

# Searching for perfect fluid in ultracold fermionic gas

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Wei Quan (UW)

# ultracold fermionic gas =

very dilute gas of atoms (half-integer total angular momentum) confined in external potential and cooled down to very low temperatures!

[System is metastable - life time ~ min.]

Among the control parameters we can list:

- temperature,
- density,
- type of atoms (bosons, fermions),
- mixture,
- polarization,
- shape of confining potential (cloud, optical lattices)
- dimensionality
- interaction between atoms can be tuned** over a wide range (via Feshbach resonances) - the most unique ability!

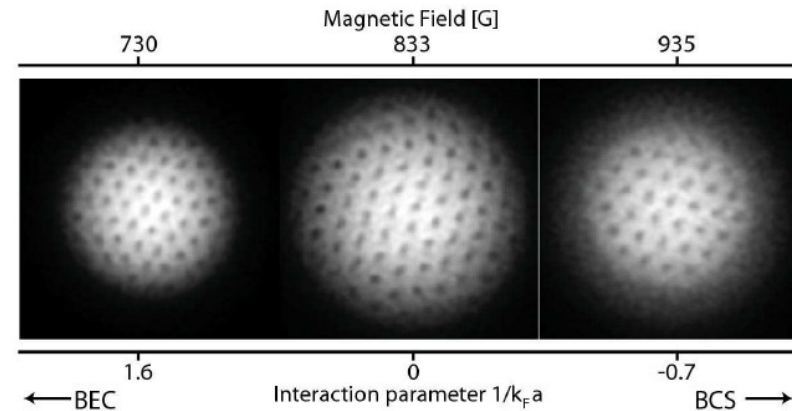
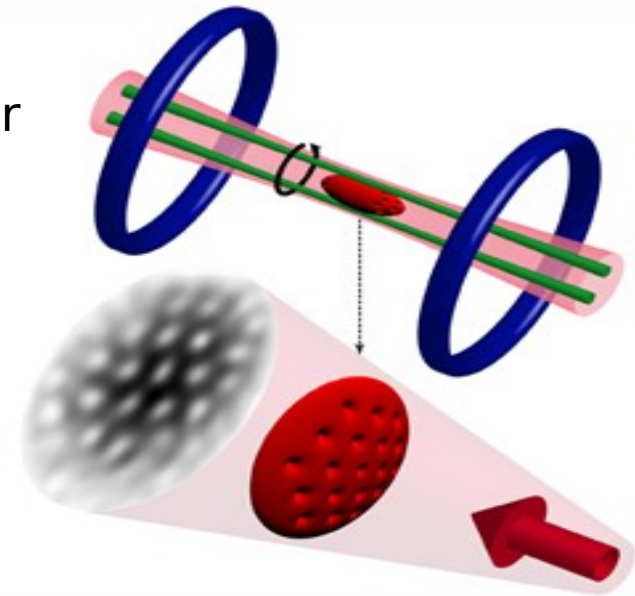
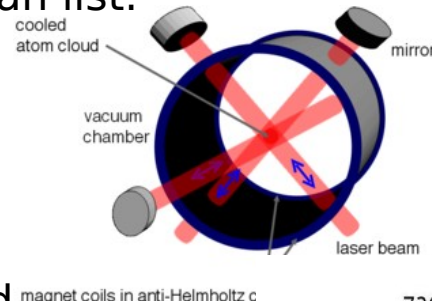
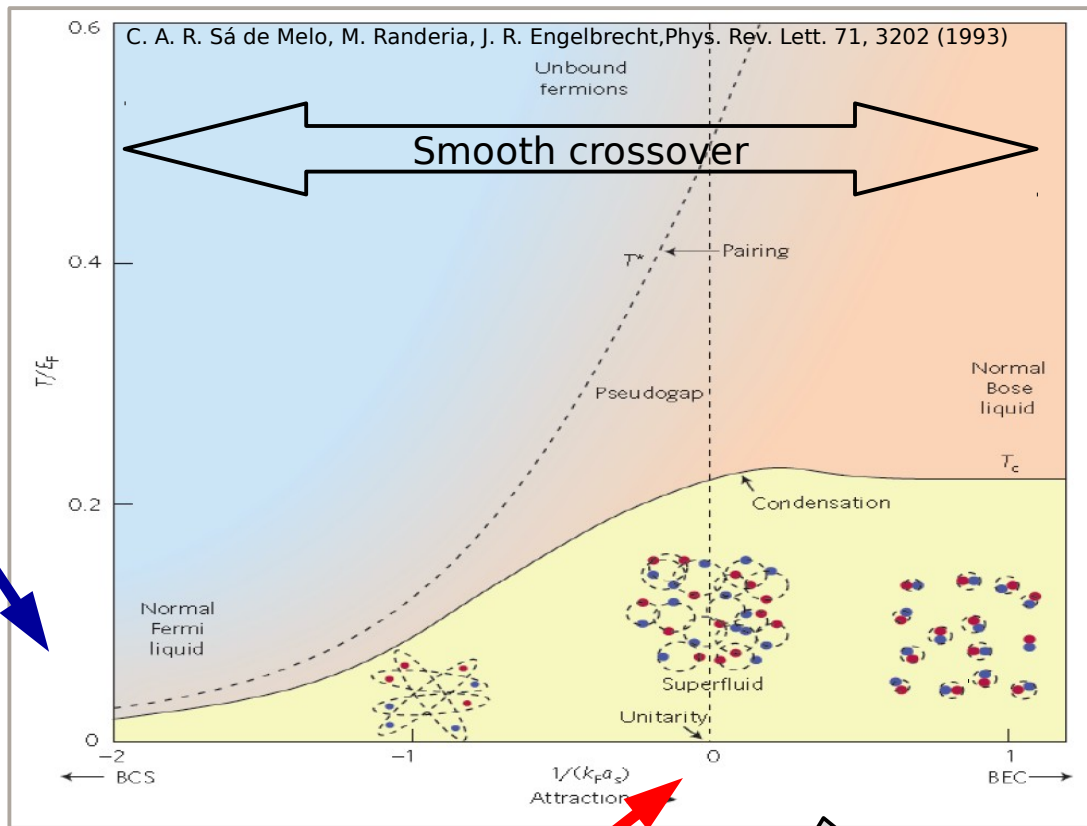


FIG. 36 Vortex lattice in a rotating gas of  ${}^6\text{Li}$  precisely at the Feshbach resonance and on the BEC and BCS side. Reprinted with permission from Zwierlein *et al.* (2005).

**QUANTUM  
SIMULATORS / EMULATORS**



Free Fermi gas  
[only normal state]

Noninteracting bosons  
[condensate + normal state]

Universal physics

Unitary Fermi gas  
[superfluid + pseudogap + normal state]

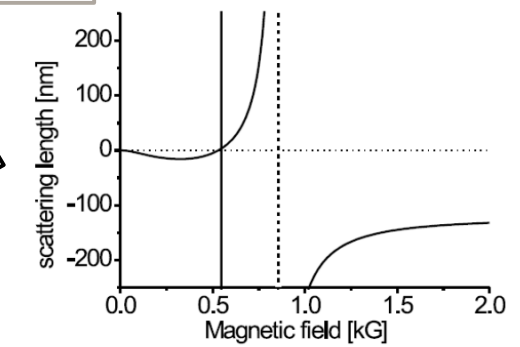


FIG. 4: Magnetic field dependence of the scattering length in  ${}^6\text{Li}$ , showing a broad Feshbach resonance at  $B_0 \approx 834$  G and a narrow Feshbach resonance at  $B_0 \approx 543$  G (can not be resolved on this scale). From Bourdel *et al.* (2003).

# Universality of UFG

Low energy scattering:

$$f(k) \simeq \frac{1}{-\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{2}r_{\text{eff}}k^2 - ik} \rightarrow \frac{i}{k}$$

Universal form

$$\sigma_0(k) \leq 4\pi/k^2$$

Total cross section is saturated

Effective parameters defining interaction (coupling constants)

$$\begin{cases} k_F r_{\text{eff}} \rightarrow 0 & \text{System is dilute but...} \\ k_F a \rightarrow \pm\infty & \text{strongly interacting!} \end{cases}$$

- ☑ Unitary limit: no interaction length scale...
- ☑ Universal physics...
  - ➔ Cold atomic gases
  - ➔ Neutron matter
  - ➔ High-Tc superconductors
  - ➔ Heavy ion collisions
- ☑ Simple, but hard to calculate! (Bertsch Many Body X-challenge)

The only relevant scale is mean interparticle distance  $n^{1/3}$  – as for free Fermi gas!

All thermodynamic quantities should be universal function of the Fermi energy  $e_F$  and of the ratio  $k_B T/e_F$

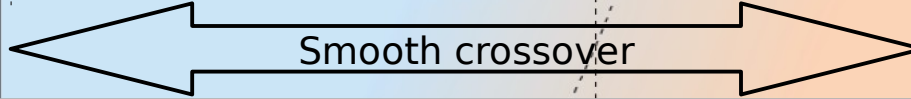
Universal dimensionless function

$$E(T) = \xi(k_B T/\varepsilon_F) E_{fg}$$

0.6

C. A. R. Sá de Melo, M. Randeria, J. R. Engelbrecht, Phys. Rev. Lett. 71, 3202 (1993)

Unbound fermions



Noninteracting fermions

Free Fermi gas

The ultracold atoms provide an **ideal laboratory** for very precise experimental and theoretical studies of an enormous range of **quantum mechanical phenomena**.

- ...
- verification of various hypothetical bounds for transport coefficients (like viscosities) having their roots directly in quantum mechanics
- ...

Universal physics

Unitary Fermi gas

[superfluid + pseudogap + normal state]

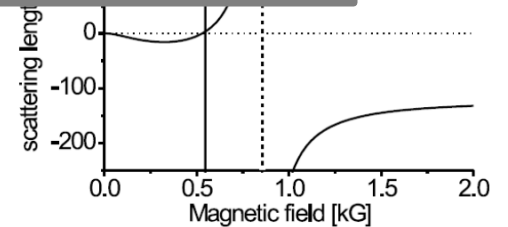


FIG. 4: Magnetic field dependence of the scattering length in  $^6\text{Li}$ , showing a broad Feshbach resonance at  $B_0 \approx 834$  G and a narrow Feshbach resonance at  $B_0 \approx 543$  G (can not be resolved on this scale). From Bourdel *et al.* (2003).

# KSS conjecture

[Kovtun, Son, Starinets, PRL (2005)]

shear  
viscosity

$$\frac{\eta}{s} \geq \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\hbar}{k_B}$$

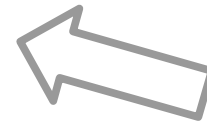
entropy  
density

Minimum defines  
a "perfect" fluid

Bound has been proposed on  
the basis of string theory.

Valid for large class of (string) theories.

Saturated for the case of strongly  
coupled theory.



