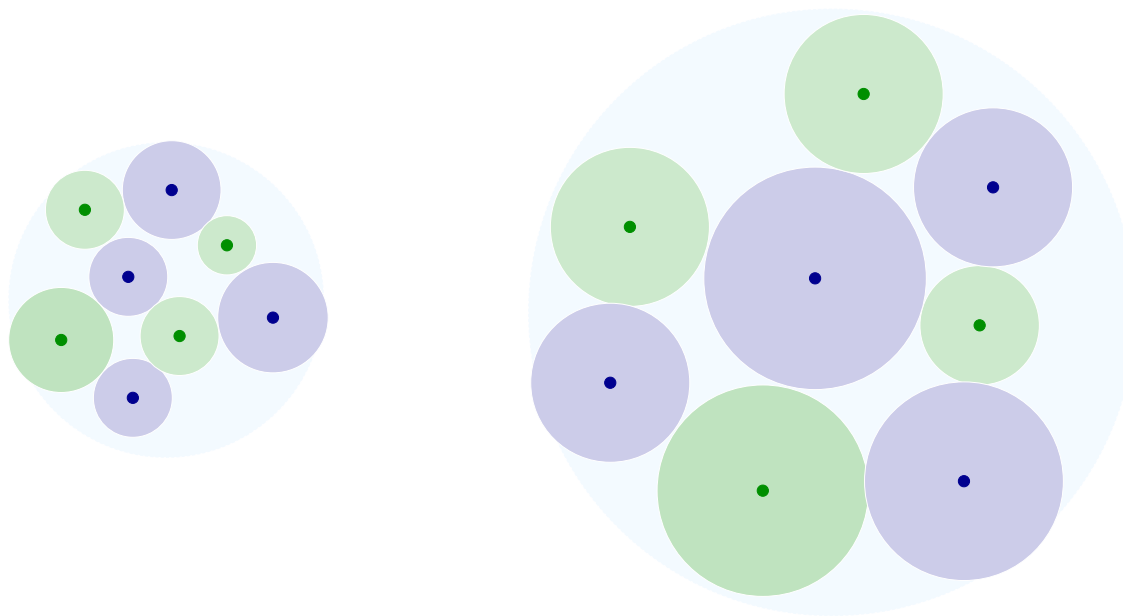
$\tau \gg \tau_{micro}$: Dynamics of conserved charges.

Water: $(\rho, \epsilon, \vec{\pi})$

Not your grandfathers fluid

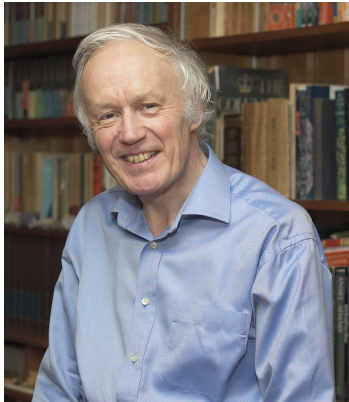
Consider a many body system with $\sigma \sim 1/k^2$

Can be made using Feshbach resonances in dilute atomic gases.



Systems remains hydrodynamic despite expansion

Effective theories for fluids (Unitary Fermi Gas, $T > T_F$)



$$\mathcal{L} = \psi^\dagger \left(i\partial_0 + \frac{\nabla^2}{2M} \right) \psi - \frac{C_0}{2} (\psi^\dagger \psi)^2$$



$$\frac{\partial f_p}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_x f_p = C[f_p] \quad \omega < T$$



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho v_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \Pi_{ij} = 0 \quad \omega < T \frac{s}{\eta}$$

Effective theories (Strong coupling)



$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\lambda}(i\sigma \cdot D)\lambda - \frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a + \dots \Leftrightarrow S = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{R} + \dots$$

$$SO(d+2, 2) \rightarrow Schr_d^2$$

$$AdS_{d+3} \rightarrow Schr_d^2$$



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho v_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \Pi_{ij} = 0 \quad (\omega < T)$$

Outline

- I. EFT: Gradient expansion
- II. EFT: Fluctuations
- III. Models of fluids: Kinetic theory & QFT
- IV. Models of fluids: Holography
- V. Analyzing fluids: How to measure η/s
- VI. Analyzing fluids: How to measure D_s

I. Gradient expansion (simple non-relativistic fluid)

Simple fluid: Conservation laws for mass, energy, momentum

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j}^\rho = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j}^\epsilon = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \pi_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \Pi_{ij} = 0$$

Ward identity: mass current = momentum density

$$\vec{j}^\rho \equiv \rho \vec{v} = \vec{\pi}$$

Constitutive relations: Gradient expansion for currents

Energy momentum tensor

$$\Pi_{ij} = P\delta_{ij} + \rho v_i v_j + \eta \left(\partial_i v_j + \partial_j v_i - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \partial_k v_k \right) + O(\partial^2)$$

Conformal fluid dynamics: Symmetries

Symmetries of a conformal non-relativistic fluid

$$\text{Galilean boost} \quad \vec{x}' = \vec{x} + \vec{v}t \quad t' = t$$

$$\text{Scale trafo} \quad \vec{x}' = e^s \vec{x} \quad t' = e^{2s} t$$

$$\text{Conformal trafo} \quad \vec{x}' = \vec{x}/(1 + ct) \quad 1/t' = 1/t + c$$

This is known as the Schrödinger algebra (= the symmetries of the free Schrödinger equation)

Generators: Mass, momentum, angular momentum

$$M = \int dx \rho \quad P_i = \int dx j_i \quad J_{ij} = \int dx \epsilon_{ijk} x_j j_k$$

Boost, dilations, special conformal

$$K_i = \int dx x_i \rho \quad D = \int dx x \cdot j \quad C = \int dx x^2 \rho / 2$$

Spurion method: Local symmetries

Diffeomorphism invariance $\delta x_i = \xi_i(x, t)$

$$\delta g_{ij} = -\mathcal{L}_\xi g_{ij} = -\xi^k \partial_k g_{ij} + \dots$$

Gauge invariance $\delta\psi = i\alpha(x, t)\psi$

$$\delta A_0 = -\dot{\alpha} - \xi^k \partial_k A_0 - A_k \dot{\xi}^k$$

$$\delta A_i = -\partial_i \alpha - \xi^k \partial_k A_i - A_k \partial_i \xi^k + m g_{ik} \dot{\xi}^k$$

Conformal transformations $\delta t = \beta(t)$

$$\delta O = -\beta \dot{O} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta_O \beta O$$

More recent work: Newton-Cartan geometry

Example: Stress tensor

Determine transformation properties of fluid dynamic variables

$$\delta\rho = -\mathcal{L}_\xi\rho \quad \delta s = -\mathcal{L}_\xi s \quad \delta v = -\mathcal{L}_\xi v + \dot{\xi}$$

