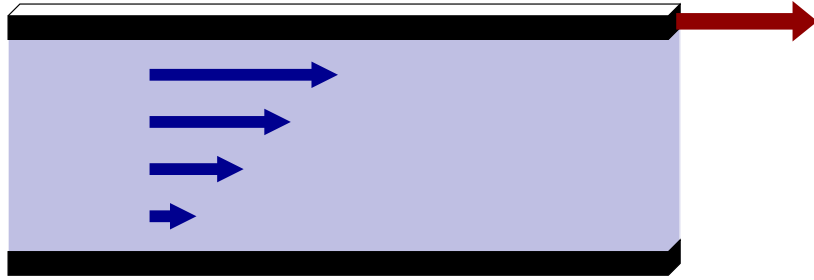# In Search of the Perfect Fluid

Thomas Schaefer, North Carolina State University
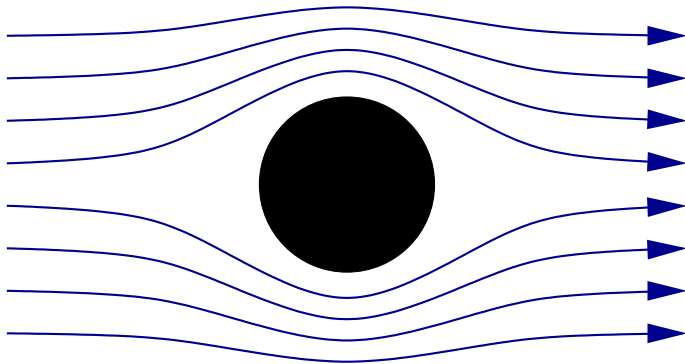
Measures of Perfection

Viscosity determines shear stress ("friction") in fluid flow

$$F = A\,\eta\,\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y}$$

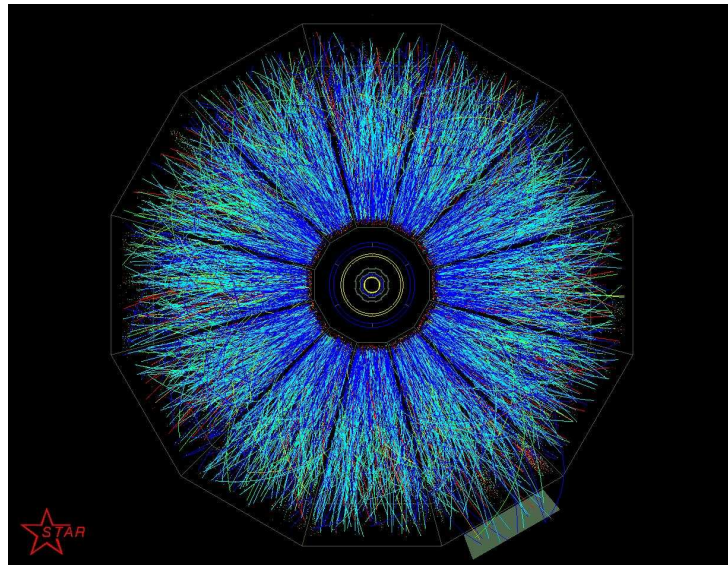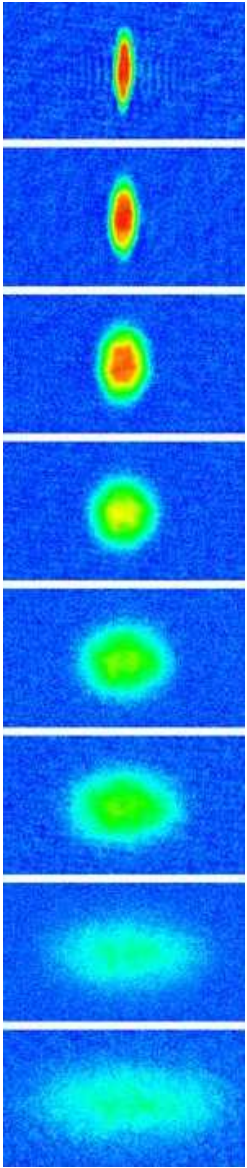Dimensionless measure of shear stress: Reynolds number

$$Re \quad = \quad \frac{n}{\eta} \quad \times \quad mvr$$

$$\text{fluid} \qquad \text{flow}$$
$$\text{property} \qquad \text{property}$$

- $[\eta/n] = \hbar$

- Relativistic systems $Re = \dfrac{s}{\eta} \times \tau T$

Perfect Fluids: The contenders
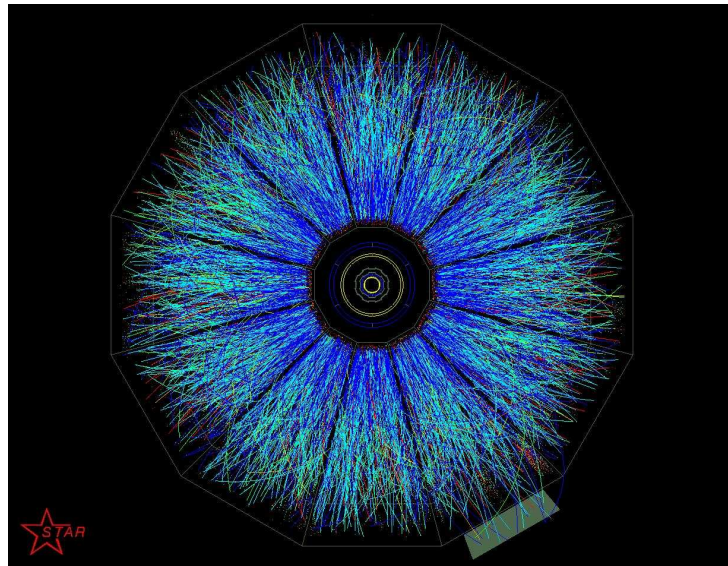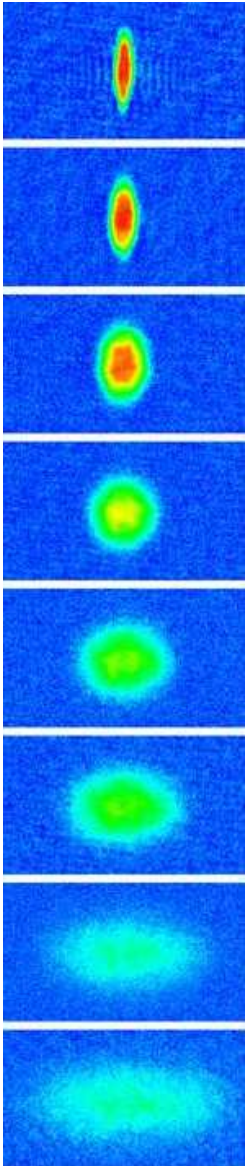
QGP (T=180 MeV)

Trapped Atoms
(T=0.1 neV)

Liquid Helium
(T=0.1 meV)

Perfect Fluids: The contenders

QGP $\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{11} Pa \cdot s$

Trapped Atoms
$\eta = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-15} Pa \cdot s$
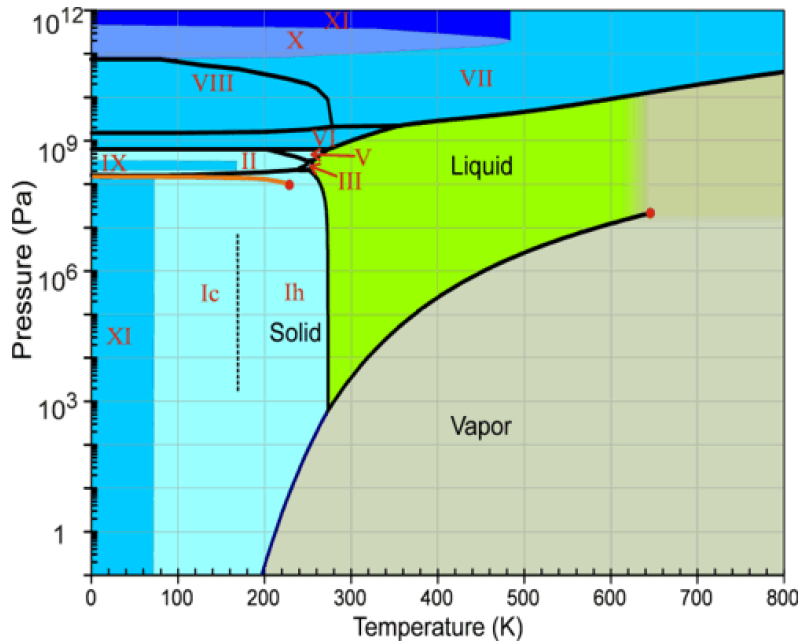
Liquid Helium
$\eta = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-6} Pa \cdot s$

