

Bulk viscosity and damping of density oscillations in binary neutron star mergers

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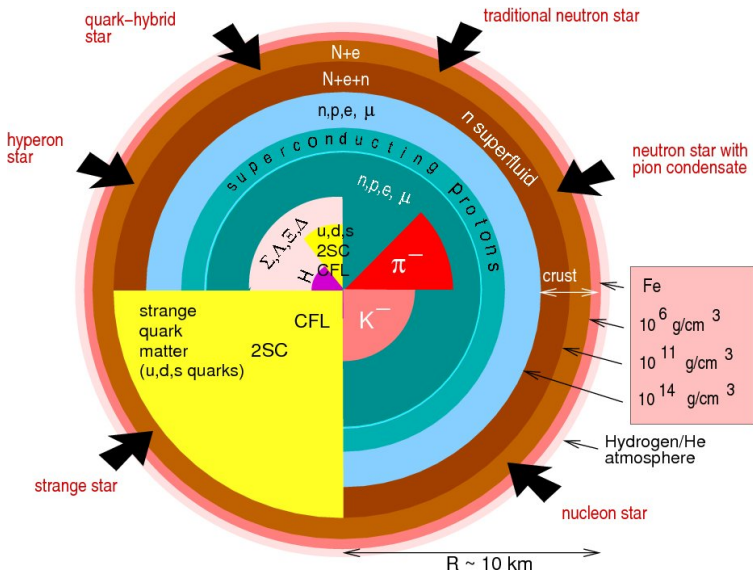


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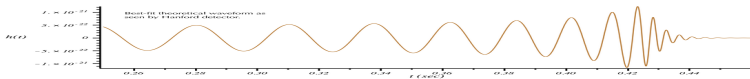
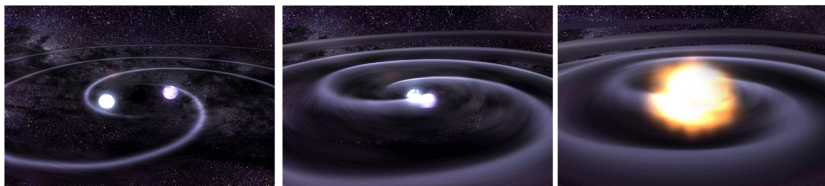
Outline

- Introduction
- Weak interactions in dense matter
 - Baryonic matter
 - Quark matter (2SC phase)
- Models of neutron star matter
- Bulk viscosity from weak interactions
- Damping of density oscillations
- Conclusions

The structure of neutron stars

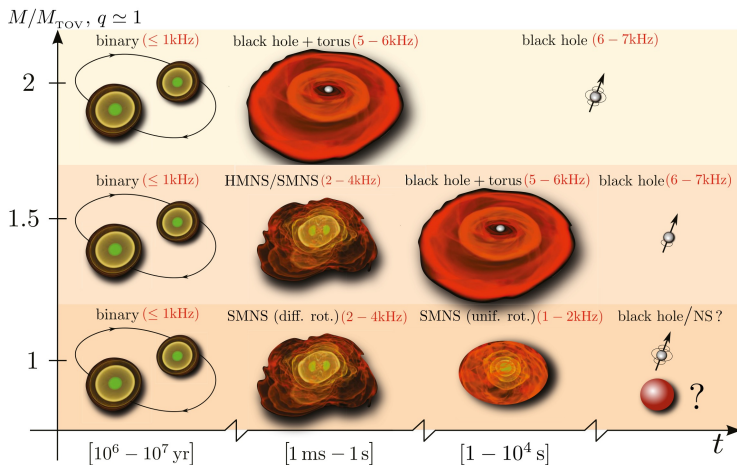


Neutron star binary systems



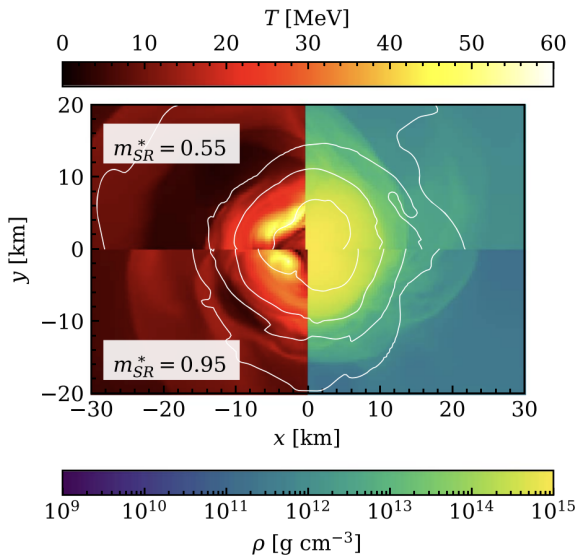
- Compact stars are natural laboratories to test the properties of **dense matter** in extremely **strong gravitational fields**.
- **Gravitational wave signal** from binary neutron star systems carries rich information about the **structure of dense matter**.
- **Gravitational waveform** might be affected by **damping of density oscillations** after merging of two compact stars.

