Transport properties of a cold atomic Fermi gas at and near unitarity

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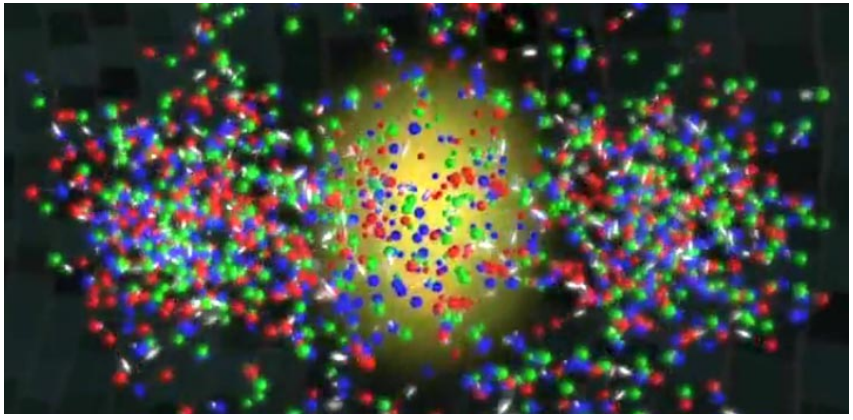
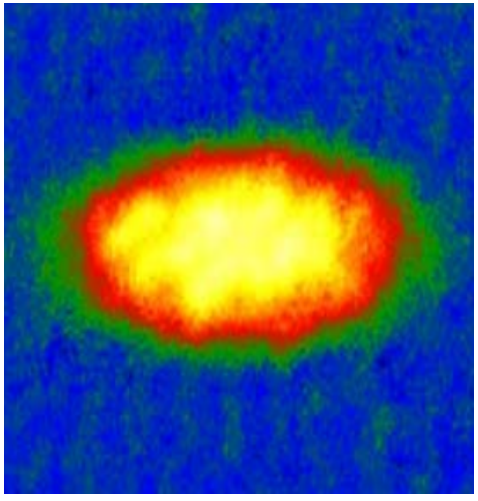
UJK Physics Institute Seminar – Kielce, Poland – May 17, 2017

Strongly coupled/correlated quantum systems



Quark Gluon Plasma

$T \sim 300$ MeV



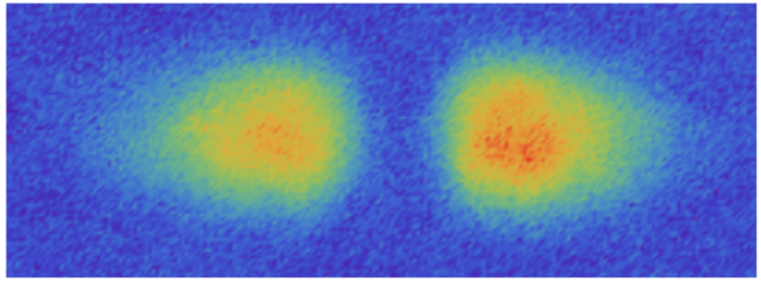
Ultracold Fermi Gas

$T \sim \mu$K

- despite apparent differences exhibit similar fluid dynamical behavior

Ultracold Fermi gas cloud collisions

Fermi gas cloud collision:



evolution within first 12 ms

- repulsive optical potential divides trapped gas into two clouds
- clouds collide once repulsive potential switched off

$\Rightarrow$ formation of propagating shock fronts (fluid dynamical behavior)

J. Joseph et al., PRL **106** (2011) 150401

Ultracold Fermi gas cloud collisions

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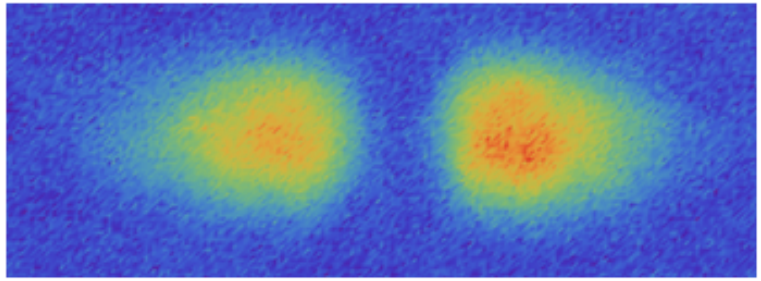

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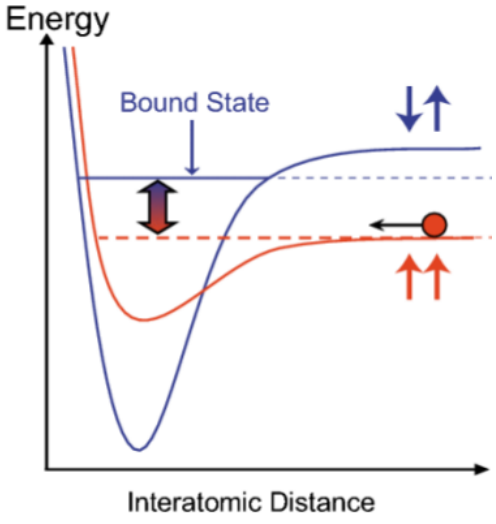
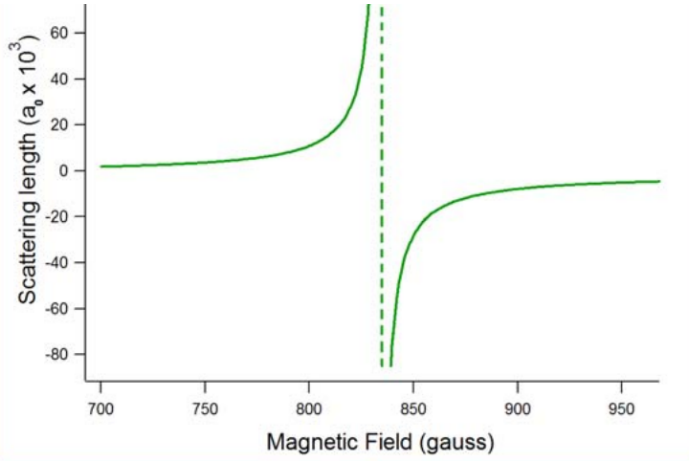
Prelude: Ultracold Fermi gases

- ultracold Fermi gases share features with other strongly coupled quantum systems
- unique experimental playground to study fermionic many-body problem: widely variable densities, temperatures and interatomic interaction strengths
- Feshbach-resonant scattering $\rightarrow$ investigate crossover between BCS-type superfluid and BEC of strongly bound molecules
- ^{40}K, ^{6}**Li**: fermionic atoms with electron spin $S = 1/2$, nuclear spin $I = 1$
- cooled to μK-regime: *s*-wave scattering (length *a*) dominant

Tuning the interaction strength in a Fermi gas

consider spin-balanced system of two (lowest) macroscopically occupied hyperfine eigenstates $|m_f = \pm\frac{1}{2}\rangle$ of ^{6}Li





- scattering between two atoms predominantly in **triplet state** (Open Channel) of interaction potential
- at low incident energy: **singlet** (**bound**) **state** (Closed Channel) with a different magnetic moment

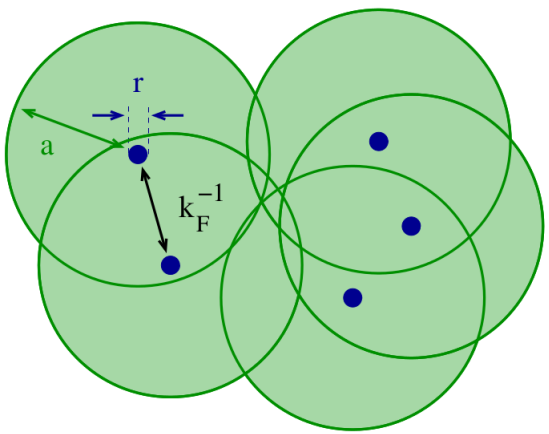
tune B-field $\rightarrow$ CC couples resonantly with OC scattering continuum

$\Rightarrow$ temporary capture in quasi-bound states: Fano-Feshbach resonance

Unitary Fermi gas

unitary limit $|a| \to \infty$:

- scale invariance, conformal invariance
- universal (*s*-wave) collision cross-section: $\sigma_{\text{coll}} = 4\pi/q^2$
- properties of the gas are universal functions of n and T, e.g. $\eta = \hbar n \cdot \alpha(z)$ with fugacity $z \sim n\lambda^3 \sim n/(mT)^{3/2}$



