

QGP Physics from Attractor Perturbations

Xin An

Based on work in progress with M. Spalinski

New Jet Quenching Tools Workshop

ECT*, Trento, Italy

Feb 16, 2024



NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
POLAND

Motivation

QGP evolution starts far from equilibrium

- Characteristics of heavy-ion collisions:

Speed ~ 1 **fast**

Energy $\sim 10 - 10^4$ GeV **high**

Collision time $\sim 0.01 - 1$ fm **short**

Size ~ 10 fm **small**

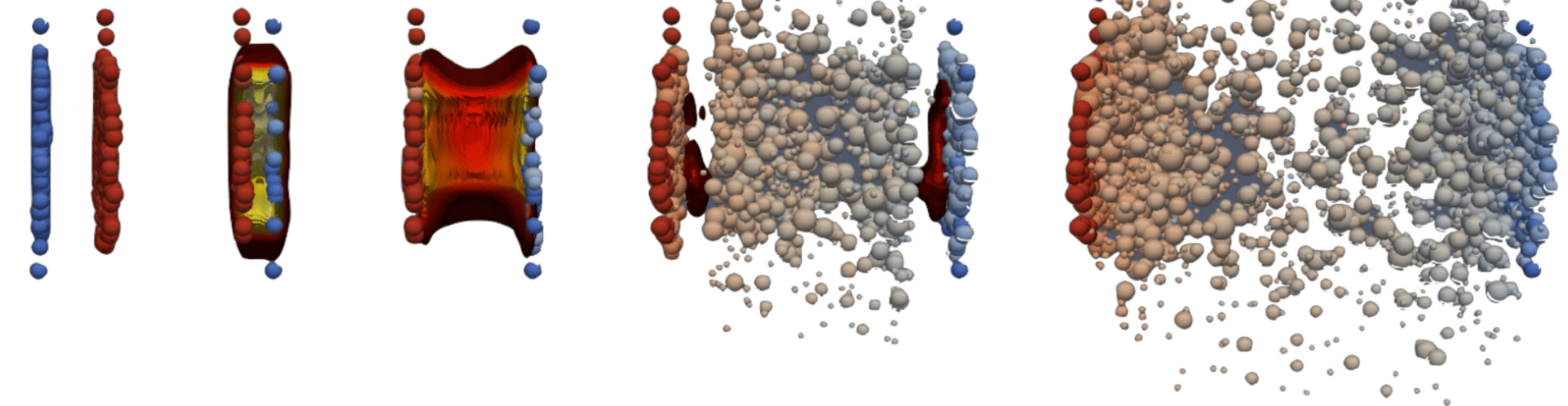
Particles $\sim 10^2 - 10^4$ **few**

initial stage

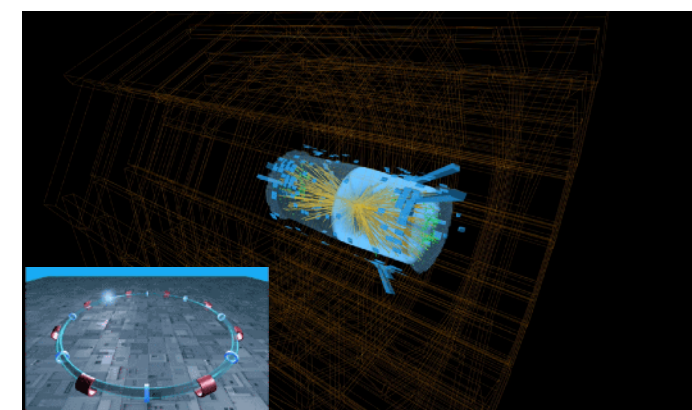
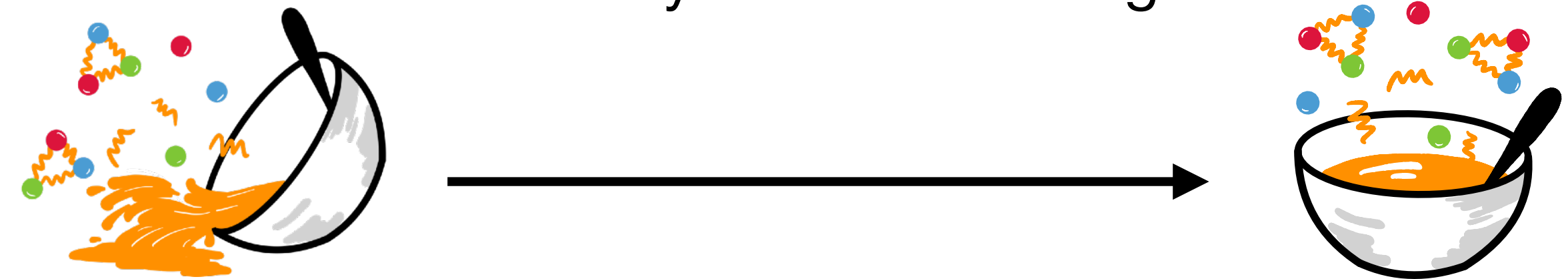
QGP

hadronic

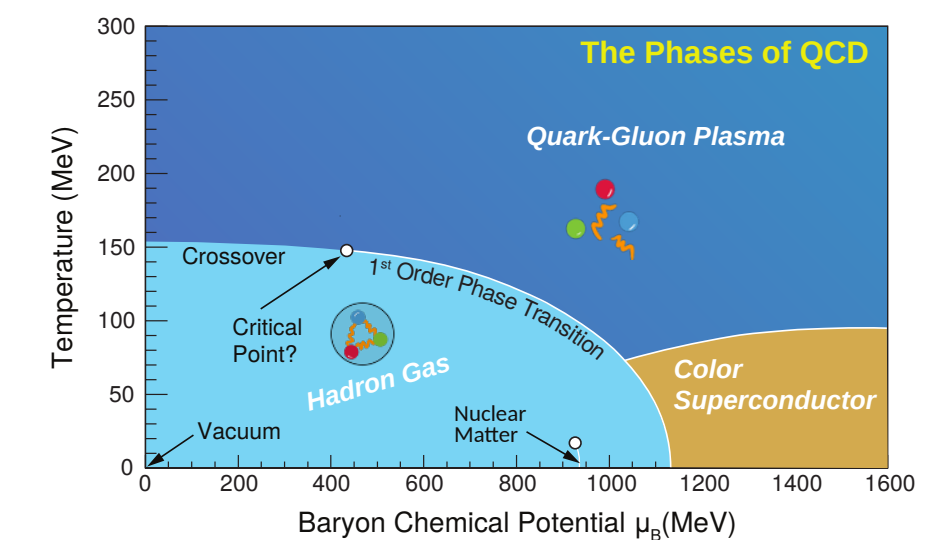
freezeout



History of the little bang

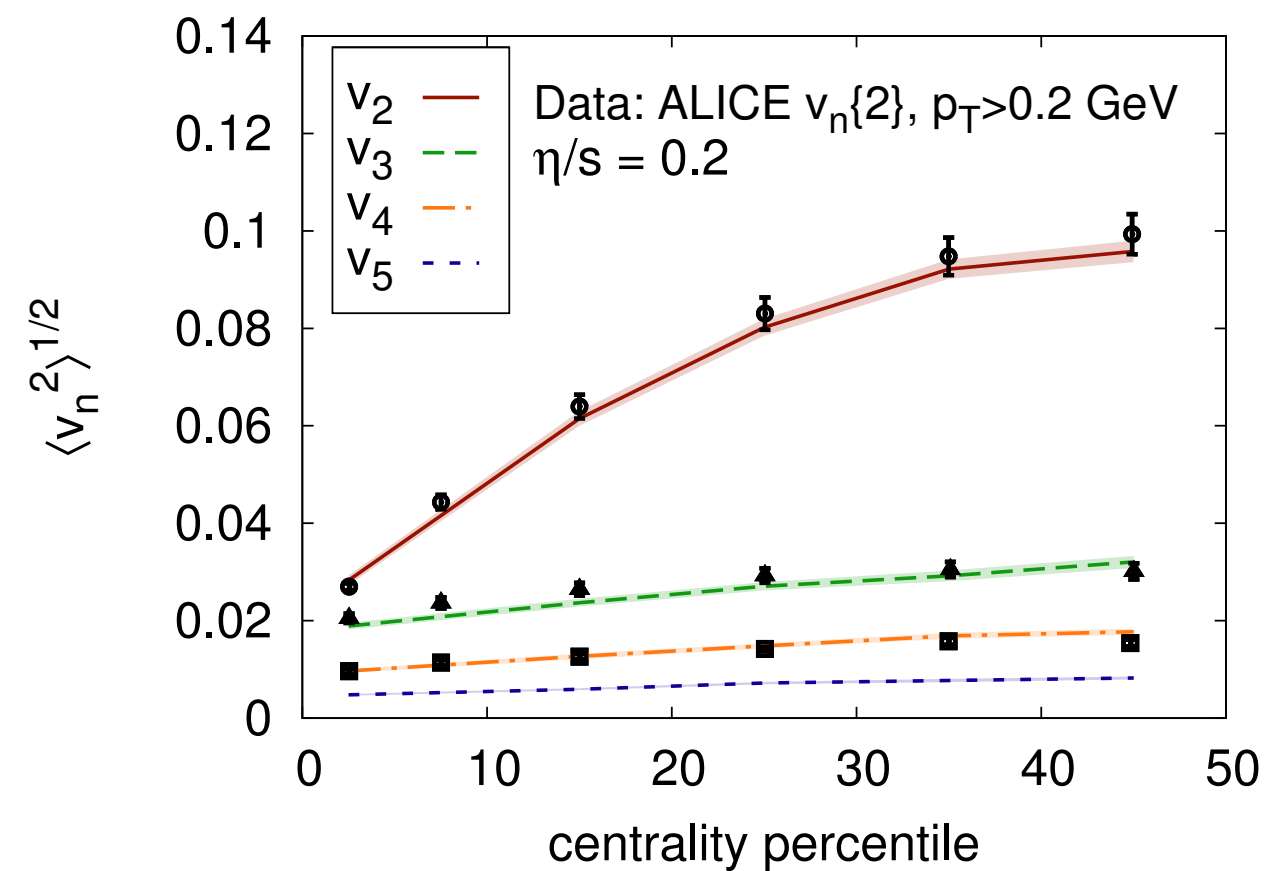


Collision events at LHC

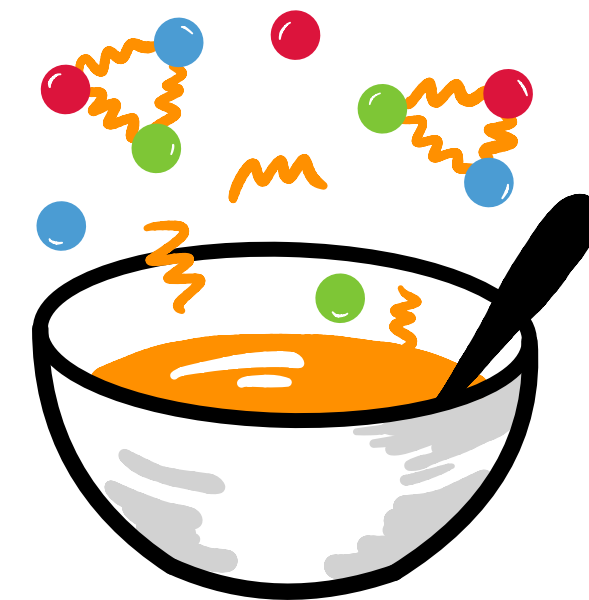
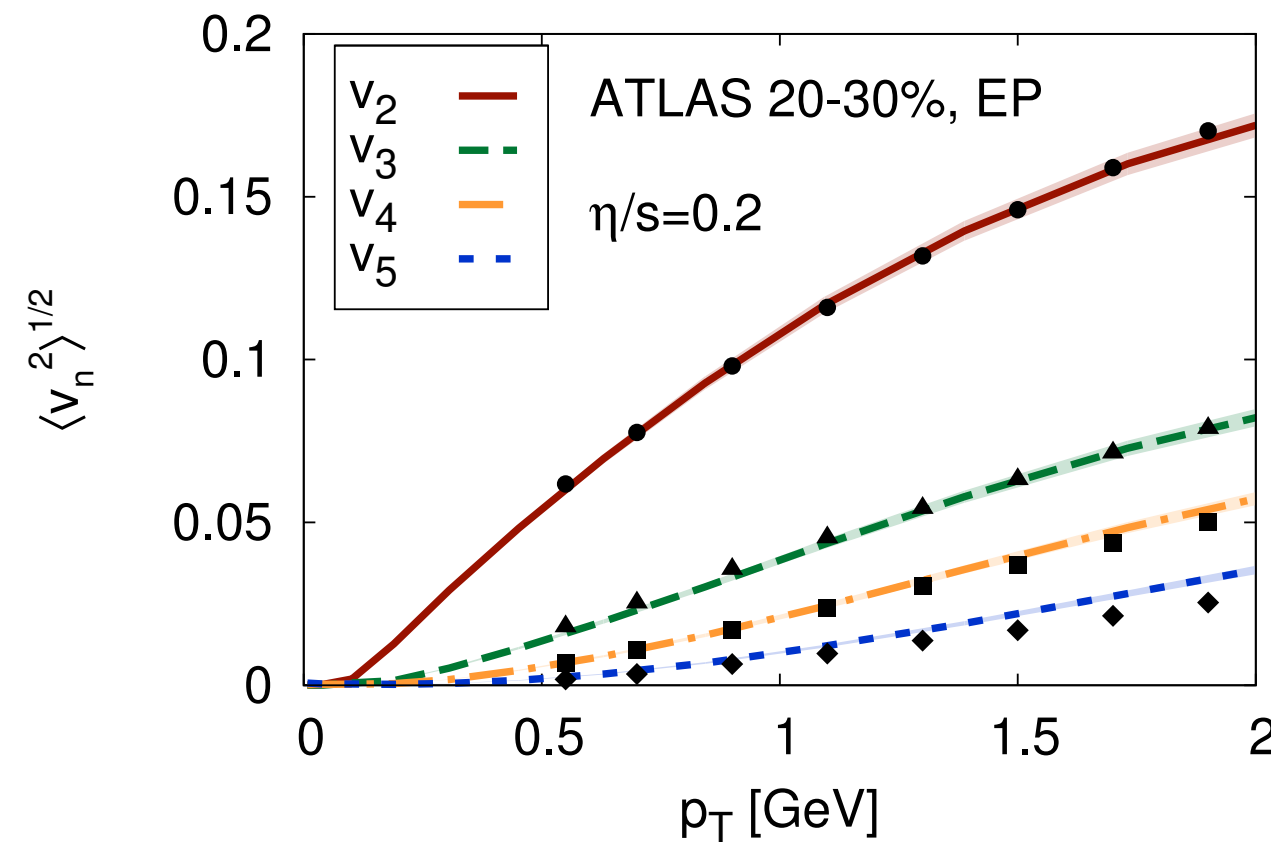


QGP is well described by hydrodynamics

- Flow collectivity manifests QGP as a *nearly perfect fluid*.