Dynamics of BNS mergers



- Characteristic timescales of **initial phase of post-merger** ~ 10 ms (over which intense gravitational wave emission is expected); **long-term post-merger evolution phase** ~ 1 s
- Characteristic oscillation **frequencies** in BNS mergers lie in the range **1–10 kHz**

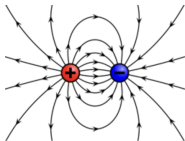
Temperature-density profiles of post-merger object



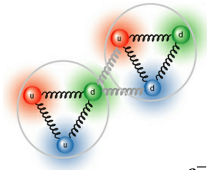
Four fundamental forces of nature in neutron stars



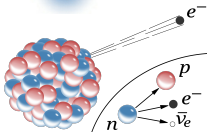
- Gravity
 - Star formation, BNS mergers
 - Gravitational waves (LIGO, Virgo)



- Electromagnetism
 - Crust structure, transport properties
 - Evolution of magnetic fields



- Strong interactions
 - Equation of state, mass-radius relation
 - Core composition and phase structure



- Weak interactions
 - β -equilibrium, neutronization of matter
 - ν -transport, cooling, **bulk viscosity**

Motivation of our work

- **Bulk viscosity** describes energy dissipation in thermodynamic systems when pressure falls **out of equilibrium** due to fluid expansion and contraction
- **Out of equilibrium** phenomena like weak interactions can lead to **bulk viscosity**

Aim of this work

- 1 Study of weak interactions in **baryonic** ($npe\mu$) and **quark** ($udse$) cores of neutron stars
- 2 Computation of **bulk viscosity** from weak interactions in binary neutron star mergers
- 3 Assessment of **bulk viscous damping** rates of density oscillations of post-merger object; comparison between **baryonic composition** and **quark composition**

This talk is based on two recent papers:

- M. Alford, A. Harutyunyan, A. Sedrakian, *Bulk viscosity from URCA processes: $npe\mu$ matter in the neutrino-transparent regime*. Phys. Rev. D **108** 083019 (2023); arXiv:2306.13591 [nucl-th]
- M. Alford, A. Harutyunyan, A. Sedrakian, S. Tsiopelas, *Bulk viscosity of two-color superconducting quark matter in neutron star mergers*. Phys. Rev. D Letters **110**, L061303 (2024); arXiv:2407.12493 [nucl-th]

Literature on bulk viscosity

1 Baryonic matter

- R. F. Sawyer, *Damping of neutron star pulsations by weak interaction processes*. *Astrophys. J.* **237** (1980) 187-197.
- R. F. Sawyer, *Bulk viscosity of hot neutron-star matter and the maximum rotation rates of neutron stars*. *Phys. Rev. D* **39** (1989) 3804-3806.
- P. Haensel and R. Schaeffer, *Bulk viscosity of hot-neutron-star matter from direct URCA processes*. *Phys. Rev. D* **45** (1992) 4708-4712.
- M. Alford and S. Harris, *Damping of density oscillations in neutrino-transparent nuclear matter*. *Phys. Rev. C* **100** (2019) 035803.
- M. G. Alford, A. Harutyunyan, A. Sedrakian, *Bulk Viscous Damping of Density Oscillations in Neutron Star Mergers*. *Particles* **3** (2020) 500-517.
- M. Alford, A. Harutyunyan, A. Sedrakian, *Bulk viscosity from URCA processes: $npe\mu$ matter in the neutrino-transparent regime*. *Phys. Rev. D* **108** (2023) 083019.

2 Hyperonic matter

- P. B. Jones, *Bulk viscosity of neutron-star matter*. *Phys. Rev. D* **64** (2001) 084003.
- M. G. Alford, A. Haber, *Strangeness-changing rates and hyperonic bulk viscosity in neutron star mergers*. *Phys. Rev. C* **103** (2021) 045810.

3 Quark matter

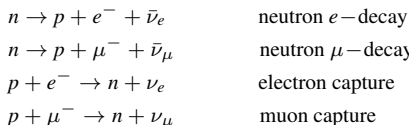
- M. G. Alford, A. Schmitt, *Bulk viscosity in 2SC quark matter*. *J. Phys.* **G34** (2007) 67-102.
- M. G. Alford, S. Mahmoodifar and K. Schwenzer, *Large amplitude behavior of the bulk viscosity of dense matter*. *Journal of Physics G Nuclear Physics* **37** (2010) 125202.
- J. L. Hernandez, C. Manuel, L. Tolos, *Damping of density oscillations from bulk viscosity in quark matter*. *Phys. Rev. D* **109** (2024) 123022.
- J. Cruz Rojas, T. Gorda, C. Hoyos, et al. *Estimate for the Bulk Viscosity of Strongly Coupled Quark Matter Using Perturbative QCD and Holography*. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **133** (2024) 071901.

