

Title: Holography & Heavy-Ion Collisions

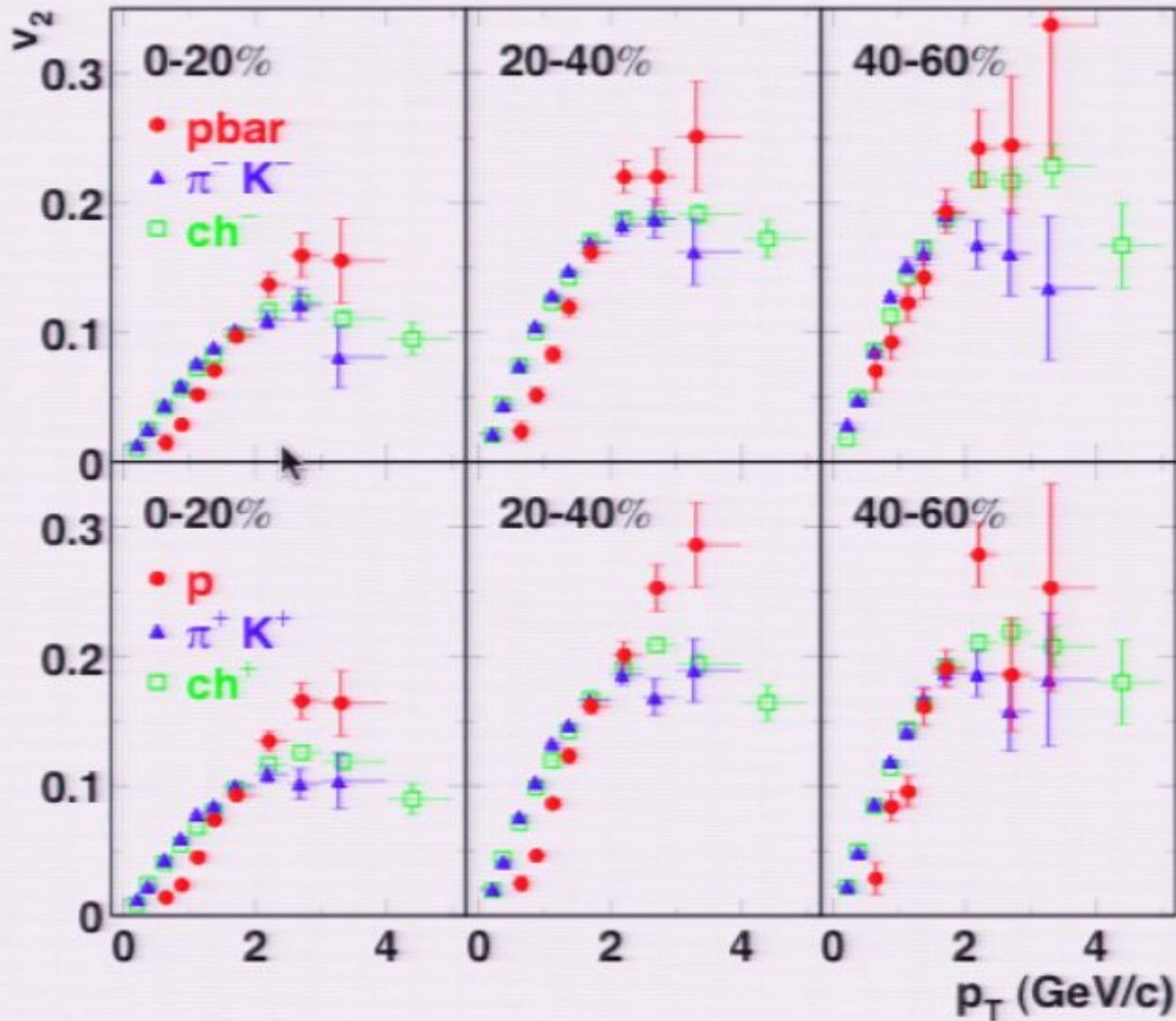
Date: Nov 03, 2009 11:00 AM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/09110000>

Abstract: Ultrarelativistic heavy-ion collisions are one of the most difficult problems for theoretical physicists: they probe non-abelian dynamics deep in the non-perturbative (strong coupling) regime in a many-body system, are highly dynamical (strong gradients), exhibit collective behavior, and involve phase transitions. Fluid dynamics with input from holography is surprisingly good at describing some aspects of experimental data in heavy-ion collisions. I will review some of this successful description, its limitations, and point out open problems that one may be able to understand using gauge/gravity duality.

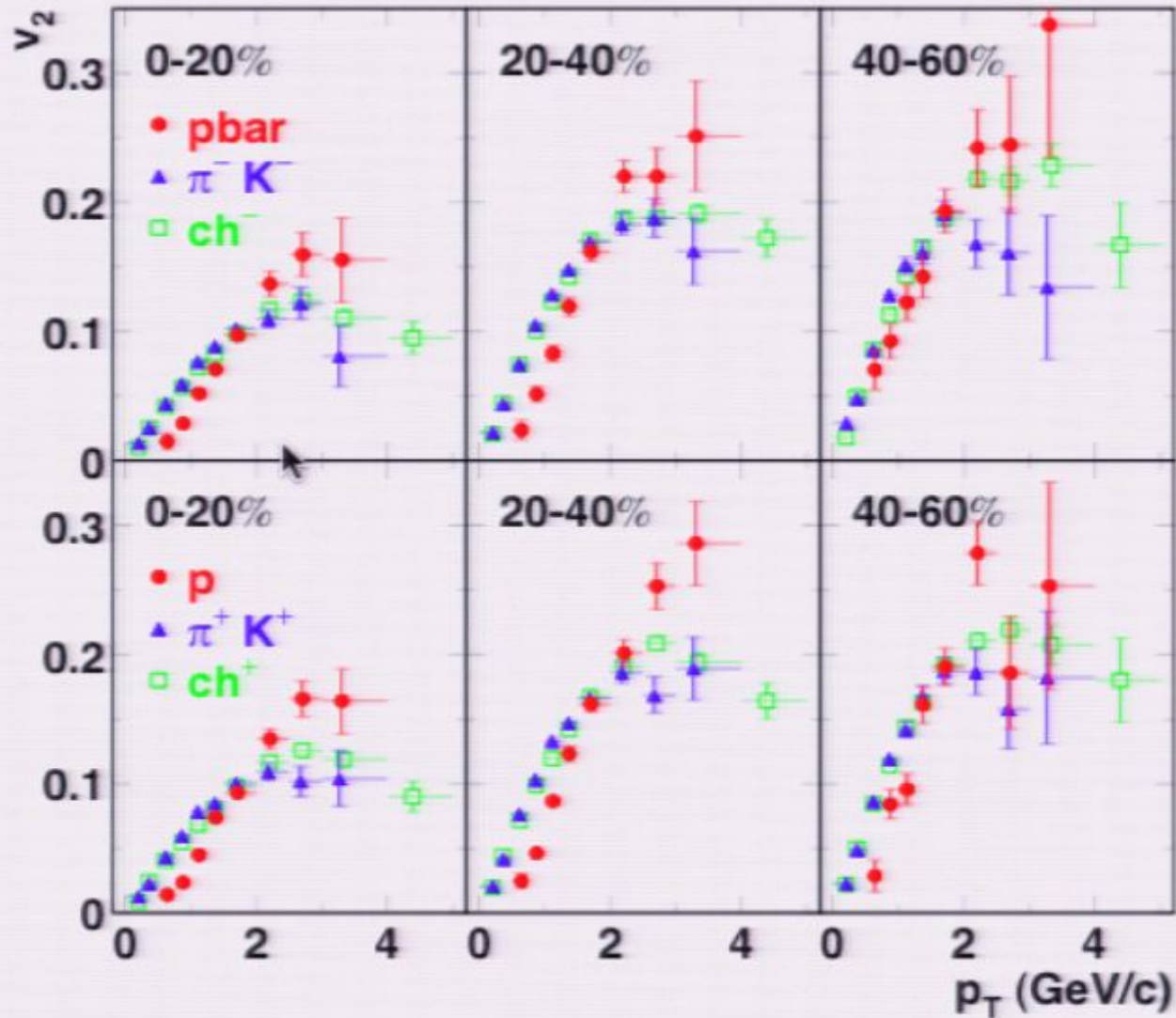
# Experimental Data

Elliptic Flow at RHIC  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV



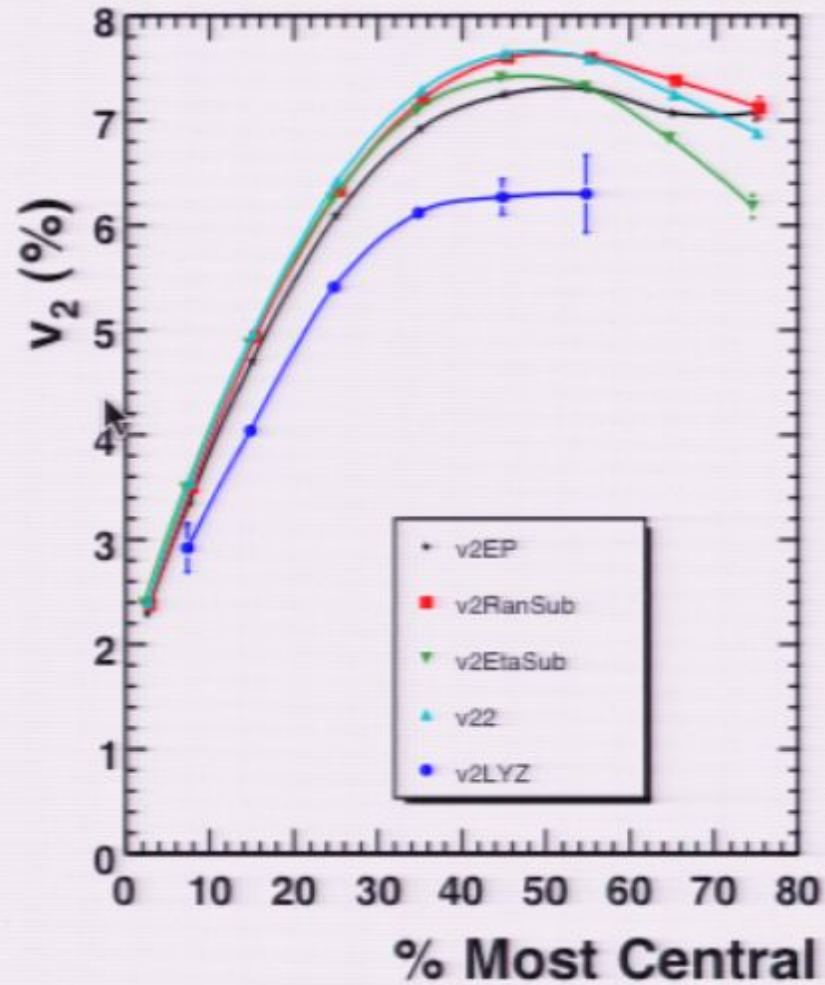
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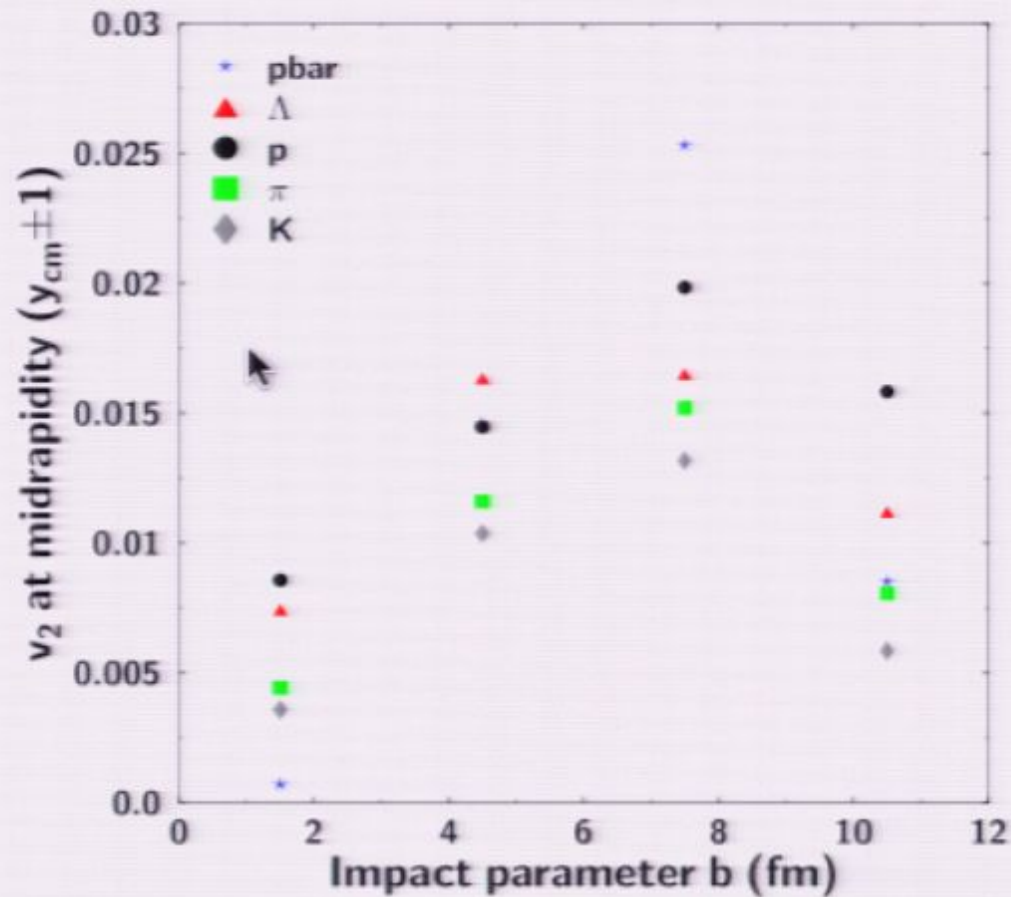
Elliptic Flow at RHIC: Not all measurements are equal