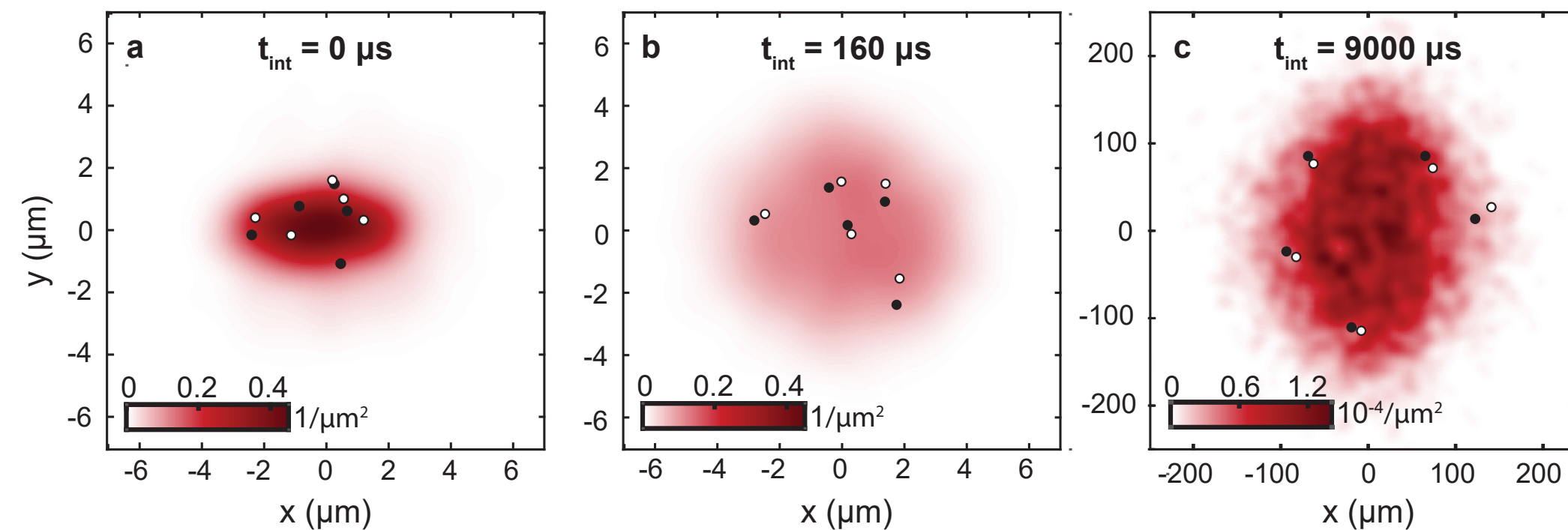


Gale et al, 1301.5893



Hydrodynamics is believed to be applicable near equilibrium

- And even more:

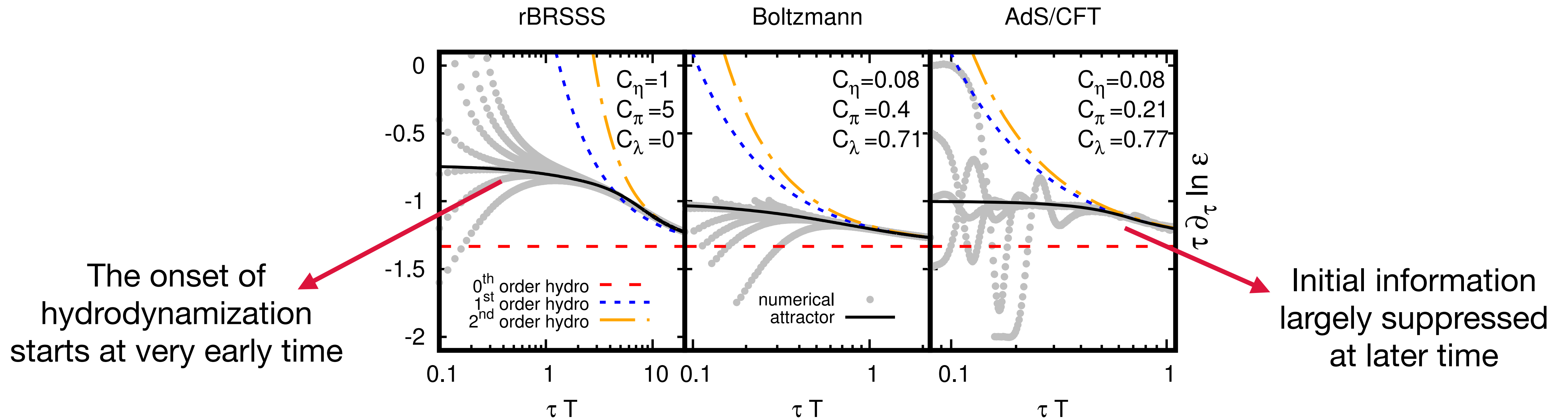


Density distribution in position space

5-particle hydrodynamics
Brandstetter et al, 2308.09699

Hydrodynamic attractor

- *Attractor* plays an important role to explain the success of hydrodynamics even far from equilibrium.



Florkowski et al, 1707.02282, Romatschke, 1712.05815

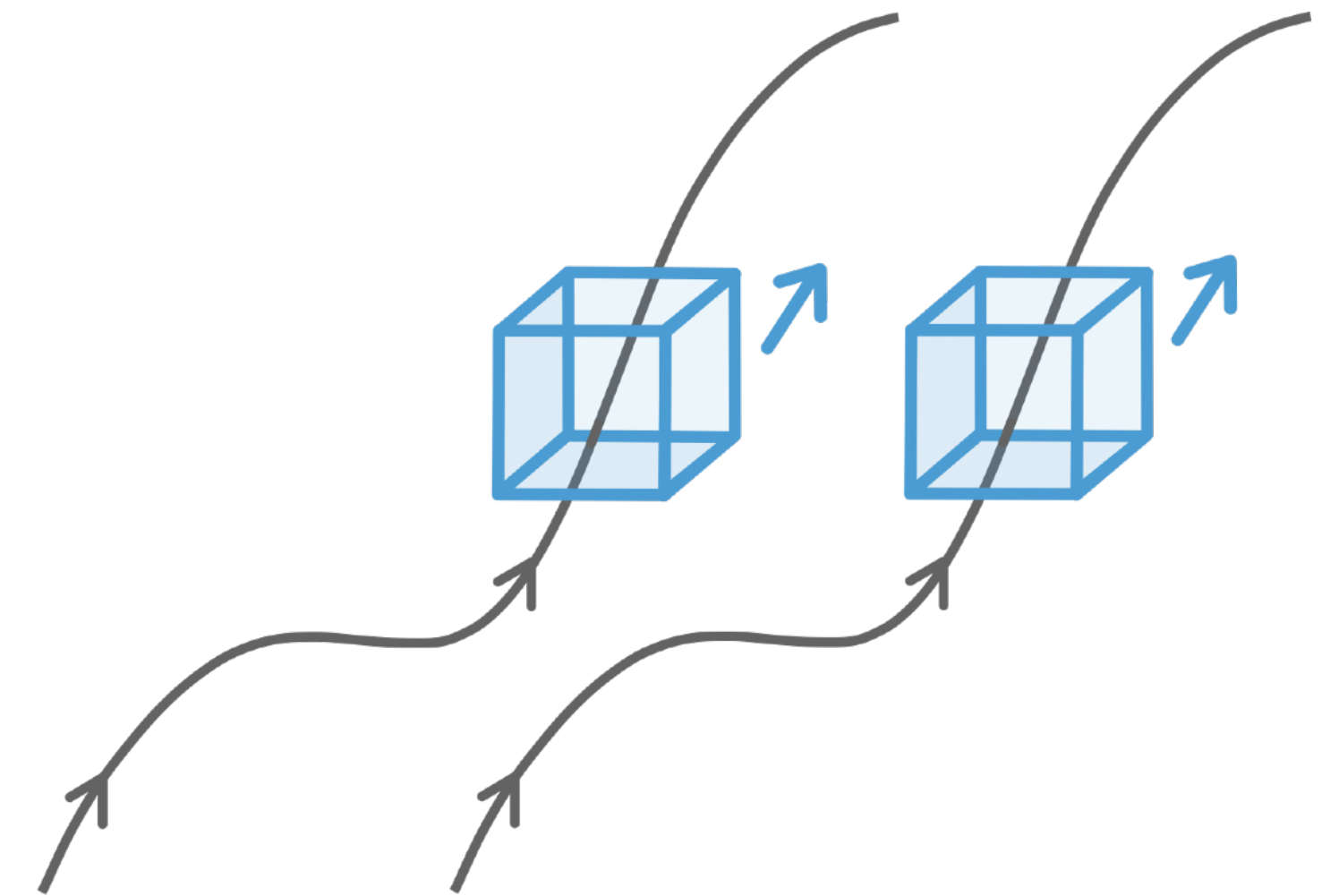
- Questions:
 - Would attractor wash out everything? **No**
 - Can attractor exist with less symmetries? **Yes**
 - How can we study jet with attractor? **This work**

Attractors

Fluids in equilibrium: Euler equation

- Stress tensor is homogeneous in LRF.

$$T_{(0)\text{LRF}}^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & & & \\ & p & & \\ & & p & \\ & & & p \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{boost}} T_{(0)}^{\mu\nu} = \varepsilon u^\mu u^\nu + p \Delta^{\mu\nu}$$



- Euler equation:

$$\partial_\mu T_{(0)}^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \implies \quad \partial_t \psi = \nabla \cdot J_{(0)}[\psi] \quad \text{where} \quad \psi = (n, \varepsilon, \pi, \dots)$$

Conserved quantities evolve via advection & expansion.

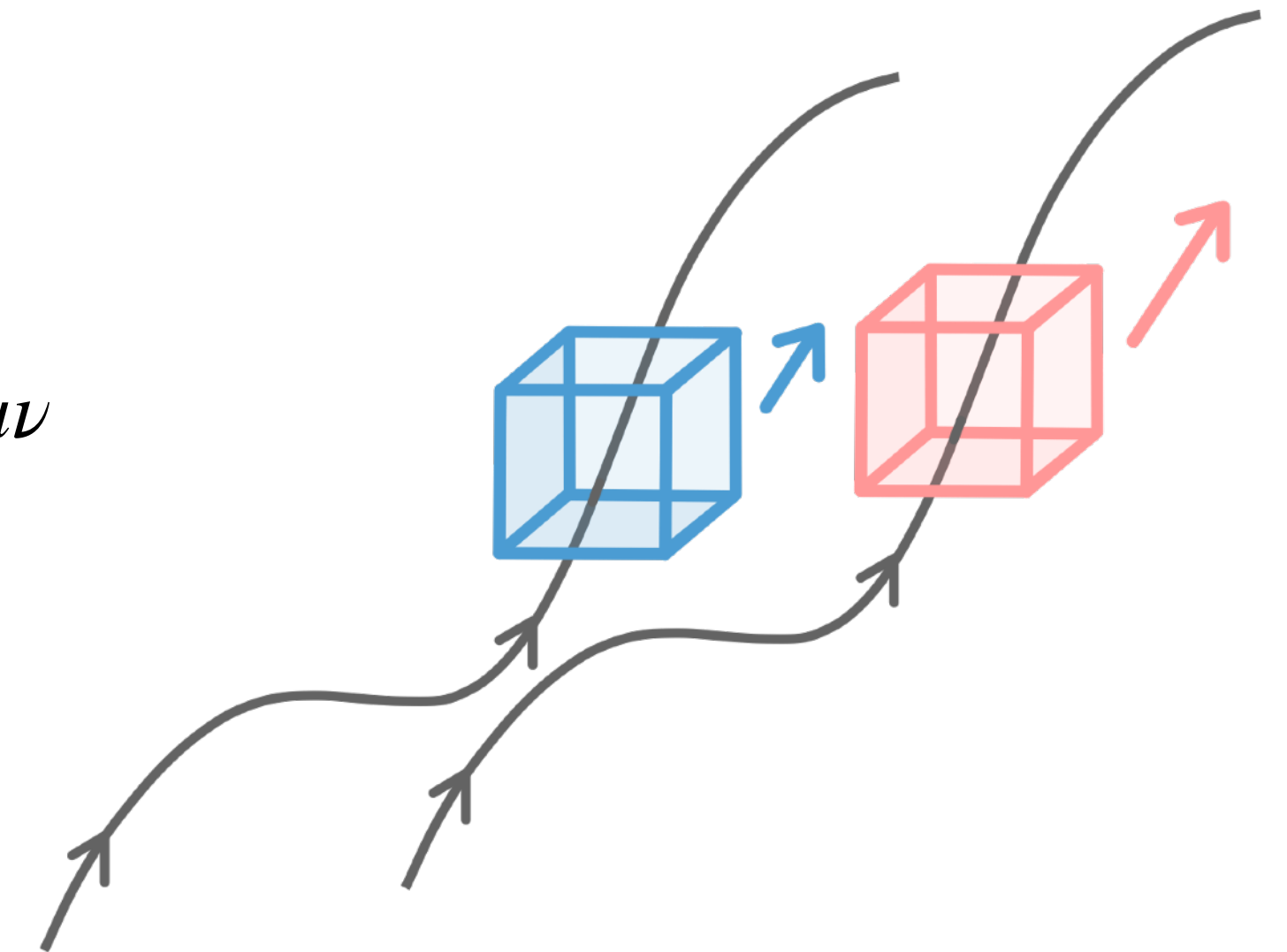
Fluids near equilibrium: NS-like equations

- Stress tensor approximated by gradient expansion.

$$T^{\mu\nu} = T_{(0)}^{\mu\nu} + T_{(1)}^{\mu\nu} + \dots$$

$$T_{(1)}^{\mu\nu} = -2\eta\sigma^{\mu\nu}, \quad \sigma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}\Delta^{\mu\alpha}\Delta^{\nu\beta}(\partial_\alpha u_\beta + \partial_\beta u_\alpha) - \frac{1}{3}\partial \cdot u \Delta^{\mu\nu}$$

NB: there are infinite many equilibrium proxies for a non-equilibrium state.



- Navier-Stokes(NS)-like (e.g., Burnett, BRSSS, etc.) equations:

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \implies \quad \partial_t \psi = \nabla \cdot J[\psi, \nabla \psi, \dots] \quad \text{where} \quad \psi = (n, \varepsilon, \pi_\mu, \dots)$$

Conserved quantities evolve via advection & expansion, as well as dissipation & diffusion.

Fluids far from equilibrium: MIS-like equations

- Stress tensor involves non-hydrodynamic DOFs for UV completion.
E.g., 0+1D boost-invariant conformal fluids:

$$T^{\mu\nu} = T_{(0)}^{\mu\nu} + \pi^{\mu\nu} + \dots = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & & & \\ & p_T & & \\ & & p_T & \\ & & & p_L \end{pmatrix}$$

$$p_T = p - \pi/2,$$

$$p_L = p + \pi$$

$$\pi \equiv \pi_\eta^\eta$$

$$A \equiv (p_T - p_L)/p$$

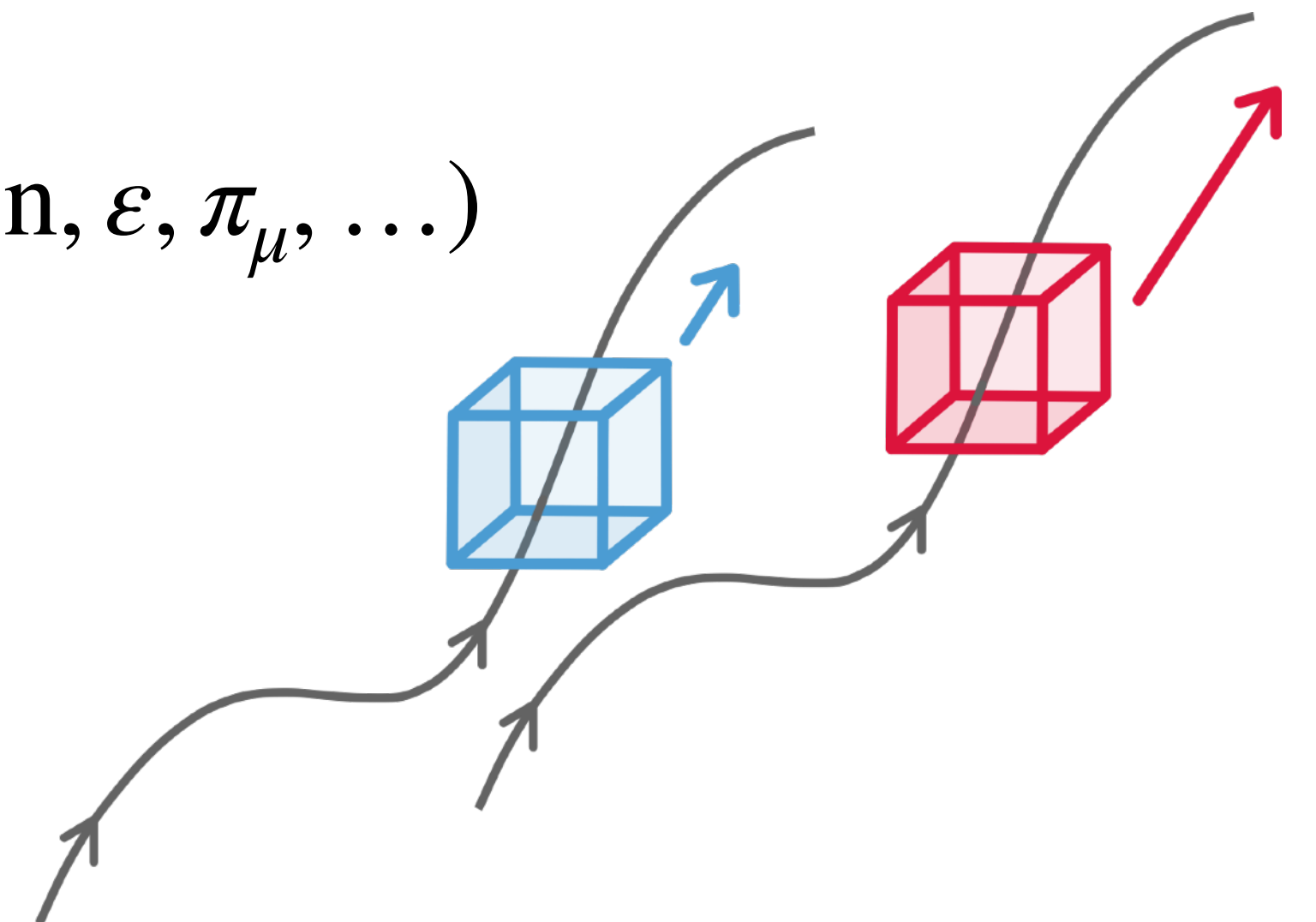
NB: A vanishes in equilibrium

- MIS-like (e.g., Maxwell-Cattaneo, DNMR, BDNK etc.) equations:

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \implies \quad \partial_t \psi = \nabla \cdot J[\psi, \pi, \dots] \quad \text{where} \quad \psi = (n, \varepsilon, \pi_\mu, \dots)$$

MIS

$$\tau_\pi \partial_\tau \pi = -(\pi - \pi^{(NS)}) + \dots$$

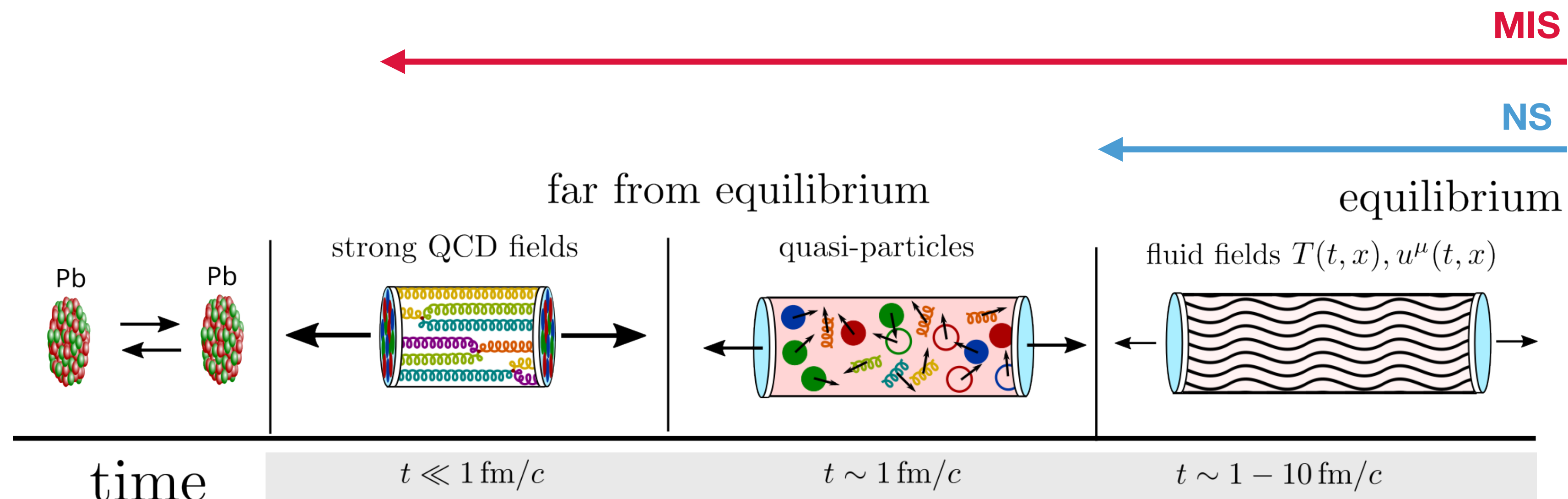


Fluids far from equilibrium: MIS-like equations

- Coupled equations for conformal system: $\varepsilon = 3p = C_e T^4, \eta = \frac{4}{3} C_e C_\eta T^3, \tau_\pi = C_\tau T^{-1}$

$$\tau T'(\tau) + T(\tau) \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{A(\tau)}{18} \right) = 0, \quad C_\tau \tau A'(\tau) + \frac{2}{9} C_\tau A(\tau)^2 + \tau T(\tau) A(\tau) - 8 C_\eta = 0$$

- MIS-like theory does not necessarily capture the early-time QCD physics, but it is still a simple self-consistent theory valid at all times (as opposed to NS which is only valid at late times), thus can shed light on far-from-equilibrium dynamics.



Courtesy of A. Mazeliauskas

Hydrodynamic attractors

- In terms of $w = \tau T$, equation for pressure anisotropy $A(w) \equiv (P_T - P_L)/P$ decouples:

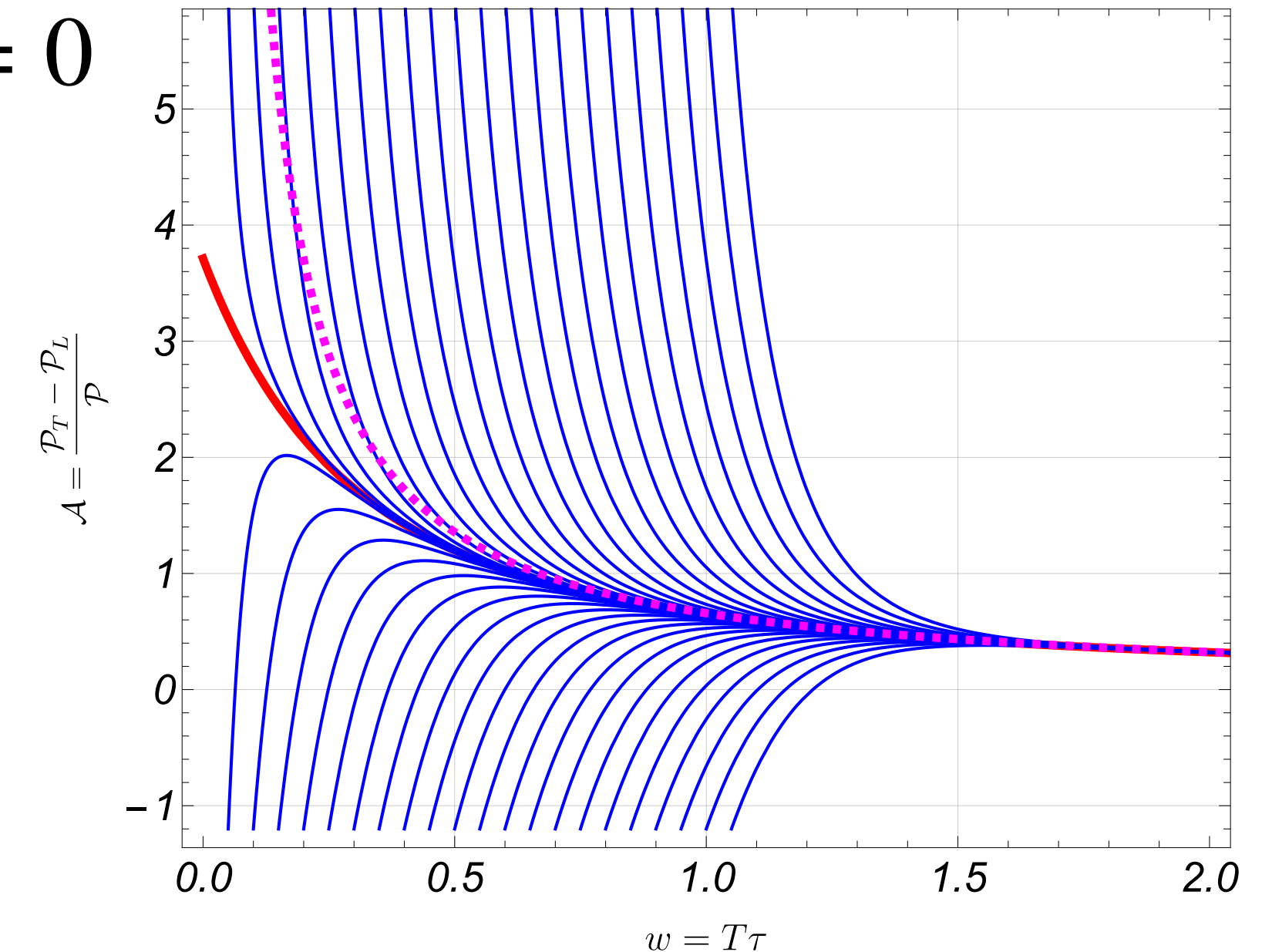
$$C_\tau \left(1 + \frac{A(w)}{12} \right) w A'(w) + \frac{1}{3} C_\tau A(w)^2 + \frac{3}{2} w A(w) - 12 C_\eta = 0$$

decoupled 1st order nonlinear & inhomogeneous ODE

with asymptotic solutions

$$A(w) = \frac{C_0}{w^4} (1 + \mathcal{O}(w)) + 6\sqrt{C_\eta/C_\tau} + \mathcal{O}(w), \quad w \rightarrow 0$$

longitudinal expansion dominates + early-time attractor



Heller et al, 1503.07514; Jankowski et al, 2303.09414

$$A(w) = \frac{8C_\eta}{w} \left(1 + \frac{2C_\tau}{3w} + \mathcal{O}(w^{-2}) \right) + C_\infty e^{-\frac{3w}{2C_\tau} w^{\frac{C_\eta}{C_\tau}}} (1 + \mathcal{O}(w^{-1})) + \dots, \quad w \rightarrow \infty$$

late-time (hydrodynamic) attractor + non-hydrodynamic (transseries) modes.

Alternative formulation of attractors

- In the presence of additional scales other than T , τ is more convenient as dynamic variable than $w = \tau T$.

- Early-time *attractor* solutions: μ : integration constant; $\alpha = \sqrt{C_\eta/C_\tau}$

$$T(\tau) \sim \mu(\mu\tau)^{-\frac{1-\alpha}{3}} \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} t_n^{(0)} (\mu\tau)^{\frac{n}{3}(2+\alpha)} \right), \quad A(\tau) \sim 6\alpha \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^{(0)} (\mu\tau)^{\frac{n}{3}(2+\alpha)} \right)$$

- Later-time asymptotic solutions Λ, C_∞ : independent integration constant

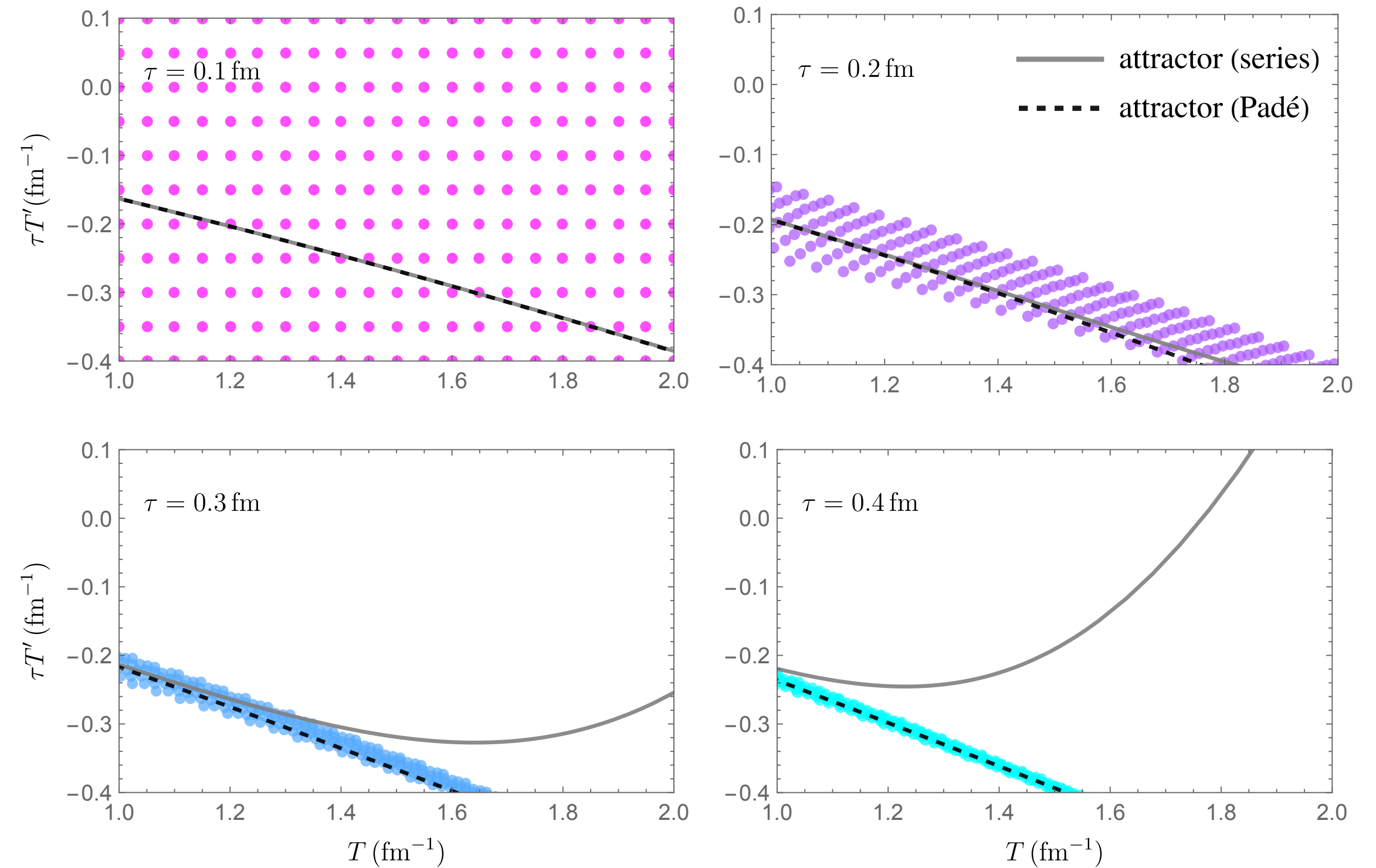
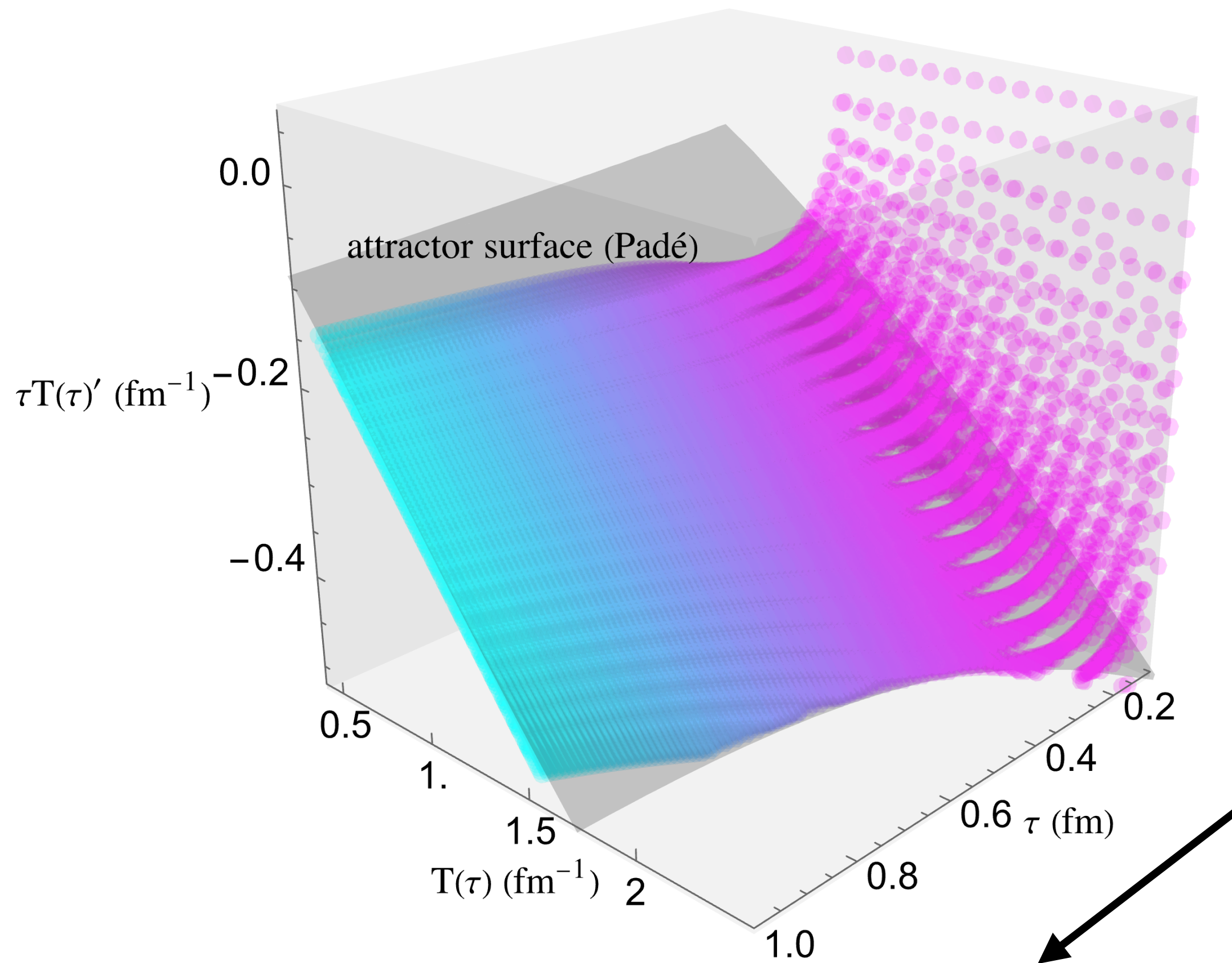
$$T(\tau) \sim \Lambda(\Lambda\tau)^{-\frac{1}{3}} \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} t_n^{(\infty)} (\Lambda\tau)^{-\frac{2}{3}n} \right) + C_\infty (\Lambda\tau)^{-\frac{2}{3}(1-\alpha^2)} e^{-\frac{3}{2C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} \left(1 + \mathcal{O}((\Lambda\tau)^{-2/3}) \right) + \dots$$