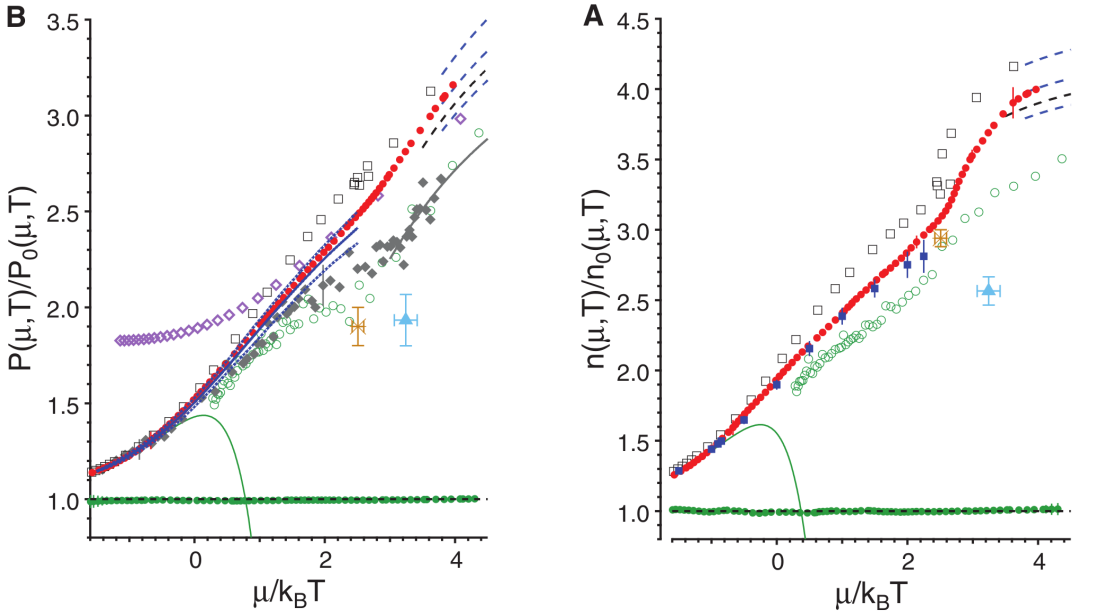
very special situation:
$\to$ dilute gas limit: $r \cdot n^{1/3} \ll 1$

- strong coupling regime reachable if a exceeds average interparticle spacing, i.e. $a \cdot n^{1/3} \gg 1$
- at high-T: $z \ll 1$, $\sigma_{\text{coll}} \sim 1/T$
  $\to$ kinetic theory applies

Equilibrium properties of unitary Fermi gases

universal thermodynamics:

- $P = \frac{2}{3}\mathcal{E}_0$
- $P = T\lambda^{-3} f_P(z)$, $n = \lambda^{-3} f_n(z)$ with universal functions f_P and f_n



measurement across superfluid transition

- change in behavior of $n(T, \mu)$ around $\mu / T \gtrsim 2.5$

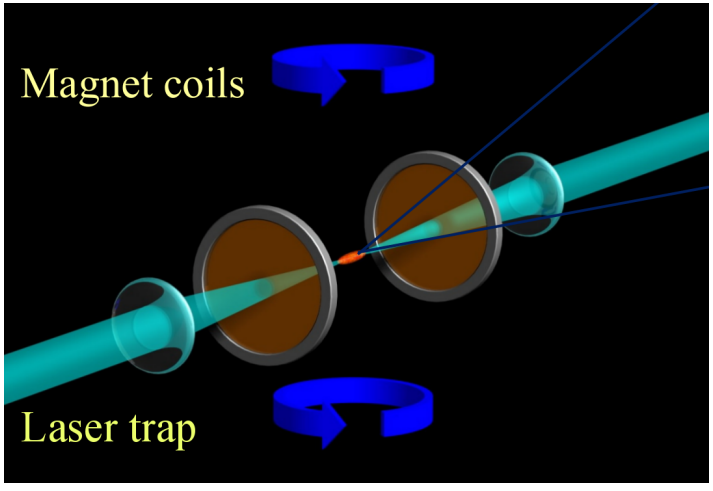
T.-L. Ho, PRL **92** (2004) 090402; M.J.H. Ku et al., Science **335** (2012) 563

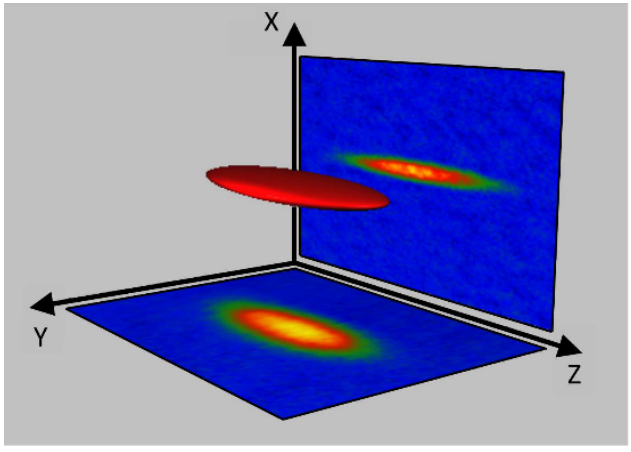
Transport properties of unitary Fermi gases

1) How can they be measured?

- analysis of the gas cloud *flow dynamics* after release from a deformed trap or of the *damping* of the transverse breathing mode after recapturing the gas

$\rightarrow$ **elliptic flow measurement**:





study expansion after release

K.M. O'Hara et al., Science **298** (2002) 2179; C. Cao et al., Science **331** (2011) 58; J. Kinast et al., PRA **70** (2004) 051401 (R); M. Bartenstein et al., PRL **92** (2004) 203201; A. Turlapov et al., J. Low Temp. Phys. **150** (2008) 567; C. Cao et al., New J. Phys. **13** (2011) 075007; E. Elliott et al., PRL **112** (2014) 040405

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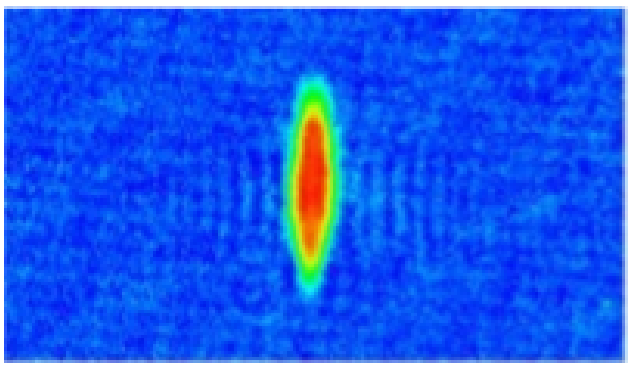

100 μs ... 2 *ms*

- shows fluid dynamical behavior
- analyze time-evolution of gas cloud geometry

K.M. O'Hara et al., Science **298** (2002) 2179; C. Cao et al., Science **331** (2011) 58; J. Kinast et al., PRA **70** (2004) 051401 (R); M. Bartenstein et al., PRL **92** (2004) 203201; A. Turlapov et al., J. Low Temp. Phys. **150** (2008) 567; C. Cao et al., New J. Phys. **13** (2011) 075007; E. Elliott et al., PRL **112** (2014) 040405

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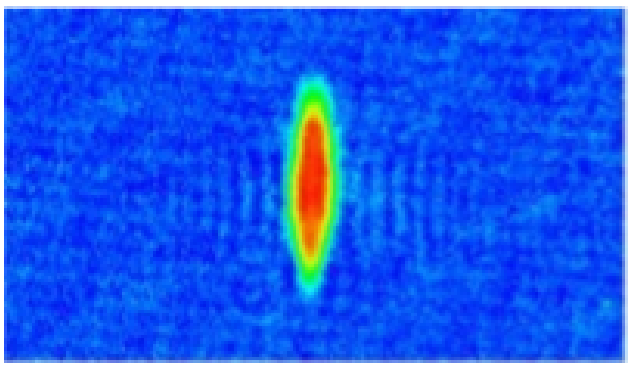

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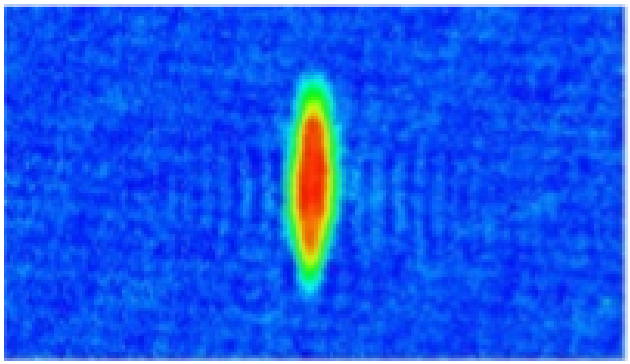

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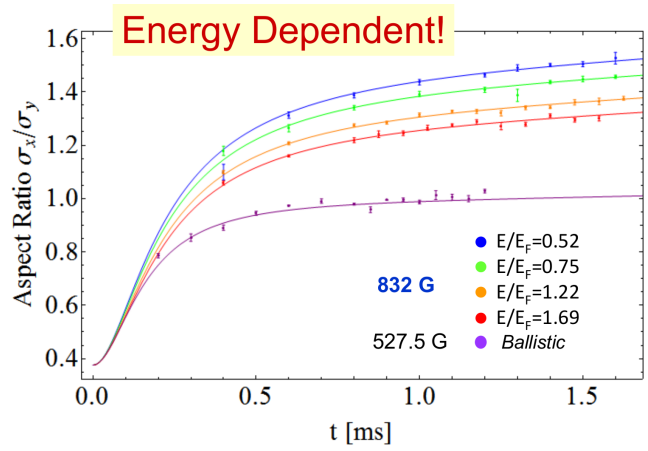