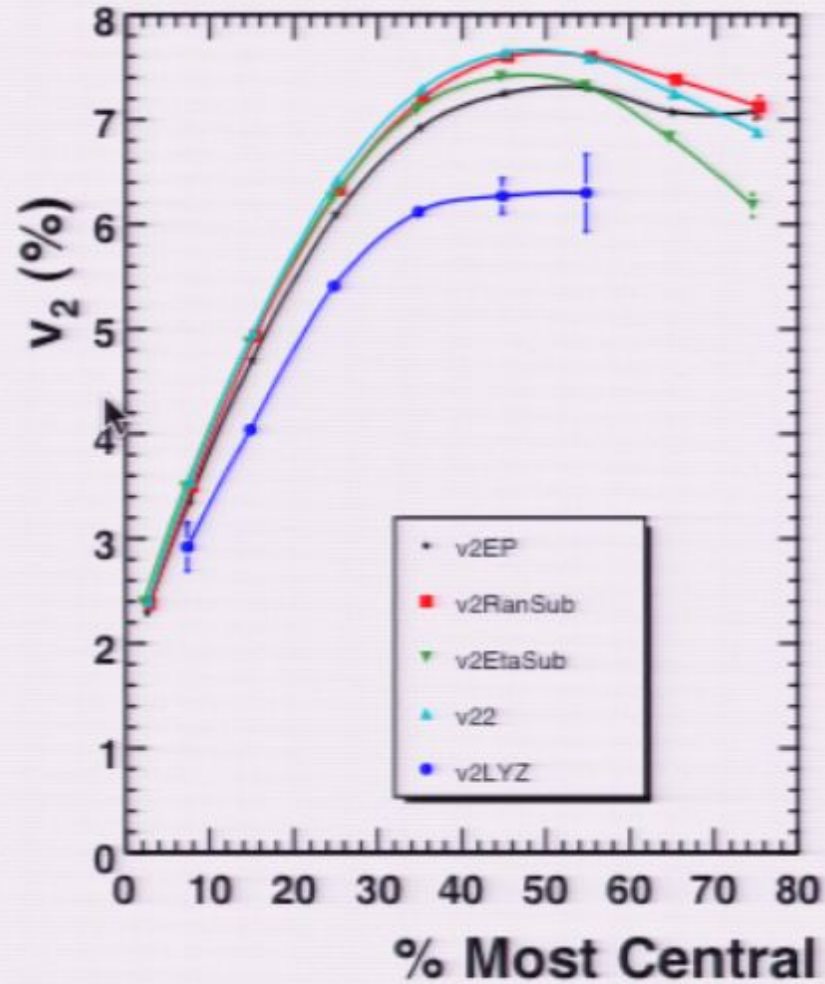
# What kind of physics dominates at RHIC?

Is it Kinetic Theory?



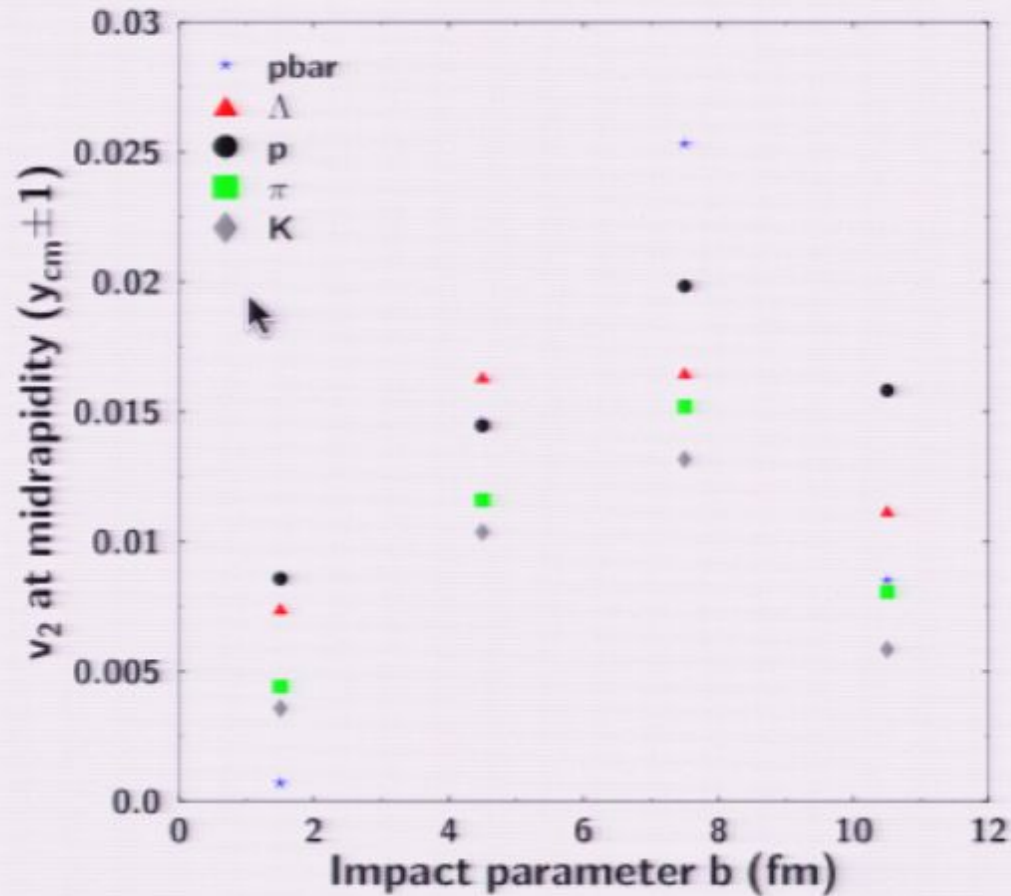
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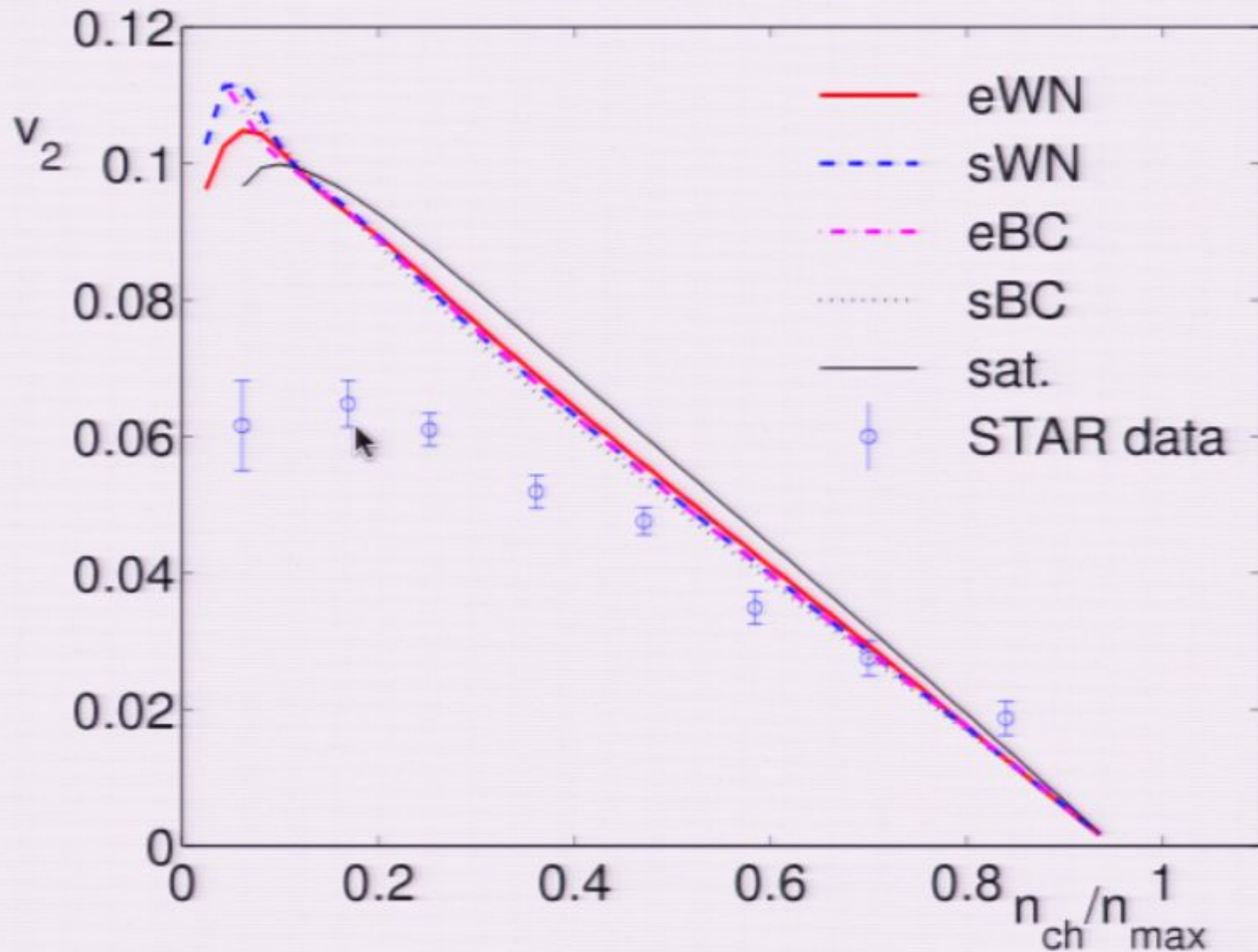
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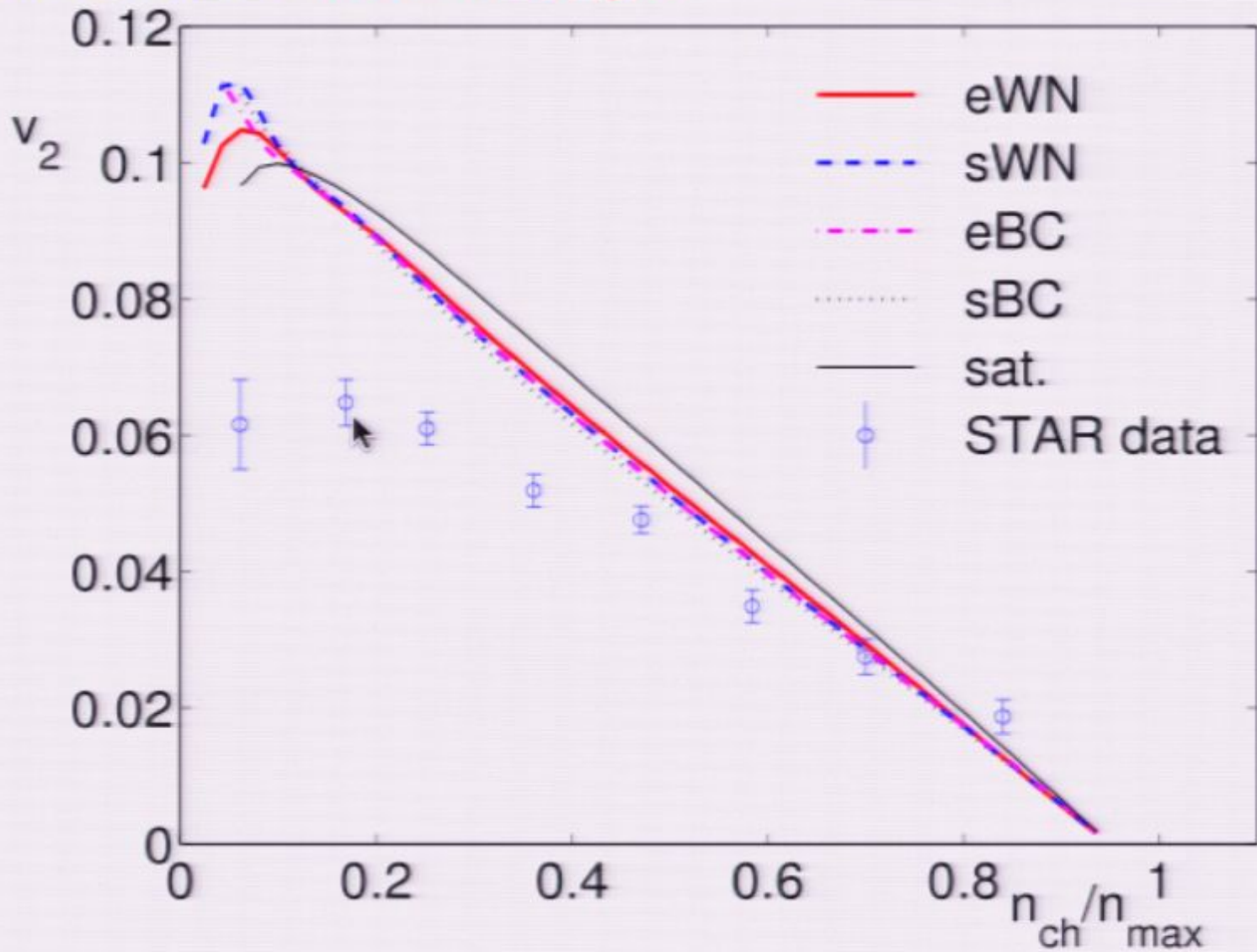
Is it Ideal Fluid Dynamics?