Consider ratios

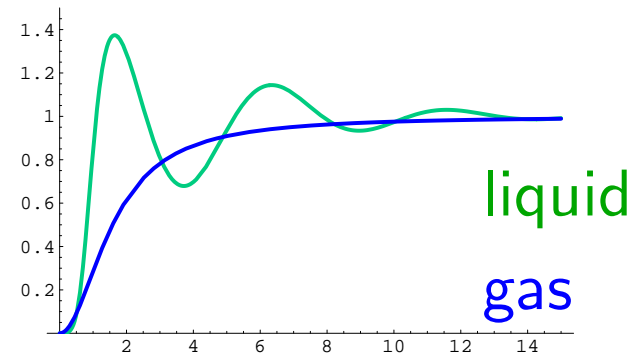η/s

Transitions without change of symmetry: Liquid-Gas

Phase diagram of water

Characteristics of a liquid

Pair correlation function

liquid

gas

Good fluid: low viscosity

$$F_x = \eta A \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y}$$
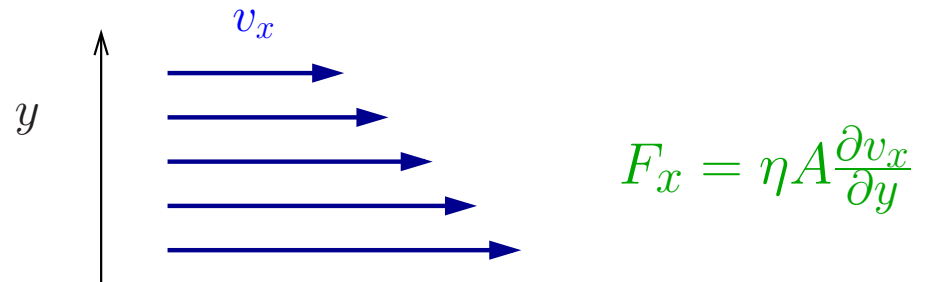
Transitions without change of symmetry: Gas-Plasma

Phase diagram of hydrogen

Plasma Effects

Debye screening
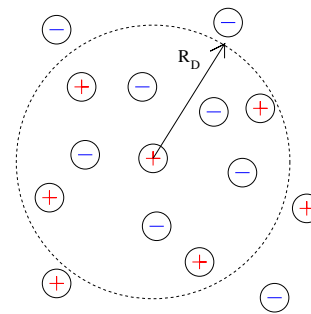
$$V(r) = -\frac{e}{r} e^{-m_D r}$$

$$m_D^2 = \frac{4\pi e^2 n}{kT}$$

Plasma oscillations

$$\omega_{pl} = \frac{4\pi e^2 n}{m}$$

Fluids: Gases, Liquids, Plasmas, ...
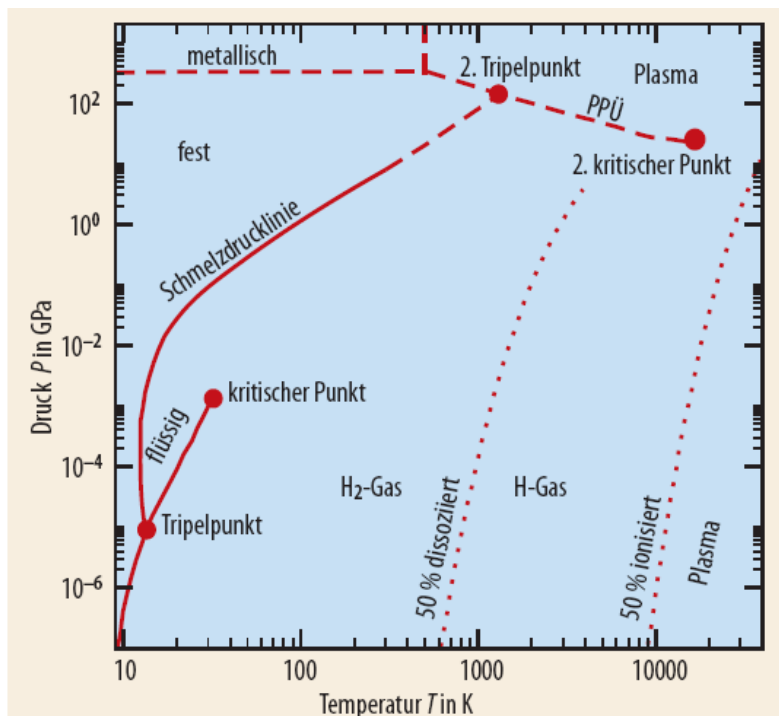
Hydrodynamics: Long-wavelength, low-frequency dynamics of conserved or spontaneously broken symmetry variables.

$$\tau \sim \tau_{micro} \qquad\qquad \tau \sim \lambda^{-1}$$

Historically: Water
$$(\rho, \epsilon, \vec{\pi})$$
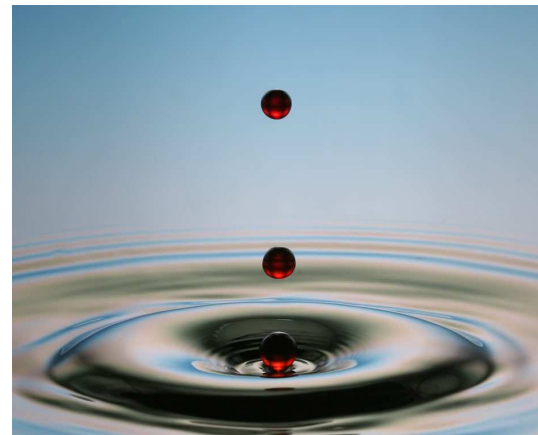
Example: Simple Fluid

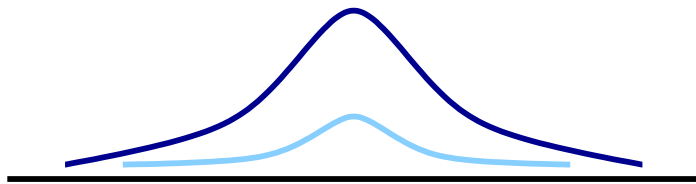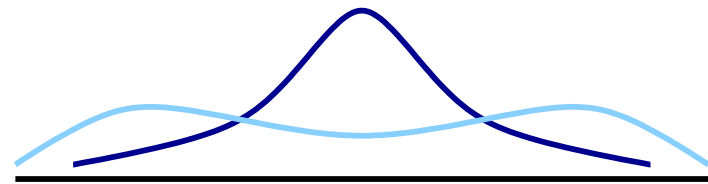Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla}(\rho\vec{v}) = 0$$

Euler (Navier-Stokes) equation

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

Energy momentum tensor

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

reactive   dissipative

Kinetic Theory

Quasi-Particles ($\gamma \ll \omega$): introduce distribution function $f_p(x,t)$

$$T_{ij} = \int d^3p \, \frac{p_i p_j}{E_p} \, f_p,$$
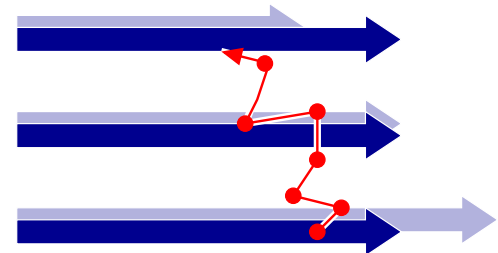
Boltzmann equation

$$\frac{\partial f_p}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_x f_p + \vec{F} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_p f_p = C[f_p]$$

Collision term $C[f_p] = C_{gain} - C_{loss}$

Linearized theory (Chapman-Enskog): $f_p = f_p^0(1 + \chi_p/T)$

suitable for transport coefficients

shear viscosity $\chi_p = g_p p_i p_j v_{ij}$

Viscosity Bound: Rough Argument

Kinetic theory estimate of shear viscosity

$$\eta \sim \frac{1}{3} n \, \bar{p} \, l_{mfp} \qquad\qquad (\text{Note}: l_{mfp} \sim 1/(n\sigma))$$

Normalize to density. Uncertainty relation implies

$$\frac{\eta}{n} \sim \frac{n \, \bar{p} \, l_{mft}}{n} \geq \hbar$$

Also: $s \sim k_B n$ and $\eta/s \geq \hbar/k_B$

Validity of kinetic theory as $\bar{p} \, l_{mfp} \sim \hbar$?

What is the "right" ratio, η/s or η/n?