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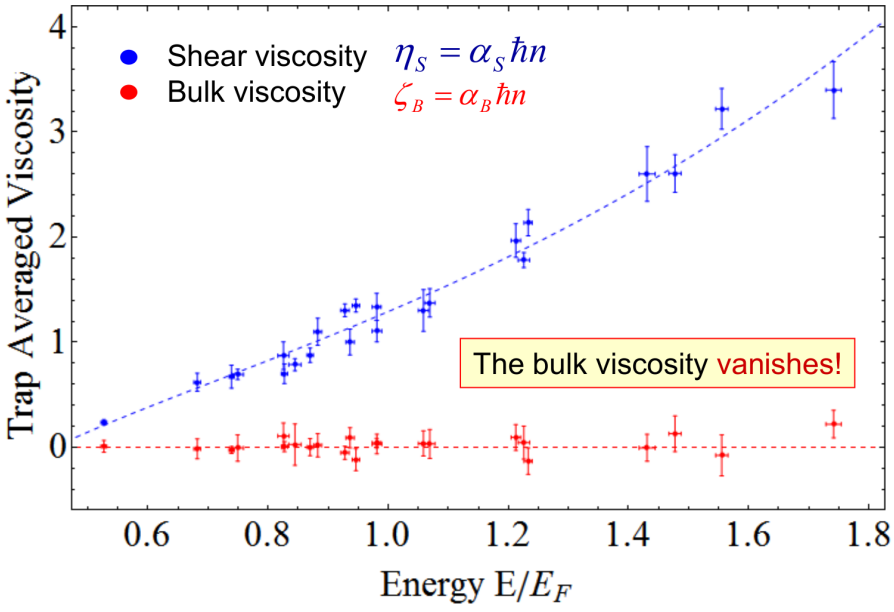
Transport properties of unitary Fermi gases

2) Experimental results:

- dependence on initial energy per particle E



in normal phase
$\rightarrow \langle \eta \rangle / \langle s \rangle \geq 0.4$

$\Rightarrow$ nearly perfect fluidity

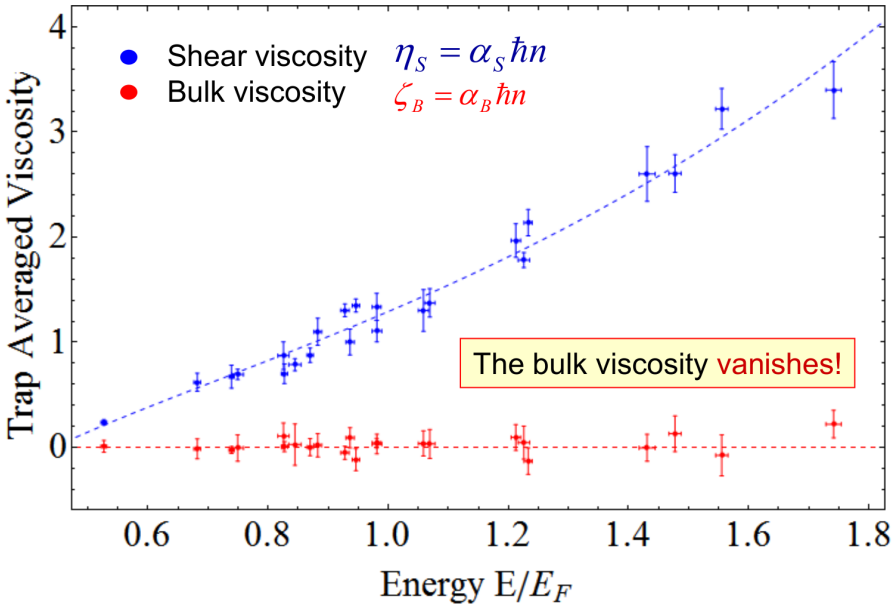
$\rightarrow$ only cloud-averaged quantities determined: $\alpha_S \sim \int \eta dV$
(global observables)

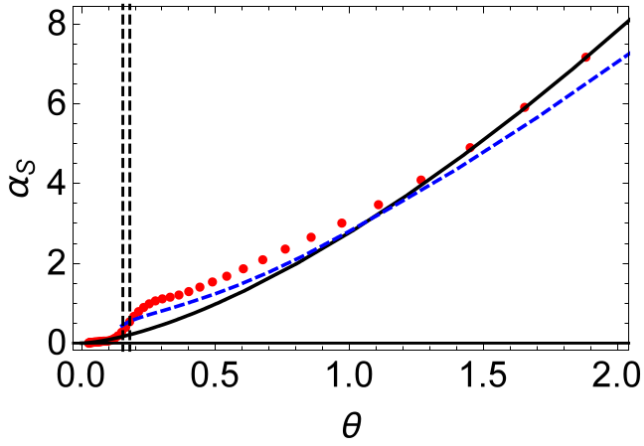
E. Elliott et al., PRL **112** (2014) 040405

Transport properties of unitary Fermi gases

2) Experimental results:

- dependence on initial energy per particle E and $\theta = T / T_F$





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E. Elliott et al., PRL **112** (2014) 040405

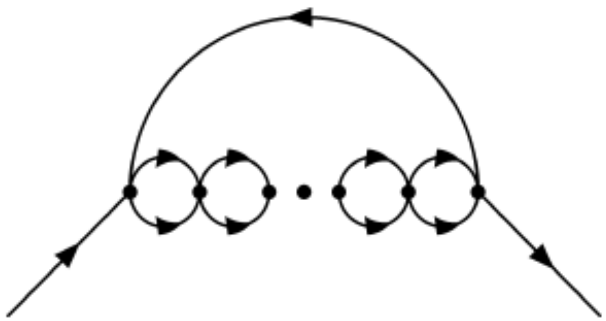
Bulk viscosity and conformal symmetry breaking

- in thermodynamics: $1 - \frac{2}{3}\frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{P} = \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_C \rangle}{12\pi maP} \sim z\frac{\lambda}{a}$

  $\rightarrow$ conformal symmetry breaking parameter

- impact on ζ: in high-T limit $\zeta = \frac{\lambda^{-3}}{24\sqrt{2}\pi}\left(z\frac{\lambda}{a}\right)^2$

$\rightarrow$ physical origin:



$$\mathcal{L}_{eff} = \psi^\dagger\left(\imath\partial_t + \frac{\nabla^2}{2m}\right)\psi - \frac{C_0}{2}(\psi^\dagger\psi)^2\,;\; C_0 = 4\pi a/m$$

$\rightarrow$ well-defined fermionic quasiparticles with **scale-invariance breaking self-energy**

$$Re\,\Sigma(p) \sim \left(z\frac{\lambda}{a}\right)\sqrt{\frac{T^3}{E_p}}$$

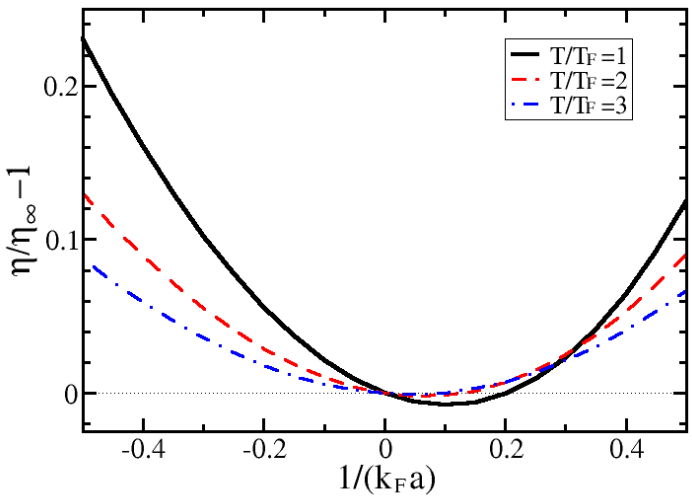
S. Tan, Ann. Phys. **323** (2008) 2971; *ibid.* 2987; Z. Yu et al., PRA **80** (2009) 023615; K. Dusling, T. Schäfer, PRL **111** (2013) 120603; S. Weinberg, Astrophys. J. **168** (1971) 175

