

Gravitational waves from phase transitions

Mark Hindmarsh

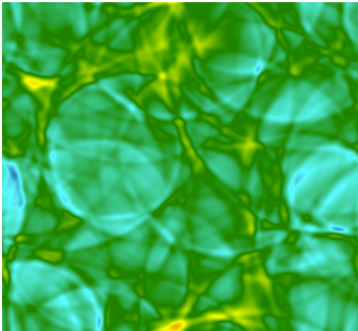
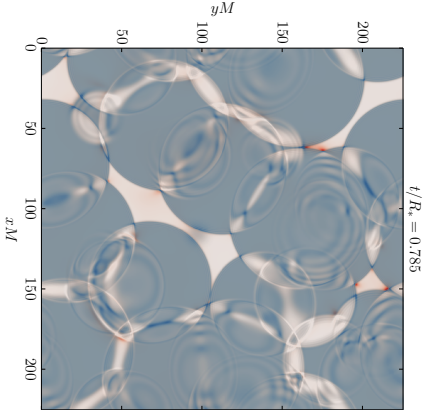
Helsinki Institute of Physics & Dept of Physics, University of Helsinki

and

Dept of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex

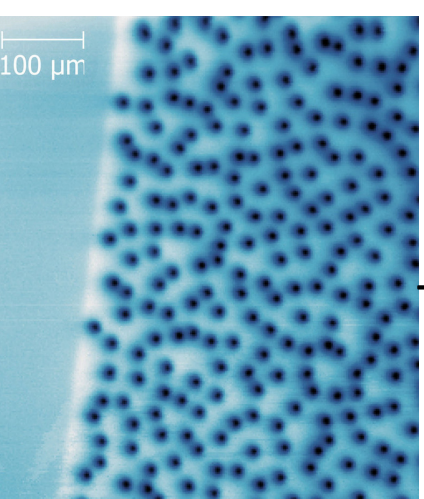
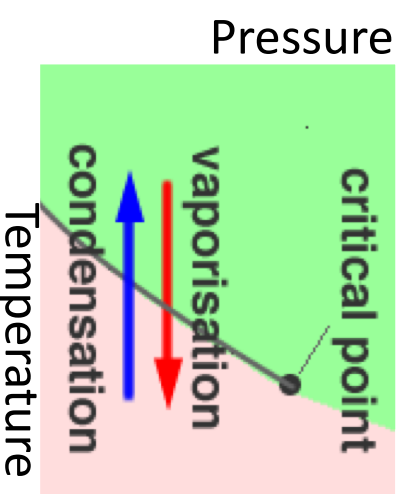
ICTP

15. lokakuuta 2019



Phase transitions in the early Universe

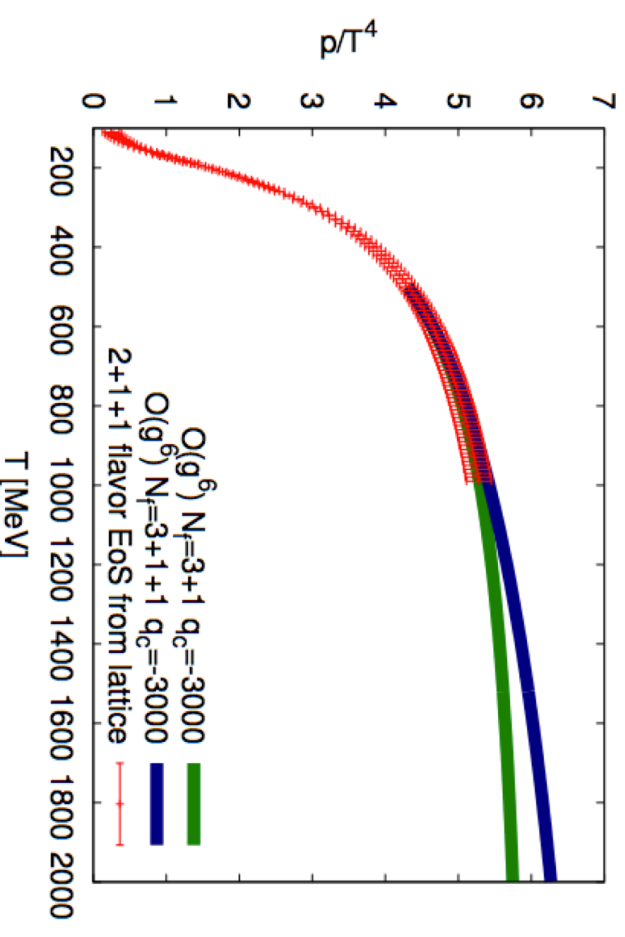
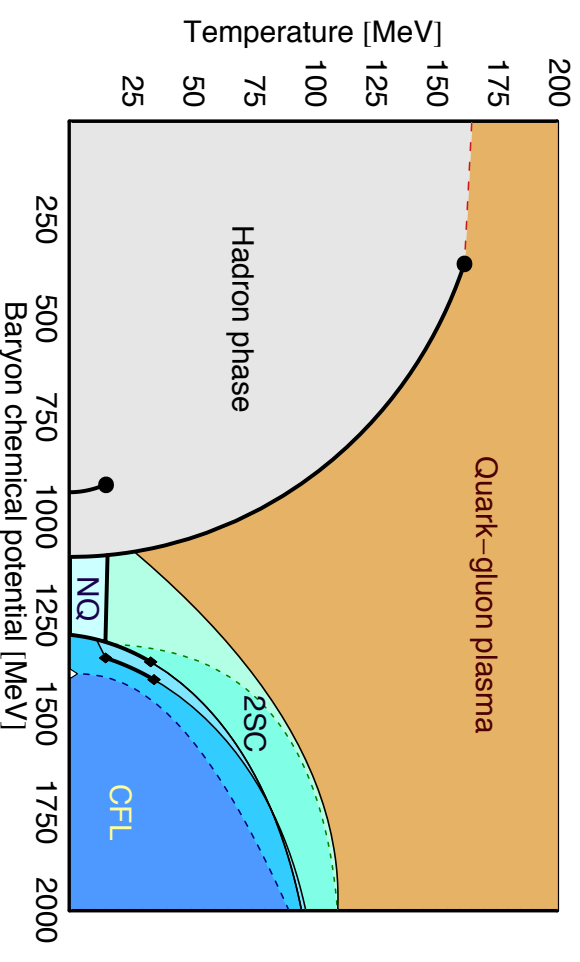
- At very high temperatures and pressures, the state of matter in the Universe changes
 - $T_c \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$ (1 ms) QCD
 - $T_c \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$ (10 ps) Electroweak
 - $T_c \gg 100 \text{ GeV}$ new symmetries?
 - Departures from equilibrium and homogeneity (shear stress)
 - First order phase transition: relativistic condensation or 'fizz'
- Steinhardt (1982)*
- Formation of topological defects
- Kibble (1976)*



Abrikosov vortices

QCD phases

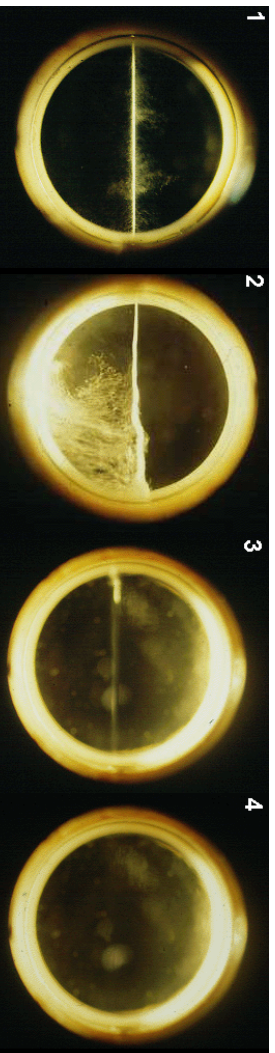
- QCD: rich phase diagram
- Universe: $n_B/n_\gamma \approx 6.1 \times 10^{-10}$
- Behaviour at low chemical potential well-established by lattice QCD Borsanyi et al (2016)
- Transition from QGP to hadronic phase is a **cross-over**
- Departures from equilibrium very small: no GWs



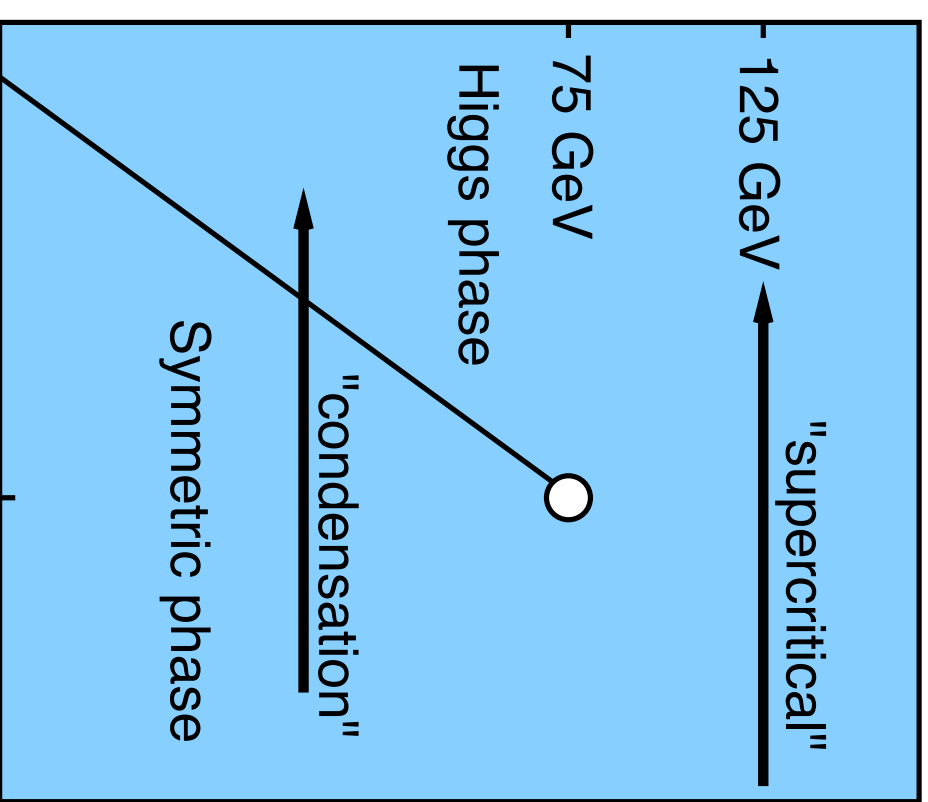
Borsanyi et al 2016

Electroweak transition

- SM is not weakly coupled at high T
- Non-perturbative techniques:
 - Dimensional reduction to 3D effective field theory + 3D lattice
Kajantie, Laine, Rummukainen, Shaposhnikov (1995,6)
 - SU(2)-Higgs on 4D lattice
Czikor, Fodor, Heitger (1998)
- SM transition at $m_h \approx 125$ GeV is a cross-over - **a supercritical fluid**