Stress tensor: Ideal fluid dynamics

$$\Pi_{ij}^0 = P g_{ij} + \rho v_i v_j,$$

$$P = \frac{2}{3}\mathcal{E}$$

First order viscous hydrodynamics

$$\delta^{(1)}\Pi_{ij} = -\eta\sigma_{ij} - \zeta g_{ij}\langle\sigma\rangle \quad \zeta = 0$$

$$\sigma_{ij} = \left(\nabla_i v_j + \nabla_j v_i + \dot{g}_{ij} - \frac{2}{3}g_{ij}\langle\sigma\rangle \right) \quad \langle\sigma\rangle = \nabla \cdot v + \frac{\dot{g}}{2g}$$

Simple application: Kubo formula

Consider background metric $g_{ij}(t, x) = \delta_{ij} + h_{ij}(t, x)$. Linear response

$$\delta\Pi^{xy} = -\frac{1}{2}G_R^{xyxy}h_{xy}$$

Harmonic perturbation $h_{xy} = h_0e^{-i\omega t}$

$$G_R^{xyxy} = P - i\eta\omega + \dots$$

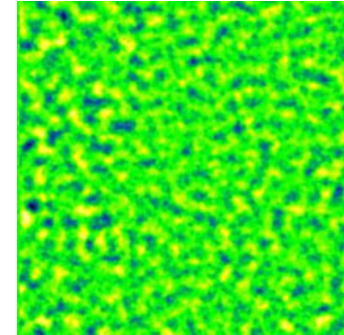
Kubo relation:
$$\eta = -\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{1}{\omega} \text{Im} G_R^{xyxy}(\omega, 0) \right]$$

Gradient expansion:
$$\omega \leq \frac{P}{\eta} \simeq \frac{s}{\eta} T.$$

II. Beyond gradients: Hydrodynamic fluctuations

Hydrodynamic variables fluctuate

$$\langle \delta v_i(x, t) \delta v_j(x', t) \rangle = \frac{T}{\rho} \delta_{ij} \delta(x - x')$$



Linearized hydrodynamics propagates fluctuations as shear or sound

$$\langle \delta v_i^T \delta v_j^T \rangle_{\omega, k} = \frac{2T}{\rho} (\delta_{ij} - \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j) \frac{\nu k^2}{\omega^2 + (\nu k^2)^2} \quad \textit{shear}$$

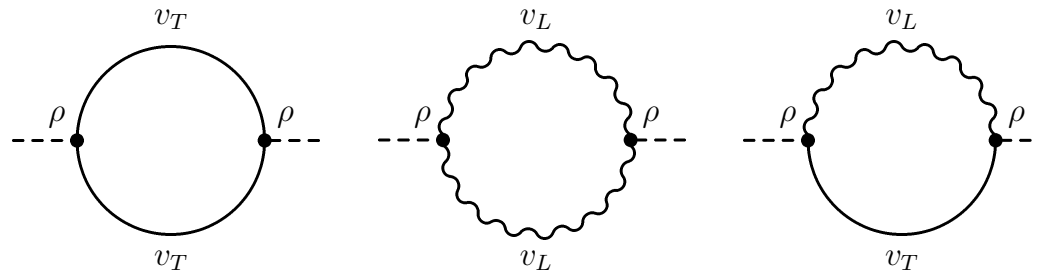
$$\langle \delta v_i^L \delta v_j^L \rangle_{\omega, k} = \frac{2T}{\rho} \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j \frac{\omega k^2 \Gamma}{(\omega^2 - c_s^2 k^2)^2 + (\omega k^2 \Gamma)^2} \quad \textit{sound}$$

$$v = v_T + v_L: \quad \nabla \cdot v_T = 0, \nabla \times v_L = 0 \quad \nu = \eta/\rho, \quad \Gamma = \frac{4}{3}\nu + \dots$$

Hydro Loops: “Breakdown” of second order hydro

Correlation function in hydrodynamics

$$G_S^{xyxy} = \langle \{ \Pi^{xy}, \Pi^{xy} \} \rangle_{\omega, k} \simeq \rho_0^2 \langle \{ v_x v_y, v_x v_y \} \rangle_{\omega, k}$$



Match to response function in $\omega \rightarrow 0$ (Kubo) limit

$$G_R^{xyxy} = P + \delta P - i\omega[\eta + \delta\eta] + \omega^2 [\eta\tau_\pi + \delta(\eta\tau_\pi)]$$

with

$$\delta P \sim T\Lambda^3 \quad \delta\eta \sim \frac{T\rho\Lambda}{\eta} \quad \delta(\eta\tau_\pi) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega}} \frac{T\rho^{3/2}}{\eta^{3/2}}$$

Hydro Loops: RG and “breakdown” of 2nd order hydro

Cutoff dependence can be absorbed into bare parameters. Non-analytic terms are cutoff independent.

Fluid dynamics is a “renormalizable” effective theory.

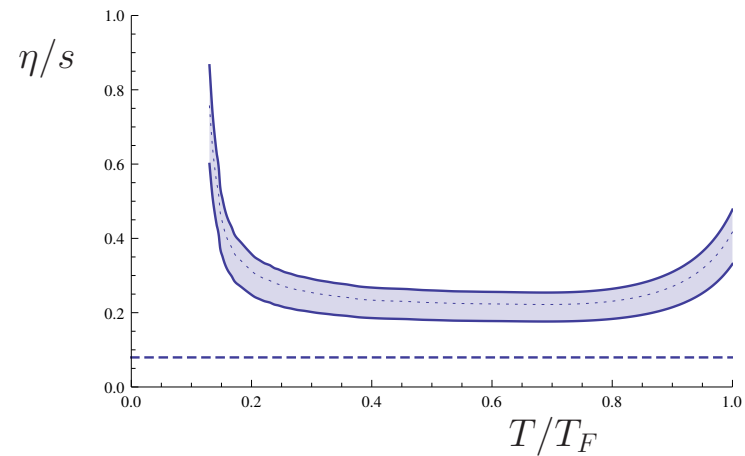
Small η enhances fluctuation corrections: $\delta\eta \sim T \left(\frac{\rho}{\eta}\right)^2 \left(\frac{P}{\rho}\right)^{1/2}$

Small η leads to large $\delta\eta$: There must be a bound on η/n .

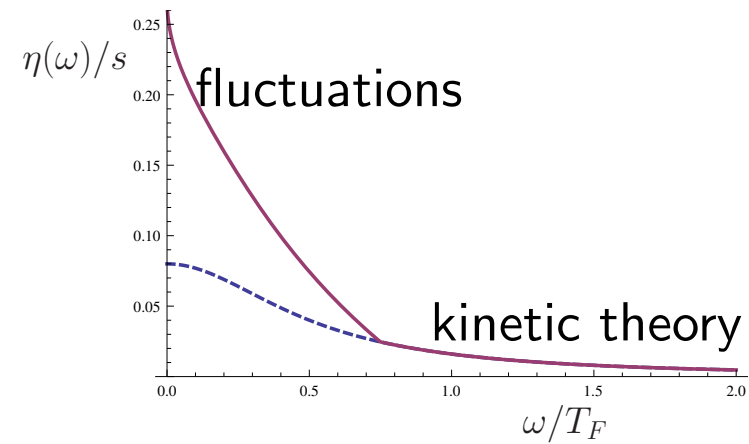
Relaxation time diverges: $\delta(\eta\tau_\pi) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega}} \left(\frac{\rho}{\eta}\right)^{3/2}$

2nd order hydro without fluctuations inconsistent.