Shear viscosity and conformal symmetry breaking

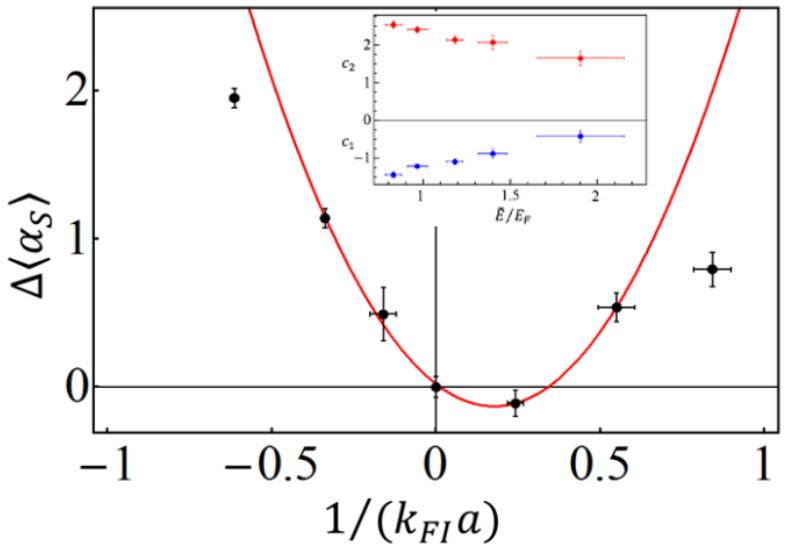
in high-T limit $\rightarrow$ fugacity expansion:

$$\eta = \eta_\infty \left(1 + \hat{c}_2 \left(\frac{\lambda}{a} \right)^2 + \hat{c}_1 \left(\frac{z\lambda}{a} \right) + \ldots \right) \; ; \; \hat{c}_1 < 0$$

$\mathcal{O}\left(z\lambda/a\right)$ originates from in-medium effects in scattering amplitude $\mathcal{A} = C_0/(1 - \Pi C_0)$ and in quasiparticle properties



MB, T. Schäfer, PRA **90** (2014) 063615



$\Rightarrow$ Pauli-blocking more efficient on BCS-side

$\rightarrow$ minimum on BEC-side

$\rightarrow$ with increasing T minimum shifted to unitarity

E. Elliott et al., PRL **113** (2014) 020406; P. Massignan et al., PRA **71** (2005) 033607; G.M. Bruun, H. Smith, PRA **72** (2005) 043605; *ibid.* PRA **75** (2007) 043612; G. Wlazłowski et al., PRA **92** (2015) 063628

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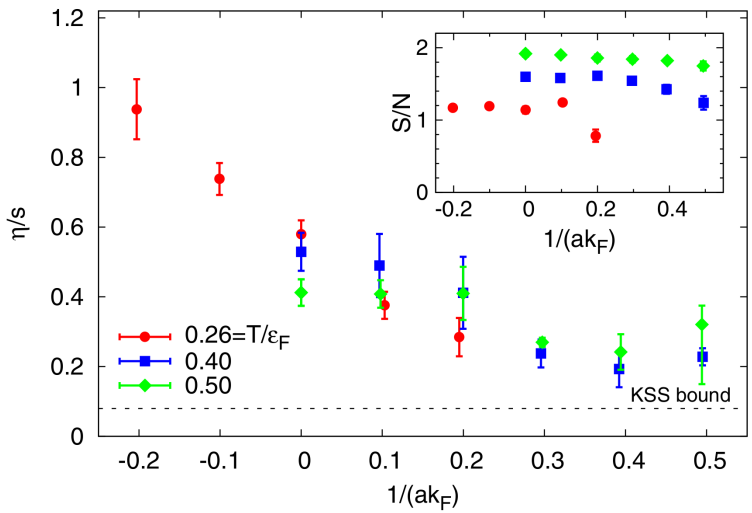
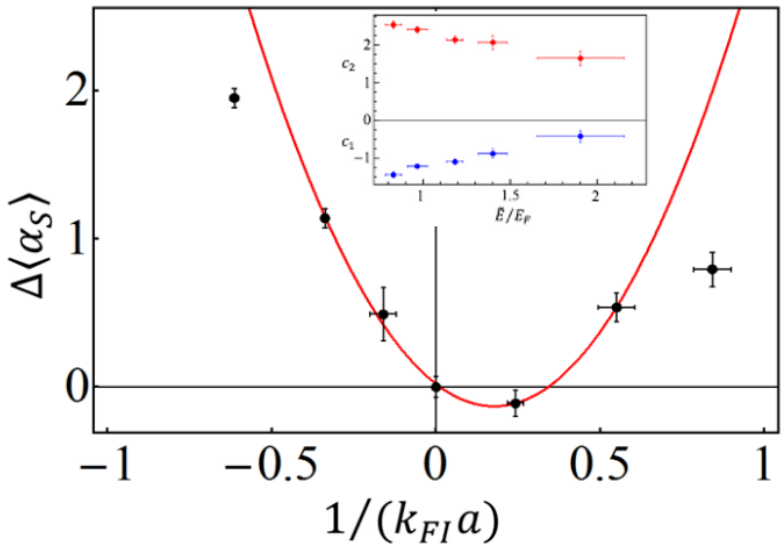


QMC also qualitative agreement

$\rightarrow \; (\eta/s)_{\min} \simeq 0.2$ at $1/(k_F a) \simeq 0.4$



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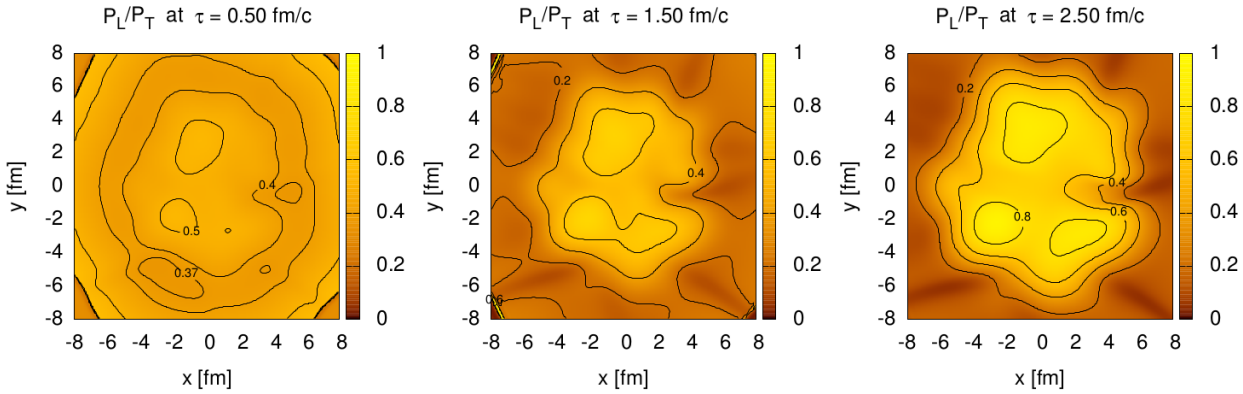
Recent developments in fluid dynamics

at early times large momentum-space anisotropies within fireball from pre-equilibrium evolution of a heavy-ion collision

- viscous hydro and AdS/CFT estimates give $P_L / P_T \lesssim 0.3$:
  $\rightarrow$ anisotropy stronger for larger η / s and lower T

$\Rightarrow$ development of (viscous) anisotropic fluid dynamics for relativistic fluids



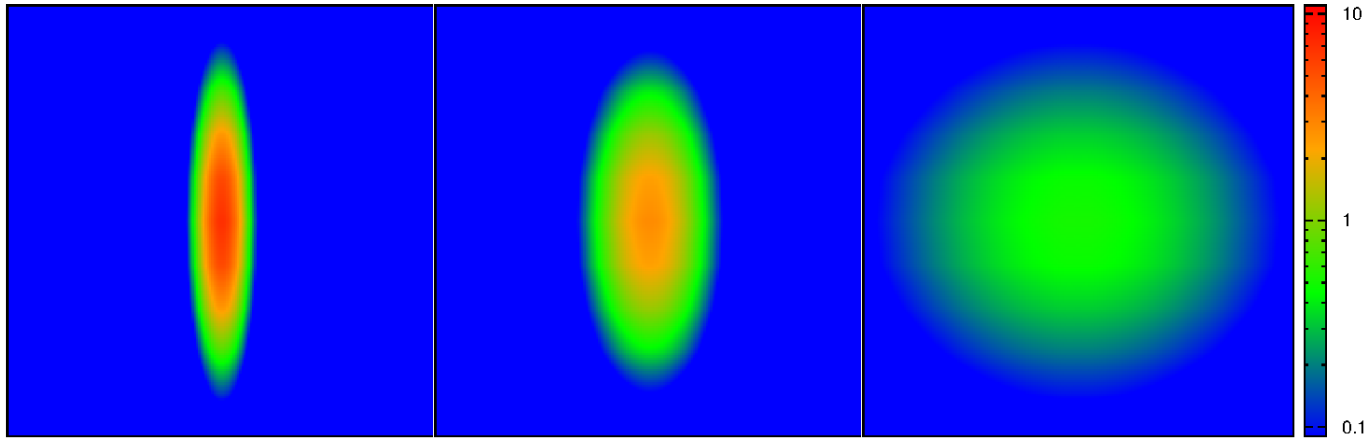
- reproduces known exact solutions of Boltzmann equation accurately