*Idea: generate system  
with lowest possible  
viscosity*

Other propositions:

- Hydrodynamic bound for  $\eta/n$  (originating from quantum fluctuations)

[Chafin and Schafer PRA 2013; Romatschke and Young PRA 2013]

- Conductivity bound  $\sigma/x$

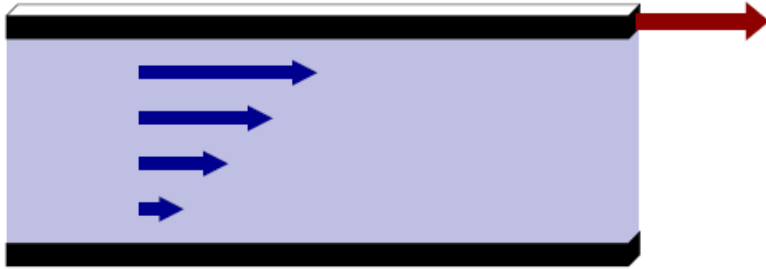
[Kovtun and Ritz PRD 2008]

- Existence of minimal value for spin diffusion coefficient

[Bruun, New J. Phys. 2011]

# Shear viscosity

The shear viscosity: determines “friction” force  $F$  per unit area  $A$  created by a shear flow



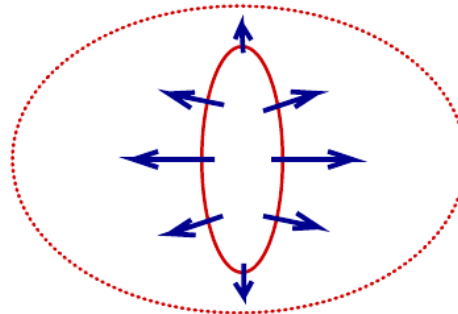
$$F = A \eta \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y}$$

For incompressible fluid or if  $\xi=0$ : kinetic energy dissipated per unit time

$$\dot{E}_{\text{kin}} = -\frac{1}{2}\eta \int \left( \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} \right)^2 dV$$

Kinetic theory (Boltzmann equation) prediction:  $\eta = n\bar{p}l_{\text{mfp}}$

For ideal hydrodynamic ( $\eta \rightarrow 0$  and  $\xi \rightarrow 0$ )  
 → **elliptic flow**



*Perfect fluid*  
*Ingredients:*

☑ **Strongly interacting system**

☑ ...

Note: in general  $\eta \rightarrow 0$  and  $\xi \rightarrow 0 \neq$  ideal hydrodynamic

# Viscosity coefficients

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j}^\epsilon = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho v_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \Pi_{ij} = 0$$

Stress tensor

ideal

$$\Pi_{ij} = \underbrace{P \delta_{ij} + \rho v_i v_j}_{\text{ideal}} + \delta \Pi_{ij}$$

Shear viscosity

$$\delta \Pi_{ij} = -\eta (\nabla_i v_j + \nabla_j v_i - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) - \zeta \delta_{ij} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v})$$

$$\vec{j}_i^\epsilon = \underbrace{v_i (\epsilon + P)}_{\text{ideal}} + v_j \delta \Pi_{ij} - \kappa \nabla_i T$$

ideal

Thermal conductivity

The **hydrodynamics** of a non-relativistic one-component (non-superfluid) fluid is governed by the conservation laws.

6 hydrodynamic variables:  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $P$

In order to close equations:

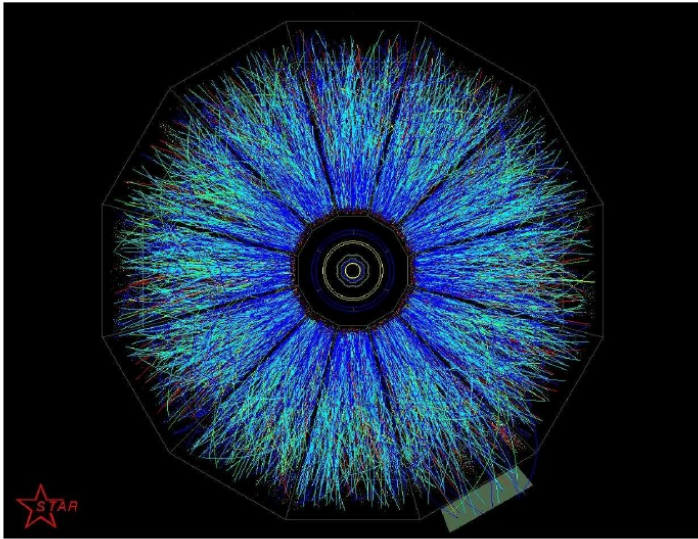
$$P = P(\epsilon, \rho)$$

→ dissipation (1<sup>st</sup> order)

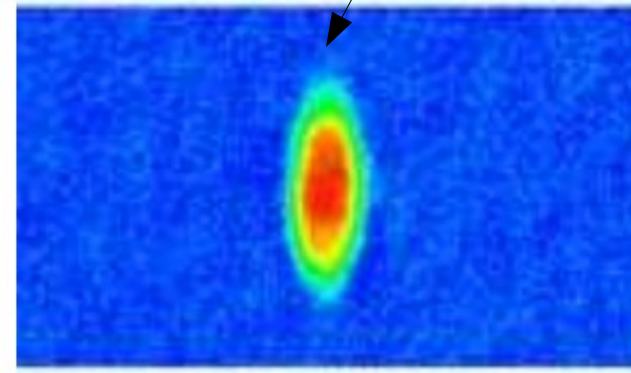
Bulk viscosity



# Systems with low viscosity...



Hottest and coldest systems...



UFG - limit of infinite coupling constant  $ak_F$

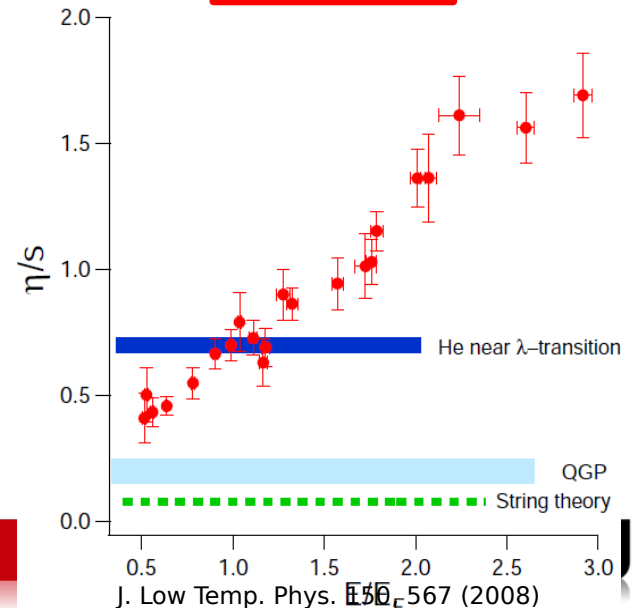
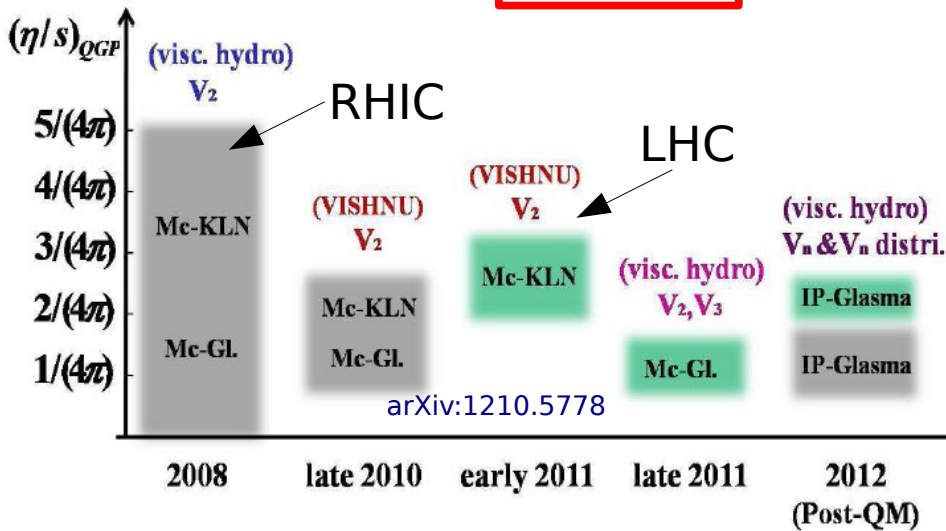
Trapped Atoms

$$\eta = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-15} Pa \cdot s$$

(T=0.1 neV)

$$\eta/s \leq 0.5$$

QGP  $\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{11} Pa \cdot s$   
 (T=180 MeV)  $\eta/s \leq 0.4$



# Natural units for shear viscosity

$$Pa \cdot s = \frac{N}{m^2} \cdot s = J \cdot s \cdot \frac{1}{m^3}$$

Natural dimensionless quantity is:

$$\frac{\eta}{n\hbar}$$

← Typically  
this quantity  
we use  
for non-relativistic  
systems

In the case of a relativistic fluid  
the number of particles is not conserved.

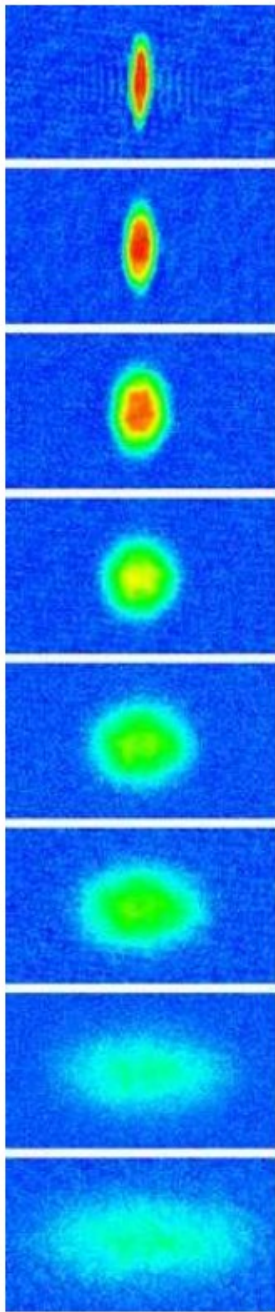
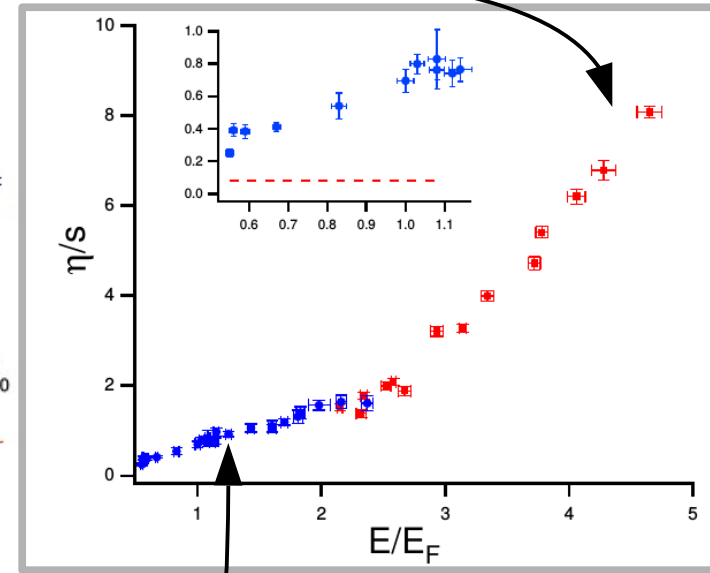
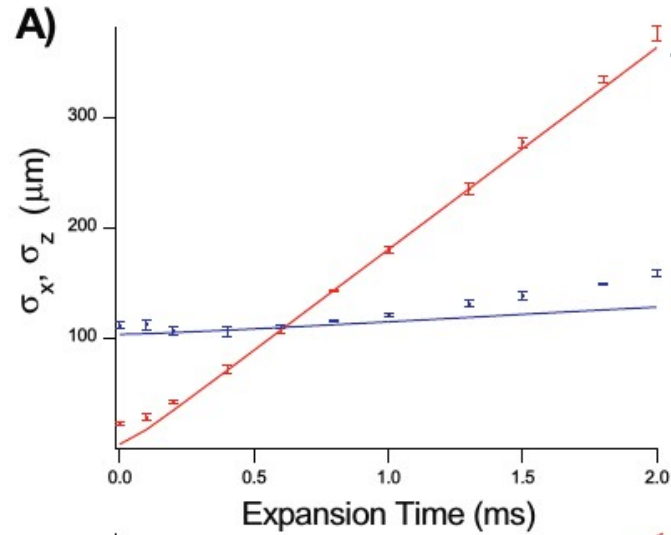
As a consequence the quantity  $n$  is not well defined...