Higgs mass

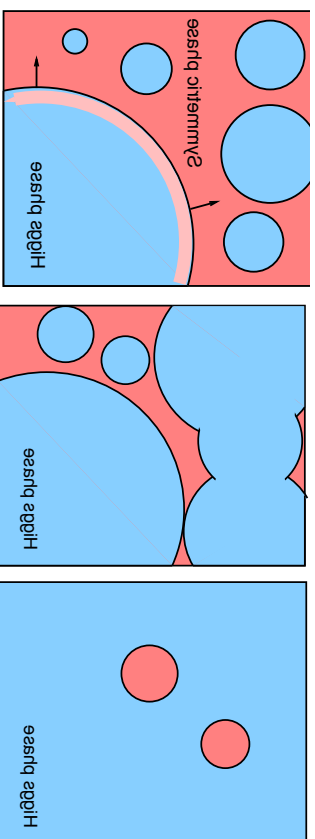


- Search for 1st order transition is a search for physics beyond SM

Little bangs in the Big Bang

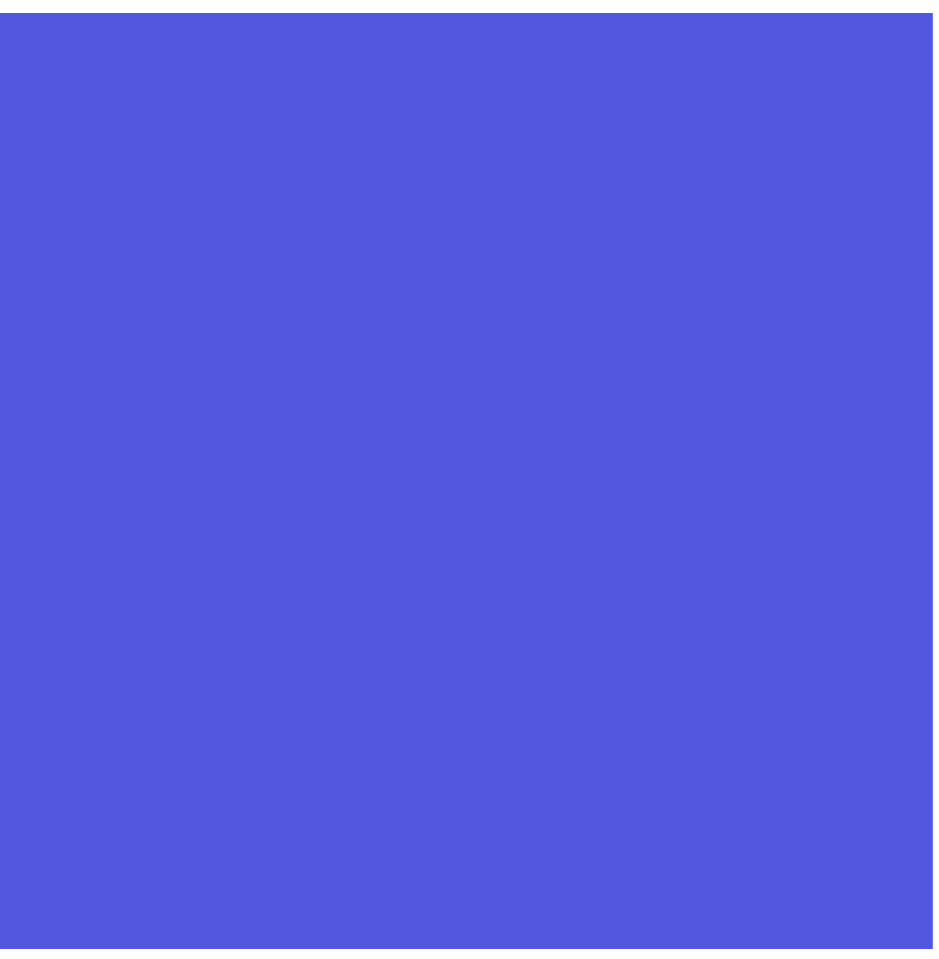
Fluid kinetic energy

- 1st order transition *Langer 1969* proceeds by nucleation of bubbles of low- T phase
- Nucleation rate/volume $p(t)$ rapidly increases below T_c
- Expanding bubbles generate pressure waves in hot fluid
- Universal “fizz”



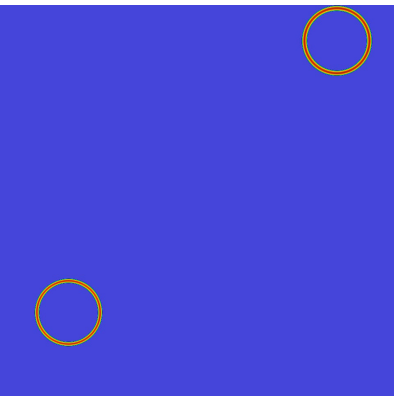
Steinhardt (1982); Hogan (1983,86);

Gyulassy et al (1984); Witten (1984)

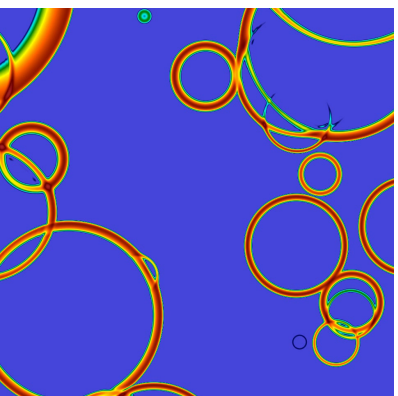


MH, Huber, Rummukainen, Weir (2013,5,7)
Cutting, MH, Weir (2018,9)

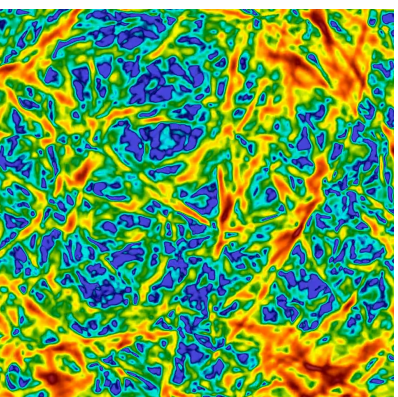
Phases of a phase transition



1



2



3



4

1. Nucleation and expansion
2. Collision
3. Acoustic
4. Non-linear (shocks, turbulence)

$$\tau_{nl} \sim L_f / \bar{U}_f$$

L_f – fluid flow length scale

\bar{U}_f – RMS fluid velocity

‘exponential’ nucleation

$$p(t) = p_n e^{\beta(t-t_n)}$$

$$\tau_{co} = \beta^{-1}$$

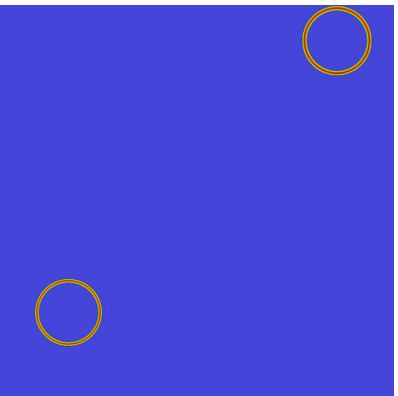
Guth, Weinberg 1983; Enqvist et al 1992;

Turner, Weinberg, Widrow 1992;

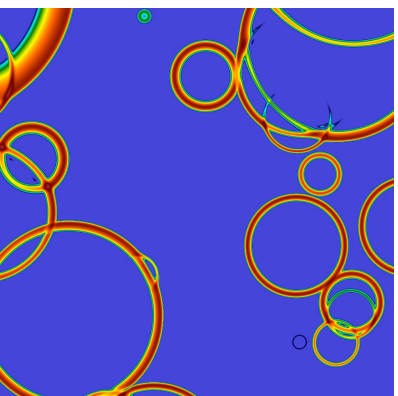
p – nucleation rate/volume

β – transition rate parameter

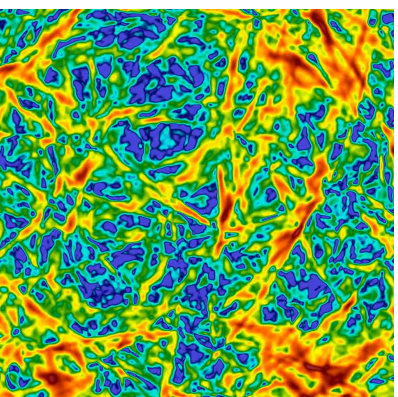
Phases of a phase transition



1



2



3



4

1. Nucleation and expansion
2. Collision
3. Acoustic
4. Non-linear (shocks, turbulence)



- Not discussed here
- Generation of magnetic field?
Baym, Bodeker, McLerran, 1996
Vachaspati 2001
Ferrer, Pogosian, Vachaspati 2019
- MHD turbulence
Brandenburg et al 2017
Roper Pol et al 2019

$$\tau_{\text{tu}} \sim L_f / \bar{V}_\perp$$

L_f – fluid flow length scale

\bar{V}_\perp – RMS rotational velocity

Dynamics of an early universe phase transition

- Ingredients: Ignatius et al (1994), Kurki-Suonio, Laine (1996)

- Higgs field $-\ddot{\phi} + \nabla^2 \phi - \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} = \eta W (\dot{\phi} + V^i \partial_i \phi)$

- η coupling to fluid (models energy transfer, friction)

- Relativistic fluid

$$\dot{E} + \partial_i (E V^i) + P [\dot{W} + \partial_i (W V^i)] - \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} W (\dot{\phi} + V^i \partial_i \phi) = \eta W^2 (\dot{\phi} + V^i \partial_i \phi)^2.$$

$$\dot{Z}_i + \partial_j (Z_i V^j) + \partial_i P + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} \partial_i \phi = -\eta W (\dot{\phi} + V^j \partial_j \phi) \partial_i \phi.$$

- E energy density, Z_i momentum density, V_i velocity, W γ -factor

- Discretisation Wilson & Matthews (2003)

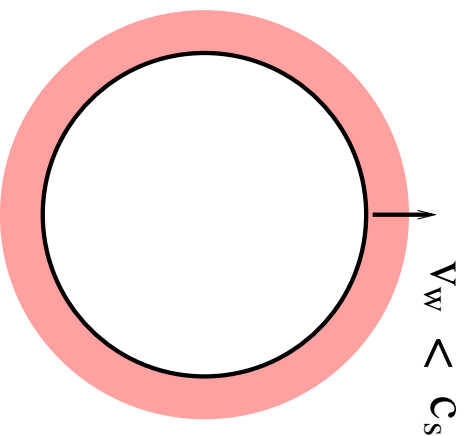
Different approach: Giblin, Mertens (2013)