M.P. Heller et al., PRL **108** (2012) 201602; W. van der Schee et al., PRL **111** (2013) 222302; M. Martinez, M. Strickland, NPA **848** (2010) 183; W. Florkowski, R. Ryblewski, PRC **83** (2011) 034907; M. Martinez et al., PRC **85** (2012) 064913; W. Florkowski et al., NPA **916** (2013) 249; *ibid.* PRC **88** (2013) 024903; D. Bazow et al., PRC **90** (2014) 054910; L. Tinti, W. Florkowski, PRC **89** (2014) 034907; W. Florkowski et al., PRC **89** (2014) 054908; *ibid.* PRC **89** (2014) 054909; G.S. Denicol et al., PRL **113** (2014) 202301; *ibid.* PRD **90** (2014) 125026; M. Nopoush et al., PRD **91** (2015) 045007; W. Florkowski et al., PRC **92** (2015) 054912; M. Alqahtani et al., PRC **92** (2015) 054910; *ibid.* 1605.02101; E. Molnár et al., 1602.00573

Non-relativistic anisotropic fluid dynamics

based on guided choice for f_p^{an} (exact solution of Boltzmann equation for harmonic potentials in ballistic limit)

- conservation laws + evolution equations for *non-hydrodynamic* d.o.f. $\mathcal{E}_a$ with $\sum_a \mathcal{E}_a = \mathcal{E}$: depend on relaxation time $\tau = \eta / P$



MB, T. Schäfer, PRA **92** (2015) 043602

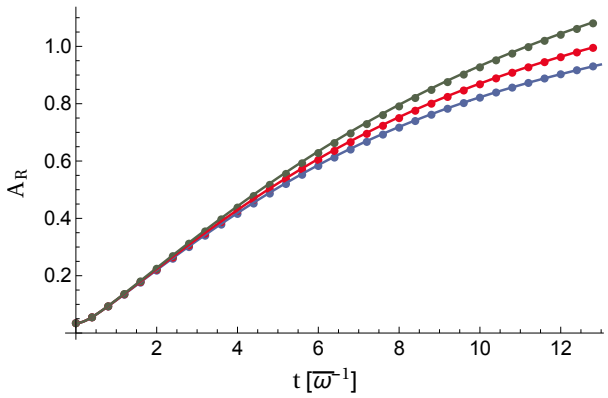
- small τ: fast relaxation to Navier-Stokes theory
- large τ: additional conservation laws $\rightarrow$ ballistic expansion

$\Rightarrow$ provides graceful exit for fluid dynamics in dilute regime

D. Guery-Odelin et al., PRA **60** (1999) 4851; C. Menotti et al., PRL **89** (2002) 250402; P. Pedri et al., PRA **68** (2003) 043608

Application of anisotropic fluid dynamics - high T

baseline test:



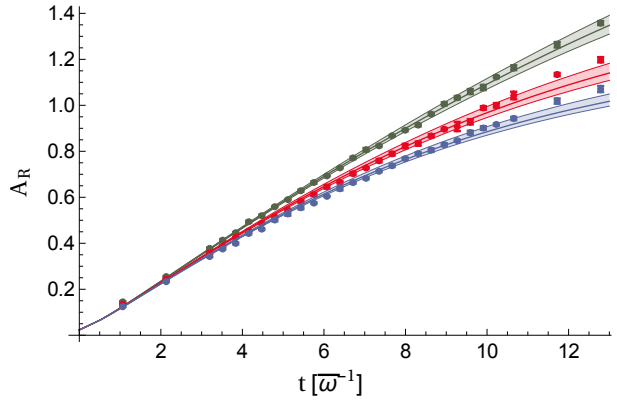
T/T_F

0.79

1.11

1.54

expansion data analysis:



MB, T. Schäfer, PRL **116** (2016) 115301

compare aspect ratio $A_R(t)$ with Boltzmann equation results (symbols)

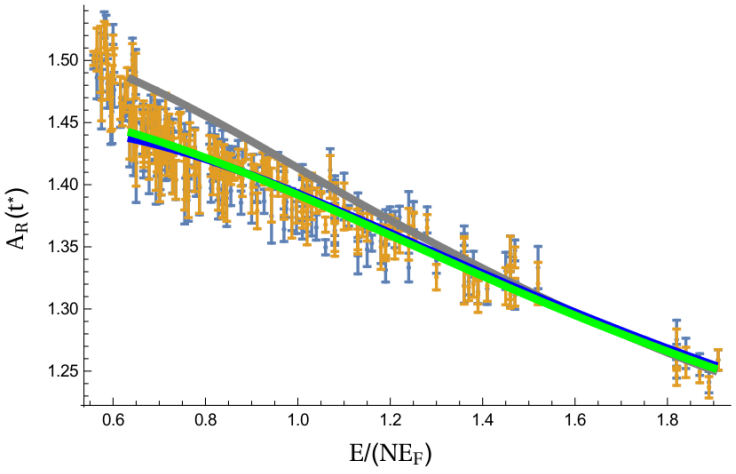
- essentially perfect agreement (for $\tau = \eta^{\mathrm{CE}}/P$ with η^{CE} for unitary σ_{coll})
- accurate representation of kinetic theory with 2-body collisions

- fit result: $\eta = \alpha_T (mT)^{3/2}$ with $\alpha_T = 0.282$ (compare $\alpha_T^{\mathrm{CE}} = 0.264$)
- **model-independent** benchmark result

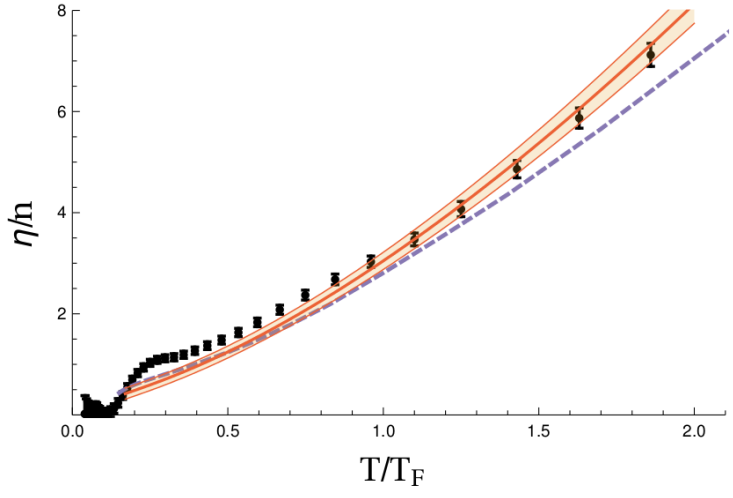
C. Cao et al., Science **331** (2011) 58; P.-A. Pantel et al., PRA **91** (2015) 013627

Application of anisotropic fluid dynamics - low T

expansion data analysis:



virial expansion for η gives:



MB, J. Hou and T. Schäfer, arXiv:1704.03720 [cond-mat.quant-gas]

$$\eta = \alpha_T (mT)^{3/2} + \alpha_n n + \alpha_{n^2} n^2 (mT)^{-3/2}$$

- analyze data in normal phase only at $t^* = 1.2$ ms
- $\eta/n\,|_{T_c} = 0.41 \pm 0.15$
- fit result: $\alpha_T = 0.265$; density corrections remain modest even near T_c
- agreement with T-matrix calculations near T_c

J. A. Joseph et al., PRL **115** (2015) 020401; M.J.H. Ku et al., Science **335** (2012) 563; T. Enss et al., Annals Phys. **326** (2011) 770