Outline

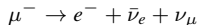
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Weak interactions in baryonic matter

- Simplest semi-leptonic weak-interaction processes – **direct Urca processes**



- Pure leptonic process – **muon decay**



- Neutrinos escape the star at temperatures $T \leq 10$ MeV
- In β -equilibrium $\mu_n = \mu_p + \mu_e = \mu_p + \mu_\mu$. Departure from equilibrium is measured by

$$\delta\mu_e = \mu_n - \mu_p - \mu_e \neq 0, \quad \delta\mu_\mu = \mu_n - \mu_p - \mu_\mu \neq 0$$

- Muon decay process is typically much slower than semi-leptonic processes
 \Rightarrow **bulk viscosity arises from two independent oscillatory degrees of freedom**

Urca process rates in baryonic matter

- Rate of neutron decay $n \rightarrow p + l^- + \bar{\nu}_l$ [$\bar{f}(k) = 1 - f(k)$]

$$\Gamma_{n \rightarrow pl\bar{\nu}} = \int d\Omega_k |\mathcal{M}_{\text{Urca}}|^2 f(k_n) \bar{f}(k_l) \bar{f}(k_p) (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(k_p + k_l + k_{\bar{\nu}} - k_n)$$

- The squared matrix element of Urca processes [$G = G_F \cos \theta_c (1 + g_A)$]

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\text{Urca}}|^2 \simeq 32G^2 (k_e \cdot k_p) (k_{\bar{\nu}} \cdot k_n)$$

- In β -equilibrium $\Gamma_{n \rightarrow pl\bar{\nu}} = \Gamma_{pl \rightarrow n\nu}$; for small departures from equilibrium

$$\delta\Gamma_l = \Gamma_{n \rightarrow pl\bar{\nu}} - \Gamma_{pl \rightarrow n\nu} = \lambda_l \delta\mu_l, \quad \lambda_l = \frac{\delta\Gamma_l}{\delta\mu_l}$$

- In degenerate matter where $T \ll \mu^*$

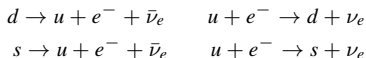
$$\lambda_l = \frac{17}{480\pi} G^2 T^4 \mu_n^* (p_{Fp}^2 + p_{Fl}^2 + 2\mu_l \mu_p^* - p_{Fn}^2) \underbrace{\theta(p_{Fl} + p_{Fp} - p_{Fn})}_{\text{Pauli blocking factor}}$$

- If $\theta = 0$, **modified Urca processes** with spectator nucleon should be included



Weak interactions in quark matter

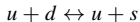
- Semi-leptonic weak-interaction processes in quark matter of **direct Urca-type**



- In **β -equilibrium** $\mu_d = \mu_s = \mu_u + \mu_e$. Out of equilibrium

$$\delta\mu_{d/s} = \mu_{d/s} - \mu_u - \mu_e \neq 0$$

- **Non-leptonic** weak-interaction processes in quark matter



- They equilibrate much faster than Urca processes at temperatures $T \leq 10$ MeV
- Therefore, d and s quarks are always equilibrated with $\mu_d = \mu_s$
 \Rightarrow **bulk viscosity arises from one independent oscillatory degree of freedom**

Urca process rates in quark matter

- For small departures from equilibrium $\delta\Gamma_{d/s} = \lambda_{d/s} \delta\mu$; for degenerate quarks $T \ll \mu_i^*$

$$\lambda_d \simeq 0.2 G_F^2 \cos^2 \theta_c p_{Fd}^2 T^5, \quad \lambda_s \simeq 0.03 G_F^2 \sin^2 \theta_c \mu_s^* m_s^{*2} T^4$$

- d -Urca rate has no threshold, but additional power of T as compared to baryons $\lambda \sim T^4$
- For ultrarelativistic u, d quarks in β -equilibrium $p_{Fu} + p_{Fe} \simeq p_{Fd} \Rightarrow$ Fermi momenta are on the borderline between the Urca process being allowed and being forbidden
 \Rightarrow **direct Urca channel for light d -quark is only thermally allowed**
- Urca channel for massive s -quark is always open with $p_{Fu} + p_{Fe} - p_{Fs} \geq 70 \text{ MeV}$
- The rate of the non-leptonic processes

$$\lambda_{\text{non-lep}} = \frac{64}{5\pi^3} G_F^2 \sin^2 \theta_c \cos^2 \theta_c \mu_d^{*5} T^2 \sim T^2$$

- Fast non-leptonic equilibration $\lambda_{\text{non-lep}} \gg \lambda_{d/s}$ in degenerate matter

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Baryon-meson Lagrangian for nuclear matter (Walecka model)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L} = & \underbrace{\sum_b \bar{\psi}_b \left[\gamma^\mu \left(i\partial_\mu - g_\omega \omega_\mu - \frac{1}{2} g_\rho \boldsymbol{\tau} \cdot \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu \right) - (m_b - g_\sigma \sigma) \right] \psi_b}_{\text{baryons}} + \underbrace{\sum_l \bar{\psi}_l (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_l) \psi_l}_{\text{leptons}} \\
 & + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu \sigma \partial_\mu \sigma - \frac{1}{2} m_\sigma^2 \sigma^2 - U(\sigma) - \frac{1}{4} \omega^{\mu\nu} \omega_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\omega^2 \omega^\mu \omega_\mu - \frac{1}{4} \boldsymbol{\rho}^{\mu\nu} \boldsymbol{\rho}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\rho^2 \boldsymbol{\rho}^\mu \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu}_{\text{mesons}}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Baryon sum is over n and p
- Leptons include e , μ and (at $T \geq 10$ MeV) also ν_e and ν_μ
- Mesonic fields include σ , ω_μ and $\boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu$ mesons