But  $\frac{\eta k_B}{s\hbar}$  is also dimensionless...

This ratio is well defined in both the relativistic and non-relativistic case, and typically  $s \sim nk_B$

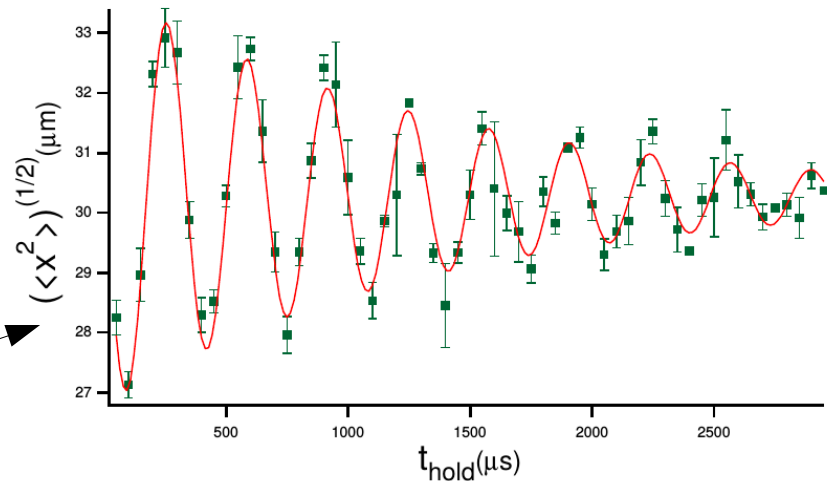
# Measurements

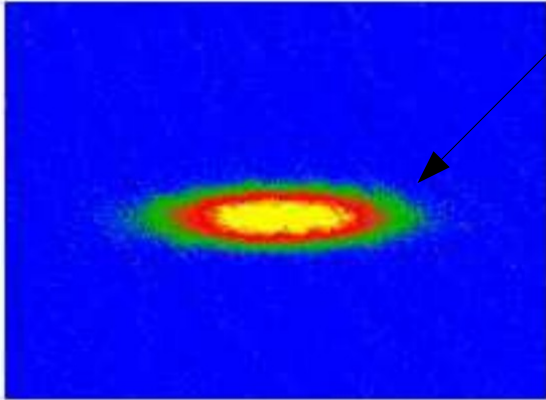
New Journal of Physics 13 (2011) 075007



Observations of elliptic flow  
[less accurate for small viscosities]

Observation of the radial breathing mode excited by releasing the cloud for a short time and then recapturing it  
[more accurate for small viscosities]





Non-uniform system!

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \varepsilon_F(n) &= \frac{\hbar^2 (3\pi^2 n)^{2/3}}{2m} \\ \theta &= \frac{k_B T}{\varepsilon_F} \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Position dependent} \\ \eta = \eta(\theta) \end{array}$$

Reduced temperature

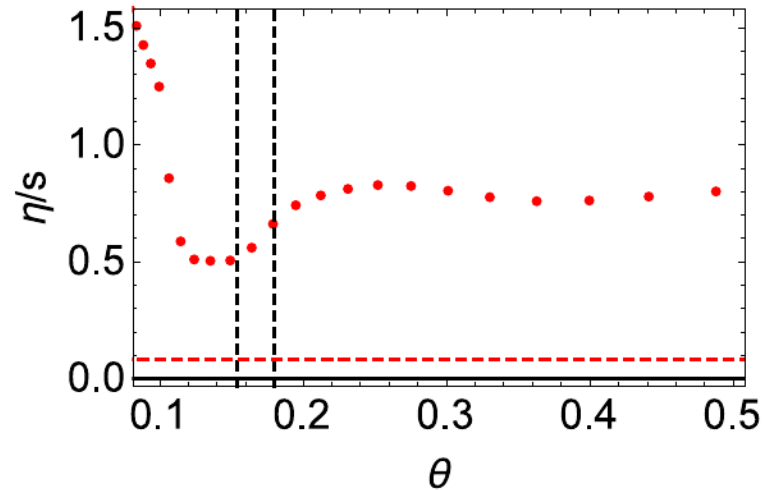
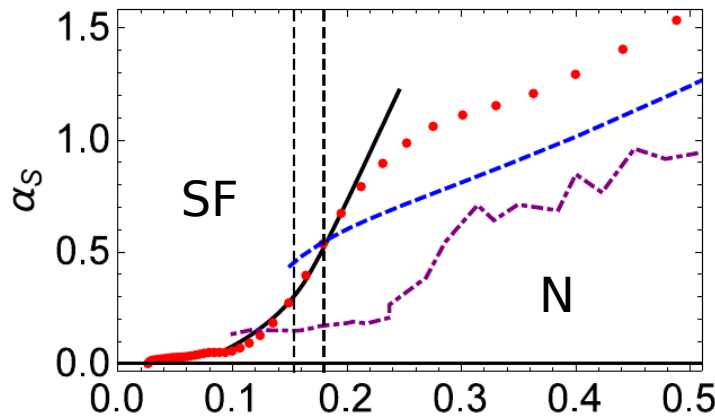
Position dependent

$$\eta = \eta(\theta)$$

Experiments provides averaged value

$$\langle \eta/n \rangle = \frac{1}{N\hbar} \int \eta(\mathbf{r}) d^3 \mathbf{r}$$

Extraction of the shear viscosity for uniform system from non-uniform measurements (model dependent)



# Shear viscosity from *ab-initio* calculations (QMC)

Input:

- Interaction - only requirement  $a \rightarrow \infty$  and  $r_{\text{eff}} \rightarrow 0$   
(many possible forms - take the most convenient for you)

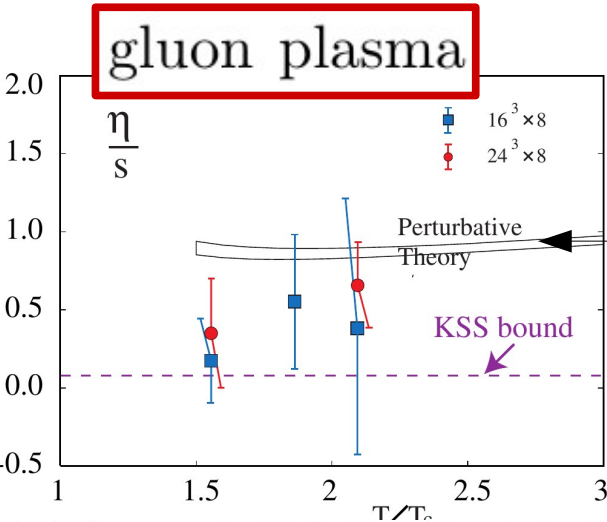
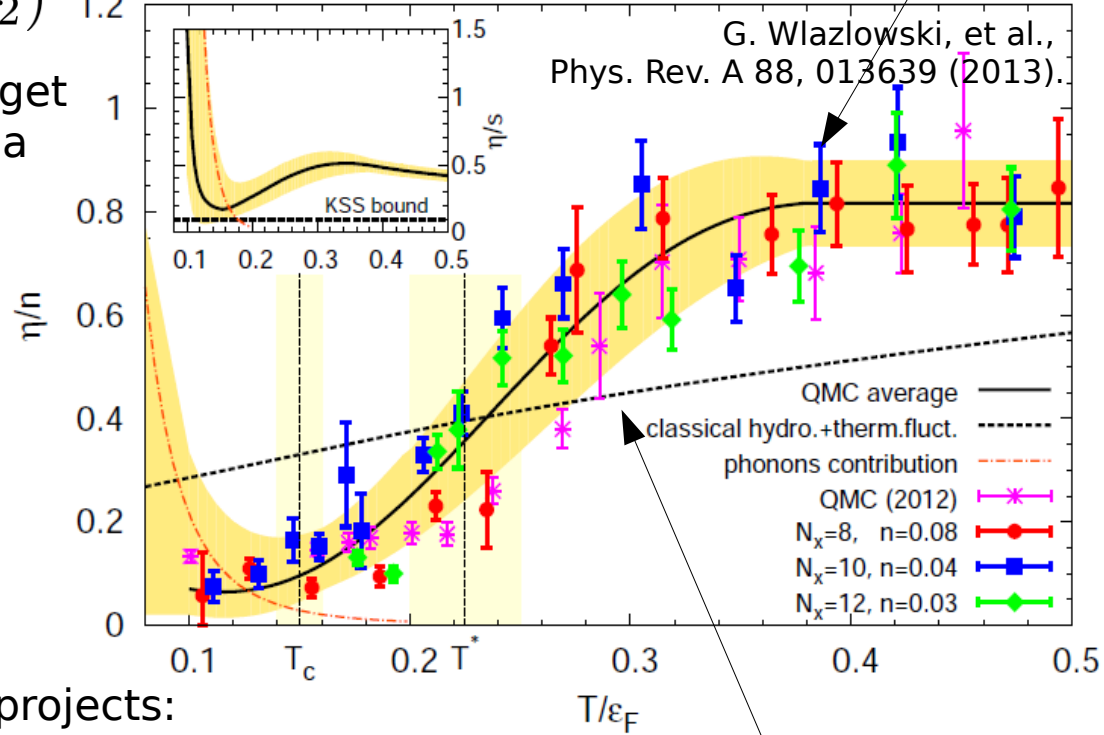
Theoretical uncertainties  
~10%

$V(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2) = -g\delta(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2)$

For these interaction QMC  
**free from sign problem!**

tune to get desired  $a$

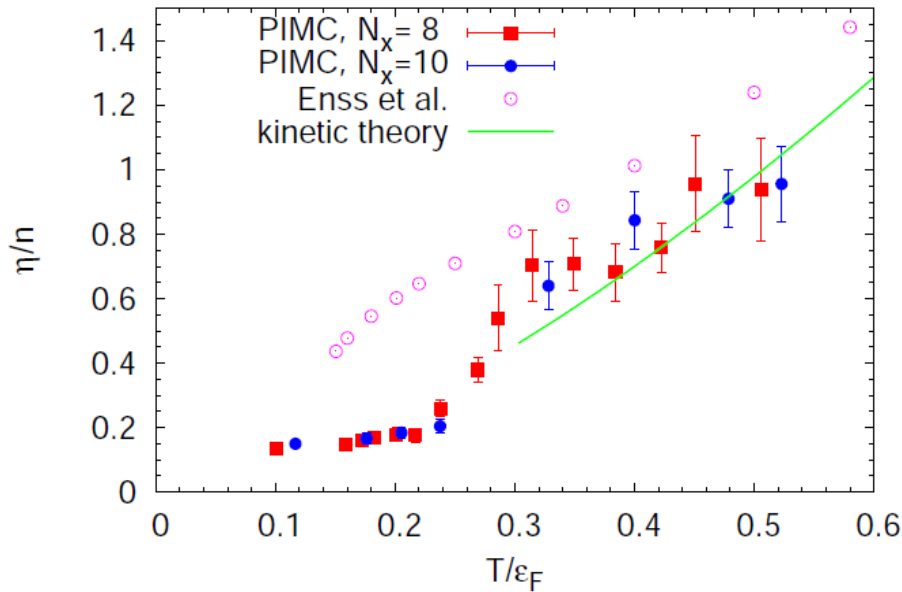
- Analytical results, like tail asymptotics, sum rules...