- Metric perturbation

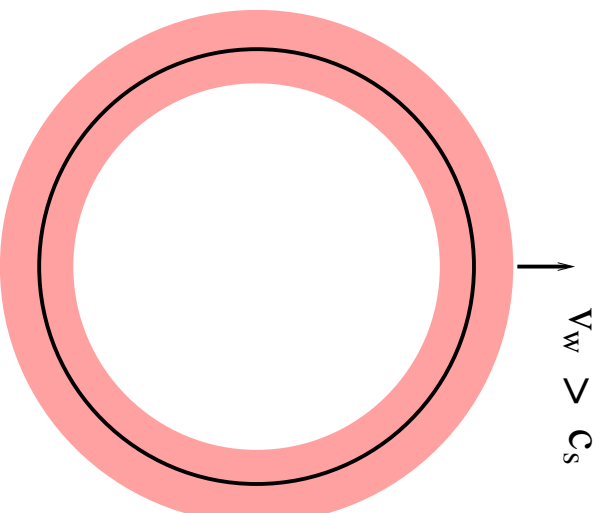
$$\ddot{h}_{ij} - \nabla^2 h_{ij} = 16\pi G T_{ij}^{\text{TT}}$$

Garcia-Bellido, Figueroa, Sastre (2008)

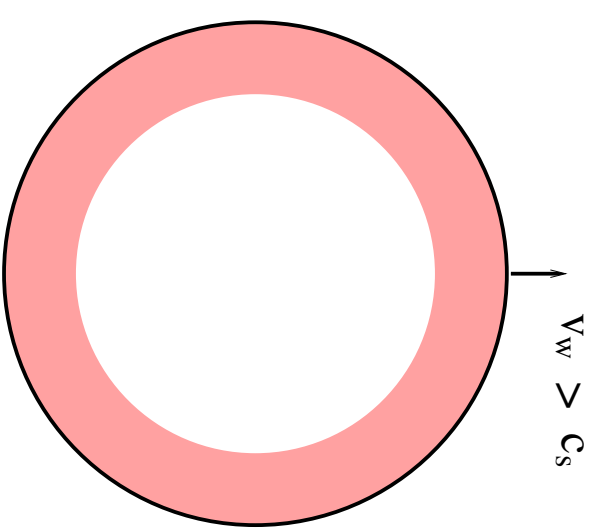
Relativistic combustion



Deflagration



Supersonic deflagration
("hybrid")



Detonation

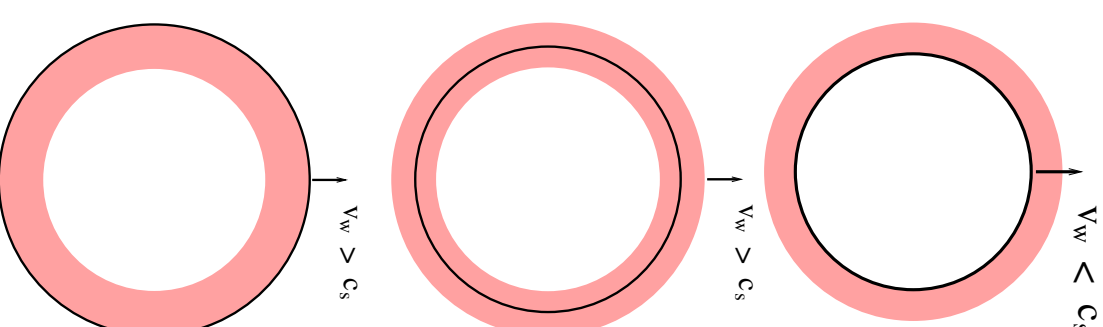
Landau & Lifshitz
Steinhardt (1984)
Kurki-Suonio, Laine (1991)
Espinosa et al (2010)

- Scalar potential energy (free energy) to kinetic energy, heat energy
- Wall velocity v_w - pressure difference vs. scalar-fluid coupling $\eta(\phi)$
- Radial fluid velocity $v(r,t)$ and enthalpy distribution $w(r,t)$
- Similarity solution $v(r/t), w(r/t)$
- Some cases ... runaway ($v_w \rightarrow 1$) (near-vacuum transition)

GWs from first order phase transitions

- Parameters of transition:
 - T_n = Temperature at nucleation
 - β = transition rate (= - d log p / dt)
 - v_w = Bubble wall speed
 - α = (“Potential energy”)/ (“Heat energy”)
- Derived parameters:
 - R_* = mean bubble separation = $(8\pi)^{1/3} v_w / \beta$
 - K = fluid kinetic energy fraction
 (depends on α, v_w)
 Steinhardt '84
 Espinosa et al 2010
- Aim: GW power spectrum

$$\frac{d\Omega_{\text{gw}}}{d \ln f} = \frac{1}{\rho_{\text{tot}}} \frac{d\rho_{\text{gw}}}{d \ln f} = \frac{8\pi^2}{3H^2} f^3 S_h(f)$$



GWs from phase transitions

- Gravitational waves generated by shear stress fluctuations

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}} \sim \frac{1}{G\rho} \left\langle \left| \dot{h}_{ij}(t) \right|^2 \right\rangle$$

$$\dot{h}_{ij} \sim G \int dt' \cos[k(t-t')] T_{ij}^{TT}(k, t')$$

- Shear stress \sim kinetic energy $T_{ij} \sim \rho U_i U_j$
- Kinetic energy from potential energy $\dot{h} \sim \tau (G\rho) K$
 - $K(\alpha, \nu_w)$ = fluid kinetic energy fraction

- Timescales τ_v and τ_c $\Omega_{\text{gw}} \sim \frac{\tau_v \tau_c}{G\rho} (G\rho)^2 K^2$

- τ_v duration of stresses from fluid velocity
 - τ_c coherence time of stress fluctuations $\Omega_{\text{gw}} \sim (H_n \tau_v)(H_n \tau_c) K^2$

$$\Omega_{\text{gw},0} \sim \Omega_{\text{rad},0} (H_n \tau_v) (H_* \tau_c) K^2$$

Estimating GW power

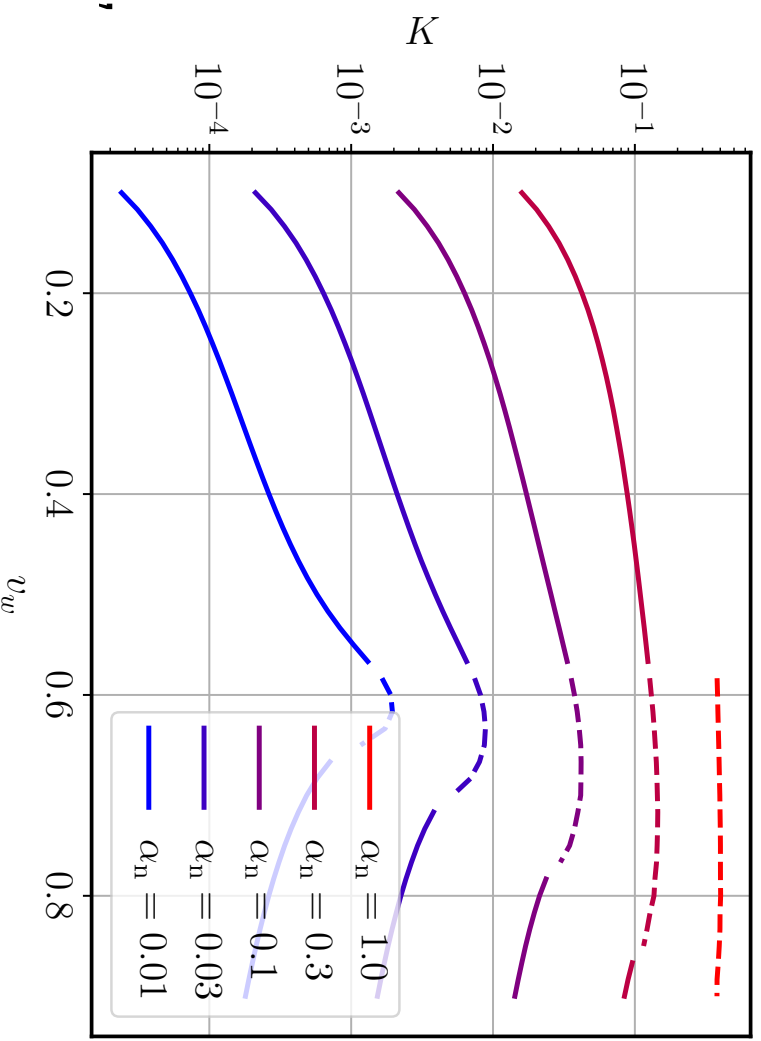
- Recall GW energy fraction:
 - τ_v duration of stresses
 - τ_c coherence time
- Numerical simulations:
 - $\tau_c \sim R_*$ (bubble separation)
- Analytical estimate:
 - $\tau_v = \min(H_n^{-1}, R_*/U_f)$
 - N.B. $K = (4/3)U_f^2$
 - U_f (weighted) RMS velocity
 - Pure acoustic ($H_n R_* \gg U_f$)

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}} \simeq (H_n R_*) K^2 \tilde{\Omega}_{\text{gw}},$$

$$\tilde{\Omega}_{\text{gw}} \sim 10^{-2}$$

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}} \sim (H_n \tau_v)(H_n \tau_c) K^2$$

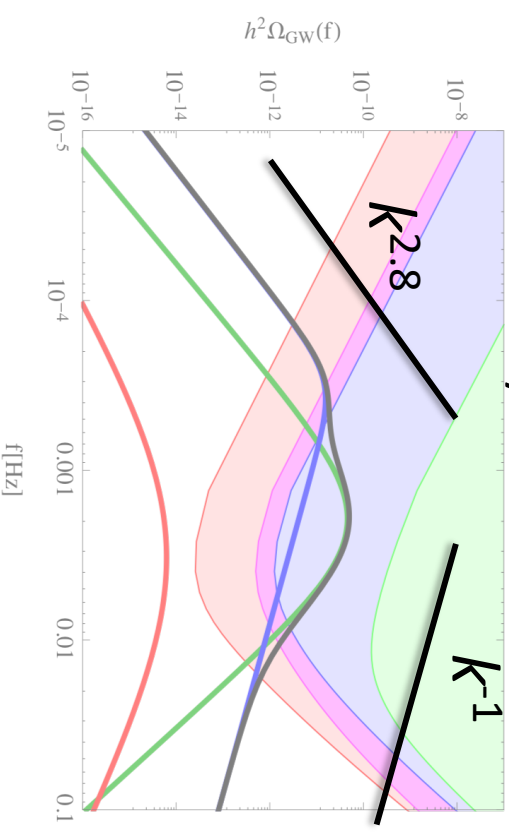
K (kinetic energy fraction)
from self-similar hydro solution