Field Theory: Kubo Formula

Linear response theory provides relation between transport coefficents and Green functions

$$G_R(\omega, 0) = \int dt\, d^3x\, e^{i\omega t}\, \Theta(t) \langle [T_{xy}(t, x), T_{xy}(0, 0)] \rangle$$

$$\eta = -\lim_{\omega \to 0} \frac{1}{\omega} G_R(\omega, 0)$$

Gauge Theory at Strong Coupling: Holographic Duals

The AdS/CFT duality relates

large N_c (Conformal) gauge $\Leftrightarrow$ string theory on 5 dimensional

theory in 4 dimensions   Anti-de Sitter space $\times S_5$
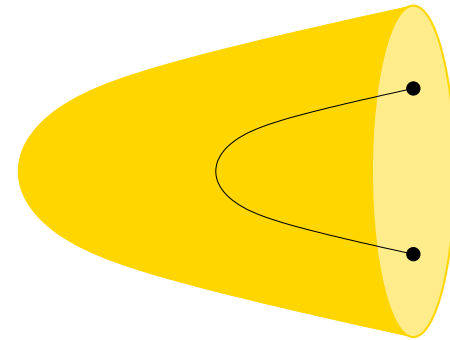
correlation fcts of gauge $\Leftrightarrow$ boundary correlation fcts

invariant operators   of AdS fields

$$\langle \exp \int dx \, \phi_0 \mathcal{O} \rangle =$$

$$Z_{string}[\phi(\partial AdS) = \phi_0]$$

The correspondence is simplest at strong coupling $g^2 N_c$
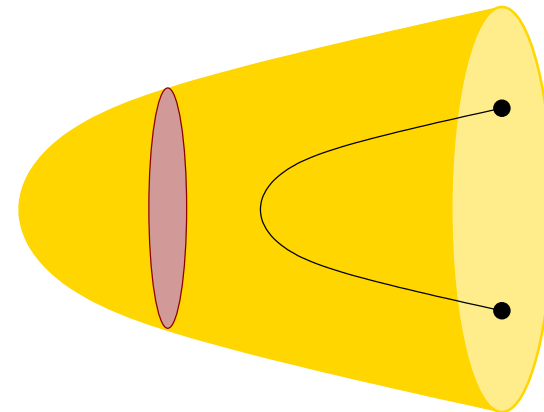
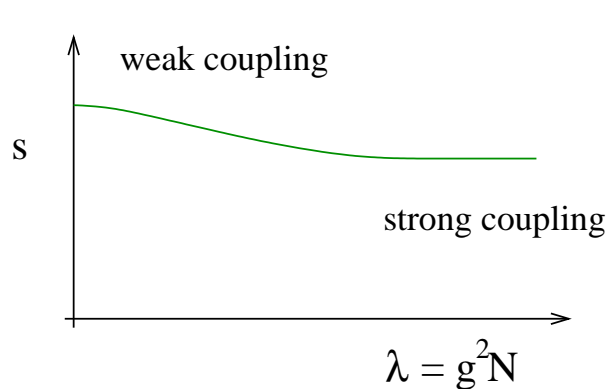strongly coupled gauge theory $\Leftrightarrow$ classical string theory

Holographic Duals at Finite Temperature

Thermal (conformal) field theory $\equiv AdS_5$ black hole

CFT temperature $\Leftrightarrow$ Hawking temperature of black hole

CFT entropy $\Leftrightarrow$ Hawking-Bekenstein entropy $\sim$ area of event horizon

$$s(\lambda \to \infty) = \frac{\pi^2}{2} N_c^2 T^3 = \frac{3}{4} s(\lambda = 0)$$

Gubser and Klebanov

Holographic Duals: Transport Properties

Thermal (conformal) field theory $\equiv AdS_5$ black hole

CFT entropy $\qquad\Leftrightarrow\qquad$ Hawking-Bekenstein entropy

$\sim$ area of event horizon
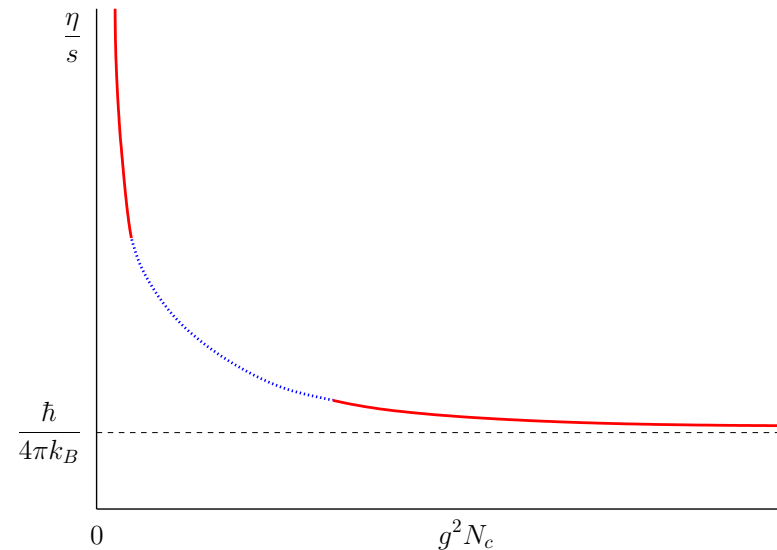
shear viscosity $\qquad\Leftrightarrow\qquad$ Graviton absorption cross section

$\sim$ area of event horizon

Strong coupling limit

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{\hbar}{4\pi k_B}$$

Son and Starinets

Strong coupling limit universal? Provides lower bound for all theories?

Holographic Duals: Recent Work

Can we get $AdS/NRCFT$ using an embedding of non-relativistic conformal group?

$$Schr(d) \subset SO(d+1,2) \ \ (= Iso(AdS_{d+2}))$$

Not quite, but we can use $Schr(d) \subset SO(d+2,2)$

$$\text{New } 2+1 \text{ NRCFTs with } \frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi}$$
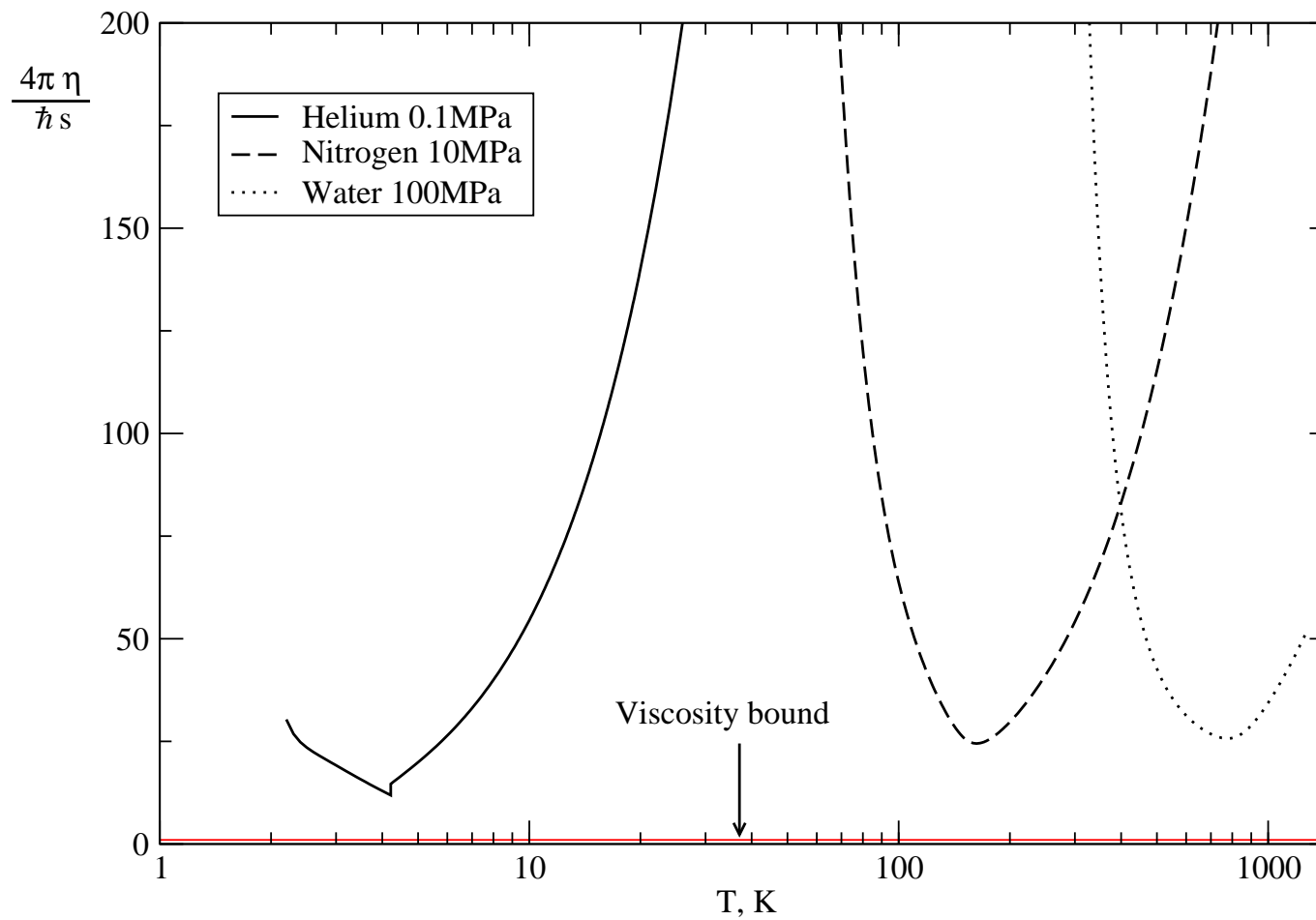
Son, McGreevy, Balasubramanian, . . .

Can we prove viscosity bound? Proven in certain classes of backgrounds, but some possible counterexamples exist

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi}(1 - 4\lambda_{GB}) \qquad \lambda_{GB} < \frac{9}{100}$$

Myers, Shenker, Kats, Petrov, . . .

Viscosity Bound: Common Fluids

Perfect Fluids: How to be a contender?