Similar projects:  
lattice computation  
of the shear viscosity  
for QGP  
(note size of uncertainties)  
(Calculations for quark-gluon plasma failed...)

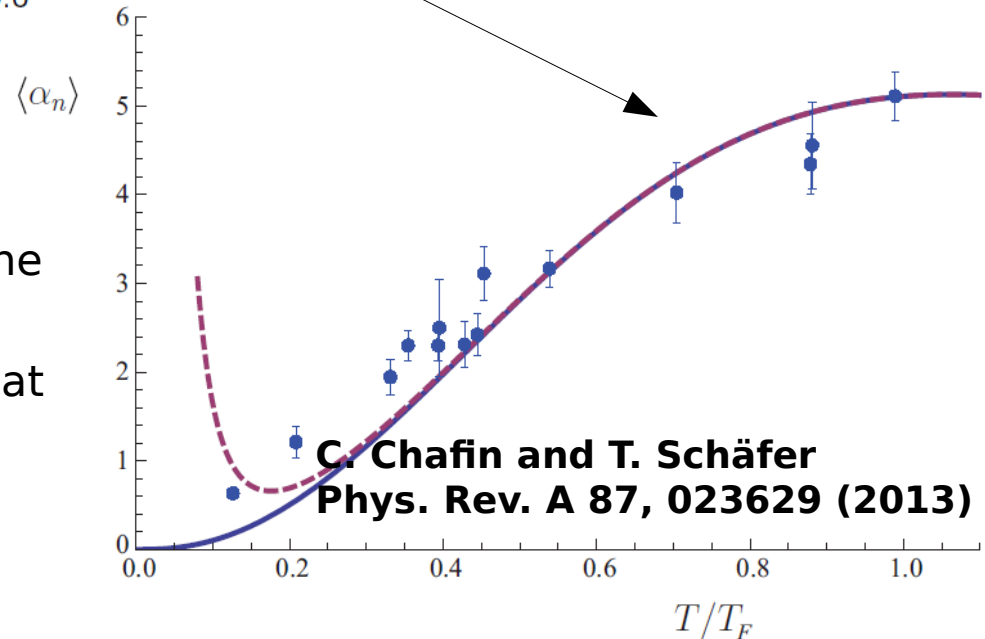
“hydrodynamic bound”  
violated!

# Shear viscosity from QMC



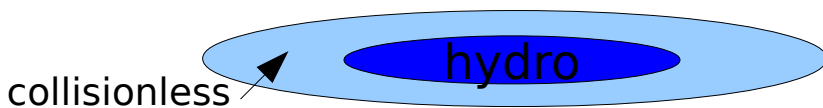
Kinetic theory seems to be valid for temperatures above  $0.4e_F$  ( $2.5T_c$ )

Trap averaged of the kinetic theory results



**Problem** with averaging procedure of the uniform results

Hydrodynamic description breaks down at the edges.



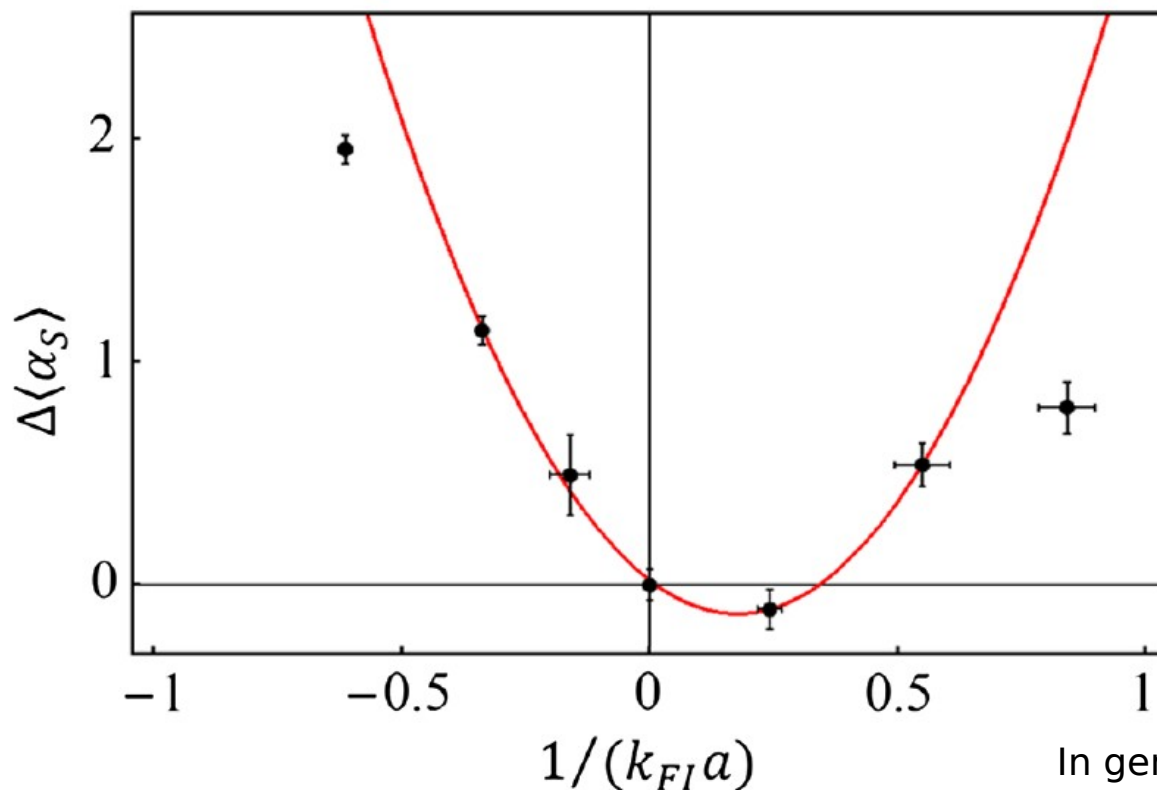
## Anomalous Minimum in the Shear Viscosity of a Fermi Gas

E. Elliott,<sup>1,2</sup> J. A. Joseph,<sup>1</sup> and J. E. Thomas<sup>1</sup>

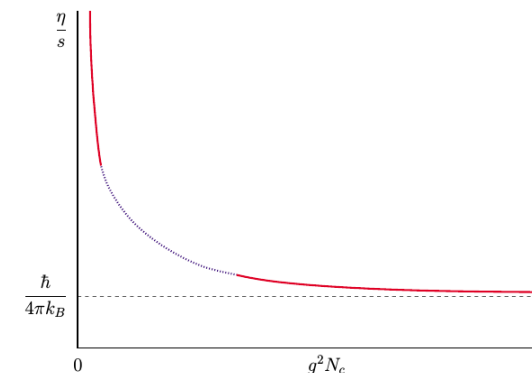
<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695, USA*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708, USA*

(Received 6 November 2013; revised manuscript received 21 April 2014; published 10 July 2014)



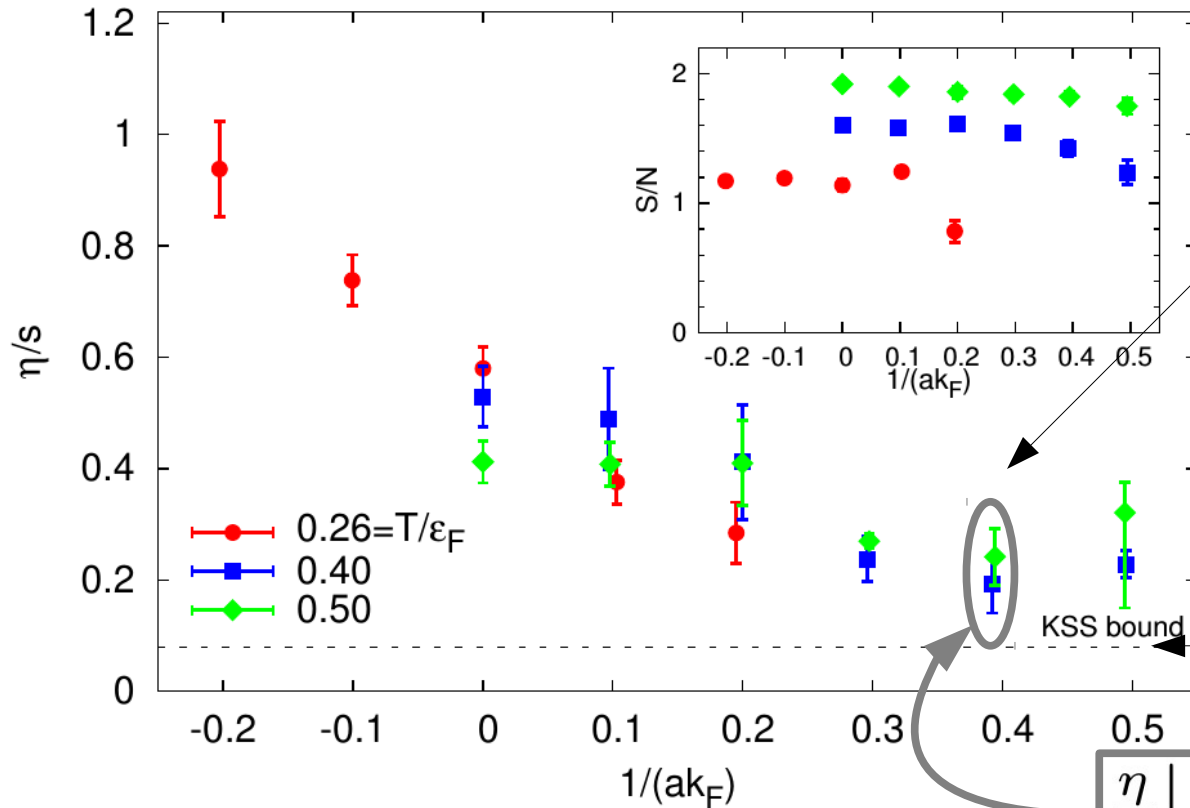
**Minimum of  
the shear viscosity  
not for UFG**  
(as suggested by KSS)



[Kovtun, Son, Starinets, PRL (2005)]

In general position of the minimum is  
temperature dependent

# Shear viscosity from QMC near unitary



Experimental finding also obtained in QMC simulations

$$\frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\hbar}{k_B} \approx 0.08 \frac{\hbar}{k_B}$$

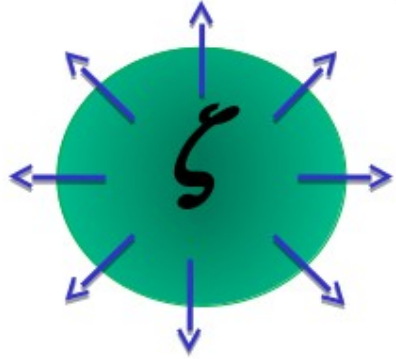
$$\left. \frac{\eta}{s} \right|_{min} \approx 0.2 \frac{\hbar}{k_B}$$

Conclusion:  
We have not found systems  
that violates KSS bound...

