

Bulk viscosity of dense baryonic matter in neutron star mergers

Arus Harutyunyan

Based on: PhysRevD.100.103021
M. Alford, A. Harutyunyan, A. Sedrakian

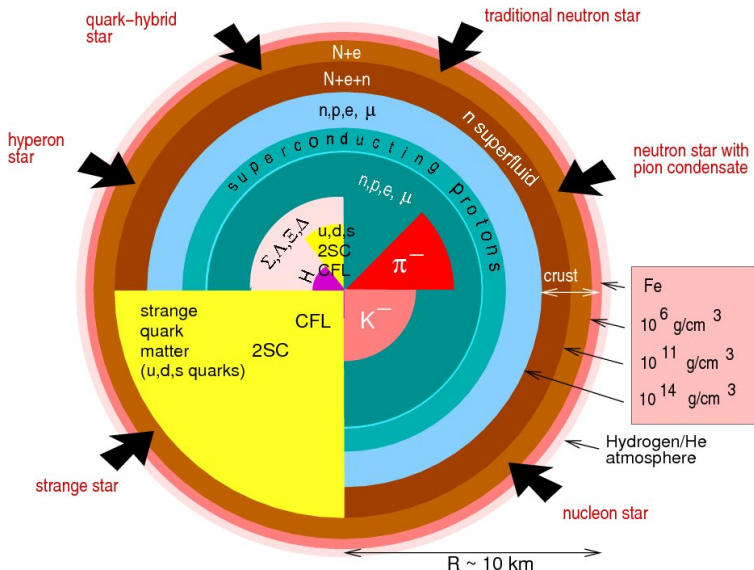


Karpacz, February 27, 2020

Outline

- Introduction & motivation
- Urca processes and bulk viscosity
- Density functional theory
- Results for bulk viscosity
- Summary & outlook

The structure of a neutron star



Compact-star binaries

- Compact stars are natural laboratories which allow us to study the properties of nuclear matter under extreme physical conditions (strong gravity, strong magnetic fields, etc.).
- The recent detection of gravitational and electromagnetic waves originating from black hole or neutron star mergers motivates studies of compact binary systems.
- Such studies might place constraints on the properties of compact star parameters and contain useful information about the properties of extremely hot and dense matter.
- Various physical processes in the compact binary systems can be modelled in the framework of general-relativistic hydrodynamics simulations.
- Transport coefficients are key inputs in hydrodynamic modelling of compact star mergers as they measure the energy dissipation rate in hydrodynamic evolution of matter.
- The bulk viscosity might affect the hydrodynamic evolution of mergers by damping the density oscillations which can affect the form of the gravitational signal.

- Our aim is to study the bulk viscosity in dense baryonic matter for temperatures relevant to neutron star mergers and supernovas $T \geq 5$ MeV.
- At these temperatures neutrinos are trapped in matter, and the bulk viscosity arises from weak interaction (neutron decay and electron capture) processes.

Literature on bulk viscosity

- 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.
- P. B. Jones, *Bulk viscosity of neutron-star matter*, *Phys. Rev. D* **64** (2001) 084003.
- 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, [1005.3769].
- M. G. Alford, L. Bovard, M. Hanauske, L. Rezzolla and K. Schwenzer, *Viscous Dissipation and Heat Conduction in Binary Neutron-Star Mergers*, *Physical Review Letters* **120** (2018) 041101, [1707.09475].
- D. G. Yakovlev, M. E. Gusakov and P. Haensel, *Bulk viscosity in a neutron star mantle*, *Mon. Not. RAS* **481** (2018) 4924-4930, [1809.08609].
- A. Schmitt and P. Shternin, *Reaction rates and transport in neutron stars*, *The Physics and Astrophysics of Neutron Stars* **457** (2018) 455-574 [1711.06520].
- M. Alford and S. Harris, *Damping of density oscillations in neutrino-transparent nuclear matter*, *Phys. Rev. C* **100** (2019) 035803, [1907.03795].