Bound is quantum mechanical

need quantum fluids

Bound is incompatible with weak coupling and kinetic theory
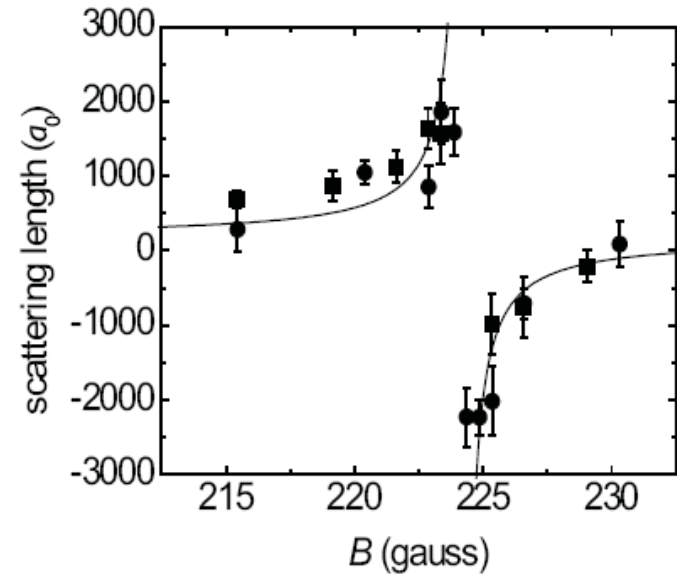
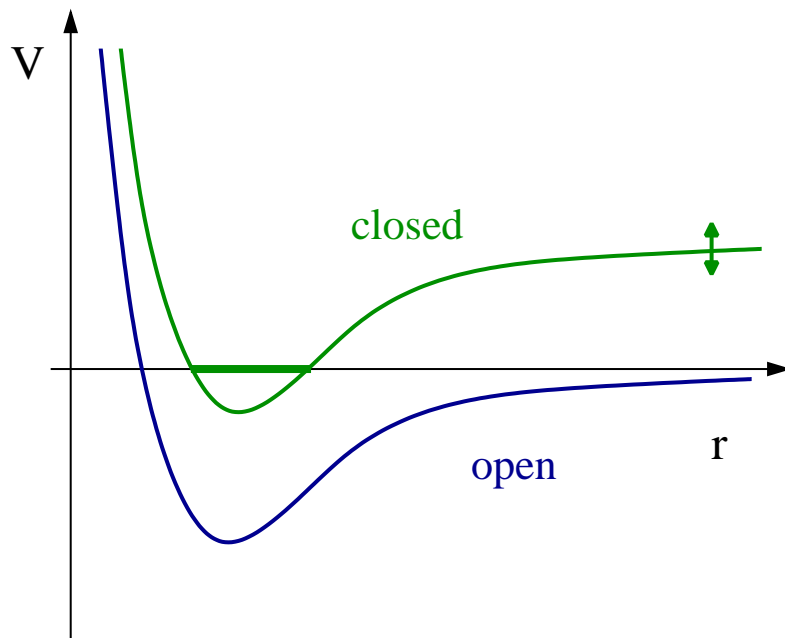strong interactions, no quasi-particles

Model system has conformal invariance (essential?)

(Almost) scale invariant systems

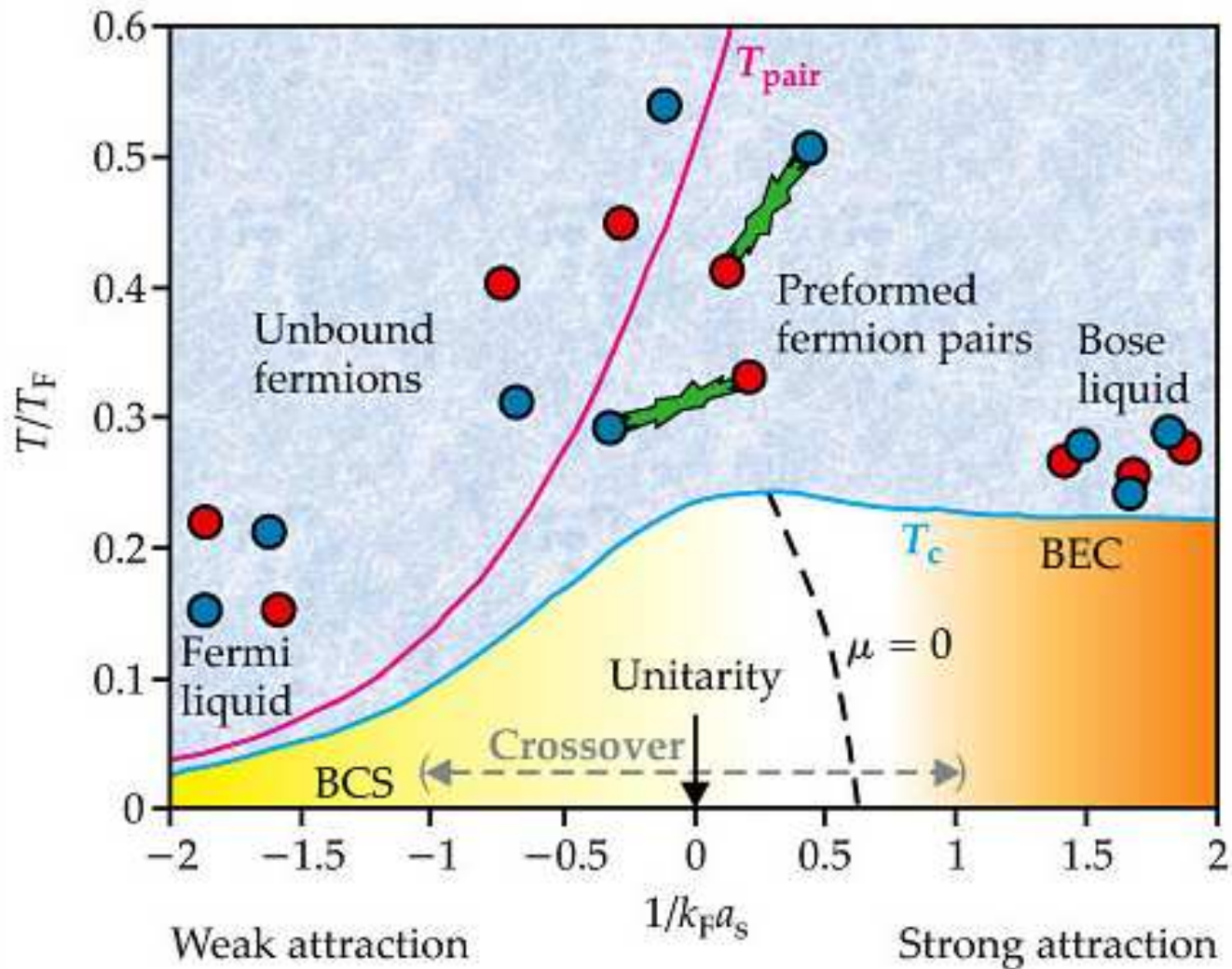# I. Unitary Fermi Gas

Atomic gas with two spin states: "↑" and "↓"

Feshbach resonance $\quad a(B) = a_0\left(1 + \dfrac{\Delta}{B - B_0}\right)$

"Unitarity" limit $a \to \infty$ $\qquad \sigma = \dfrac{4\pi}{k^2}$

Fermi Gas at Unitarity: Phase Diagram

Fermi gas at unitarity: Field Theory

Non-relativistic fermions at low momentum

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

Unitary limit: $a \to \infty$, $\sigma \to 4\pi/k^2$ ($C_0 \to \infty$)

This limit is smooth (HS-trafo, $\Psi = (\psi_\uparrow, \psi_\downarrow^\dagger)$

$$\mathcal{L} = \Psi^\dagger \left[i\partial_0 + \sigma_3 \frac{\vec{\nabla}^2}{2m} \right] \Psi + \left(\Psi^\dagger \sigma_+ \Psi \phi + h.c. \right) - \frac{1}{C_0} \phi^* \phi \,,$$

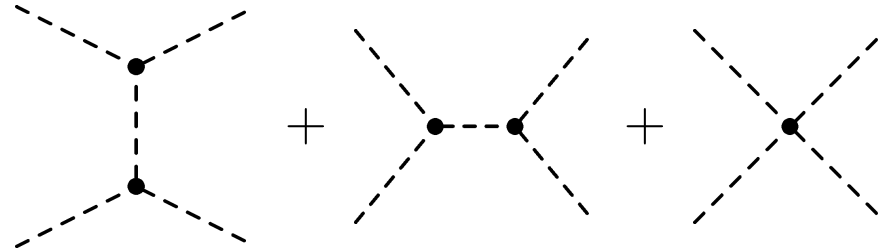Low T ($T < T_c \sim \mu$): Pairing and superfluidity

<u>Low T: Phonons</u> Goldstone boson $\psi\psi = e^{2i\varphi}\langle\psi\psi\rangle$

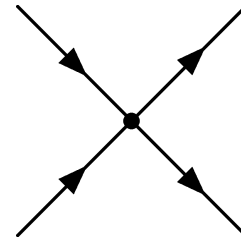$$\mathcal{L} = c_0 m^{3/2} \left(\mu - \dot{\varphi} - \frac{(\vec{\nabla}\varphi)^2}{2m} \right)^{5/2} + \dots$$