Fluctuation induced bound on η/s



$$(\eta/s)_{min} \simeq 0.2$$



spectral function
non-analytic $\sqrt{\omega}$ term

IIIa. Kinetic theory

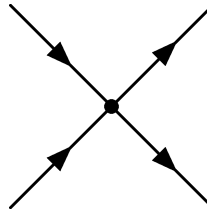
Microscopic picture: Quasi-particle distribution function $f_p(x, t)$

$$\rho(x, t) = \int d\Gamma_p \sqrt{g} m f_p(x, t) \quad \pi_i(x, t) = \int d\Gamma_p \sqrt{g} p_i f_p(x, t)$$

$$\Pi_{ij}(x, t) = \int d\Gamma_p \sqrt{g} p_i v_j f_p(x, t)$$

Boltzmann equation

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{p^i}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} - \left(g^{il} \dot{g}_{lj} p^j + \Gamma_{jk}^i \frac{p^j p^k}{m} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial p^i} \right) f_p(t, x,) = C[f]$$

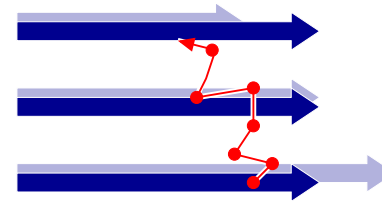
$$C[f] =$$
A diagram representing a collision vertex. It consists of a central black dot from which four black lines extend outwards. Two lines enter the dot from the top-left and bottom-left, and two lines exit the dot towards the top-right and bottom-right. Each of the four lines has a small black arrowhead pointing away from the central dot.

Solve order-by-order in Knudsen number $Kn = l_{mfp}/L$

Kinetic theory: Knudsen expansion

Chapman-Enskog expansion $f = f_0 + \delta f_1 + \delta f_2 + \dots$

Gradient exp. $\delta f_n = O(\nabla^n)$
 \equiv Knudsen exp. $\delta f_n = O(Kn^n)$



First order result

Bruun, Smith (2005)

$$\delta^{(1)} \Pi^{ij} = -\eta \sigma^{ij} \qquad \eta = \frac{15}{32\sqrt{\pi}} (mT)^{3/2}$$

Second order result

Chao, Schaefer (2012), Schaefer (2014)

$$\begin{aligned} \delta^{(2)} \Pi^{ij} = & \frac{\eta^2}{P} \left[\langle D\sigma^{ij} \rangle + \frac{2}{3} \sigma^{ij} (\nabla \cdot v) \right] \\ & + \frac{\eta^2}{P} \left[\frac{15}{14} \sigma^{\langle i}_k \sigma^{j \rangle k} - \sigma^{\langle i}_k \Omega^{j \rangle k} \right] + O(\kappa \eta \nabla^i \nabla^j T) \end{aligned}$$

relaxation time $\tau_\pi = \eta/P$

Frequency dependence, breakdown of kinetic theory

Consider harmonic perturbation $h_{xy}e^{-i\omega t+ikx}$. Use schematic collision term $C[f_p^0 + \delta f_p] = -\delta f_p/\tau$.

$$\delta f_p(\omega, k) = \frac{1}{2T} \frac{-i\omega p_x v_y}{-i\omega + i\vec{v} \cdot \vec{k} + \tau_0^{-1}} f_p^0 h_{xy}.$$

Leads to Lorentzian line shape of transport peak

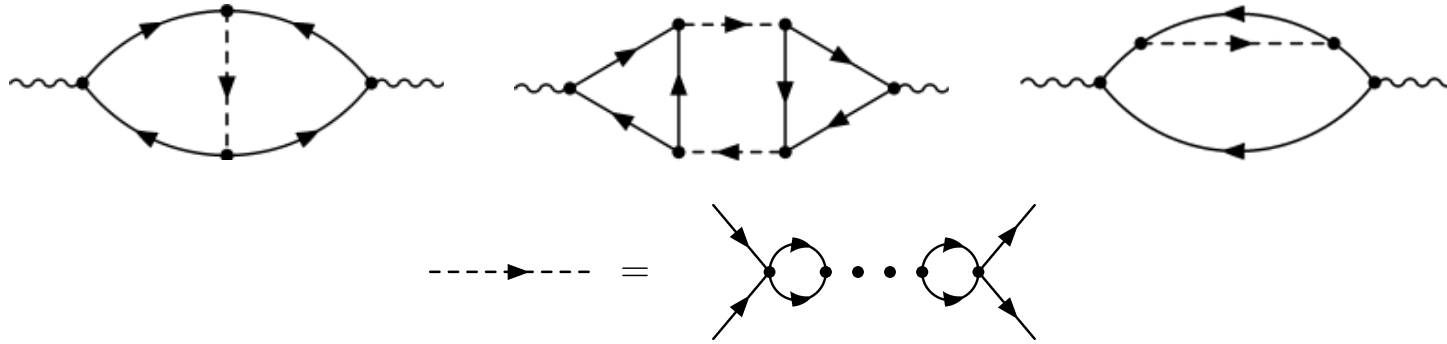
$$\eta(\omega) = \frac{\eta(0)}{1 + \omega^2 \tau_0^2}$$

Pole at $\omega = i\tau_0^{-1}$ ($\tau_0 = \eta/(sT)$) controls range of convergence of gradient expansion.

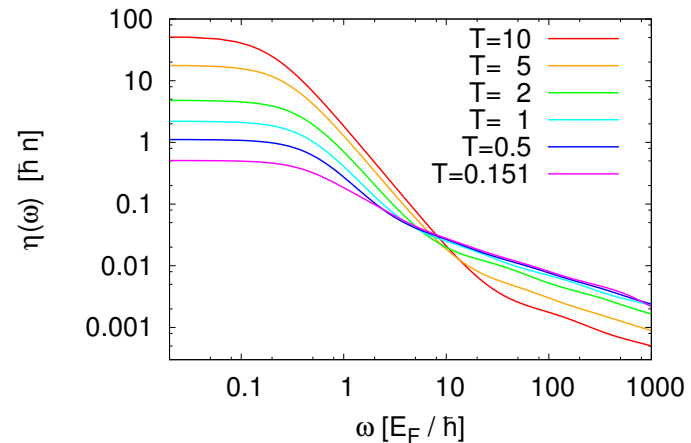
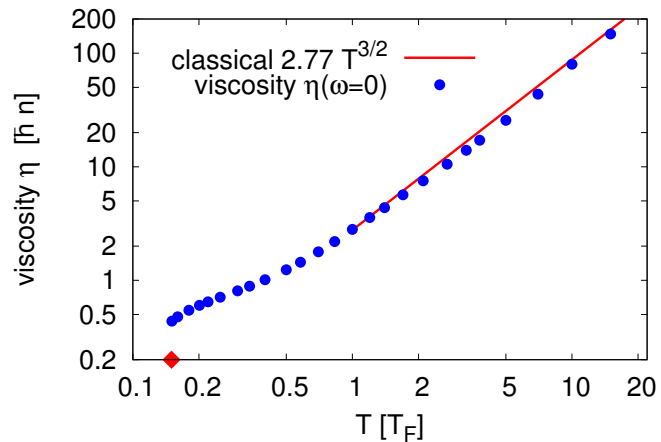
High frequency behavior misses short range correlations for $\omega > T$.