Urca process rates

- We consider a simple composition of baryonic matter consisting of neutrons, protons, electrons and neutrinos. The simplest weak-interaction processes are the following (direct) Urca processes

$$n \rightleftharpoons p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e \quad (\text{neutron decay process}) \quad (1)$$

$$p + e^- \rightleftharpoons n + \nu_e \quad (\text{electron capture process}) \quad (2)$$

- In β -equilibrium the chemical potentials of particles obey the relation $\mu_n + \mu_\nu = \mu_p + \mu_e$. Out of β -equilibrium in general implies an imbalance

$$\mu_\Delta \equiv \mu_n + \mu_\nu - \mu_p - \mu_e \neq 0$$

as a measure of deviation from β -equilibrium. The rate at which μ_Δ relaxes to zero is a measure of speed at which the constitution of matter adjusts to a change in pressure.

- The β -equilibration rate for the neutron decay is given by

$$\Gamma_{1p}(\mu_\Delta) = \int d\Omega \sum_{s_i} |\mathcal{M}_{Urca}|^2 f(p') \bar{f}(k') \bar{f}(k) \bar{f}(p) (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(p + k + k' - p'),$$

with $\bar{f}(p) = 1 - f(p)$. Similar expressions can be written also for Γ_{1n} , Γ_{2p} and Γ_{2n} .

- The squared matrix element of Urca processes is $[G^2 = G_F^2 \cos^2 \theta_c (1 + 3g_A^2)]$

$$\sum_{s_i} |\mathcal{M}_{Urca}|^2 = 32G^2 (k \cdot p') (p \cdot k') \simeq 32G^2 p_0 p'_0 k_0 k'_0.$$

Density oscillations in neutron-star matter

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

$$n_B(t) = n_{B0} + \delta n_B(t), \quad n_L(t) = n_{L0} + \delta n_L(t), \quad \delta n_B(t), \delta n_L(t) \sim e^{i\omega t}.$$

- The baryon and lepton number conservation $\partial n_i / \partial t + \text{div}(n_i \mathbf{v}) = 0$ implies

$$\delta n_i(t) = -\frac{\theta}{i\omega} n_{i0}, \quad i = \{B, L\}, \quad \theta = \text{div } \mathbf{v}.$$

- The oscillations cause perturbations in particle densities $n_j(t) = n_{j0} + \delta n_j(t)$, due to which the chemical equilibrium of matter is disturbed leading to a small shift $\mu_\Delta = \delta\mu_n + \delta\mu_\nu - \delta\mu_p - \delta\mu_e$, which can be written as

$$\mu_\Delta = (A_{nn} - A_{pn})\delta n_n + A_{\nu\nu}\delta n_\nu - (A_{pp} - A_{np})\delta n_p - A_{ee}\delta n_e, \quad A_{ij} = \left(\frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial n_j} \right)_0.$$

- The off-diagonal elements A_{np} and A_{pn} are non-zero because of the cross-species strong interaction between neutrons and protons.
- If the weak processes are turned off, then a perturbation conserves all particle numbers

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \delta n_j(t) + \theta n_{j0} = 0, \quad \delta n_j(t) = -\frac{\theta}{i\omega} n_{j0}.$$

Chemical balance equations and bulk viscosity

- Out of equilibrium the chemical equilibration rate to linear order in μ_Δ is given by

$$\Gamma_p - \Gamma_n = \lambda \mu_\Delta, \quad \lambda > 0.$$

- The rate equations which take into account the loss and gain of particles read as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \delta n_n(t) + \theta n_{n0} = -\lambda \mu_\Delta(t), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \delta n_p(t) + \theta n_{p0} = \lambda \mu_\Delta(t).$$

- Solving these equations we can compute the pressure out of equilibrium

$$p = p(n_j) = p(n_{j0} + \delta n_j) = p_0 + \delta p = p_{\text{eq}} + \delta p',$$

where the non-equilibrium part of the pressure - the bulk viscous pressure, is given by

$$\Pi \equiv \delta p' = \sum_j \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial n_j} \right)_0 \delta n_j' = \sum_{ij} n_{i0} A_{ij} \delta n_j'.$$

- The bulk viscosity is then identified from $\Pi = -\zeta \theta$

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

with susceptibilities $A = -\frac{1}{n_B} \left(\frac{\partial \mu_\Delta}{\partial x_p} \right)_{n_B}$ and $C = n_B \left(\frac{\partial \mu_\Delta}{\partial n_B} \right)_{x_p}$.