Recent theoretical prediction:  
KSS bound can be violated in "bad metals"  
[Pakhira, McKenzie, Phys. Rev. B 92, 125103 (2015)]

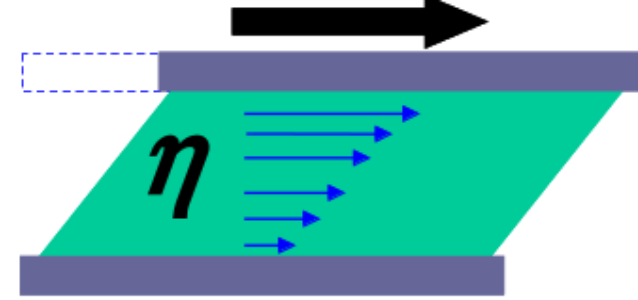


# Bulk viscosity



Works against radial expansion

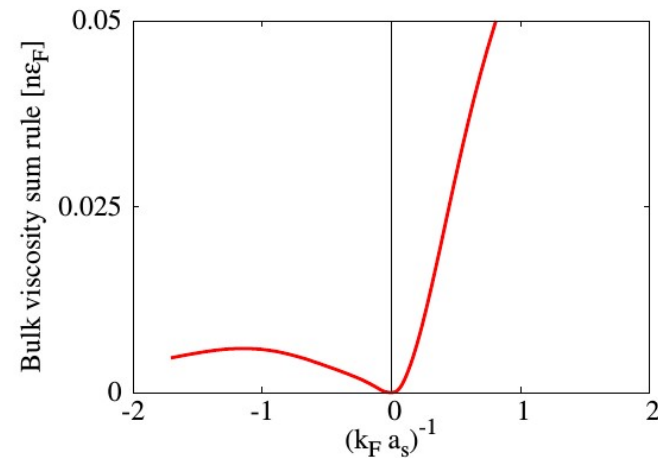
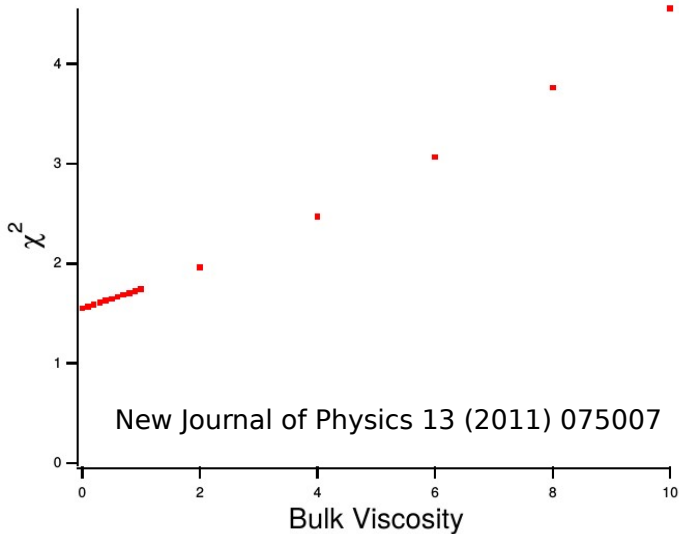
*But for UFG:*



Works against building gradients (anisotropy)...

No intrinsic length scale  $\rightarrow$  Uniform expansion keeps the unitary gas in equilibrium

Consequence:  
uniform expansion does not produce entropy = bulk viscosity is zero!



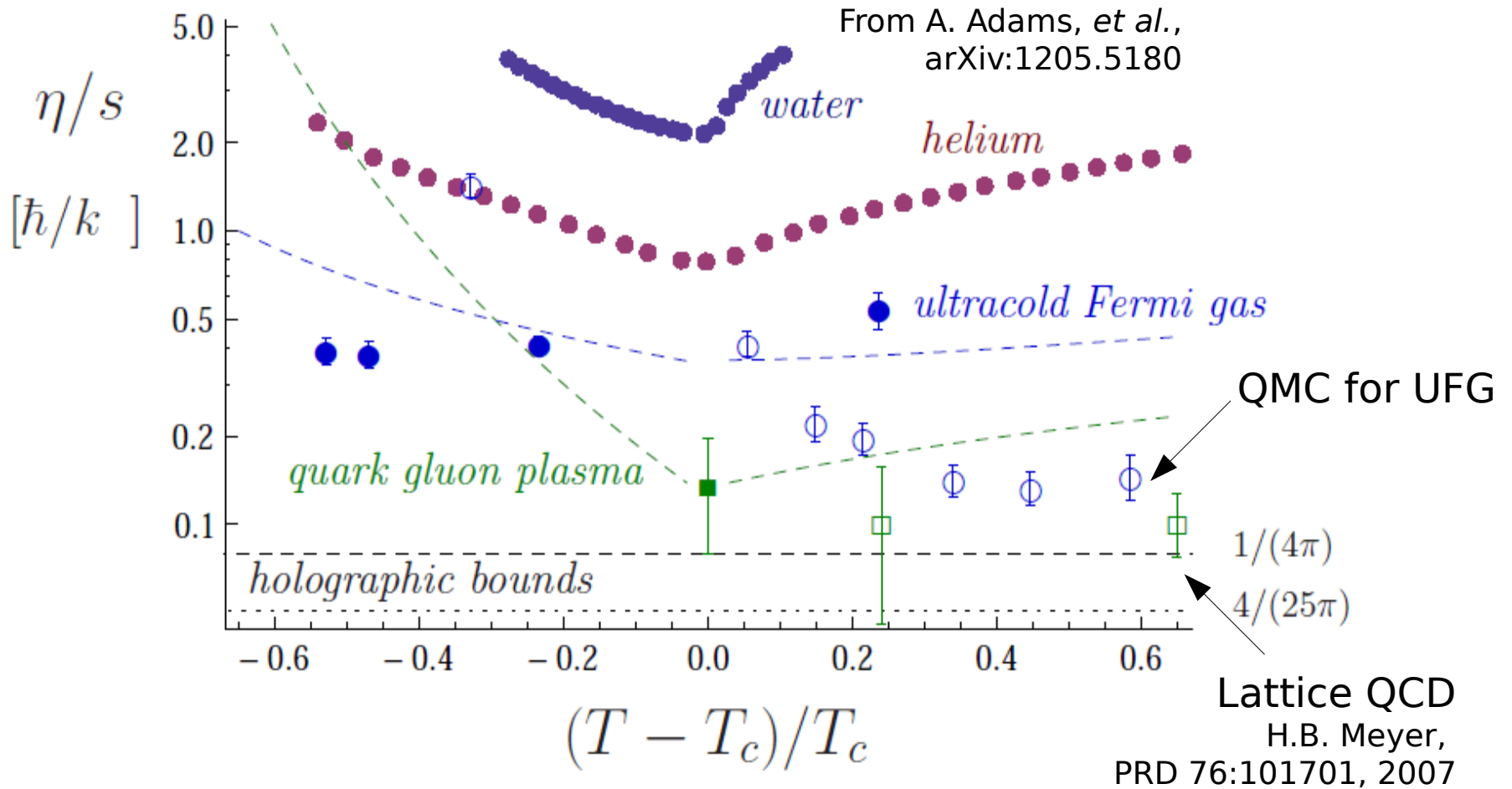
Phys.Rev.A81:053610,2010

Figure 5.  $\chi^2$  per degree of freedom versus bulk viscosity with shear viscosity as the only free parameter.

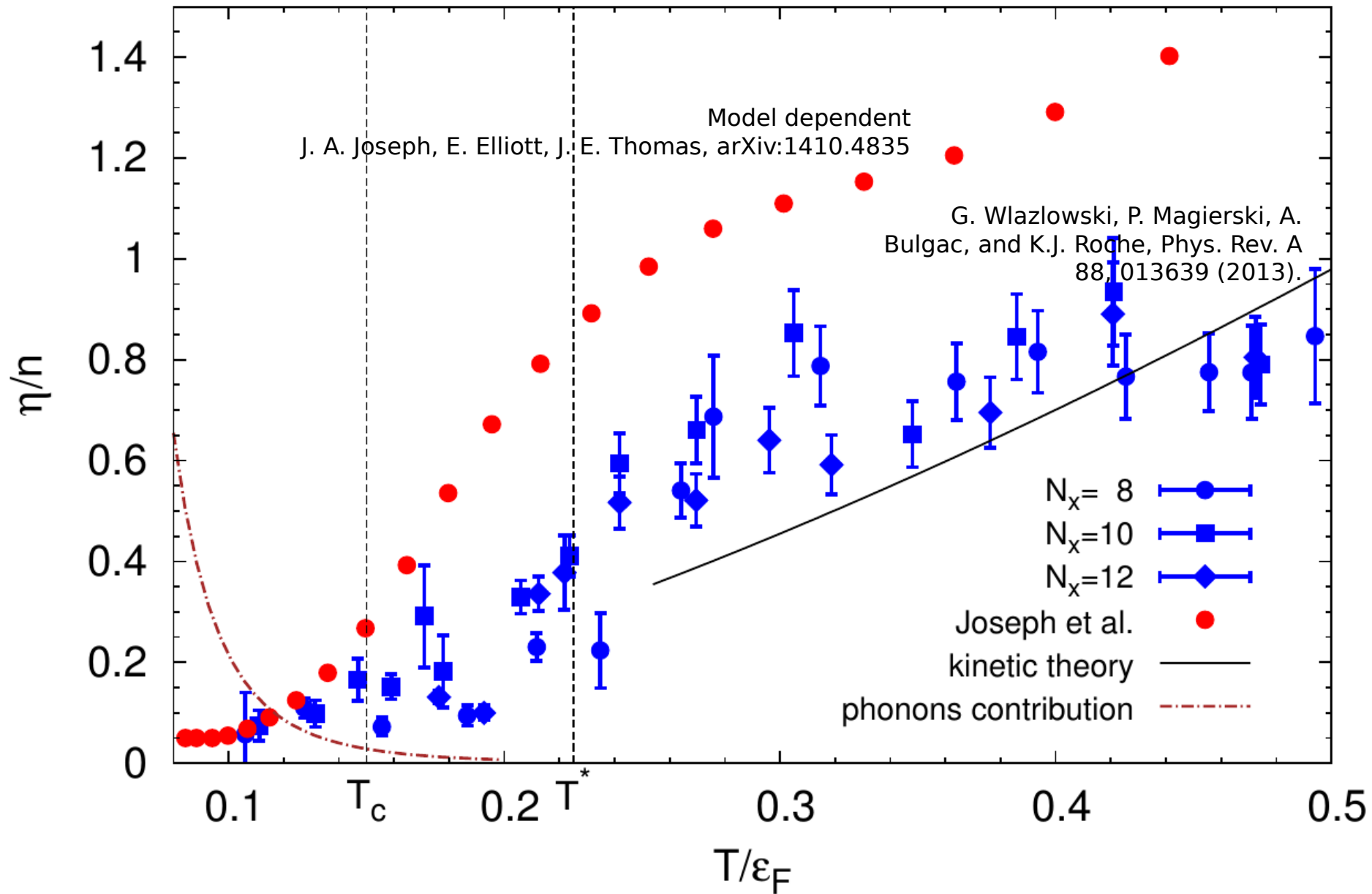
# ***Conclusions***

- ❑ Ultracold atoms can be tuned to get a system with lowest viscosity
- ❑ Computation of transport coefficients from first principles for fermionic system is feasible
- ❑ No violation of KSS bound
- ❑ Lowest value for  $\eta/s$  is about two times above KSS bound (QMC result)
- ❑ System with lowest viscosity realized for systems shifted towards BEC side of resonance

