



*Fluctuat Nec Mergitur:*  
Event-by-Event Fluctuations  
in Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions

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PRD 85 (2012) 114030

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PRC 85 (2012) 054906

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**34<sup>th</sup> Course**  
Erice - September 16-24, 2012

# Sources of fluctuations

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- Initial-state fluctuations
  - Quantum fluctuations of the nucleon distribution
  - Quantum fluctuations of fast moving color charges
  - Quantum fluctuations of the gauge field
- Hydrodynamic fluctuations
- Fluctuations during hadronization
- Jet-medium interactions
  - Mach cones?
- Initial-state fluctuations give rise to final correlations at the largest rapidity difference !

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# Initial state fluctuations

# Rapidity correlations

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Initial separation:  $\Delta x_0 = \Delta(\tau_0 \sinh \eta) \approx t_0 \Delta \eta \rightarrow \Delta \eta \approx \frac{\Delta x_0}{t_0}$

Relevant length scales for correlated fluctuations:

$\Delta x_0 \sim R / \gamma$	Contracted nuclei
$\Delta x_0 \sim 1 / \alpha_s Q_s$	CGC coherence length
$\Delta x_0 \sim 1 / T$	Thermal noise correlation length

Hydro propagation in longitudinally expanding medium increases separation by:

$$\Delta x_s = 2v_s \ln(\tau_f / \tau_0)$$

# Space-time picture

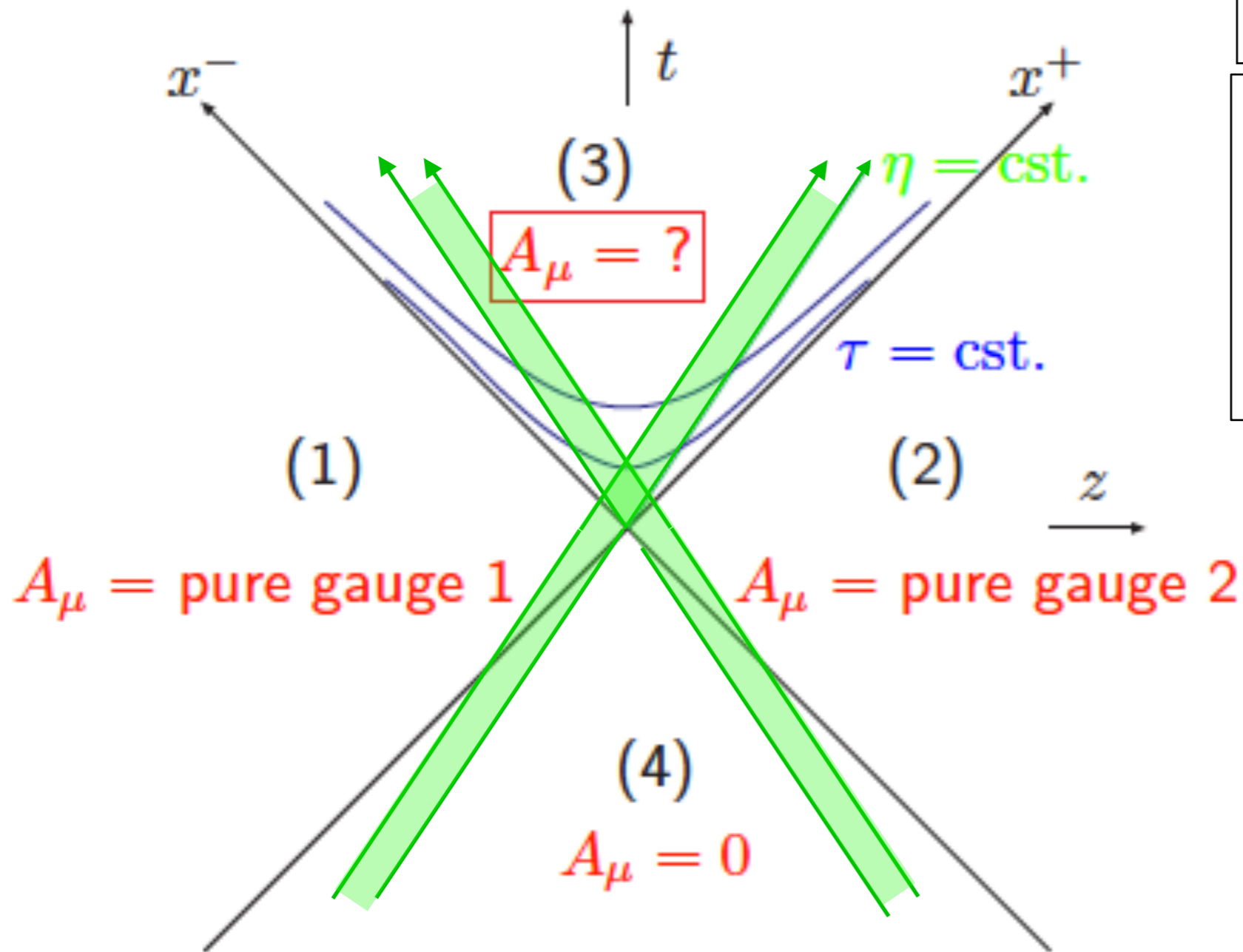
Lappi, PLB 643 (2006) 11

$$A^i = A_{(1)}^i + A_{(2)}^i$$

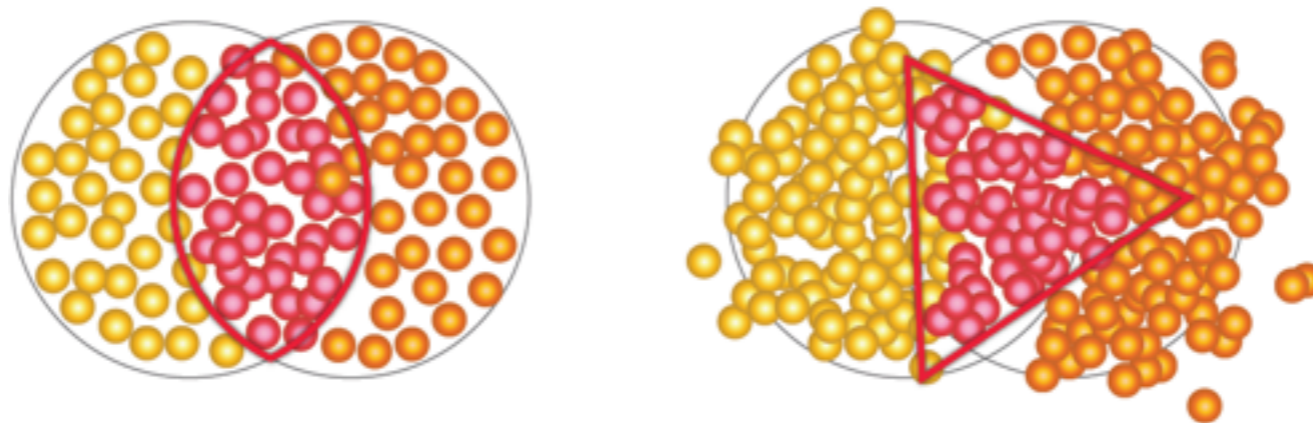
$$A^\eta = \frac{ig}{2} [A_{(1)}^i, A_{(2)}^i]$$

$$\partial_\tau A_i = 0$$

$$\partial_\tau A^\eta = 0.$$



# Color charge fluctuations



Quantum fluctuations in the positions of the colliding nucleons give rise to a position dependent density of valence partons and other hard partons:  $\mu^2(\mathbf{x})$ .

For given  $\mu$ , color charges of the partons combine in a random walk in  $SU(3)$ . This generates an approximately Gaussian distribution of color charges  $\rho^a(\mathbf{x})$ .

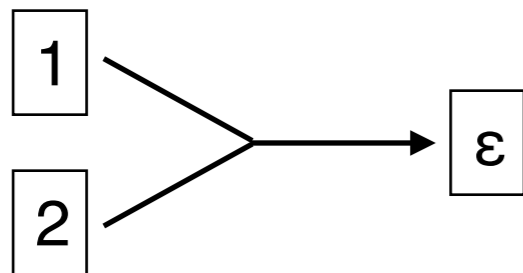
$$P[\rho] \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2g^2\mu^2} \int d^2\mathbf{x} \rho^a(\mathbf{x})\rho^a(\mathbf{x})\right)$$

Neglected: transverse correlations among color charges,  $x$ -dependence of  $\mu$ , confinement related effects, etc.

# Energy density fluctuations

Quantity to calculate:  $\langle \varepsilon(\mathbf{x})\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}) \rangle - \langle \varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) \rangle \langle \varepsilon(\mathbf{y}) \rangle$

Energy density deposited by two colliding sheets of CGC:



$$\varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4} F_{ij}^c(\mathbf{x}) F_{ij}^c(\mathbf{x}) + 2A^{\eta c}(\mathbf{x}) A^{\eta c}(\mathbf{x})$$

$$F_{ij}^c(\mathbf{x}) = g f_{abc} \left( A_i^a(1; \mathbf{x}) A_j^b(2; \mathbf{x}) + A_i^a(2; \mathbf{x}) A_j^b(1; \mathbf{x}) \right)$$

$$A^{\eta c}(\mathbf{x}) A^{\eta c}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{g^2}{4} f_{abc} f_{a'b'c} A_i^a(1; \mathbf{x}) A_i^b(2; \mathbf{x}) A_j^{a'}(1; \mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(2; \mathbf{x})$$

CGC field correlator (light-cone gauge):

$$\langle A_i^a(n; \mathbf{x}) A_j^b(m; \mathbf{y}) \rangle = \delta_{mn} \delta_{ab} \int \frac{d^2 p}{(2\pi)^2} \cos[\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})] \frac{p_i p_j}{p^2} G(|\mathbf{p}|)$$

$$G(|\mathbf{x}|) = \frac{4}{g^2 N |\mathbf{x}|^2} \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{g^2 N}{8\pi} g^2 \mu^2 |\mathbf{x}|^2 \ln(\Lambda |\mathbf{x}|) \right) \right] \Theta(1 - \Lambda |\mathbf{x}|)$$

# $\langle \varepsilon \rangle$

Decompose p-quadrupole tensor: 
$$p_i p_j = \frac{p_1^2 + p_2^2}{2} \delta_{ij} + \frac{p_1^2 - p_2^2}{2} \sigma_{ij}^3 + p_1 p_2 \sigma_{ij}^1$$

$$\langle A_i^a(n; \mathbf{x}) A_j^b(m; \mathbf{y}) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \delta_{mn} \delta_{ab} \left( \delta_{ij} D(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) + \sigma_{ij}^3 E(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) - \sigma_{ij}^1 F(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \right)$$

$$D(0) = \int \frac{d^2 p}{(2\pi)^2} G(|\mathbf{p}|) = \lim_{|\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow 0} G(|\mathbf{x}|); \quad E(0) = F(0) = 0.$$

$G(0)$  diverges logarithmically; divergence can be regulated by “triumvirate” coupling:

$$g^4 \longrightarrow g^2(\mu^2) g^2(1/|\mathbf{x}|^2) \quad \text{where} \quad g^2(1/x^2) = \frac{16\pi^2}{9 \ln(1/(\Lambda^2 x^2))}$$

Average energy density:  $\langle \varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) \rangle = \frac{g^2}{2} N(N^2 - 1) D^2(0)$  Lappi, PLB 643 (2006) 11

Note: Logarithmic divergence exists only for  $\tau = 0$ . UV components of glasma field get out of phase for  $\tau > 0$  and render  $\varepsilon$  finite [Fries, Kapusta & Li; Lappi].



# $\langle \varepsilon(\mathbf{x})\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}) \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \varepsilon(\mathbf{x})\varepsilon(\mathbf{y}) \rangle = & \frac{g^4}{4} f_{abc} f_{a'b'c} f_{efd} f_{e'f'd} \left( \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \right. \\
 & + \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \\
 & + \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^f(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \\
 & + \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \\
 & + \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \\
 & + \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^f(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \\
 & + \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_i^b(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \\
 & + \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_i^b(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \\
 & \left. + \langle A_i^a(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^e(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_i^b(\mathbf{x}) A_j^{b'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^f(\mathbf{y}) A_n^{f'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Products of  $\langle AAAAA \rangle$  correlators of the CGC fields in the individual nuclei.

# Gaussian approximation

Exact analytical evaluation of  $\langle AAAA \rangle$  correlators in the CGC model is extremely complicated. In LC gauge, it requires evaluation of gauge links between  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  through  $(-\infty)$  along the light-cone. Alternatively, one can use link representation:

$$A_{(1,2)}^i(\mathbf{x}_T) = \frac{i}{g} U_{(1,2)}(\mathbf{x}_T) \partial_i U_{(1,2)}^\dagger(\mathbf{x}_T)$$

$$\text{with } U_{(1,2)}(\mathbf{x}_T) = P \exp \left\{ -ig \int dx^\pm \frac{1}{\nabla_T^2} \rho_{(1,2)}(\mathbf{x}_T, x^\pm) \right\}$$

Generates infinite series of terms  $\langle \rho^n \rangle$ .