Limiting cases for bulk viscosity

- In the low-temperature limit the matter is ν -transparent, and the equilibration rate λ reads

$$\lambda_{\text{trans}} = \frac{17}{240\pi} m^{*2} G^2 T^4 p_{Fe} \theta(p_{Fp} + p_{Fe} - p_{Fn}),$$

where p_{Fi} are Fermi-momenta of particles. The θ -function blocks direct Urca processes at densities where $p_{Fp} + p_{Fe} < p_{Fn} \Rightarrow$ *modified Urca processes should be included*.

- The neutrino-trapped β -equilibration rate for strongly degenerate matter is given by

$$\lambda_{\text{trap}} = \frac{1}{12\pi^3} m^{*2} G^2 T^2 p_{Fe} p_{F\nu} (p_{Fe} + p_{F\nu} - |p_{Fn} - p_{Fp}|).$$

In contrast to the ν -transparent case here the rate is finite in the low-temperature limit \Rightarrow *modified Urca reactions are not required*.

- Because in the degenerate regime $p_{Fi} \gg T$, the equilibration rate is always much larger in the case of trapped neutrinos.
- In the high-frequency ($\omega \gg \lambda A$), low-frequency ($\omega \ll \lambda A$) limits and at the maximum of the bulk viscosity ($\omega = \lambda A$) we find

$$\zeta_{\text{high}} = \frac{C^2 \lambda}{\omega^2}, \quad \zeta_{\text{low}} = \frac{C^2}{\lambda A^2}, \quad \zeta_{\text{max}} = \frac{C^2}{2A\omega}.$$

Beta-equilibrated nuclear matter

We use the density functional theory approach to the nuclear matter, which is based on phenomenological baryon-meson Lagrangians of the type proposed by Walecka and others.

The Lagrangian density of matter is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_N \bar{\psi}_N \left[\gamma^\mu \left(i\partial_\mu - g_{\omega N} \omega_\mu - \frac{1}{2} g_{\rho N} \boldsymbol{\tau} \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu \right) - m_N^* \right] \psi_N + \sum_\lambda \bar{\psi}_\lambda (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_\lambda) \psi_\lambda$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu \sigma \partial_\mu \sigma - \frac{1}{2} m_\sigma^2 \sigma^2 - U(\sigma) - \frac{1}{4} \omega^{\mu\nu} \omega_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\omega^2 \omega^\mu \omega_\mu - \frac{1}{4} \boldsymbol{\rho}^{\mu\nu} \boldsymbol{\rho}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_\rho^2 \boldsymbol{\rho}^\mu \boldsymbol{\rho}_\mu.$$

The pressure of baryonic matter is given by

$$P_N = -\frac{m_\sigma^2}{2} \sigma^2 - U(\sigma) + \sum_\lambda \frac{g_\lambda}{6\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^4 dk}{(k^2 + m_\lambda^2)^{1/2}} \left[f(E_k^\lambda - \mu_\lambda) + f(E_k^\lambda + \mu_\lambda) \right]$$

$$+ \frac{m_\omega^2}{2} \omega_0^2 + \frac{m_\rho^2}{2} \rho_{03}^2 + \sum_N \frac{2J_N + 1}{6\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^4 dk}{(k^2 + m_N^{*2})^{1/2}} \left[f(E_k^N - \mu_N^*) + f(E_k^N + \mu_N^*) \right]$$

Here $m_N^* = m_N - g_{\sigma N} \sigma$ and $\mu_N^* = \mu_N - g_{\omega N} \omega_0 - g_{\rho N} \rho_{03} I_3$ are the nucleon effective mass and effective chemical potentials, respectively; I_3 is the third component of nucleon isospin and σ , ω_0 and ρ_{03} are the mean values of the meson fields.

