

Cosmology and the AB transition in superfluid ^3He

Mark Hindmarsh^{1,2,3}

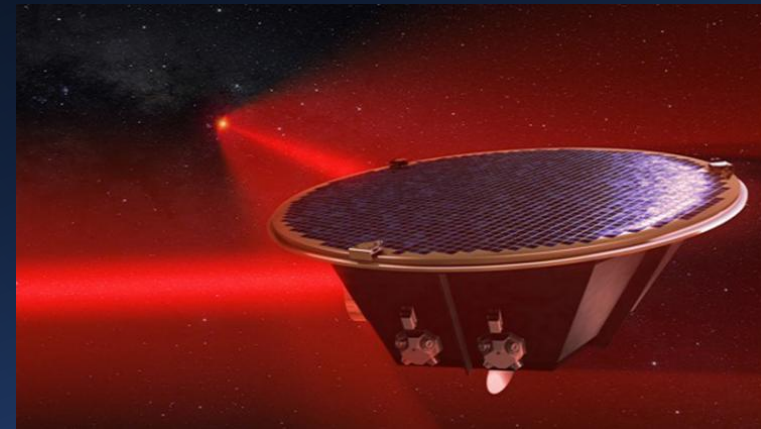
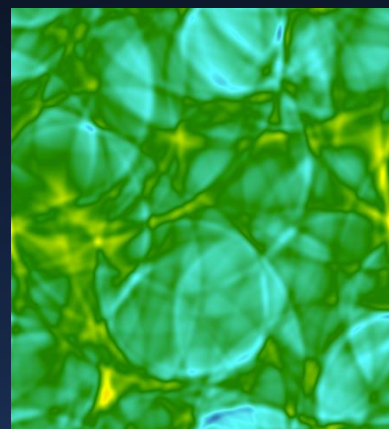
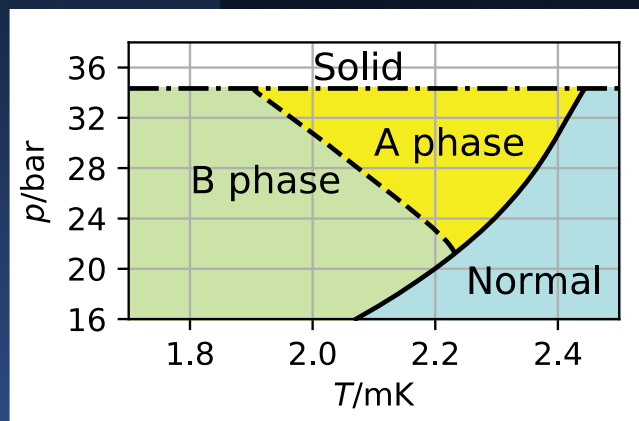
Asier Lopez-Eiguren (EHU/UPV)

Kari Rummukainen^{2,3}

Kuang Zhang^{1,2,3}

QUEST-DMC collaboration

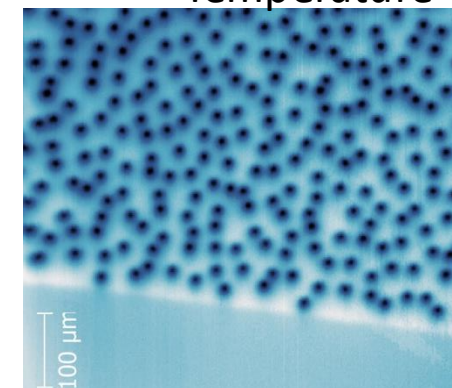
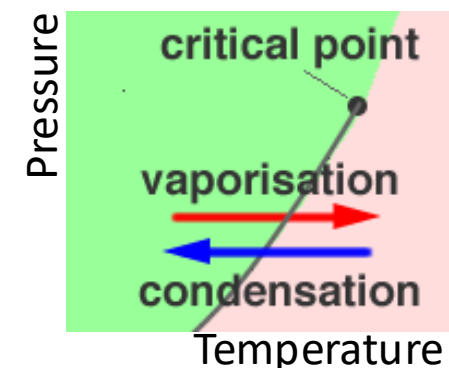
Tunnelling in QFT
14. marraskuuta 2024



Phase transitions in the early Universe

$$\hbar = c = k_B = 1$$

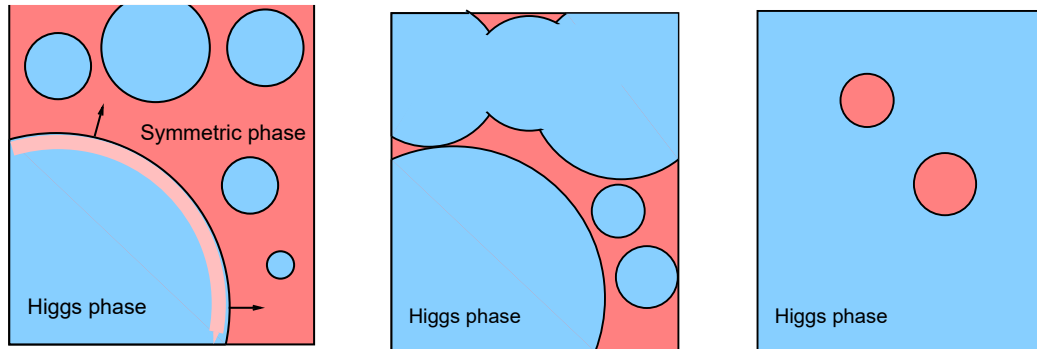
- At very high temperatures and pressures, the state of matter in the Universe changes ($1 \text{ eV} \sim 10^4 \text{ K}$)
 - $T_c \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$ (0.1 ms) QCD
 - $T_c \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$ (10 ps) Electroweak
 - $T_c \gg 100 \text{ GeV}$ new symmetries, interactions?
- Departures from equilibrium and homogeneity
 - First order phase transition: relativistic condensation or 'fizz'
Steinhardt (1982)
 - First or second order: formation of topological defects
Kibble (1976)
 - First order: baryon asymmetry
Sakharov (1967); Kuzmin, Rubakov, Shaposhnikov (1985)
- First order phase transitions can produce GWs
 - Stochastic gravitational wave background
Witten (1984), Hogan (1986)



Abrikosov vortices

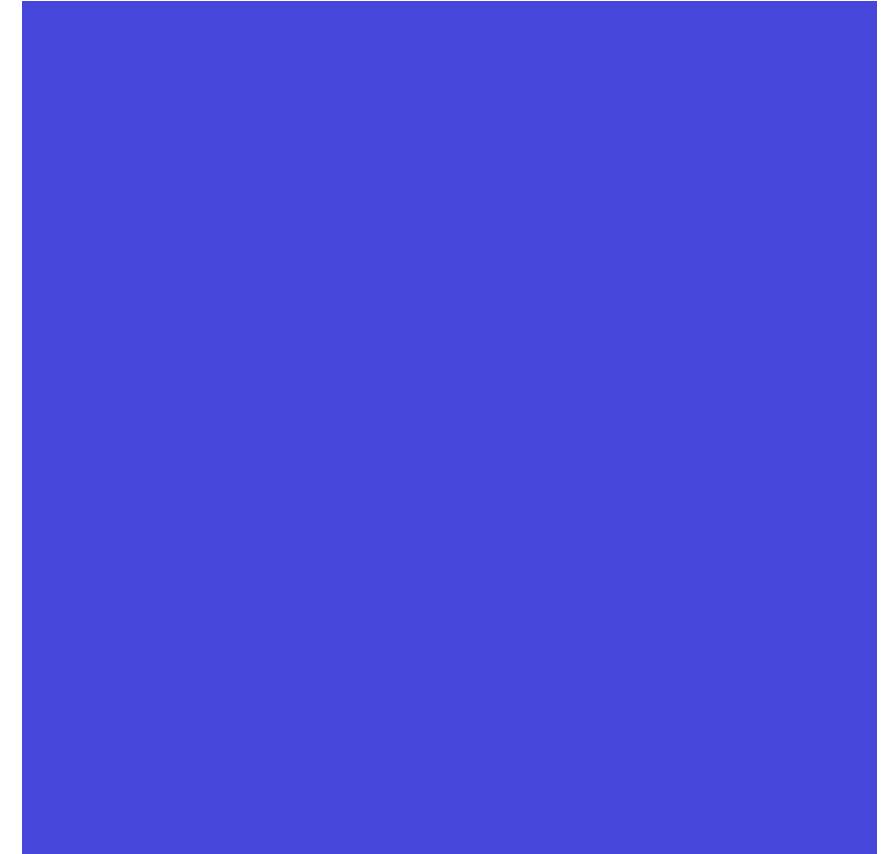
Little bangs in the Big Bang

- 1st order transition by nucleation of bubbles of low- T phase
Cahn, Hilliard 1959, Langer 1969, Coleman 1974, Linde 1983
- Nucleation rate/volume $p(t)$ rapidly increases below T_c
- Expanding bubbles generate pressure waves in hot fluid
Steinhardt (1982), Hogan (1983), Gyulassy et al (1984)
- Gravitational wave (GW) production
Witten (1984), Hogan (1986)
- GW spectrum has information about phase transition
MH, Huber, Rummukainen, Weir (2013,5,7); MH (2017); MH & Hijazi (2019); Cutting, MH, Weir (2019)



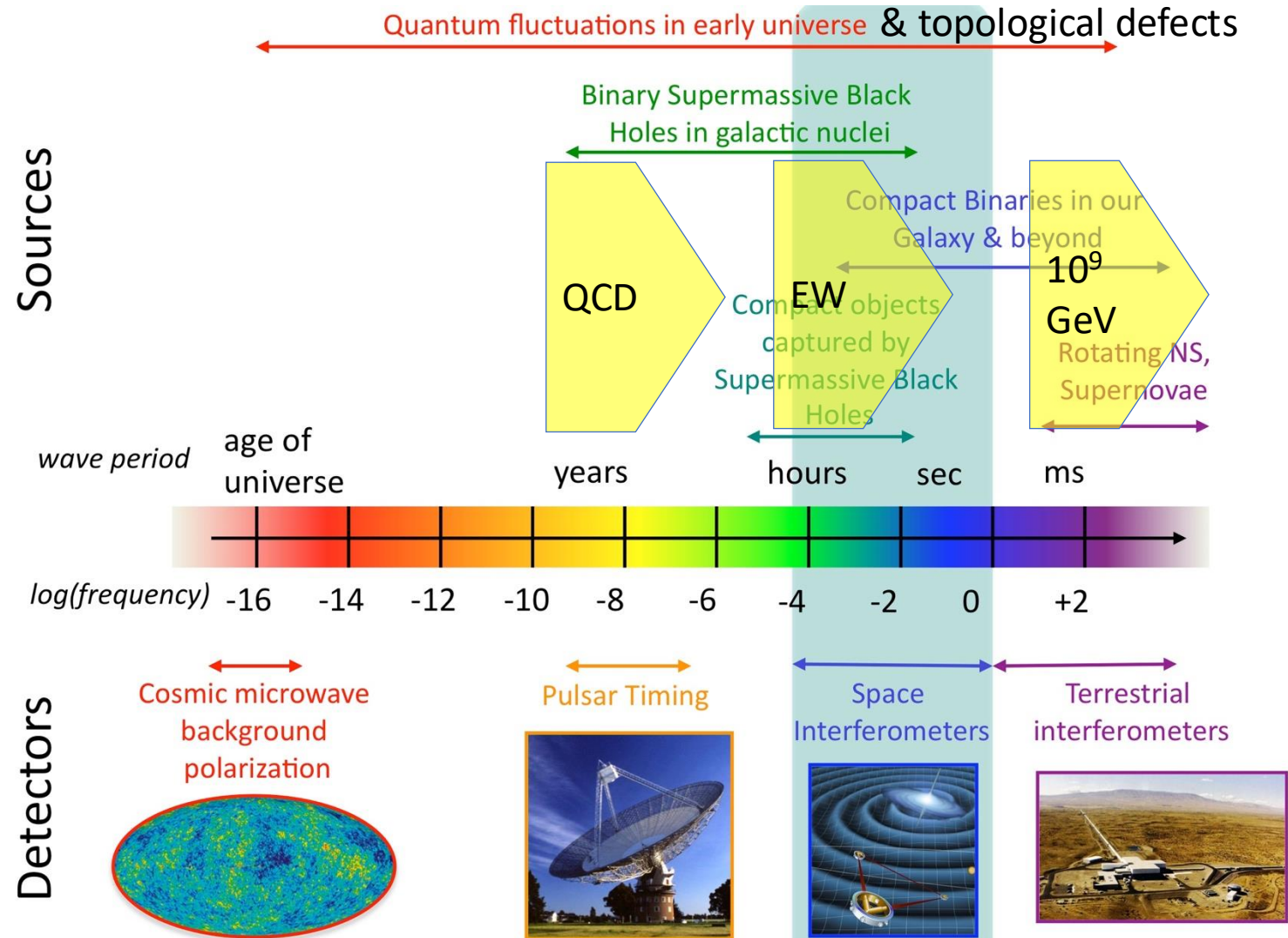
Gravitational waves ... Mark Hindmarsh

Fluid kinetic energy



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

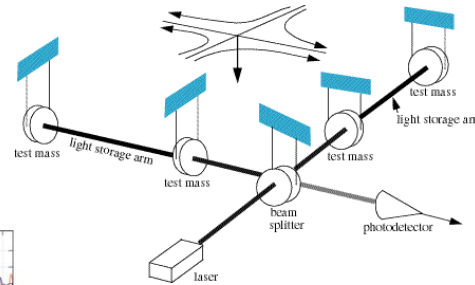
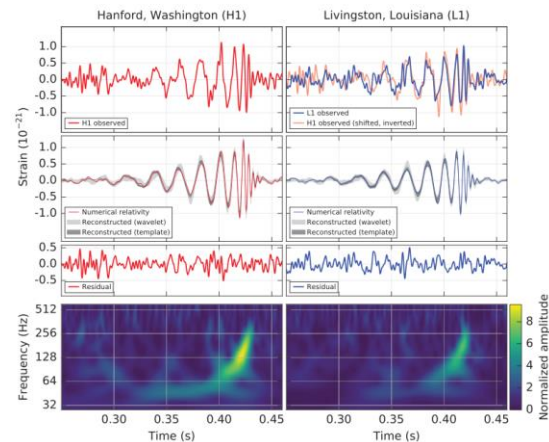
Gravitational wave spectrum



NASA

Observations of gravitational waves

- LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA
- GW150914



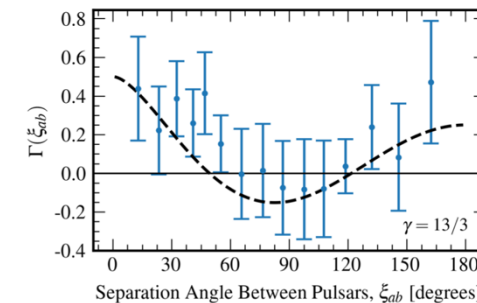
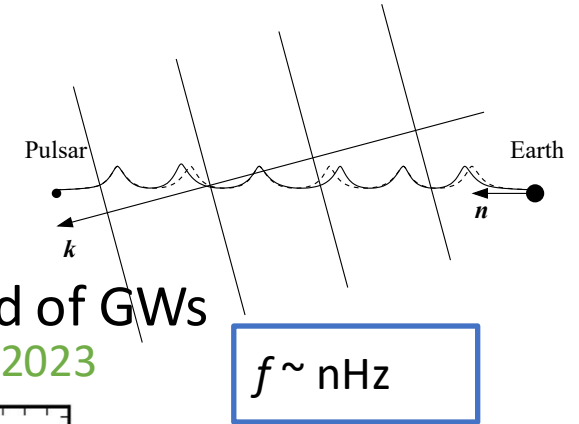
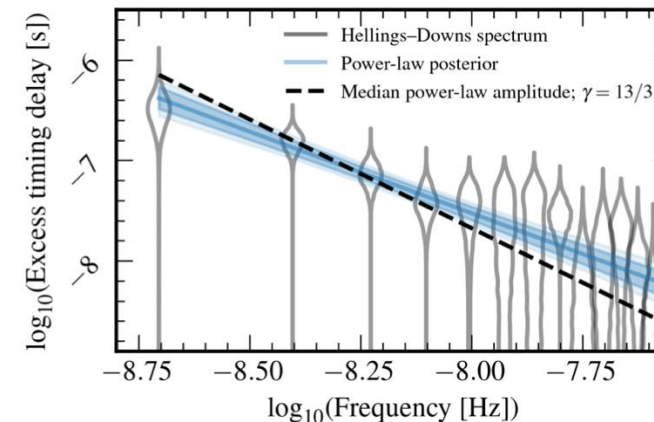
$f \sim 100 \text{ Hz}$

- GWTC: 93 events up to O3 <http://gwosc.org/>
 - Mostly black hole binary mergers
 - 1 binary neutron star merger
 - 1 candidate BH-NS merger
- O4 under way (5/23 – 6/25)
 - 147 detection candidates <http://gracedb.ligo.org/> (9.10.2024)

Pulsar timing arrays

- NANOGrav: stochastic background of GWs

Afzal et al 2023



- Support from EPTA and PPTA
- Leading candidate: merging supermassive black holes
- New physics? Agazie et al 2023
e.g. phase transitions, cosmic strings, ...