For techniques for an effective evaluation of  $\langle U^4 \rangle$  correlators in the Gaussian approximation using color dipoles, see: Marquet & Weigert [NPA 843 (2010) 68].

General discussion for the validity of the Gaussian approximation:  
Iancu & Triantafyllapoulos, arXiv:1112.1104 [hep-ph].

# Abelian Gaussian limit

To obtain a simple result, we make the Gaussian approximation for the  $\langle AAAA \rangle$  correlator, which assumes Gaussian charge correlations and abelian dominance. Rationale:  $\varepsilon$  is dominated by high-field regions, where fields are approximately abelian.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle &= \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle \langle A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle + \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \\ &\quad + \langle A_j^b(\mathbf{x}) A_m^{e'}(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \langle A_n^f(\mathbf{y}) A_i^{a'}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Many lines of algebra later ..... one finds a simple result:

$$\langle \varepsilon(x) \varepsilon(y) \rangle - \langle \varepsilon(x) \rangle \langle \varepsilon(y) \rangle = \frac{g^4}{2} N^2 (N^2 - 1) D(0)^2 K(x - y) + \frac{7g^4}{16} N^2 (N^2 - 1) K(x - y)^2$$

$$K(z) = D(z)^2 + E(z)^2 + F(z)^2$$

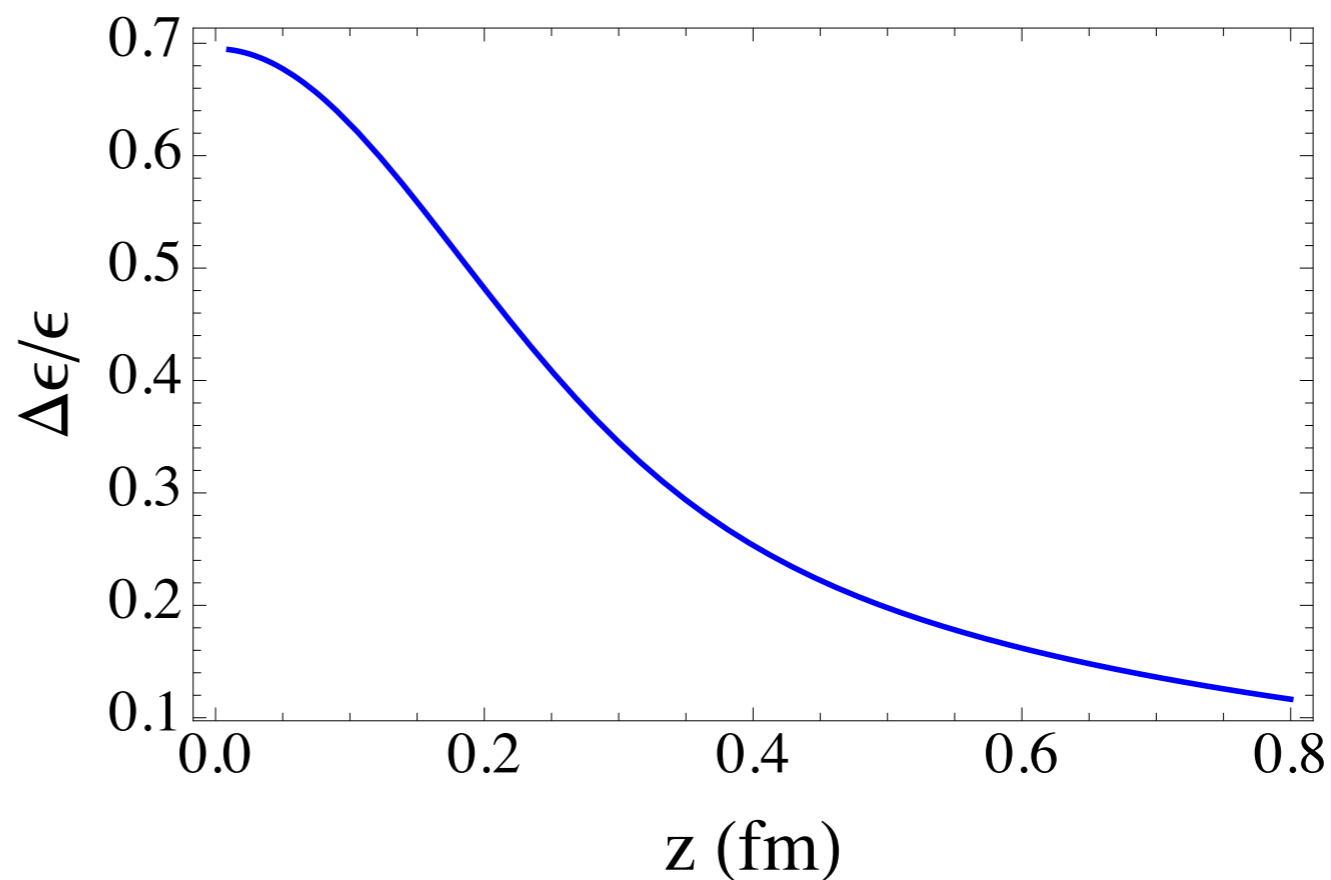
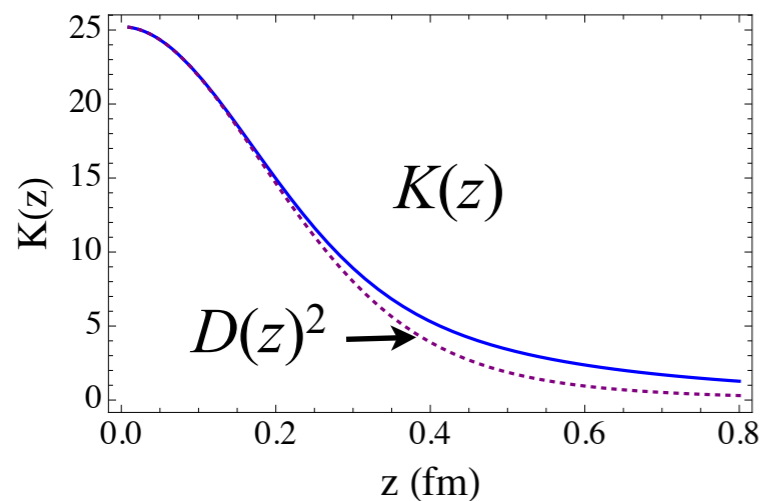
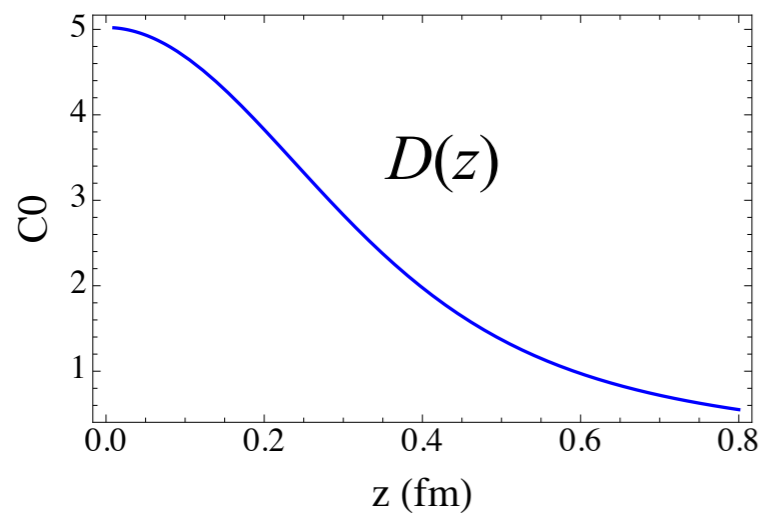
# $\Delta\epsilon/\epsilon$ is large

Parameter choices:

$$Q_s^2 = (g^2\mu)^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2;$$

$$g^2(\mu^2) = 3.785;$$

$$g^2(1/x^2) = \frac{16\pi^2}{9 \ln(1/(\Lambda^2 x^2))}.$$



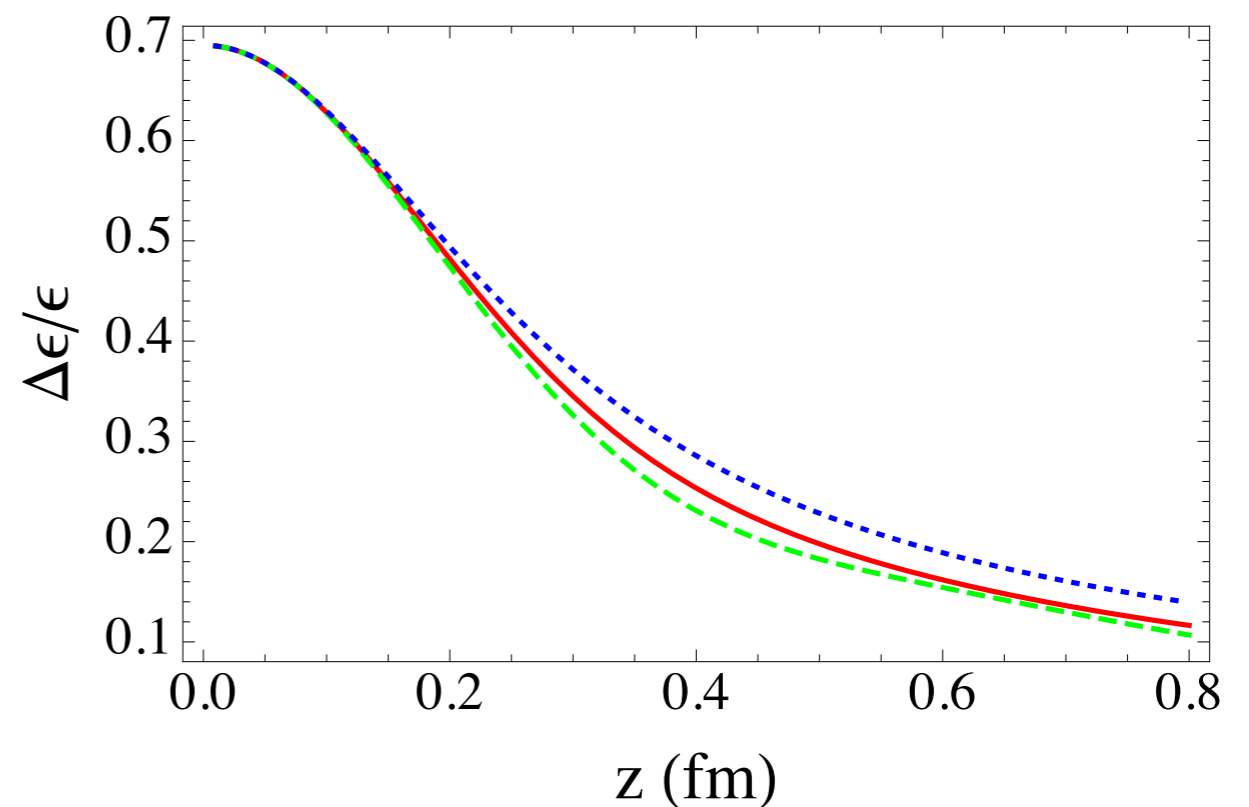
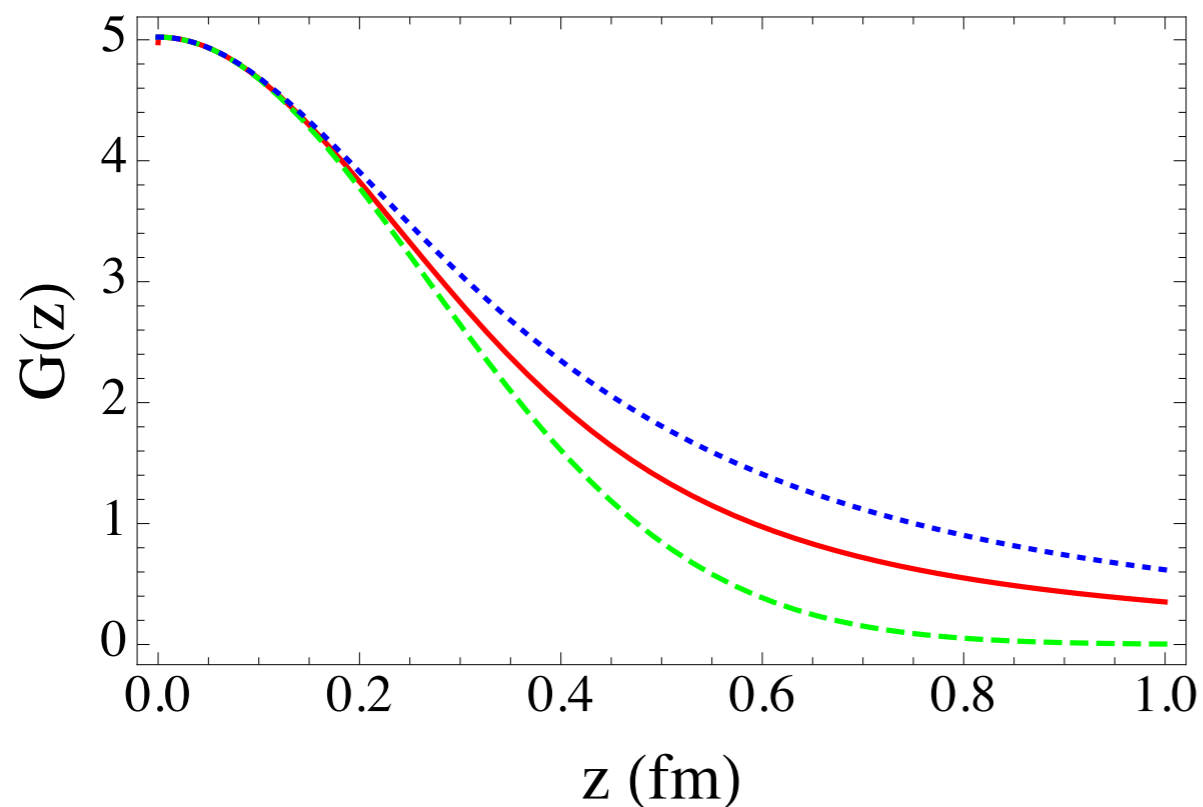
# Alternative models