Meson mean-fields and susceptibilities

- The mean-field values of the ω and ρ mesons are given by

$$g_\omega \omega_0 = \left(\frac{g_\omega}{m_\omega} \right)^2 (n_n + n_p), \quad g_\rho \rho_{03} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{g_\rho}{m_\rho} \right)^2 (n_p - n_n).$$

- The mean value of the scalar field is given by

$$g_\sigma \sigma = -\frac{g_\sigma}{m_\sigma^2} \frac{\partial U(\sigma)}{\partial \sigma} + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \left(\frac{g_\sigma}{m_\sigma} \right)^2 \sum_N \int_0^\infty p^2 dp \frac{m^*}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^{*2}}} [f_N(p) + \bar{f}_N(p)].$$

- The “beta-disequilibrium–proton-fraction” susceptibility in low- T limit is given by

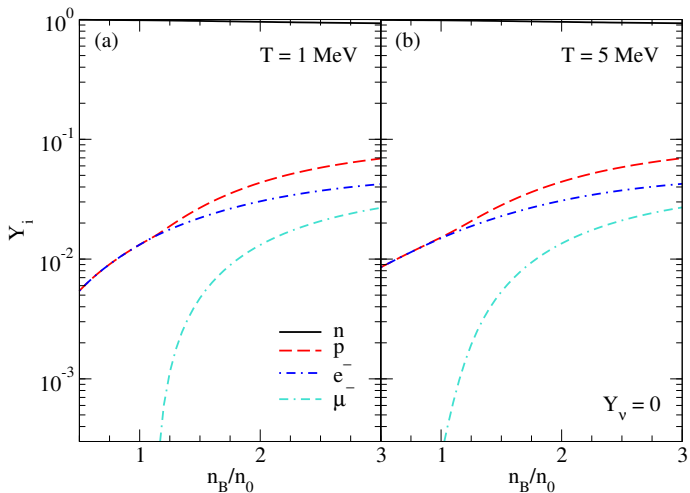
$$A = \frac{\pi^2}{m^*} \left(\frac{1}{p_{Fn}} + \frac{1}{p_{Fp}} \right) + \frac{\pi^2}{p_{Fe}^2} + \frac{2\pi^2}{p_{F\nu}^2} + \left(\frac{g_\rho}{m_\rho} \right)^2.$$

- The “beta-disequilibrium–baryon-density” susceptibility in low- T limit reads

$$C = \frac{p_{Fn}^2 - p_{Fp}^2}{3m^*} + \frac{p_{F\nu} - p_{Fe}}{3} + \frac{n_n - n_p}{2} \left(\frac{g_\rho}{m_\rho} \right)^2 + n_B \frac{p_{Fn}^2 - p_{Fp}^2}{2m^{*2}} \left(\frac{g_\sigma}{m_\sigma} \right)^2.$$

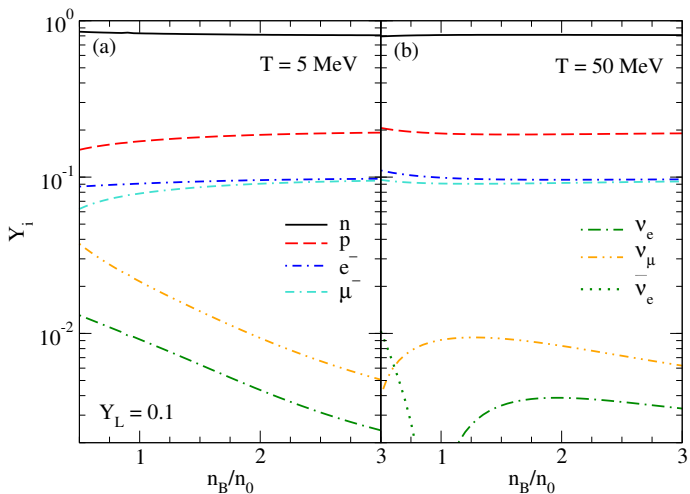
Particle fractions in equilibrium of neutrino-transparent matter (DD-ME2)