$$A(\tau) \sim 8C_\eta (\Lambda\tau)^{-\frac{2}{3}} \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^{(\infty)} (\Lambda\tau)^{-\frac{2}{3}n} \right) + C'_\infty (\Lambda\tau)^{-\frac{1}{3}+\alpha^2} e^{-\frac{3}{2C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} \left(1 + \mathcal{O}((\Lambda\tau)^{-2/3}) \right) + \dots$$

hydrodynamic attractor + non-hydrodynamic (transseries) modes.

Early-time attractor in phase space

- Generic solutions rapidly approach the *attractor surface* in phase space $(\tau T', T, \tau)$ at early time.



snapshot of $(\tau T', T)$ plane at different τ

Perturbations

Linearization

- Linearization of MIS theory around the attractor: [XA et al, 2312.17237](#)

$$\partial_\nu T^{\mu\nu} = \partial_\nu (T_{\text{attractor}}^{\mu\nu} + \delta T^{\mu\nu}) = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \partial_\nu T_{\text{attractor}}^{\mu\nu} = 0, \\ \partial_\nu \delta T^{\mu\nu} = 0. \end{cases}$$

- 6 independent fields:

$$\phi = (\delta T, \delta\theta, \delta\omega, \delta\pi_{11}, \delta\pi_{22}, \delta\pi_{12})(\tau, \mathbf{x})$$

where $\delta\theta \equiv \partial_i \delta u_i$ and $\delta\omega \equiv \epsilon_{ij} \partial_i \delta u_j$, $i = 1, 2$. $\delta\omega$ decouples from $\delta\theta$ and δT .

The translation invariance symmetry in transverse plane is broken.

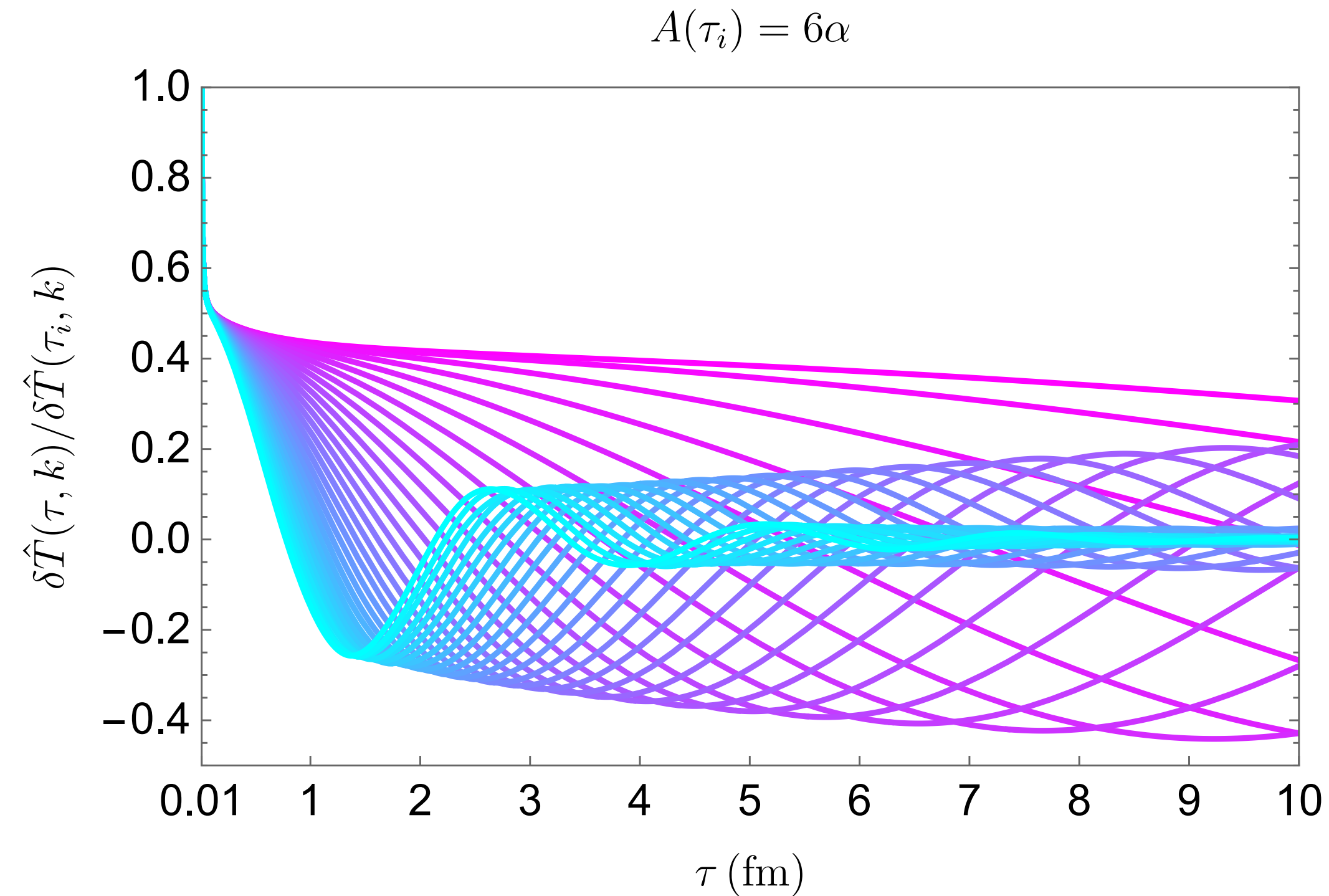
- The EOM for the dynamic system:

$$\partial_\tau \hat{\phi}_i(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = M_{ij} \hat{\phi}_j(\tau, \mathbf{k})$$

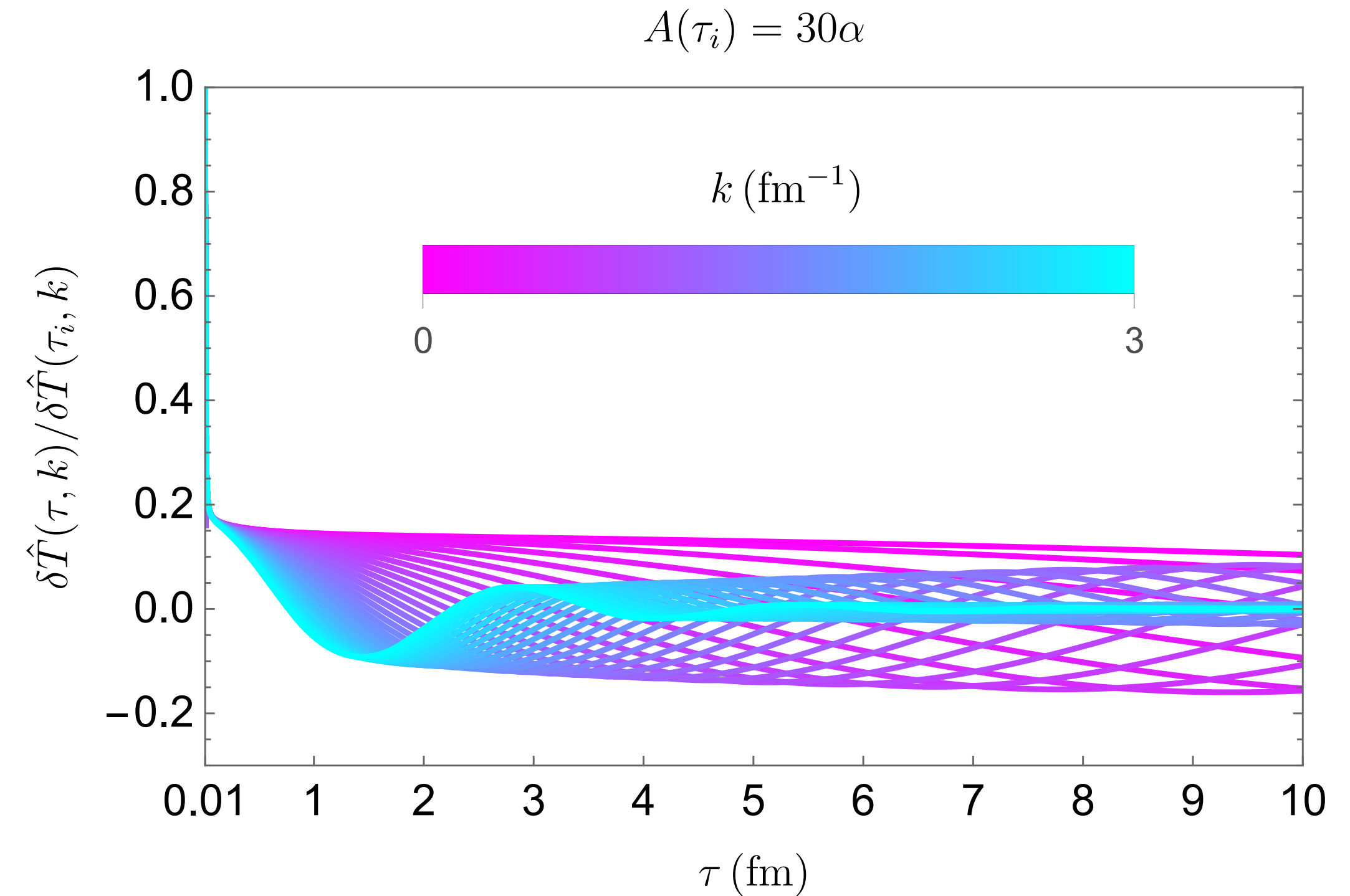
where $M = M(\tau, \mathbf{k})$.

1st-order linear homogeneous ODE system with nonconstant coefficients.