$$G(z) = G_0 \phi(z^2 / \xi^2) \quad \text{with} \quad G_0 = \frac{4}{9} \pi \mu^2, \quad 1 / \xi^2 = \frac{1}{9} N \pi (g \mu)^2$$

$$\phi_{\text{MV}}(u) = (1 - e^{-u}) / u$$

$$\phi_1(u) = e^{-u/2}$$

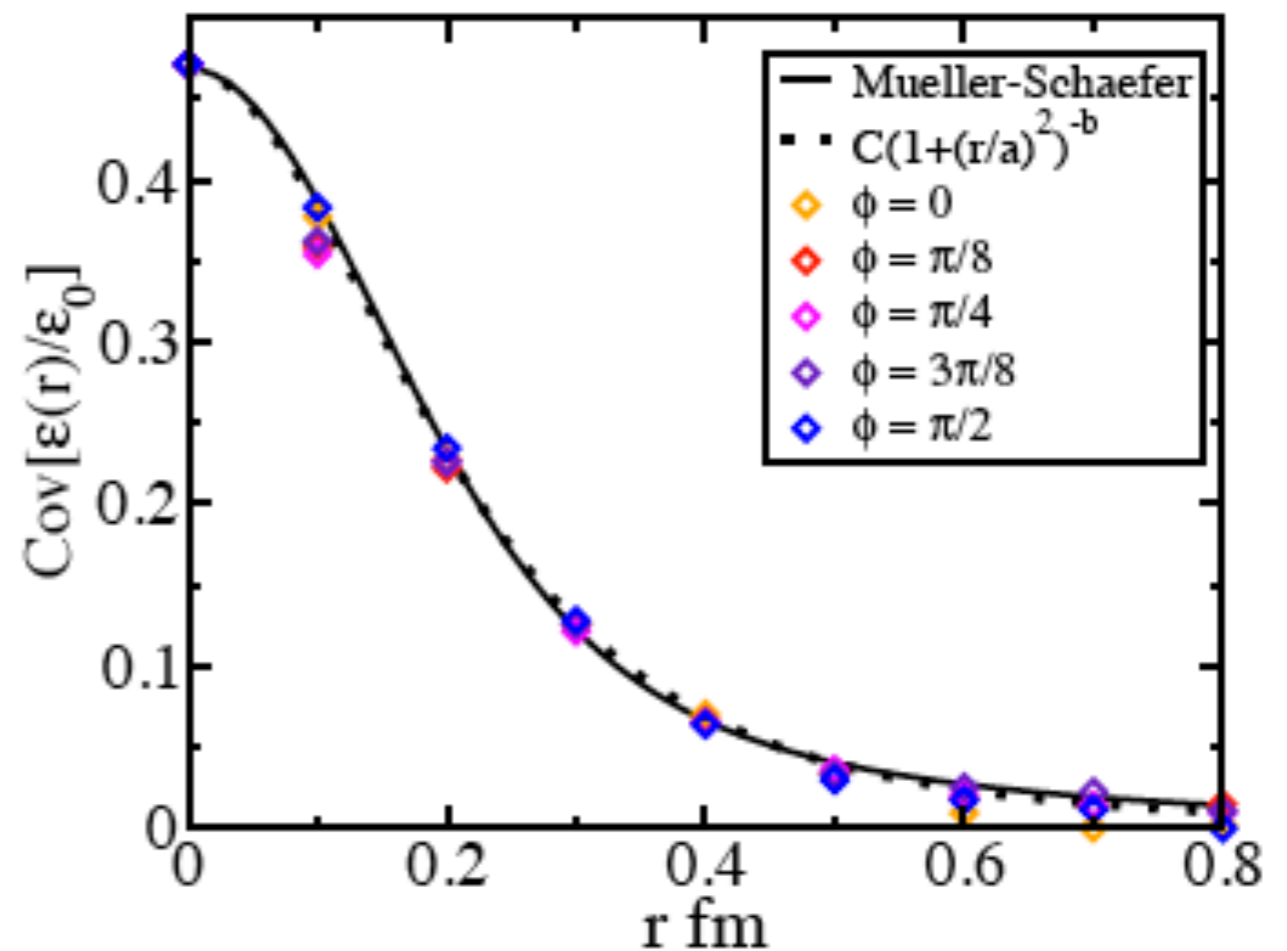
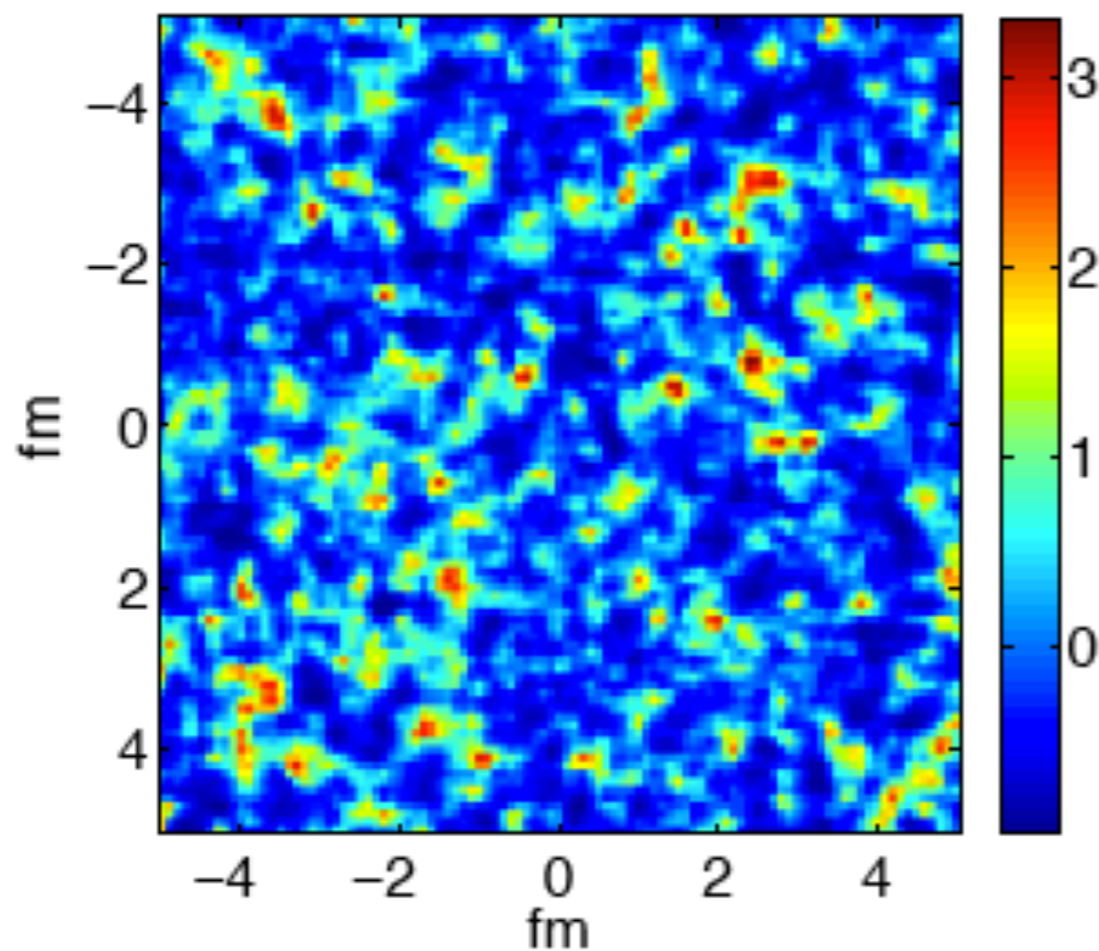
$$\phi_2(u) = \left(1 + \frac{u}{2}\right)^{-1}$$



# Implementation 1

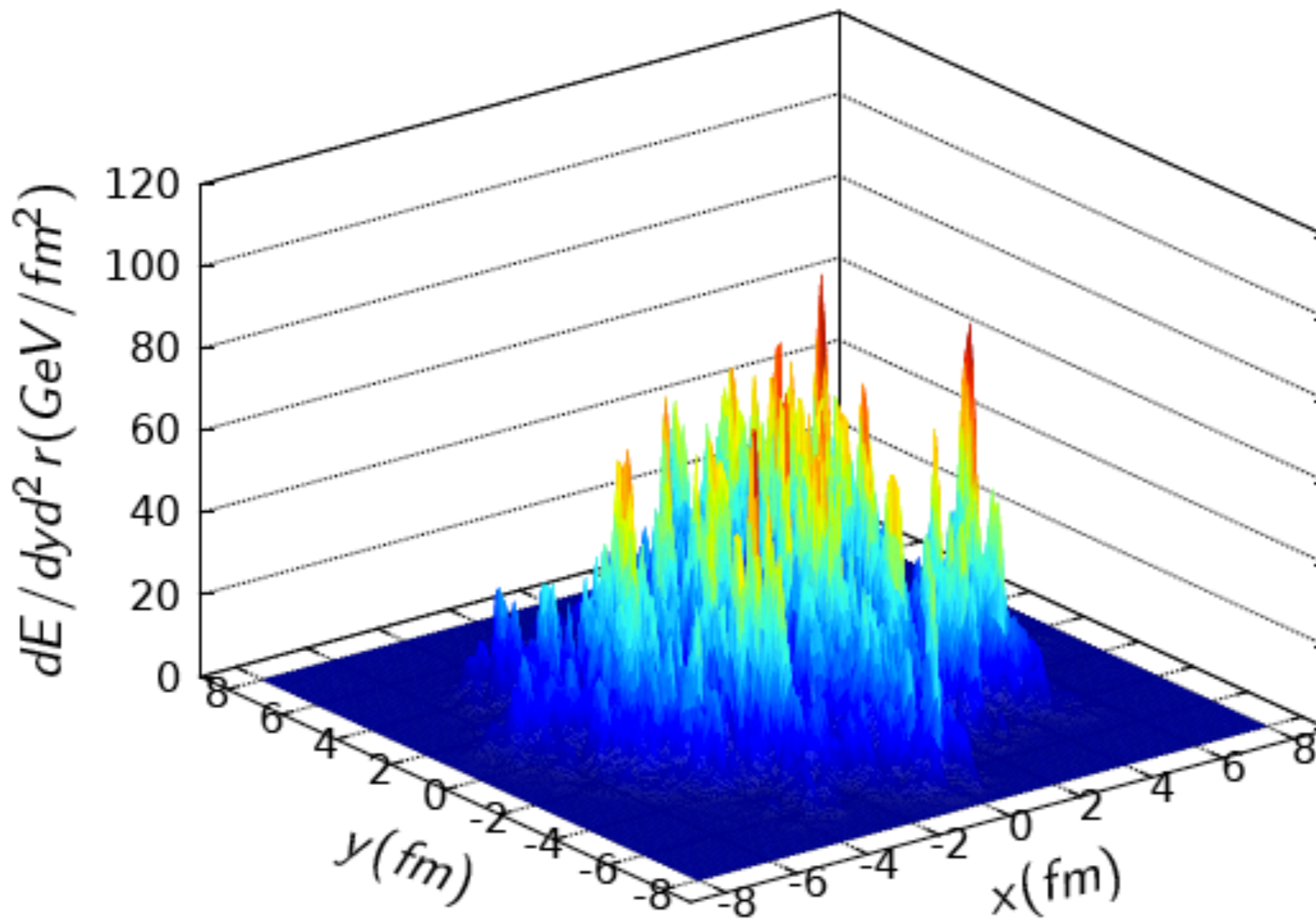
S. Moreland (OSU/Duke), Z. Qiu( (OSU), Talk at QM2012