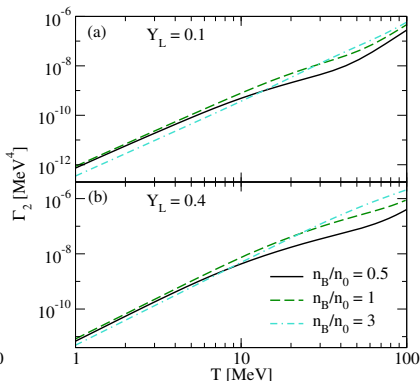
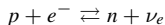
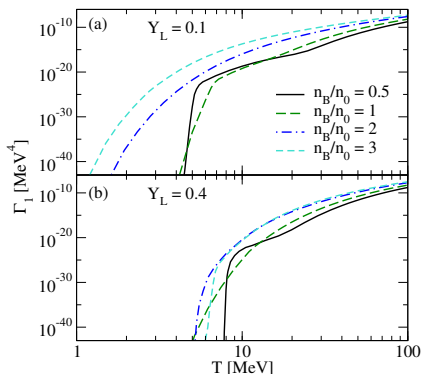
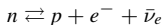
The particle fractions are found from β -equilibrium conditions $\mu_n = \mu_p + \mu_l$ with $l = \{e, \mu\}$, the charge neutrality condition $n_p = n_e + n_\mu$ and the baryon number conservation $n_B = n_n + n_p$.



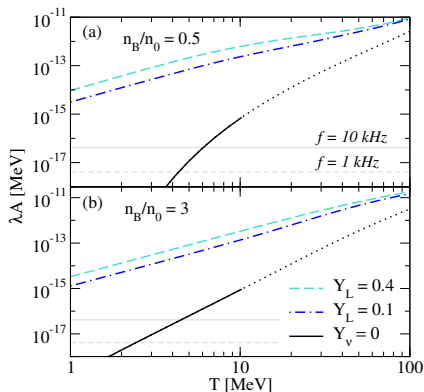
Particle fractions in equilibrium of neutrino-trapped matter (DD-ME2)

The particle fractions are found from β -equilibrium conditions $\mu_n + \mu_{\nu_l} = \mu_p + \mu_l$ with $l = \{e, \mu\}$, the charge neutrality condition $n_p = n_e + n_\mu$, the baryon number conservation $n_B = n_n + n_p$, and the lepton number conservation $n_l + n_{\nu_l} = n_L = Y_L n_B$.

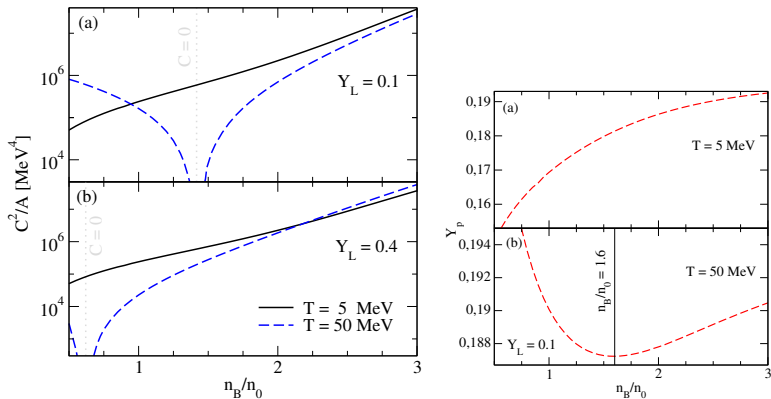


β -equilibration rates

- The neutron decay rate Γ_1 is exponentially suppressed at low temperatures because of damping of anti-neutrino population in the degenerate matter.
- The electron capture rate Γ_2 has a finite low-temperature limit which is $\propto T^3$.
- In the regime of interest $\Gamma_1 \ll \Gamma_2$, therefore the electron capture process dominates in the β -equilibration and the bulk viscosity.

