



The spinodal instability near a critical point in a droplet

Maximilian Attems (IGFAE)

[arXiv:1603.01254](#) [arXiv:1703.09681](#) [arXiv:1807.05175](#)

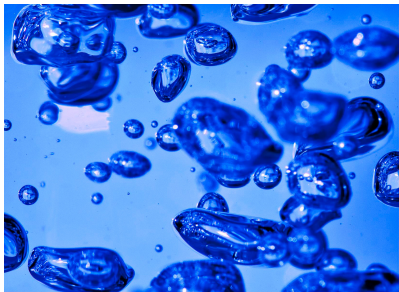
[arXiv:1809.XXXXX](#)

Collaborators:

Yago Bea (UB), Jorge Casalderrey-Solana (Oxford, UB),
David Mateos (UB), Miguel Zilhao (CENTRA)

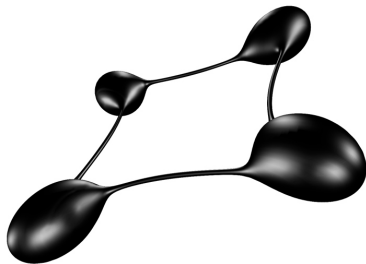
Benasque COST workshop on collectivity in small systems

Phase transition:



Vaporization

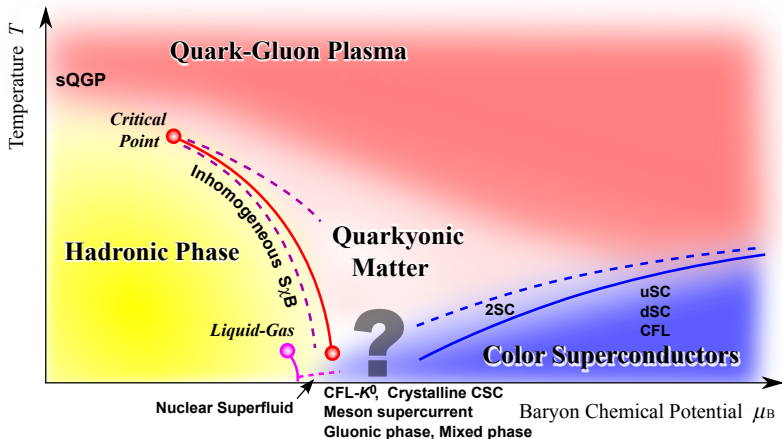
Gregory-Laflamme Instability:



Black ring pinching off

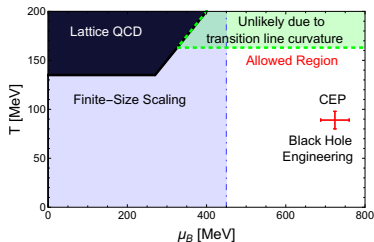
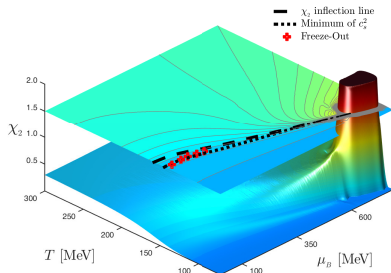
gauge/**gravity** correspondence:

bridge between physical phenomena in gauge theories and gravity.



QCD phase diagram [Fukushima, Hatsudo 2010]

Black-hole engineered critical point w QCD lattice match [Critelli, Noronha, Noronha-Hostler, Portillo, Ratti, Rougemont 2017]

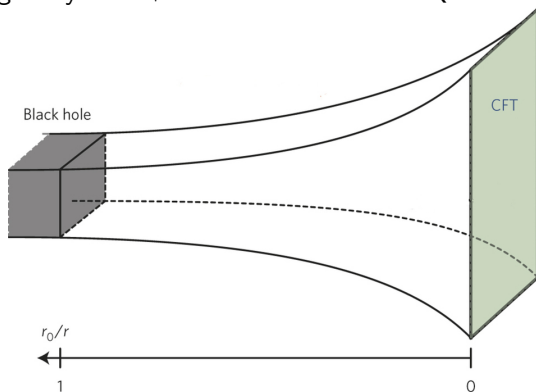


Baryon susceptibility χ_2 extended in the full $T - \mu_B$ plane and critical point located at $T_{CEP} = 89$ MeV and $\mu_B^{CEP} = 724$ MeV