Viscosity dominated by $\varphi + \varphi \to \varphi + \varphi$

$$\eta = A\frac{\xi^5}{c_s^3}\frac{T_F^8}{T^5}$$

<u>High T: Atoms</u> Cross section regularized by thermal momentum
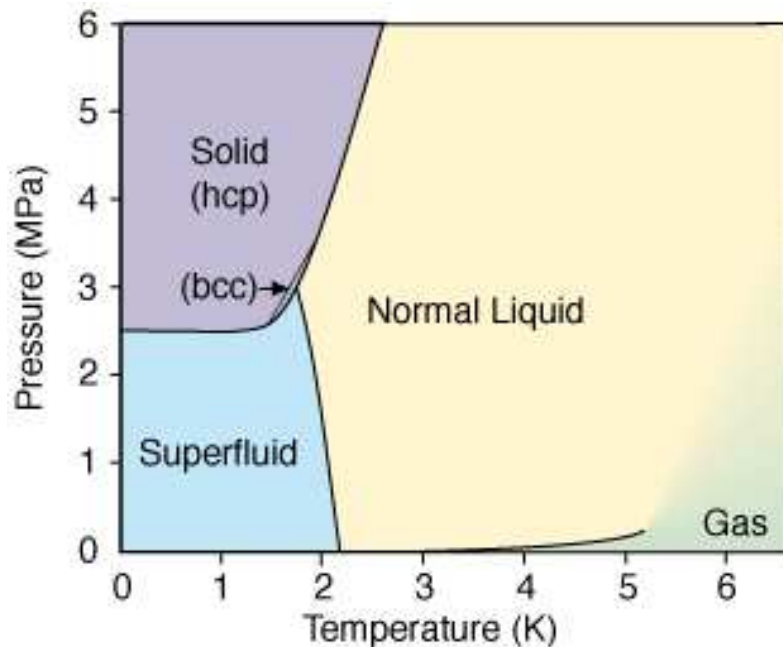
$$\eta = \frac{15}{32\sqrt{2}}(mT)^{3/2}$$

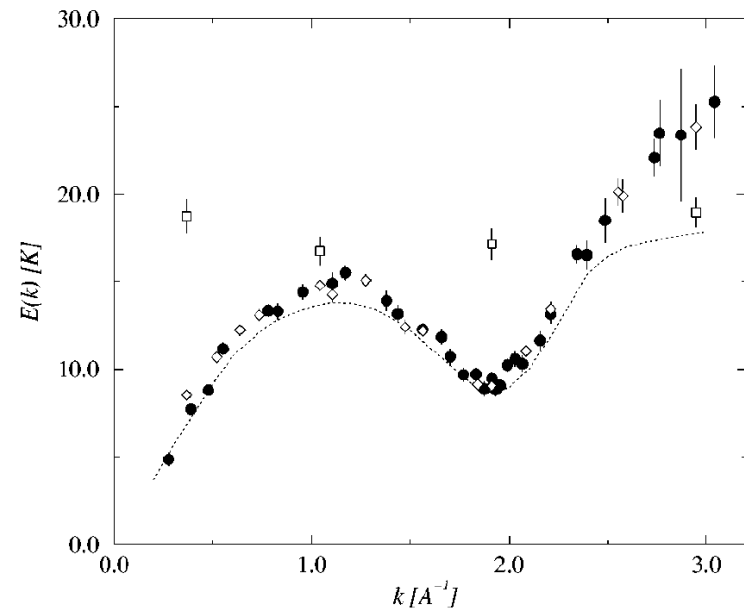# II. Liquid Helium

Bosons, van der Waals + short range repulsion

$$S = \int \Phi^\dagger \left(i\partial_0 + \frac{\nabla^2}{2M} \right) \Phi + \int \int \left(\Phi^\dagger \Phi \right) V(x-y) \left(\Phi^\dagger \Phi \right)$$

with $V(x) = V_{sr}(x) - c_6/x^6$. Note: $a = 189 a_0 \gg a_0$

Phase Diagram

Excitations

Low T: Phonons and Rotons Effective lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \varphi^*(\partial_0^2 - v^2)\varphi + i\lambda\dot{\varphi}(\vec{\nabla}\varphi)^2 + \ldots$$

$$+ \varphi_{R,v}^*(i\partial_0 - \Delta)\varphi_{R,v} + c_0(\varphi_{R,v}^*\varphi_{R,v})^2 + \ldots$$
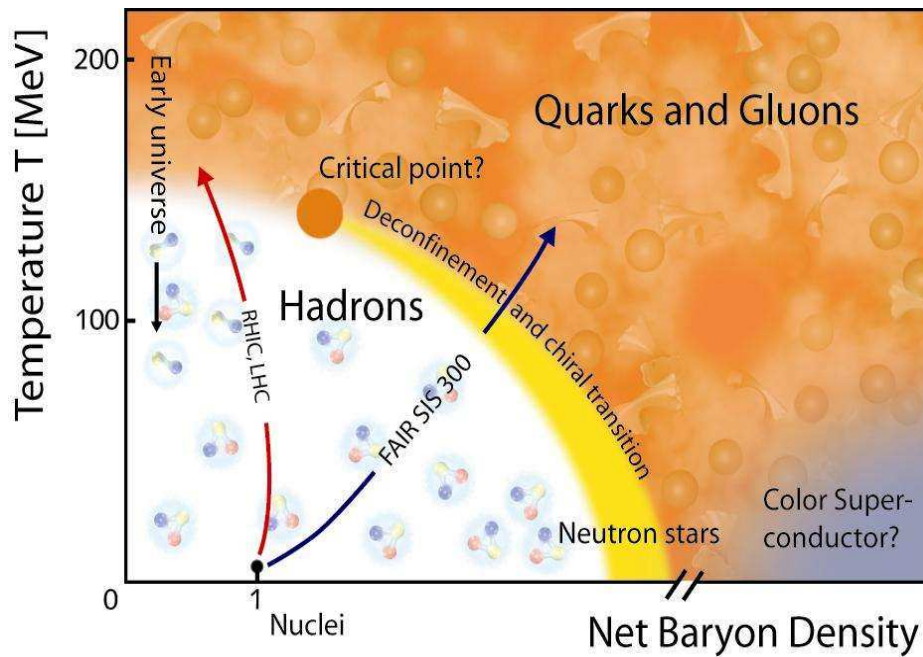
Shear viscosity

$$\eta = \eta_R + \frac{c_{Rph}}{\sqrt{T}}\, e^{\Delta/T} + \frac{c_{ph}}{T^5} + \ldots$$

High T: Atoms Viscosity governed by hard core ($V \sim 1/r^{12}$)

$$\eta = \eta_0(T/T_0)^{2/3}$$

III. Quark Gluon Plasma

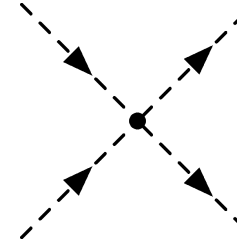$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{q}_f (i\slashed{D} - m_f)q_f - \frac{1}{4}G^a_{\mu\nu}G^a_{\mu\nu}$$

Low T: Pions Chiral perturbation theory

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{f_\pi^2}{4} \mathrm{Tr}[\partial_\mu U \partial^\mu U^\dagger] + (B\,\mathrm{Tr}[MU] + h.c.) + \dots$$

Viscosity dominated by $\pi\pi$ scattering

$$\eta = A\frac{f_\pi^4}{T}$$

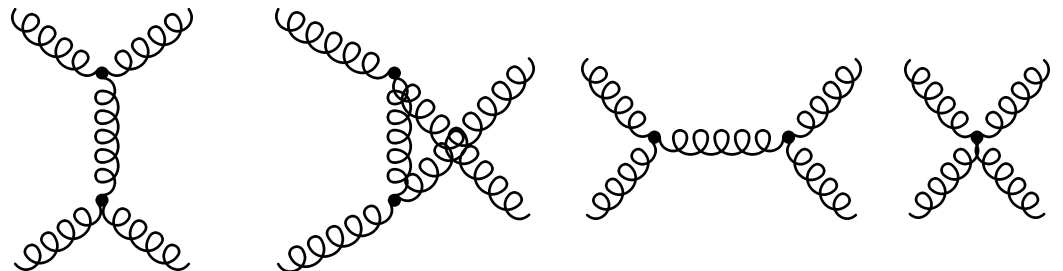## High T: Quasi-Particles HTL theory (screening, damping, …)