We consider two baryonic models based on relativistic Lagrangians:

- **DDME2 (softer)**: linear mesonic fields $U(\sigma) = 0$; density-dependent couplings $g_{\sigma,\omega,\rho}$
- **NL3 (stiffer)**: non-linear mesonic fields $U(\sigma) = g_2 \sigma^3 / 3 + g_3 \sigma^4 / 4$; constant couplings

Particle fractions in equilibrium (DDME2 & NL3)

Conditions determining the equilibrium state

$$\mu_n = \mu_p + \mu_l$$

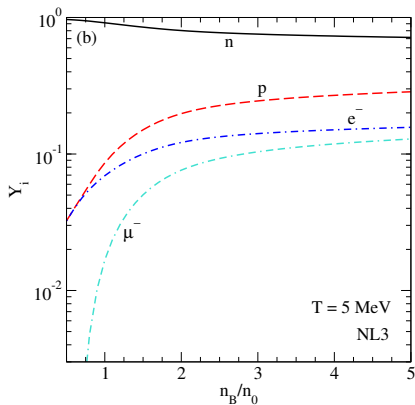
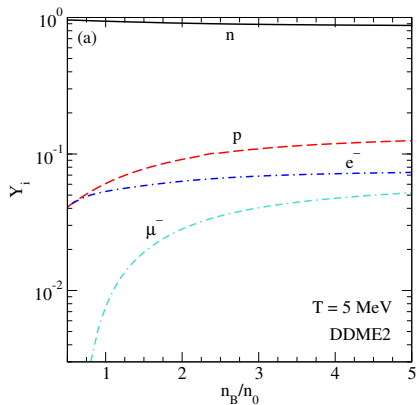
 β -equilibrium

$$n_B = n_n + n_p$$

baryon conservation

$$n_p = n_e + n_\mu$$

charge neutrality



NJL model for quark matter

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L} = & \underbrace{\bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - \hat{m})\psi}_{\text{free Dirac fields}} + G_S \sum_{a=0}^8 \underbrace{\left[(\bar{\psi}\lambda_a\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}i\gamma_5\lambda_a\psi)^2 \right]}_{\text{scalar interactions}} + G_V \underbrace{(\bar{\psi}i\gamma^\mu\psi)^2}_{\text{vector int.}} \\
& + G_D \sum_{\gamma,c} \underbrace{\left[\bar{\psi}_\alpha^a i\gamma_5 \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \epsilon_{abc} (\psi_C)^b \right] \left[(\bar{\psi}_C)^r i\gamma_5 \epsilon^{\rho\sigma\gamma} \epsilon_{rsc} \psi_\sigma^s \right]}_{\text{diquark interaction (color superconductivity)}} \\
& - K \underbrace{\left\{ \det_f [\bar{\psi}(1 + \gamma_5)\psi] + \det_f [\bar{\psi}(1 - \gamma_5)\psi] \right\}}_{\text{'t Hooft interaction (} U_A(1) \text{ anomaly)}} + \underbrace{\sum_l \bar{\psi}_l (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_l) \psi_l}_{\text{leptons}}
\end{aligned}$$

- $\psi = (\psi_u, \psi_d, \psi_s)$ is the isotriplet Dirac field of 3-flavor quark matter
- **Attractive scalar interactions** + **repulsive vector interactions**
- Attractive diquark channel for color- and flavor-antisymmetric **pairing of u and d quarks**; **unpaired s quarks** because of higher mass \Rightarrow **2-flavor-color superconductivity (2SC)**

Density oscillations in quark matter

- Pairing in 2SC phase is only between *red* and *green* quarks; the gap is given by

$$\Delta = G_D \left\langle (\bar{\psi}_C)_\alpha^a i\gamma_5 \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \epsilon_{abc} \psi_\beta^b \right\rangle$$

- In neutrino-transparent matter $T \ll \Delta \simeq 150 \div 200$ MeV
- Constituent masses and effective quark chemical potentials are given by

$$M_\alpha = m_\alpha - 4G_S \sigma_\alpha + 2K \sigma_\beta \sigma_\gamma \quad \mu^* = \text{diag}_f (\mu_u - \omega_0, \mu_d - \omega_0, \mu_s - \phi_0)$$

- Quark-antiquark condensates in the mean field approximation are given by

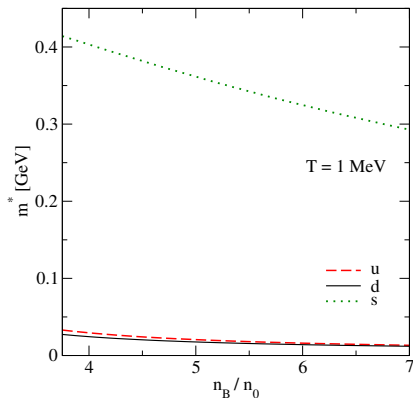
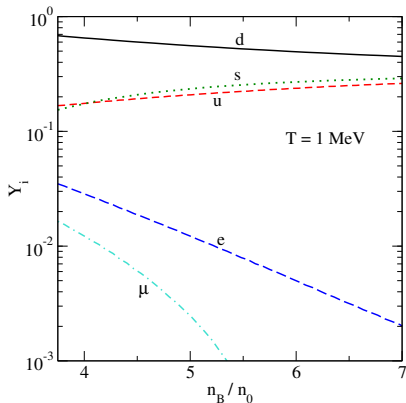
$$\sigma_\alpha = G_S \langle \bar{\psi}_\alpha \psi_\alpha \rangle \quad \omega_0 = G_V \langle \psi_u^\dagger \psi_u + \psi_d^\dagger \psi_d \rangle \quad \phi_0 = 2G_V \langle \psi_s^\dagger \psi_s \rangle$$