Mode-by-mode analysis



large k suppression

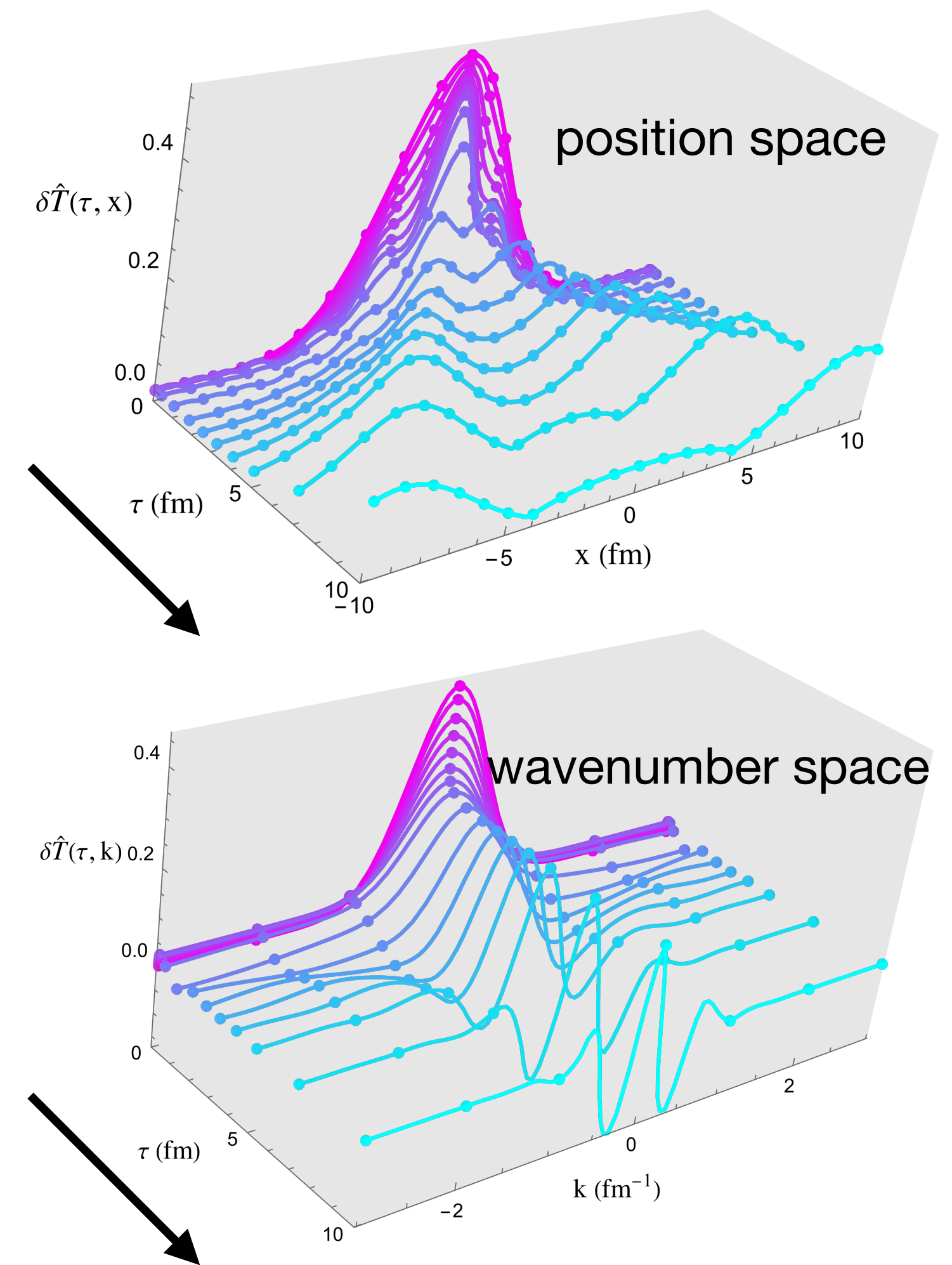
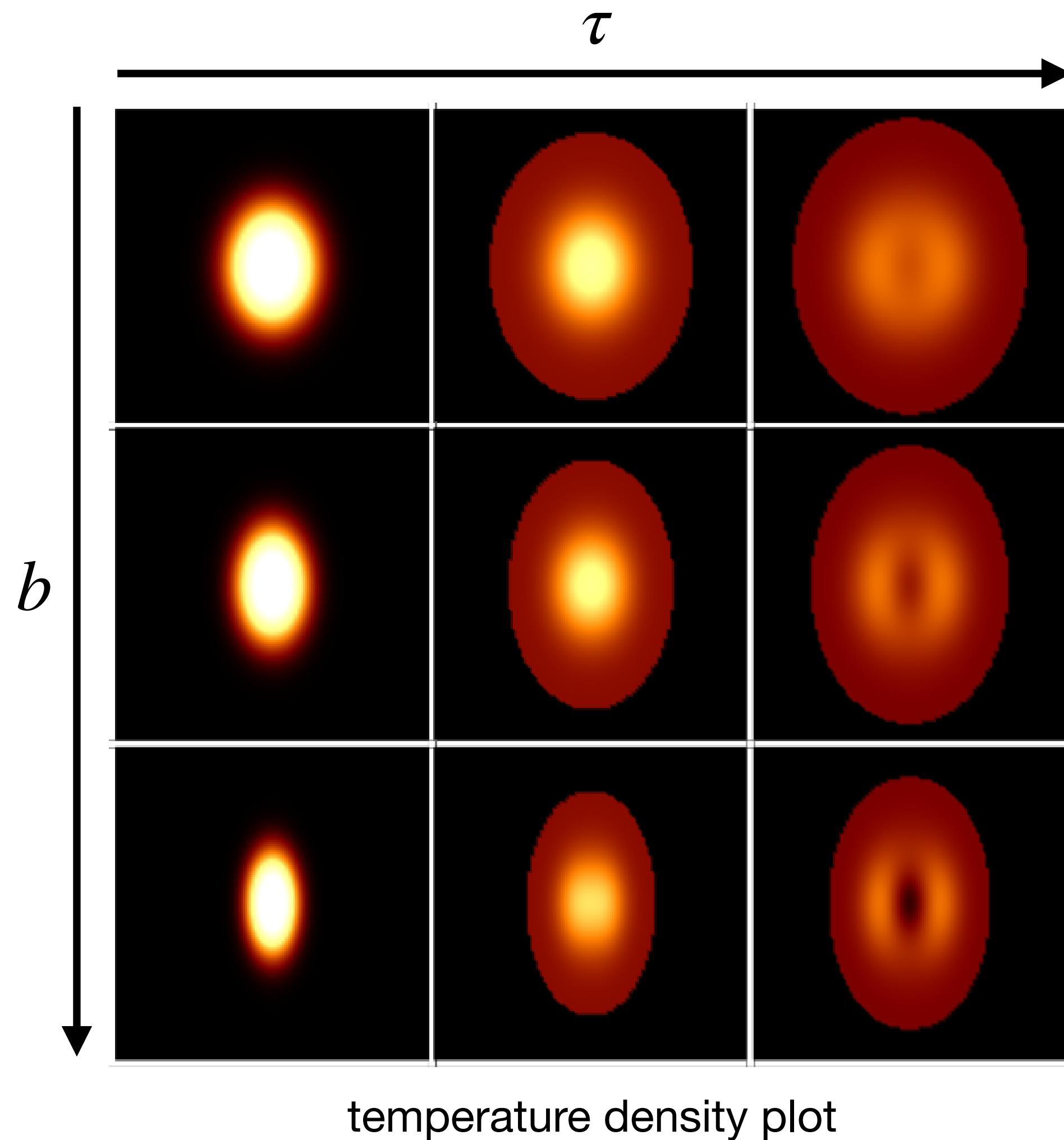


off-attractor suppression

- Suppression for large k modes and off-attractor perturbations.
- Upper cutoff of k set by suppression, lower cutoff of k set by system size.

Transverse dependence

- Transverse information is encoded in a finite set of Fourier modes (FFT).



Observables

Late-time asymptotics

- Late-time asymptotic solutions perturbed around attractor: [XA et al, 2312.17237](#)

$$\delta\hat{T} = C_1(\Lambda\tau)^{a_1} e^{-\frac{3}{2C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} + C_2(\Lambda\tau)^{a_2} e^{-\frac{1}{2c_\alpha^2 C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} + e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{c_\alpha^2 C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} (\Lambda\tau)^{a_3} (C_3 e^{-ic_\alpha k\tau} + C_4 e^{ic_\alpha k\tau})$$

$$\delta\hat{\theta} = C'_1(\Lambda\tau)^{a_1-1} e^{-\frac{3}{2C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} + C'_2(\Lambda\tau)^{a_2-\frac{1}{3}} e^{-\frac{1}{2c_\alpha^2 C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} + e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{c_\alpha^2 C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} (\Lambda\tau)^{a_3} (C'_3 e^{-ic_\alpha k\tau} + C'_4 e^{ic_\alpha k\tau})$$

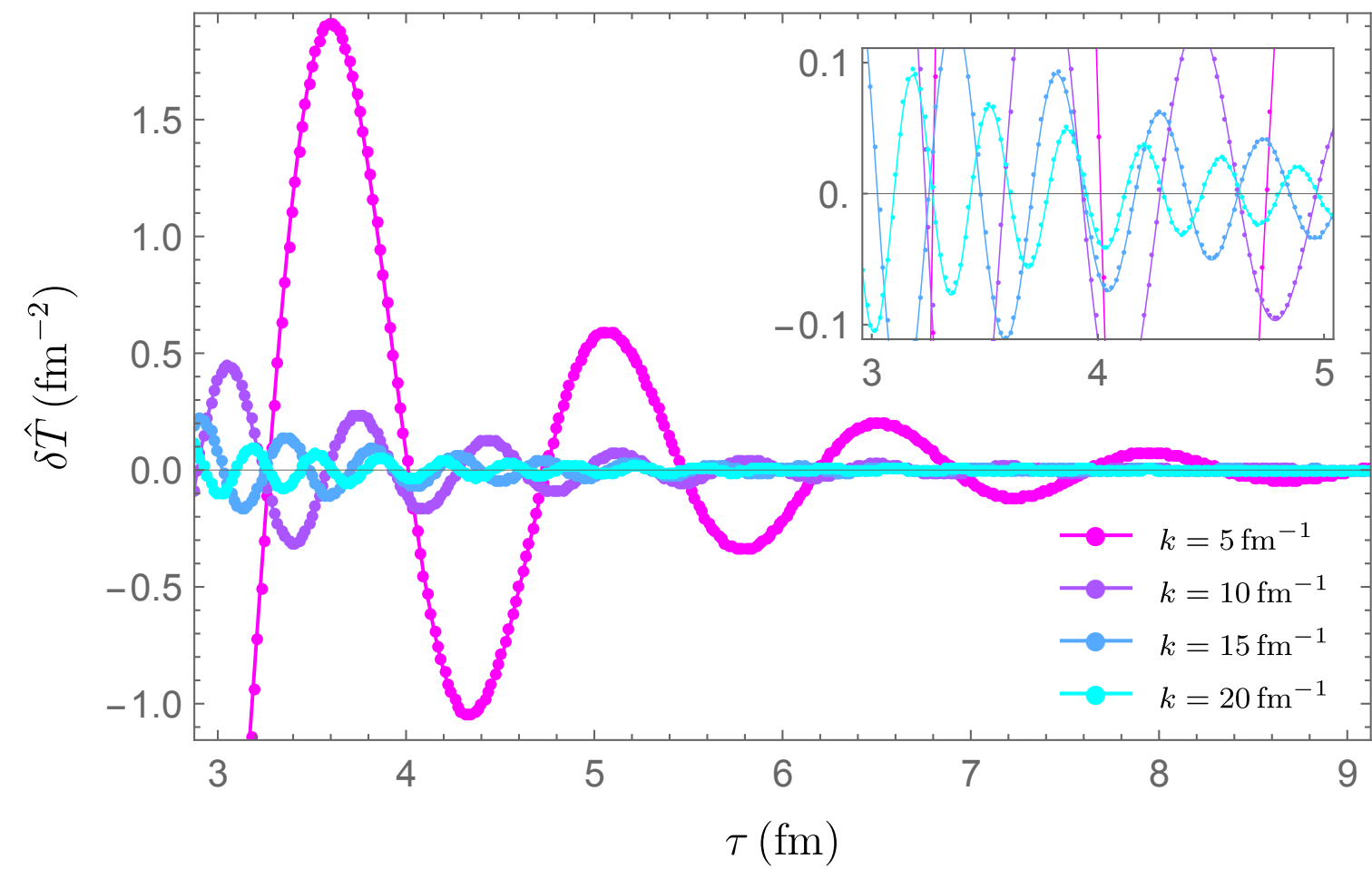
$$\delta\hat{\omega} = e^{-\frac{3}{4C_\tau}(\Lambda\tau)^{2/3}} (\Lambda\tau)^{a_4} (C_5 e^{-i\alpha k\tau} + C_6 e^{i\alpha k\tau}) \quad \Lambda, C_1, \dots, C_6: \text{integration constants}$$

$$c_\alpha = \sqrt{(1 + 4\alpha^2)/3}$$

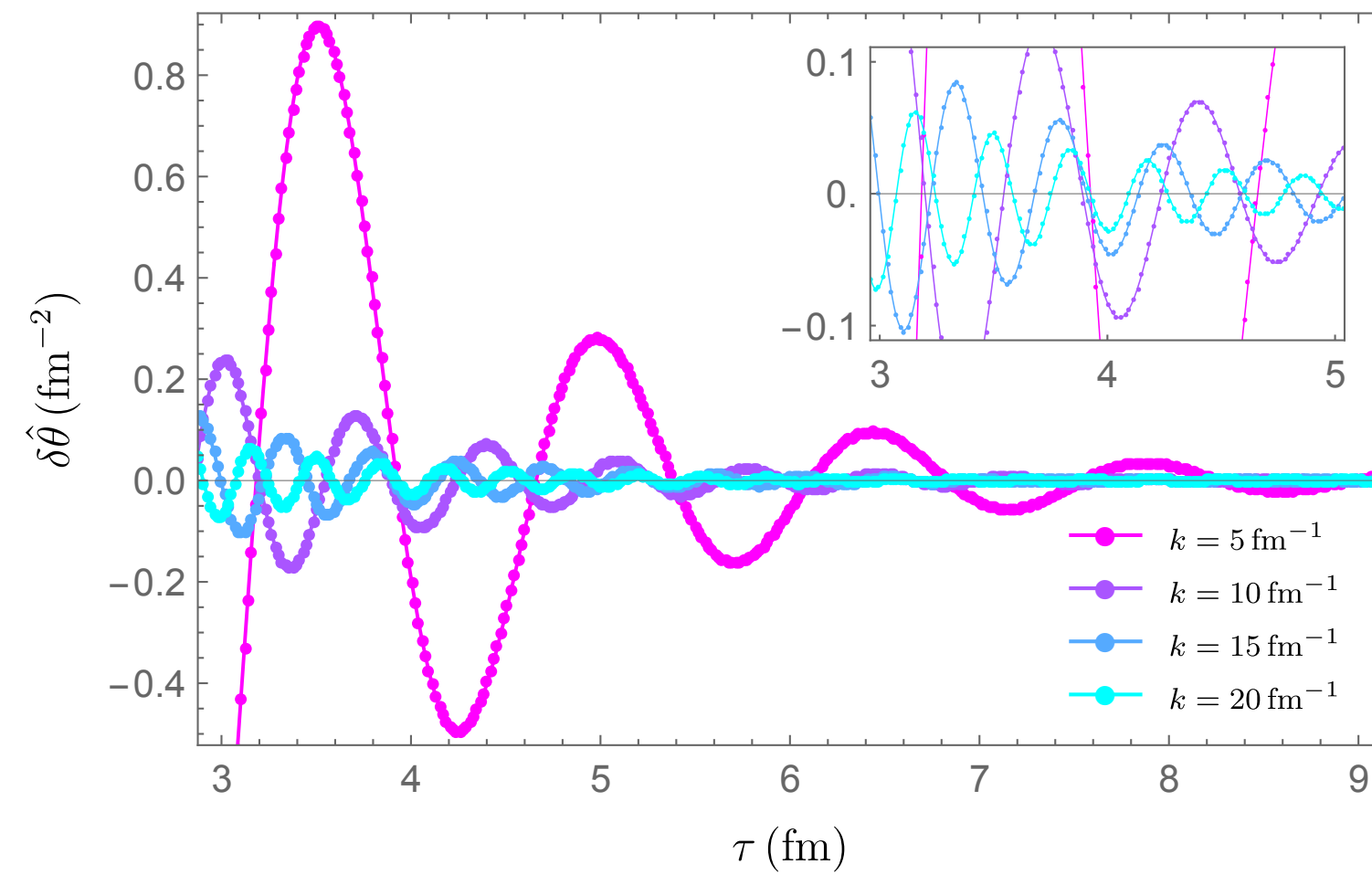
$$a_1 = -\frac{2}{3}(1 - \alpha^2), \quad a_2 = \frac{2\alpha^2}{27c_\alpha^4} \left(1 - 16\alpha^2 - \frac{2\Lambda^2}{C_\tau^3 c_\alpha^4 k^2} \right), \quad a_3 = \frac{1}{54c_\alpha^4} \left(1 + 8\alpha^2 + 64\alpha^4 + 32\alpha^6 + \frac{4\alpha^2 \Lambda^2}{C_\tau^3 c_\alpha^4 k^2} \right)$$

- The attractor is *stable* against transverse dynamics;
- Observables are extracted from the asymptotic data of $(\delta\hat{T}, \delta\hat{\theta}, \delta\hat{\omega}, \delta\hat{\pi}_{ij})$ determined by $(C_1, \dots, C_6)(\mathbf{k})$.