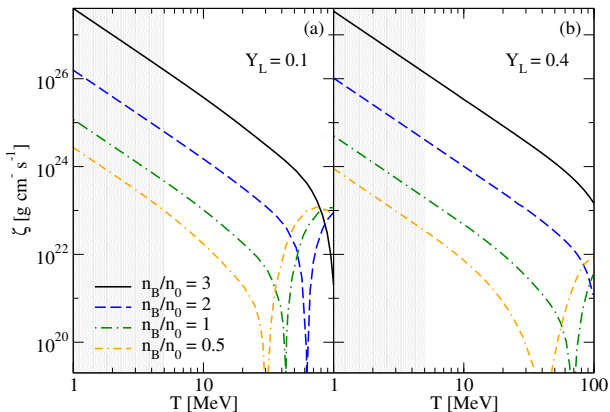
β -relaxation rate

- The β -relaxation rate λA determines the frequency at which the bulk viscosity reaches its resonant maximum ($\omega_{\max} = \lambda A$).
- The relaxation rate is slowest in the neutrino-transparent case, and increases with the lepton fraction in the neutrino-trapped case.
- In neutrino-trapped matter $\lambda A \gg \omega$ for oscillation frequencies typical to neutron star mergers and supernovas \Rightarrow the bulk viscosity takes the form $\zeta \approx C^2/(\lambda A^2)$.
- The neutrino-transparent matter instead features a relaxation rate which is comparable to the oscillation frequencies at typical temperatures $T \simeq 2 \div 7 \text{ MeV}$.

The susceptibility prefactor C^2/A 

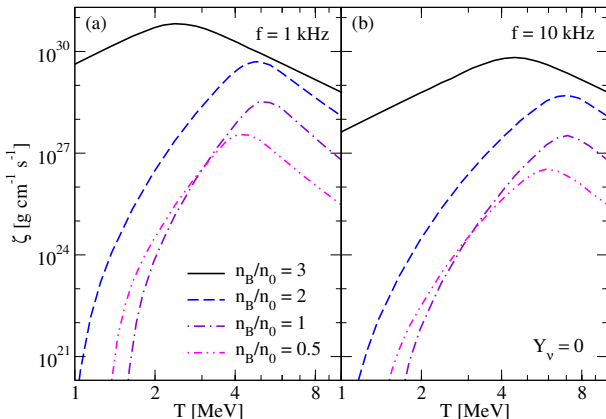
- The susceptibility A does not depend strongly on the density and temperature and has roughly the same order of magnitude $A \sim 10^{-3} \text{ MeV}^{-2}$.
- The susceptibility C increases with density and at high temperatures $T \gtrsim 30 \text{ MeV}$ crosses zero at certain values of density where the proton fraction attains a minimum.
- At this critical density the system is scale-invariant: it can be compressed and remain in beta equilibrium \Rightarrow the bulk viscosity drops to zero at the critical point.

Bulk viscosity of neutrino-trapped matter



- The density dependence of the bulk viscosity follows that of the susceptibility C^2/A .
- The temperature dependence of ζ arises mainly from that of β -relaxation rate $\lambda A \propto T^2$.
- Bulk viscosity is independent of oscillation frequency and decreases as $\zeta \propto T^{-2}$ in the neutrino-trapped regime.
- This scaling breaks down at high temperatures $T \geq 30$ MeV where the bulk viscosity has sharp minimums $\zeta \rightarrow 0$ when the matter becomes scale-invariant.

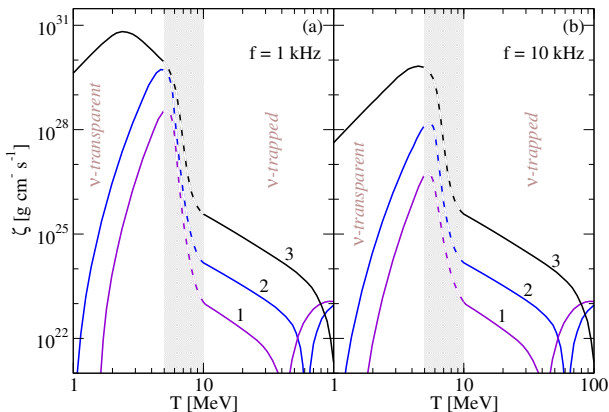
Bulk viscosity of neutrino-transparent matter