IIIb. Quantum Field Theory

The diagrammatic content of the Boltzmann equation is known: Kubo formula with “Maki-Thompson” + “Azlamov-Larkin” + “Self-energy”



Can be used to extrapolate Boltzmann result to $T \sim T_F$



Short time behavior: OPE

Operator product expansion (OPE)

$$\eta(\omega) = \sum_n \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_n \rangle}{\omega^{(\Delta_n - d)/2}} \quad \mathcal{O}_n(\lambda^2 t, \lambda x) = \lambda^{-\Delta_n} \mathcal{O}_n(t, x)$$

Leading operator: Contact density (Tan)

$$\mathcal{O}_c = C_0^2 \psi \psi \psi^\dagger \psi^\dagger = \Phi \Phi^\dagger \quad \Delta_c = 4$$

$\eta(\omega) \sim \langle \mathcal{O}_c \rangle / \sqrt{\omega}$. Asymptotic behavior + analyticity gives sum rule

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int dw \left[\eta(\omega) - \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_c \rangle}{15\pi \sqrt{m\omega}} \right] = \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$$

IV. Holography

DLCQ idea: Light cone compactification of relativistic theory in $d+2$

$$p_\mu p^\mu = 2p_+ p_- - p_\perp^2 = 0 \quad p_- = \frac{p_\perp^2}{2p_+} \quad p_+ = \frac{2n+1}{L}$$

Galilean invariant theory in $d+1$ dimensions.

String theory embedding: Null Melvin Twist

$$AdS_{d+3} \xrightarrow{\text{NMT}} Schr_d^2$$

$$Iso(AdS_{d+3}) = SO(d+2, 2) \supset Schr(d)$$

Son (2008), Balasubramanian et al. (2008)

Other ideas: Horava-Lifshitz (Karch, 2013)

Schrödinger Metric

Fluctuations $\delta g_x^y = e^{-i\omega u} \chi(\omega, r)$ satisfy wave equation ($u = (r_+/r)^2$)

$$\chi''(\omega, u) - \frac{1+u^2}{f(u)u} \chi'(\omega, u) + \frac{u}{f(u)^2} \mathfrak{w}^2 \chi(\omega, u) = 0$$

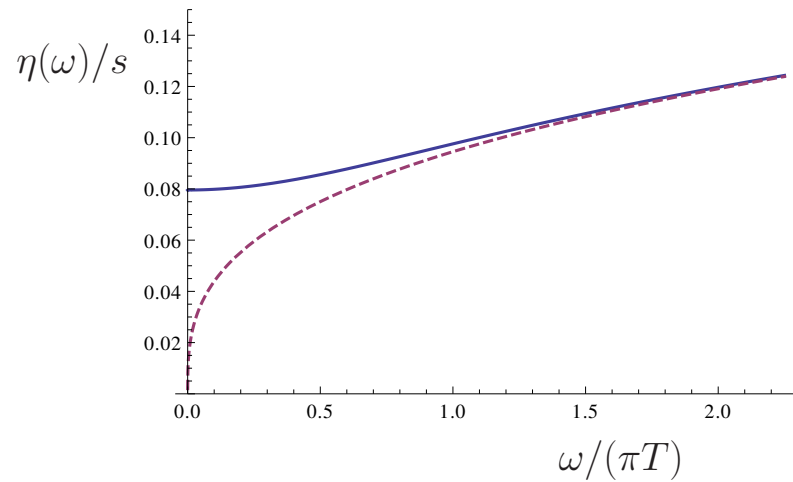
Retarded correlation function

$$G_R(\omega) = \frac{\beta r_+^3 \Delta v}{4\pi G_5} \left. \frac{f(u) \chi'(\omega, u)}{u \chi(\omega, u)} \right|_{u \rightarrow 0}.$$

Viscosity from Kubo relation

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi}$$

Spectral function



$$\eta(0)/s = 1/(4\pi)$$

$$\eta(\omega \rightarrow \infty) \sim \omega^{1/3}$$

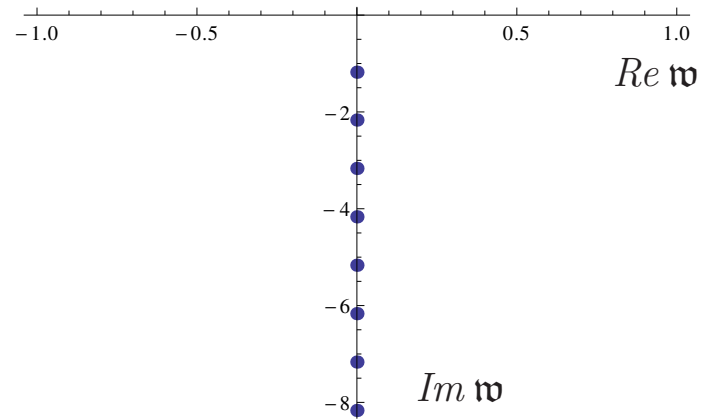
Kubo relation (incl. τ_π): $G_R(\omega) = P - i\eta\omega + \tau_\pi\eta\omega^2 + \kappa_R k^2$

$$\tau_\pi T = -\frac{\log(2)}{2\pi} \quad AdS_5 : \tau_\pi T = \frac{2 - \log(2)}{2\pi}$$

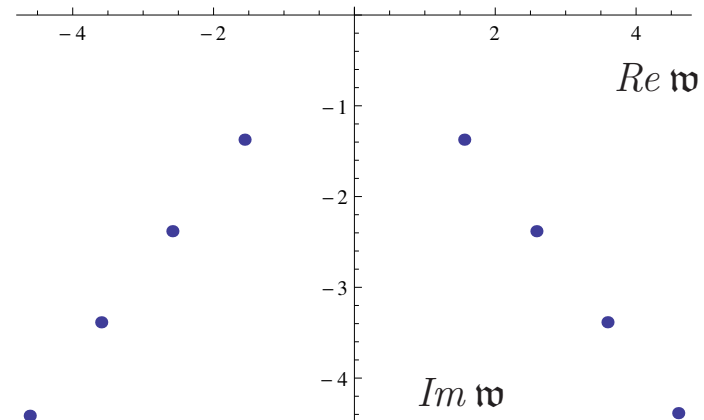
Range of validity of fluid dynamics: $\omega < T$

*Sch*₂: Cannot be matched to relaxation type hydro?