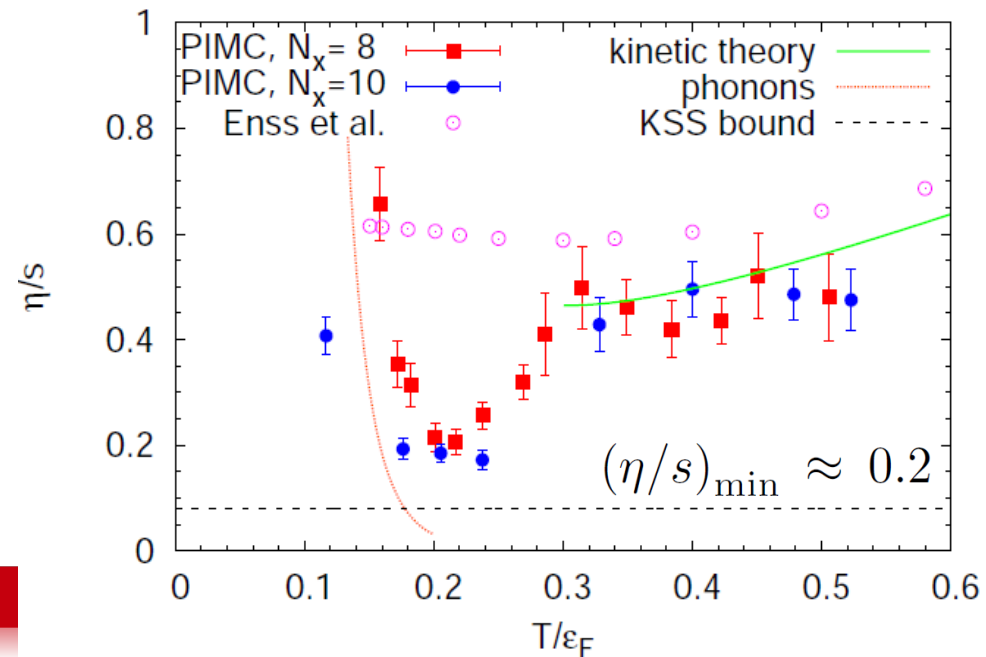
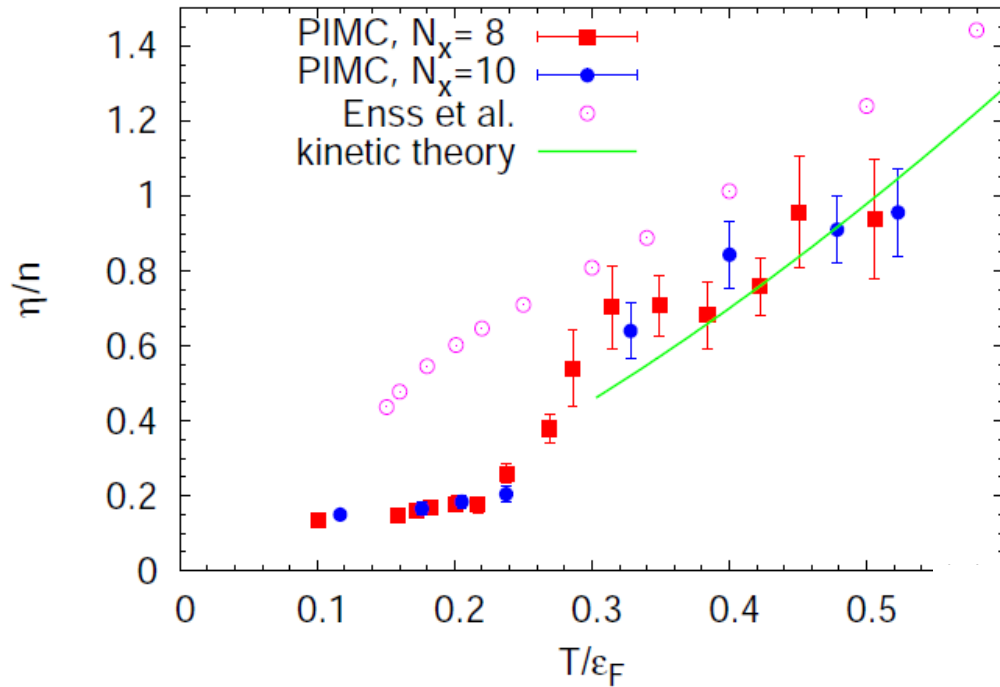
# Searching for perfect fluid...



**THANK YOU ...**



# Shear viscosity from QMC



fluid	$P$ [Pa]	$T$ [K]	$\eta$ [Pa·s]	$\eta/n$ [ $\hbar$ ]	$\eta/s$ [ $\hbar/k_B$ ]
H <sub>2</sub> O	$0.1 \cdot 10^6$	370	$2.9 \cdot 10^{-4}$	85	8.2
<sup>4</sup> He	$0.1 \cdot 10^6$	2.0	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.5	1.9
H <sub>2</sub> O	$22.6 \cdot 10^6$	650	$6.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$	32	2.0
<sup>4</sup> He	$0.22 \cdot 10^6$	5.1	$1.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$	1.7	0.7
<sup>6</sup> Li ( $a = \infty$ )	$12 \cdot 10^{-9}$	$23 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$\leq 1.7 \cdot 10^{-15}$	$\leq 1$	$\leq 0.5$
QGP	$88 \cdot 10^{33}$	$2 \cdot 10^{12}$	$\leq 5 \cdot 10^{11}$		$\leq 0.4$

**Table 1.** Viscosity  $\eta$ , viscosity over density, and viscosity over entropy density ratio for several fluids. Data for water and helium taken from [6] [7] and [8], data for Li and the quark gluon plasma (QGP) will be explained in Sect. [5]. For water and helium we show data at atmospheric pressure and temperatures just below the boiling point and the  $\lambda$  transition, respectively. These data points roughly correspond to the minimum of  $\eta/n$  at atmospheric pressure. We also show and data near the tri-critical point which roughly corresponds to the global minimum of  $\eta/s$ . Note that the quark gluon plasma does not have a well defined density.

From Rept.Prog.Phys.72:126001,2009

# Physical system: unitary Fermi gas (unpolarized)

$$\hat{H}_0 \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{p}, \lambda=\uparrow, \downarrow} \frac{p^2}{2m} \hat{a}_{\lambda}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p}) \hat{a}_{\lambda}(\mathbf{p}) - g \sum_i \hat{n}_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}_i) \hat{n}_{\downarrow}(\mathbf{r}_i)$$

$\frac{1}{g} = -\frac{m}{4\pi\hbar^2 a} + \frac{k_c m}{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}$

UFG: System is dilute  
but strongly interacting!

$$0 \leftarrow k_F r_0 \ll 1 \ll k_F a \rightarrow \infty$$

**NONPERTURBATIVE REGIME!**

# Method: Path Integral Monte Carlo

$$\langle O \rangle_0 = \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} \left\{ \hat{O} \exp[-\beta(\hat{H}_0 - \mu\hat{N})] \right\}$$
$$Z = \text{Tr} \left\{ \exp[-\beta(\hat{H}_0 - \mu\hat{N})] \right\}$$

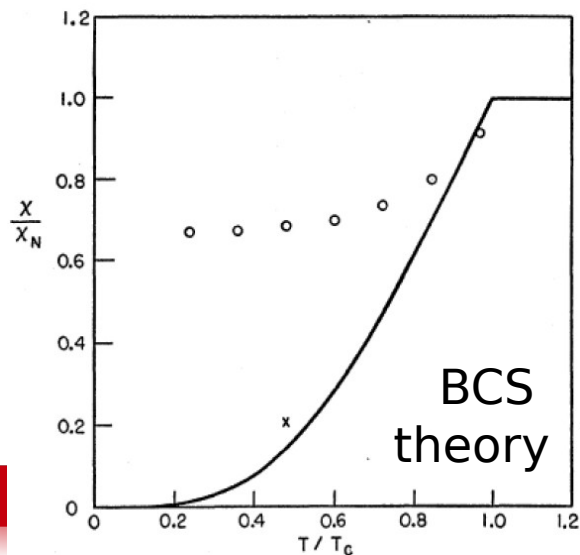
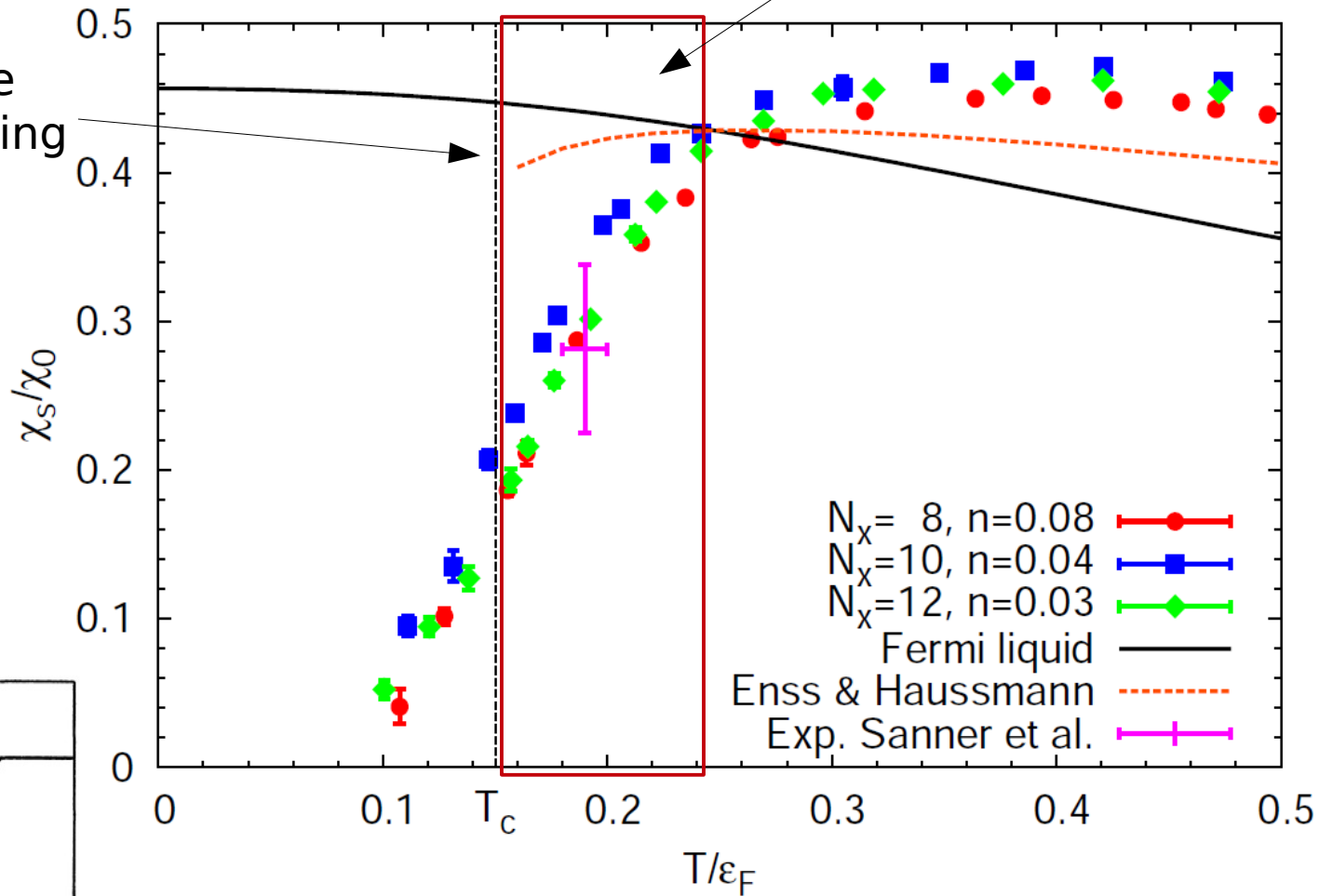
1. The system is placed on a cubic spatial lattice
2. Trotter-Suzuki decomposition to expand imaginary time evolution operator  $\exp[-\beta(\hat{H}_0 - \mu\hat{N})]$
3. The interaction is represented by means of a Hubbard-Stratonovich transformation
4. Evaluation of the emerging path-integral via Metropolis importance sampling - **NO SIGN PROBLEM**