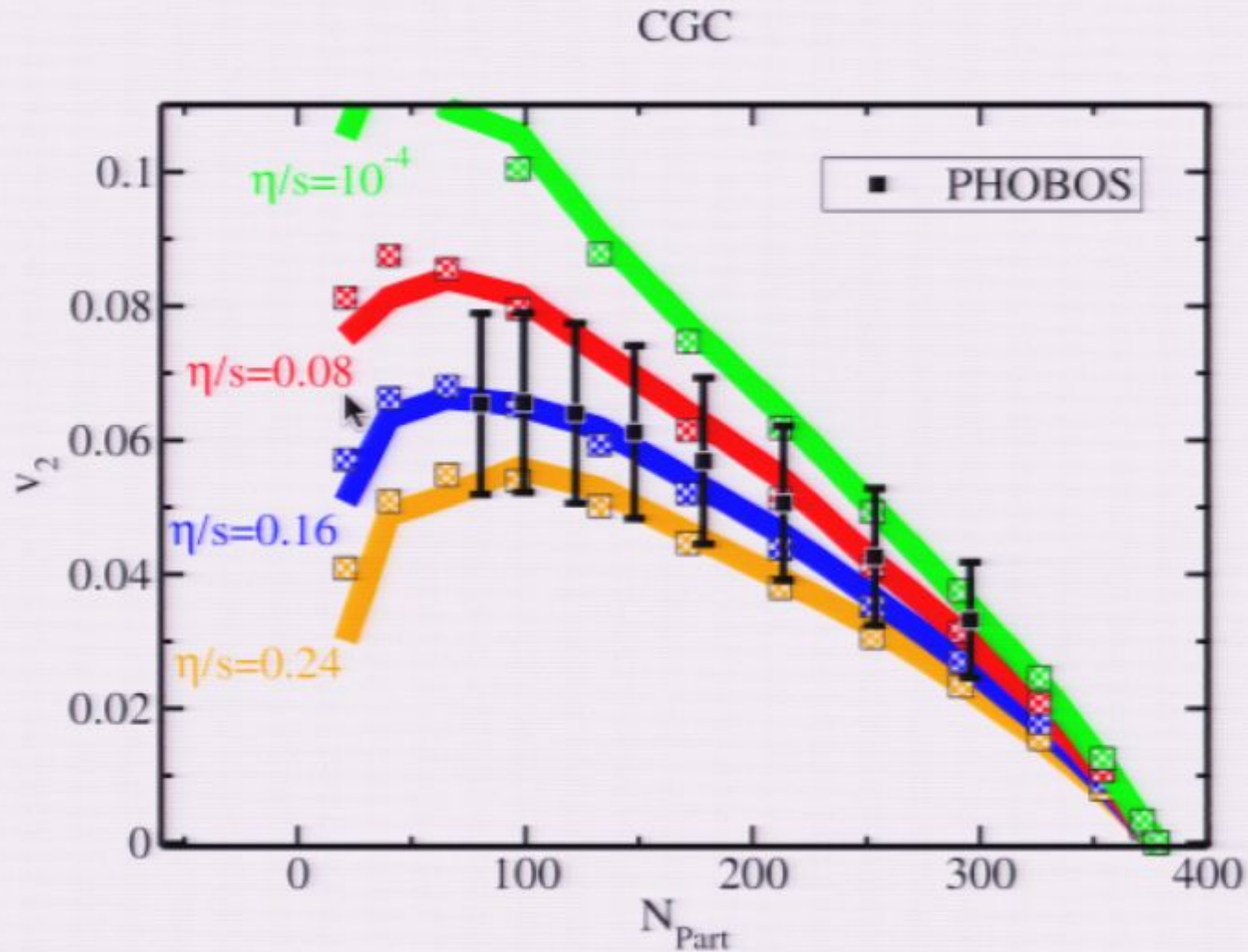
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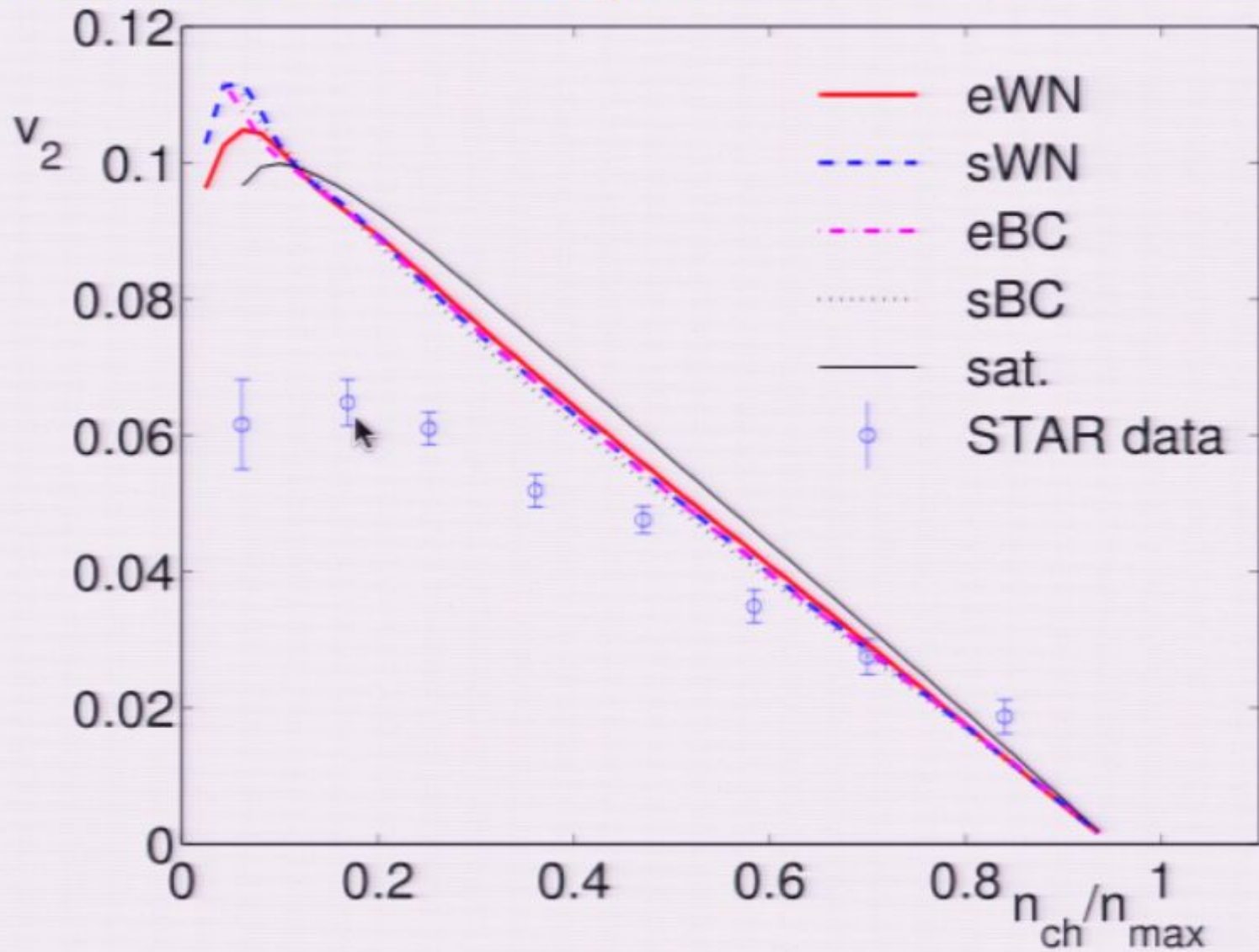
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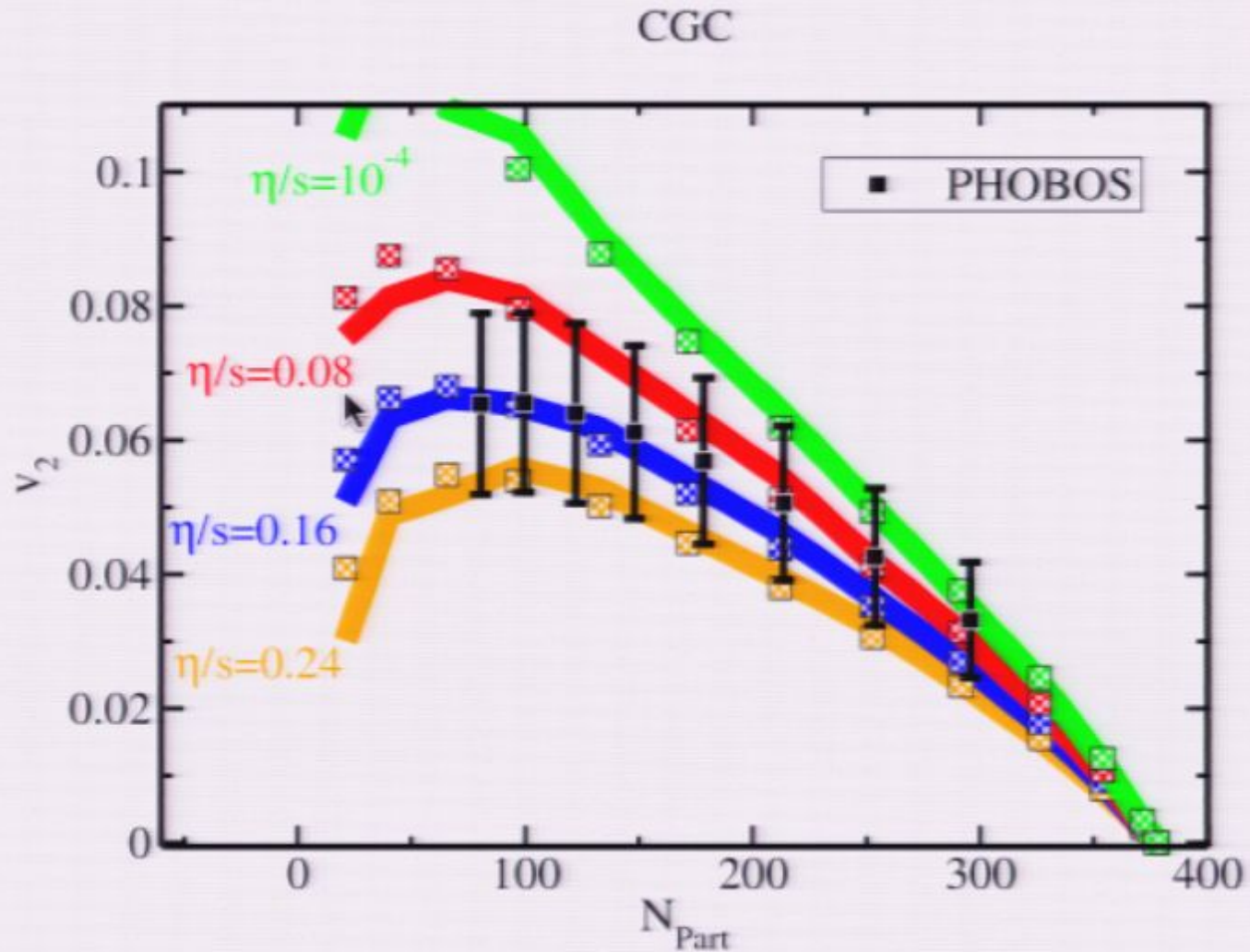
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# Connections to Holography

- ▶ Kinetic Theory for QCD ( $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ ):

$$\frac{\eta}{s} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

[Arnold, Moore, Yaffe, 2003]