Quasi-normal modes



Sch_2^2



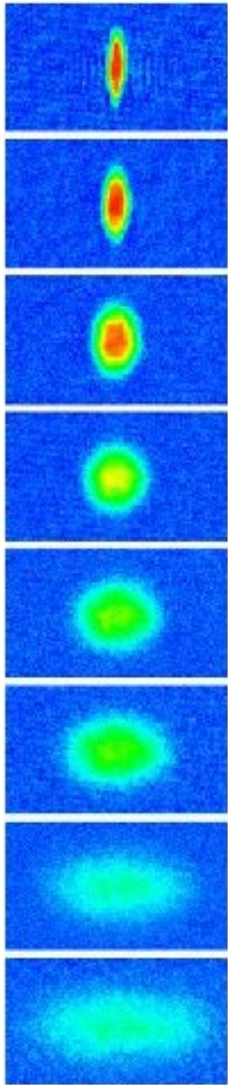
AdS_5

QNM's are stable, $Im \lambda < 0$.

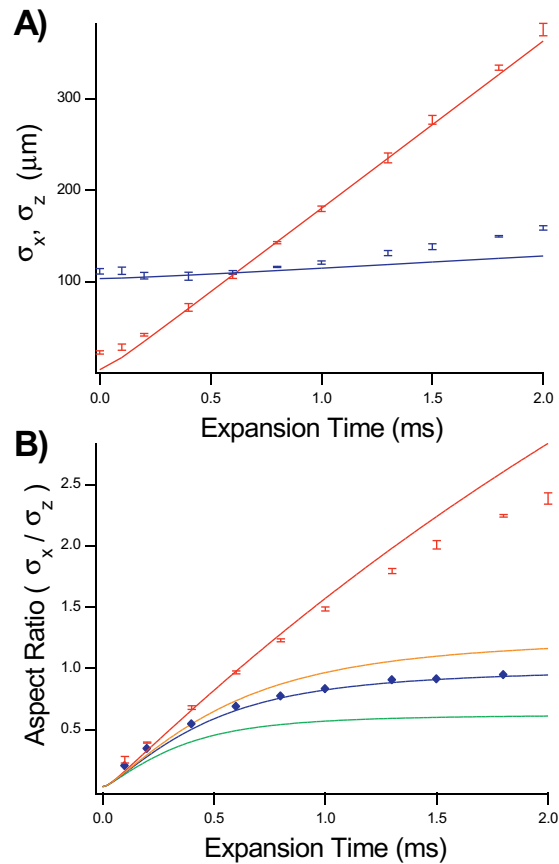
Pole at $\omega \sim iT$ limits convergence of fluid dynamics.

Modes overdamped in Sch_2^2 .

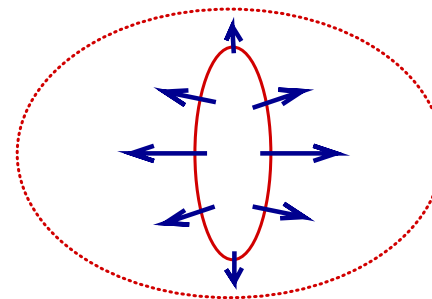
V. Experiments: Elliptic flow



O'Hara et al. (2002)

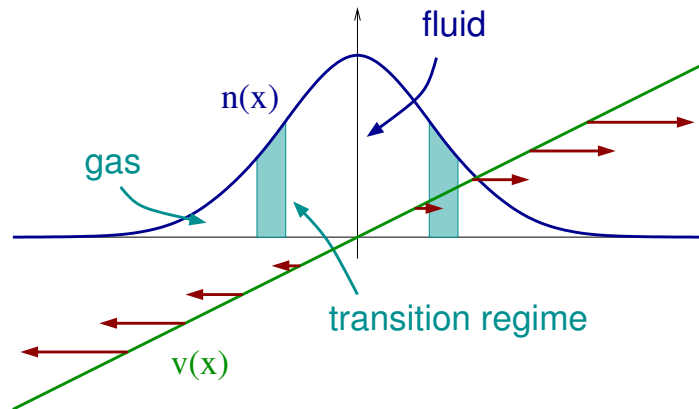


Hydrodynamic expansion
converts
coordinate space
anisotropy
to momentum space
anisotropy

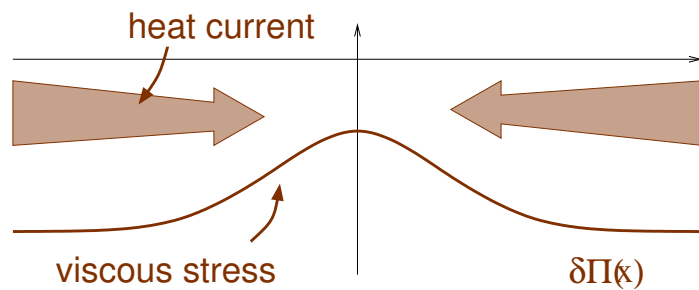


Determination of $\eta(n, T)$

Measurement of $A_R(t, E_0)$ determines $\eta(n, T)$. But:



The whole cloud is not a fluid.
Can we ignore this issue?



No. Hubble flow & low density
viscosity $\eta \sim T^{3/2}$ lead to
paradoxical fluid dynamics.

$$\dot{Q} = \int \sigma \cdot \delta\Pi = \infty$$

Possible Solutions

Combine hydrodynamics & Boltzmann equation. Not straightforward.

Hydrodynamics + non-hydro degrees of freedom (\mathcal{E}_a ; $a = x, y, z$)

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}_a}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j}_a^\epsilon = -\frac{\Delta P_a}{2\tau} \quad \Delta P_a = P_a - P$$

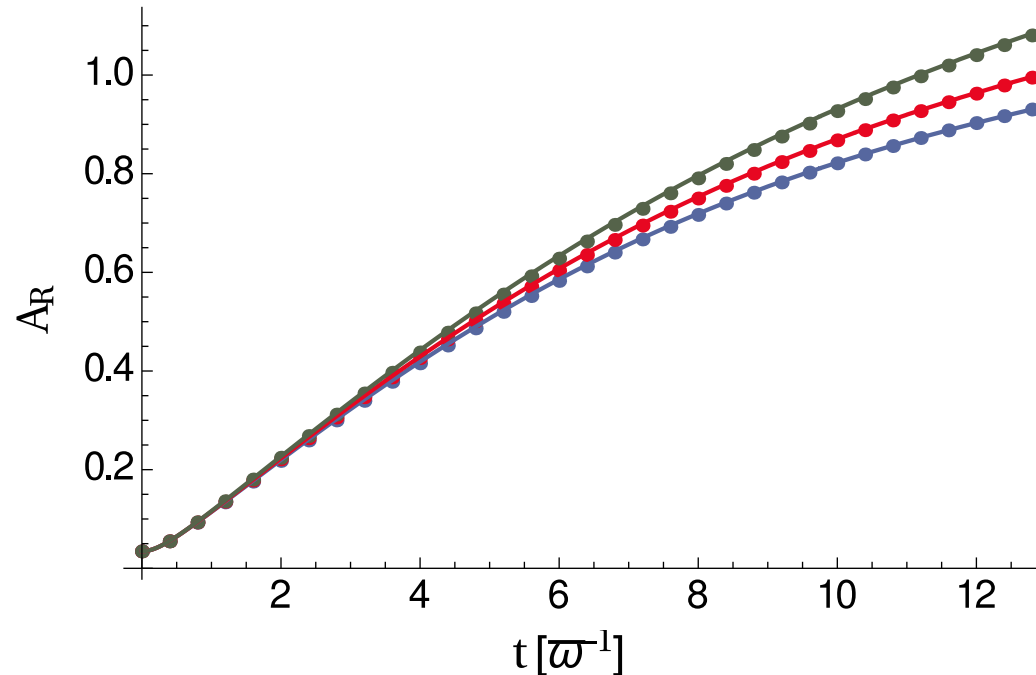
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j}^\epsilon = 0 \quad \mathcal{E} = \sum_a \mathcal{E}_a$$

τ small: Fast relaxation to Navier-Stokes with $\tau = \eta/P$

τ large: Additional conservation laws. Ballistic expansion.