Current data on stochastic GW background

- LIGO O2 flat spectrum limit:

Abbott et al (2019)

$$\Omega_{\text{gw},0}(f = 25\text{Hz}) < 6.0 \times 10^{-8}$$

- “Gravitational wave power spectrum”:

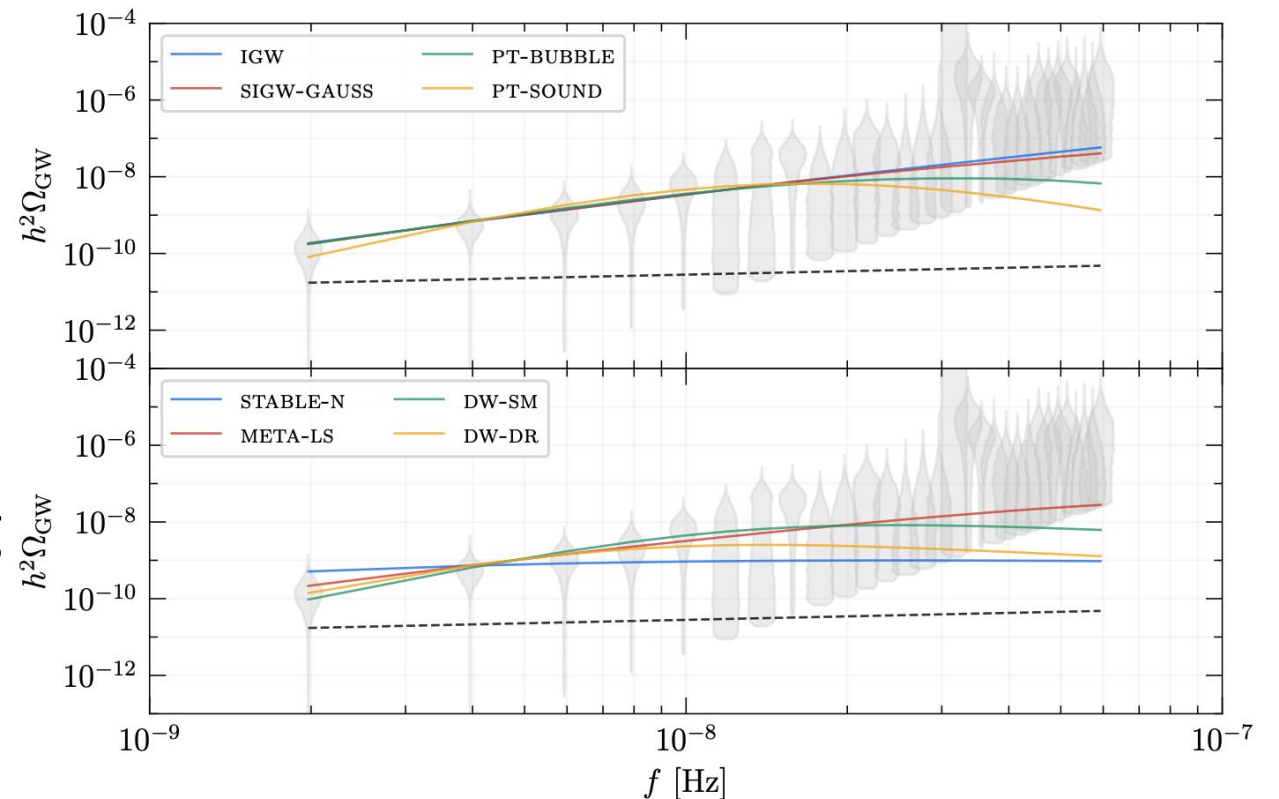
$$\Omega_{\text{gw}} = \frac{1}{\rho_{\text{total}}} \frac{d\rho_{\text{gw}}(f)}{d\ln(f)}$$

- Density fraction in GWs in a log frequency interval around f

- NANOGrav 15 year: [Agazie et al 2023](#)

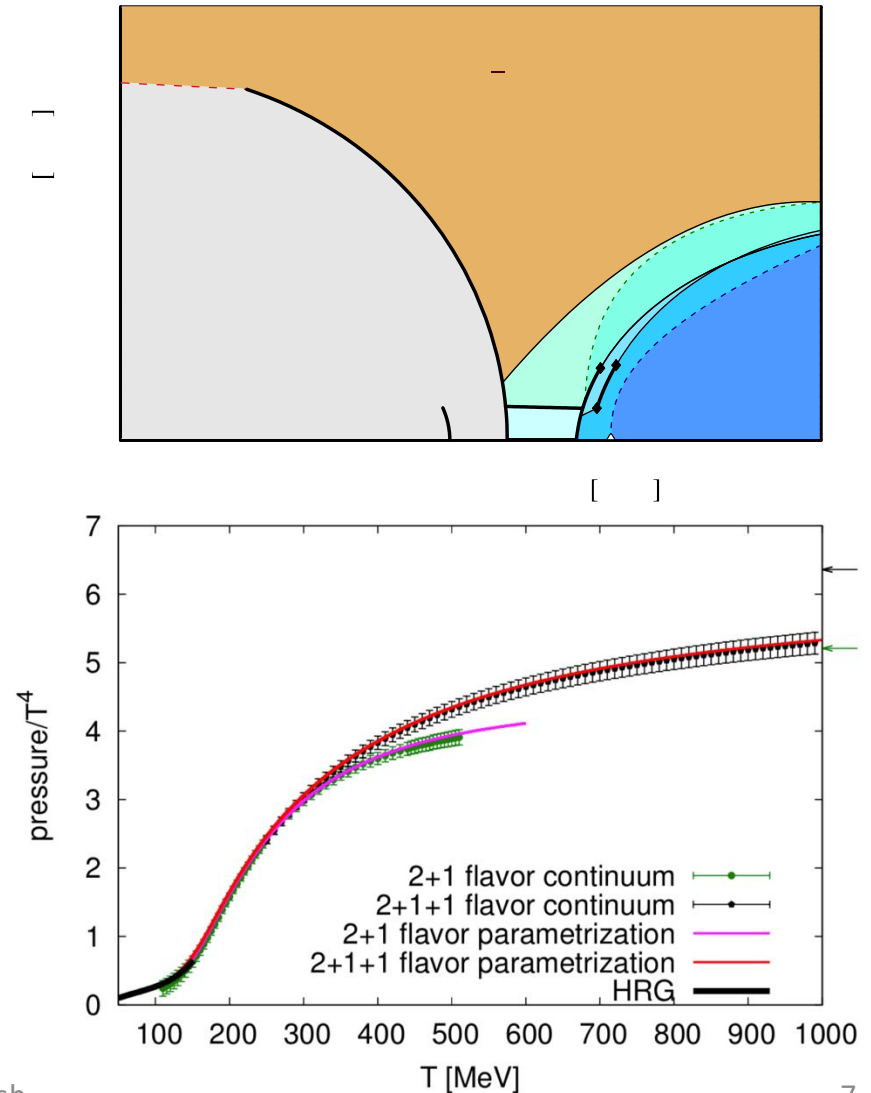
- SMBH binaries + new physics?

[Afzal et al 2023](#)



QCD transition: 100 MeV, 0.3 ms

- QCD: rich phase diagram in (T, μ)
- Universe: $n_B/n_\gamma \approx 6.1 \times 10^{-10}$
- Behaviour at low baryon chemical potential well-established by lattice QCD
- Transition from QGP to hadronic phase is a smooth **cross-over** Borsanyi et al (2016)
- No phase transition in standard cosmology
- No GWs



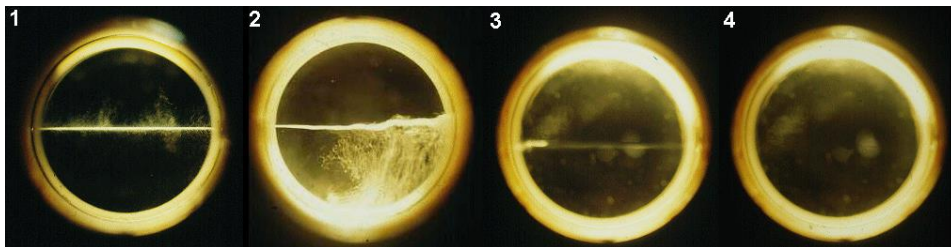
Electroweak transition: 100 GeV, 10 ps

- In the Standard Model, transition is also a cross-over
Kajantie, Laine, Rummukainen, Shaposhnikov (1995,6)

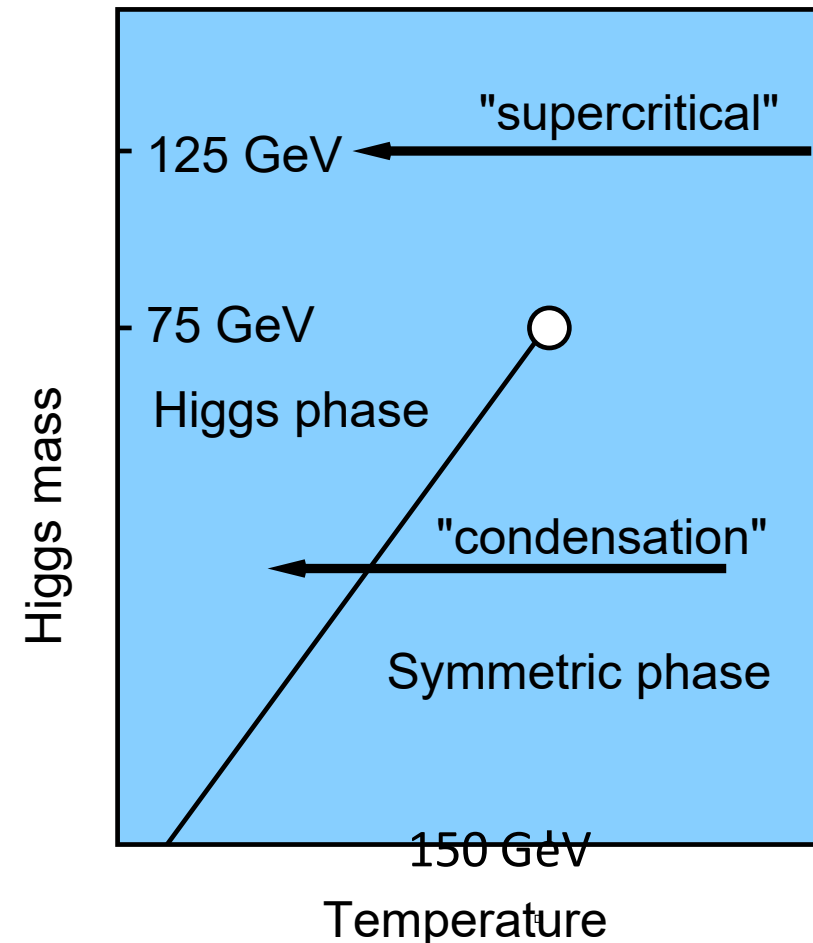
- Susceptibility peak at $T \sim 160$ GeV
D'Onofrio, Rummukainen (2015)

- Same universality class as liquid-vapour in water
Rummukainen et al (1995)

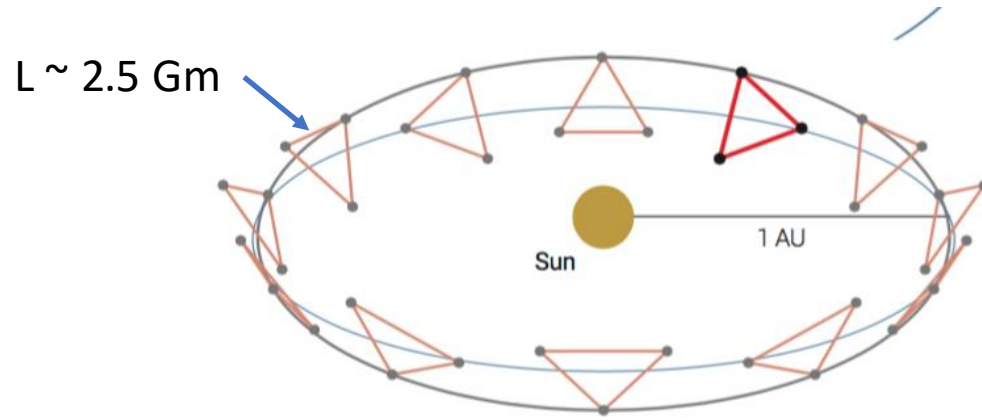
- SM transition like a supercritical fluid



- SM stays close to equilibrium, no GWs
- But: New physics needed for baryon asymmetry, dark matter, ...
- A search for GWs from phase transitions is a search for new physics

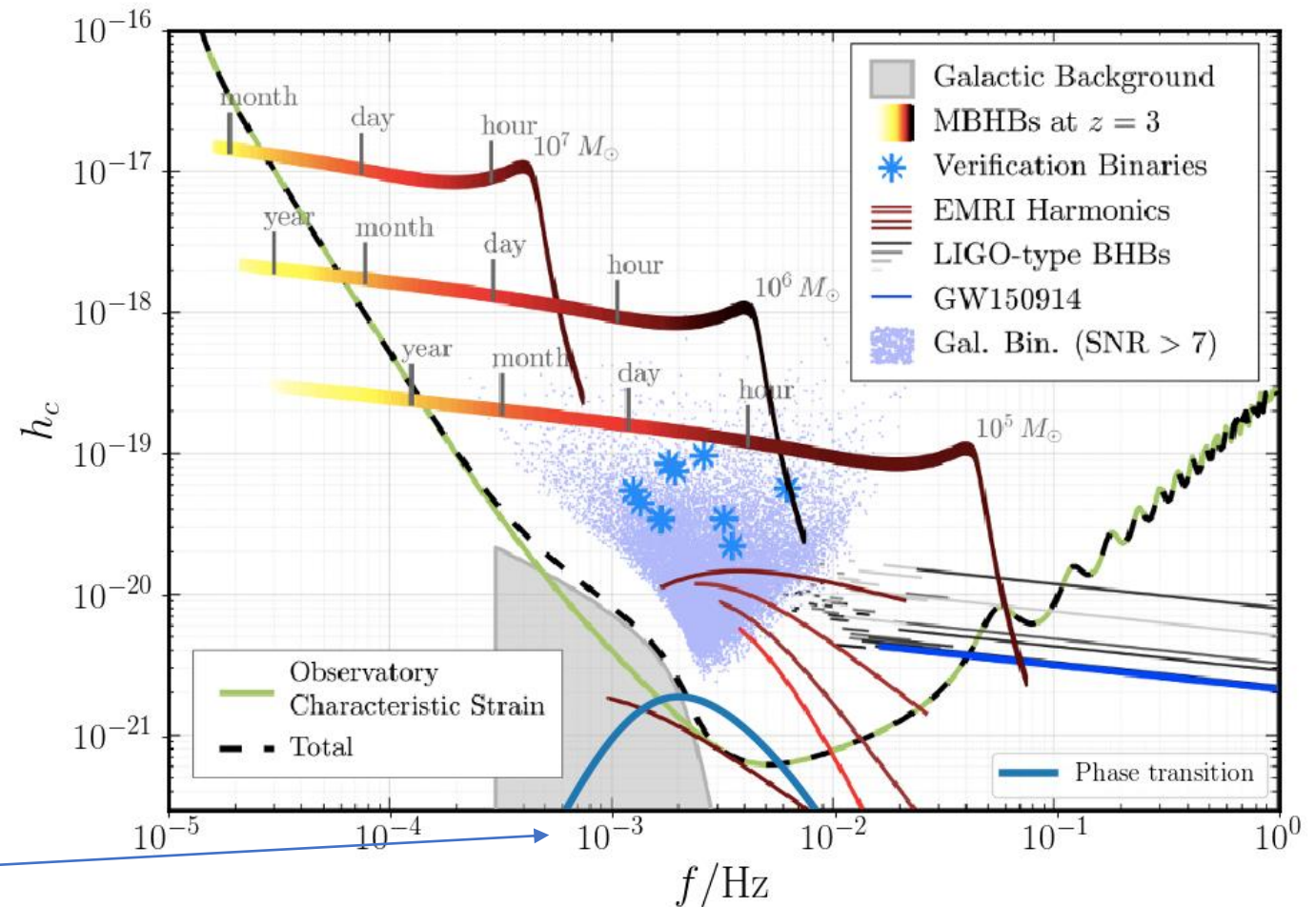


Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (~2035)



- LISA Science objectives:

- White dwarves
- Black holes (galactic, stellar)
- Galaxy mergers
- Extreme gravity
- Cosmological expansion
- TeV-scale early Universe
- ???