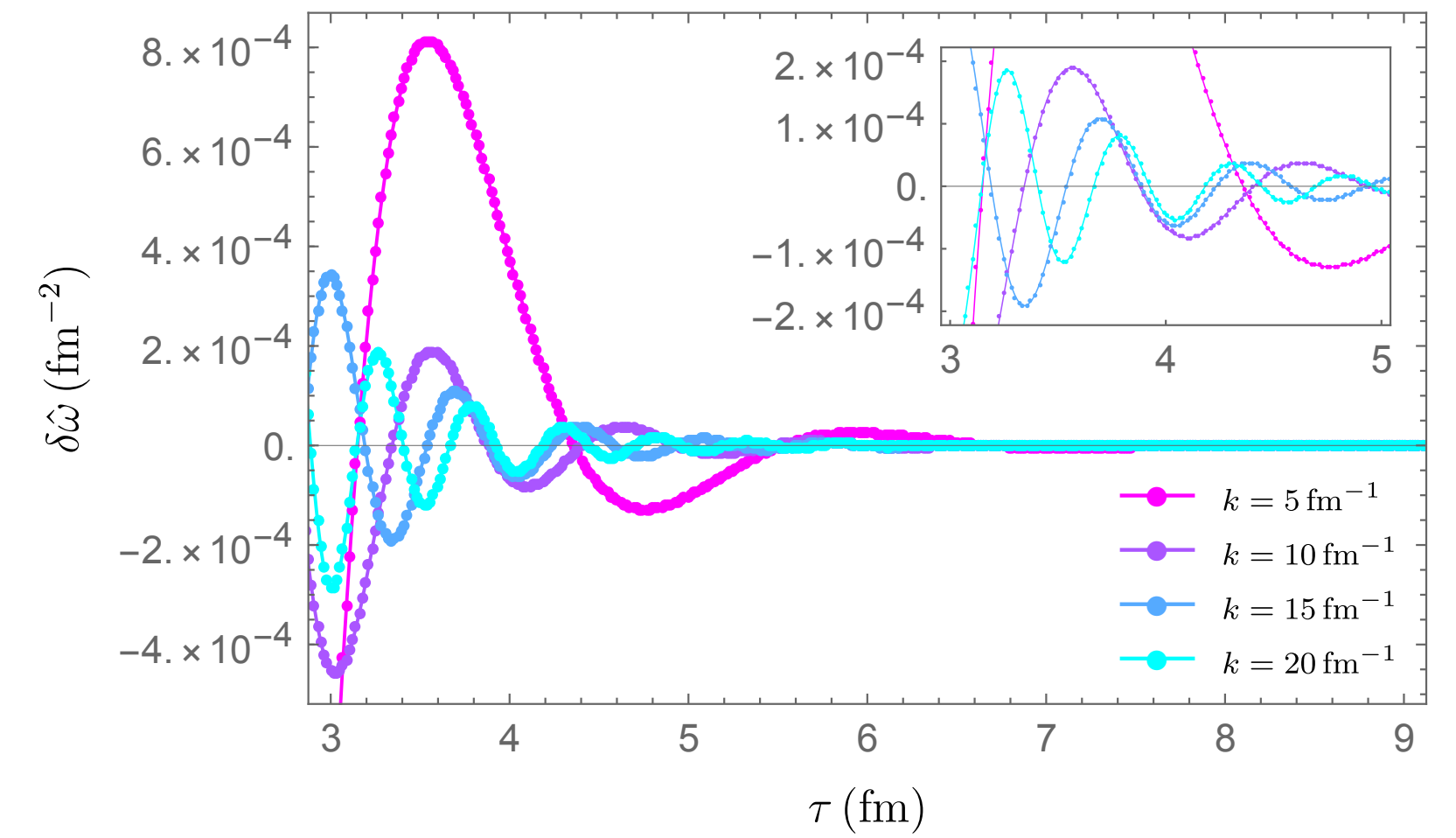
Late-time asymptotics



temperature



fluid divergence



vorticity

The analytic solutions fit the numerics in a wide range of time.

Observables

- Momentum anisotropy

$$A_T \equiv \frac{\langle T_{11} - T_{22} \rangle_{\perp}}{\langle T_{11} + T_{22} \rangle_{\perp}} = \frac{12\langle \delta u_1^2 - \delta u_2^2 \rangle_{\perp} + 9\langle \delta \hat{\pi}_{11} - \delta \hat{\pi}_{22} \rangle_{\perp}}{2(3 + A)}.$$

- Cooper-Frye formula

$$\frac{dN}{p_{\perp} dp_{\perp} d\phi dy} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3\sigma_{\mu} p^{\mu} f(x, p)$$

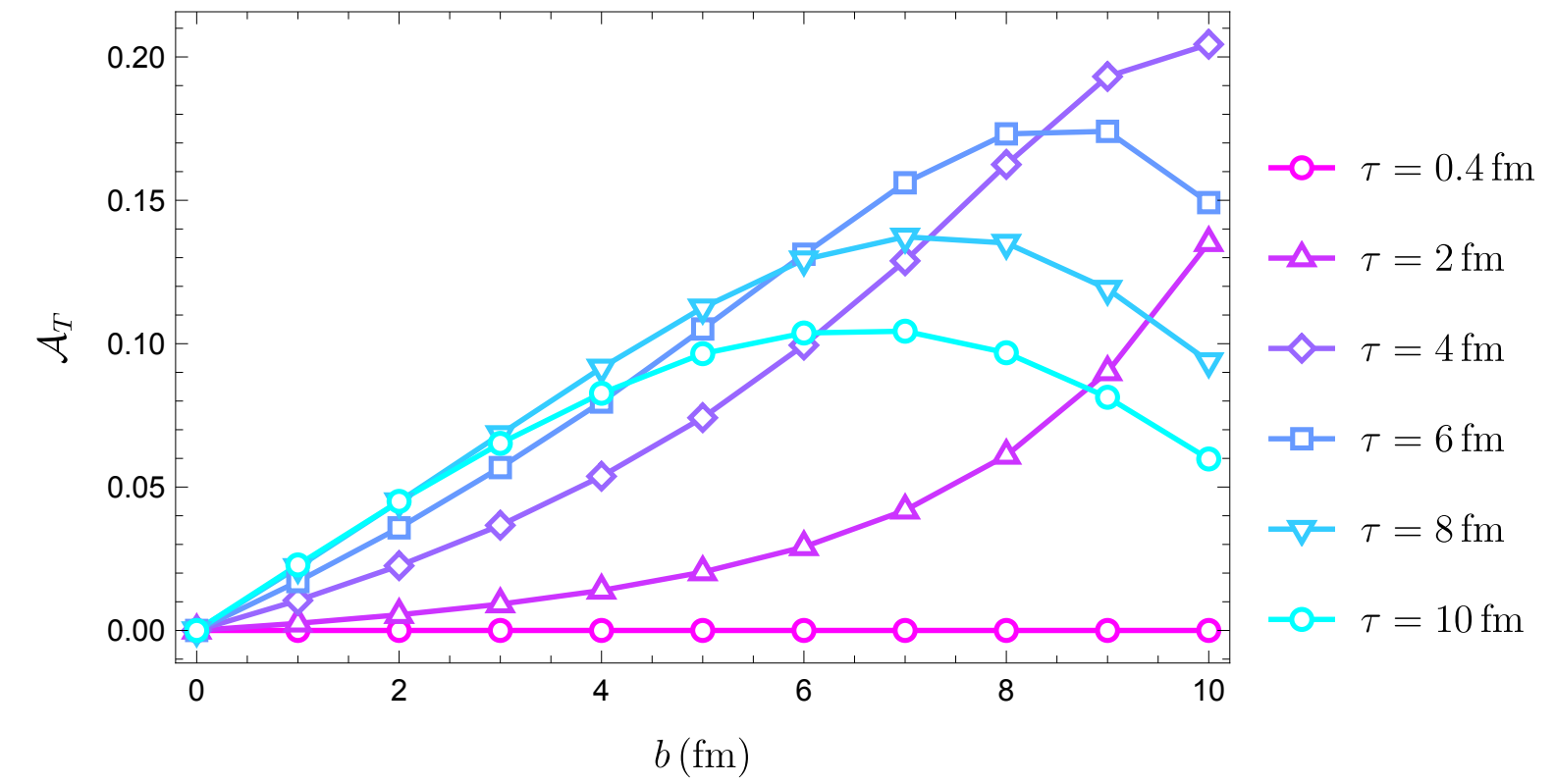
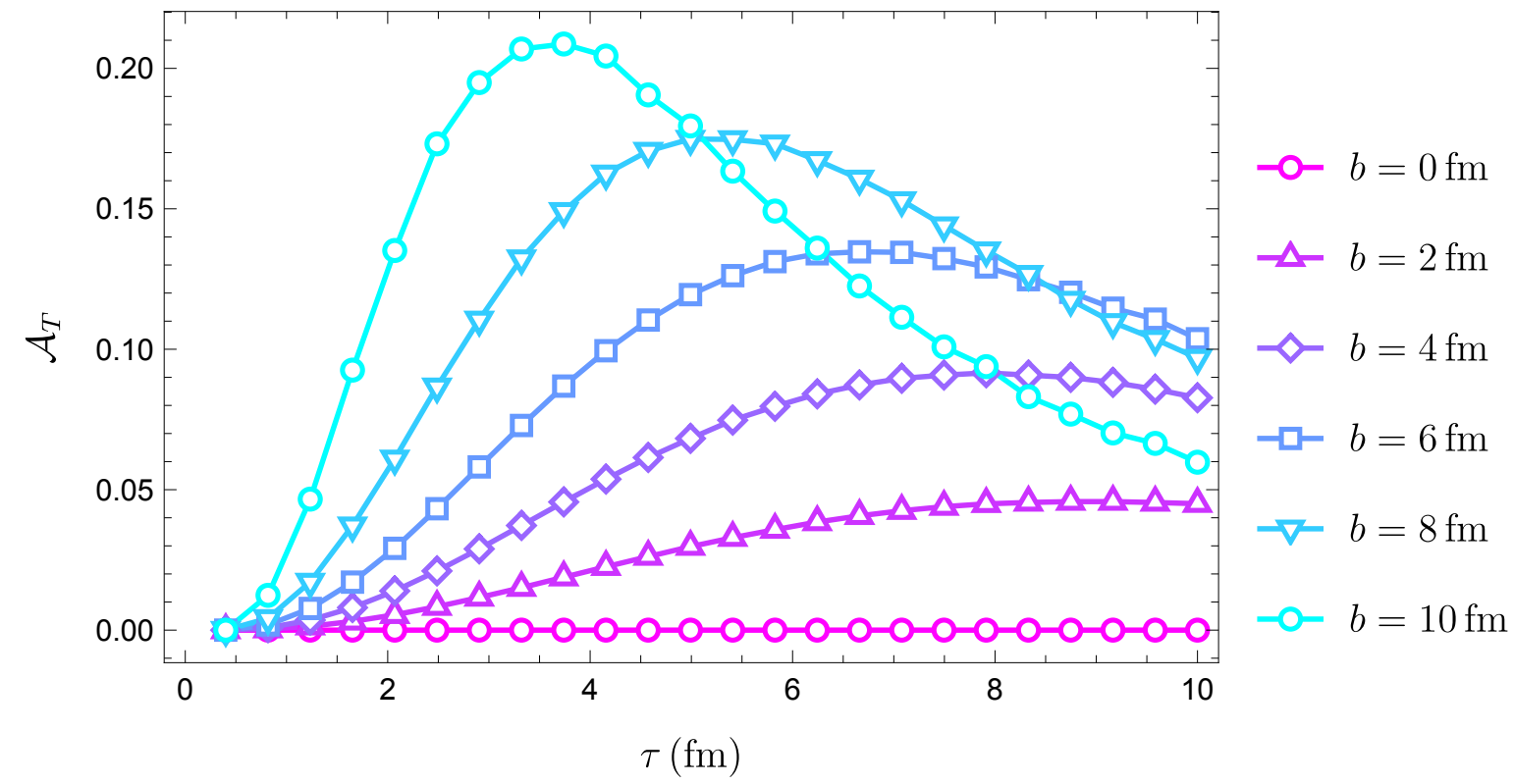
$$= \frac{m_{\perp} \tau_f R^2}{8\pi^2} \left\{ 2K_1(\hat{m}_{\perp}) + \frac{1}{12} [\hat{p}_{\perp}^2 K_1(\hat{m}_{\perp}) - 2\hat{m}_{\perp} K_2(\hat{m}_{\perp})] A + \text{perturbations} \right\}$$

$\hat{m}_{\perp} \equiv \frac{\sqrt{m^2 + p_{\perp}^2}}{T}, \quad \hat{p}_{\perp} \equiv \frac{p_{\perp}}{T}, \quad K_n : \text{Bessel function}$