- Charge neutrality (both color and electric) and baryon conservation imply

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{n}_u + \tilde{n}_d + \tilde{n}_s &= 2(n_u + n_d + n_s) = 2n_b \\ \frac{2}{3}(n_u + \tilde{n}_u) - \frac{1}{3}(n_d + n_s + \tilde{n}_d + \tilde{n}_s) &= n_e + n_\mu \end{aligned}$$

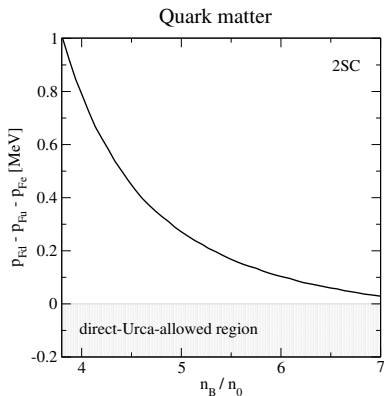
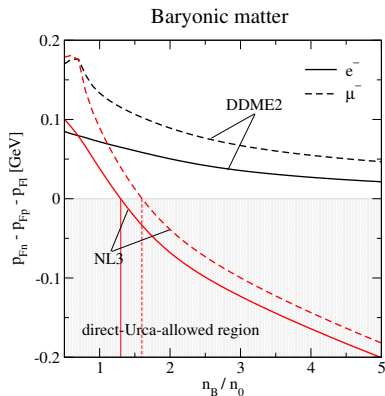
n_i are densities of *blue* quarks, and \tilde{n}_i are summed densities of *red* and *green* quarks.

Unpaired particle fractions in equilibrium (NJL)



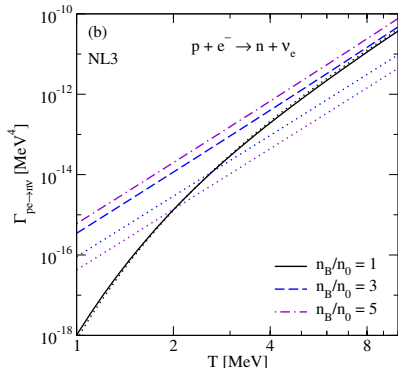
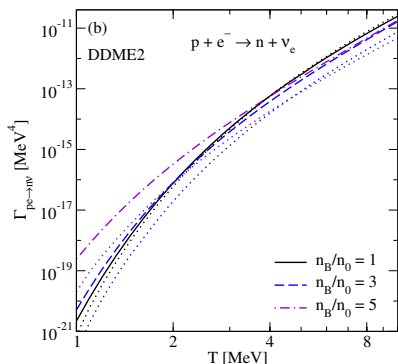
- Only blue components of u and d quarks are unpaired
- s quarks are totally unpaired; they reduce the population of leptons
- u, d quarks are ultrarelativistic, whereas s quarks remain massive

Direct Urca threshold



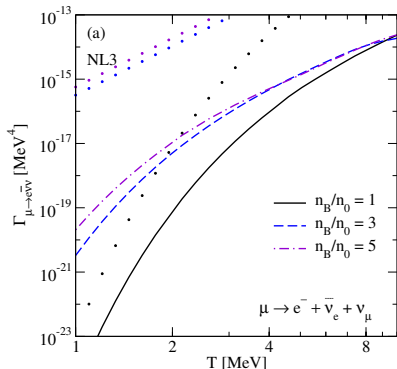
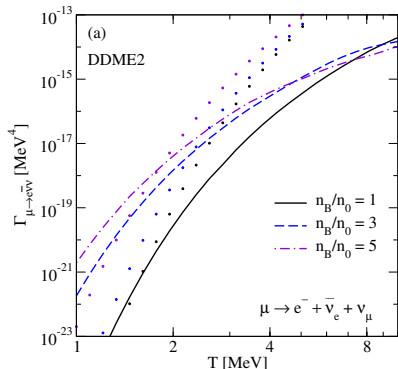
- NL3 has **direct Urca thresholds** at $n_B \simeq 1.3n_0$ (electron) and $n_B \simeq 1.6n_0$ (muon)
- DDME2 has **no threshold** up to densities $n_B = 5n_0$
- For u, d quarks in β -equilibrium $p_{Fu} + p_{Fe} \simeq p_{Fd} \Rightarrow$ phase space for direct Urca process opens only due to **thermal blurring of the Fermi surfaces** at $T \geq 1$ MeV
- s -quark Urca channel is always open with $p_{Fu} + p_{Fe} - p_{Fs} \geq 70$ MeV