Excitation and saturation of the spinodal instability

- Non-conformal General Relativity model
- Non-conformal thermodynamics
- Spinodal instability
- Inhomogeneous Horizon
- Hydrostatic + Hydrodynamic evolution
- Phase separation
- Unseeded spinodal instability
- Pressure evolution
- Preferred final state
- Phase mergers

Quantum gravity in $d + 1$ dimension AdS \leftrightarrow QFT in d dimension

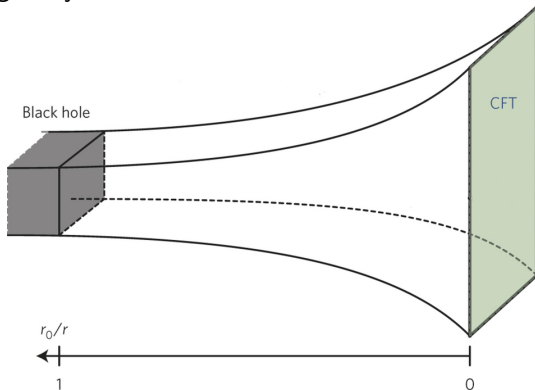


IIB string theory on $\text{AdS}_5 \times \text{S}_5 \leftrightarrow \mathcal{N} = 4$ Super-Yang-Mills
[Maldacena 1998, Witten 1998]

shear viscosity over entropy density ratio $\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \approx 0.08$
[Policastro, Son, Starinets 2001; Kovtun, Son, Starinets 2005]

Introduction gauge gravity duality

Quantum gravity in $d + 1$ dimension AdS \leftrightarrow QFT in d dimension



Holographic dictionary relates:

Black hole

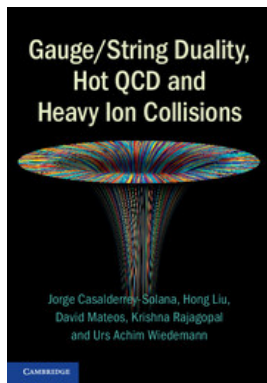
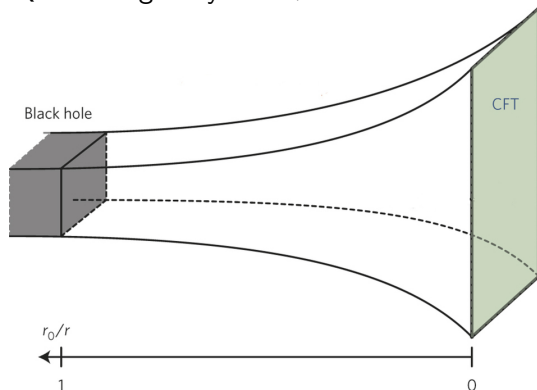
$g_{\mu\nu}$



Equilibrium state with
temperature

$T_{\mu\nu}$

Quantum gravity in $d + 1$ dimension AdS \leftrightarrow QFT in d dimension



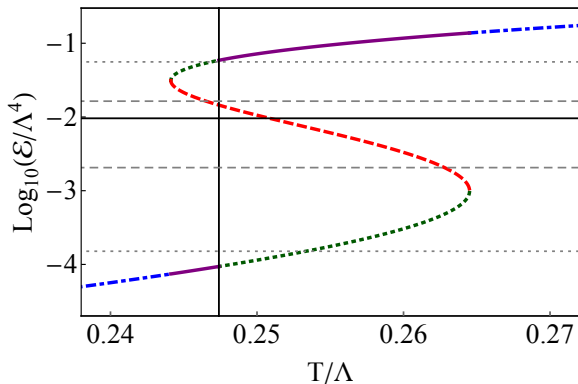
Use of the duality:

To solve complicated dynamical problems in non-abelian theories.
As a source of new modeling ideas for strongly coupled QGP.

Dual field theory: 'mimics' a deformation of N=4 SYM with a dimension 3 operator O and Λ as 'mass'

$$S_{\text{GaugeTheory}} = S_{\text{conformal}} + \int d^4x \Lambda O$$

First order phase transition at the critical temperature seen in the multivalued plot of the energy density in function of the temperature