Anisotropic Hydrodynamics: Comparison with Boltzmann

Aspect ratio $A_R(t) = (\langle r_{\perp}^2 \rangle / \langle r_z^2 \rangle)^{1/2}$ ($T/T_F = 0.79, 1.11, 1.54$)

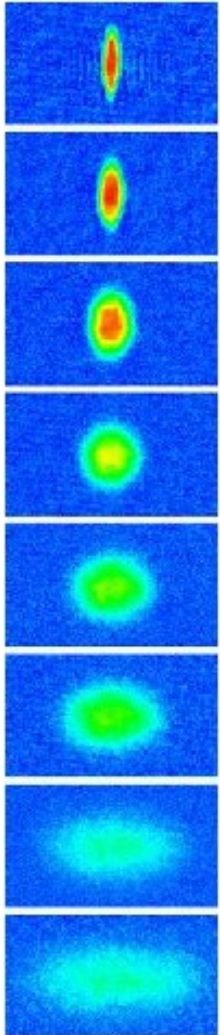


Dots: Two-body Boltzmann equation with full collision kernel

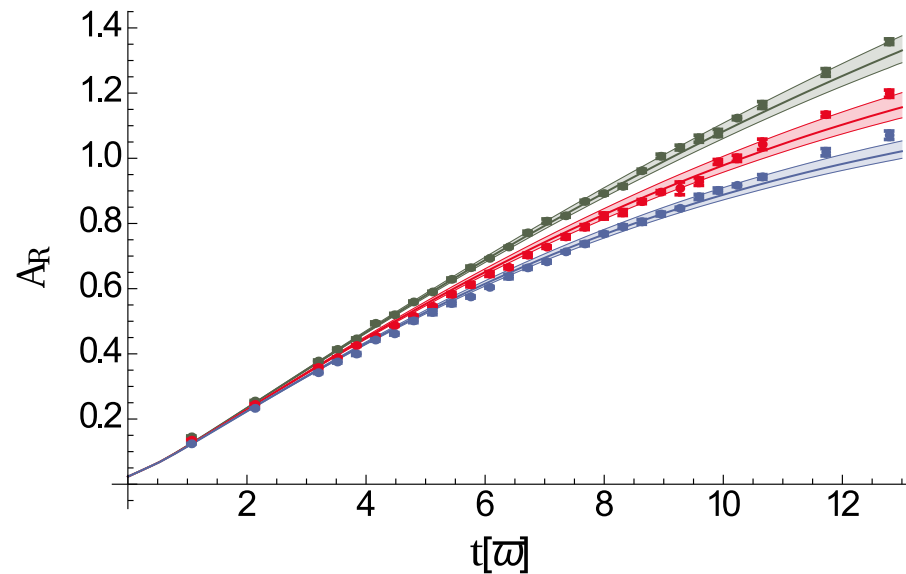
Lines: Anisotropic hydro with η fixed by Chapman-Enskog

High temperature (dilute) limit: Perfect agreement!

Elliptic flow: High T limit



$$\text{Quantum viscosity } \eta = \eta_0 \frac{(mT)^{3/2}}{\hbar^2}$$



$$T/T_F = 0.79, 1.11, 1.54$$

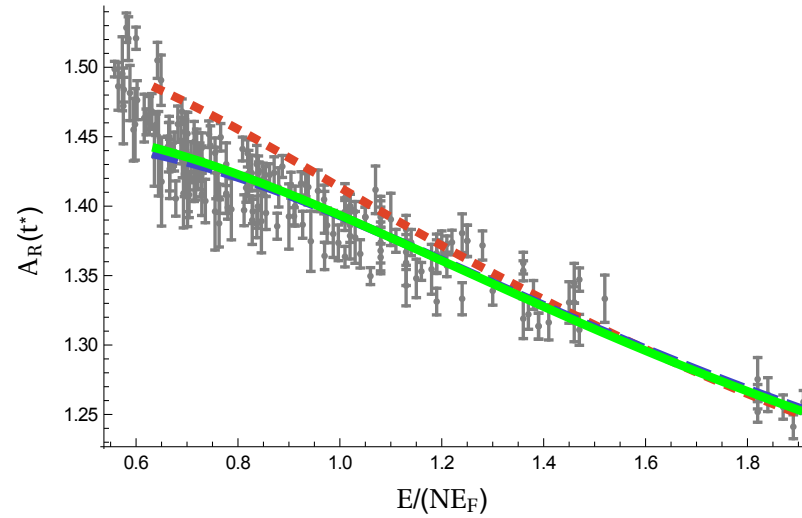
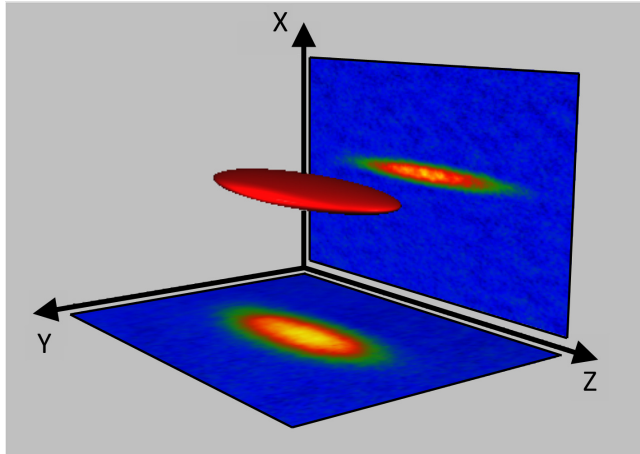
Cao et al., Science (2010)

Bluhm et al., PRL (2016)

$$\text{fit: } \eta_0 = 0.282 \pm 0.02$$

$$\text{theory: } \eta_0 = \frac{15}{32\sqrt{\pi}} = 0.269$$

Anisotropic fluid dynamics analysis

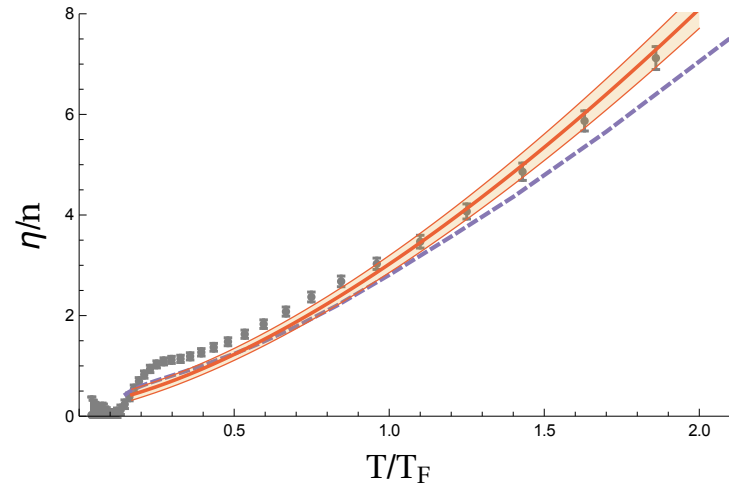


$A_R = \sigma_x / \sigma_y$ as function of total energy. Data: Joseph et al (2016). $E/(NE_F) \sim 0.6$ is the superfluid transition.