Map Gaussian  $\Delta\varepsilon$ ,  $\langle\varepsilon\rangle$  on positive definite negative binomial distribution with same mean and standard deviation, generate random sample:



# $\varepsilon(x,y)$ in central event

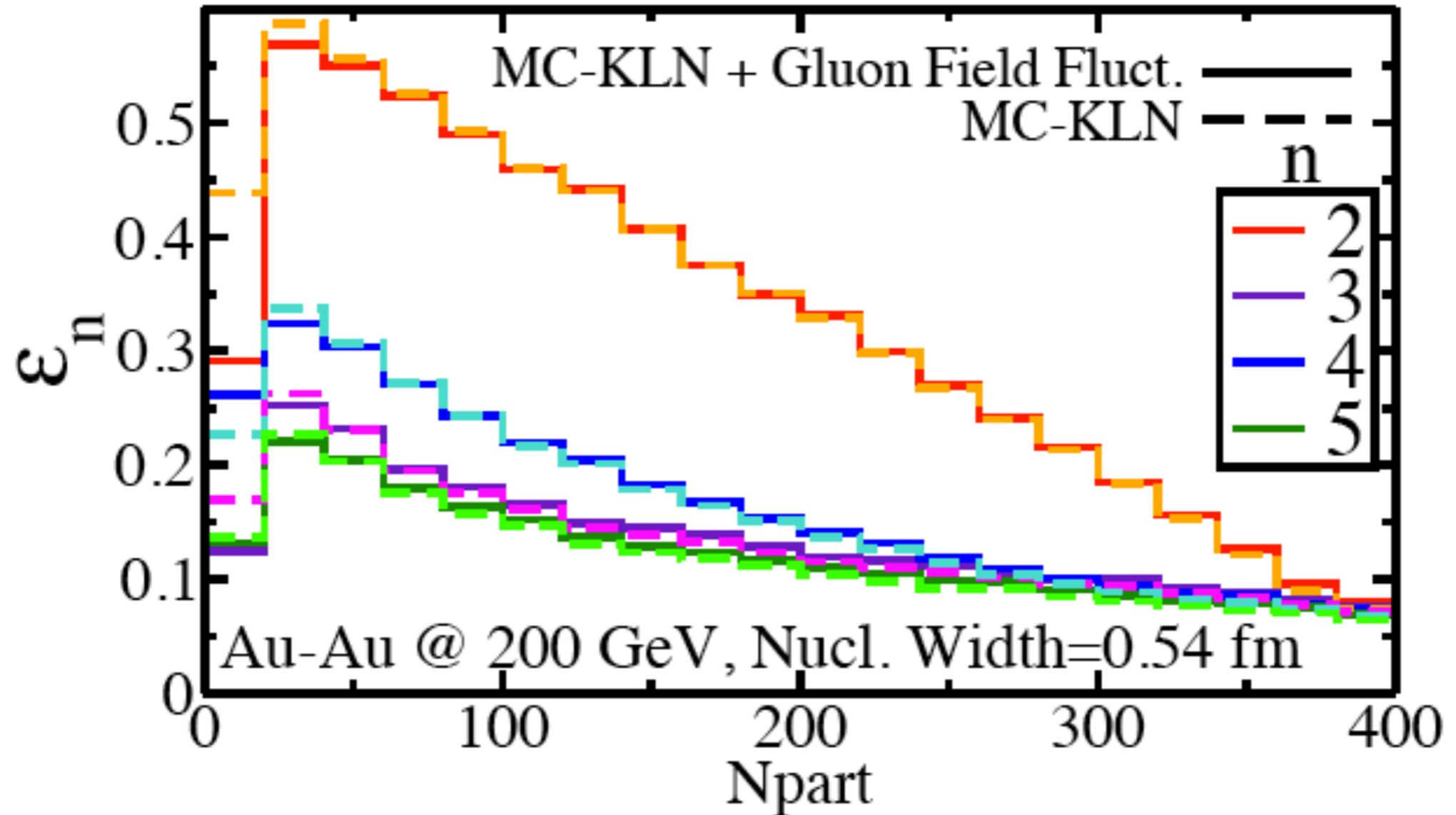
Fluctuated MC-KLN, Au-Au, 200 GeV; Npart=380



# No influence on $\epsilon_n$ ?

Using definition: 
$$\epsilon_n e^{in\psi_n^{PP}} = -\frac{\int dx dy r^2 e^{in\phi} \rho(x,y)}{\int dx dy r^2 \rho(x,y)}$$

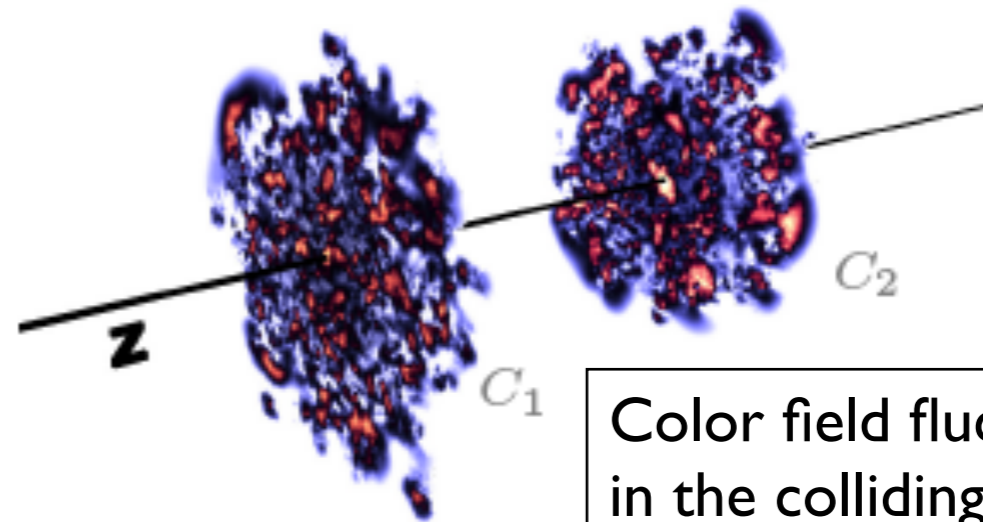
Quantum Fluct. w/Mueller-Schaefer Covar.



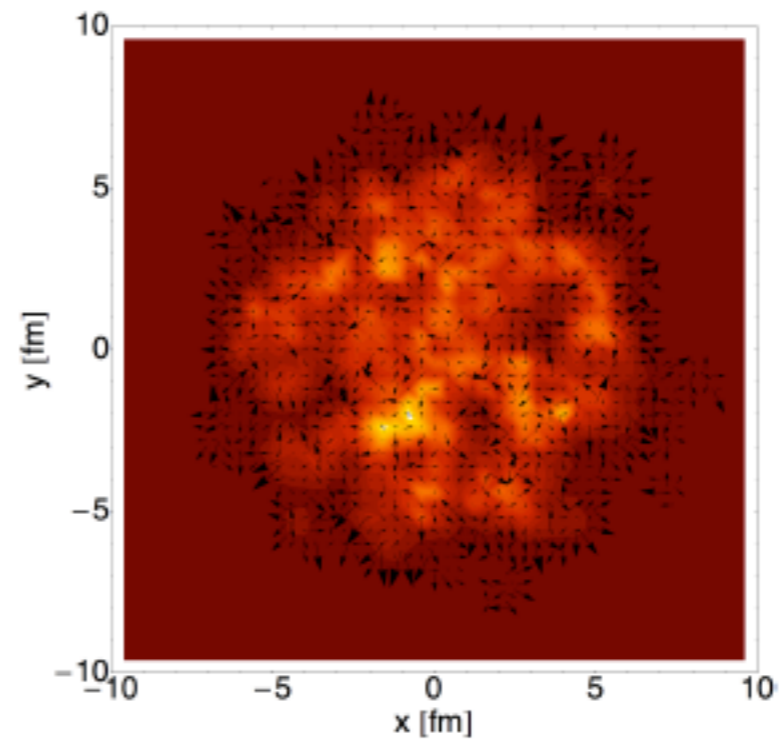
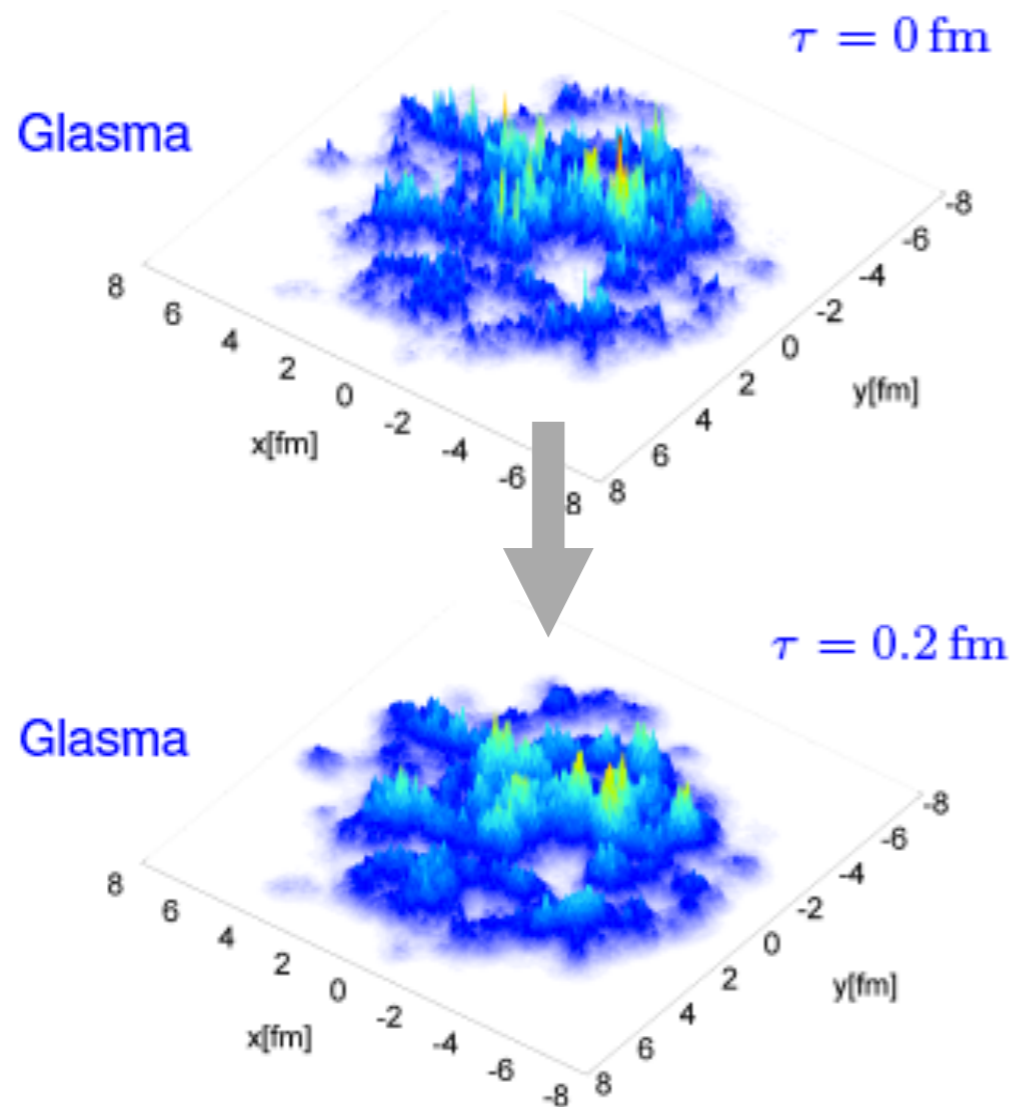


# Implementation 2

Numerical implementation of color field fluctuations:  
 Schenke, Tribedy & Venugopalan,  
 arXiv:1202.6646, 1206.6805