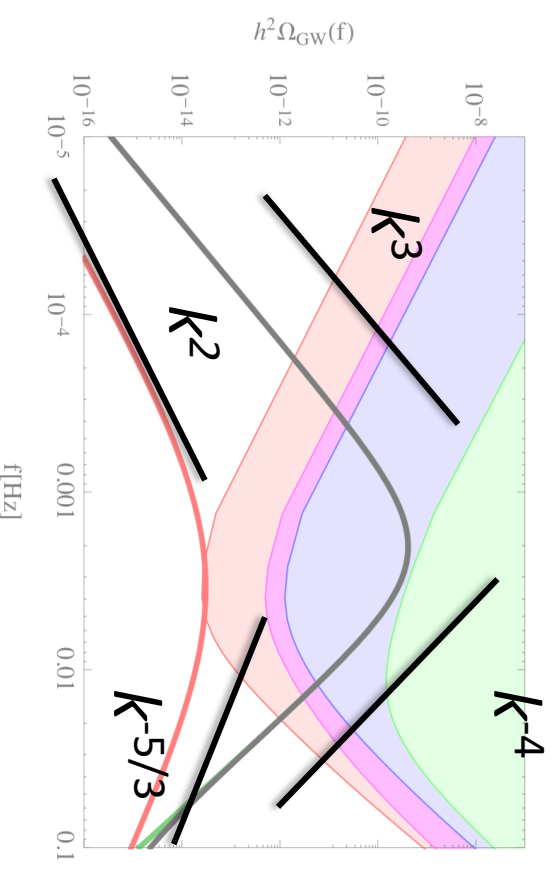
LISA CWG party line 2016

- Three contributions to total power:
 - Scalar field ϕ
 - Acoustic ac
 - Turbulent tu
- $\Omega_{gw} = \Omega_{gw}^{\phi} + \Omega_{gw}^{ac} + \Omega_{gw}^{tu}$
- Scalar field: bubble wall collisions
 - relevant only for runaway walls
 - “envelope approximation”
 - Kosowsky, Turner 1992
 - Huber, Konstandin 2008
- Acoustic production:
 - M.H. et al 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019
- Turbulent production:
 - Caprini, Durrer, Servant 2009

Case 2: runaway



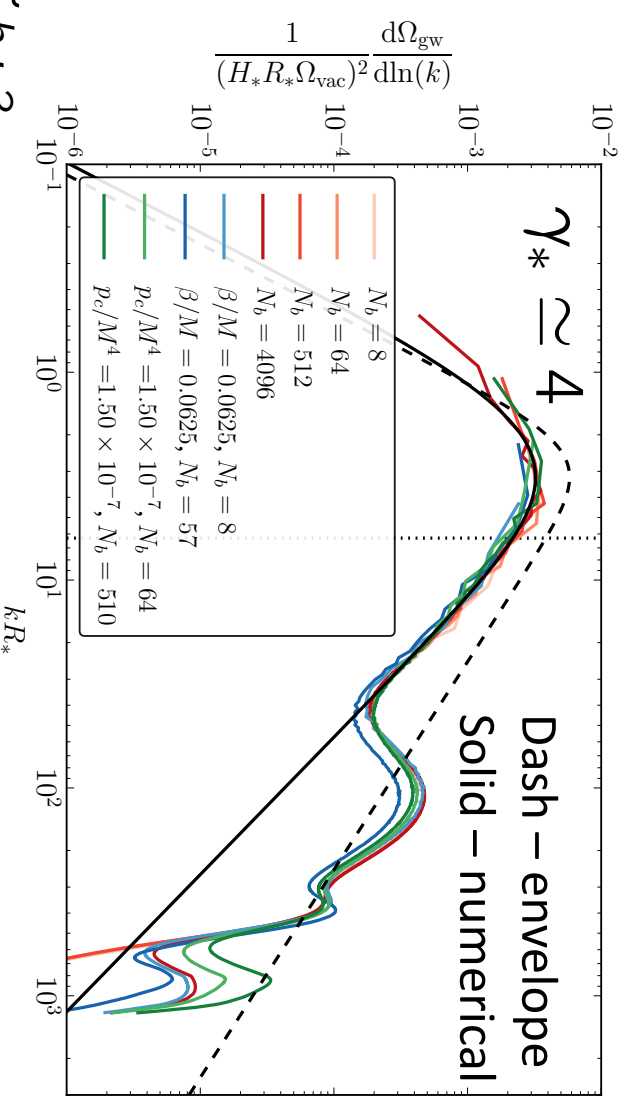
Case 1: constant v_w



Developments 1: scalar field

- Numerical simulations show differences from envelope approximation

Cutting, MH, Weir 2018

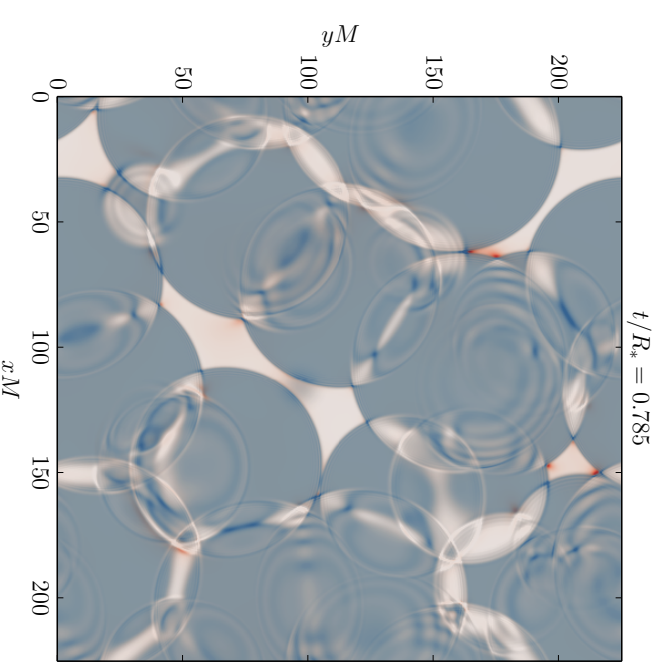


$$\frac{d\Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{fit}}}{d\ln k} = \Omega_{\text{p}}^{\text{fit}} \frac{(3+b)^c \tilde{k}^b k^3}{(b\tilde{k}(3+b)/c + 3k(3+b)/c)c}$$

$$\Omega_{\text{p}}^{\text{fit}} = (3.22 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-3} (H_{\text{n}} R_*)^2 \Omega_{\phi}^2,$$

$$\tilde{k} R_* = 3.20 \pm 0.04,$$

$$b = 1.51 \pm 0.04, \quad c = 2.18 \pm 0.15$$

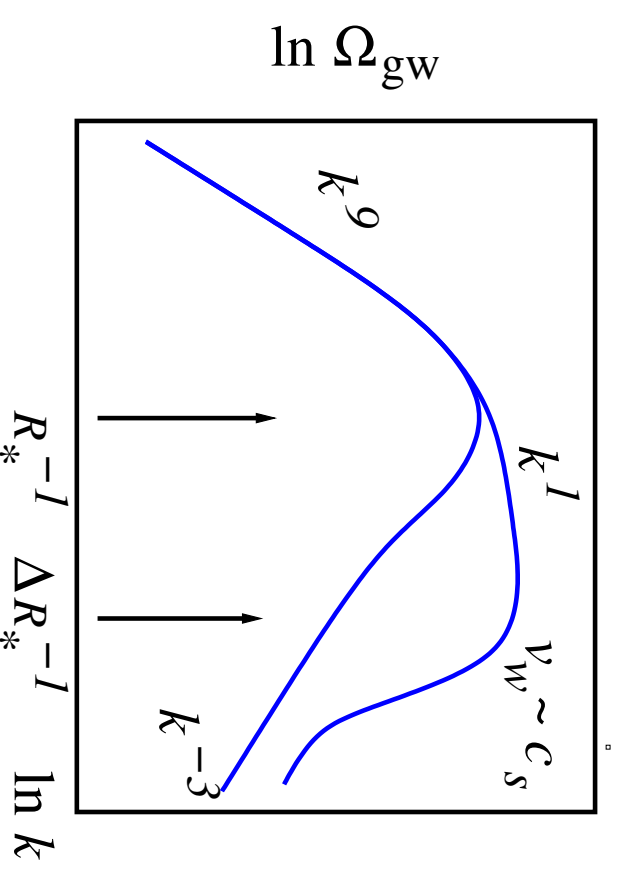
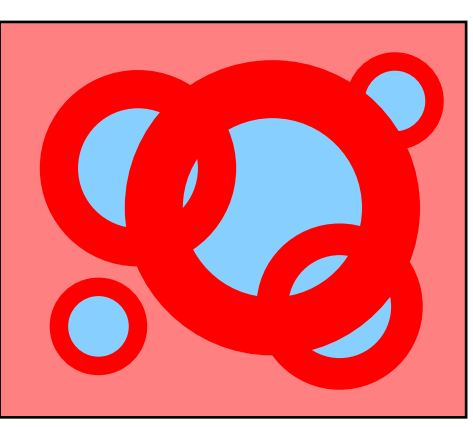
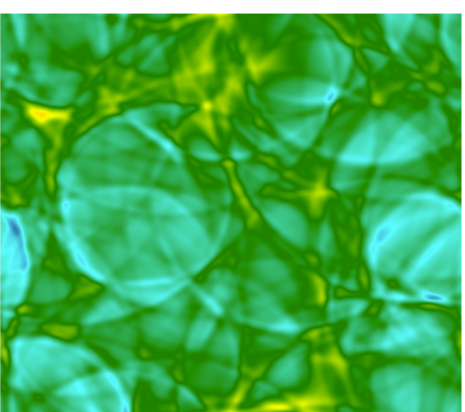


Developments 2: sound shell model

- Gaussian velocity field from weighted addition of sound shells $\mathbf{v}_q(t_i)$