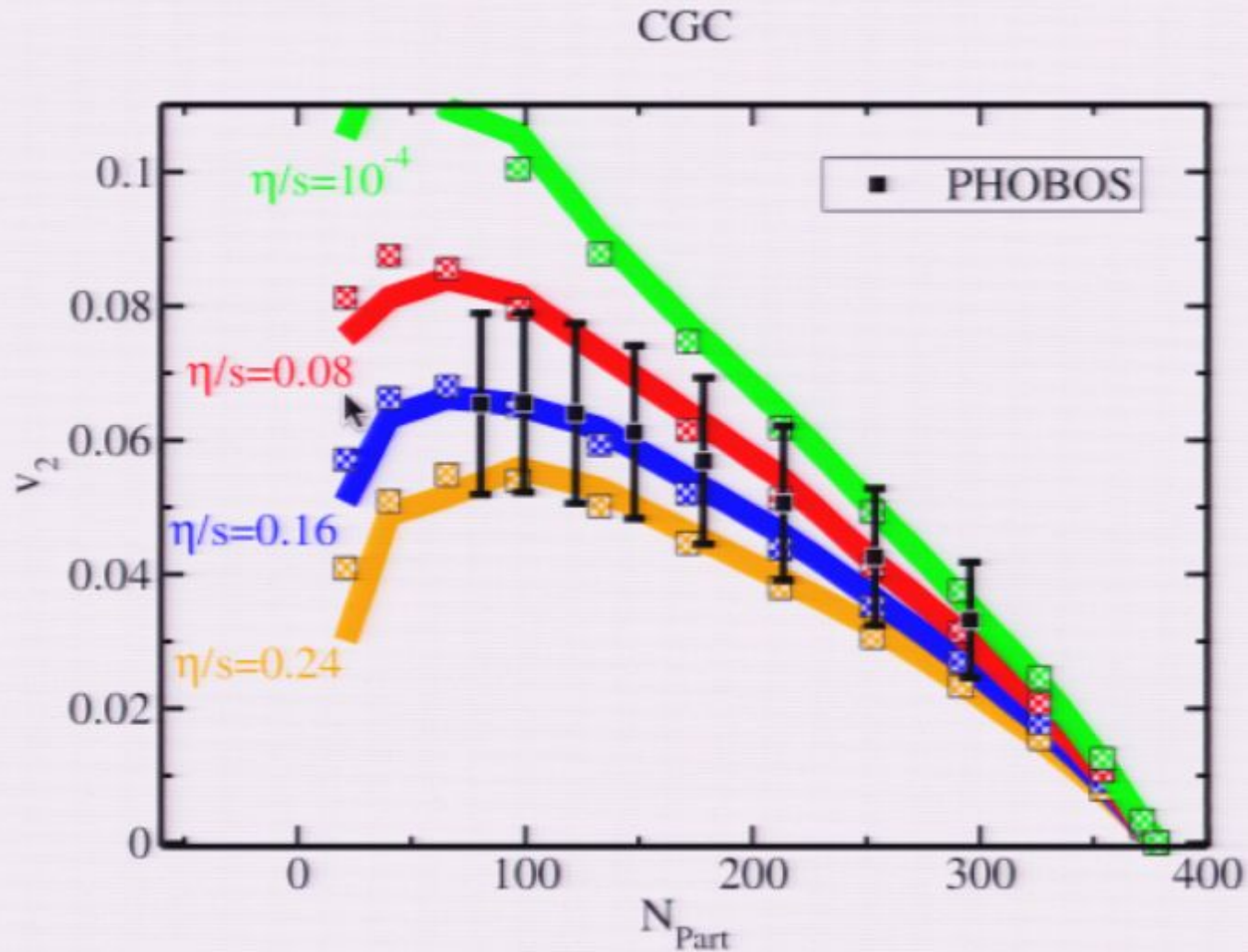
- ▶ Holography for  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$  &  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sim 0.08$$

[Policastro, Son, Starinets, 2001]

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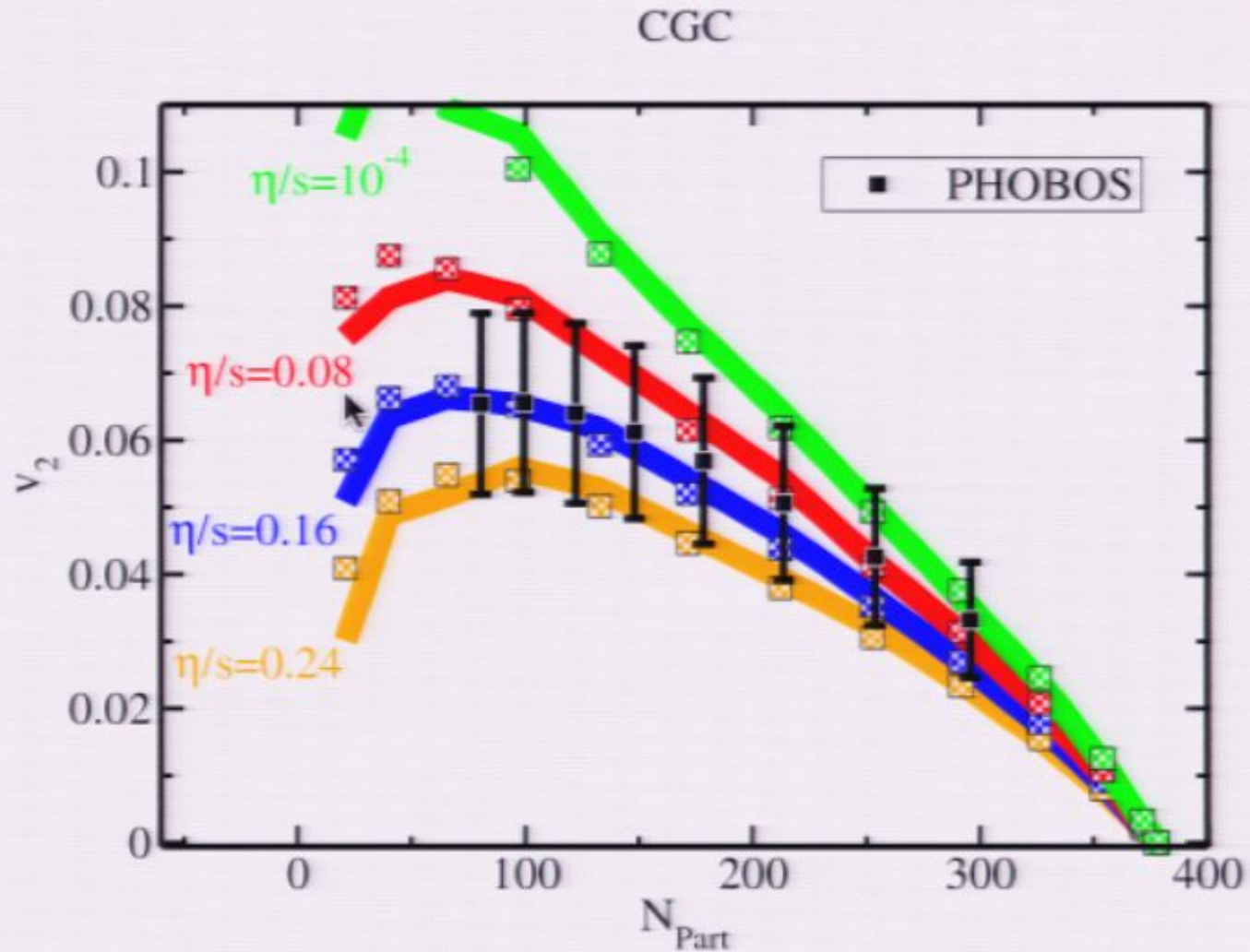
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# Viscous Fluid Dynamics

Fluid Dynamics = Conservation of  
Energy+Momentum for long wavelength modes

$$T_{id}^{\mu\nu} = \epsilon u^\mu u^\nu - p(g^{\mu\nu} - u^\mu u^\nu) \quad (\text{Fluid EMT, no gradients})$$

+

$$\partial_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad (\text{"EMT Conservation"})$$

=

Ideal Fluid Dynamics



# Non-relativistic Ideal Fluid Dynamics

$$\partial_t v^i + v^m \partial_m v^i = -\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_j \delta^{ij} p$$

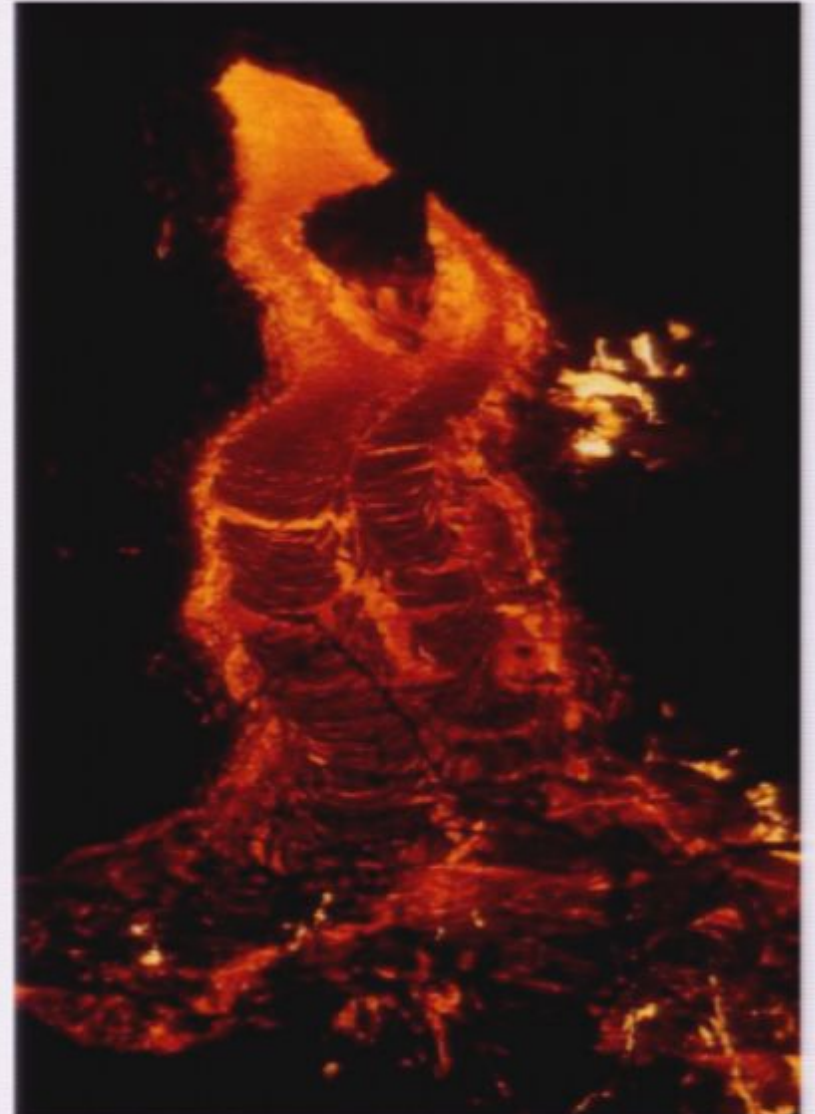
[L. Euler, 1755]

- ▶ Non-linear
- ▶ Non-dissipative: “Ideal Fluid Dynamics”

# Non-linear & Non-dissipative: Turbulence



# Non-linear & Dissipative: Laminar





# Non-linear & Dissipative: Laminar

Viscosity dampens turbulent instability!



# Relativistic Ideal Fluid Dynamics

$$T^{\mu\nu} = T_{id}^{\mu\nu} \quad (\text{Fluid EMT, no gradients})$$

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Ideal Fluid Dynamics

# Relativistic Viscous Fluid Dynamics

$$T^{\mu\nu} = T_{\text{id}}^{\mu\nu} + \Pi^{\mu\nu} \quad (\text{Fluid EMT, 1}^{\text{st}} \text{ o. gradients})$$

+

$$\partial_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad (\text{"EMT Conservation"})$$

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Relativistic Navier-Stokes Equation

# Relativistic Viscous Fluid Dynamics

- ▶ L. Euler, 1755:

$$\partial_t v^i + v^m \partial_m v^i = -\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_j \delta^{ij} p$$

- ▶ C. Navier, 1822; G. Stokes 1845:

$$\partial_t v^i + v^m \partial_m v^i = -\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_j [\delta^{ij} p + \Pi^{ij}] ,$$

$$\Pi^{ij} = -\eta \left( \frac{\partial v^i}{\partial x^j} + \frac{\partial v^j}{\partial x^i} - \frac{2}{3} \delta^{ij} \frac{\partial v^l}{\partial x^l} \right) - \zeta \delta^{ij} \frac{\partial v^l}{\partial x^l} ,$$

- ▶  $\eta, \zeta \dots$  transport coefficients (“viscosities”)

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- ▶ Good enough for non-relativistic systems
- ▶ NOT good enough for relativistic systems



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# Navier-Stokes: Problems with Causality

Consider small perturbations around equilibrium

- ▶ Transverse velocity perturbations obey

$$\partial_t \delta u^y - \frac{\eta}{\epsilon + \rho} \partial_x^2 \delta u^y = 0$$

- ▶ Diffusion speed of wavemode  $k$ :

$$v_T(k) = 2k \frac{\eta}{\epsilon + \rho} \rightarrow \infty \quad (k \gg 1)$$

- ▶ Know how to regulate: “second-order” theories:

$$\tau_\pi \partial_t^2 \delta u^y + \partial_t \delta u^y - \frac{\eta}{\epsilon + \rho} \partial_x^2 \delta u^y = 0$$

[Maxwell (1867), Cattaneo (1948)]

# Second Order Fluid Dynamics

- ▶ Limiting speed is finite

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} v_L(k) = \sqrt{c_s^2 + \frac{4\eta}{3\tau_\pi(\epsilon + p)} + \frac{\zeta}{\tau_\Pi(\epsilon + p)}}$$

[PR, 2009]