Color field fluctuations in the colliding nuclei

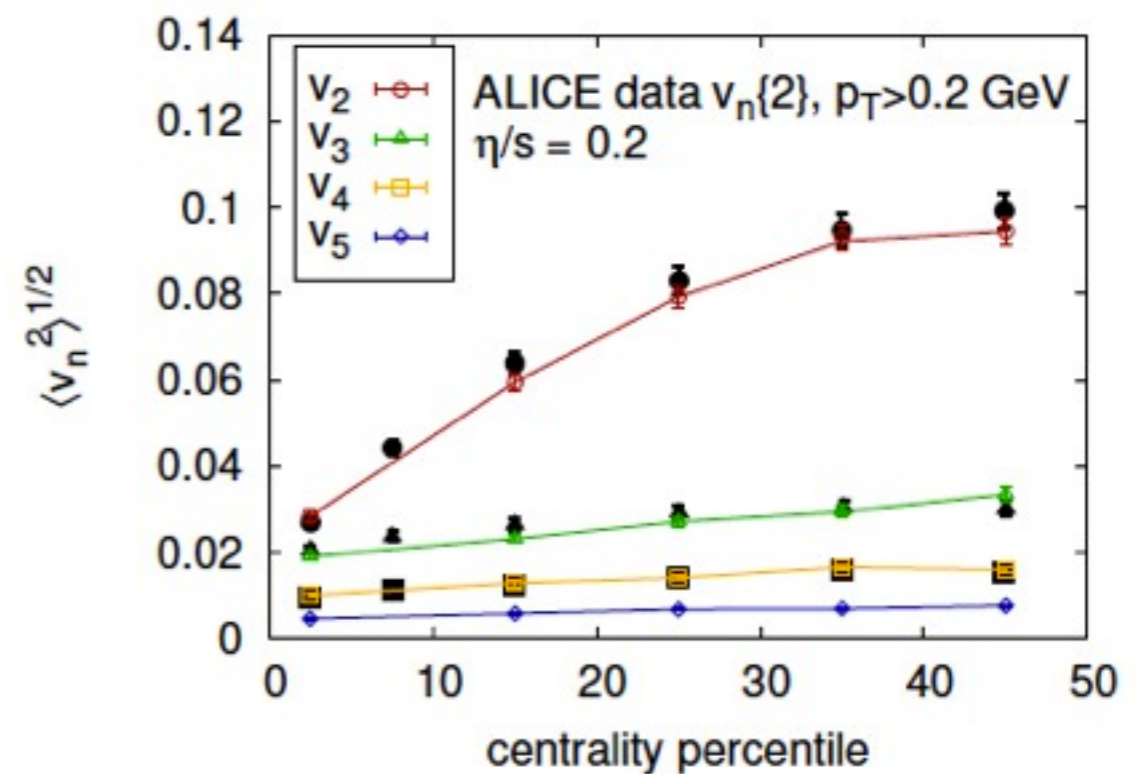
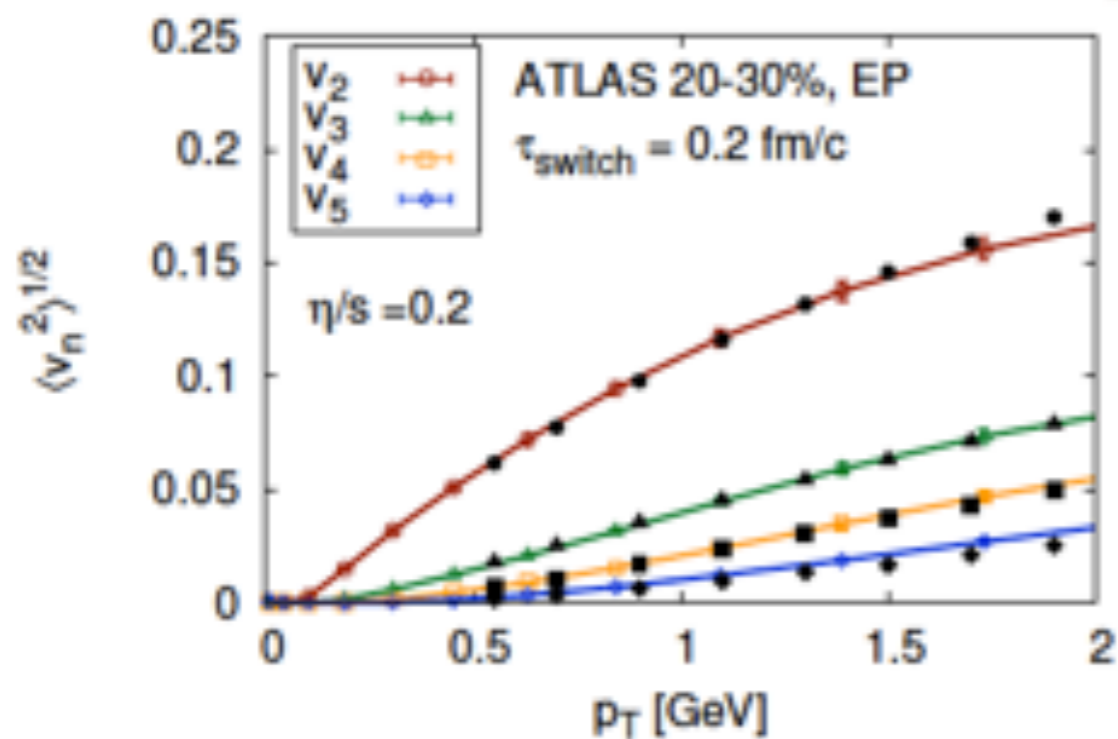


Energy density and  $(u_x, u_y)$  at  $\tau = 0.4 \text{ fm}/c$

# Flow analysis and LHC data

Schenke, Tribedy, Venugopalan (QM 2012):

Nice agreement with Pb+Pb data for  $\eta/s = 0.2$  in  $v_n(p_T)$  and  $v_n(b)$



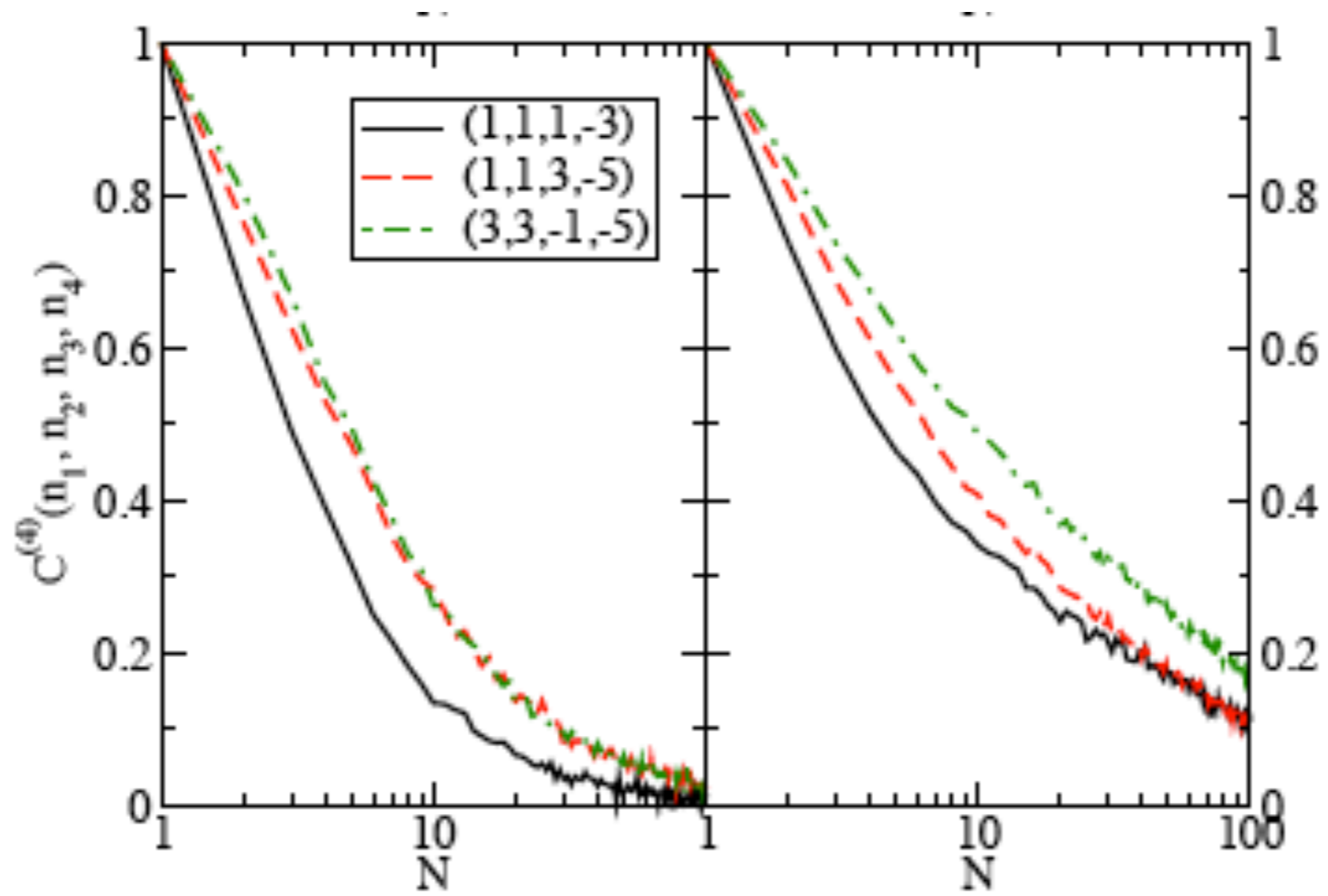
Inconsistency with Moreland et al:  $\varepsilon_n$  are influenced by finer gluonic fluctuations!

# Counting hot/cold spots

$$C^{(k)}(n_1, \dots, n_k) = (-1)^k \langle \cos(n_1 \Psi_1 + \dots + n_k \Psi_k) \rangle$$

$\Psi_m$  = event plane angle

G. Qin & BM, PRC 85 (2012) 061901



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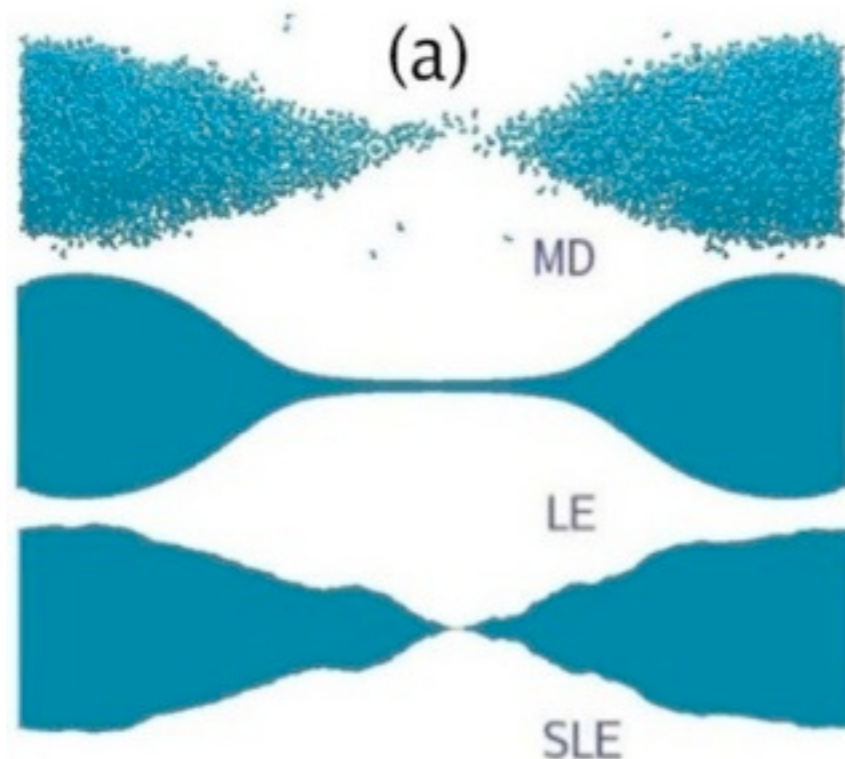
# Hydrodynamic fluctuations

# Universality Crossover of the Pinch-Off Shape Profiles of Collapsing Liquid Nanobridges in Vacuum and Gaseous Environments

Wei Kang and Uzi Landman

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(Received 5 June 2006; published 7 February 2007)

Liquid propane nanobridges were found through molecular dynamics simulations to exhibit in vacuum a symmetric break-up profile shaped as two cones joined in their apexes. With a surrounding gas of sufficiently high pressure, a long-thread profile develops with an asymmetric shape. The emergence of a long-thread profile, discussed previously for macroscopic fluid structures, originates from the curvature-dependent evaporation-condensation processes of the nanobridge in a surrounding gas. A modified stochastic hydrodynamic description captures the crossover between these universal break-up regimes.