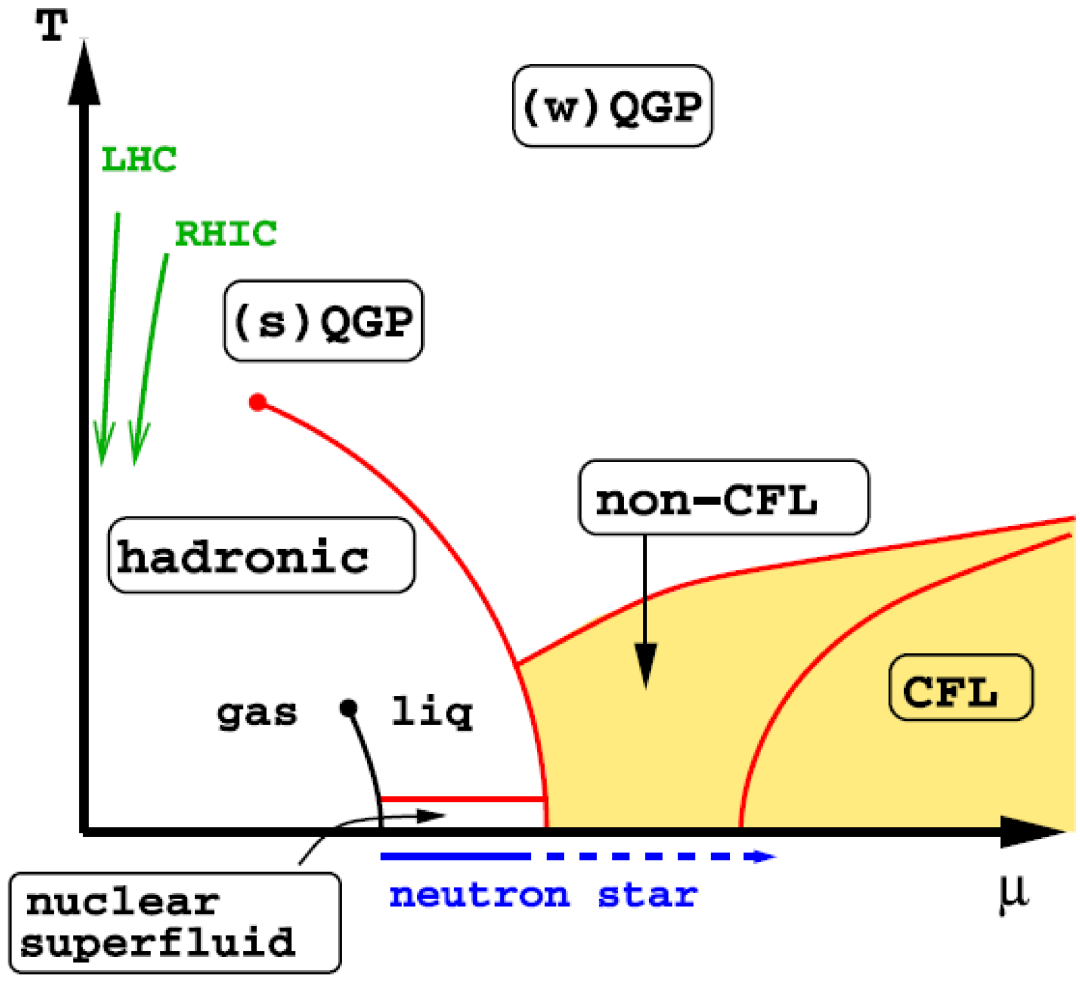
Conclusions and Outlook

- analysis of expansion data in the normal phase shows nearly perfect fluid nature of cold Fermi gases at unitary
- high-T data confirm kinetic theory expectations
- low-T data indicate moderate density corrections near T_c
- kinetic theory can qualitatively explain anomalous shift of the minimal shear viscosity near unitarity

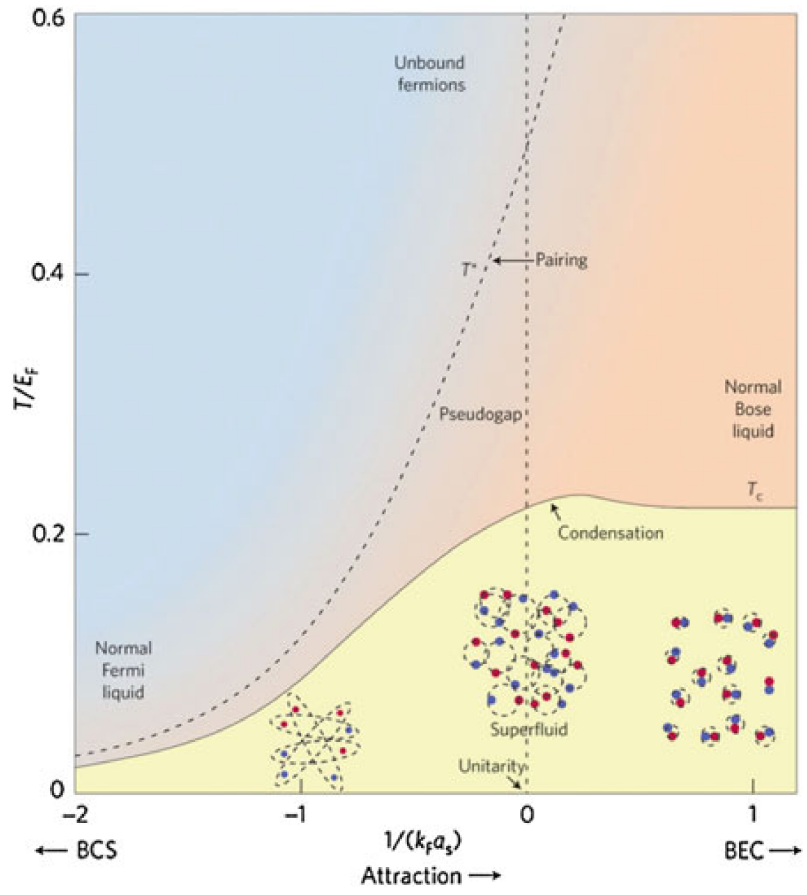
- analysis of data at even lower T requires inclusion of superfluid hydrodynamics
- study spin diffusion in comparison to experiments; test quantum limit near T_c, connection with shear viscosity, etc.
- study influence of fluctuations on the fluid dynamical behavior and the diffusion processes (fluctuation $\leftrightarrow$ dissipation)

Backup

QCD phase diagram

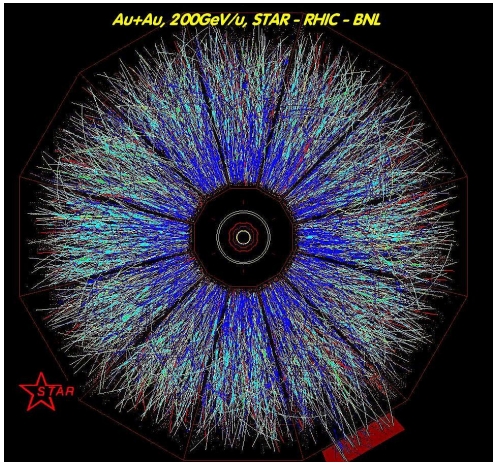


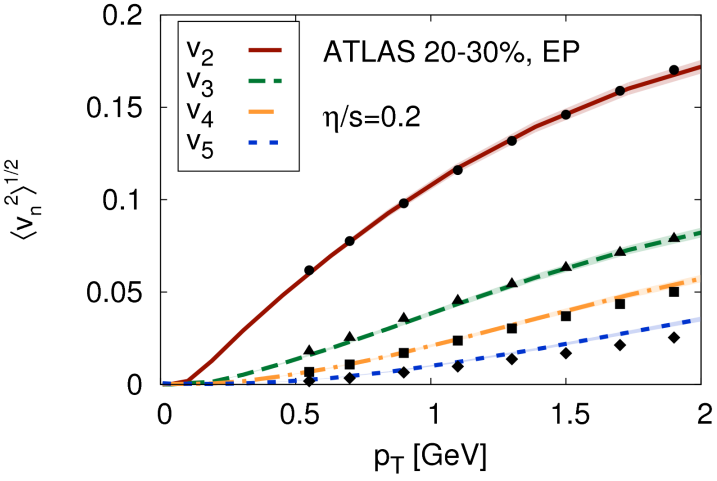
BCS–BEC crossover in cold atoms



Transport properties of the QGP

information on QGP transport properties come from observables associated with fluid dynamical flow in HIC





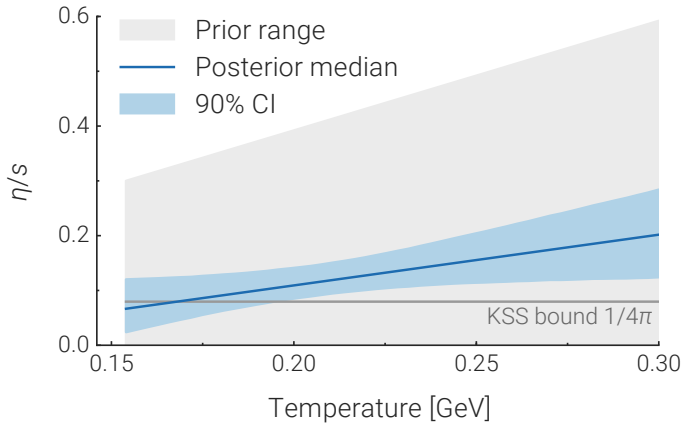
- in non-central HIC find anisotropies in azimuthal particle distribution
- analysis of flow harmonics: $\eta/s \simeq 0.12 \ldots 0.24$