- ▶  $\tau_\pi, \tau_\Pi, \dots$ : “2<sup>nd</sup> order” regulators for “1<sup>st</sup> order” fluid dynamics
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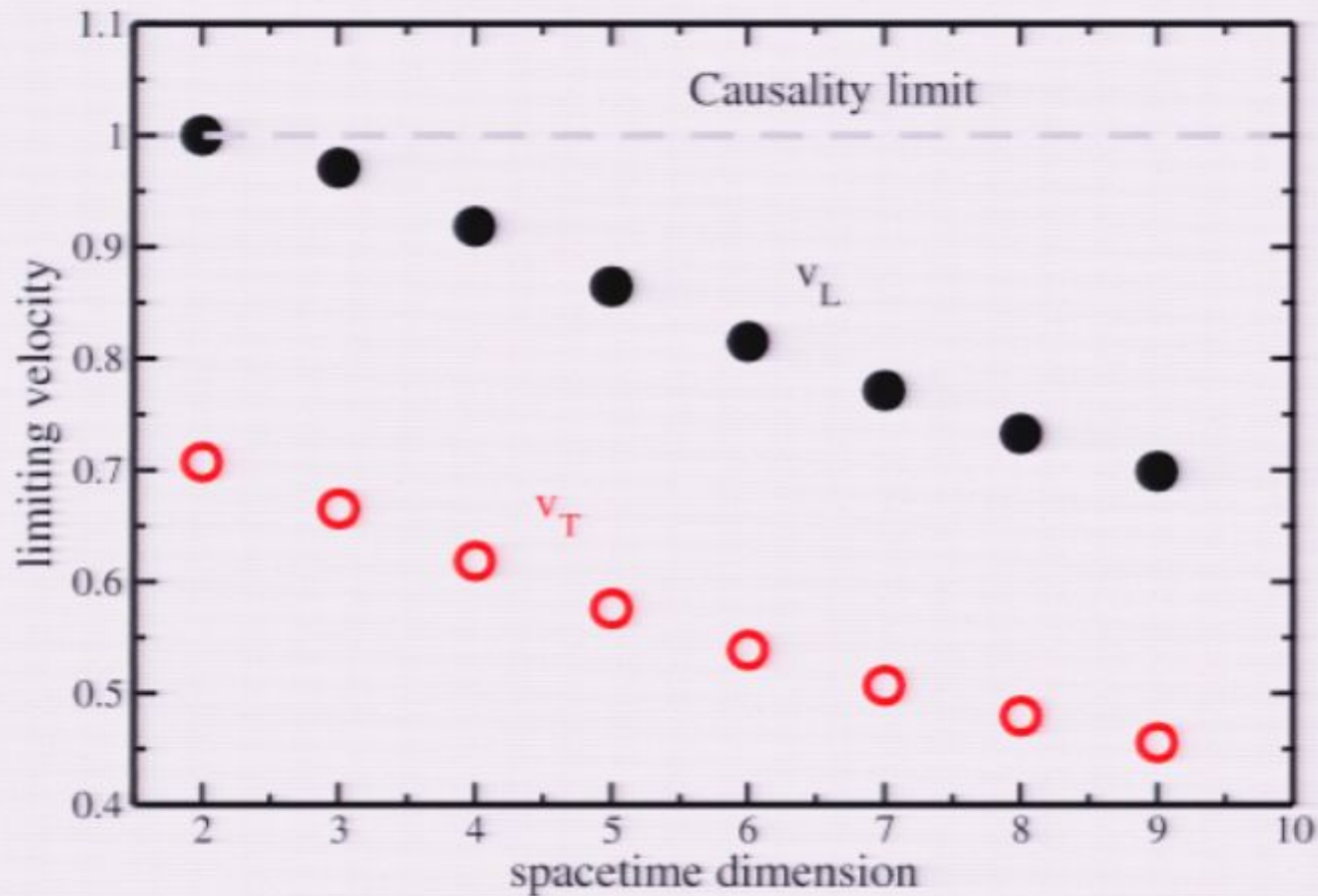
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# Holography: Results for limiting velocities

$\lambda \rightarrow \infty, AdS_{D+1}$





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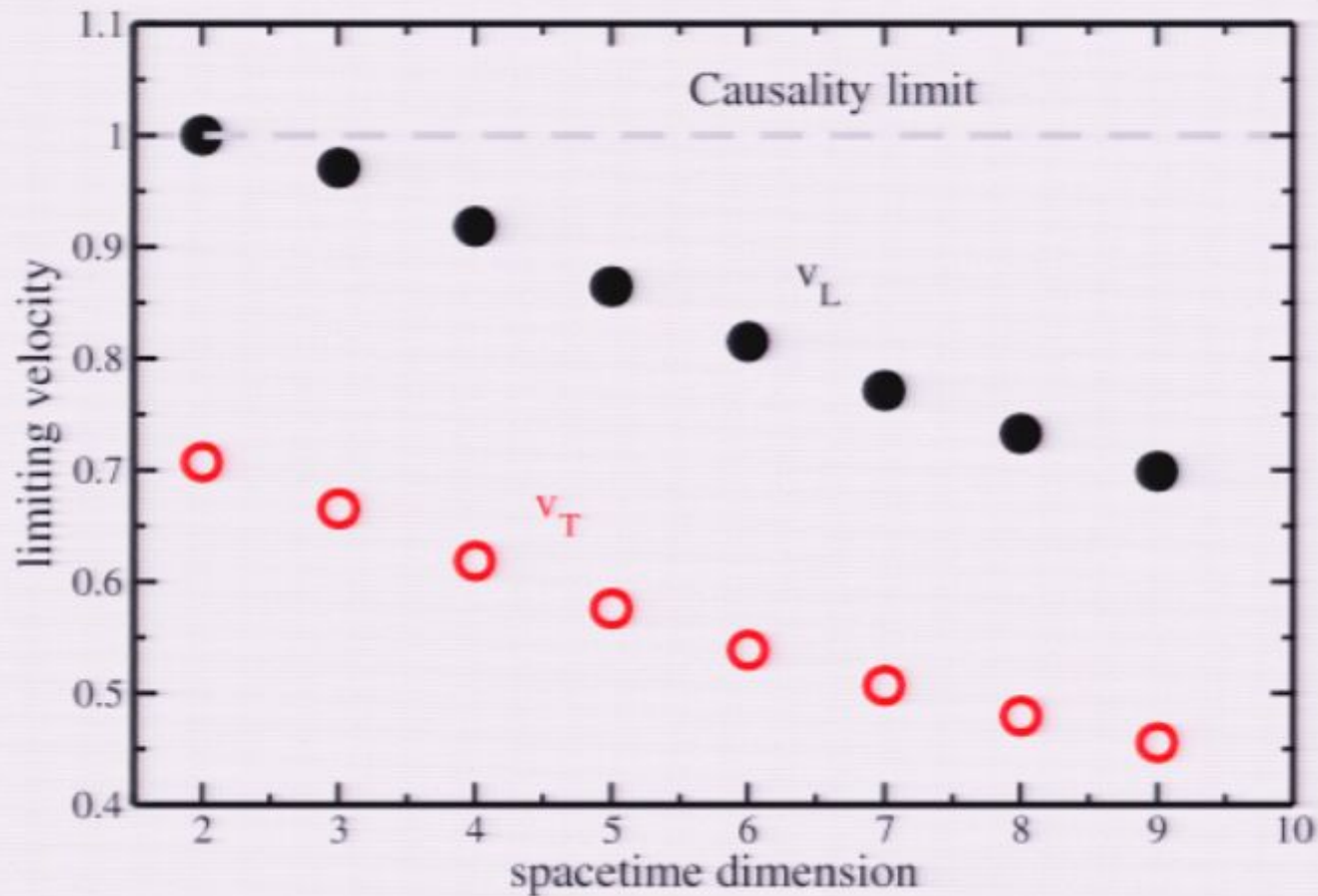
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- ▶ Shear sector  $\tau_\pi$ :  $v_{T,L}$  decrease with decreasing  $\lambda$

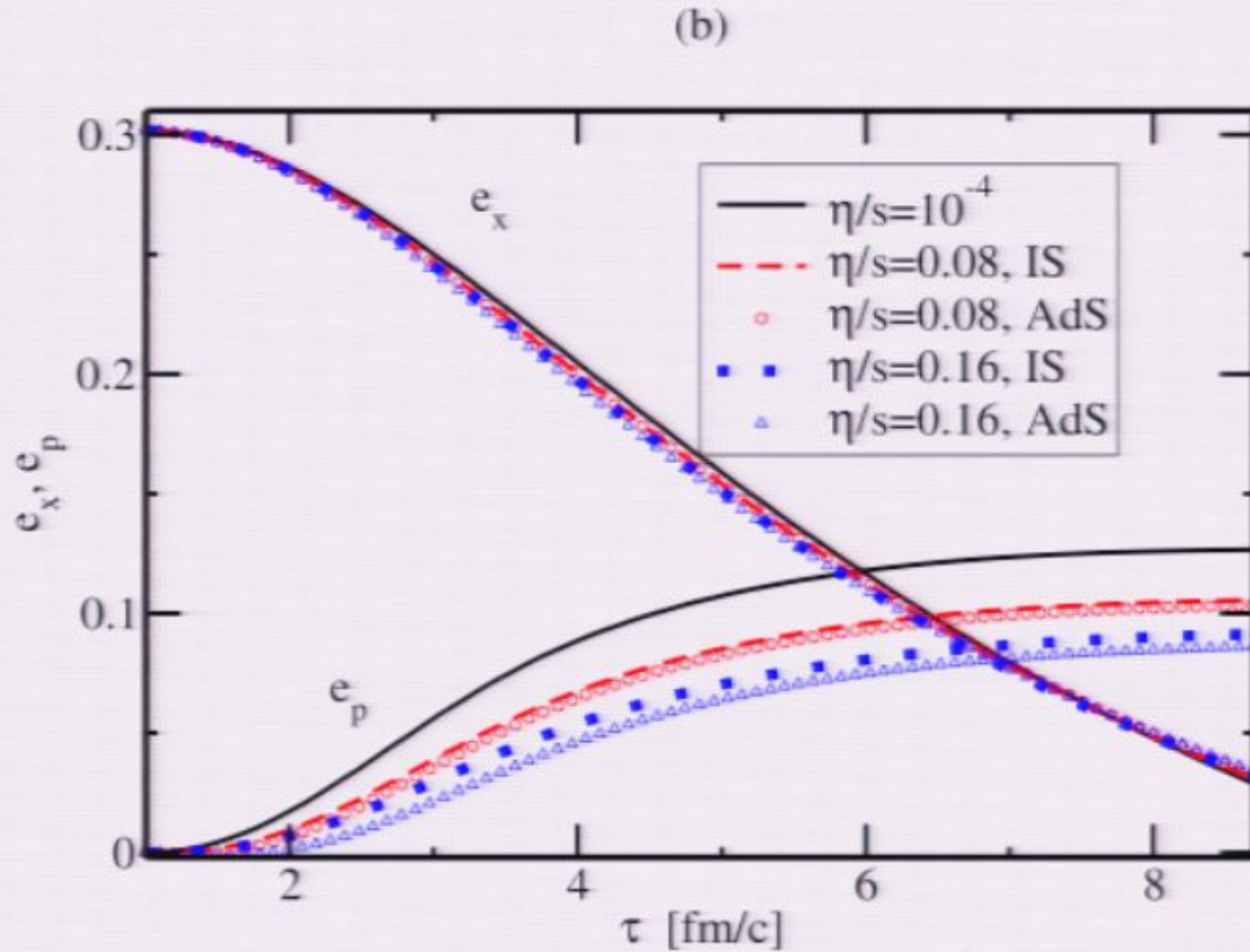
[A. Buchel & M. Paulos, 2009]

- ▶  $v_{T,L} < 1$  as long as QFT is causal in GB gravity

[A. Buchel & R.C. Myers, 2009]

# $\tau_\pi$ from experiment

Is it possible to constrain value of  $\tau_\pi$ ?