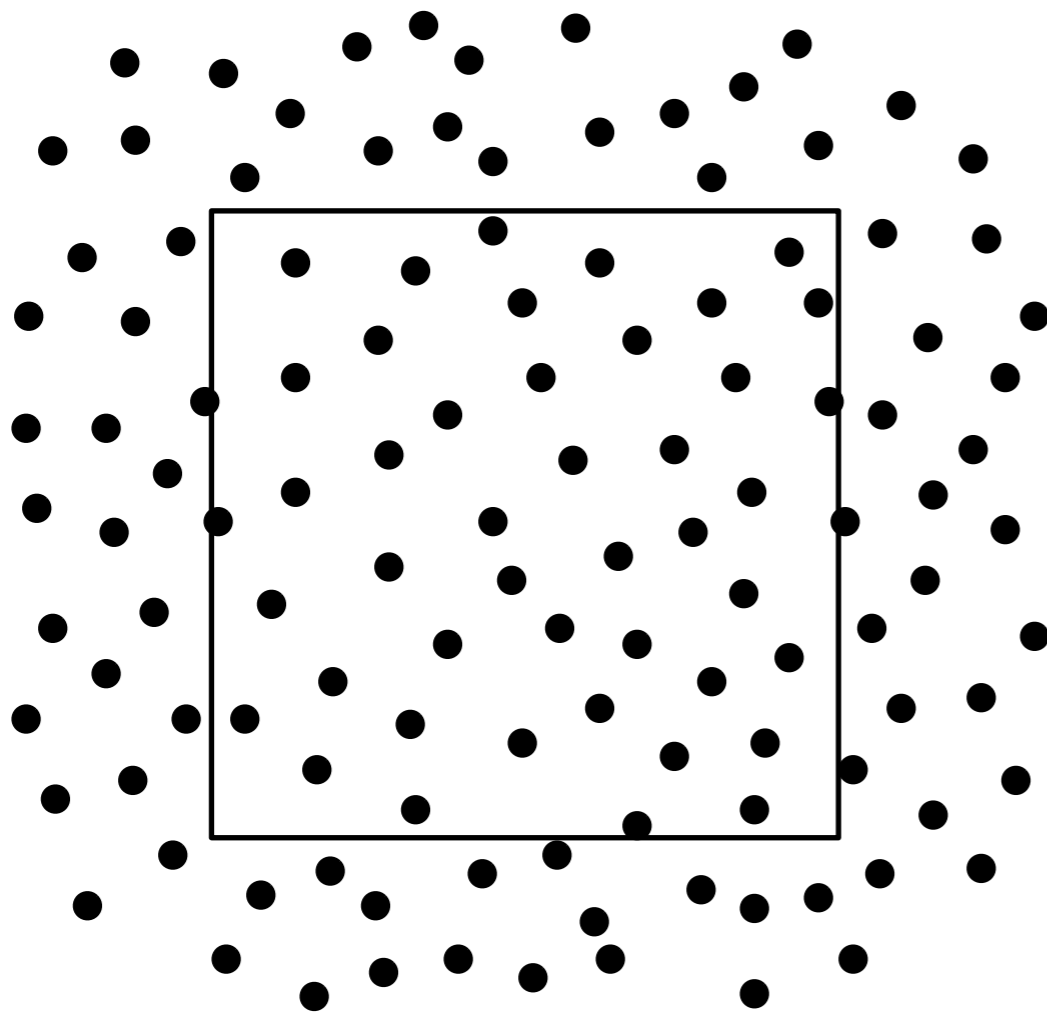
Molecular Dynamics

Lubrication Equation

Stochastic Lubrication Equation

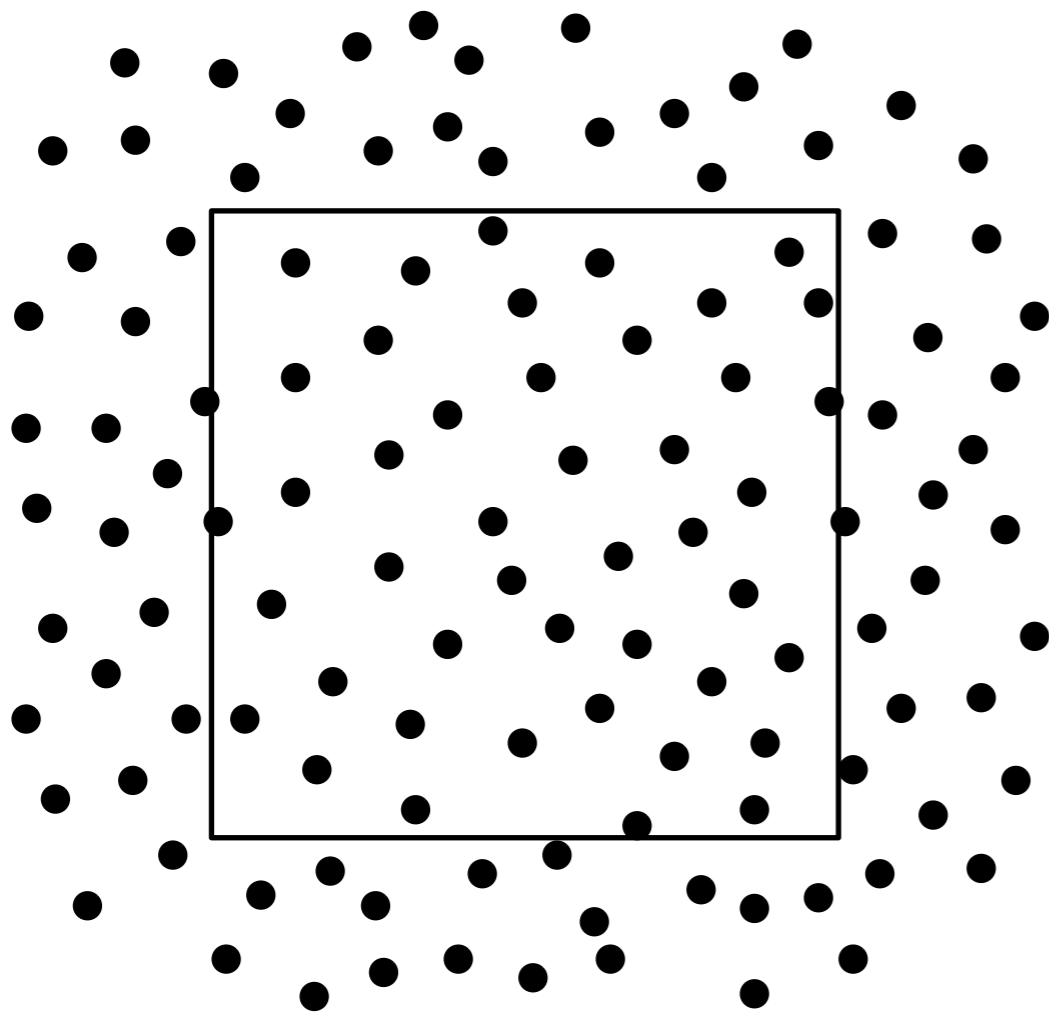
# Particle number fluctuations

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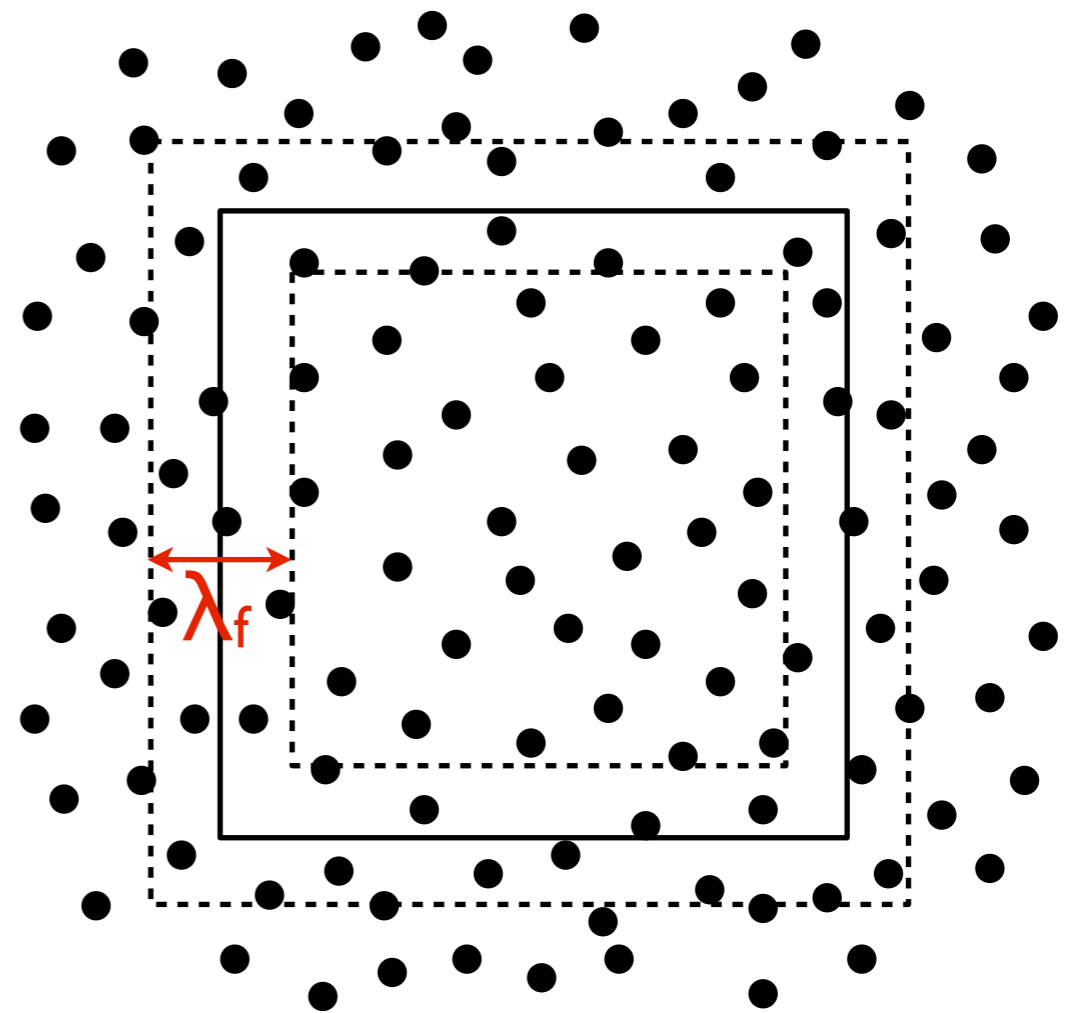