$\Rightarrow$ nearly perfect fluidity

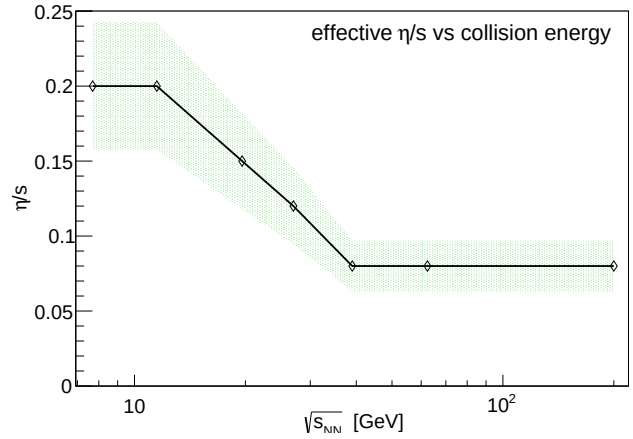
K. Aamodt et al., PRL **105** (2010) 252302; G. Aad et al., PRC **86** (2012) 014907; P. Romatschke, U. Romatschke, PRL **99** (2007) 172301; K. Dusling, D. Teaney, PRC **77** (2008) 034905; H. Song, U.W. Heinz, PRC **77** (2008) 064901; H. Song et al., PRC **83** (2011) 054912; C. Gale et al., PRL **110** (2013) 012302

Local determination of η in the QGP

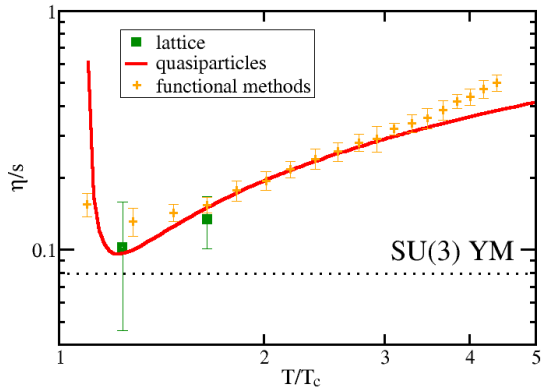
recent efforts aim at determining dependence of η/s on T and n



Bayesian analysis (LHC)



tuning in QCD phase diagram



FRG methods and simple quasiparticle picture give similar results

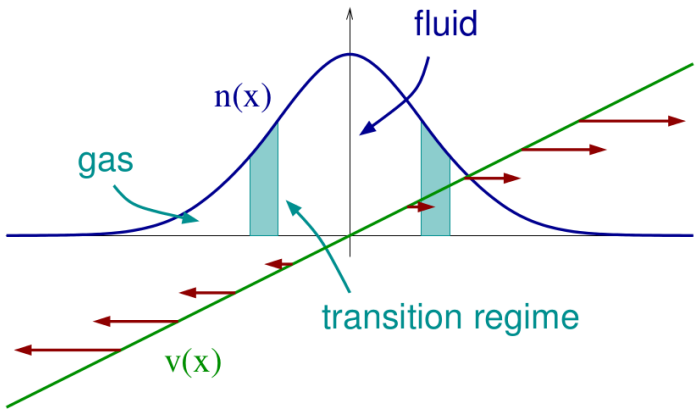
MB, B. Kämpfer, K. Redlich, PRC **84** (2011) 025201

H. Niemi et al., PRC **86** (2012) 014909; Iu.A. Karpenko et al., PRC **91** (2015) 064901; J.E. Bernhard et al., 1605.03954; MB et al., PLB **709** (2012) 77; N. Christiansen et al., PRL **115** (2015) 112002; H. Berrehrah et al., Int. J. Mod. Phys. E **25** (2016) 1642003

Local η determination in unitary Fermi gases

Navier-Stokes theory breaks down in dilute corona $\rightarrow$ paradoxical fluid dynamical behavior

- must either assume $\eta \sim n$ or introduce cut-off radius

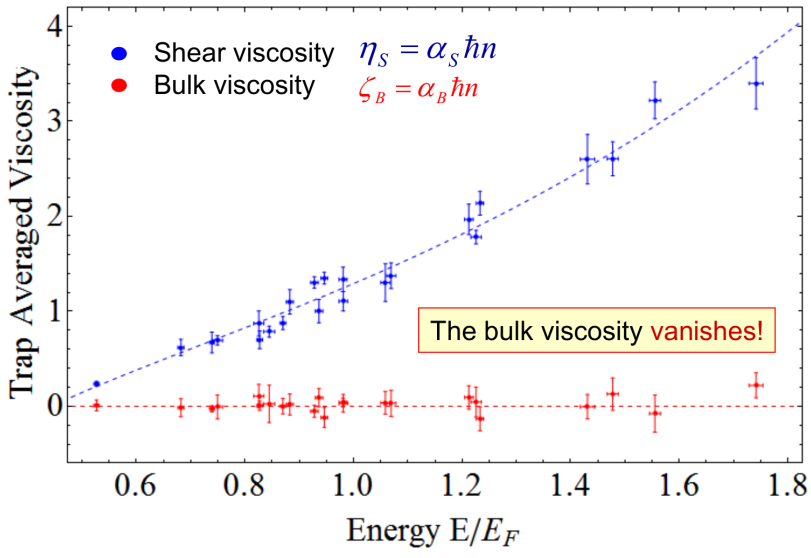


- reliable treatment of low density regime:

  solve Boltzmann equation numerically; Lattice Boltzmann simulation; Quantum Monte Carlo simulation; combine fluid dynamics with kinetic transport approach; Anisotropic fluid dynamics

J.A. Joseph et al., PRL **115** (2015) 020401; P.-A. Pantel et al., PRA **91** (2015) 013627; MB, T. Schäfer, PRA **92** (2015) 043602; J. Brewer et al., PRA **93** (2016) 013618; MB, T. Schäfer, PRL **116** (2016) 115301

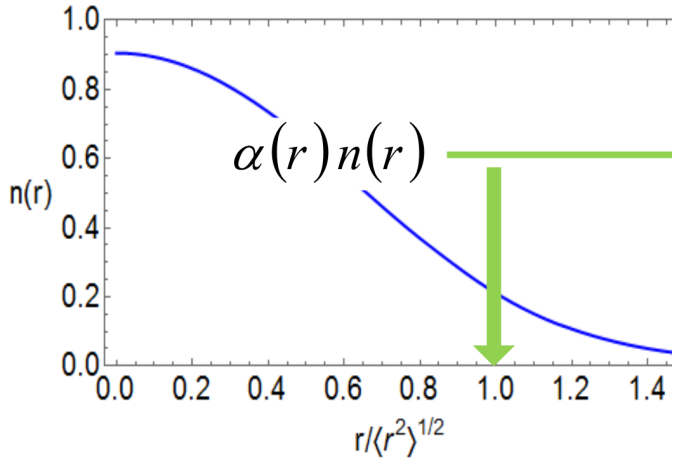
Experimental determination of transport coefficients



caveat: only trap-averaged parameters are deduced from the global observables, e.g.

$$\alpha_S = \frac{1}{N\hbar} \int d^3\vec{x}\, \eta(\vec{x}, t)$$

$\rightarrow$ must *either* assume $\eta \rightarrow 0$ at low *n or* introduce cut-off radius (model-dependent approaches)

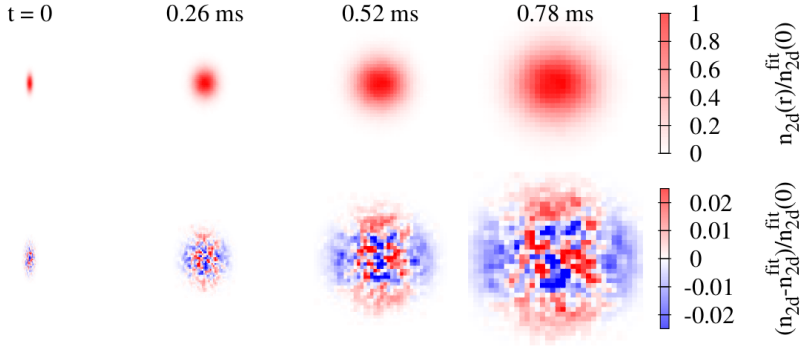


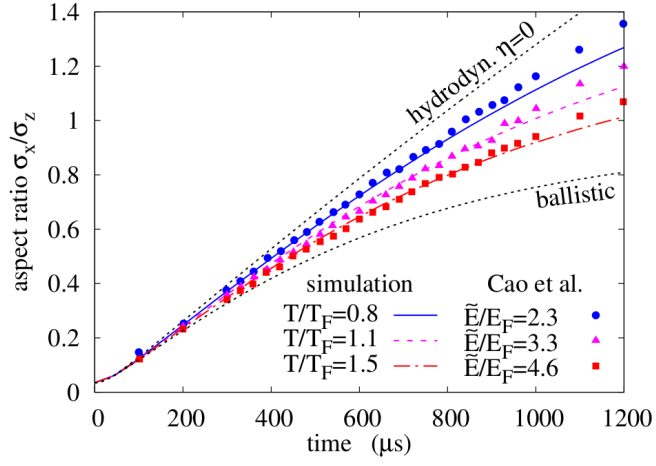
Numerical solution of the Boltzmann-equation

solve Boltzmann-equation numerically within *test-particle method*

$$\left(\partial_t + \vec{v}\cdot\vec{\nabla}_x - \vec{F}\cdot\vec{\nabla}_p\right) f_p(\vec{x},t) = \mathcal{C}[f_p]$$