Electron capture rates in baryonic matter



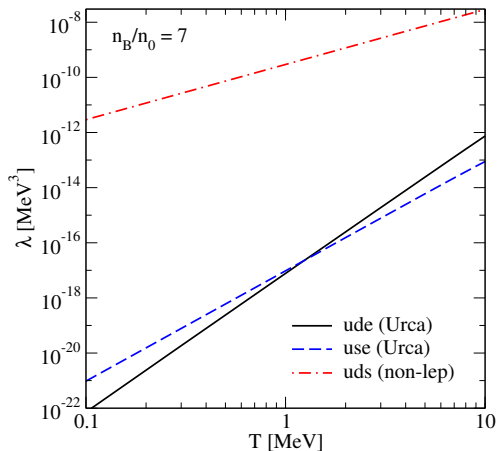
- Fast increase of direct Urca process rates with temperature
- Boltzmann suppressed rates at low temperatures below the threshold density
- Qualitatively and quantitatively similar electron and muon capture rates
- Significant relativistic corrections to baryon spectrum at $n_B/n_0 \geq 3$

Muon capture and muon decay rates



- Boltzmann suppressed muon decay rates at low temperatures
- Comparable muon capture rates at $T \leq 3$ MeV below the threshold density
- Electron capture rates are much larger than muon decay rates
 ⇒ **slow lepton equilibration limit, e -Urca and μ -Urca processes are independent**

Weak process rates in quark matter



- Comparable rates of d -Urca and s -Urca processes for $0.1 \leq T \leq 10$ MeV
- Much larger rates of non-leptonic processes than Urca processes
 $\Rightarrow \mu_s = \mu_d \neq n_p + n_e$ in the regime where Urca processes are important

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Bulk viscosity of baryonic matter

- Consider small-amplitude **density oscillations** in baryonic matter with frequency ω

$$n_j(t) = n_{j0} + \delta n_j(t), \quad \delta n_j(t) \sim e^{i\omega t}, \quad j = \{B, n, p, e, \mu\}$$

- Particle production equations due to **Urca processes** ($\theta = \text{div}v$)

$$\frac{\partial n_p}{\partial t} + \theta n_{p0} = \lambda_e \delta \mu_e + \lambda_\mu \delta \mu_\mu, \quad \frac{\partial n_e}{\partial t} + \theta n_{e0} = \lambda_e \delta \mu_e$$

- Due to δn_j , pressure $p = p(n_{j0} + \delta n_j)$ obtains a **non-equilibrium part**

$$\delta p = \sum_j \frac{\partial p}{\partial n_j} \delta n_j = -\zeta \theta$$

- Two degrees of freedom contributing to the **bulk viscosity**; if muons are neglected

$$\zeta = \frac{C^2}{A} \frac{\gamma_e}{\omega^2 + \gamma_e^2}$$

$$A = \left. \frac{\delta \mu_e}{\delta n_n} \right|_{n_B}, \quad C = n_B \left. \frac{\delta \mu_e}{\delta n_B} \right|_{Y_n}, \quad \gamma_e = \lambda_e A$$

- Maximum bulk viscosity** at temperature where the relaxation rate $\gamma_e(T) = \omega$
- Vanishing bulk viscosity** in limits of **slow** ($\gamma_e \ll \omega$) and **fast** ($\gamma_e \gg \omega$) equilibration

Bulk viscosity of quark matter

- Next consider **density oscillations** in quark matter with frequency ω

$$n_j(t) = n_{j0} + \delta n_j(t), \quad \delta n_j(t) \sim e^{i\omega t}, \quad j = \{u, d, s, e\}$$

- Particle production equations due to **semi-leptonic (Urca)** and **non-leptonic** reactions

$$\frac{\partial n_d}{\partial t} + \theta n_{d0} = -\lambda_d \delta\mu - I_{ud \rightarrow us}$$

$$\frac{\partial n_s}{\partial t} + \theta n_{s0} = -\lambda_s \delta\mu + I_{ud \rightarrow us}$$

$$\frac{\partial n_u}{\partial t} + \theta n_{u0} = (\lambda_d + \lambda_s) \delta\mu$$

$$\frac{\partial n_e}{\partial t} + \theta n_{e0} = (\lambda_d + \lambda_s) \delta\mu$$