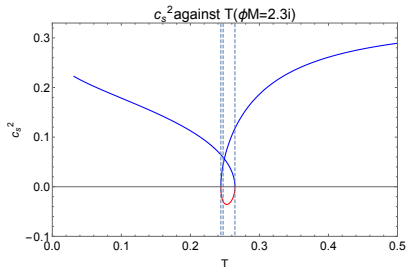
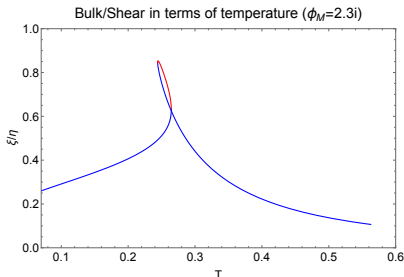
Einstein-Hilbert action coupled to a scalar with non-trivial potential (single parameter ϕ_M) in five-dimensional bottom-up model:

$$S = \frac{2}{\kappa_5^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{1}{4} \mathcal{R} - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla\phi)^2 - V(\phi) \right]$$

Holographic renormalization [Bianchi, Freedman, Skenderis 2002]

$$V(\phi) = -\frac{1}{12\phi_M^4} \phi^8 + \left(\frac{1}{2\phi_M^4} \mp \frac{1}{3\phi_M^2} \right) \phi^6 - \frac{1}{3} \phi^3 - \frac{3}{2} \phi^2 - 3.$$

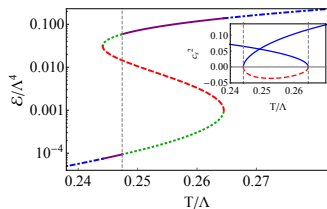
Small IR modification of the model leads to rich phase structure



Deconfined strong non-conformality with 1st order phase transition

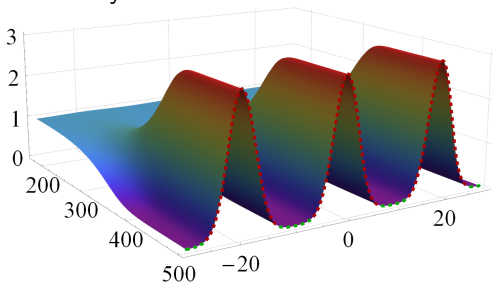
Homogeneous periodic box in thermodynamical unstable region:

Energy density versus temperature for the gauge theory:



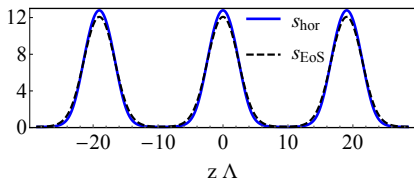
The dashed red curve is locally unstable, the dotted green curve metastable.

Energy density evolution of black branes afflicted by the Gregory-Laflamme instability:



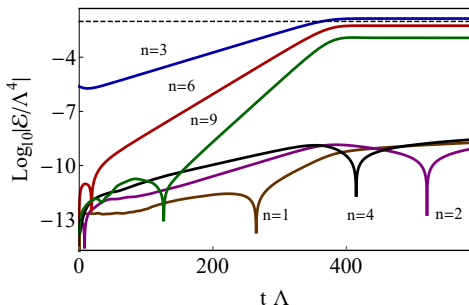
excited unstable mode growth until non-linear saturation

Final entropy density



Final entropy density extracted from the area of the horizon and estimated from the equation of state

Evolution of Fourier modes of the local energy density

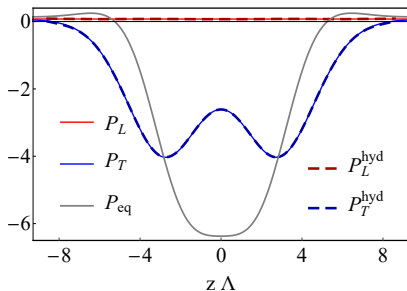


momentum dependent growth rate

$$\Gamma(k) \simeq |c_s| k - \frac{1}{2T} \left(\frac{4\eta}{3s} + \frac{\zeta}{s} \right) k^2.$$

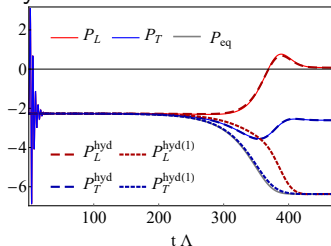
Hydrodynamics description with transport coefficients $c_{L/T}, f_{L/T}$:

$$P_{L/T}^{\text{hyd}} = P_{\text{eq}}(\mathcal{E}) + c_{L/T}(\mathcal{E})(\partial_z \mathcal{E})^2 + f_{L/T}(\mathcal{E})(\partial_z^2 \mathcal{E})$$