# Static spin susceptibility

PSEUDOGAP REGIME

Critical temperature from finite size scaling analysis



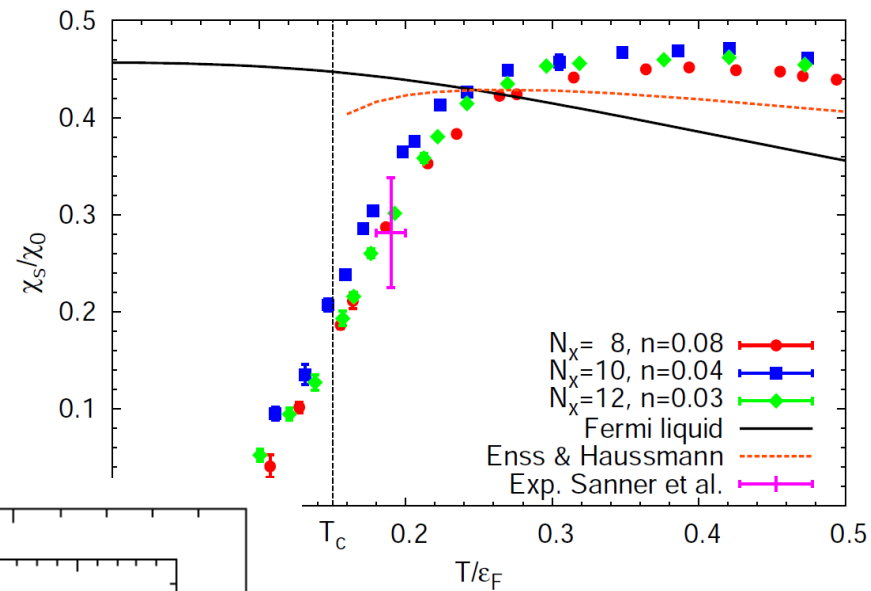
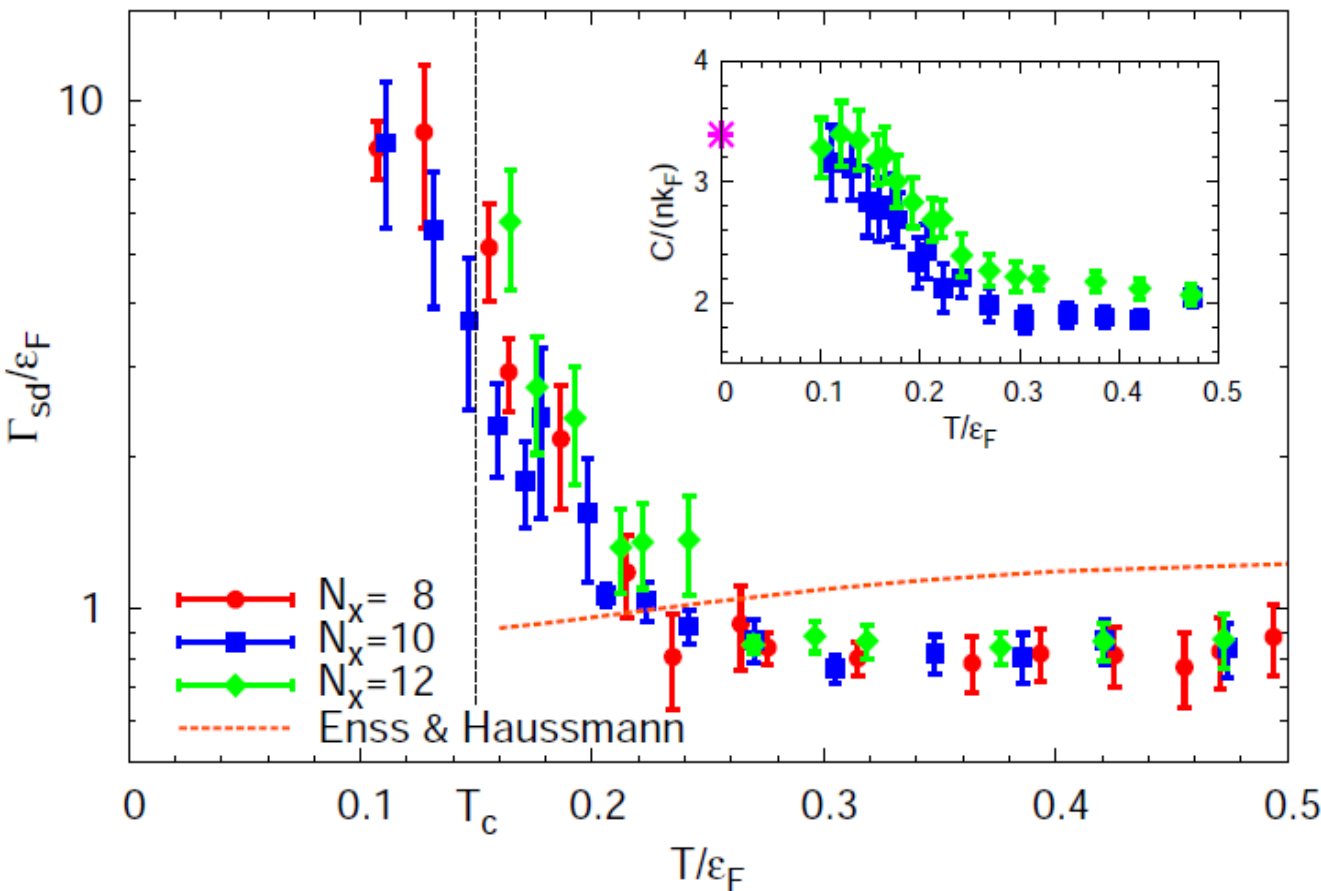
$$\chi_s = \partial(n_\uparrow - n_\downarrow) / \partial(\mu_\uparrow - \mu_\downarrow)$$

G. Wlazłowski, P. Magierski, J.E. Drut, A. Bulgac, K.J. Roche, Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 090401 (2013)