Grey, Blue, Green: LO, NLO, NNLO fit.

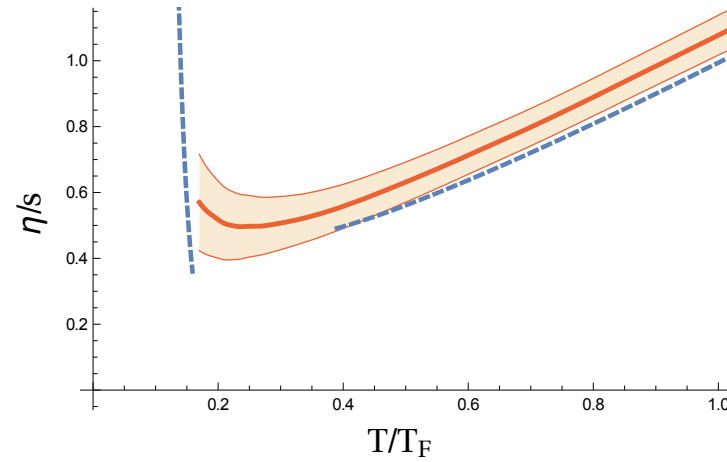
$$\eta = \eta_0 (mT)^{3/2} \{1 + \eta_2 n \lambda^3 + \eta_3 (n \lambda^3)^2 + \dots\}$$

Reconstruct η/n and η/s



Left: η/n (Red band)

Joseph et al. (Black points). Enss et al. (Dashed line).



Right: η/s (Red band) $T_c \sim 0.17T_F$.

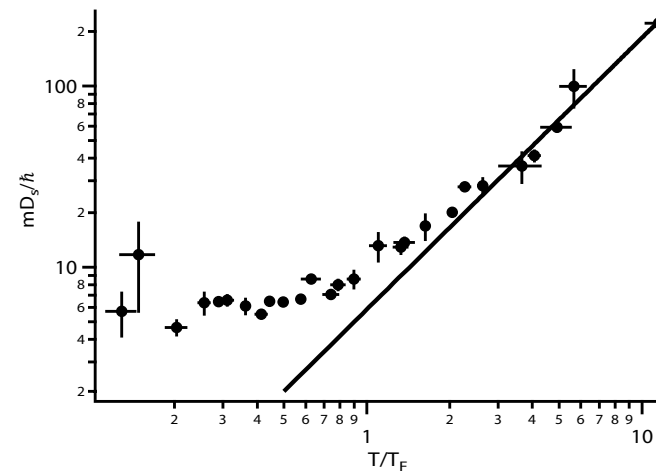
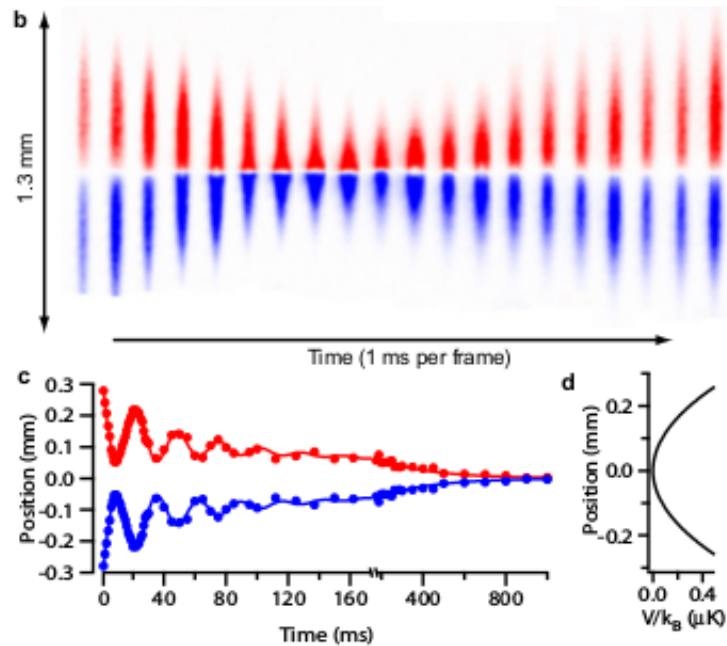
Kinetic theory at low and high T (blue dashed)

$$\eta(T \gg T_c) = (0.265 \pm 0.02)(mT)^{3/2} \quad \eta_0(th) = \frac{15}{32\sqrt{\pi}} = 0.269$$

$$\eta/n|_{T_c} = 0.41 \pm 0.15$$

$$\eta/s|_{T_c} = 0.56 \pm 0.20$$

VI. Spin Diffusion



Simple scaling at high T

$$P \sim \exp(-\Gamma t) \quad \Gamma_s \equiv \frac{\omega_z^2}{\Gamma}$$

$$D_S = 6.3 \frac{\hbar}{m} \left(\frac{T}{T_F} \right)^{3/2}$$

Sommer et al. (2011)

Theory predicts $D_S = 1.1(\hbar/m)(T/T_F)^{3/2}$, Bruun (2010), Sommer et al. (2011)

Spin Diffusion at high temperature

Kinetic theory ($T > T_f$)