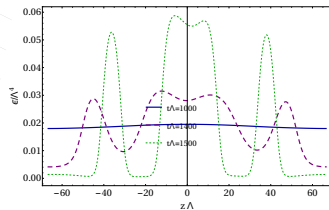
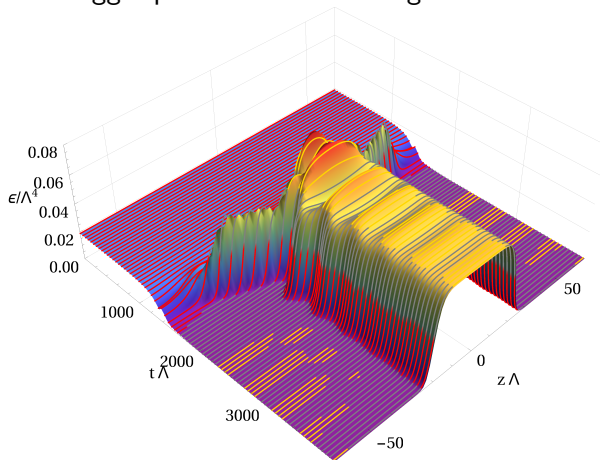
Pressures agree with hydrodynamic prediction for a different state

Pressures predicted by hydro match:



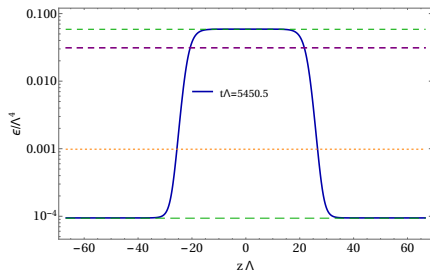
Early time behaviour with exponential decay of quasi-normal modes

Bigger periodic box with single excited mode:



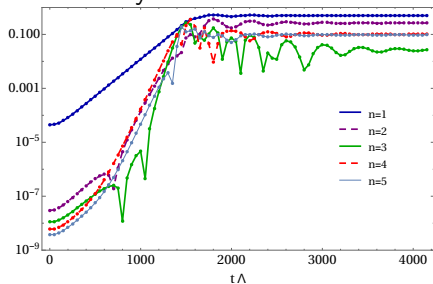
Cooled and hot regions are on the respective stable phase [Janik, Jankowski, Soltanpanahi 2017]

Final static state:



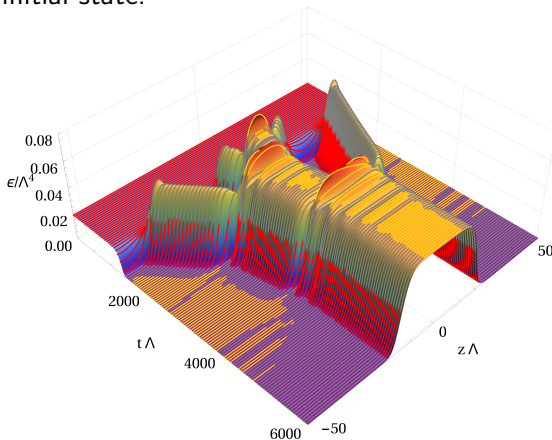
Phase separated final state

mode analysis



Initial $n = 1$ excited

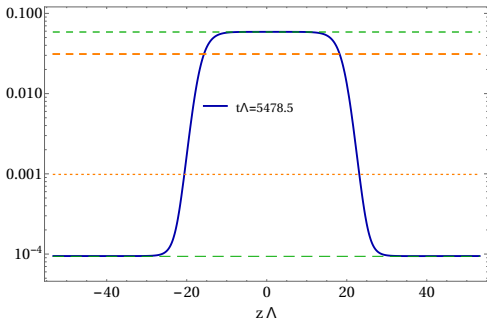
Unexcited initial state:



Minimizing free energy to have only a single blob

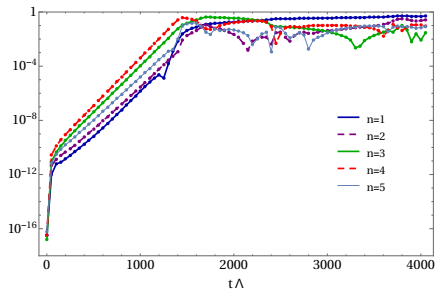
Spinodal instability triggered by numerical noise II

Final static state:



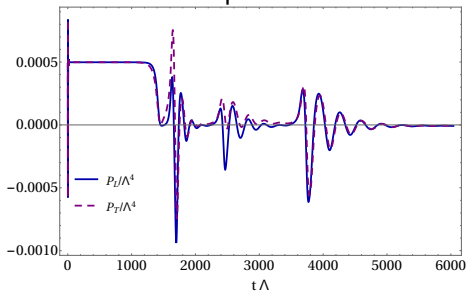
Phase separated final state

Unstable mode growth

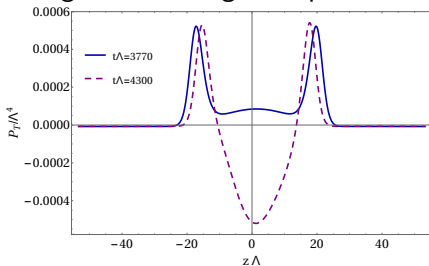


$n = 4$ unstable mode pushing
four initial peaks

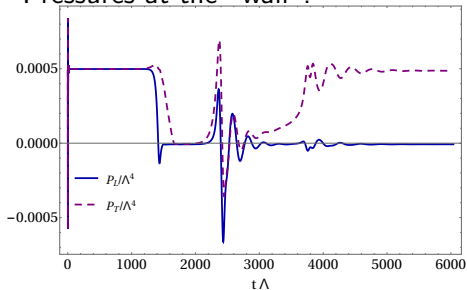
Pressures at midpoint:



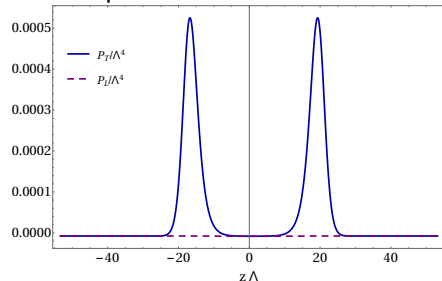
Longitudinal merger snapshots:



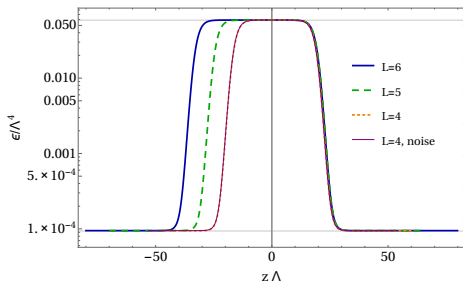
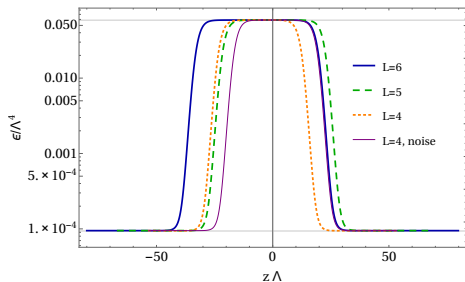
Pressures at the "wall":



Final equilibrated state:

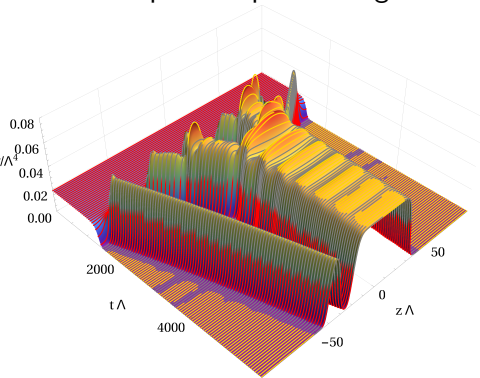


Large boxes with different extent and initial conditions:



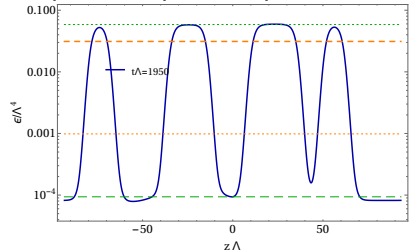
Universal "domain-wall" type phase separation.

Different phase separated region:

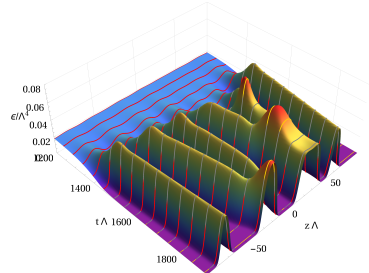


Merger to preferred state.