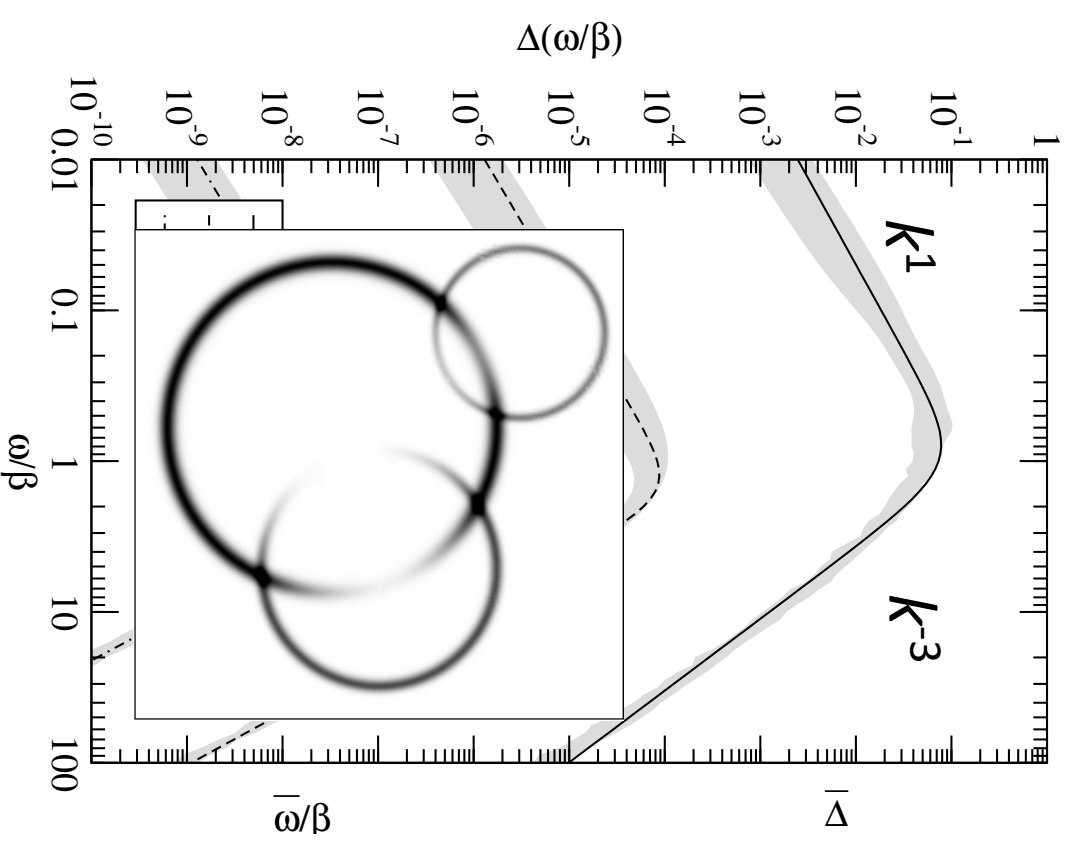
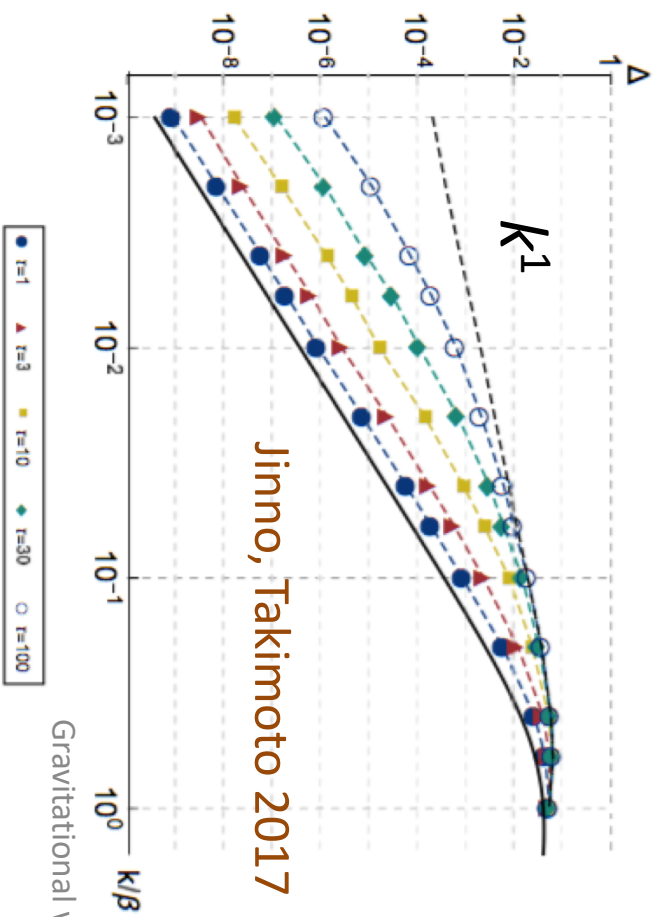
MH 2017; MH, Hijazi 2019

- Two length scales:
 - Bubble spacing R_*
 - Shell width $R_* \frac{|v_w - c_s|}{v_w}$
- Double broken power law
 - $P_{gw} \sim k^9, k^1, k^{-3}$
- Amplitude:
 - Detonations: good (< 10%)
 - Deflagrations: overestimated



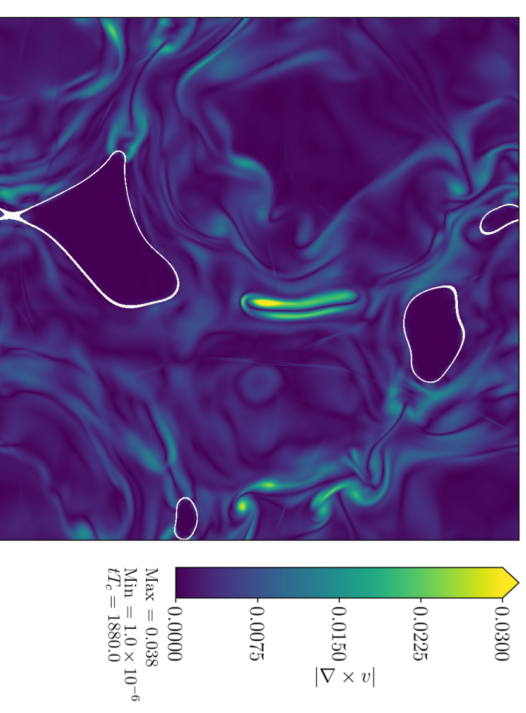
Developments 3: bulk flow models

- Based on envelope approximation
- Model overlapping energy shells in real space
- Disagrees with sound shell model at low k

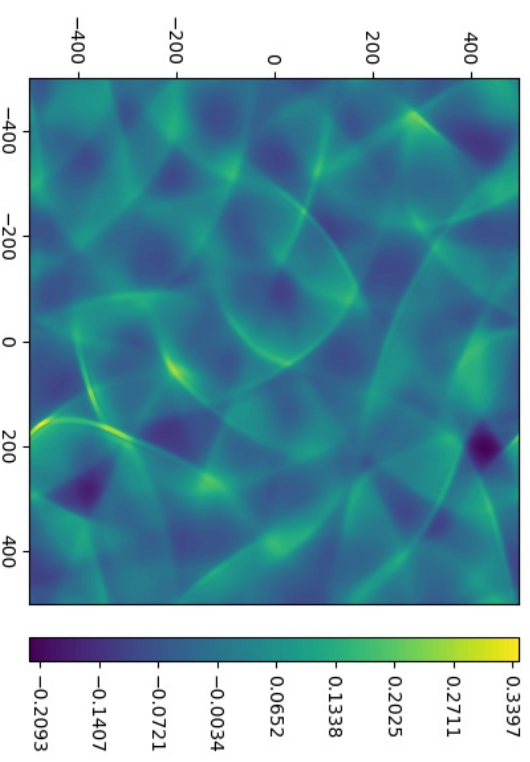


Developments 4: non-linearities

- Longitudinal v
 - Kinetic energy suppression
- Transverse v
 - Vorticity production
Cutting, MH, Weir 2019
- Non-linearity timescale
 - $\tau_{nl} \sim L_f / \bar{U}_f$
 - Shock development
 - Further vorticity production
 - Decay of flows



$T, n = 1000, dx = dy = 1.0, dt = 0.01, \nu = 0.05$



J Dahl, U Helsinki

Developments 5: turbulence

- Modelling

Green: Gogoberidze, Kahnashvili, Kosowsky 2007

Black: Caprini, Durrer, Servant 2008

Blue: Niksa, Schlederer, Sigl 2018

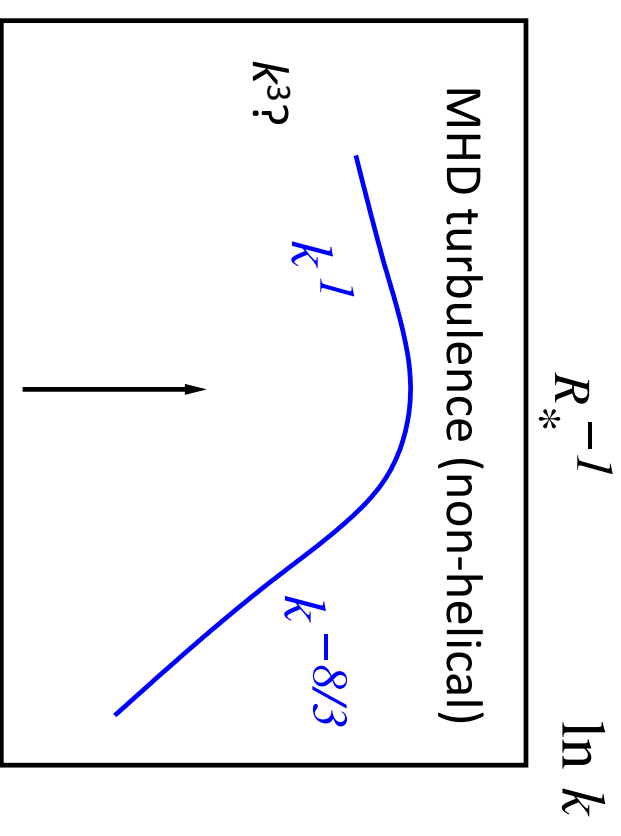
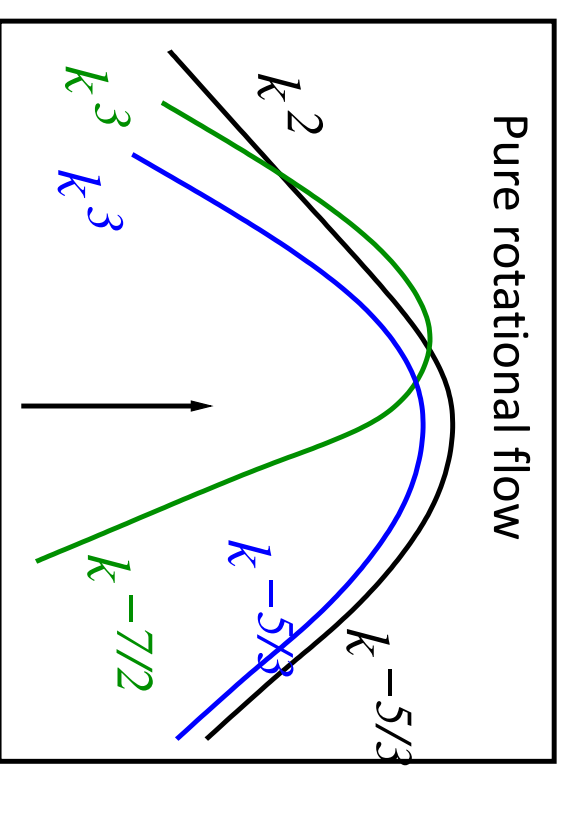
- Kraichnan sweeping model: velocity autocorrelation time

$$\tau_k \sim 1/k\bar{v}_\perp$$

- Pure rotational flow: high k GW power spectrum $k^{-5/3}$
- Mixed acoustic-turbulent $k^{-8/3}$

- MHD simulation

Roper pol et al 2019



Sound shell model

- Gaussian velocity field from weighted addition of sound shells $\mathbf{v}_q(t_i)$

MH 2017, MH, Hijazi (in prep 2019)

- Two length scales:

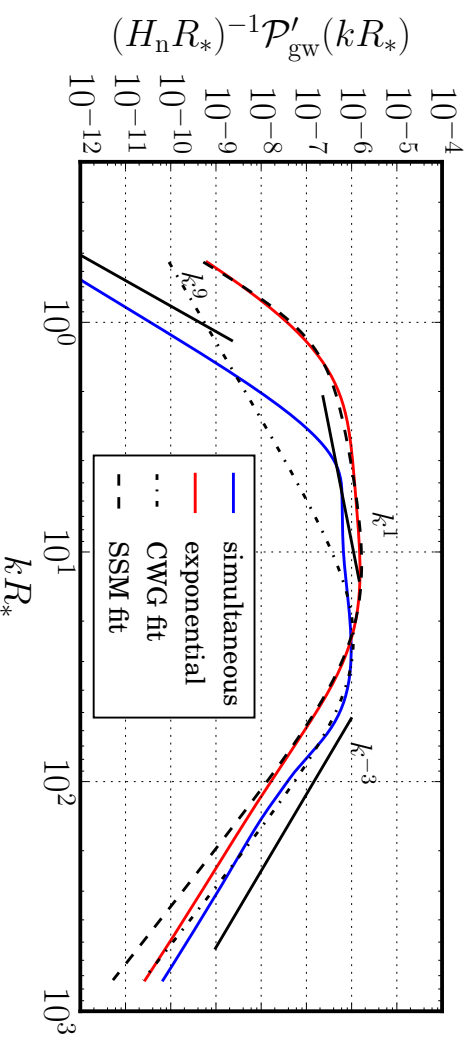
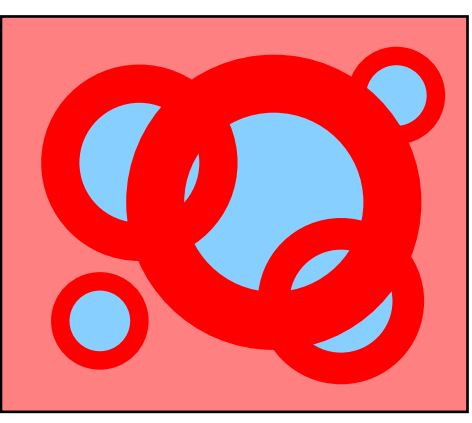
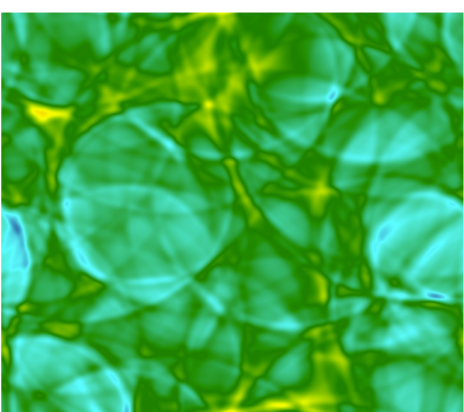
- Bubble spacing R_*
- Shell width $R_* \frac{|V_w - c_s|}{V_w}$

- Double broken power law

- $P_{gw} \sim k^9, k^1, k^{-3}$

- Amplitude:

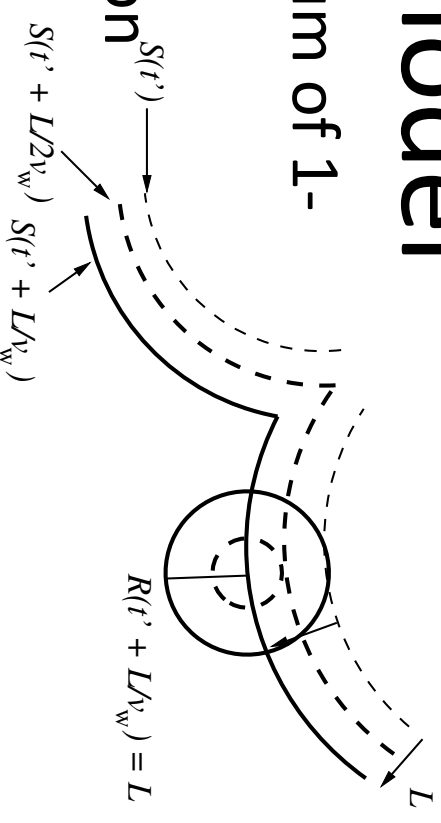
- Bubble separation
- (Kinetic energy)²



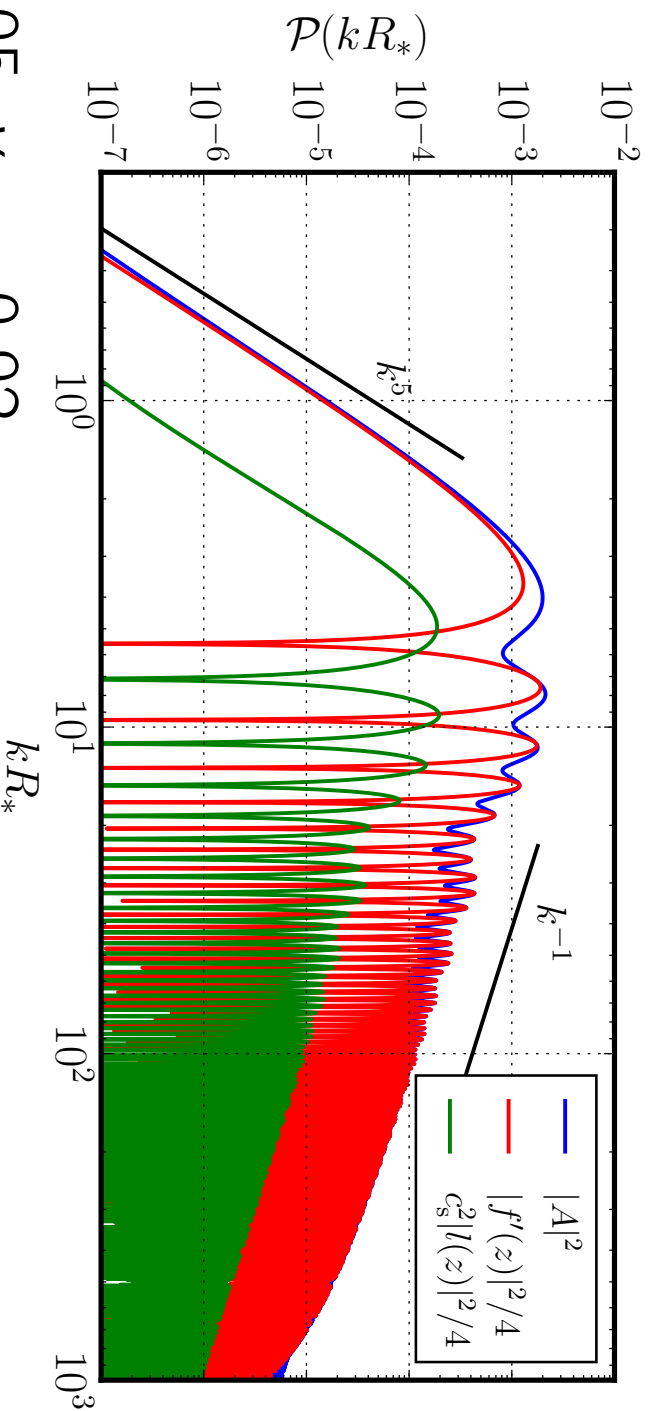
$$\alpha_n = 0.0046 \quad V_w = 0.56$$

Sound shell model

- Velocity power spectrum is weighted sum of 1-bubble power spectra
- Weighting by bubble lifetime distribution



$$\nu(\beta T) = \begin{cases} \exp(-\beta T) & \text{exponential} \\ \frac{1}{2}(\beta T)^2 \exp(-\frac{1}{6}(\beta T)^3) & \text{simultaneous} \end{cases}$$

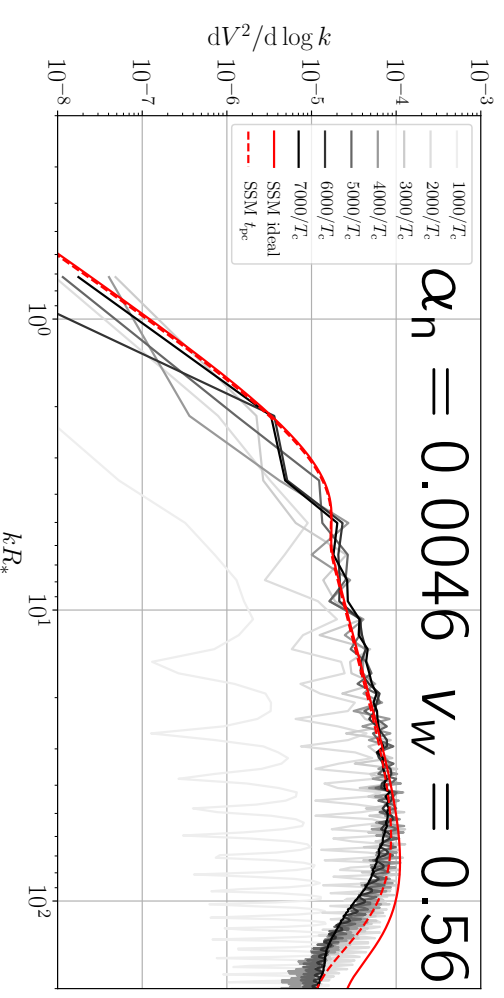
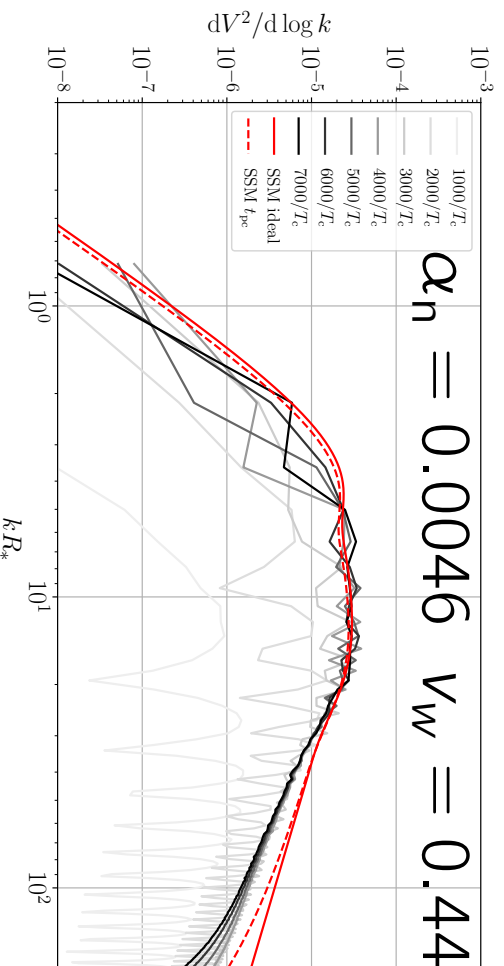
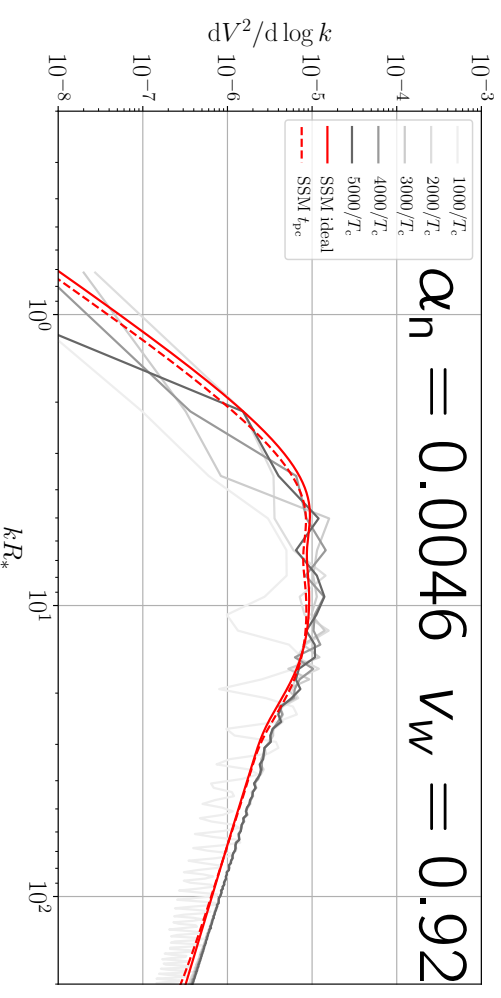


$$\alpha_n = 0.05 \quad \nu_w = 0.92$$

Sound shell model vs. simulations P_v

- Solid: self-similar sound shell
- Dash: evolving sound shell at peak collision time
- Simultaneous nucleation