# Spin drag rate

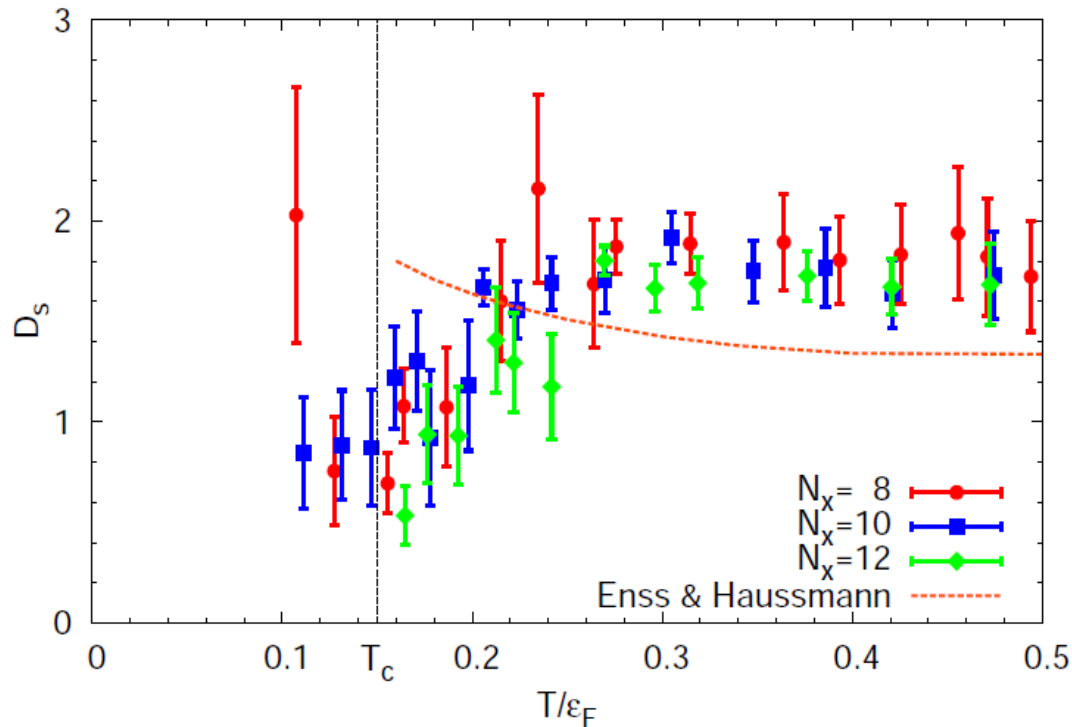
$$\Gamma_{sd} = n/\sigma_s$$

Enhancement appears consistently with the spin susceptibility suppression



G. Wlazłowski, P. Magierski,  
J.E. Drut, A. Bulgac, K.J. Roche,  
PRL 110, 090401 (2013)

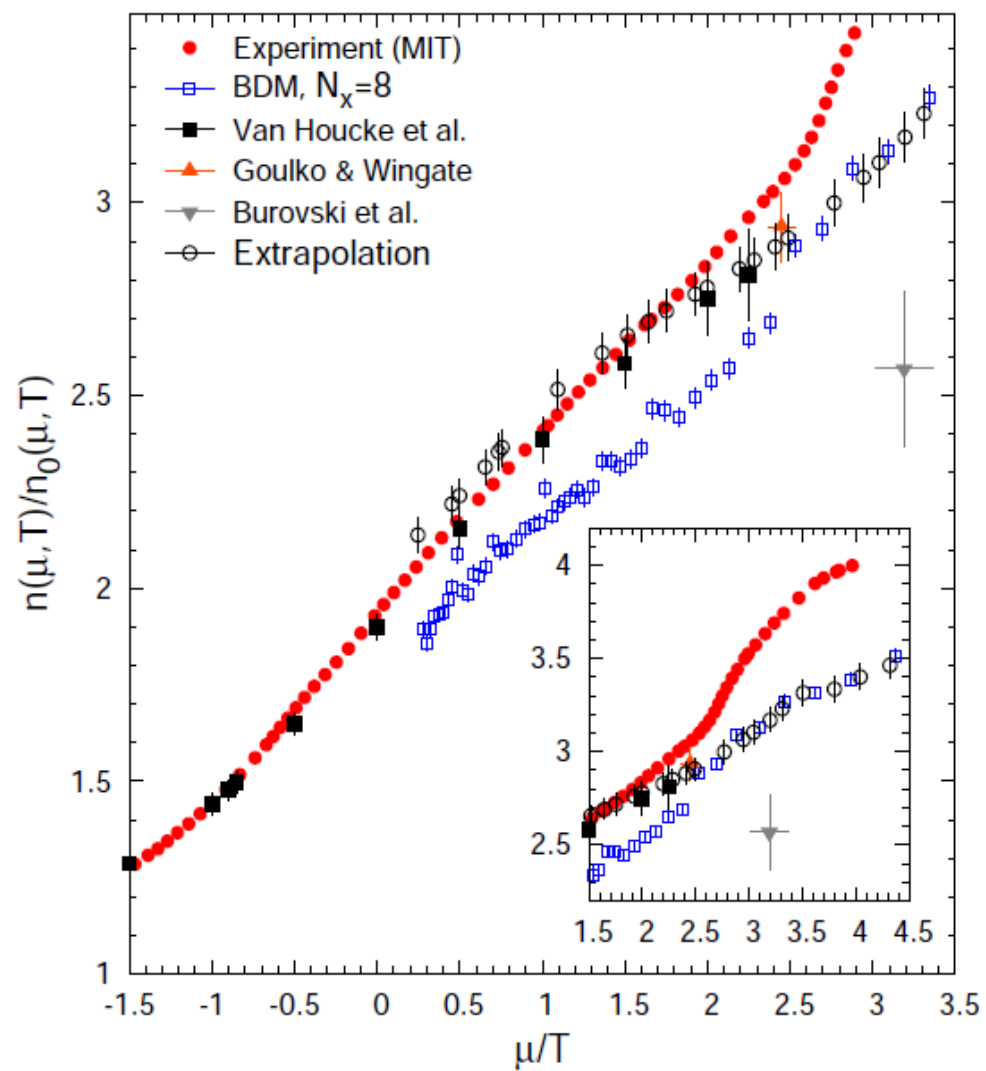
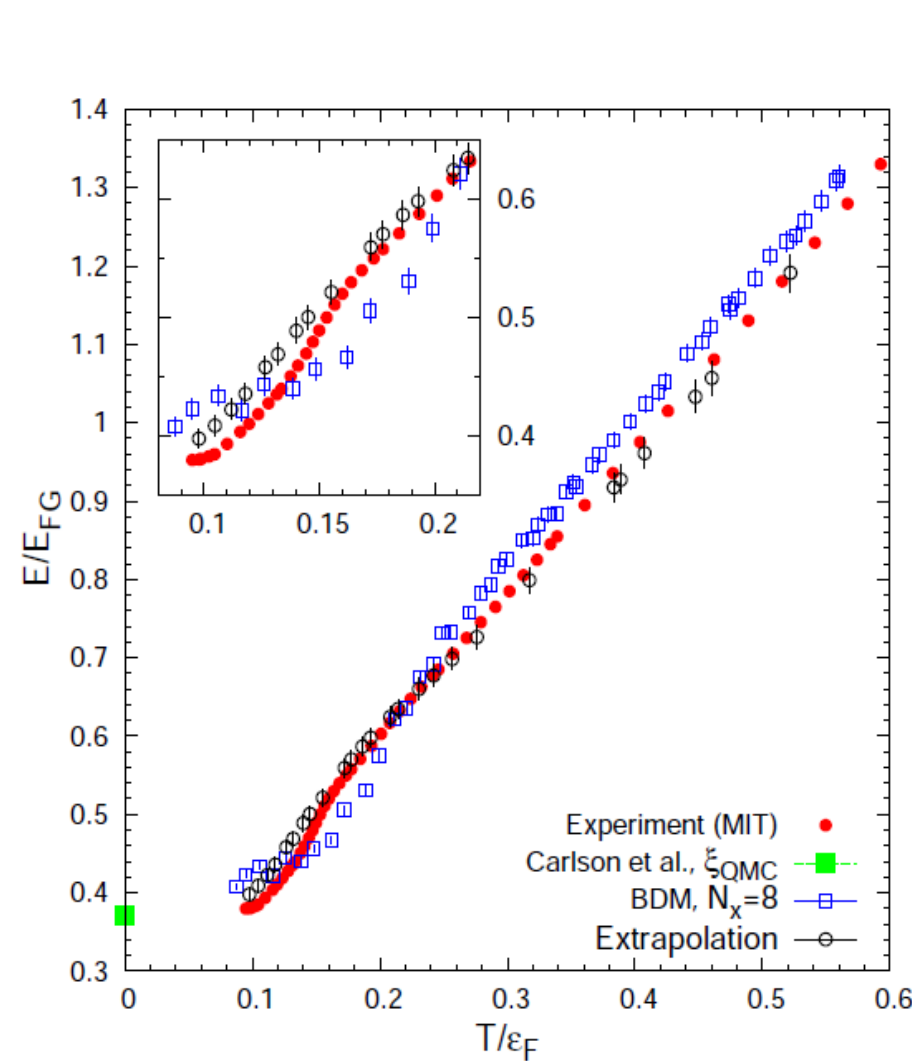
# Spin diffusion coefficient



$$D_s \sim vl,$$
$$v \sim p_F \sim n^{1/3}$$
$$l \sim n^{-1/3}$$
$$D_s \sim 1$$

FIG. 4: (Color online) The spin diffusion coefficient obtained by the Einstein relation  $D_s = \sigma_s/\chi_s$  as function of temperature. The notation is identical to Fig. 3.

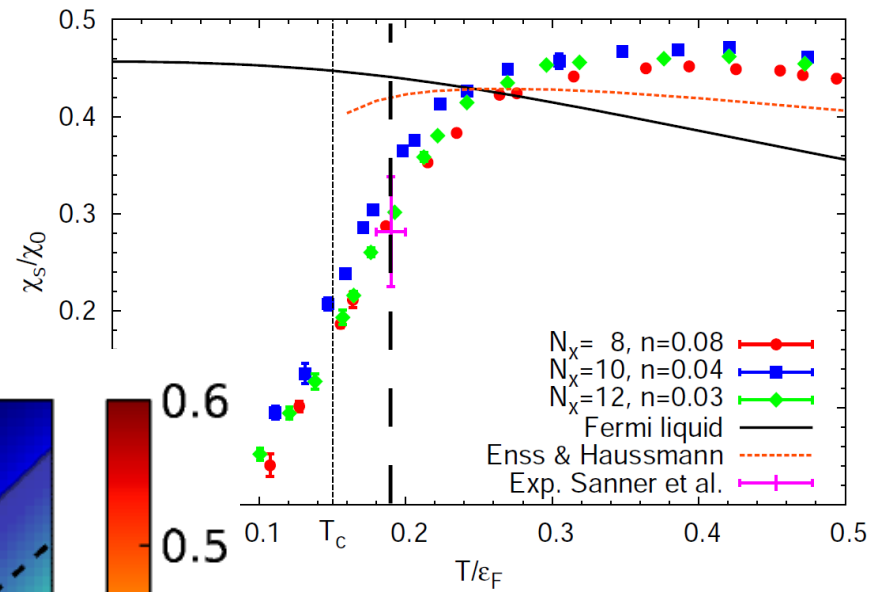
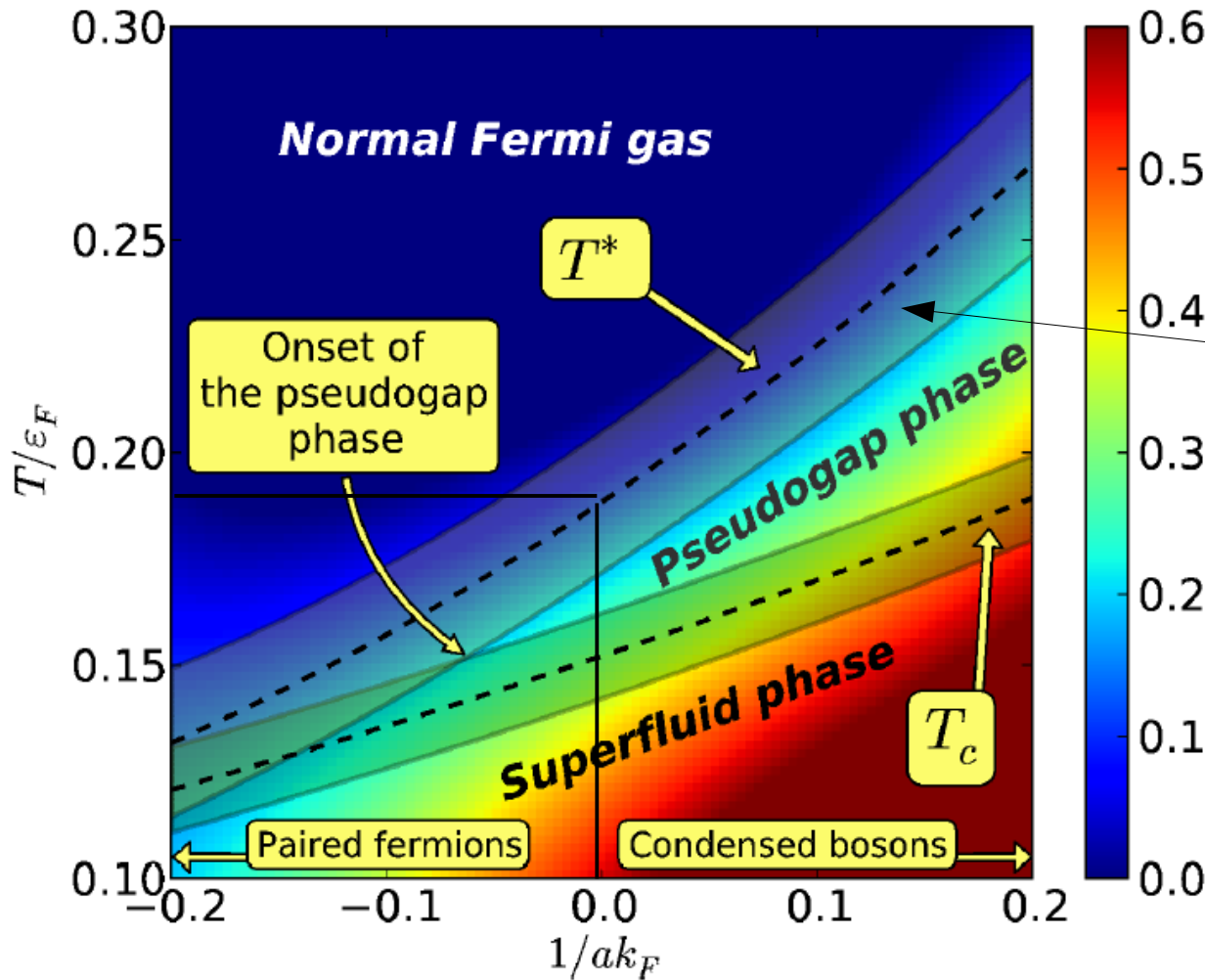
# EoS for UFG



J.E. Drut, T.A. Lähde, G. Wlazłowski, P. Magierski, Phys. Rev. A 85, 051601(R) (2012)

# $T_c$ & $T^*$

P. Magierski, G. Wlazłowski, A. Bulgac  
 Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 145304 (2011)



Lower limit for  $T^*$ :  
 due to finite resolution  
 of the analytic  
 continuation  
 procedure

# Holographic Duality

- duality relating quantum field theory (QFT) and gravity
- it maps the quantum physics of strongly correlated many-body systems to the classical dynamics of black hole horizons in one higher dimension
  - thus translates problems in quantum many-body physics into equivalent problems in classical gravity – sometimes easier to solve
  - the physics of black hole horizons in general relativity (GR) is largely independent of the details of the black hole

Strongly coupled thermal  
field theory on  $R^4$



Weakly coupled string theory  
on  $AdS_5$  black hole

CFT temperature ↔

Hawking temperature of  
black hole

CFT entropy ↔

Hawking-Bekenstein entropy  
~ area of event horizon