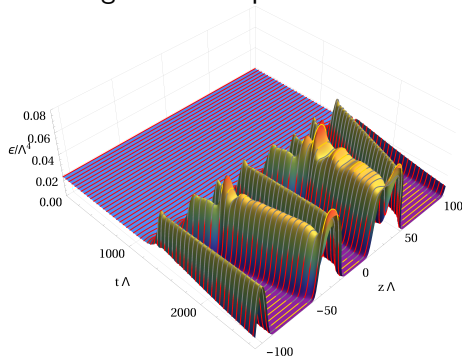
Snapshot at phase separation:



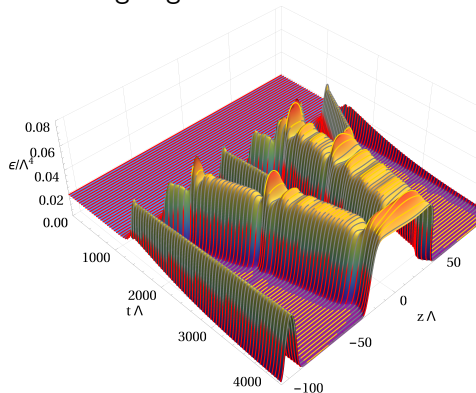
Early time evolution:



Premerger time snapshot:



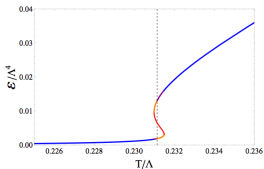
Ongoing evolution:



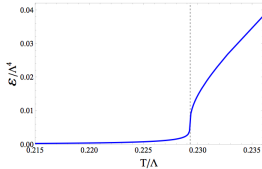
Separated phases over longer times merge to preferred state

One more thing: Collisions near a critical point

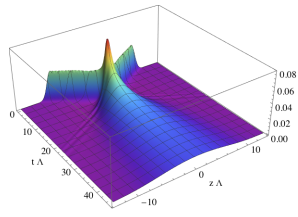
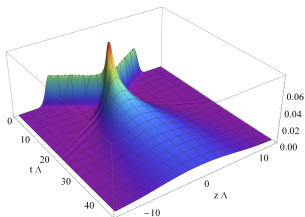
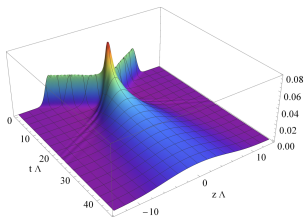
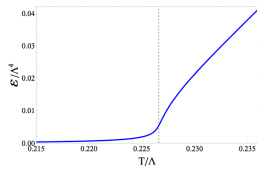
1st order:



2nd order:



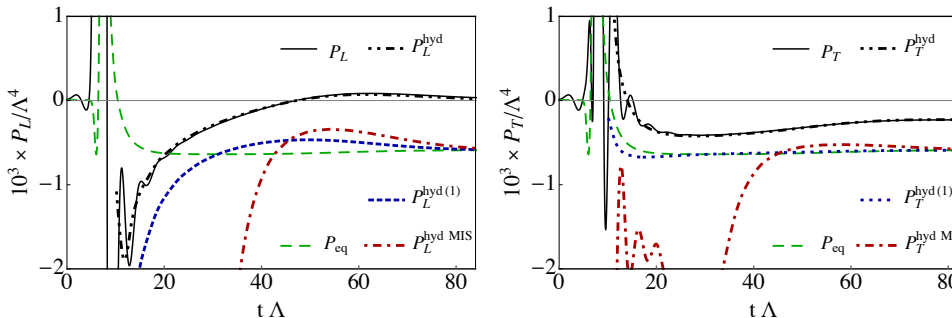
crossover:



Different thermodynamics with similar off-equilibrium blob formation

One more thing: Collisions near a critical point

Müller-Israel-Stewart-type hydrodynamics fails to describe the pressure evolution at mid rapidity in the formed blob:



Well described by the constitutive relations of second-order hydrodynamics that include all spatial second-order gradients.

- **First simulation** of a holographic spinodal instability
- Excitation of the **Gregory-Laflamme instability**
- Final set of static inhomogeneous black branes
- **Spinodal instabilities** lead to phase separation and mergers
 - The system settles (!?) into a preferred inhomogeneous state (!)
 - The final state is also described by hydrodynamics!
- New example of the **applicability of hydrodynamics** to systems with large gradients in energy densities - even in non-trivial phase structure - both for the time evolution of the spinodal instability and the static final states
- More studies are on the way