$$(\Delta N)^2 \sim N \sim \rho V \quad ?$$

# Particle number fluctuations

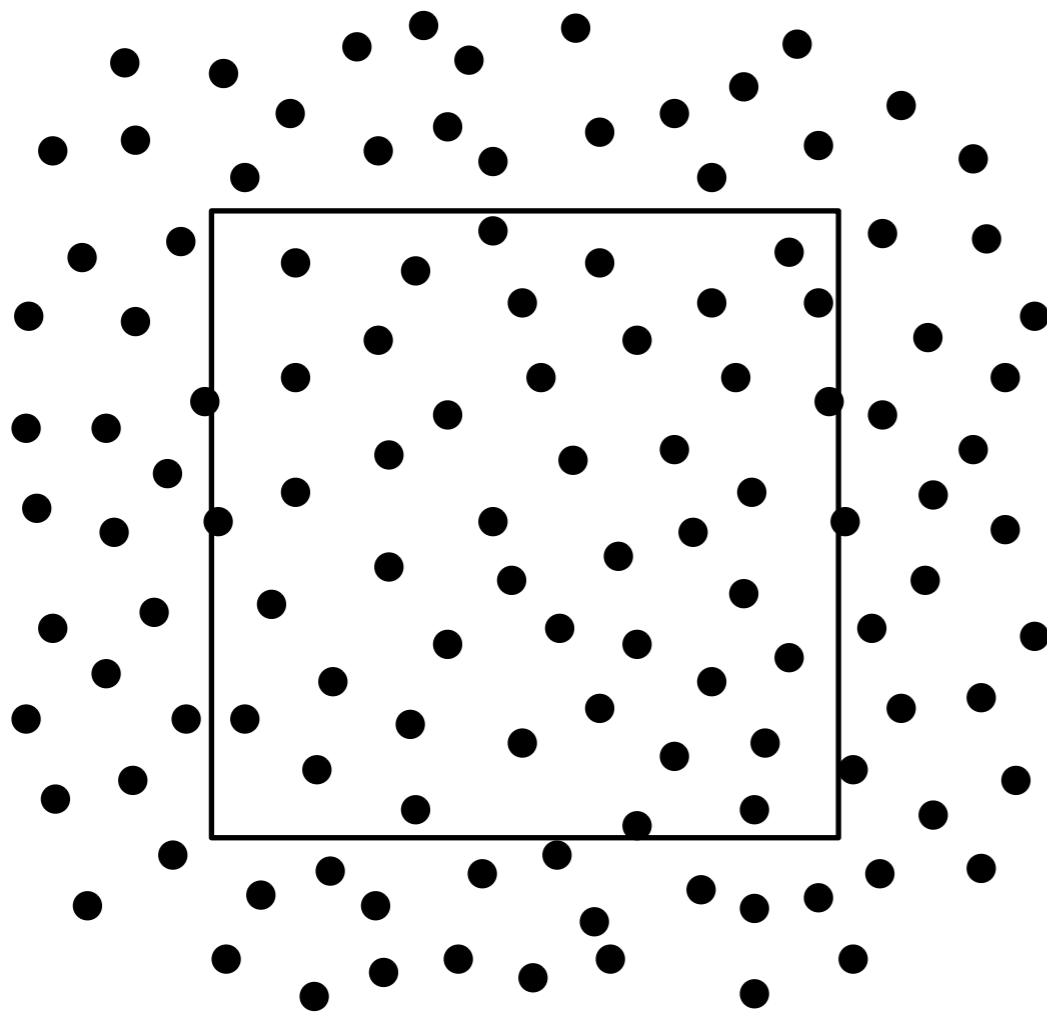


$$(\Delta N)^2 \sim N \sim \rho V \quad ?$$

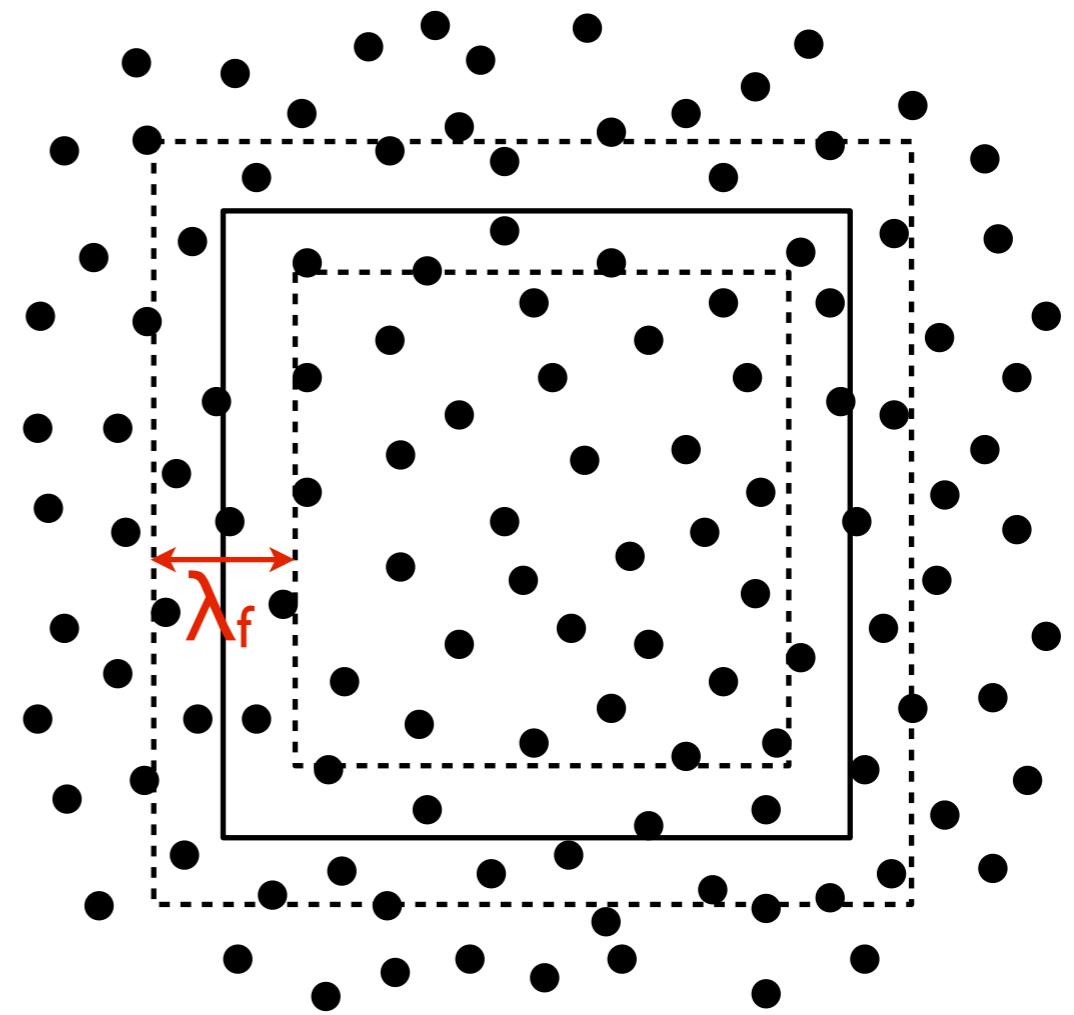


$$(\Delta N)^2 \sim \rho \lambda_f$$

# Particle number fluctuations



$$(\Delta N)^2 \sim N \sim \rho V \quad ?$$



$$(\Delta N)^2 \sim \rho \lambda_f$$

$$(\Delta p)^2 \sim \rho \lambda_f p \sim \eta$$



# Relativistic Dissipative Fluid Dynamics

$$T^{\mu\nu} = -Pg^{\mu\nu} + wu^\mu u^\nu + \Delta T^{\mu\nu}$$

$$J_B^\mu = n_B u^\mu + \Delta J_B^\mu$$

In the **Landau-Lifshitz** approach  $u^\mu$  is the velocity of energy transport.

$$\Delta T^{\mu\nu} = \eta \left( \Delta^\mu u^\nu + \Delta^\nu u^\mu \right) + \left( \frac{2}{3} \eta - \zeta \right) H^{\mu\nu} \partial_\rho u^\rho$$

$$H^{\mu\nu} \equiv u^\mu u^\nu - g^{\mu\nu}, \quad \Delta_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu - u_\mu u^\beta \partial_\beta, \quad Q_\alpha \equiv \partial_\alpha T - T u^\rho \partial_\rho u_\alpha$$

$$\Delta J_B^\mu = \chi \left( n_B T / w \right)^2 \Delta^\mu \left( \mu_B / T \right) \quad s^\mu = s u^\mu - \frac{\mu_B}{T} \Delta J_B^\mu$$

$$\partial_\mu s^\mu = \frac{\eta}{2T} \left( \partial_i u^j + \partial_j u^i - \frac{2}{3} \delta^{ij} \partial_k u^k \right)^2 + \frac{\zeta}{T} \left( \partial_k u^k \right)^2 + \frac{\chi}{T^2} \left( \partial_k T + T \dot{u}_k \right)^2 > 0$$

# Landau's theory of hydrodynamic fluctuations

$$T^{\mu\nu} = T_{\text{ideal}}^{\mu\nu} + \Delta T^{\mu\nu} + S^{\mu\nu}$$

Stochastic source

$$S^{\mu\nu} = S_{\text{vis}}^{\mu\nu} + S_{\text{heat}}^{\mu\nu}$$

Fluctuation - dissipation theorem:  $S^{\mu\nu}$  is related to  $\Delta T^{\mu\nu}$

$$\langle S_{\text{vis}}^{\mu\nu}(x) S_{\text{vis}}^{\alpha\beta}(y) \rangle = 2T \left[ \eta (H^{\mu\alpha} H^{\nu\beta} + H^{\mu\beta} H^{\nu\alpha}) + (\zeta - \frac{2}{3}\eta) H^{\mu\nu} H^{\alpha\beta} \right] \delta^4(x-y)$$

$$\langle S_{\text{heat}}^{\mu\nu}(x) S_{\text{heat}}^{\alpha\beta}(y) \rangle = 2\chi T^2 \left[ H^{\mu\alpha} u^\nu u^\beta + H^{\nu\beta} u^\mu u^\alpha + H^{\mu\beta} u^\nu u^\alpha + H^{\nu\alpha} u^\mu u^\beta \right] \delta^4(x-y)$$

$$\langle S_{\text{vis}}^{\mu\nu}(x) S_{\text{heat}}^{\alpha\beta}(y) \rangle = 0$$

N. Salie, R. Wuffert, and W. Zimdahl, J. Phys. A **16**, 3533 (1983).  
E. Calzetta, Class. Quant. Grav. **15**, 653 (1998).

# Solution procedure

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$$\partial_{\mu} T_{\text{ideal}}^{\mu\nu} + \partial_{\mu} \Delta T_{\text{vis}}^{\mu\nu} = -\partial_{\mu} S^{\mu\nu}$$

Choose initial conditions

Solve hydro equations for arbitrary sources  $S^{\mu\nu}$

Calculate correlations / fluctuations of observables

Average over stochastic sources

Apply thermal freeze-out smearing (Cooper-Frye)

# Bjorken scaling hydrodynamics

Bjorken variables:  $\tau = \sqrt{t^2 - z^2}$ ,  $\xi = \tanh^{-1}(z/t)$ ,  $t = \tau \cosh \xi$ ,  $z = \tau \sinh \xi$

$$u^0 = \cosh(\xi + \omega), \quad u^3 = \sinh(\xi + \omega) \quad \boxed{\text{Longitudinal flow fluctuations}}$$

$$T = T_0(\tau) + \delta T(\xi, \tau) \quad \delta \varepsilon = c_v(T) \delta T \quad w = \varepsilon + P$$

$$P = P_0(\tau) + \delta P(\xi, \tau) \quad \delta P = s(T) \delta T$$

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0(\tau) + \delta \varepsilon(\xi, \tau) \quad \delta s = \delta \varepsilon / T \quad \Rightarrow \quad \rho = \delta s / s \quad \boxed{\text{Density fluctuations}}$$

$$\Delta T_{\text{vis}}^{\mu\nu} = -\left(\frac{4}{3}\eta + \zeta\right)(\partial \cdot u) h^{\mu\nu} \quad S^{\mu\nu} = w(\tau) f(\xi, \tau) h^{\mu\nu}$$

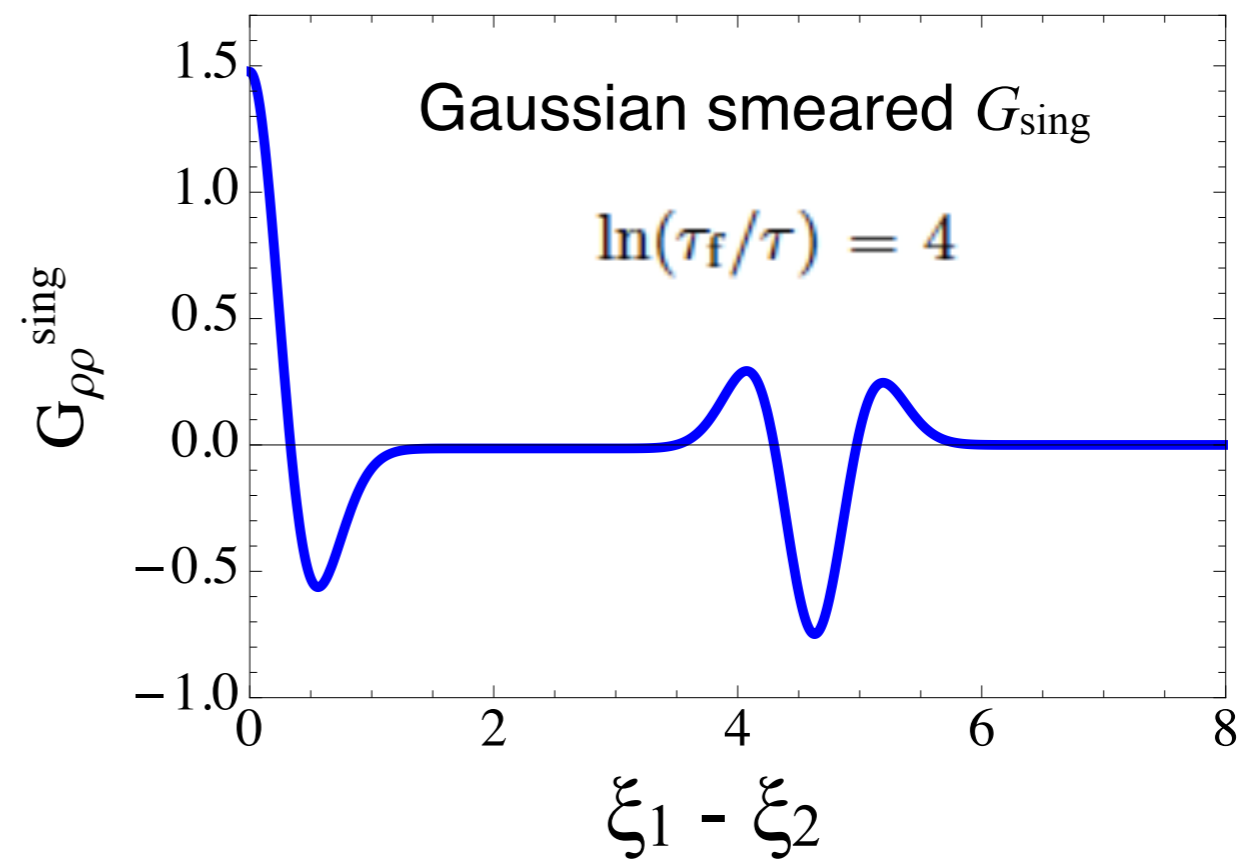
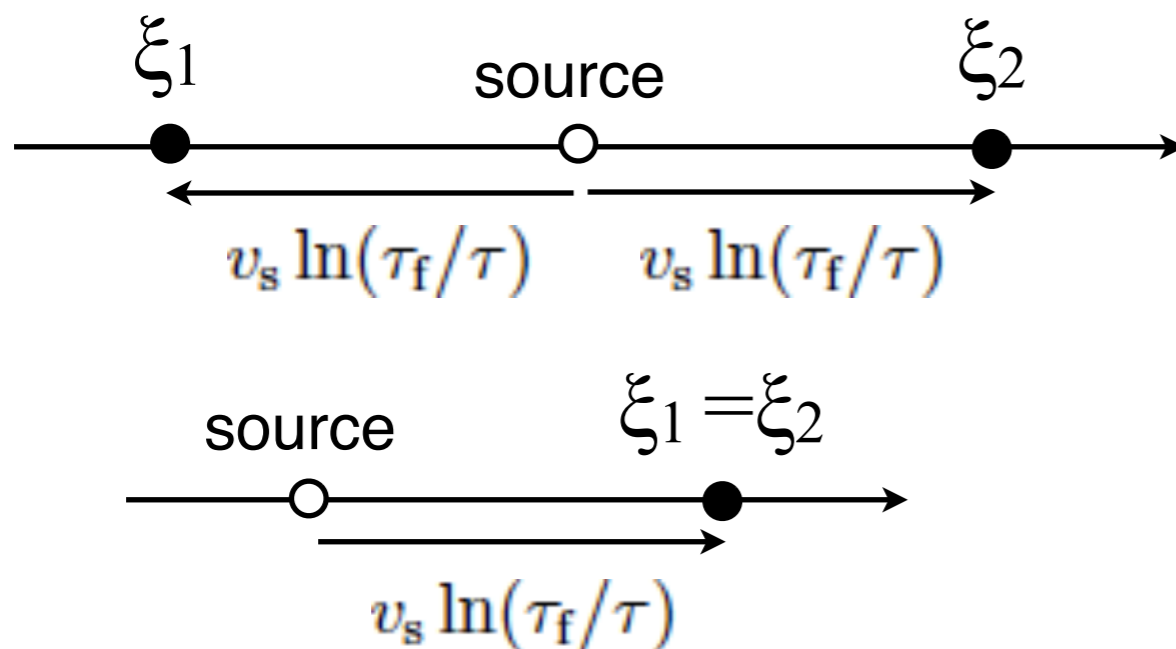
$$\langle f(\xi, \tau) f(\xi', \tau') \rangle = \frac{2T(\tau)}{A\tau w(\tau)^2} \left[ \frac{4}{3}\eta(\tau) + \zeta(\tau) \right] \delta(\tau - \tau') \delta(\xi - \xi')$$