quasi-particle width

$$\mathcal{L}_{HTL} = \int d\Omega\, G^a_{\mu\alpha} \frac{v^\alpha v_\beta}{(v \cdot D)^2} G^{a,\mu\beta}$$
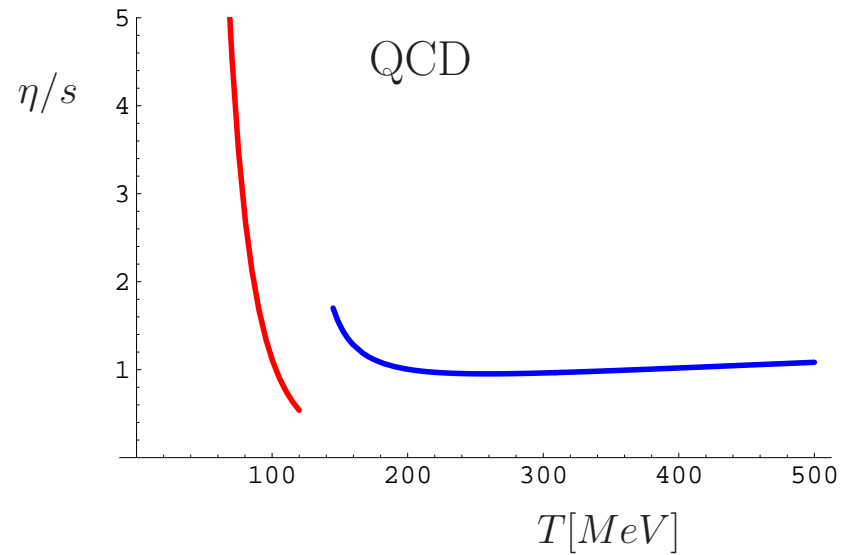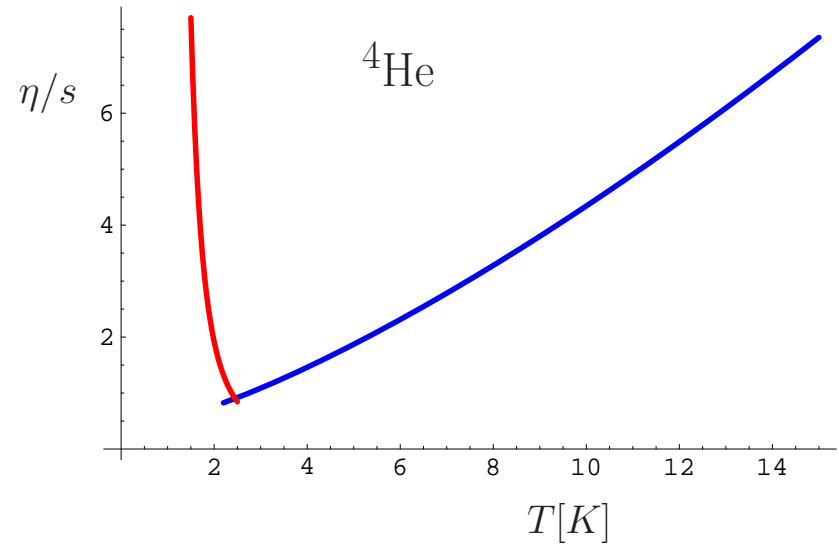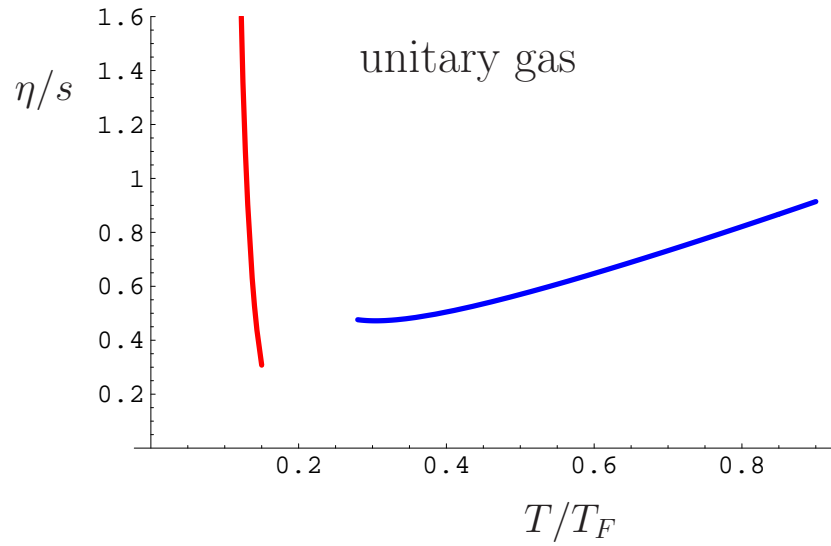
$$\gamma \sim g^2 T$$

Viscosity dominated by t-channel gluon exchange

$$\eta = \frac{27.13 T^3}{g^4 \log(2.7/g)}$$

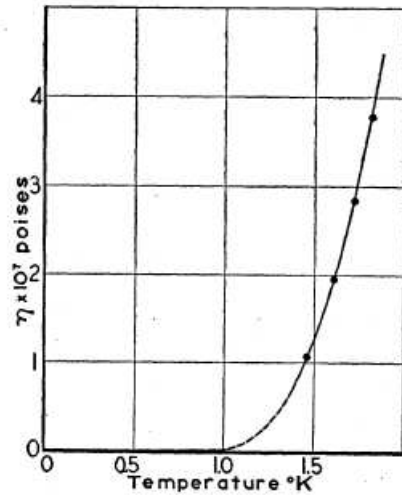# Theory Summary

I. Experiment (Liquid Helium)

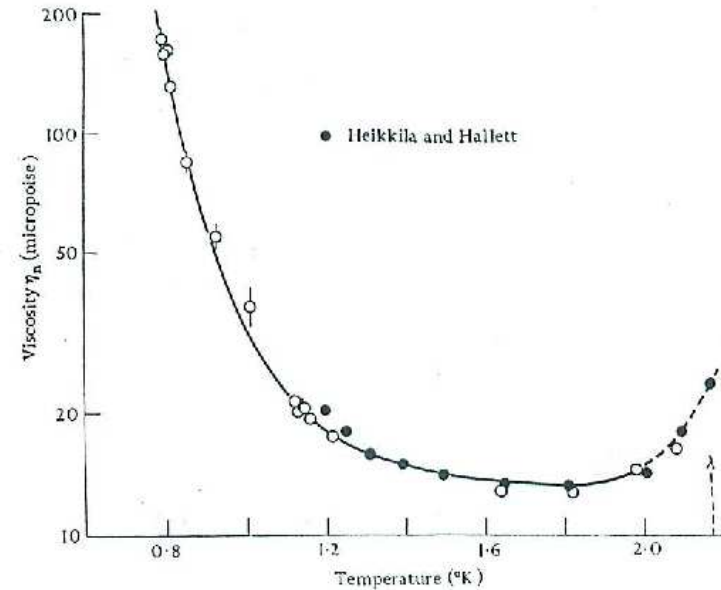FIG. 1. The viscosity of liquid helium II measured by flow through a 10^{-4} cm channel.

FIG. 11. The viscosity (η_n) of helium II as measured in a rotation viscometer (Woods and Hollis Hallett [50]). The full points show the earlier results of Heikkila and Hollis Hallett [51]).

Kapitza (1938)

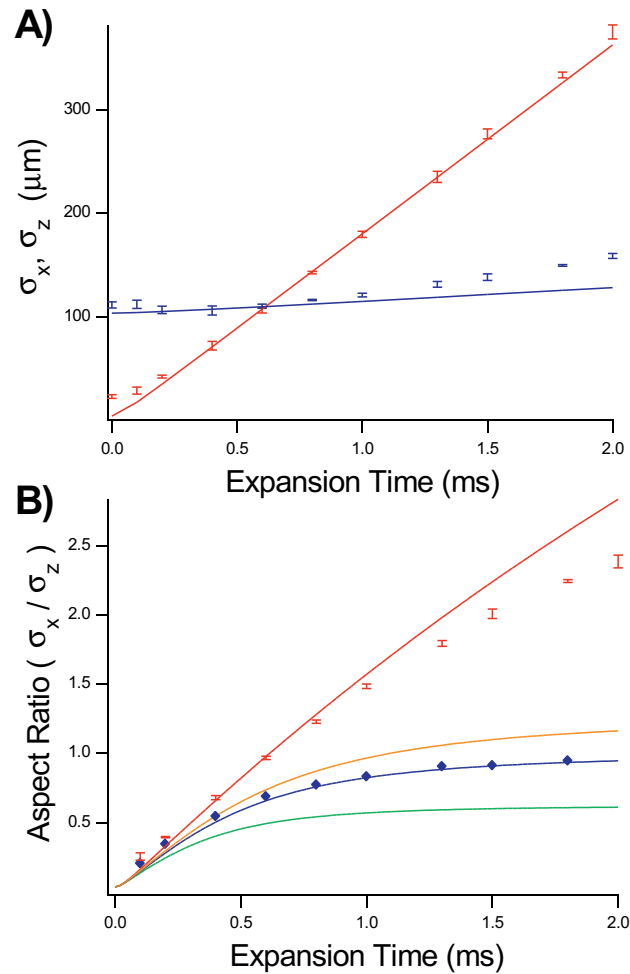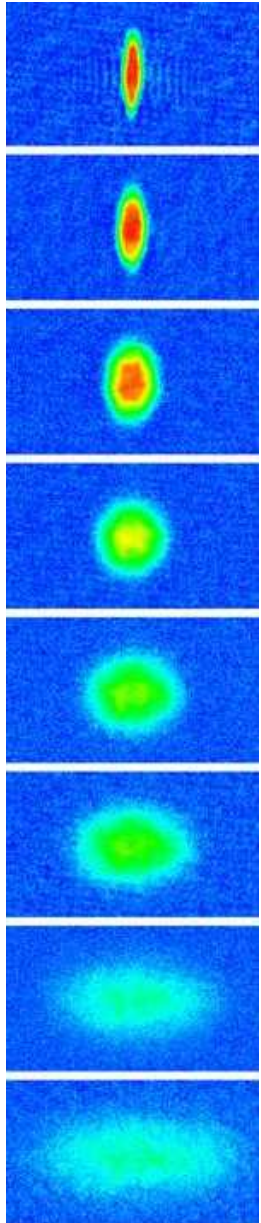viscosity vanishes below T_c