Characteristic strain $h_c \sim \Delta L/L$

- Other missions: DECIGO, Taiji, Tianqin

GWs from 1st order phase transitions

Phase transition parameters :

Computable from theory

T_n = nucleation temperature

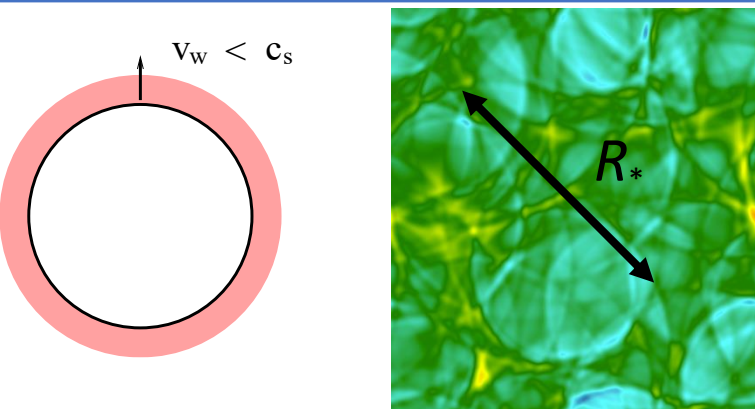
β = transition rate

α = strength parameter*

v_w = bubble wall speed

c_{s+}, c_{s-} = sound speeds

g_{eff} = effective d.o.f. in plasma



* $\alpha \sim (\text{latent heat})/(\text{total thermal energy})$

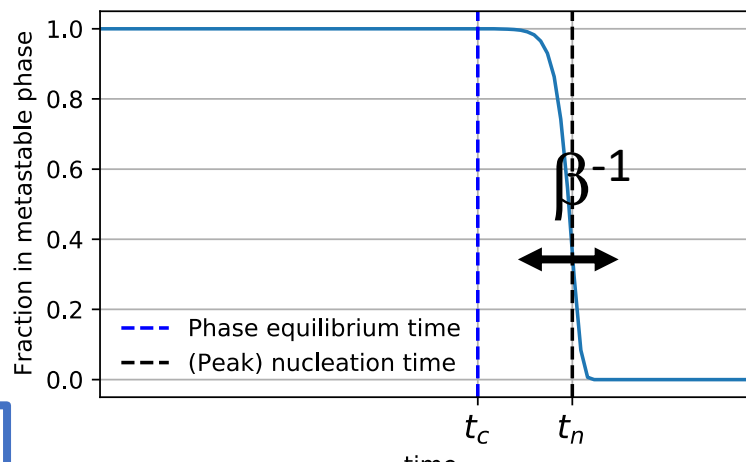
Simulations, Modelling

$H_n(T_n, g_{\text{eff}})$ (Hubble rate = cooling rate)

$K(v_w, \alpha, c_s)$ (kinetic energy fraction)

$R_*(\beta, v_w)$ (mean bubble separation)

$t_v(R_*, K)$ (fluid motion lifetime)

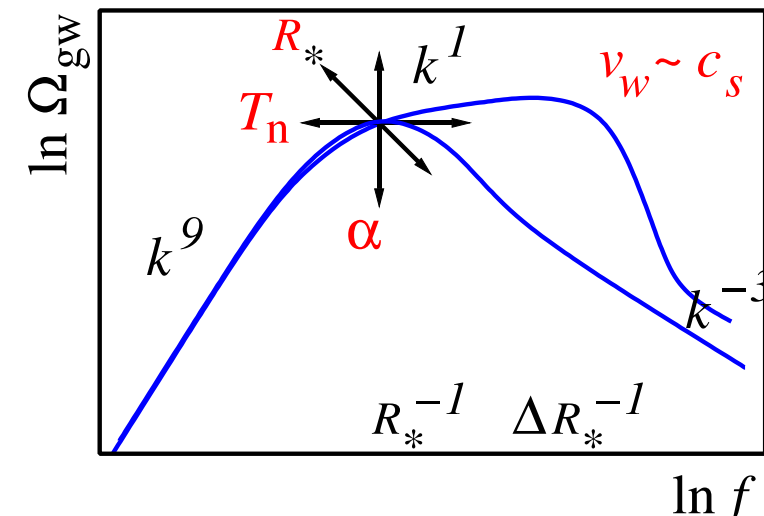


Spectral parameters :

Ω_p = peak amplitude

f_p = peak frequency

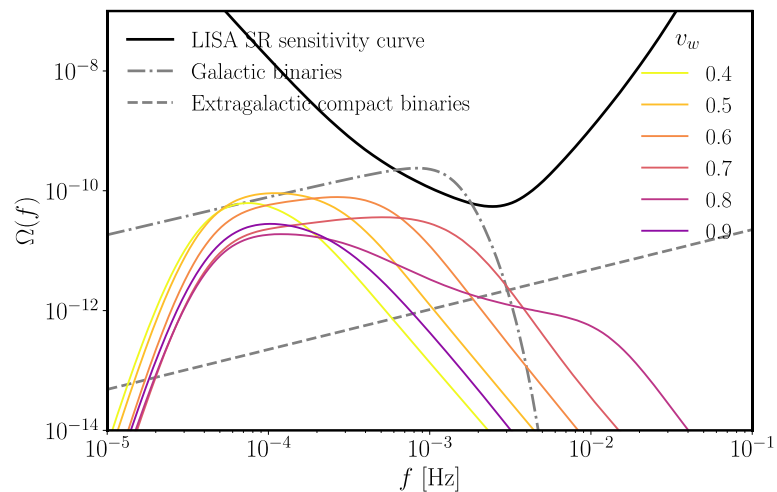
σ_i = shape parameters



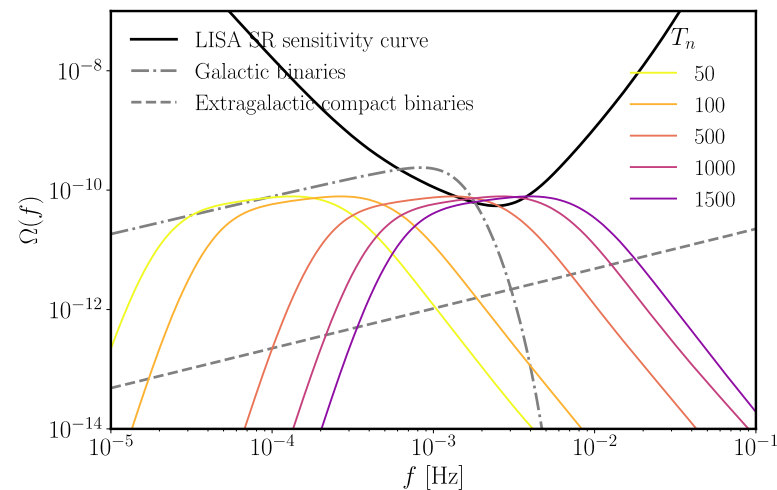
Review: MH, Lüben, Lumma, Pauly 2021

GW power spectra in the Sound Shell Model

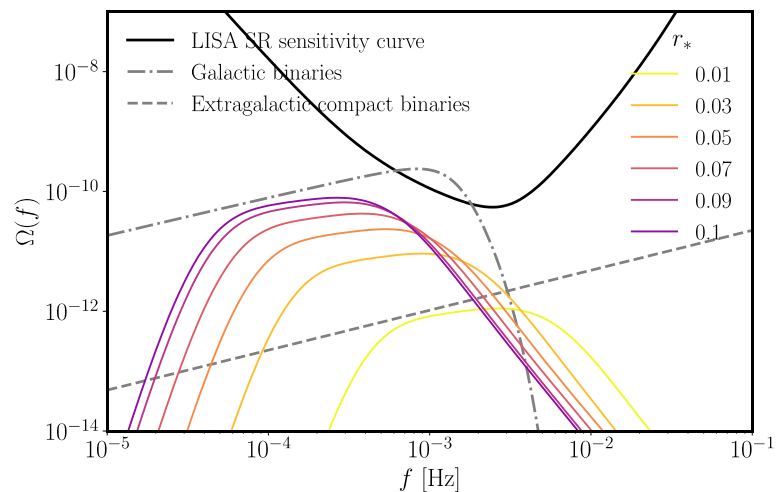
Gowling, MH (2021)



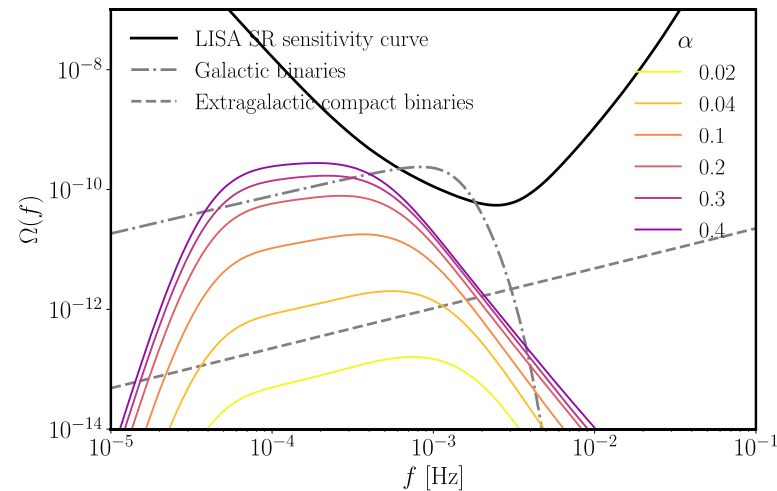
Vary wall speed



Vary transition temp

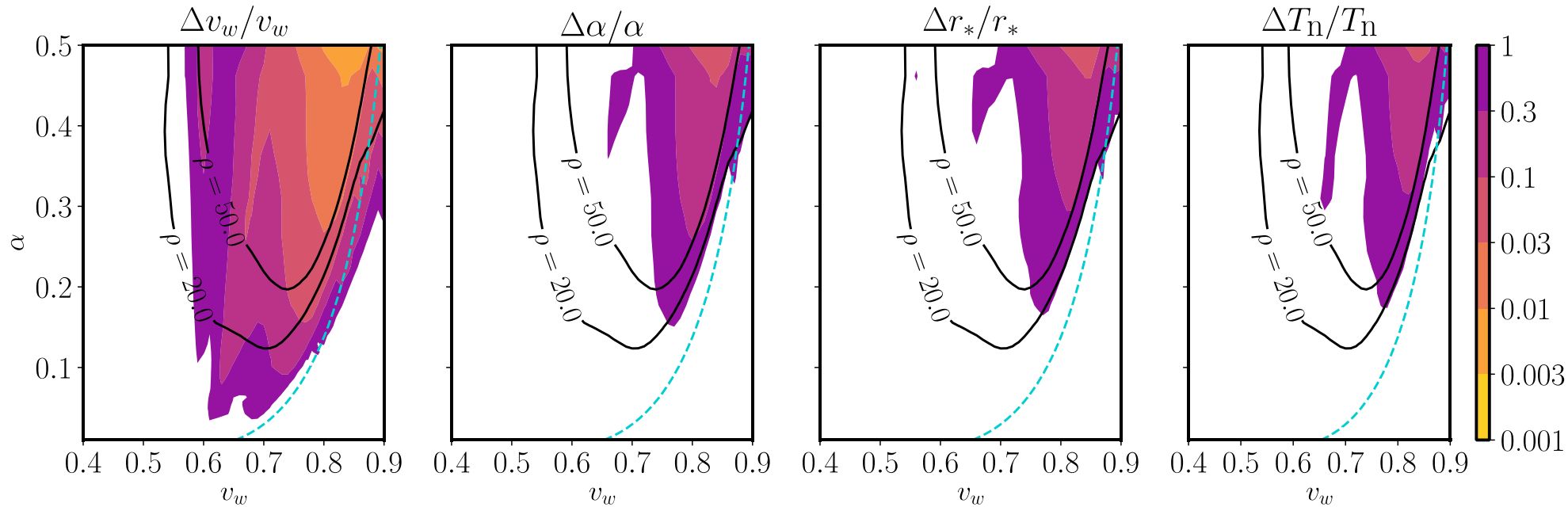


Vary bubble spacing



Vary transition strength

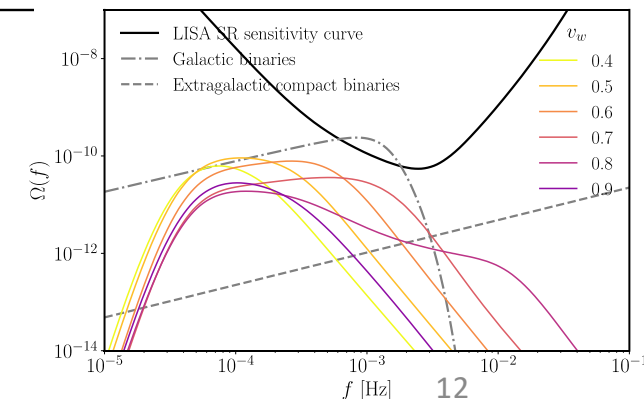
Observability of PT parameters at LISA



- $T_n = 100$ GeV
 - $c_s = 1/\sqrt{3}$
 - $r_* = 0.1$
- Gowling, MH (2021)

- Covariance matrix $\mathbf{C}$ ($t_{\text{obs}} = 4$ years)
- Uncertainty from eigenvalues of $\mathbf{C}$
 - “noise” = GB foreground + “LISA science requirements” instrument noise
- **Wall speed** is best determined parameter
 - If signal is observed
 - shape dependence of power spectrum

$$C_{ij}^{-1} = 2T_{\text{obs}} \int df \frac{\partial \ln \Omega_{\text{gw}}}{\partial \theta_i} \frac{\partial \ln \Omega_{\text{gw}}}{\partial \theta_j}$$



Can we test the theory of GW production?