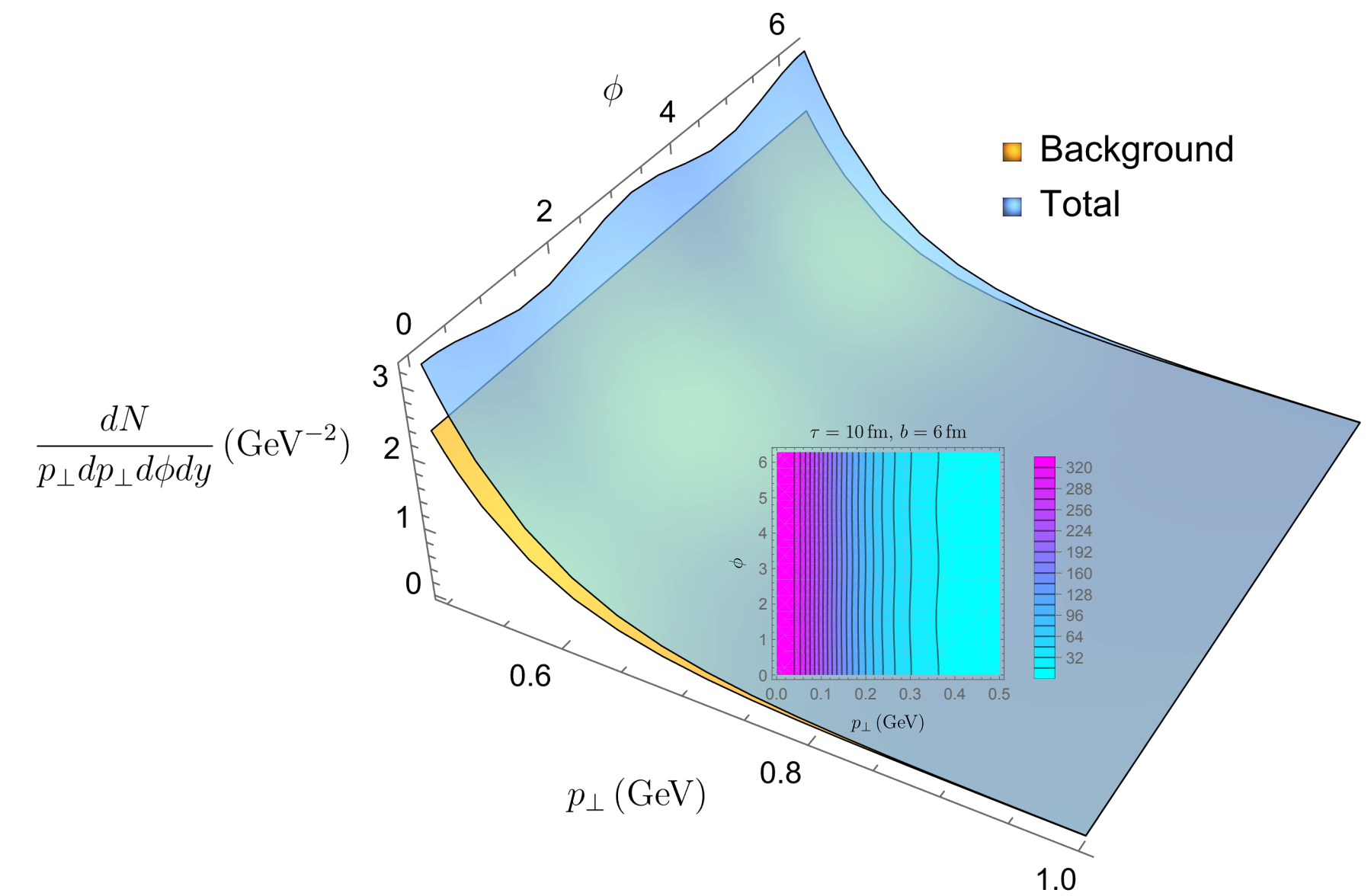
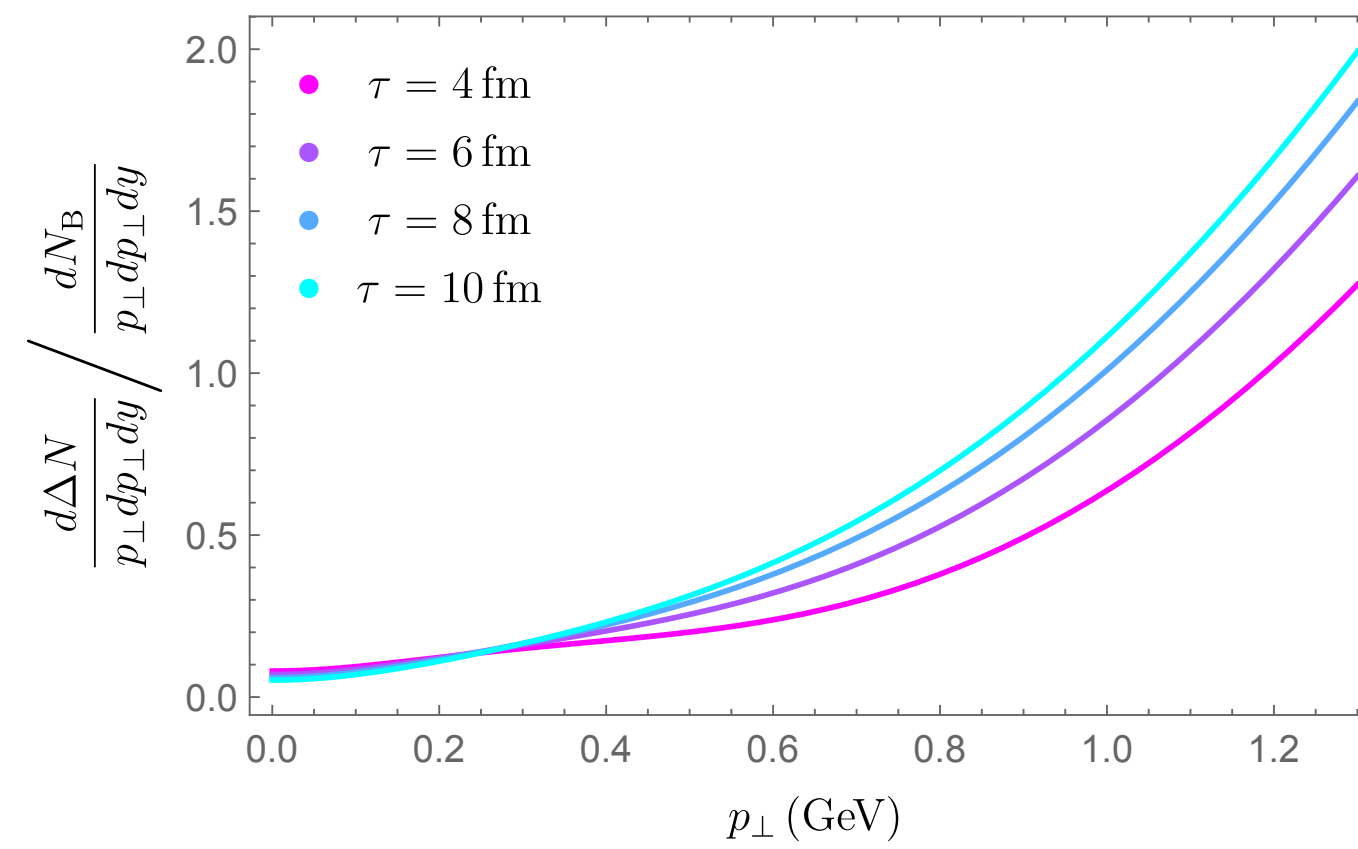
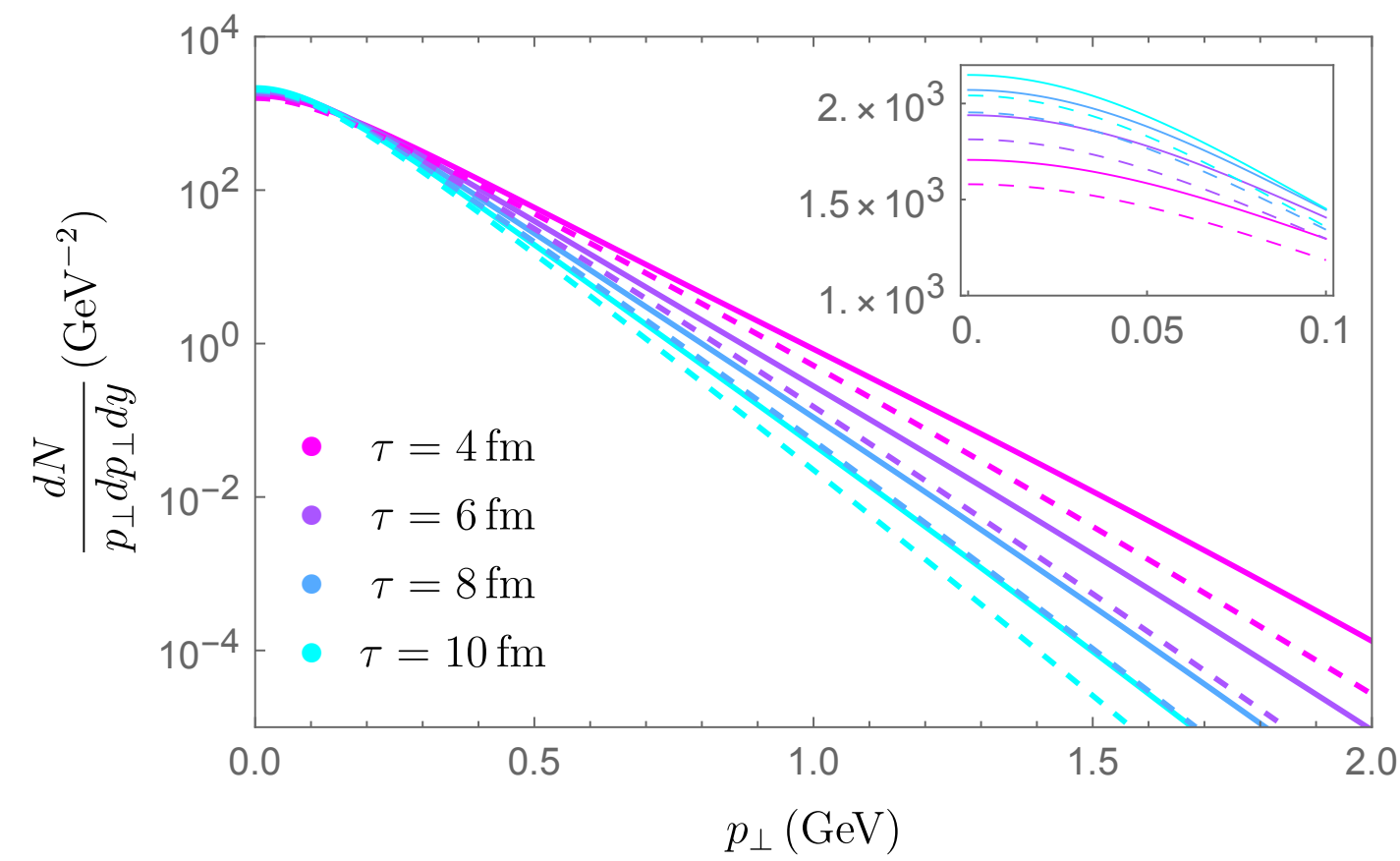
where $f(x, p) = e^{u \cdot \hat{p}} (1 + \epsilon_{\mu\nu} \hat{p}^{\mu} \hat{p}^{\nu})$ with $\epsilon_{\mu\nu} = \pi_{\mu\nu} / 2(\epsilon + p)$.

Observables

- Momentum anisotropy



- Multiplicity distribution



Jets

Jet-medium interaction

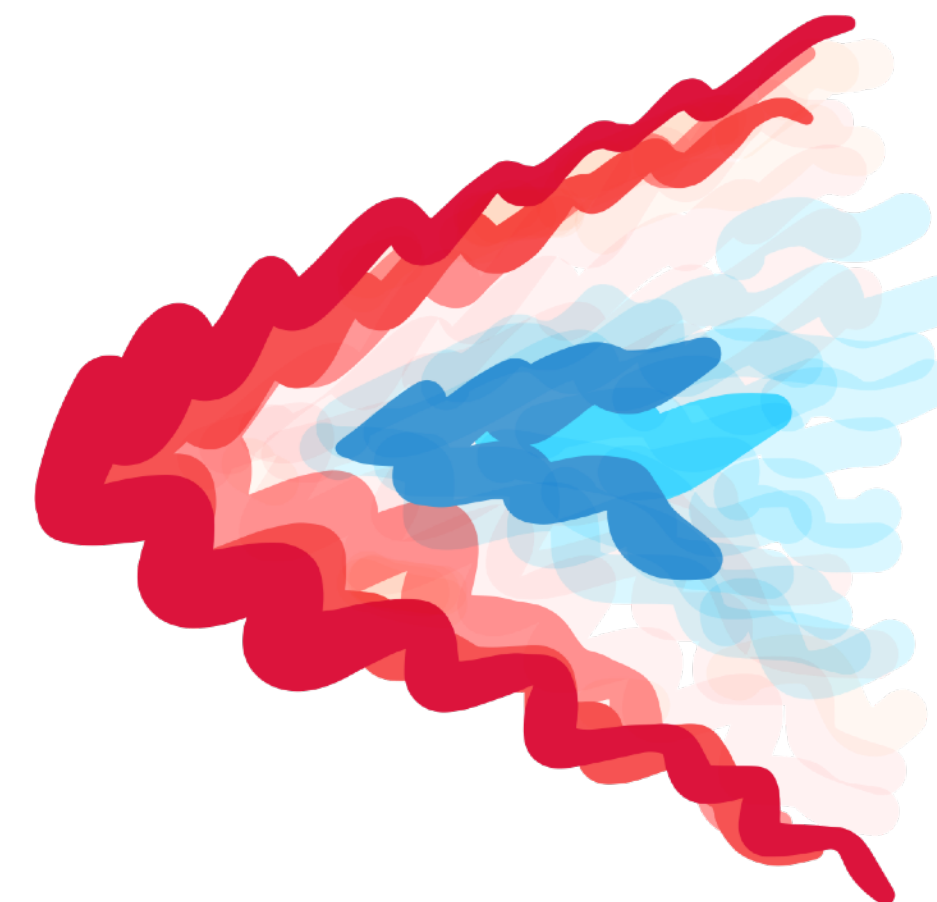
- The total energy of jet and fluid system is conserved:

$$\partial_\nu T^{\mu\nu} = \partial_\nu (T_{\text{attractor}}^{\mu\nu} + \delta T^{\mu\nu} + T_{\text{jet}}^{\mu\nu}) = 0$$

- Effect of jet-medium interaction described by perturbations: [XA et al, in progress](#)

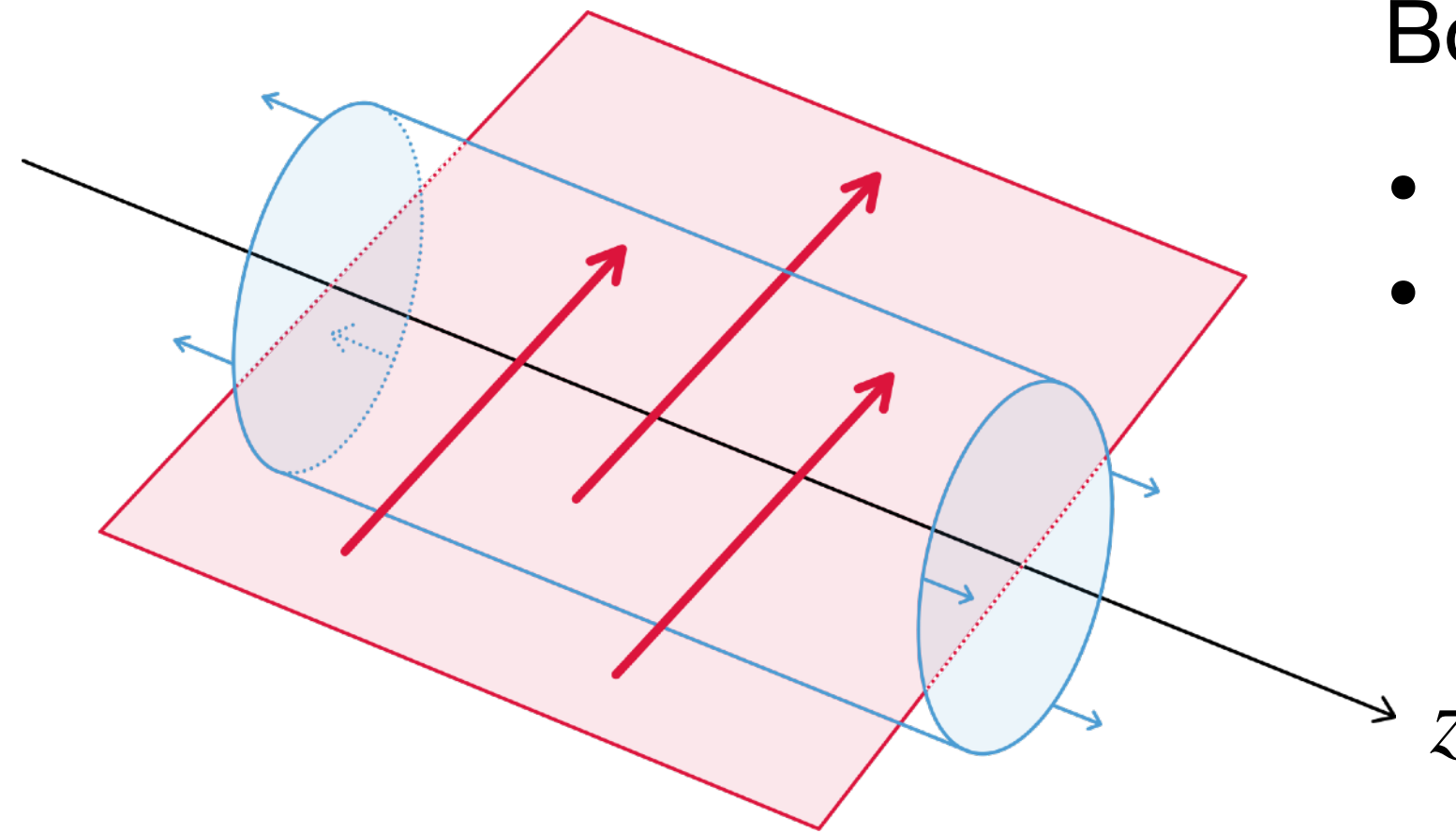
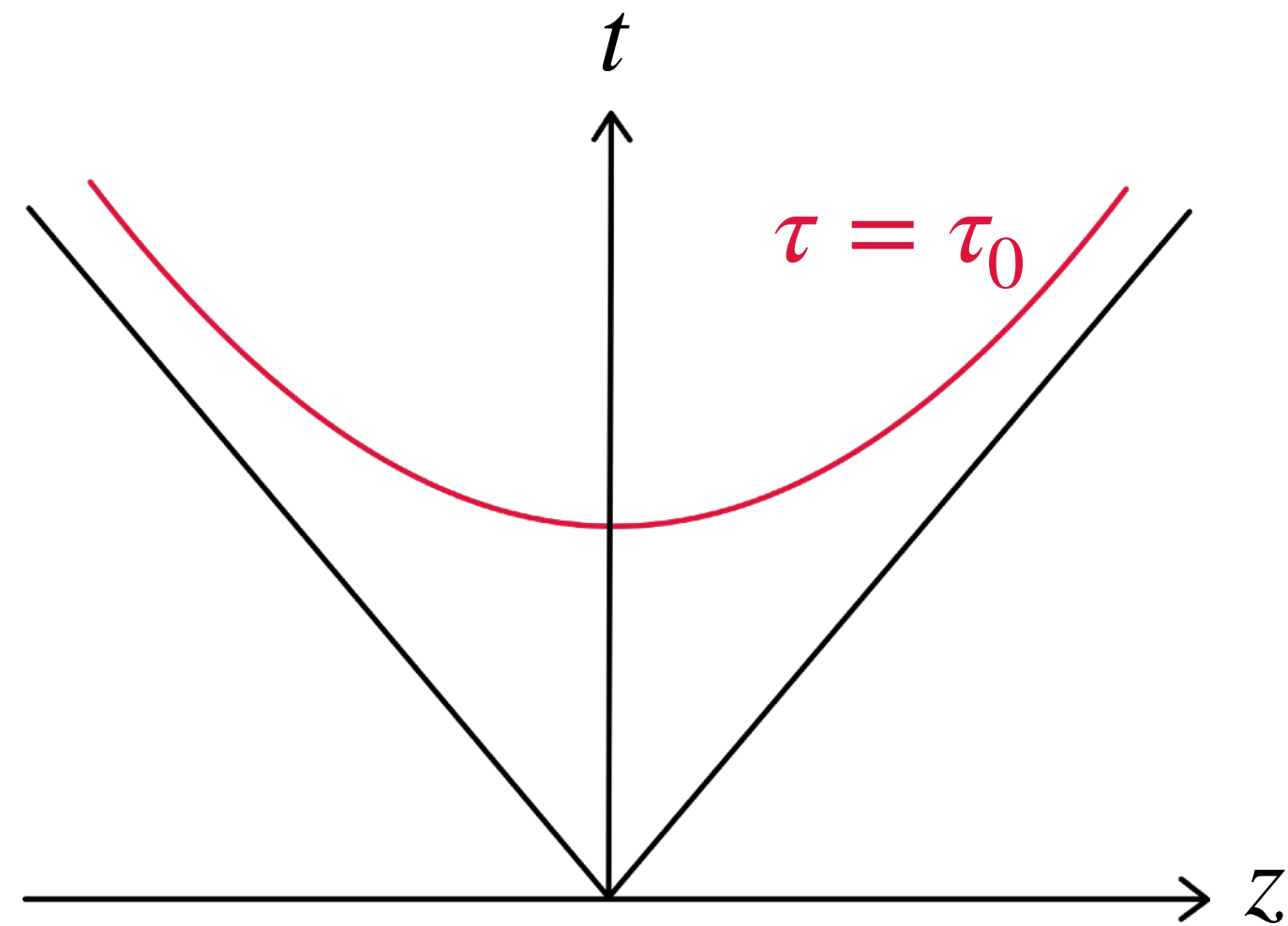
$$\begin{cases} \partial_\nu T_{\text{attractor}}^{\mu\nu} = 0, \\ \partial_\nu \delta T^{\mu\nu} = - \partial_\nu T_{\text{jet}}^{\mu\nu} = J^\mu. \end{cases}$$

Chaudhuri et al, 0503028
Casalderrey-Solana et al, 0602183
Chesler et al, 0712.0050
Neufeld et al, 0802.2254
Qin et al, 0903.2255
Yan et al, 1707.09519
Casalderrey-Solana et al, 2010.01140
...