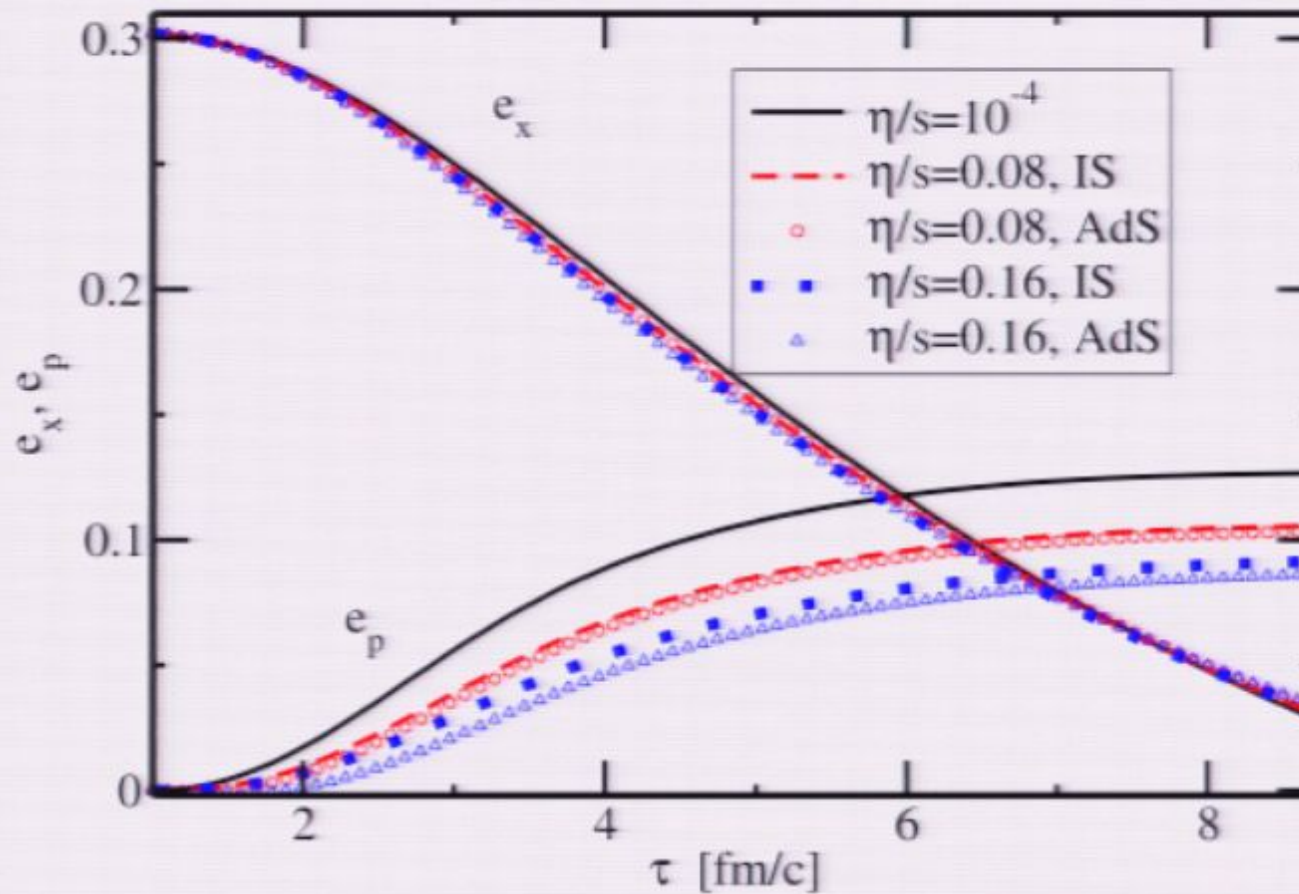




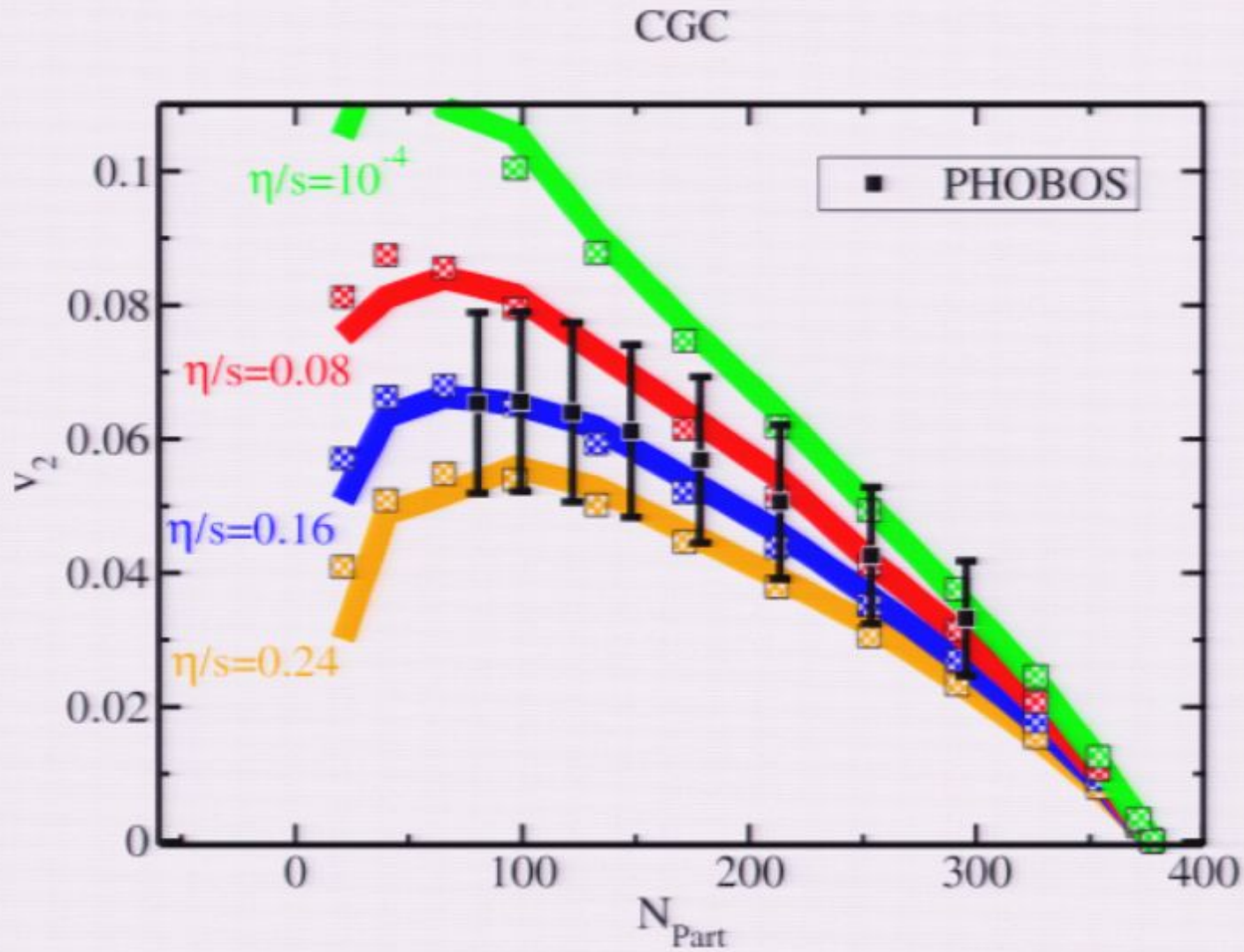
# $\tau_\pi$ from experiment

Is it possible to constrain value of  $\tau_\pi$ ? **Not Really...**

(b)



# Good prospects for extracting $\eta/s$ !



# Open Problems

# The effect from bulk viscosity

- ▶ Viscous Stress Tensor

$$\Pi^{\mu\nu} = -\eta \nabla^{\langle\mu} u^{\nu\rangle} - \zeta \nabla \cdot u + \mathcal{O}(\nabla^2)$$

- ▶ Full second-order structure known

[PR, 2009]

- ▶  $\zeta/s$  known in wQCD and for some gauge-gravity duals

[Arnold, Dogan & Moore, 2006; Buchel et al., 2007,2008]

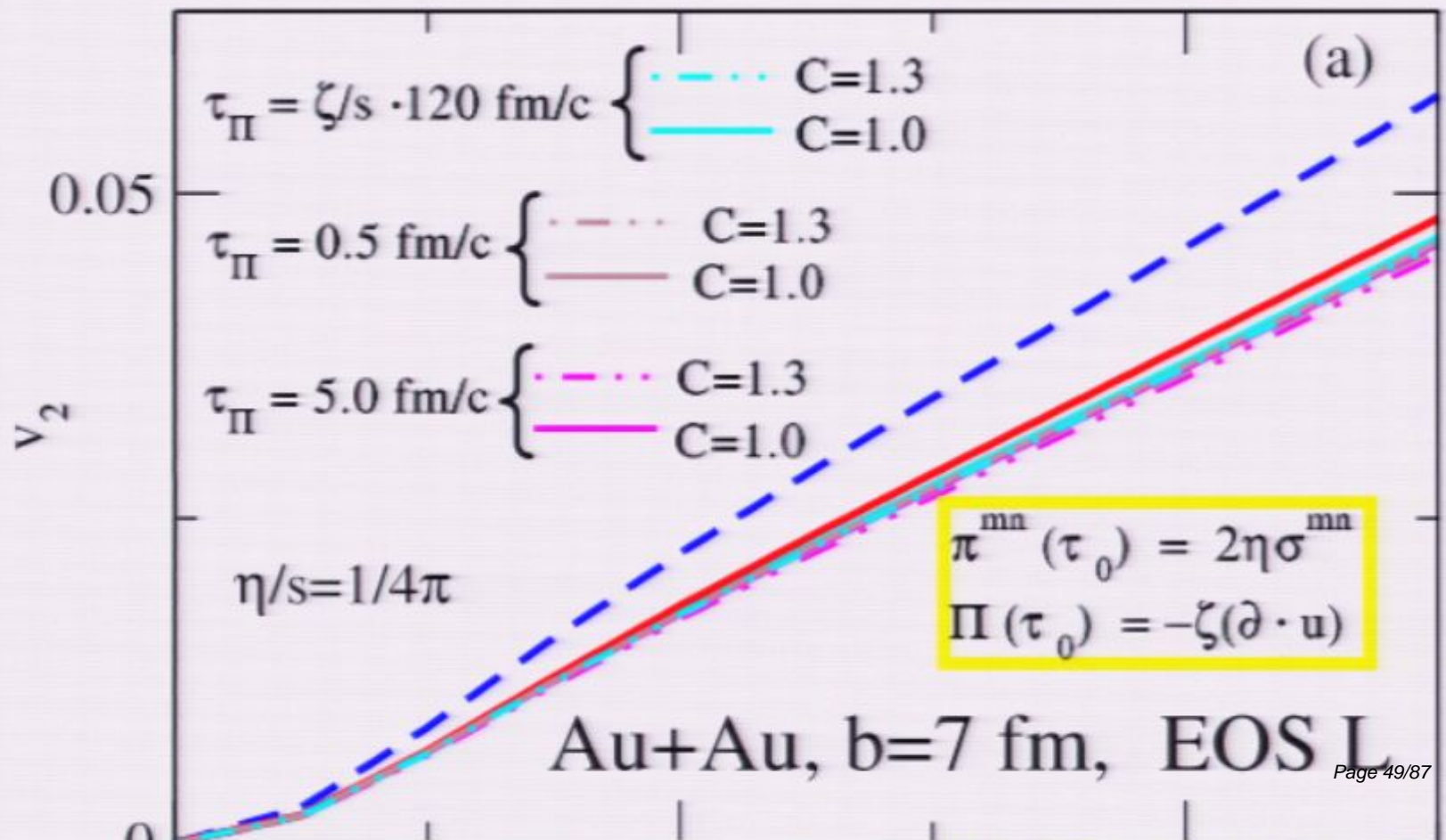
- ▶ Value of some 2<sup>nd</sup> order coefficients known

[Betz, Henkel & Rischke, 2009; Buchel, 2009]



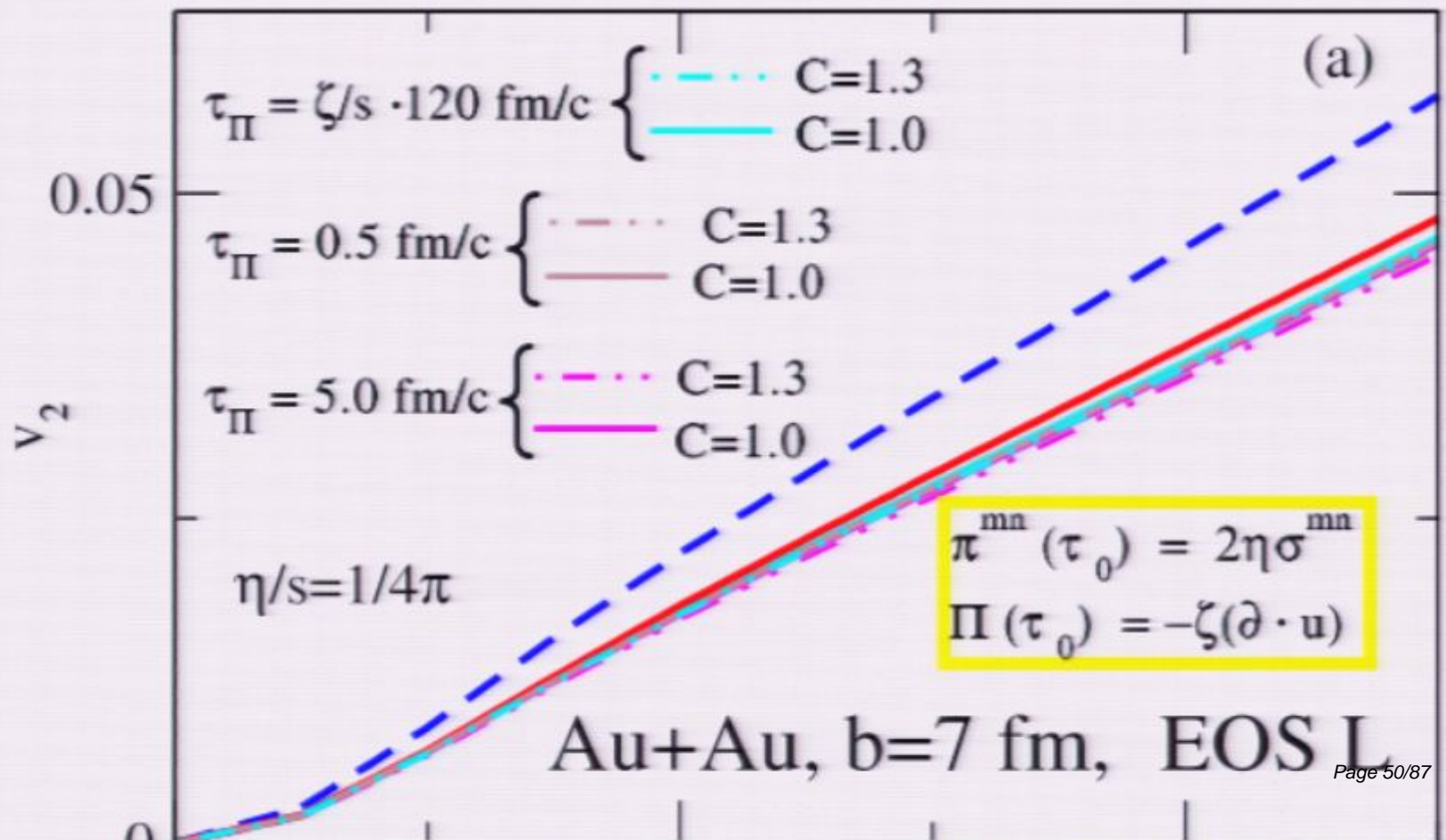
# Effects of Bulk viscosity

[H. Song and U. Heinz, 2009]



# Effects of Bulk viscosity: Negligible...

[H. Song and U. Heinz, 2009]



# Cavitation

- ▶ Viscous Stress-Energy Tensor:

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P + \Pi)u^\mu u^\nu + (P + \Pi)g^{\mu\nu} + \pi^{\mu\nu}$$

where

$$\Pi = -\zeta \nabla \cdot u + \mathcal{O}(\nabla^2) \quad \pi^{\mu\nu} = -\eta \nabla^{\langle \mu} u^{\nu \rangle} + \mathcal{O}(\nabla^2)$$

- ▶ If  $\zeta/P \gg 1/T$  then

$$P + \Pi < 0$$

- ▶ “Negative Effective Pressure”
- ▶ Cavitation = Formation of Vacuum Bubbles

[see e.g. K. Rajagopal & N. Tripuraneni, 2009]

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# Cavitation

Does Cavitation Happen in QCD plasmas?