Boost invariant background suggests FT:  $\tilde{X}(k, \tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\xi e^{-ik\xi} X(\xi, \tau)$

# Sound horizon

Equations for small fluctuations can be solved analytically: Green's functions  $G_{\omega/\rho}(k; \tau, \tau')$

$$\langle \tilde{X}(k_1, \tau_1) \tilde{Y}(k_2, \tau_2) \rangle = \frac{2\pi}{A} \delta(k_1 + k_2) \int_{\tau_0}^{\min(\tau_1, \tau_2)} \frac{d\tau}{\tau^3} \frac{2\nu(\tau)}{w(\tau)} \tilde{G}_X(k_1; \tau_1, \tau) \tilde{G}_Y(k_2; \tau_2, \tau)$$



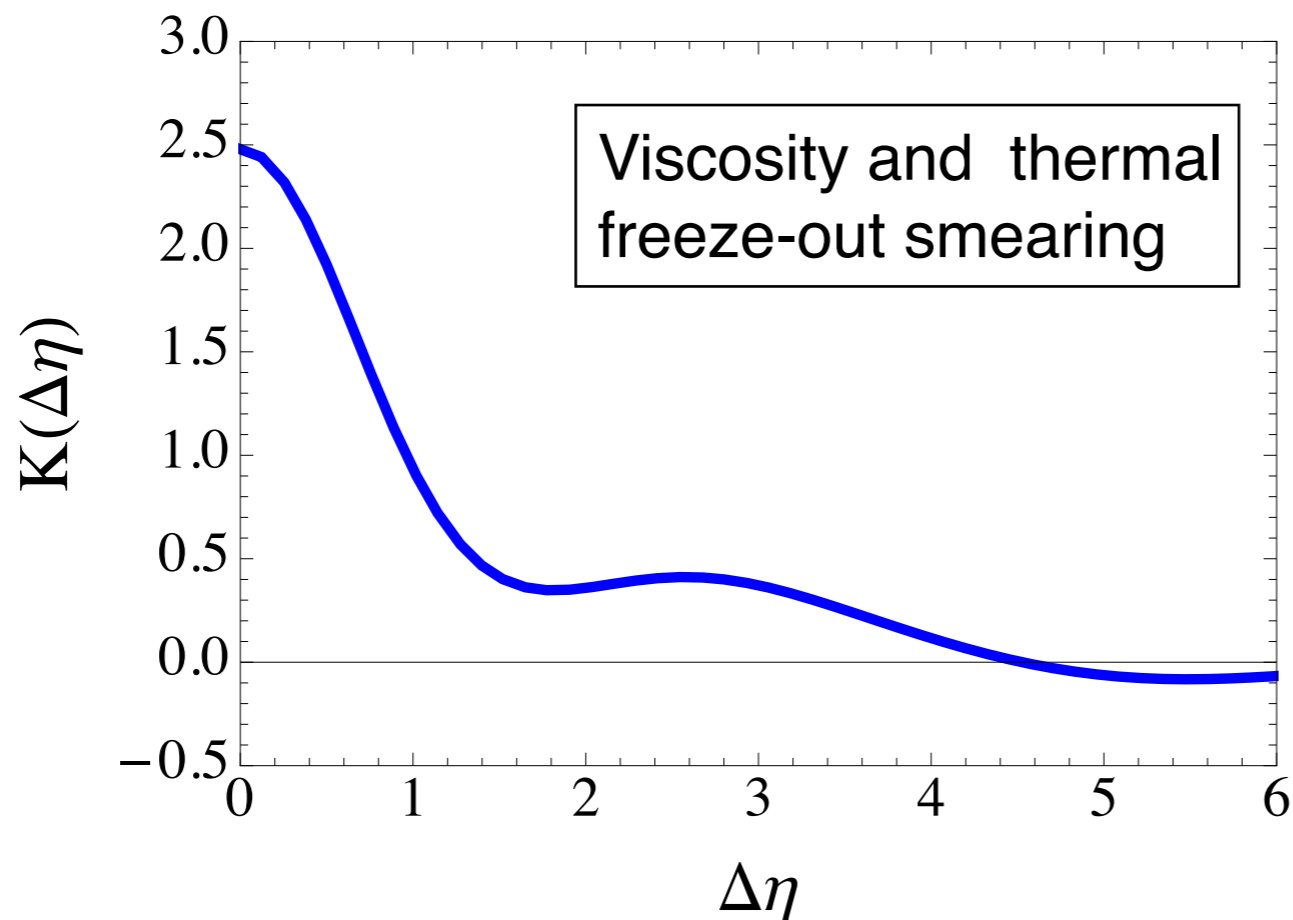
Sound horizon:

$$G_{XY}(\xi; \tau, \tau') = 0 \quad \text{when} \quad |\xi| > 2v_s \ln(\tau/\tau')$$

# Rapidity fluctuations

Freeze-out with Cooper-Frye: 
$$p^0 \frac{dN_s}{d^3p} = \int_{\Sigma_f} d^3\sigma_\mu p^\mu \theta(\sigma \cdot p) d_s f_s(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p})$$

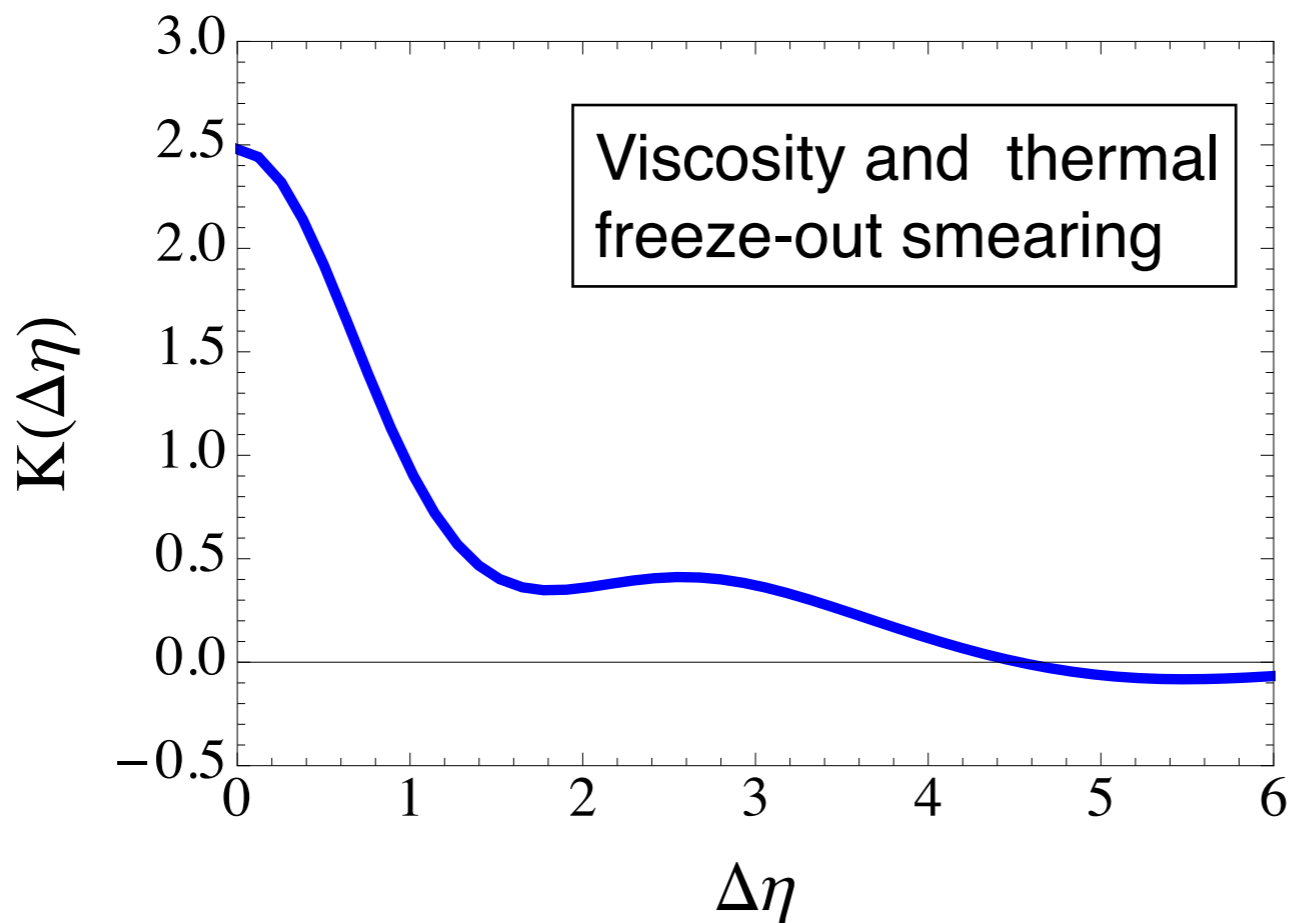
$$\left\langle \delta \frac{dN}{d\eta_1} \delta \frac{dN}{d\eta_2} \right\rangle \left\langle \frac{dN}{d\eta} \right\rangle^{-1} = \frac{45d_s}{4\pi^4 N_{\text{eff}}(T_0)} \frac{\nu}{T_f \tau_f} \left( \frac{T_0^2}{T_f^2} \right)^{v_s^{-2}-2} K(\Delta\eta)$$



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$$\tau_0 = 0.16 \text{ fm/c}$$

$$T_0 = 600 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\tau_f = 10 \text{ fm/c}$$

$$T_f = 150 \text{ MeV}$$

# Summary

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- Initial state fluctuations:
  - Approximate analytical form of the energy density fluctuations has been derived in a CGC inspired model.
  - The result is rather insensitive to details of gluon distribution in the colliding nuclei.
  - Energy density fluctuations are large:  $\Delta\varepsilon/\varepsilon \sim 0.7$  at  $\Delta\mathbf{x} = 0$
  
- Hydrodynamic fluctuations:
  - Can be model independently predicted given a hydro scenario.
  - Encode important information on transport coefficients and speed of sound.
  - Can generate rather long range rapidity correlations ( $\Delta\eta \sim 3-4$ ).
  - Transverse flow under study by Stephanov et al.