- Lots of theory involved
- Equilibrium thermal quantum field theory
 - Free energy (T, ϕ)
 - Quantum tunnelling/thermal activation
 - Needed for T_n, β, α, c_s
- Non-equilibrium dynamics
 - Needed for v_w
- Relativistic hydrodynamics
 - Needed for fluid flow generation & decay

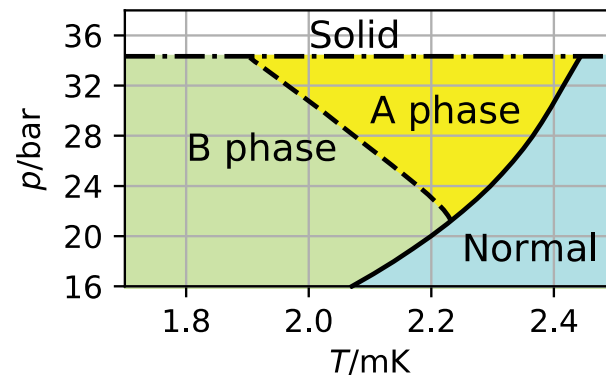
Laboratory system with a first order phase transition?

Cosmology & ^3He

“The Universe in a Helium Droplet”
Volovik (OUP, 2007)

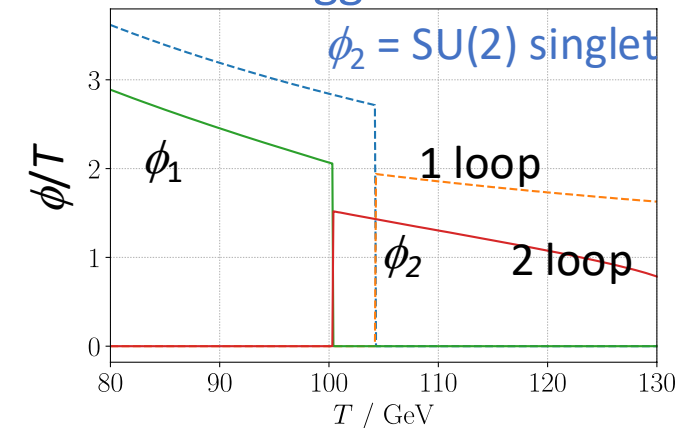
^3He

- Fermionic quasiparticles
- Triplet pairing interaction
- Order parameter A
 - 3×3 complex, spin x ang. mom.
- Ginzburg-Landau theory
 - Bulk free energy density $f_b(A)$
- Vortices and other topological defects Ruutu et al (1996)
- Multiple superfluid phases $T < O(\text{mK})$
- 1st order phase transition A/B



Standard Model (& beyond)

- Quarks & leptons
- --- (technicolour etc.)
- Fundamental (?) Higgs field(s) ϕ ($\phi_2, \dots$)
 - Irreps of $\text{SU}(2)_w \times \text{U}(1)_Y$ (G_{GUT})
- High T effective action
 - Effective potential $V_T(\phi)$
- (cosmic strings and other defects)
- 1 (multiple) Higgs phase(s) $T < O(10^{16} \text{ K})$
- (1st order PTs normal-Higgs & between Higgs phases)



Niemi,
Schicho,
Tenkanen 21

Bulk phases of superfluid ^3He

- Superfluid below $T_c \sim 2 \text{ mK}$
 - T_c depends on pressure
- Symmetry group of free energy:

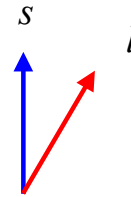
- $\text{SO}(3)_S \times \text{SO}(3)_L \times \text{U}(1)_N$

- B phase: $\text{SO}(3)_J$ Balian, Werthamer (1964)

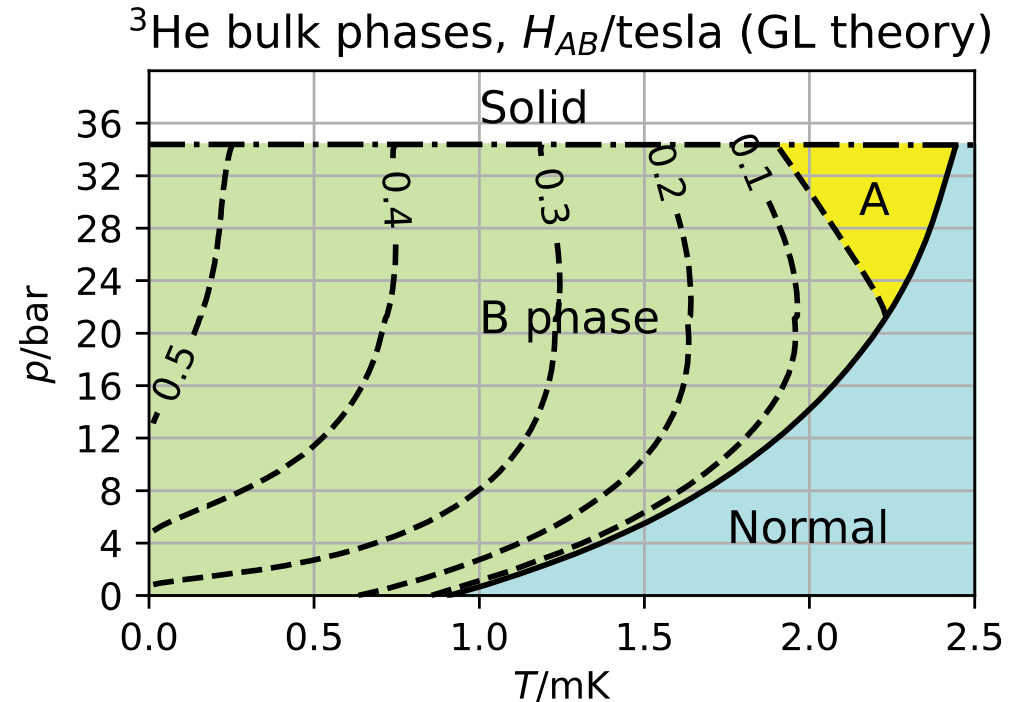
$$A_B = \frac{\Delta_B}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{isotropic}$$

- A phase: $\text{U}(1)_{S_z} \times \text{U}(1)_{L_z+N}$ Anderson, Morel (1961)
Anderson, Brinkman (1973)

$$A_A = \frac{\Delta_A}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{anisotropic}$$



- Stability: needs free energy beyond BCS theory
- i.e. “strong coupling corrections” to free energy



^3He AB transition rate

- Homogeneous nucleation theory

- nucleation rate per unit volume

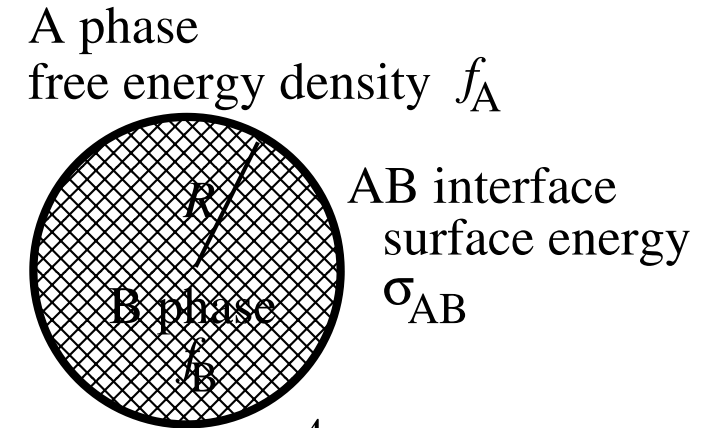
Cahn, Hilliard 1958,
Langer 1969,
Coleman 1974, Linde 1983

$$p(T) \sim \omega \xi_{\text{GL}}^{-3} \exp(-E_c/T)$$

- $E_c(T)$ – energy of critical droplet/bubble
- $E_c/T \sim 10^4 - 10^6$ in ^3He A/B GL theory
 - High density of states at Fermi surface N_F

- Prediction: supercooled A lasts a *long* time

Kaul, Kleinert 1980; Bailin, Love 1980



$$E(R) = 4\pi R^2 \sigma_{AB} - \frac{4\pi}{3} R^3 (f_A - f_B)$$

Critical bubble:

$$\left. \frac{dE}{dR} \right|_{R_c} = 0, \quad E_c = \frac{16\pi}{3} \frac{\sigma_{AB}^3}{|f_A - f_B|^2}$$

$$\sigma_{AB} \simeq \xi_{GL} |f_B|$$

$$E_c = \frac{16\pi}{3} |f_B| \xi_{GL}^3 \frac{|f_B|^2}{(f_A - f_B)^2}$$

^3He AB transition rate puzzle

- But AB transition is observed

Kleinberg et al 1974;
Hakonen et al 1985; Fukuyama et al 1987; Swift, Buchanan 1987;
Schiffer et al 1992; O’Keefe, Barker, Osheroff 1996
Bartkowiak et al 2000; Zhelev et al 2017; Tian et al 2023

- How does transition happen?
 - Ionising radiation? (“baked Alaska”, “cosmological”)
 - Boundary effects? (e.g. “lobster pots”)
 - Textural singularities? (boojums)
 - Heterogeneous nucleation?
 - Non-topological solitons, resonant tunnelling?

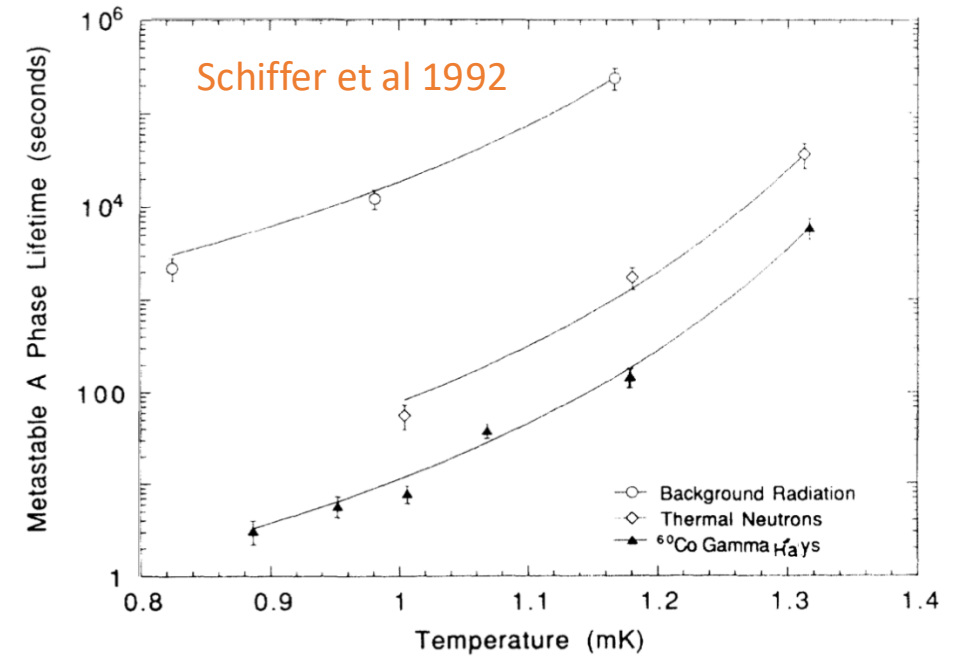


FIG. 3. Lifetime of the A phase in the presence of different radiation sources at $H = 28.2$ mT.

Leggett 1984; Volovik, Kibble 1997;
Bunkov, Timofeevskaya 1998

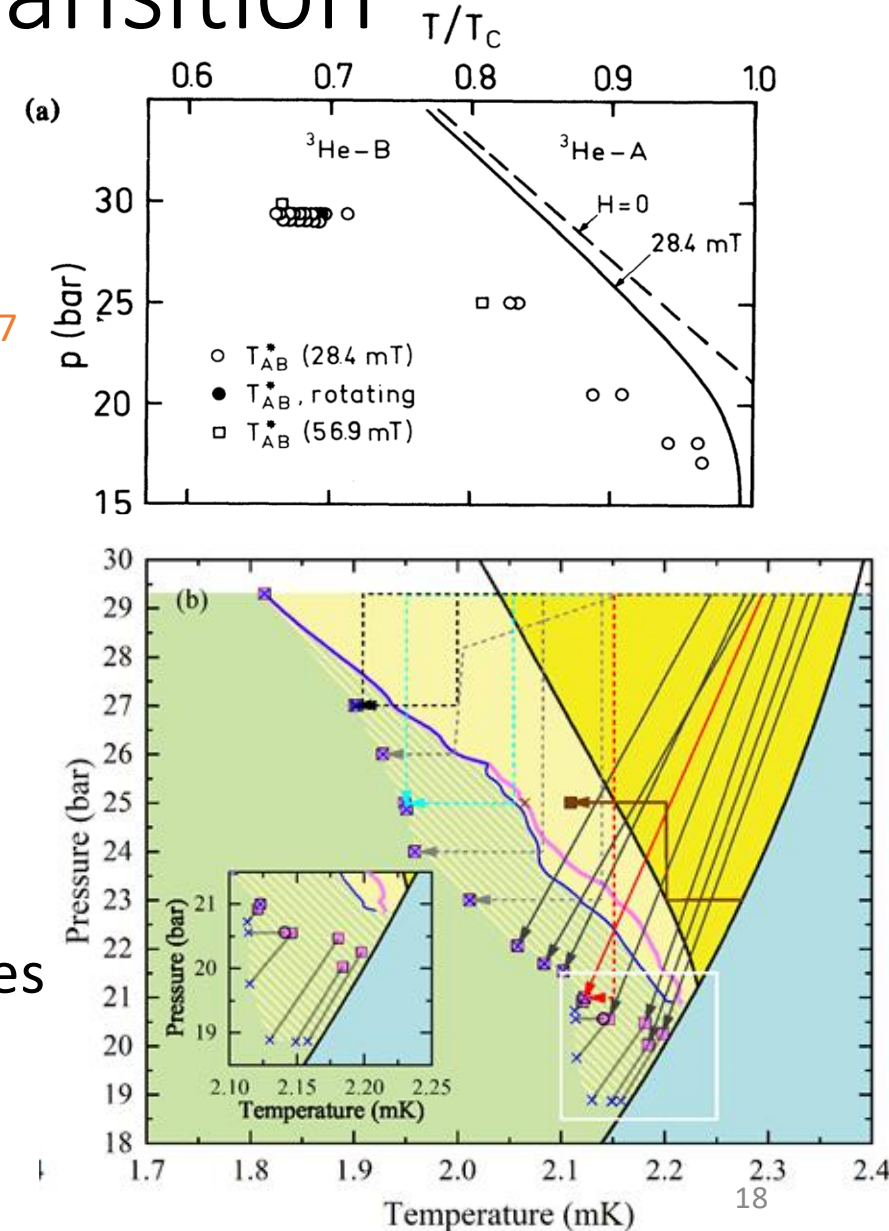
Leggett & Yip 1990

Balibar, Mizusaki, Sasaki 2000

Hong 1988 Tye, Wohns 2011

Boundary effects in AB transition

- Nucleation with rough surfaces
 - Spontaneous, AB “catastrophe line” [Hakonen et al 1983](#)
[Fukuyama et al 1987](#)
 - Can be induced by mechanical shock
[O’Keefe, Barker, Osheroff 1996; Bartkowiak et al 2000](#)
- Path-dependent nucleation, rough surfaces
 - “Catastrophe line” depends on $P_{\max}$ [Tian et al 2022](#)
in A phase
 - Model: B-phase “seeds” in $O(\mu\text{m})$ cavities
 - Heat exchanger?
 - $T > T_{AB}$: Higher P forces A phase into smaller spaces
 - $T < T_{AB}$: Smaller seeds need larger ΔP to expand



^3He A-B transition by energetic particles?