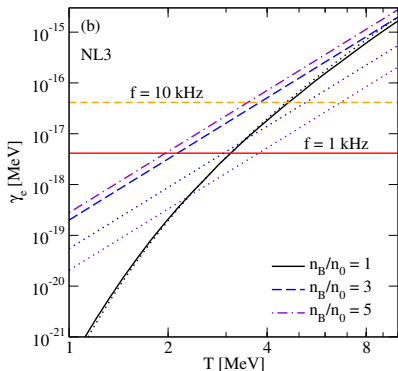
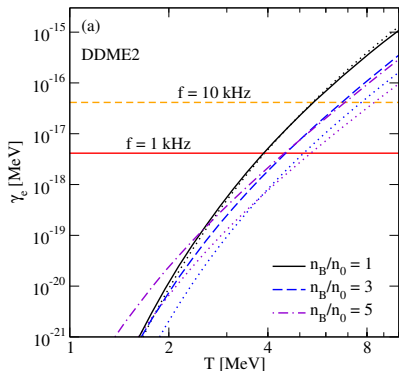
- Bulk viscosity** from Urca processes (assuming $\mu_s = \mu_d$)

$$\zeta = \frac{C^2}{A} \frac{\gamma}{\omega^2 + \gamma^2}$$

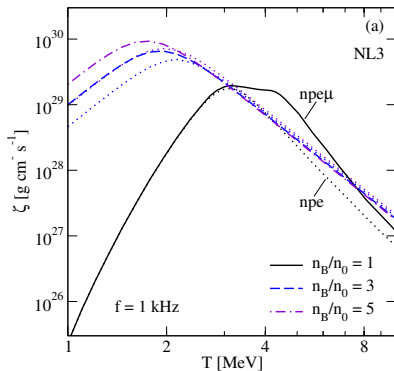
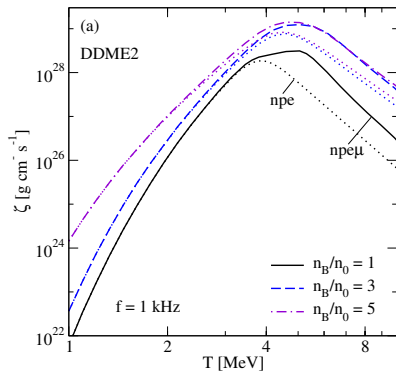
$$A = \left. \frac{\delta\mu}{\delta n_u} \right|_{n_B} \quad C = n_B \left. \frac{\delta\mu}{\delta n_B} \right|_{Y_u} \quad \gamma = (\lambda_d + \lambda_s) A$$

- Maximum bulk viscosity** at temperature where the relaxation rate $\gamma(T) = \omega$
- Vanishing bulk viscosity** in limits of **slow** ($\gamma \ll \omega$) and **fast** ($\gamma \gg \omega$) equilibration

Relaxation rates in baryonic matter

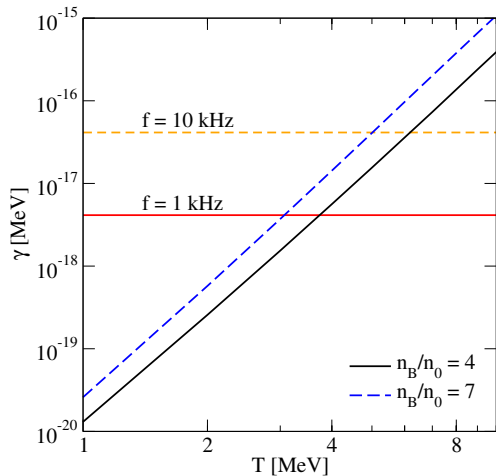


- Relaxation rate $\gamma_e(T)$ increases rapidly with temperature
- Relaxation rate **resonates** with typical **post-merger oscillation frequencies**
 $f \sim 1$ kHz at $2 \leq T \leq 4$ MeV and $f \sim 10$ kHz at $4 \leq T \leq 6$ MeV
- The **resonance point** shifts to lower temperatures above the direct Urca threshold

Bulk viscosity of baryonic matter ($f = 1$ kHz)

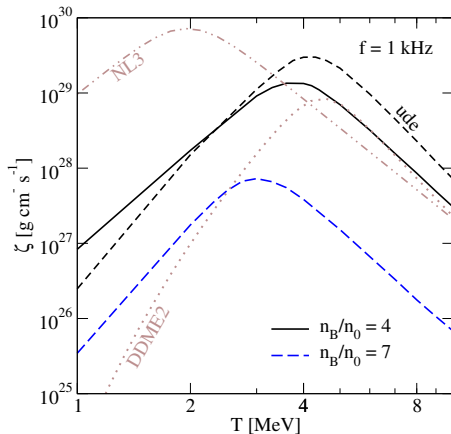
- **Bulk viscosity** attains **maximum** at $T \simeq 3 \div 5$ MeV below direct Urca threshold and $T \simeq 2$ MeV above threshold
- Muons enhance the bulk viscosity in the right side of the maximum at densities below threshold and to the left side of the maximum at densities above threshold
- **Stiffer** model NL3 predicts **larger maximum bulk viscosity** than softer DDME2

Relaxation rates in quark matter



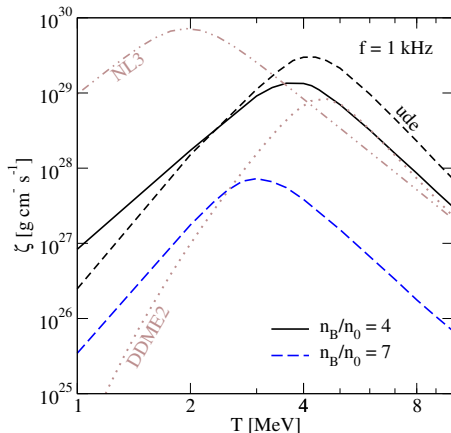
- Urca relaxation rate of quark matter is similar to that of baryonic matter
- **Resonance** around $T \simeq 3 - 4$ MeV at $f = 1$ kHz and $T \simeq 5 - 6$ MeV at $f = 10$ kHz

Bulk viscosity of 2SC quark matter



- Maximum bulk viscosity arises at $T \simeq 3 \div 4$ MeV – temperatures typical to mergers
- At $T \leq 4$ MeV bulk viscosity of quark matter lies between results of 2 baryonic models
- At $T \geq 4$ MeV bulk viscosities of baryonic and quark matter are very similar

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Will these bulk viscosities affect the merger dynamics?