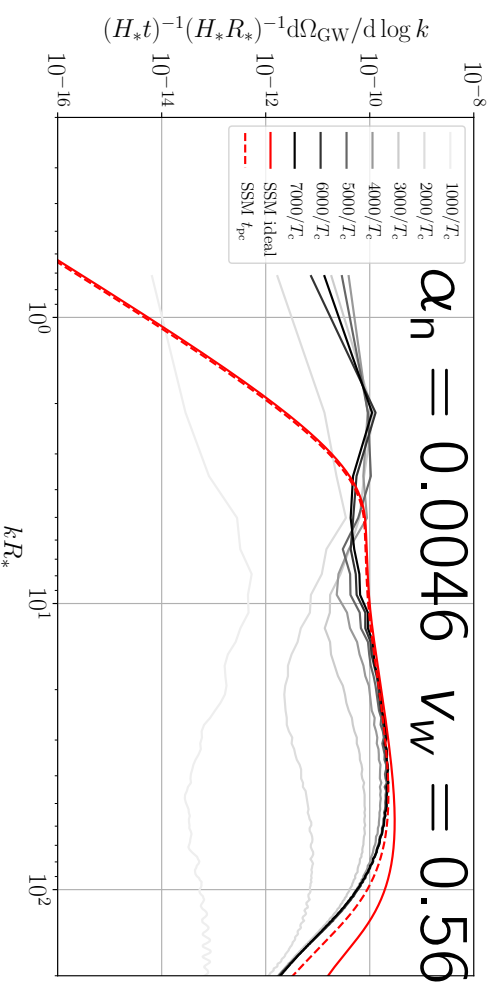
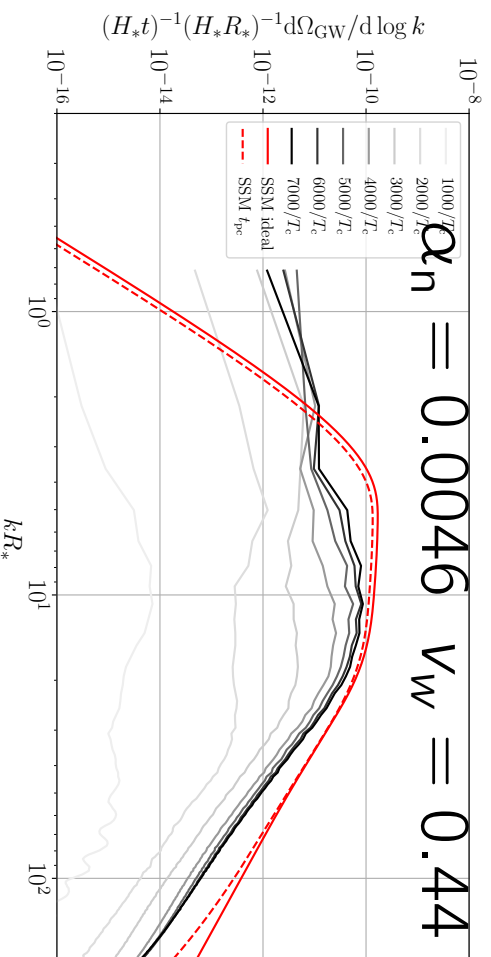
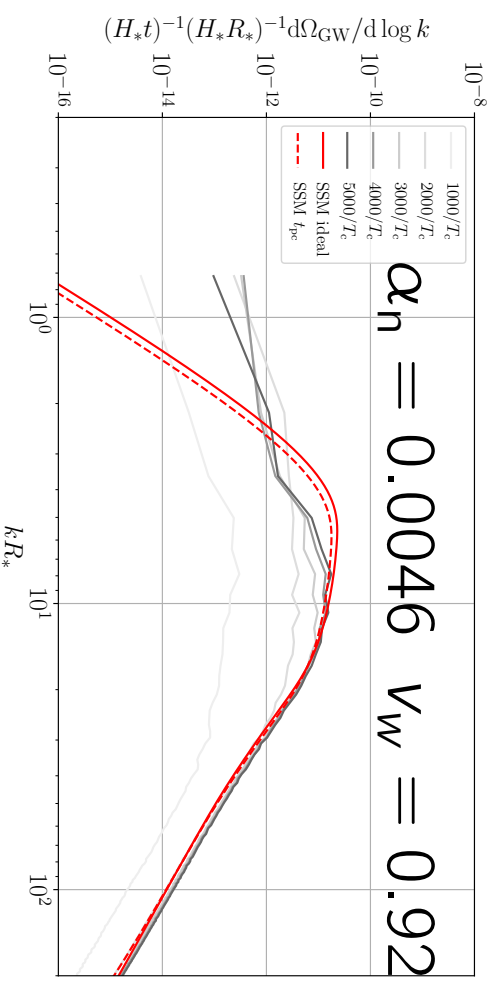
MH et al in prep 2019



Sound shell model vs. simulations P_{gw}

- Solid: self-similar sound shell
- Dash: evolving sound shell at peak collision time
- Simultaneous nucleation

MH et al in prep 2019



GW PS in sound shell model

MH, Hijazi 2019

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{ac}}(f) = F_{\text{gw},0}(H_n R_*) A_M M\left(\frac{f}{f_{p,0}}\right) \quad A_M \simeq \kappa^2 \tilde{\Omega}_{\text{gw}}$$

- Double broken power law

$$M(s) = s^9 \left(\frac{r_p^4 + 1}{r_p^4 + s^4} \right)^2 \left(\frac{5}{5 - m + ms^2} \right)^{5/2}, \quad s = f / f_{p,0}$$

$$m = (9r_p^4 + 1)/(r_p^4 + 1)$$

- Radiation energy density redshift

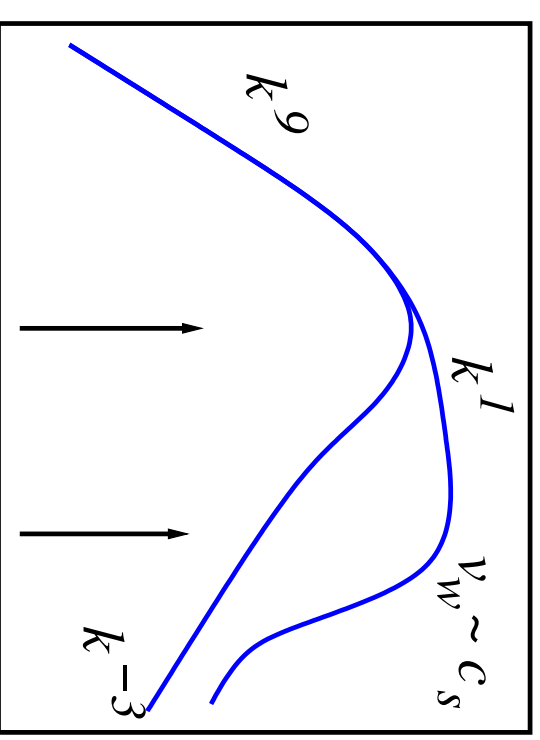
$$F_{\text{gw},0} \simeq 3.6 \times 10^{-5}$$

- Peak frequency now:

$$f_{p,0} \simeq 2.6 z_p (H_n R_*)^{-1} (T_n / 100 \text{ GeV}) \mu\text{Hz}$$

- Simulations: $z_p = \mathcal{O}(10)$

$$\ln \Omega_{\text{gw}}$$



Flow lifetime uncertainty

- Non-linearities important after

$$\tau_{\text{nl}} \sim L_f / \bar{U}_f$$

- Also effective flow lifetime



- Estimate: multiply PS by

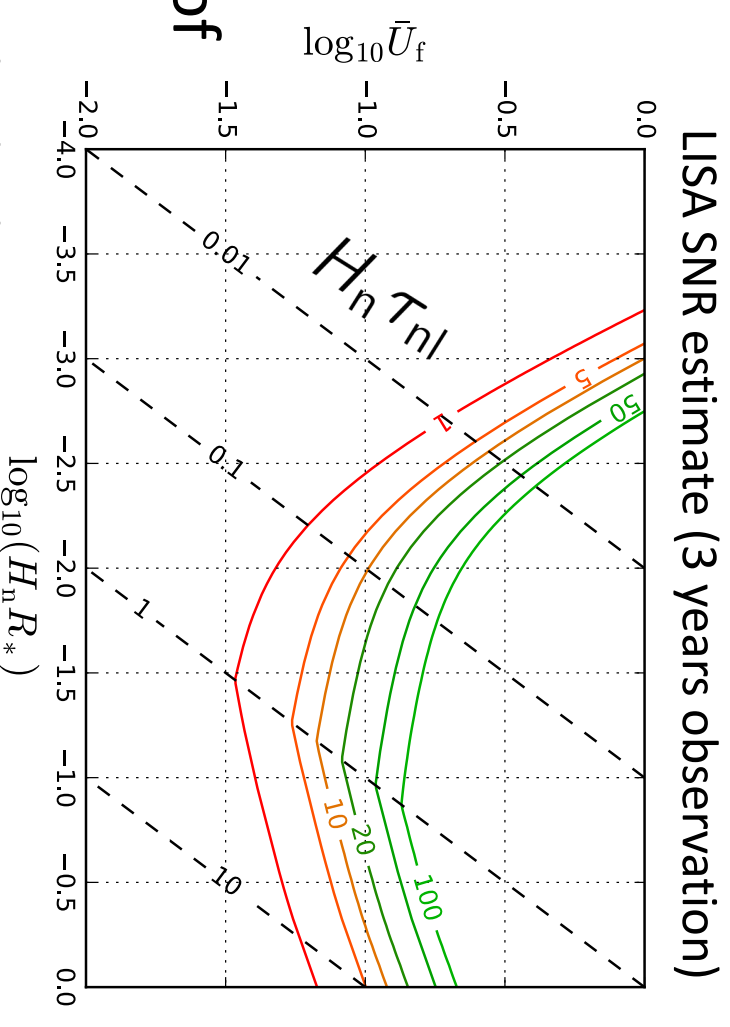
$$\min(1, H_n \tau_{\text{nl}})$$

- GW power parametric estimate

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}} \sim (H_n R_*)^2 \kappa^{3/2}$$