If yes, what are its effects?

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If yes, what are its effects?

# Cavitation in a different context

Cosmologists call

$$P + \Pi < 0$$

“Inflation”



# Science Project Proposal

- ▶ Take holographic dual to theory with  $\zeta \neq 0$  (e.g.  $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ )
- ▶ Consider isotropically expanding boundary space (e.g. FRW)

[c.f. Kajantie, Louko, Tahkokallio, 2008]

- ▶ Study regime where fluid dynamics would predict cavitation/inflation & compare to full QFT result

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Fluid dynamics seems to describe RHIC data

We do not know *why* fluid dynamics works

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We do not know **why** fluid dynamics works

# Equilibration

- ▶ Energy Momentum Tensor of a Fluid = Gradient Expansion of Quantum Field Theory

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu + Pg^{\mu\nu} + \Pi^{\mu\nu}$$

- ▶ Fluid Dynamics works well if gradients are small
- ▶ If Gradients are small,  $T^{ij}$  should be nearly isotropic in l.r.f

$$T^{ij} = P\delta^{ij} + \mathcal{O}(\nabla), \quad \text{for } u^\mu = (1, \mathbf{0})$$



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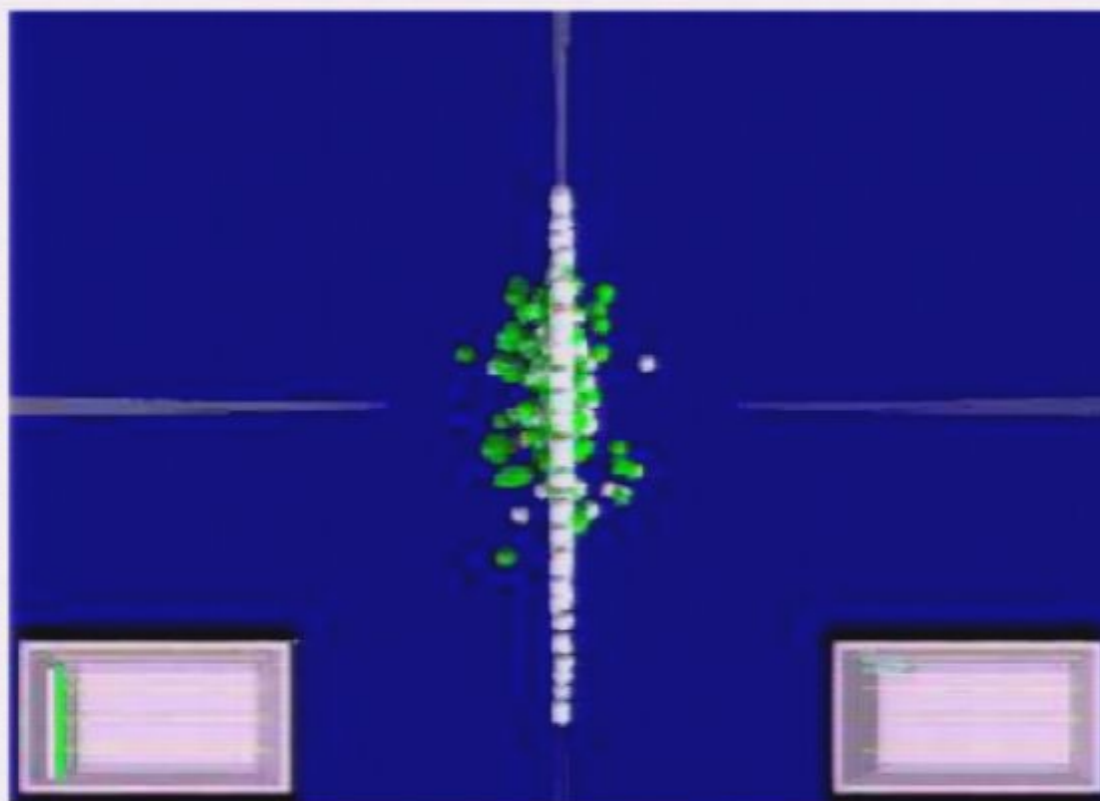
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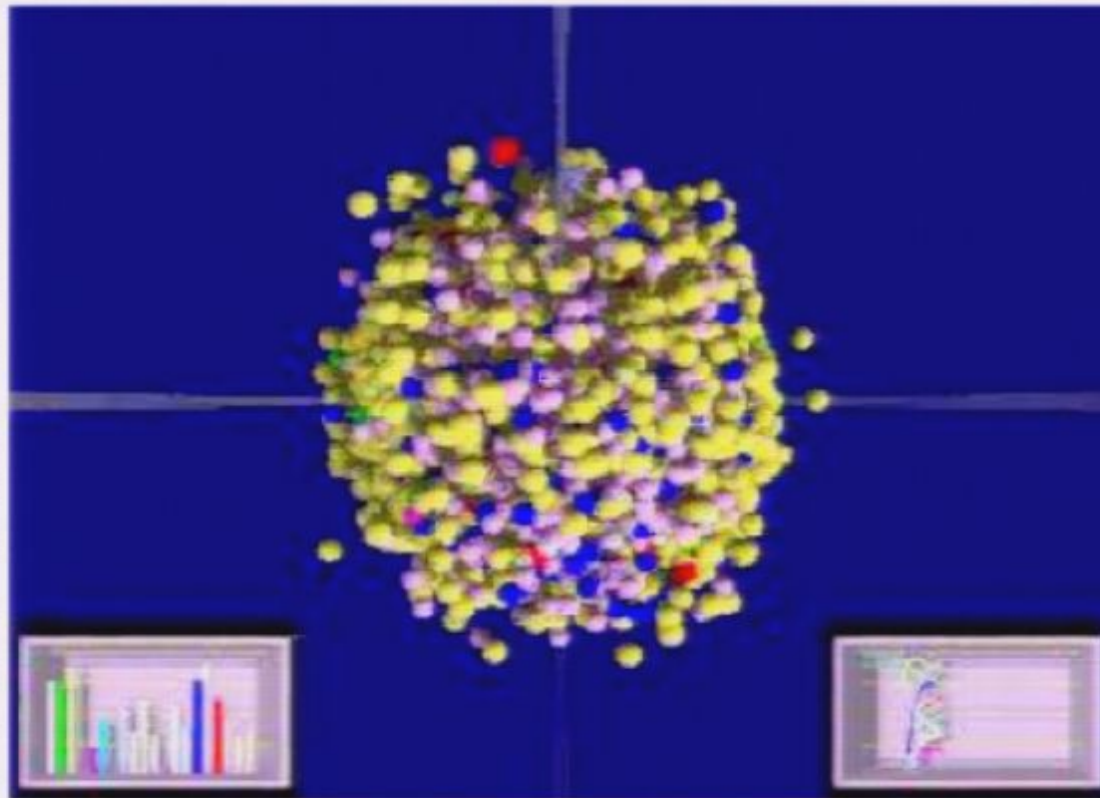
# Fluid Dynamics

If we understand how  $T^{ij}$  becomes isotropic, we understand why fluid dynamics works at RHIC

# Au+Au Collisions at RHIC



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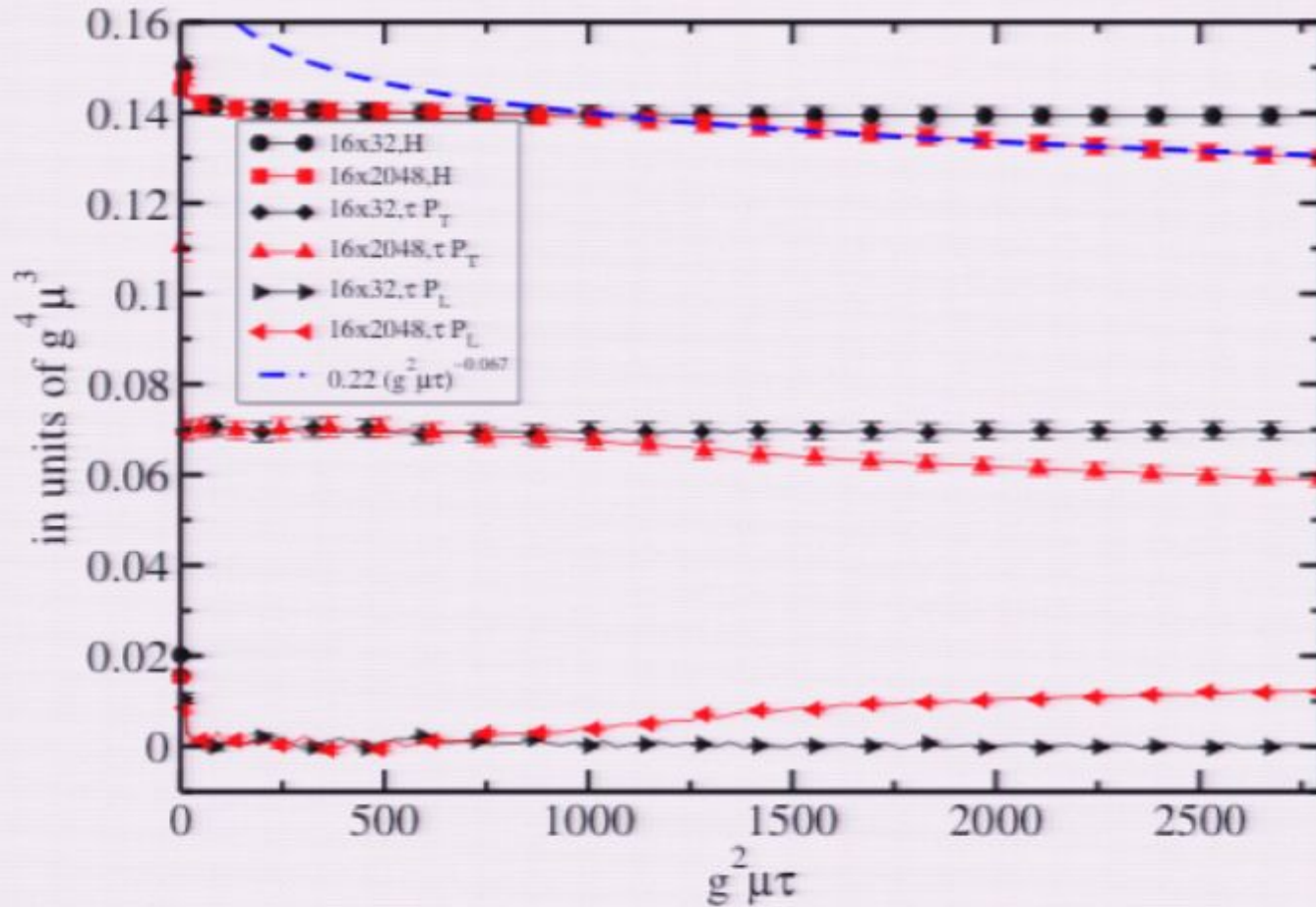




# Weak Coupling

## Equilibration at Weak Coupling

# Isotropization in Expanding CGC Medium (3+1d)



Classical Yang-Mills simulations

[PR and R. Venugopalan 2006]

# Weak Coupling

Equilibration at Weak Coupling: **Incomplete!?**

# Strong Coupling

## Equilibration at Strong Coupling



# Energy-Momentum Tensor of a Boosted Charge

- ▶ Charge at rest

$$E^i = -\frac{ex^i}{|\mathbf{x}|^3}$$

- ▶ Associated Energy-Momentum Tensor

$$T^{00} = \frac{1}{2}E^2 = \frac{e^2}{2|\mathbf{x}|^4}$$

# A Gravity Dual to Heavy-Ion Collisions

- ▶ EMT of boosted charge:

$$T^{++} \propto e^2 \delta(x^+)$$

- ▶ Line element for gravity dual:

$$ds^2 = \frac{-dt^2 + d\mathbf{x}^2 + dz^2 + z^4 T^{\mu\nu} dx_\mu dx_\nu + \mathcal{O}(z^6)}{z^2}$$

- ▶ Aichelburg-Sexl shock waves,

$$ds^2 = -2dx^+ dx^- + d\mathbf{x}_\perp^2 - 4\mu \ln(\mathbf{x}_\perp^2) \delta(x^+) dx^{+2}$$

[P. Aichelburg and R. Sexl, 1971]

# Gravity Duals for Heavy-Ion Collisions

Collisions of Shock Waves in  $AdS_5$   $\leftrightarrow$  Heavy-Ion Collisions

[H. Nastase, 2004; 2006]