capillary flow viscometer

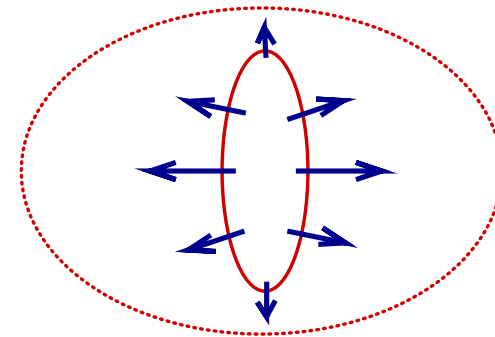Hollis-Hallett (1955)

roton minimum, phonon rise

rotation viscometer

$$\eta/s \simeq 0.8\,\hbar/k_B$$

II. Elliptic Flow (Fermions)

A)

Aspect Ratio axis: σ_x, σ_z (μm)

Expansion Time (ms)

B)

Aspect Ratio (σ_x / σ_z)
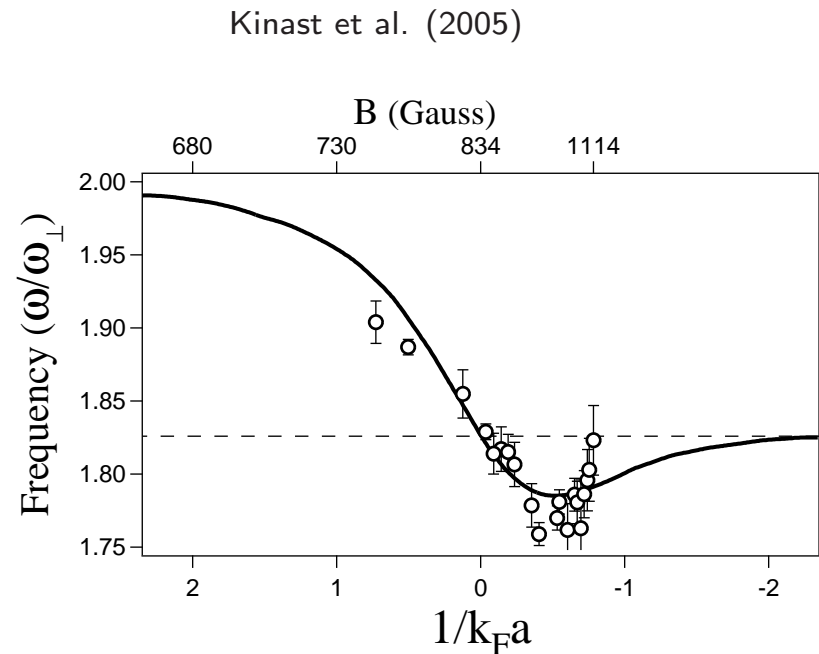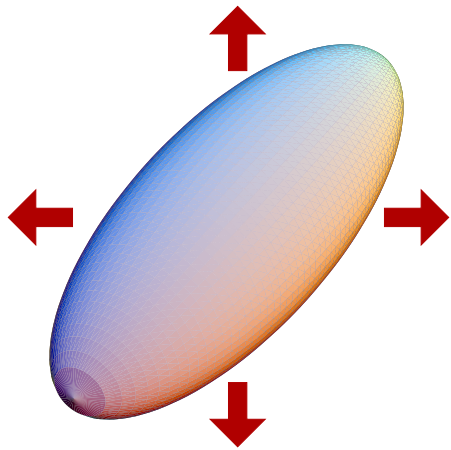
Expansion Time (ms)

Hydrodynamic
expansion converts
coordinate space
anisotropy
to momentum space
anisotropy

Collective Modes

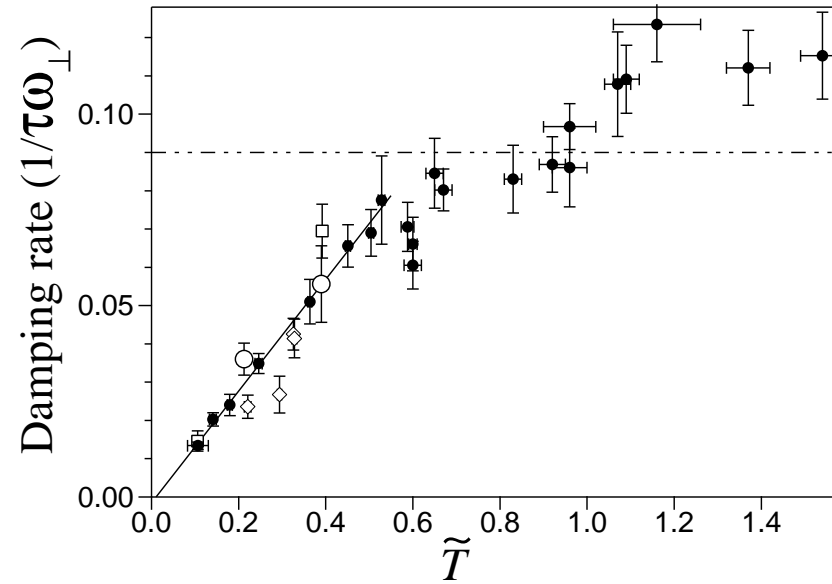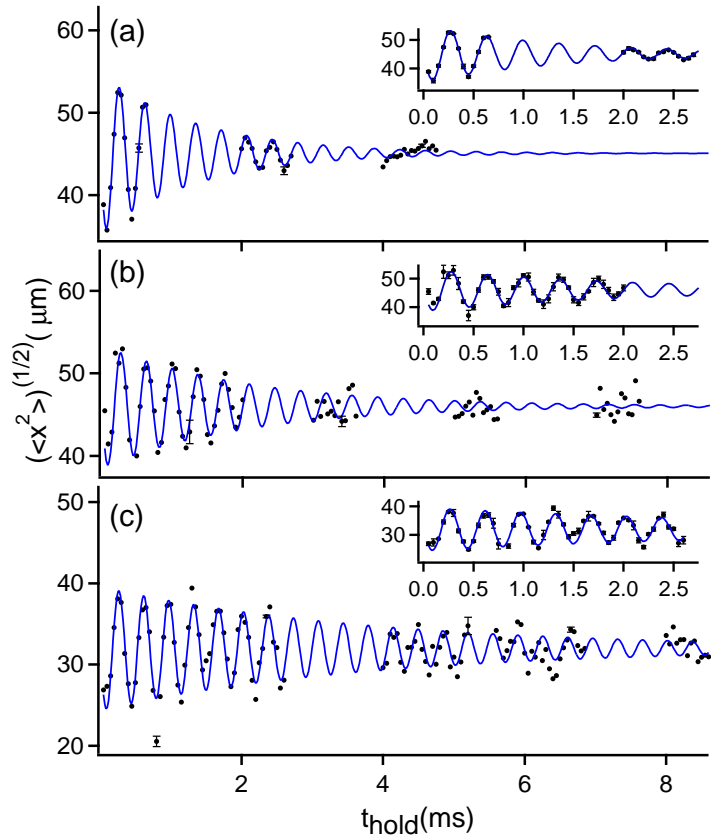## Radial breathing mode

Kinast et al. (2005)

Ideal fluid hydrodynamics, equation of state $P \sim n^{5/3}$

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot (n\vec{v}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + \left(\vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}\right) \vec{v} = -\frac{1}{mn}\vec{\nabla}P - \frac{1}{m}\vec{\nabla}V$$

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{10}{3}}\omega_\perp$$

Damping of Collective Excitations

$T/T_F = (0.5, 0.33, 0.17)$

$\tau\omega$: decay time $\times$ trap frequency

Kinast et al. (2005)