- Cosmic ray muons at sea level
 $\sim 1 / \text{cm}^2 / \text{min}$
- Radioactivity
- Energy injection: local heating to normal phase, cooling to B phase
- Baked Alaska: expanding hot shell (ballistic quasiparticles) [Leggett 1985](#)
- Cosmological scenario: shrinking hot blob (quasiparticle diffusion)

[Volovik 1996; Volovik, Kibble 1997;](#)
[Bunkov Timofeevskaya 1998](#)

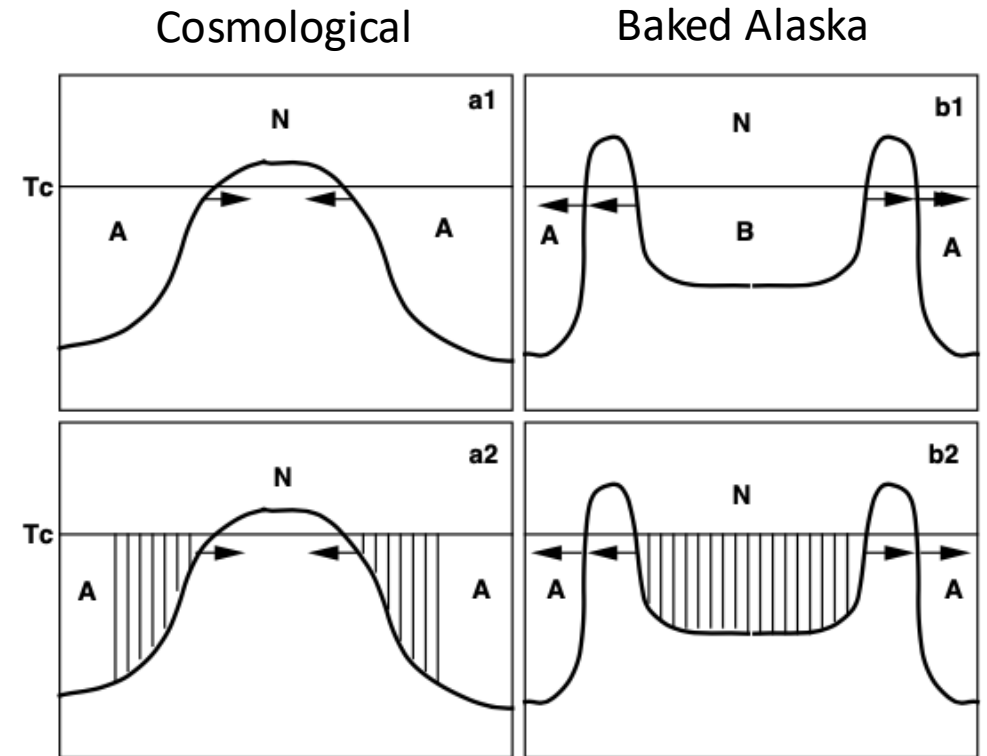


FIG. 1. The different scenario of transitions after a local heating. Vertical lines indicate a region of independently nucleated superfluid seeds. [Bunkov Timofeevskaya 1999](#)

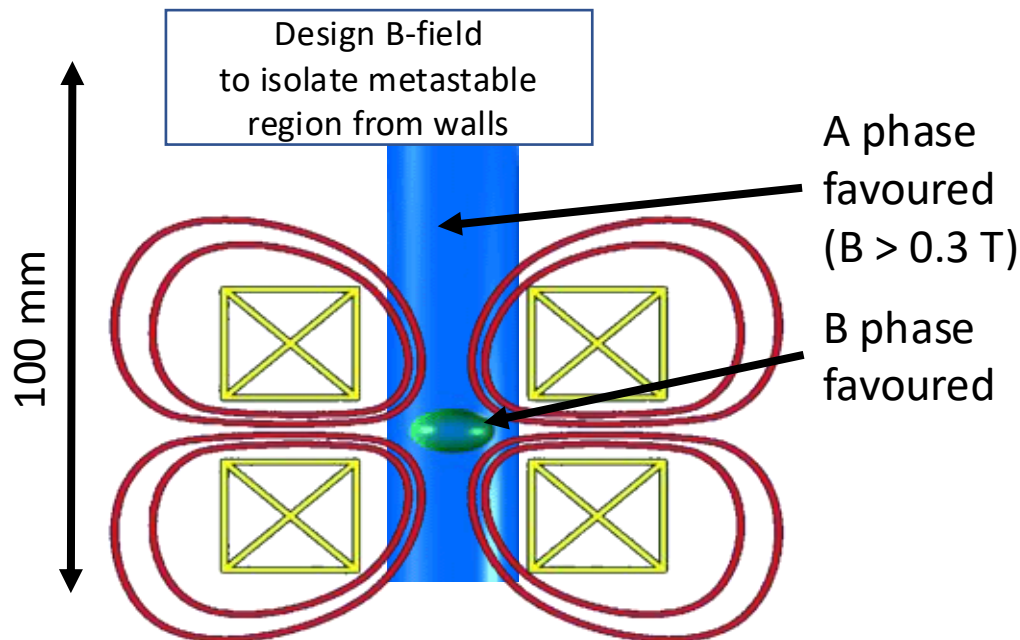
QUEST-DMC: solving the nucleation puzzle

Quantum-Enhanced Superfluid Technologies for Dark Matter and Cosmology

PTs with magnetic fields

University of Lancaster

- Eliminate boundary effects
- Transition in shaped magnetic fields

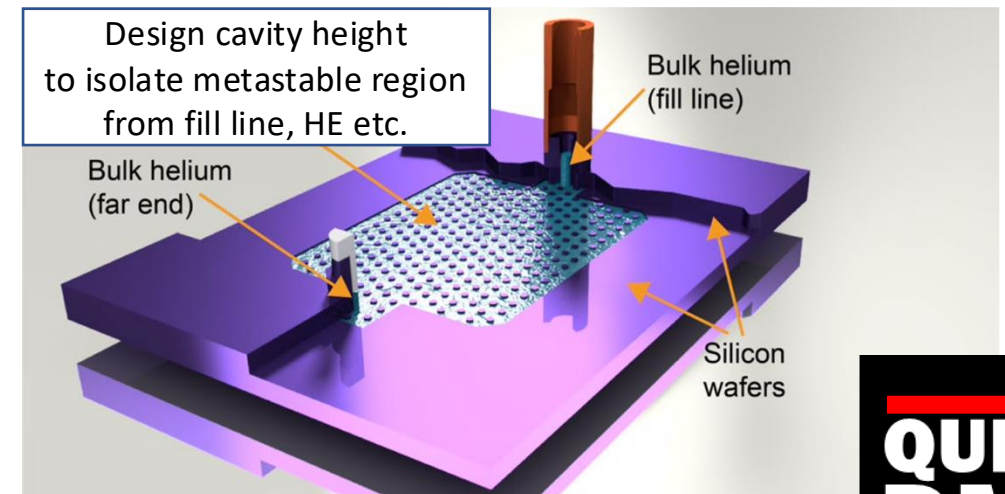


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PTs under confinement

Royal Holloway, University of London

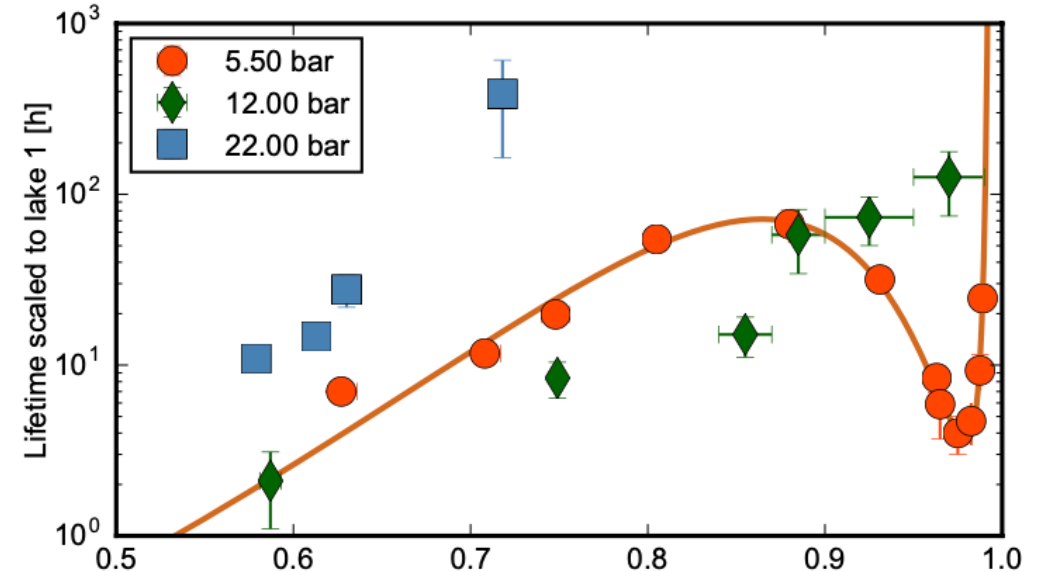
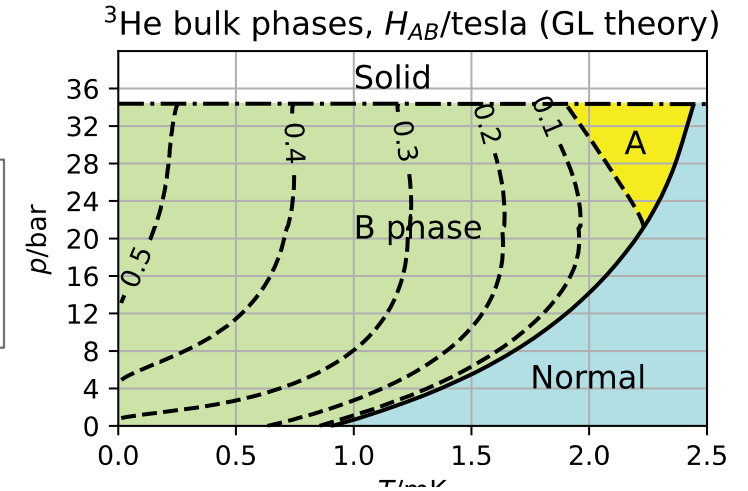
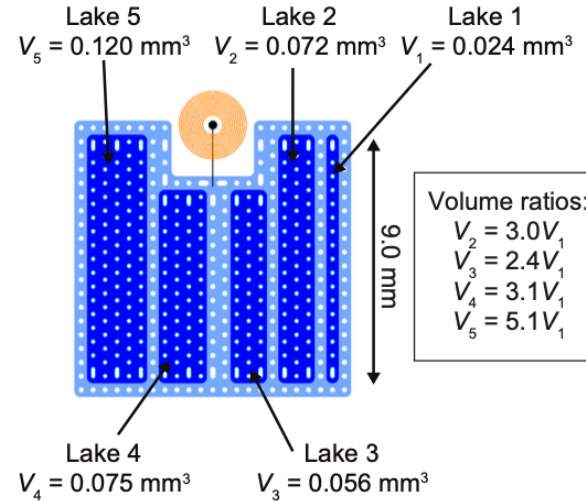
- Control boundary effects with atomically smooth walls
- Confinement controls phases



First results from thin slab experiment

Heikkinen talk QFS 2024

- Detect phase with NMR
($B = 30$ mT)
- Measure lifetimes of A phase
in “lakes” at metastability
- Scale to same volume
- Fit 5.5 bar: $\tau = \tau_0 \exp(-E_c(T, p)/E_0)$
 - Fluctuation energy: $E_0 \sim 10^{-4}$ eV
 - $E_0 \gg T$ (!?)
 - 12 bar???
- Attempt rate: $\tau_0 \sim 100$ Hz
 - Flux of e^- from ^{40}K ?



Numerical simulations of ^3He order parameter

MH, J Sauls, K Zhang et al JLTP 2024

- Time-dependent Ginzburg-Landau model (effective theory near T_c)

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_0 \ddot{A}_{\alpha i} + \gamma \dot{A}_{\alpha i} - K_1 \partial^2 A_{\alpha i} - (K_2 + K_3) \partial_i \partial_j A_{\alpha j} + \alpha A_{\alpha i} \\ + 2 [\beta_1 A_{\alpha i}^* \text{Tr} A A^T + \beta_2 A_{\alpha i} \text{Tr} A A^\dagger + \beta_3 (A A^T A^*)_{\alpha i} + \beta_4 (A A^\dagger A)_{\alpha i} + \beta_5 (A^* A^T A)_{\alpha i}] = \zeta_{\alpha i}(\mathbf{r}, t). \end{aligned}$$

- $A_{\alpha i}$ – superfluid ^3He order parameter (3 x 3 complex)
- $\alpha(T)$, $\beta_a(T, P)$ – material parameters (β_a strong coupling corrected)
- γ - (Re) damping rate (quasiparticles), (Im) particle-hole asymmetry
- ζ – Langevin noise $\langle \zeta_{\alpha i}(\mathbf{r}, t) \zeta_{\beta j}(\mathbf{r}', t') \rangle = 2\gamma k_B T \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{ij} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \delta(t - t')$.
- Boundary conditions used so far:
 - periodic (for bulk simulations)
 - maximal pair breaking ($A_{\alpha i}(\text{boundary}) = 0$)
- Aim: understanding the dynamics of phase transition

Numerical simulations of ^3He order parameter

MH, A. Lopez-Eiguren, K. Rummukainen, K Zhang

- Discretisation
 - Space: Nearest-neighbour finite differences
 - Time: leapfrog
- Parallelism: HILA (<https://cft-hy.github.io/HILA/>)
 - C++ lattice field theory HPC programming framework
 - “Write once – run anywhere” (including GPU)
- Resources: CSC Finland
 - Mahti (1404 x 128 CPUs)
 - Lumi (2560 x 8 AMD 64GB GPU)
Europe No 1, World No 3



ICT Solutions for Brilliant Minds

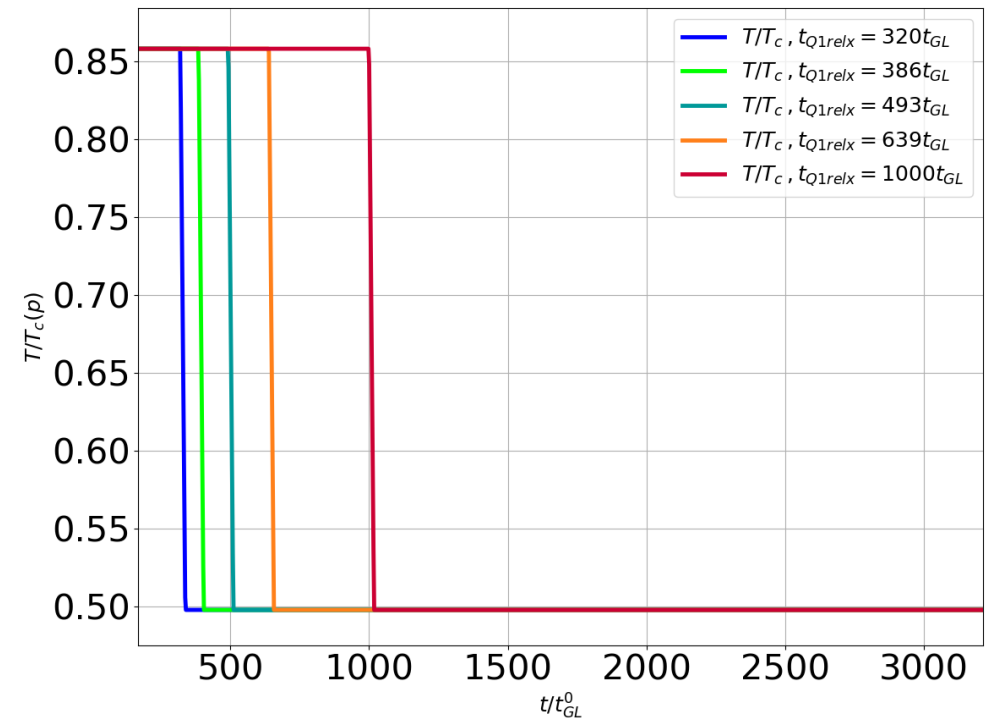


```
Field<Complex<double>> f;  
Field<double> g = 0;  
  
onsites(ALL) f[X].gaussian_random();  
  
forallDir(d){  
    g[ALL] += abs(f[X+d] - 2*f[X] + f[X-d]);  
}
```