Jet parton as a source

- Boost-invariant and knife-shape jet parton



Boost-invariant assumption

- captures main effects qualitatively
- corresponds to the longest wavelength modes along rapidity that are more relevant

$$J^\mu = f^\mu (\tau \gamma_s)^{-1} \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_s(\tau))$$

effective drag force $f^\mu = \frac{dE}{dt} u^\mu$ parton trajectories (example) $\mathbf{x}_s(\tau) = (\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{v}_s(\tau - \tau_0)) \Theta(\tau - \tau_0)$

- Energy loss of a quark in a strongly coupled plasma

heavy quark: $\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{\lambda} \gamma_s v_s^2 T^2$.
Herzog et al, 0605158

light quark: $\frac{dE}{d\tau} = \frac{4E_{\text{in}} \tau^2}{\pi \ell_{\text{stop}}^2 \sqrt{\ell_{\text{stop}}^2 - \tau^2}}$.
Chesler et al, 1402.6756

Particular solutions due to jet

- Inhomogeneous EOM

$$\partial_\tau \hat{\phi}_i(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = M_{ij} \hat{\phi}_j(\tau, \mathbf{k}) + J_i(\tau, \mathbf{k})$$

- The late-time solutions can be found by Wronskian:

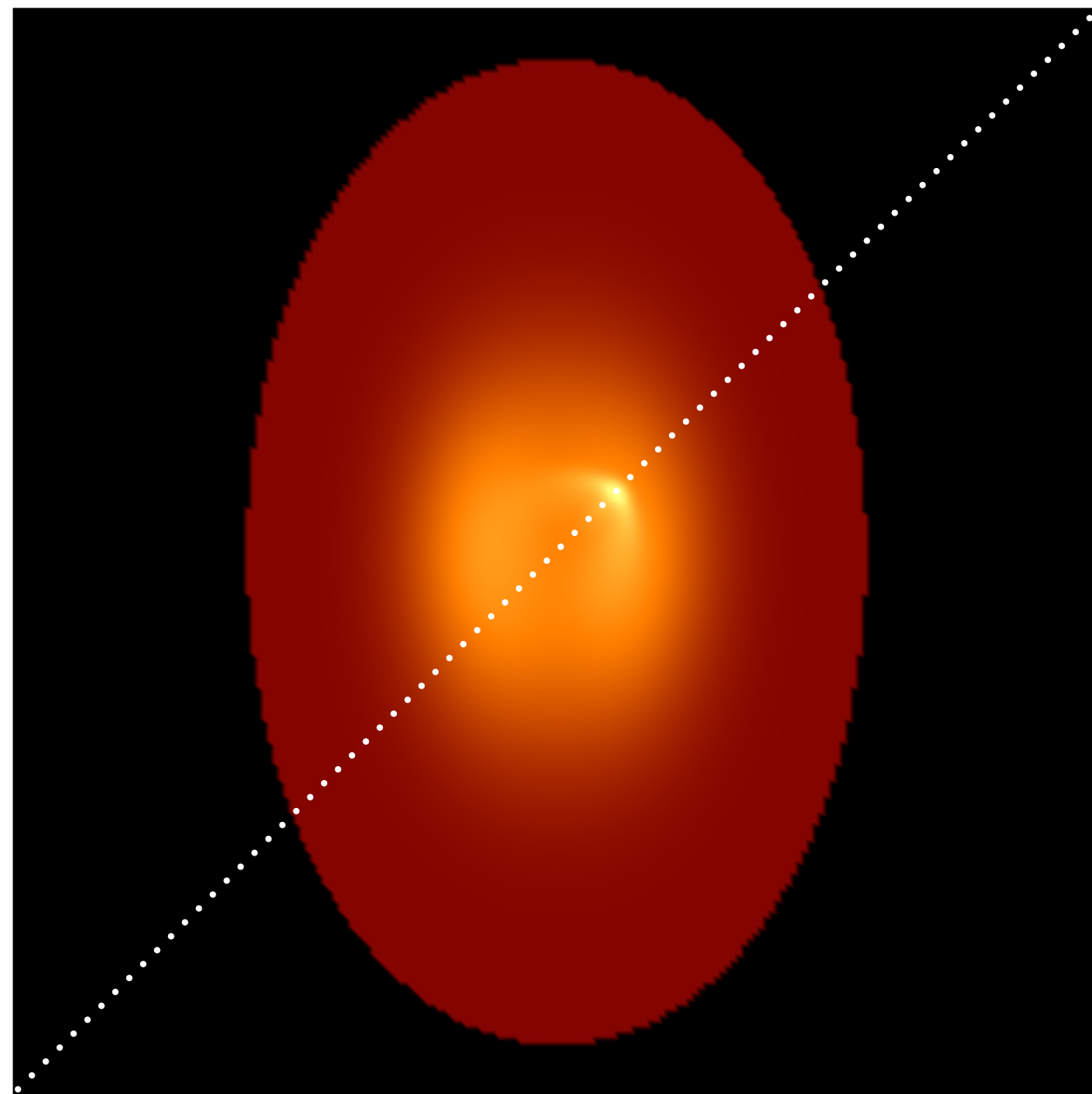
$$\delta\hat{\phi}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = \sum_{i=1}^4 C_i(k) \delta\hat{\phi}_i(\tau, \mathbf{k}) + \delta\hat{\phi}_p(\tau, \mathbf{k})$$

One can show the particular solutions have the *power-law* behavior, e.g.,

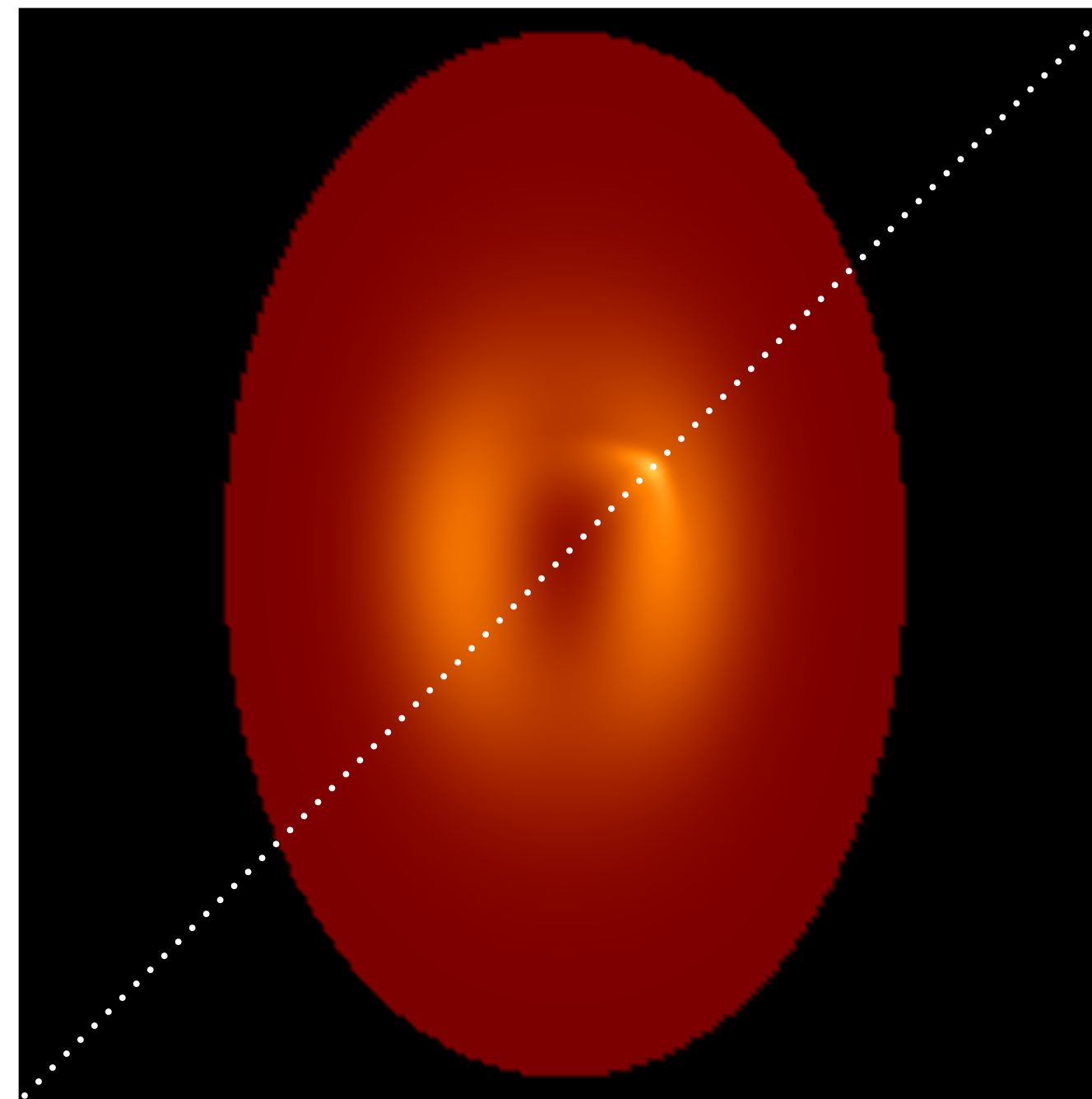
$$\delta\hat{T}_p(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \propto \frac{i\sqrt{\lambda}v_s^2 C_\eta e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}_s(\tau)}}{(4C_\eta + C_\tau(1 - 3(\hat{k} \cdot v_s)^2))k} \tau^{-1/3} (1 + \mathcal{O}(\tau^{-1/3})) \quad (\text{heavy quark})$$

Jet wake

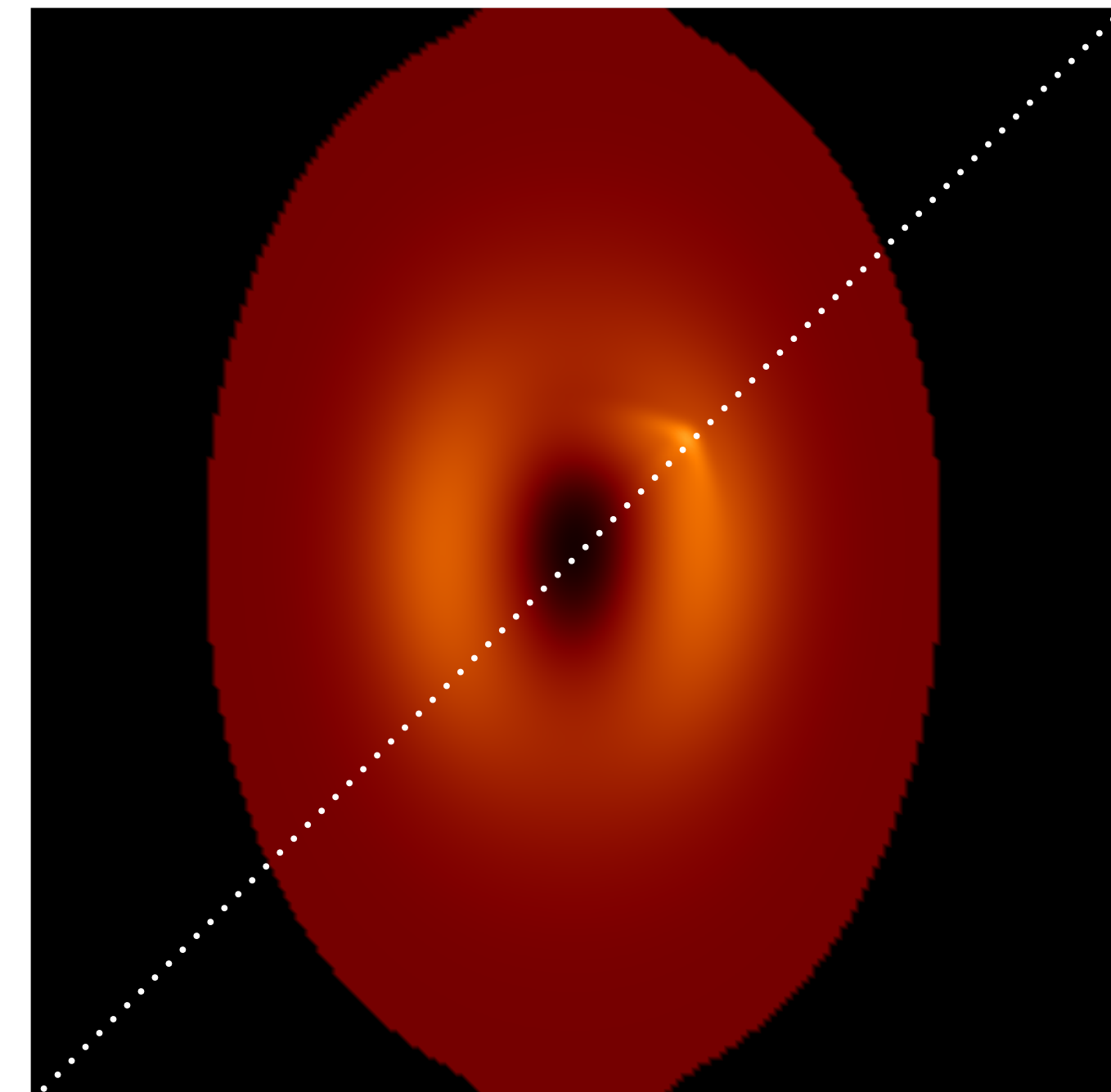
- The transverse tomography with jet wake based on FFT:



6 fm



8 fm



10 fm

Conclusion

Recap

- Transverse dynamics and jet-medium interaction are described by perturbations around attractor.
- Problem reduces to a set of linear ODEs which can be analyzed semi-analytically.
- Physical observables (including jet) are captured by a finite set of asymptotic data.

Outlook

- Jet physics after freezeout. [see all talks on observables on Monday](#)
- Stochastic fluctuations.
- Other approaches, e.g., kinetic approach. [see also Aleksas's talk](#)