Viscous Hydrodynamics
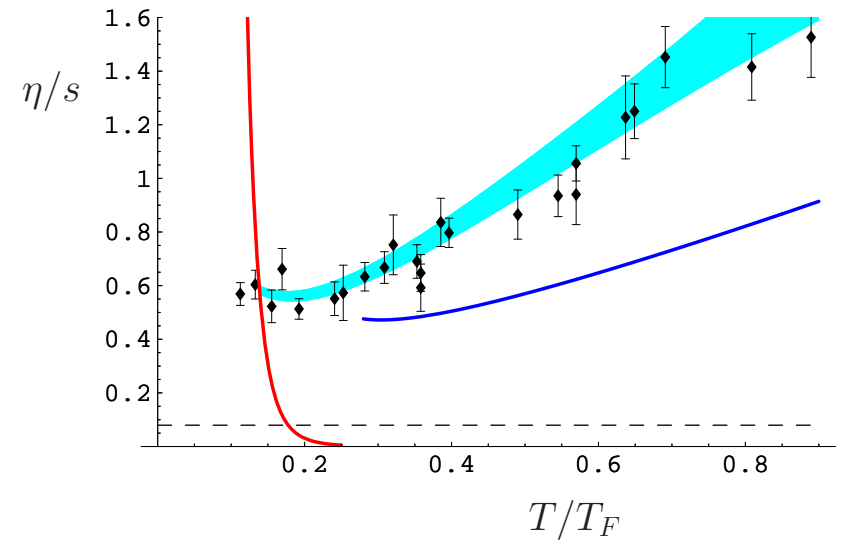
Energy dissipation (η, ζ, κ: shear, bulk viscosity, heat conductivity)

$$\dot{E} = -\frac{\eta}{2} \int d^3x \left(\partial_i v_j + \partial_j v_i - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \partial_k v_k \right)^2$$

$$- \zeta \int d^3x \, (\partial_i v_i)^2 - \frac{\kappa}{T} \int d^3x \, (\partial_i T)^2$$

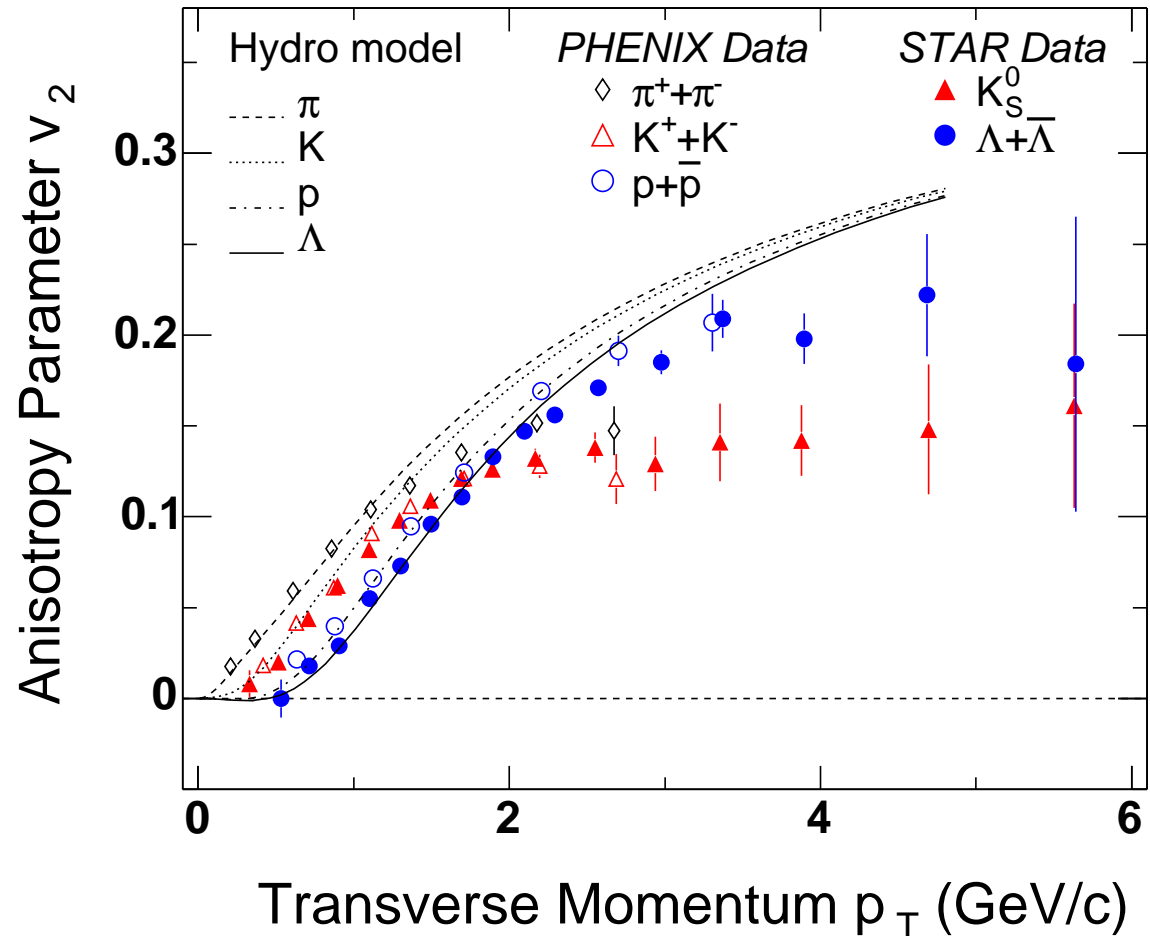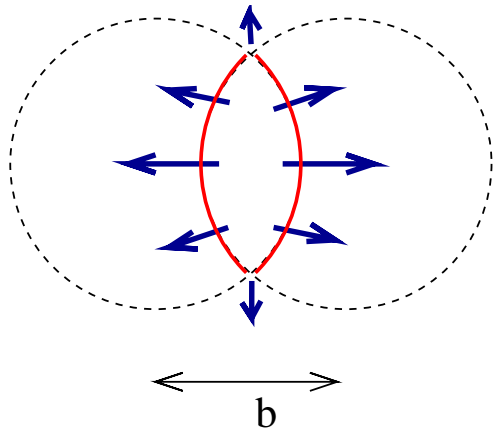Shear viscosity to entropy ratio

(assuming $\zeta = \kappa = 0$)

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{3}{4} \xi^{\frac{1}{2}} (3N)^{\frac{1}{3}} \frac{\Gamma}{\omega_\perp} \frac{\bar{\omega}}{\omega_\perp} \frac{N}{S}$$

see also Bruun, Smith, Gelman et al.

η/s vs T/T_F

III. Elliptic Flow (QGP)

Hydrodynamic
expansion converts

coordinate space
anisotropy

to momentum space
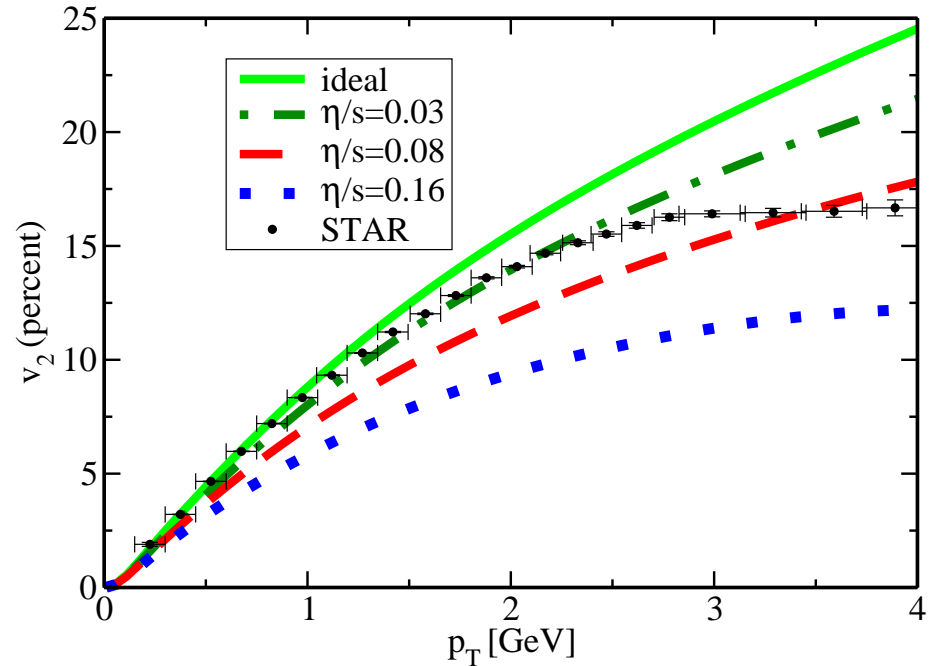anisotropy

source: U. Heinz (2005)

Viscosity and Elliptic Flow

Consistency condition $T_{\mu\nu} \gg \delta T_{\mu\nu}$
(applicability of Navier-Stokes)

$$\frac{\eta + \frac{4}{3}\zeta}{s} \ll \frac{3}{4}(\tau T)$$

Danielewicz, Gyulassy (1985)

Very restrictive for $\tau < 1$ fm

Romatschke (2007), Teaney (2003)

Many questions: Dependence on initial conditions, freeze out, etc.

Outlook

Too early to declare a winner.

$$\eta/s \simeq 0.8 \text{ (He)}, \qquad \eta/s \leq 0.5 \text{ (CA)}, \qquad \eta/s \leq 0.5 \text{ (QGP)}$$

Other experimental constraints, more analysis needed.

Existing theory tools: Kinetic theory in low/high T limit, Kubo+field theory tools (lattice, etc), dynamic universality, . . .

New theory tools: AdS/Cold Atom correspondence? Field theory approaches in cross over regime (large N, epsilon expansions, . . .)