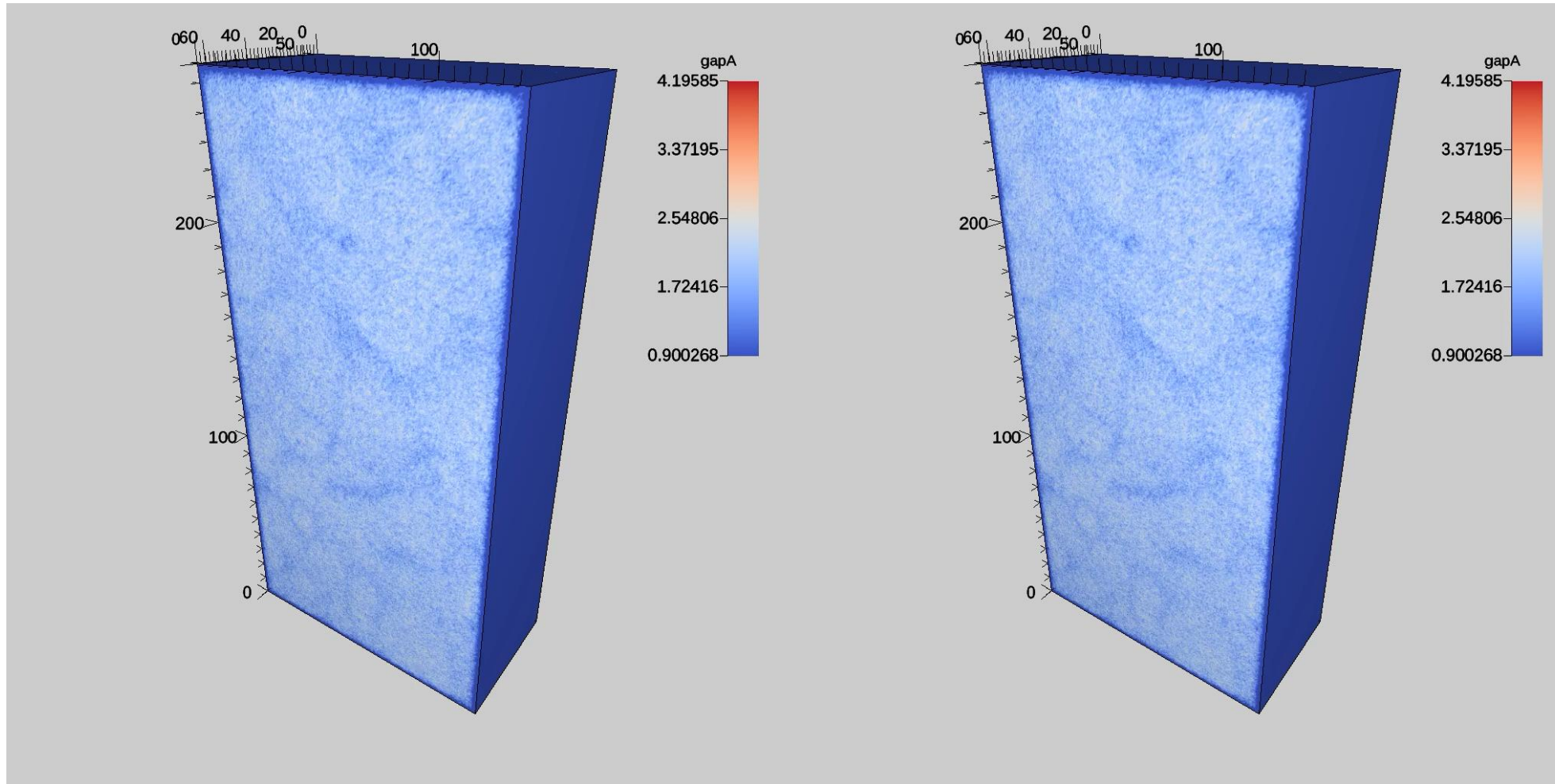
“Cosmological” simulations of ^3He (preliminary)

MH, A. Lopez-Eiguren, K. Rummukainen, K Zhang, QUEST-DMC

- Model rapid cooling after energy injection
- $P = 26.0$ bar
 - $T_c = 2.33$ mK, $T_{AB} = 2.06$ mK = $0.88 T_c$
 - $\xi_{GL} = 12$ nm
 - $t_{GL} = \xi_{GL} / v_F = 0.3$ ns
- Protocol:
 - Quench from normal to A phase ($0.86 T_c$)
 - Equilibrate in A phase
 - Quench into B phase ($0.5 T_c$)
 - $\Delta_A = 3.81 T_c$, $\Delta_B = 3.99 T_c$
 - Quench time $\tau_Q = 50 t_{GL}$
- Dissipation $\gamma = 0.05/t_{GL}$
- Lattice spacing $\Delta x = 0.5 \xi_{GL}$
- Lattice volume $512 \times 256^2 \Delta x^3 = 3.1 \times 1.5 \mu\text{m}^3$
- Total simulation time $3000 t_{GL} = 1000$ ns



“Cosmological” simulations of ^3He (preliminary)



Quenches through T_{AB}
Starting in A phase

Left:
Late quench
Stays in A phase

Right:
Early quench
B phase appears

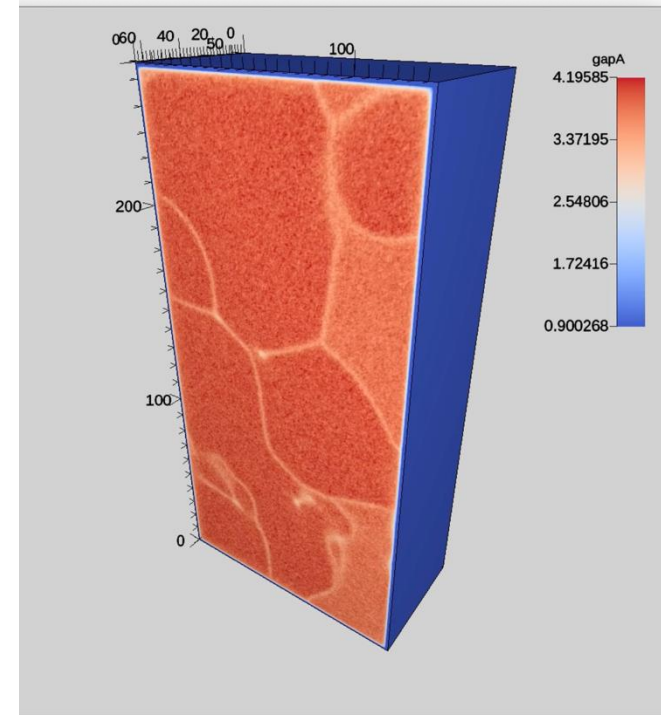
“Cosmological” simulations of ^3He

Conclusions:

- Rapid quenches leave “seeds” for B phase
- Topological defects from Kibble-Zurek mechanism (?)

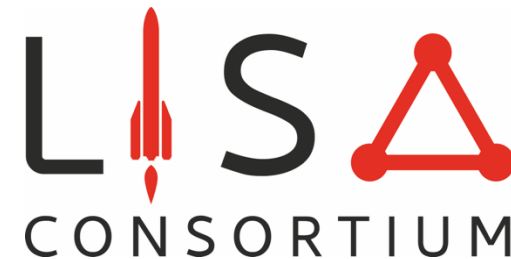
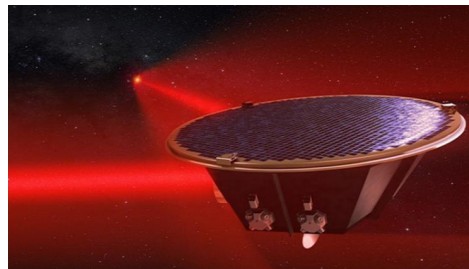
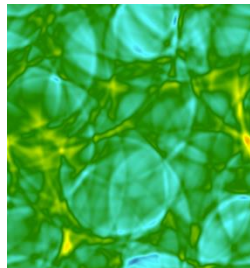
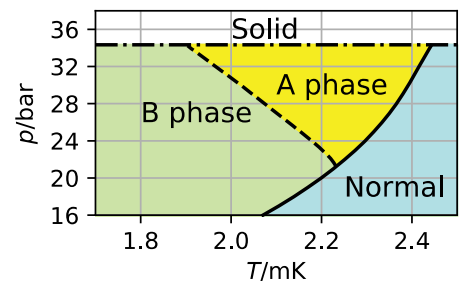
Further work needed:

- What are the “seeds”?
- How likely? Rate?
- More physics:
 - better modelling of energy injection by particles (“hot blob”) [synergy with QUEST-DMC dark matter search]
 - improve on Ginzburg-Landau free energy for low T
 - TDGL kinetic terms: improve in A phase



Summary

- Future space-based gravitational wave detectors (e.g. LISA) will probe the early Universe at $T \sim 100$ GeV and $t \sim 10$ ps.
- Theories extending the Standard Model to account for dark matter and the baryon asymmetry often have 1st order phase transitions, leading to GW production.
- Calculations of the GW power spectrum depend on homogeneous nucleation theory – but ^3He A-B doesn't obey the theory
- Better understanding of superfluid ^3He A/B transition is critical for reliable predictions for early Universe GW production for LISA.
- QUEST-DMC is addressing the nucleation puzzle with confinement, magnetic fields, & HPC tools from cosmology



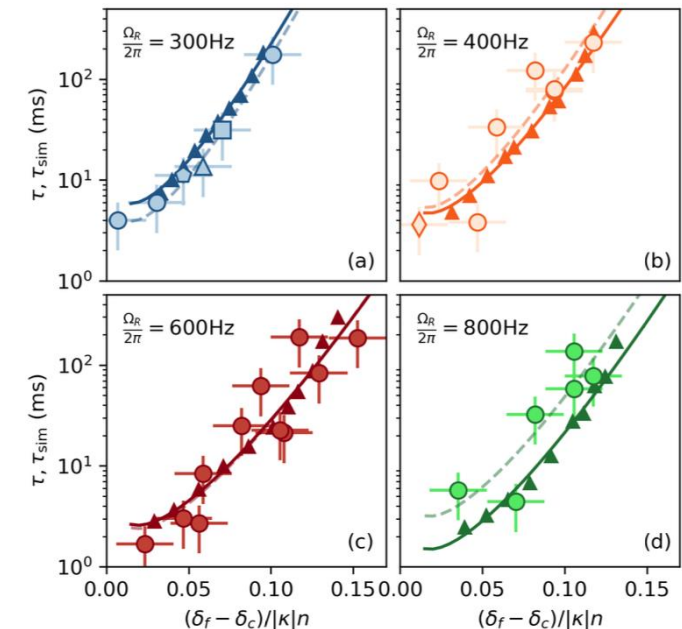
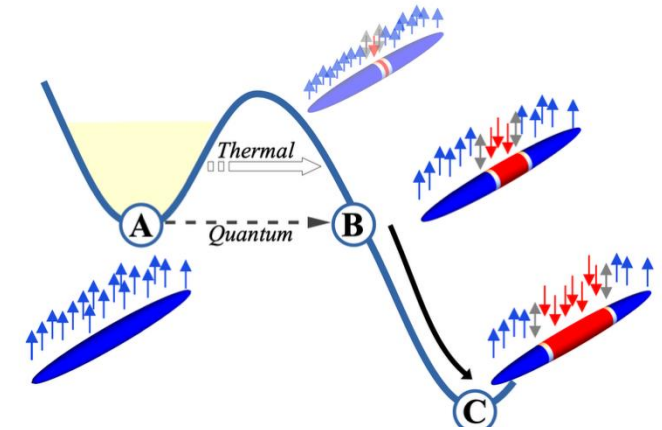
Back-up slides

Thermal 1st order transition in BEC

- Is nucleation theory correct?
 - Support from BEC Zenesini et al 2023
- ^{23}Na (10^6 atoms) trapped and cooled below T_{BEC}
 - 1D BEC, atoms in two states: "up", "down",
 - Ferromagnetic superfluid
 - magnetic field: states separated by energy $\hbar\omega$
 - Control energy (magnetization Z)
 - μ wave amplitude Ω_R , tune B field (δ_f)

$$E(Z, \phi) \propto -\frac{\delta_f}{2}Z + \frac{\kappa n}{2}Z^2 - \Omega_R \sqrt{1 - Z^2} \cos \phi$$

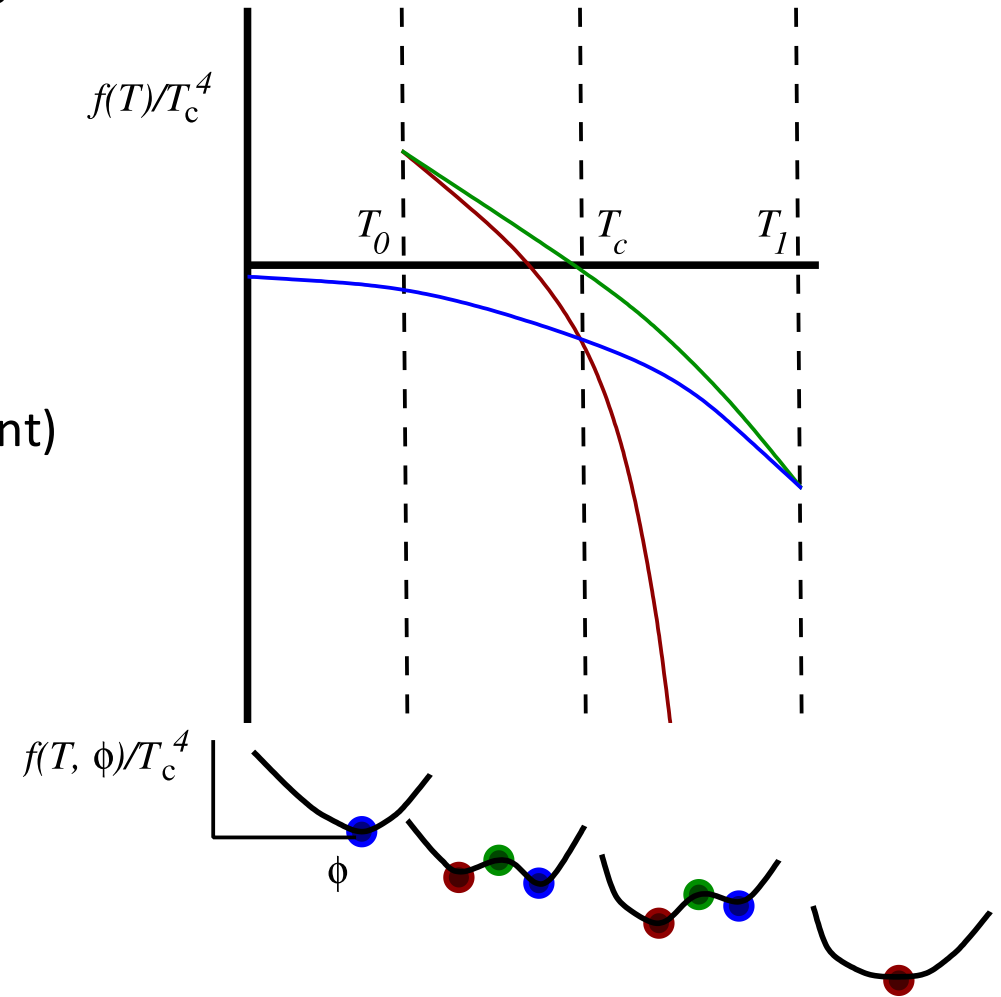
- Good agreement with theory



First order phase transitions

e.g. Binder 1987

- Phase: a local minimum of the free energy density f
- Behaviour of free energy around 1st order PT:
 - $T > T_2$: one equilibrium phase
 - $T_0 < T < T_1$: two equilibrium phases, one unstable
 - $T = T_c$: equal free energy, critical temperature
 - $T_0 < T < T_c$: high temperature phase is metastable
 - $T = T_0$: high temperature phase is unstable (spinodal point)
- Metastable phase can persist to $T = 0$
 - Example: superfluid ^3He , A phase
- Keep track of phase with order parameter ϕ
- In equilibrium: $\partial_\phi f(T, \phi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$
- Equilibrium free energy: $f(T) \equiv f(T, \phi_{\text{eq}})$



GWs from phase transitions: Sound shell model

- Gaussian velocity field assumed linear
- Weighted addition of self-similar sound “shells” surrounding bubbles $\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{q}}(t_i)$