L. Boltzmann (1844-1906)

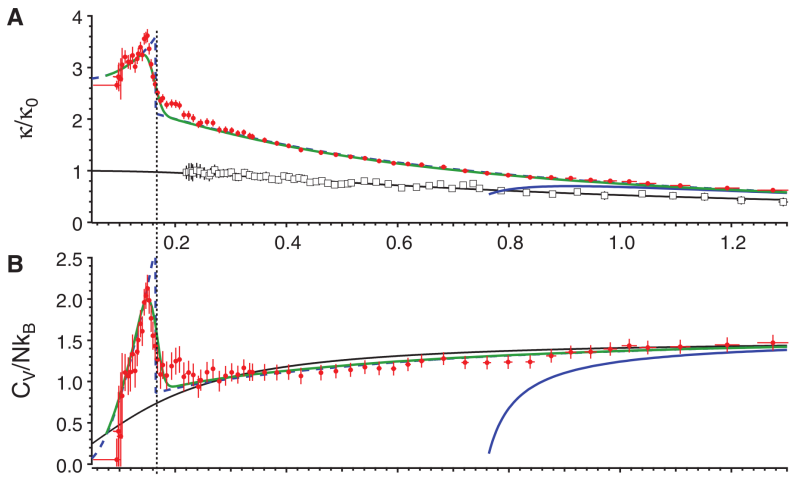




$\rightarrow$ not straightforward to extract dependence of η on n and T

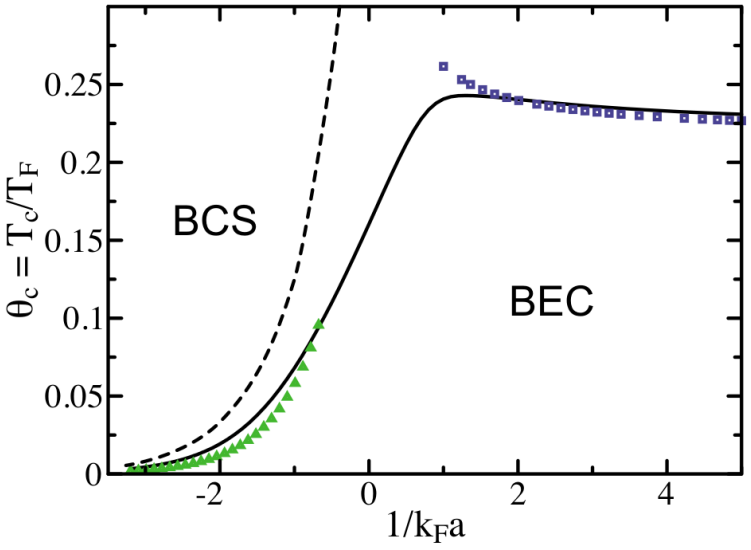
C. Cao et al., Science **331** (2011) 58; P.-A. Pantel et al., PRA **91** (2015) 013627

Equilibrium properties of unitary Fermi gases



- rise in compressibility κ
- λ-shape structure in specific heat c_V as functions of T/T_F

$\Rightarrow$ 2^{nd}-order phase transition with $T_c/T_F = 0.167(13)$

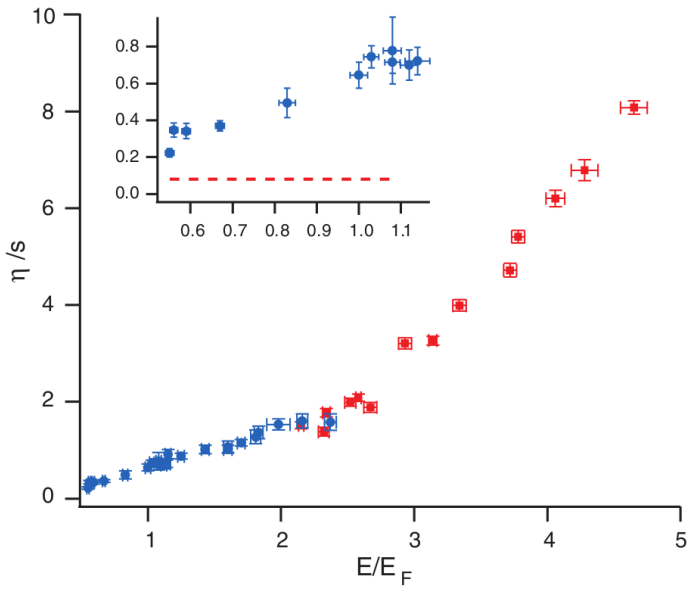


- self-consistent T-matrix, FRG and QMC approaches: $\rightarrow T_c/T_F \simeq 0.16$

M.J.H. Ku et al., Science **335** (2012) 563; R. Haussmann et al., PRA **75** (2007) 023610; E. Burovski et al., PRL **96** (2006) 160402; A. Bulgac et al., PRA **78** (2008) 023625; O. Goulko, M. Wingate, PRA **82** (2010) 053621; I. Boettcher et al., PRA **89** (2014) 053630

Transport properties of unitary Fermi gases

3) Theory results:



shear viscosity η

- in high-T limit
  $\rightarrow \eta = \frac{15}{32\sqrt{\pi}}(mT)^{3/2}$
- at $z \simeq 12$ superfluid transition
  $\rightarrow \eta \sim 1/T^5$ for phonons

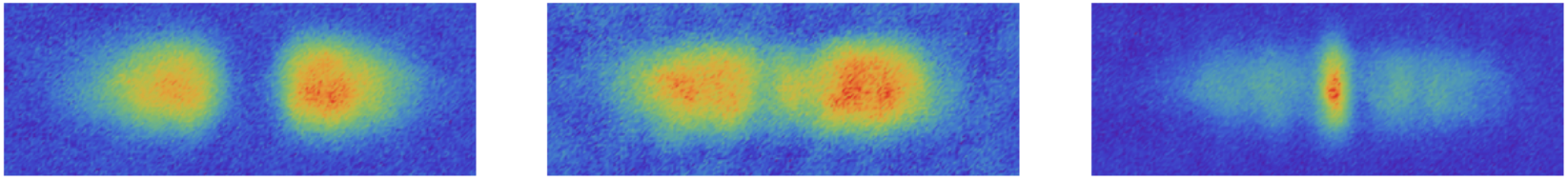
$\Rightarrow$ suggests minimum near T_c

- for $z \gtrsim 1$
  $\rightarrow$ T-matrix: $\eta/s \simeq 0.5$
  $\rightarrow$ QMC: $\eta/s \simeq 0.2$

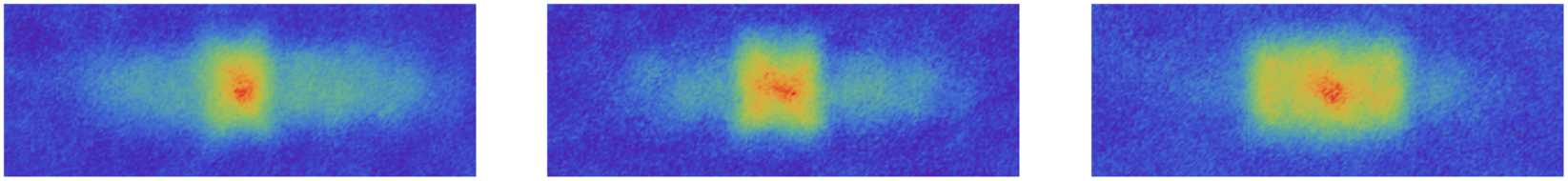
D.T. Son, PRL **98** (2007) 020604; P. Massignan et al., PRA **71** (2005) 033607; G.M. Bruun, H. Smith, PRA **72** (2005) 043605; *ibid.* PRA **76** (2007) 045602; G. Rupak, T. Schäfer, PRA **76** (2007) 053607; T. Enss et al., Ann. Phys. **326** (2011) 770; H. Guo et al., New J. Phys. **13** (2011) 075011; *ibid.* PRL **107** (2011) 020403; G. Wlazłowski et al., PRL **109** (2012) 020406; *ibid.* PRA **88** (2013) 013639; Y. He, K. Levin, PRB **89** (2014) 035106; T. Schäfer, PRA **90** (2014) 043633

Fermi gas cloud collision

Fermi gas cloud collision:



$t = 0$ ms $\quad$ $t = 1$ ms $\quad$ $t = 3$ ms



$t = 5$ ms $\quad$ $t = 6$ ms $\quad$ $t = 9$ ms

- repulsive optical potential divides trapped gas into two clouds
- clouds collide once repulsive potential switched off

$\Rightarrow$ formation of propagating shock fronts (fluid dynamical behavior)

J. Joseph et al., PRL **106** (2011) 150401