Outline

- Introduction
- Weak interactions in dense matter
 - Baryonic matter
 - Quark matter (2SC phase)
- Models of neutron star matter
- Bulk viscosity from weak interactions
- Damping of density oscillations
- Conclusions

Estimation of density oscillation damping timescale

- Density oscillations with amplitude δn_B have the energy density

$$\epsilon = \frac{K}{18} \frac{(\delta n_B)^2}{n_B}$$

- K is the coefficient of matter incompressibility

$$K = 9n_B \frac{\partial^2 \epsilon}{\partial n_B^2}$$

- Energy dissipation rate per volume by bulk viscosity

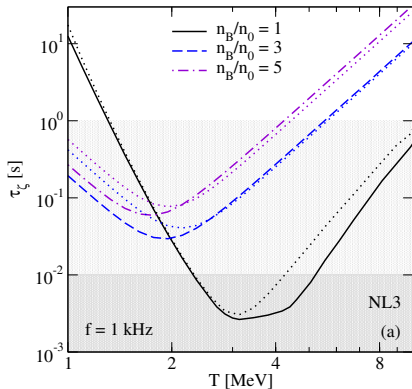
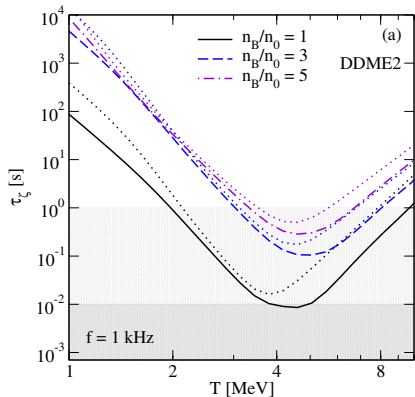
$$\frac{d\epsilon}{dt} = \frac{\omega^2 \zeta}{2} \left(\frac{\delta n_B}{n_B} \right)^2$$

- Characteristic timescale of dissipation $\tau_\zeta = \frac{\epsilon}{d\epsilon/dt}$

$$\tau_\zeta = \frac{Kn_B}{9\omega^2 \zeta}$$

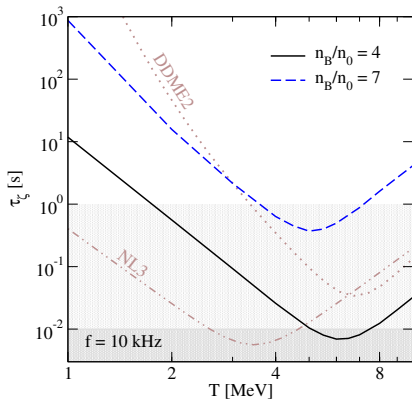
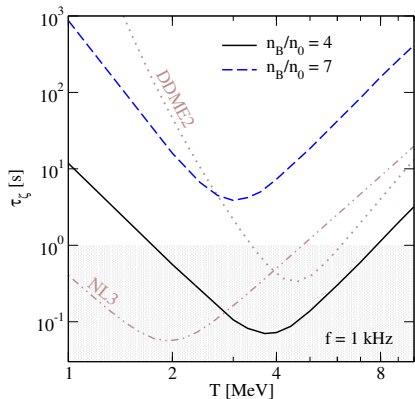
- For maximum bulk viscosity damping timescale is the shortest

$$\tau_{\min} = \frac{2}{9\omega} \frac{Kn_B}{C^2/A} \sim \frac{1}{\omega}$$

Oscillation damping timescales in baryonic matter ($f = 1$ kHz)

- Fast damping $\tau_\zeta \leq 10$ ms at temperatures $T \simeq 3 \div 5$ MeV and densities $n_B \leq 3n_0$
 \Rightarrow **significant impact on merger dynamics**
- Stronger damping for stiffer models with direct Urca threshold
 \Rightarrow **potential imprint of stiffness of EoS on observational signatures**

Oscillation damping timescales in quark matter



- Noticeable damping of low-frequency oscillations only in long-lived remnants
- Strong damping in short-lived remnants at high-frequencies $f \sim 10$ kHz
- Similar damping rates for NL3 and NJL with different critical temperatures
 \Rightarrow **possible information on core composition from observational data**

- Urca process rates in baryonic/quark matter resonate with density oscillations of mergers
- Bulk viscosity from Urca processes has maximum at $T \simeq 2 \div 6$ MeV typical to mergers
- At its maximum bulk viscosity is strong enough to damp density oscillations in mergers
- Damping patterns may contain useful information on properties of neutron star matter

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!