MH 2017, MH, Hijazi 2019

- Two length scales:
 - Bubble spacing R_*
 - Shell width $\Delta R_* \sim R_* |v_w - c_s|/c_s$

- Double broken power law

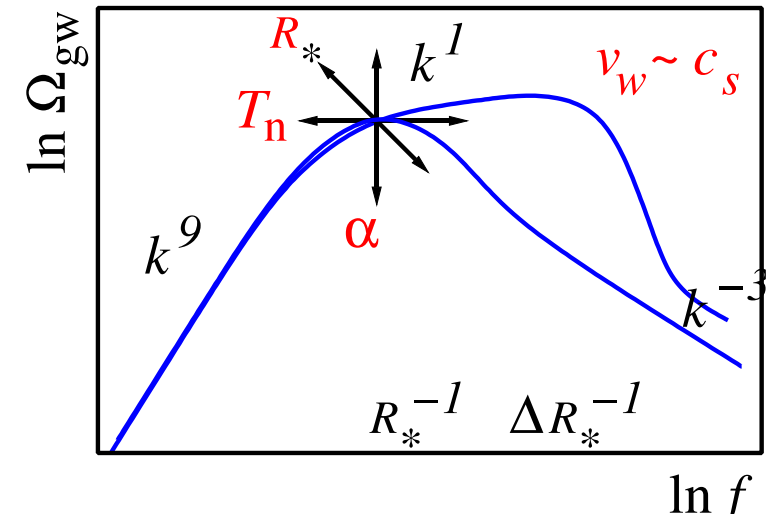
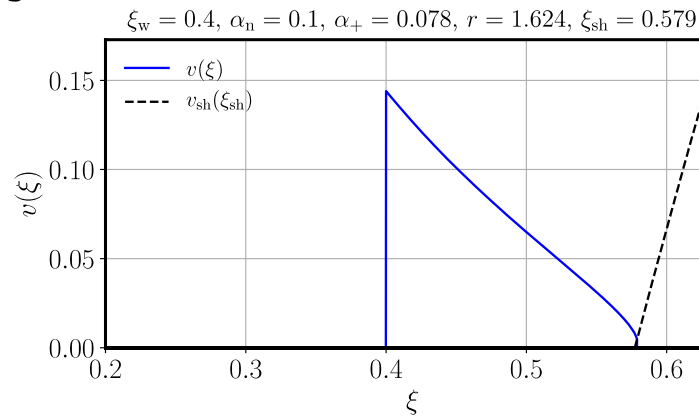
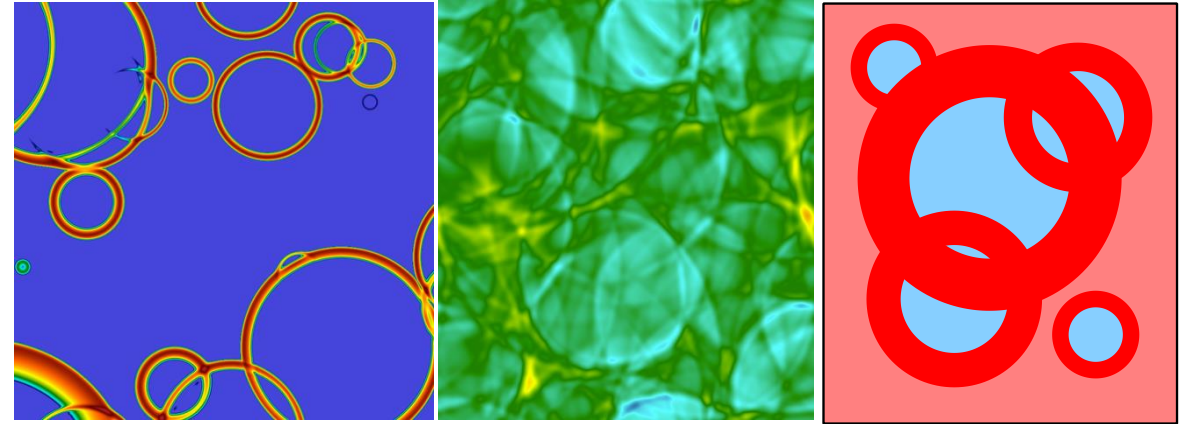
- $P_{gw} \sim k^9, k^b, k^{-3}, b \sim 1$

- Amplitude proportional to:

- Bubble spacing R_*
- Shear stress lifetime
- (Fluid kinetic energy)²

- Similar: bulk flow model (real space)

Jinno, Konstandin, Rubira 2020

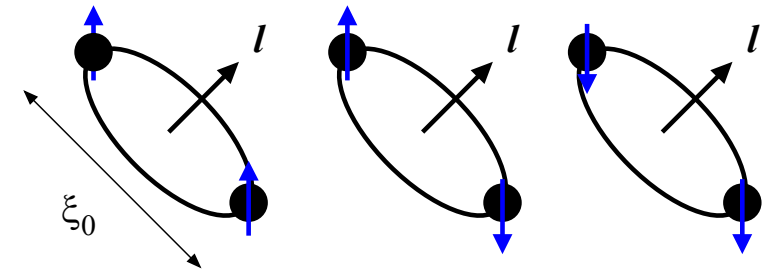


^3He overview

- $T < 3.19$ K, Fermi liquid of spin-1/2 particles
 - Fermi energy $E_F = 4.25 \times 10^{-4}$ eV ($T_F = 4.94$ K)
 - Effective mass $m_* = (3-6)m_{\text{He3}}$
- Attractive interaction in $L = 1$ channel
 - Cooper pairs $L = 1, S = 1$
 - Pair correlation length $\xi_0 \sim 20 - 80$ nm
 - Quasiparticle mass gap Δ_{kab} at low T
- Superfluid below $T_c \sim 2$ mK
- Order parameter A , complex 3x3

$$\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} = (i\sigma_2\sigma^\alpha)A_{\alpha i}\hat{k}^i$$
- Effective theory for A : Ginzburg-Landau
 - Expand free energy in powers of A/T
 - Free energy for uniform states $U(A)$

$$V_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} \simeq \begin{cases} 3V_1 P_1(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}') & \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}' \text{ near Fermi surface} \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$



$$\Delta_{\mathbf{k}ab} = \int \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} V_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} \frac{\tanh(\beta E_{\mathbf{k}'a}/2)}{2E_{\mathbf{k}'a}} \Delta_{\mathbf{k}'ab}$$

spin indices a, b

$$E_{\mathbf{k}a}^2 = \left(\frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m_*} - \mu \right)^2 + (\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} \Delta_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger)_a$$

$$U(A) = \alpha'_c(T - T_c)\text{tr}(AA^\dagger) + \beta_1|\text{tr}(AA^T)|^2 + \beta_2\text{tr}(AA^\dagger)^2 \\ + \beta_3\text{tr}(AA^T A^* A^\dagger) + \beta_4\text{tr}(AA^\dagger AA^\dagger) + \beta_5\text{tr}(AA^\dagger A^* A^T).$$

Eliminating boundaries with magnetic fields

- Magnetic field favours A phase
 - A has spins aligned
 - No B-phase for $H > 0.3$ T
- Changing H also induces transition
- Undermagnetisation of A phase

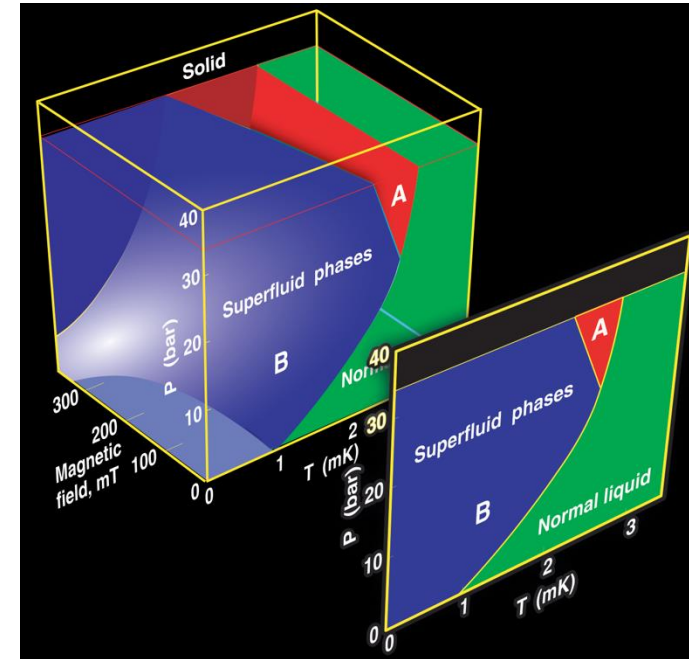
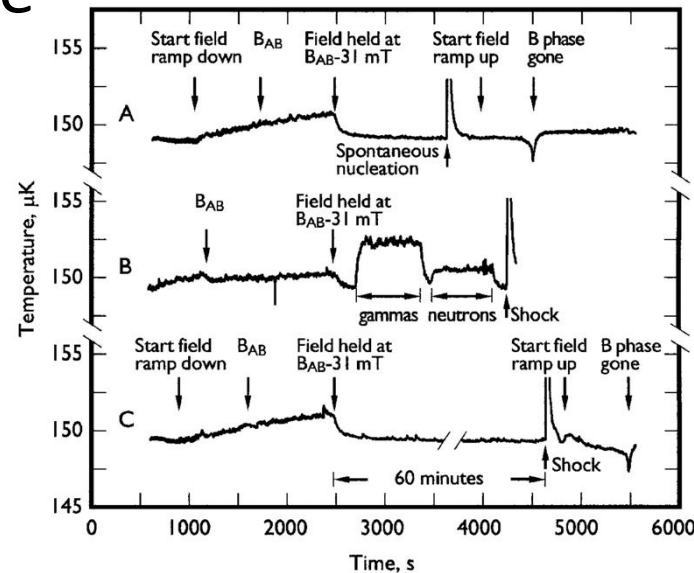
$$f_H = g_H H_\alpha (AA^\dagger)_{\alpha\beta} H_\beta$$

$$(AA^\dagger)^B \propto 1,$$

$$(AA^\dagger)^A \propto \text{diag}(0, 0, 1)$$

Bartkowiak et al 2000

- Lifetime should still be long
- Spontaneous nucleation
- Also mechanical shock
- (Sinter particle found in cell)

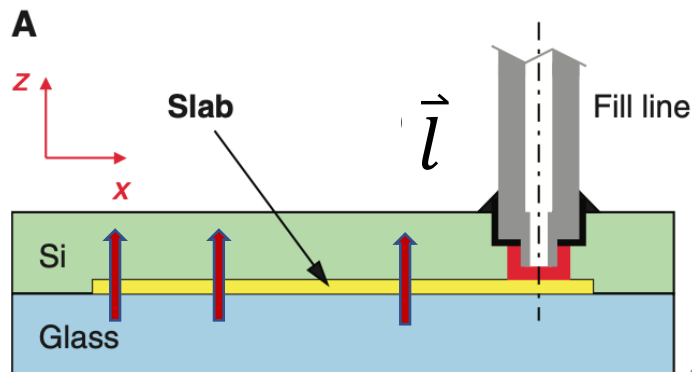


Controlling phase with confinement

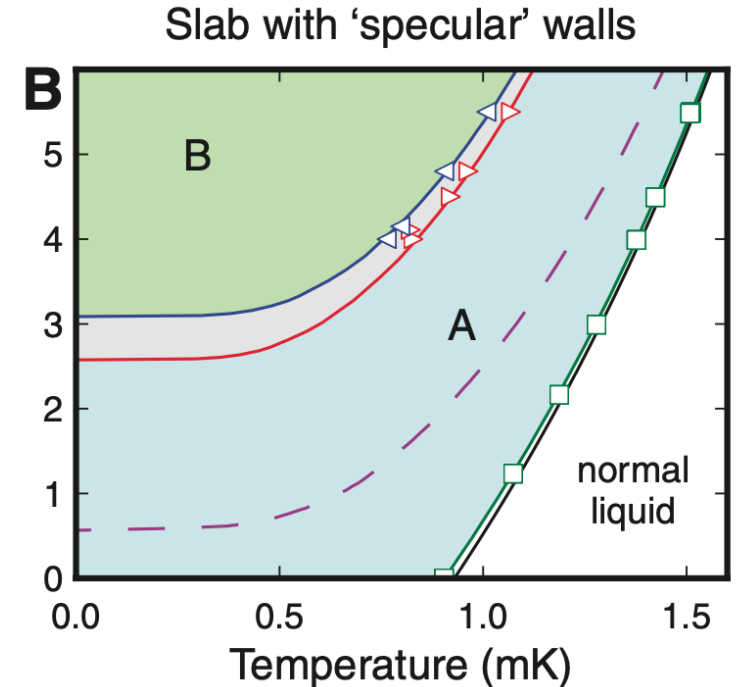
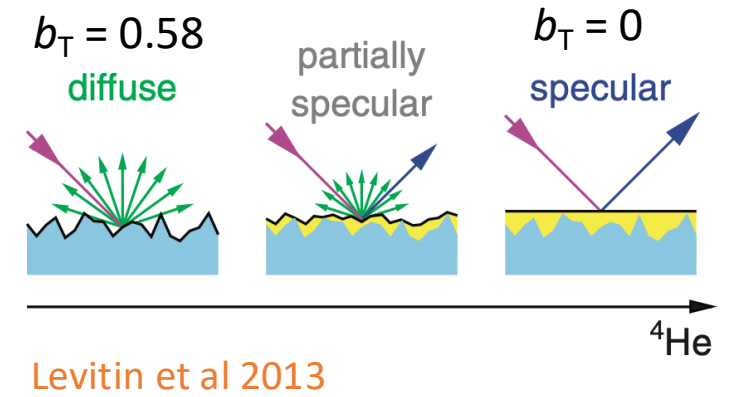
- Boundaries break Cooper pairs & suppress order parameter Ambegaokar, de Gennes, Rainer 1973

$$A_{\alpha i} n_i = 0, \quad (b_T + \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla) A_{\alpha i}^{\parallel} = 0$$

- Control b_T with ^4He coating
- Angular momentum of Cooper pairs normal to boundaries
- Thin slab favours A phase



Cosmology & AB transition ... Mark Hindmarsh



Phase boundary speed

- GW signal sensitive to phase boundary speed v_w

- Difficult non-equilibrium problem

McLerran, Turok, Liu 1994; Moore, Prokopec 1994; Huber, Sopona 2013; Laurent, Cline 2022; De Curtis et al 2022

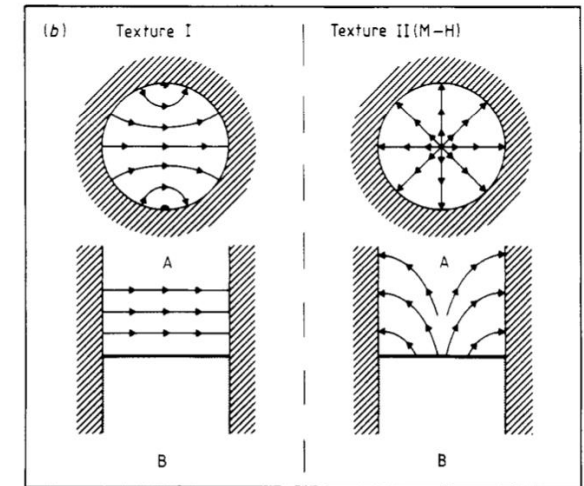
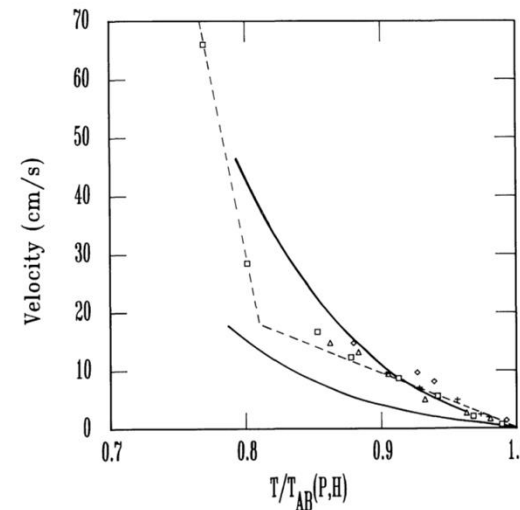
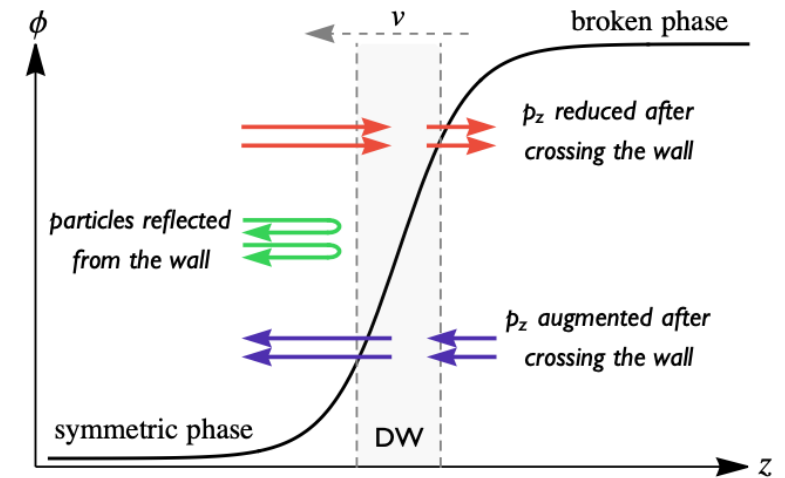
- AB Phase boundary speed measured Swift, Buchanan :

- Quasiparticle scattering calculations

Yip, Leggett 1986; Kopnin 1987; Palmieri 1990

- Dynamics complicated by S and L texture in A phase

- E.g. interaction with boundary
 - Spin waves in front of wall?