- Estimate SNR for LISA in terms of

$$U_f H_n R_*$$



Summary

- Good understanding of GWs from near-linear flows.
– $\alpha \sim 0.1, v_w > 0.4$
- Dominant source is sound
- Total power estimate:

$$\Omega_{\text{gw},0} \simeq F_{\text{gw},0} \min \left(1, \frac{H_n R_*}{\sqrt{K}} \right) (H_n R_*) K^2 \tilde{\Omega}_{\text{gw}}$$

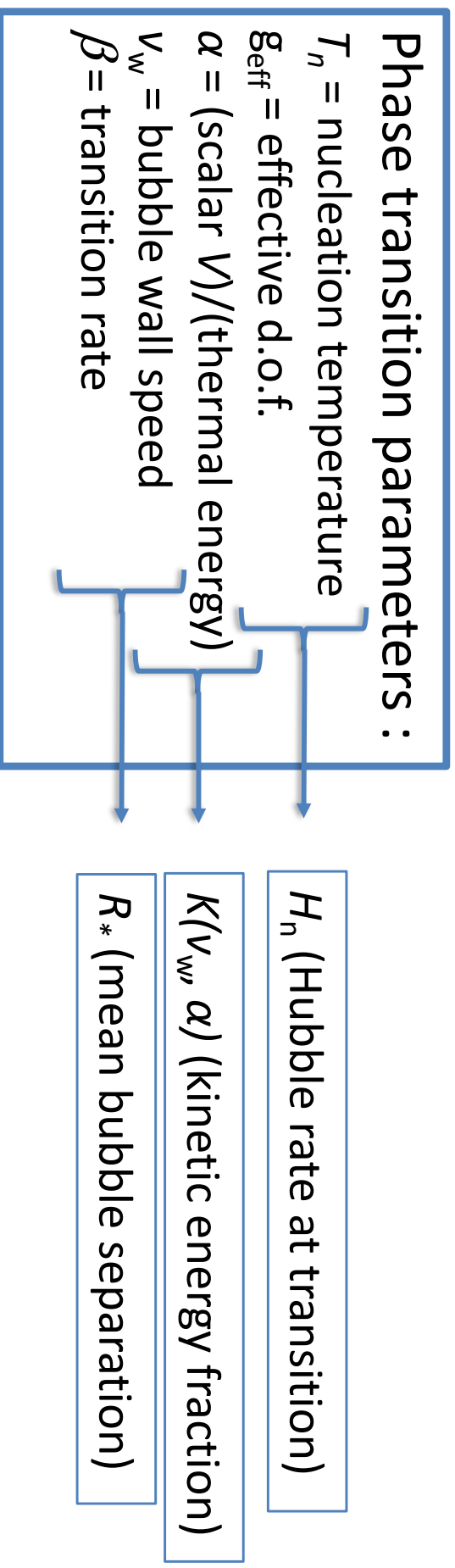
Standard cosmology:

$$F_{\text{gw},0} = 3.6 \times 10^{-5} \left(\frac{100}{g_{\text{eff}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \text{Numerical simulations: } \tilde{\Omega}_{\text{gw}} = \mathcal{O}(10^{-2})$$

- Naïve extrapolation:
an upper bound on GWs from PTs: $\Omega_{\text{gw},0} \lesssim 10^{-7}$

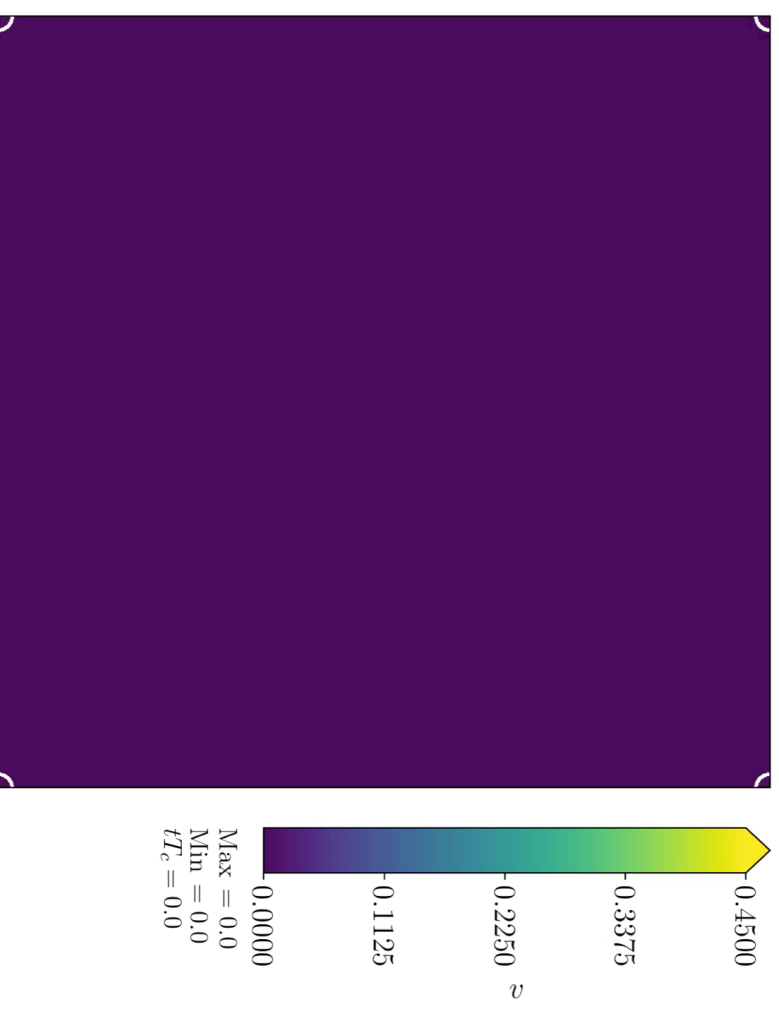
Connection to fundamental theory

- Scalar effective potential $V(\phi, T)$ \longrightarrow $T_n, \alpha, \beta, g_{\text{eff}}$ (equilibrium)
- Scalar-fluid coupling $\eta(\phi, T, v_w)$ \longrightarrow v_w (non-equilibrium)



Future challenges

- Stronger transitions lead to non-linear evolution, dynamics not understood
 - Longitudinal/compression modes
 - Kinetic energy suppression
 - Shocks, wave turbulence
 - Transverse/rotational modes
 - Vorticity generation
 - Turbulence
- MHD turbulence
 - Turbulence less efficient at producing GWs?



Cutting, MH, Weir 2019


Gravitational wave frequencies

- Shear stress at time t generate waves with minimum frequency $f \approx 1/t$ (Hubble rate)
- Redshifted to a frequency now: $f_0 = (a(t)/a(t_0))f$
- Redshifted Hubble rates:

Event	Time/s	Temp/GeV	f_0/Hz
QCD transition	10^{-3}	0.1	10^{-8}
EW transition	10^{-11}	100	10^{-5}
?	10^{-25}	10^9	100
End of inflation	$\geq 10^{-36}$	$\leq 10^{16}$	$\leq 10^8$

- Peak frequencies: $f_{p.0} \simeq 26(H_n R_*)^{-1} (T_n/100 \text{ GeV}) \mu\text{Hz}$
- Typical range: $10^1 \lesssim (H_n R_*)^{-1} \lesssim 10^5$

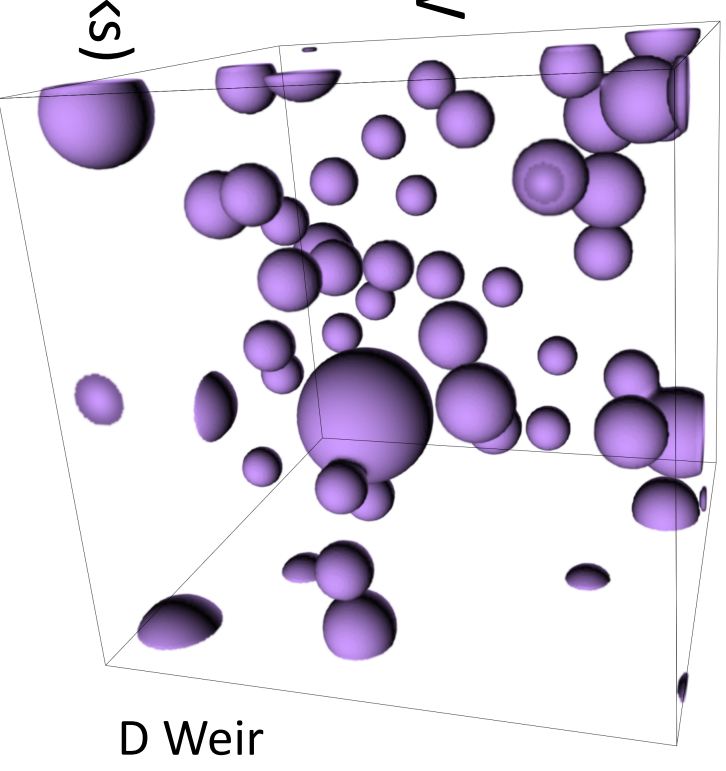
High frequency GWs from PTs?

- Peak frequencies: $f_{p,0} \simeq 26(H_n R_*)^{-1} (T_n / 100 \text{ GeV}) \mu\text{Hz}$
- Typical range: $10^1 \lesssim (H_n R_*)^{-1} \lesssim 10^5$
- Highest possible phase transition temperature?
 - Inflation (absence of GWs): $T_n \lesssim 10^{15} \text{ GeV}$
- Corresponding frequencies: $10^8 \text{ Hz} \lesssim f_{p,0} \lesssim 10^{12} \text{ Hz}$
- Higher frequency means smaller strain 
$$h_c \simeq 0.4 \sqrt{\Omega_{\text{gw}}} \times 10^{-20} (f / 100 \text{ Hz})^{-1}$$

- No (known) astrophysical foregrounds 

Conclusions

- GWs probe physics at very high energy
 - LISA will probe physics of Higgs transition from 2034
 - Measure/constrain phase transition parameters
- Towards accurate calculations of GW power spectrum from parameters
 - Some understanding of acoustic production, probably dominant
 - Non-linear evolution (turbulence, shocks) not well understood
- Applies to 1st order PTs at all scales



$$f_{p,0} \simeq 26 (H_n R_*)^{-1} (T_n / 100 \text{ GeV}) \mu\text{Hz} \quad h_c \lesssim 3 \times 10^{-19} (10^2 \text{ GeV} / T_n)$$