Equilibration in QFT  $\leftrightarrow$  Black Hole formation in  $AdS$

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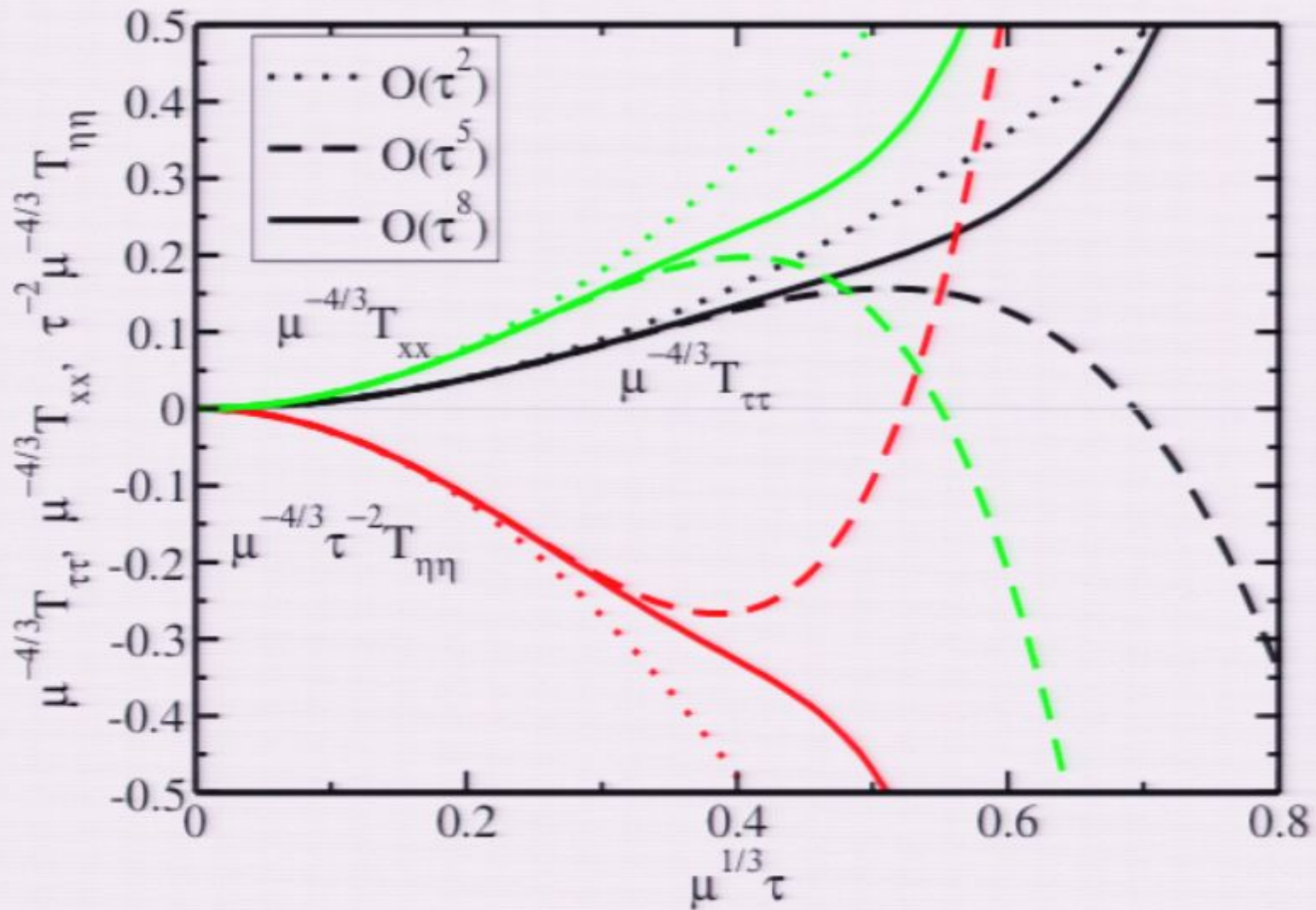
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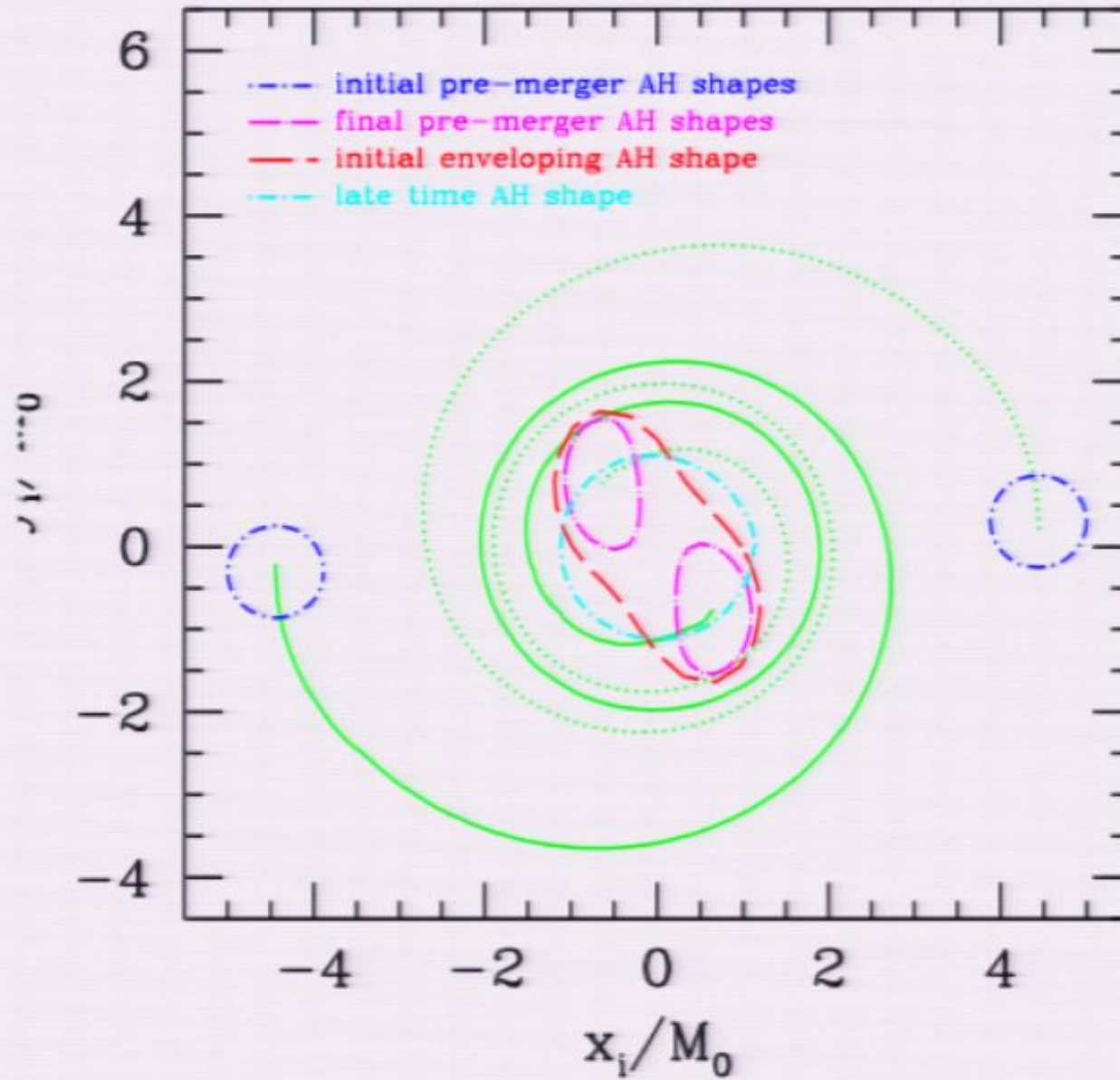


# Collisions of Shock Waves in $AdS_5$

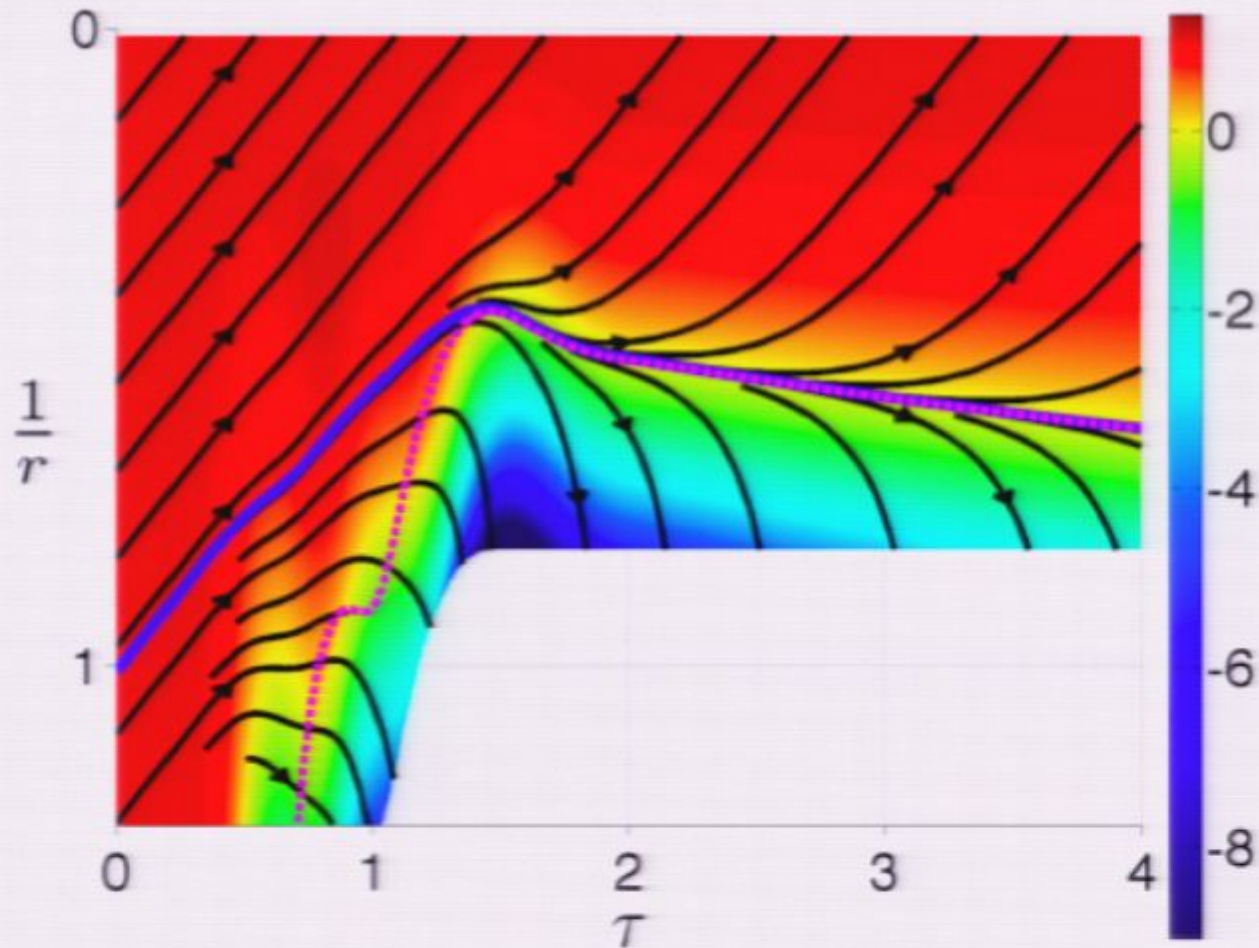
## Analytical Results



# Black Hole Mergers in 4d Minkowski



# Numerical Gravity in $AdS_5$



[P. Chesler & L. Yaffe, 2009]



# Conclusions

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# Weak Coupling

Equilibration at Weak Coupling: **Incomplete!?**

# Equilibration

- ▶ Energy Momentum Tensor of a Fluid = Gradient Expansion of Quantum Field Theory

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu + Pg^{\mu\nu} + \Pi^{\mu\nu}$$

- ▶ Fluid Dynamics works well if gradients are small
- ▶ If Gradients are small,  $T^{ij}$  should nearly isotropic in l.r.f

$$T^{ij} = P\delta^{ij} + \mathcal{O}(\nabla), \quad \text{for } u^\mu = (1, \mathbf{0})$$



# Science Project Proposal

- ▶ Take holographic dual to theory with  $\zeta \neq 0$  (e.g.  $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ )
- ▶ Consider isotropically expanding boundary space (e.g. FRW)

[c.f. Kajantie, Louko, Tahkokallio, 2008]

- ▶ Study regime where fluid dynamics would predict cavitation/inflation & compare to full QFT result

# Cavitation in a different context

Cosmologists call

$$P + \Pi < 0$$

“Inflation”

# Cavitation

Does Cavitation Happen in QCD plasmas?

If yes, what are it's effects?

# Cavitation

- ▶ Viscous Stress-Energy Tensor:

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P + \Pi)u^\mu u^\nu + (P + \Pi)g^{\mu\nu} + \pi^{\mu\nu}$$

where

$$\Pi = -\zeta \nabla \cdot u + \mathcal{O}(\nabla^2) \quad \pi^{\mu\nu} = -\eta \nabla^{\langle \mu} u^{\nu \rangle} + \mathcal{O}(\nabla^2)$$

- ▶ If  $\zeta/P \gg 1/T$  then

$$P + \Pi < 0$$

- ▶ “Negative Effective Pressure”
- ▶ Cavitation = Formation of Vacuum Bubbles

[see e.g. K. Rajagopal & N. Tripuraneni, 2009]



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