Salomaa 1988

Cosmological applications of AB transition

1. Transition rate

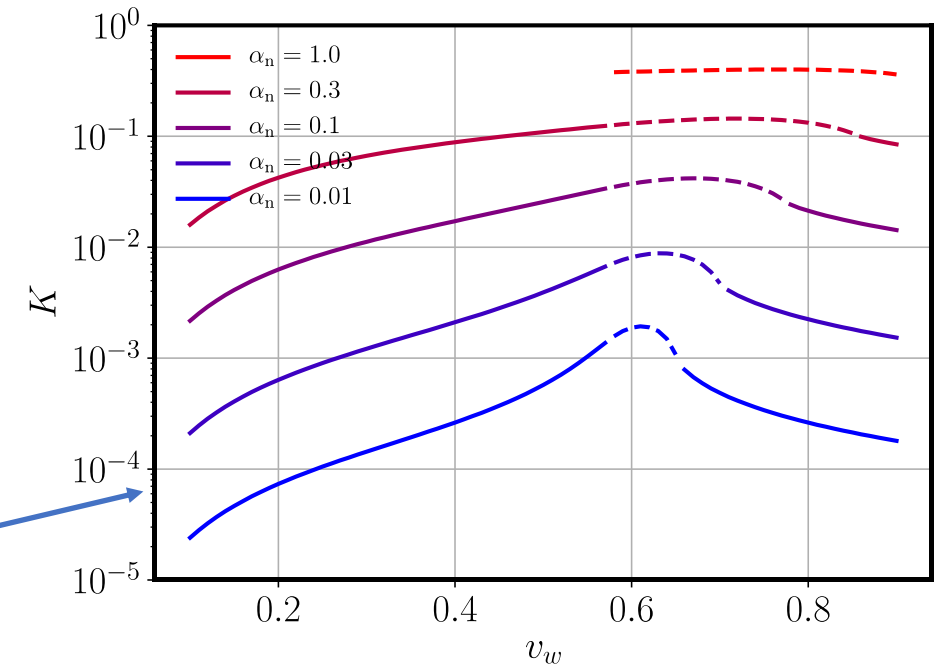
- Theory predicts no AB transition in bulk ${}^3\text{He}$
 - How long can supercooled A phase be maintained?
- Rate with boundaries/magnetic fields?
- If rate observable, compare to probability flux through inhomogeneous “critical configuration”

2. Phase boundary propagation

- Fluid kinetic energy & hence GWs have strong dependence on wall speed
- Same microscopic theory (quasiparticles + OP)

3. Generation of ${}^3\text{He}$ collective modes

- Efficiency of hydrodynamic sound wave production
- Analogue GW (massless $J = 2$) production?



Mode	Symmetry	Mass	Name
$D_{0,m}^{(+)}$	$J = 0, c = +1$	2Δ	Amplitude
$D_{0,m}^{(-)}$	$J = 0, c = -1$	0	Phase Mode
$D_{1,m}^{(+)}$	$J = 1, c = +1$	0	NG Spin-Orbit Modes
$D_{1,m}^{(-)}$	$J = 1, c = -1$	2Δ	AH Spin-Orbit Modes
$D_{2,m}^{(+)}$	$J = 2, c = +1$	$\sqrt{\frac{8}{5}}\Delta$	2^+ AH Modes
$D_{2,m}^{(-)}$	$J = 2, c = -1$	$\sqrt{\frac{12}{5}}\Delta$	2^- AH Modes

B phase bosonic modes

Ginzburg-Landau and AB phase boundary

Schopohl (1987); Thuneberg (1991)

- Ginzburg-Landau for inhomogeneous states:

- Gradient energy $f_g(A) = K_1 \partial_k A_{\alpha j} \partial_k A_{\alpha j}^* + K_2 \partial_j A_{\alpha j} \partial_k A_{\alpha k}^* + K_3 \partial_k A_{\alpha j} \partial_j A_{\alpha k}^*$
- In GL theory B phase $K_a = K$

- Solve GL equation at T_{AB} , AB boundary conditions

$$-K (2\hat{x}_i \hat{x}_j + \delta_{ij}) \partial_x^2 A_{\alpha j} + \frac{\partial U(A)}{\partial A_{\alpha i}^*} = 0$$

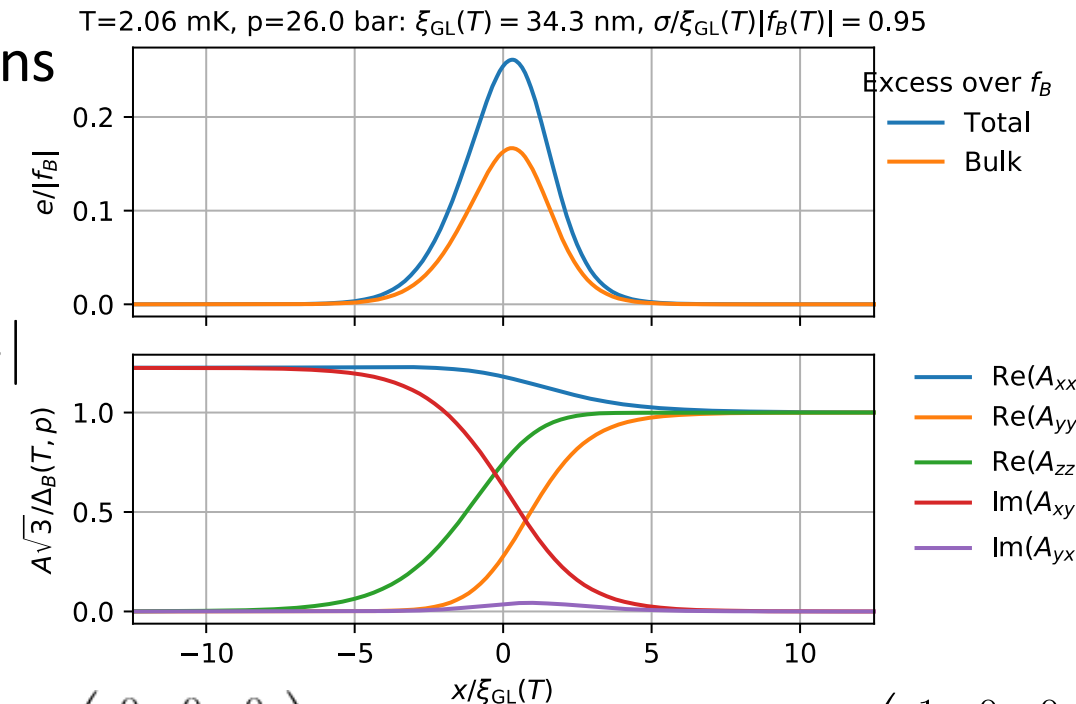
- Surface energy ($p_{pcp} < p < p_{melt}$) $\sigma_{AB} \simeq \xi_{GL} |f_B|$

- ξ_{GL} : order parameter coherence length

$$\xi_{GL}(T) = \sqrt{\frac{7\zeta(3)}{20}} \xi_0 (1 - T/T_c)^{-1/2}$$

- f_B : B-phase condensation energy density

$$f_B \sim -f_0 (1 - T/T_c)^2, \quad f_0 \sim \text{J m}^{-3}$$



$$A_A = \frac{\Delta_A}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_B = \frac{\Delta_B}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Estimating GW power in the SSM

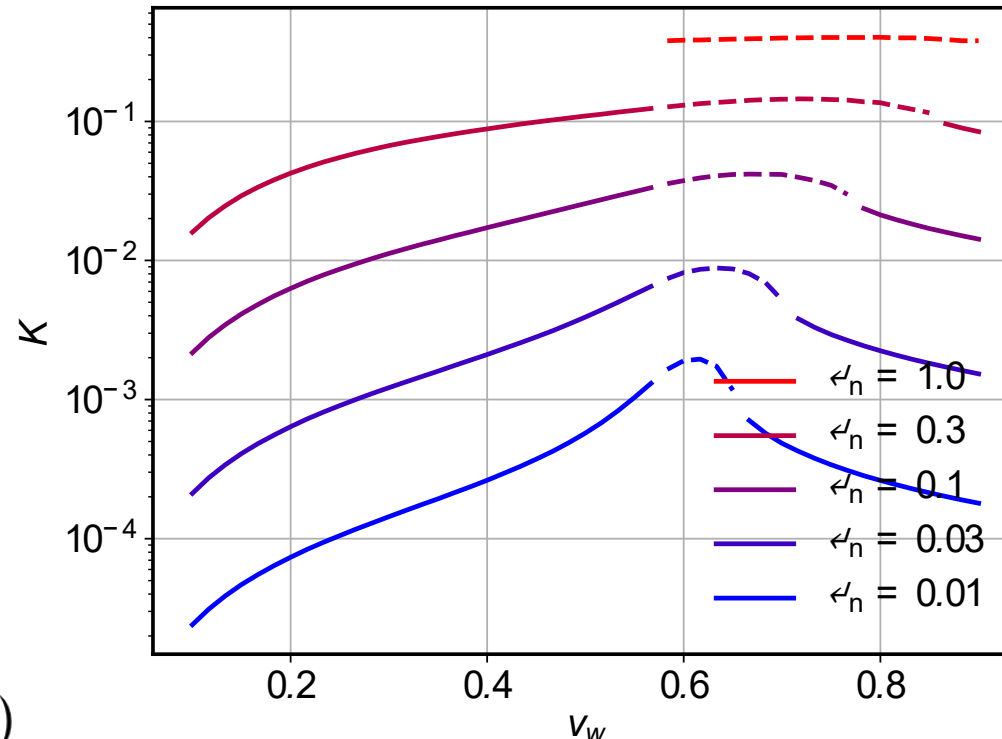
$$\Omega_{\text{gw}} = \rho_{\text{gw}}/\rho_{\text{c}} \sim (H_{\text{n}}\tau_{\text{v}})(H_{\text{n}}\tau_{\text{c}})K^2$$

- GW energy fraction:
 - H_{n} Hubble rate at nucleation
 - τ_{v} duration of stresses
 - τ_{c} coherence time
- Coherence time:
 - $\tau_{\text{c}} \sim R_*$ (bubble spacing)
- Shear stress lifetime (shocks):
 - $\tau_{\text{v}} = H_{\text{n}}^{-1}/(1 + U_{\text{f}}/r_*)$
 - U_{f} ($\sim$ RMS velocity) $\sim \sqrt{K}$
 - or $K = (4/3)U_{\text{f}}^2$

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}} \simeq \tilde{\Omega}_{\text{gw}} \frac{r_*}{1 + \sqrt{K}/r_*} K^2$$

$$\tilde{\Omega}_{\text{gw}} = \mathcal{O}(10^{-2})$$

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

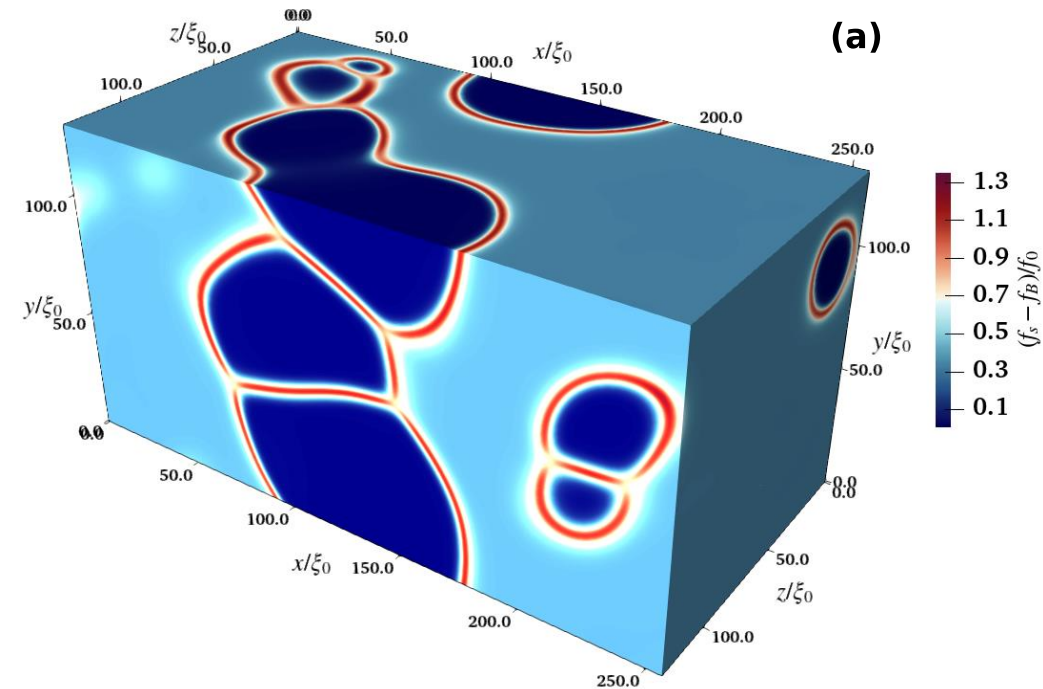


“Cosmological” simulations of ^3He

- Model energy injection e.g. by cosmic ray (1st try)
- Initial condition:
 - $A(x)$ Gaussian random at each x

$$\langle A \rangle = \frac{\Delta_A(T, P)}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma(\text{Re } A_{\alpha i}) = \sigma(\text{Im } A_{\alpha i}) = \sigma_0$$

- $(T, P) = (1.23 \text{ mK}, 25.0 \text{ bar})$
- $\Delta_A = 3.7 T_c, \Delta_B = 3.9 T_c$
- Dissipation $\Gamma = 0.02/t_{\text{GL}} = 60 \text{ MHz}$
- Lattice spacing $\Delta x = \xi_{\text{GL}} = 12 \text{ nm}, \xi_{\text{GL}}(T) = 17 \text{ nm}$
- Lattice volume $512 \times 256^2 \Delta x^3 = 6.2 \times 3.0 \mu\text{m}^3$
- Simulation time $600 t_{\text{GL}} = 200 \text{ ns}$
- $\sigma_0 = 1.9 T_c \rightarrow \text{energy injection } \Delta f \sim 800 \text{ eV}/\mu\text{m}^3$



Free energy density above
B phase $f_0 = N_F(\xi_{\text{GL}})^3/3$