$$D \sim 1/n$$

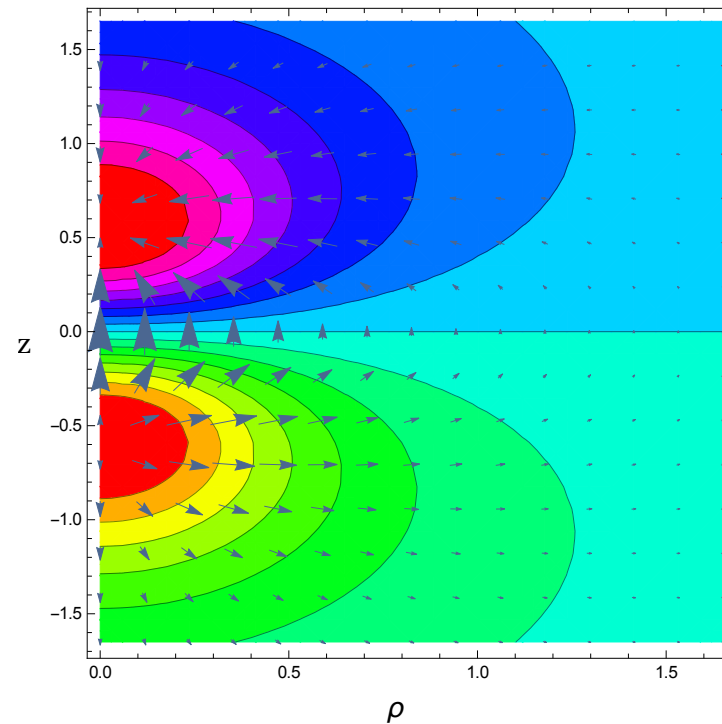
Get large spin current

$$\vec{j}_s \sim D \vec{\nabla} M$$

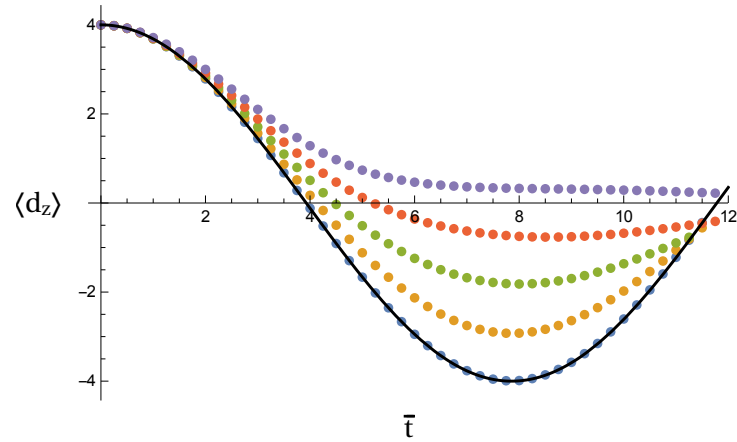
in dilute corona. Predict spin drag

$$\Gamma_s \sim \frac{1.8 E_F(0)}{\Gamma_{red}} \left(\frac{T_F}{T} \right)^{1/2}$$

with $\Gamma_{red} > 200$. Experiment ~ 11.3

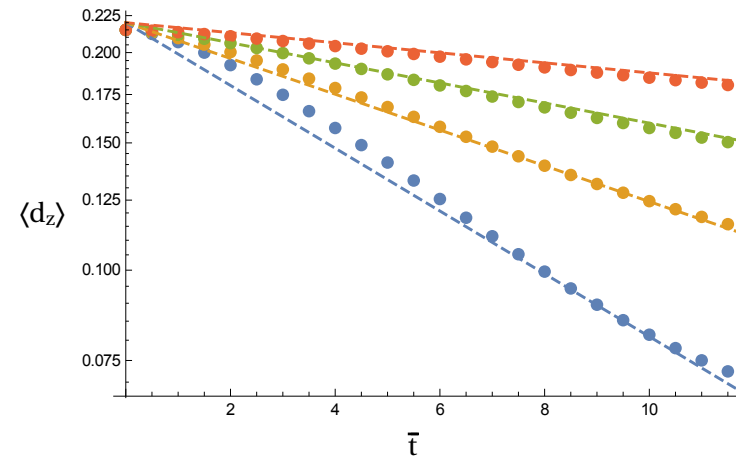


Spin Hydrodynamics



Crossover from ballistic to diffusive behavior for $D \sim const$

$$D = \beta, \beta = (1000, 5, 2, 1, 0.05)$$



Decay of spin dipole mode for diffusion constant $D \sim 1/n$

$$D = \beta_T (mT)^{3/2} / n, \beta_T = (0.2, 0.1, 0.05, 0.02)$$

Find $\Gamma_{red} \sim 11.0$, in agreement with experiment

Time to pour yourself a good fluid

Questions to ponder:



Fluid dynamics as an E(F)T?

Unfold temperature, density dependence of η/s , D_s and κ .

Best way to do hydro+? Ahydro, LBE, stoch hydro.

Quasi-particles or quasi-normal modes?

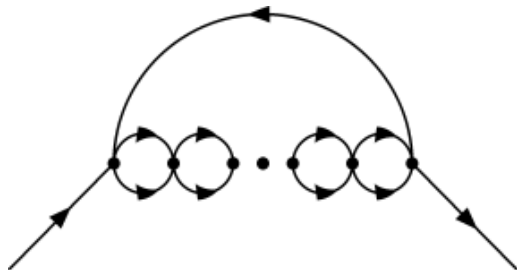
Appendix I: Beyond conformal symmetry

Bulk viscosity and conformal symmetry breaking

Conformal symmetry breaking (thermodynamics)

$$1 - \frac{2\mathcal{E}}{3P} = \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_c \rangle}{12\pi m a P} \sim \frac{1}{6\pi} n \lambda^3 \frac{\lambda}{a}$$

How does this translate into $\zeta \neq 0$? Momentum dependent $m^*(p)$.



$$Im \Sigma(k) \sim zT \sqrt{\frac{T}{\epsilon_k}} \text{Erf} \left(\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_k}{T}} \right) \ll T$$

$$Re \Sigma(k) \sim zT \frac{\lambda}{a} \sqrt{\frac{T}{\epsilon_k}} F_D \left(\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_k}{T}} \right)$$

Bulk viscosity

$$\zeta = \frac{1}{24\sqrt{2}\pi} \lambda^{-3} \left(\frac{z\lambda}{a} \right)^2$$

$$\zeta \sim \left(1 - \frac{2\mathcal{E}}{3P} \right)^2 \eta$$

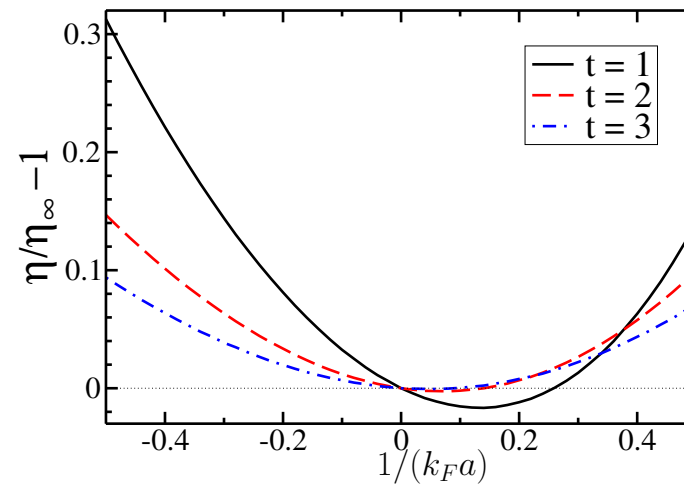
Shear viscosity and conformal symmetry breaking

Consider shear viscosity at $a \neq \infty$

$$\eta = \eta_0 \left\{ 1 + O\left(\frac{\lambda^2}{a^2}\right) + O\left(\frac{z\lambda}{a}\right) + \dots \right\}$$

Medium effects at $O(z\lambda/a)$: Self energy, in-medium scattering

$$\Pi(P, q) = \text{[Feynman diagram: a circle with two vertices, each having two external lines with arrows pointing outwards. The top and bottom arcs of the circle have double slashes indicating a self-energy insertion.]}$$



Minimum shear viscosity achieved on BEC side