- The bulk viscosity in neutrino-transparent matter is frequency-dependent.
- The relaxation rate is slower for neutrino-transparent matter, and the resonant peak of the bulk viscosity occurs within its regime of validity.
- It attains its maximum value at temperature $T \simeq 2 \div 7$ MeV, where $\omega = \lambda A$.
- This is the temperature range which is relevant for neutron-star mergers.¹

¹ M. G. Alford, *et al.*, On the importance of viscous dissipation and heat conduction in binary neutron-star mergers, 2017

Bulk viscosity of baryonic matter



- We interpolate our numerical results for the bulk viscosity between the neutrino-transparent and neutrino-trapped regimes in the interval $5 \leq T \leq 10$ MeV.
- The bulk viscosity in the neutrino transparent regime is larger, and drops by orders of magnitude as the matter enters the neutrino-trapped regime.
- The bulk viscosity attains its maximum at temperatures $T \simeq 2 \div 6$ MeV.

Estimation of oscillation damping timescale

- The energy density of baryonic oscillations with amplitude δn_B is

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

- Coefficient K is the incompressibility of nuclear matter

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

- The energy dissipation rate per volume by bulk viscosity is

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

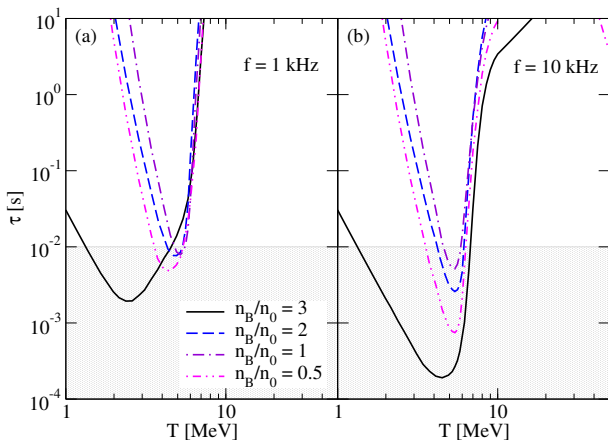
- The characteristic timescale required for dissipation is $\tau = \epsilon / (d\epsilon/dt)$

$$\tau = \frac{Kn_B}{\omega^2 \zeta}.$$

- In the high-frequency ($\omega \gg \lambda A$), low-frequency ($\omega \ll \lambda A$) limits and at the maximum of the bulk viscosity ($\omega = \lambda A$) we find

$$\tau_{\text{high}} = \frac{Kn_B}{\lambda C^2}, \quad \tau_{\text{low}} = \frac{\lambda^2 A^2}{\omega^2} \frac{Kn_B}{\lambda C^2}, \quad \tau_{\text{min}} = 2 \frac{Kn_B}{\lambda C^2}.$$

Oscillation damping timescale



- Damping timescales are comparable to the merging timescales $\tau_{\text{merg}} \simeq 10$ ms at temperatures $T \lesssim 7$ MeV where neutrinos are not trapped.
- Therefore, bulk viscosity will have its greatest impact on neutron star mergers in regions that are neutrino transparent rather than neutrino trapped.
- This also implies weak damping of gravitational waves emitted by the oscillations of the post-merger remnant in the high-temperature, neutrino-trapped phase of evolution.

Summary and outlook

Summary

- We studied the bulk viscosity of dense nuclear matter in the regime of trapped neutrinos.
- We find that the bulk viscosity is dominated by electron capture process and its inverse.
- The bulk viscosity attains its maximum at temperatures $2 \div 7$ MeV for neutrino-transparent matter.
- The neutrino-trapped bulk viscosity does not attain its maximum within its range of validity because of faster equilibration rates.
- The bulk viscosity of baryonic matter drops by orders of magnitude when the matter enters from neutrino-transparent to neutrino-trapped regime.
- The damping timescales of neutron star oscillation in neutrino-trapped matter are likely to be too long to affect the evolution of neutron star mergers.

Future outlook

- Include non-leptonic weak interaction processes involving hyperons (ongoing work).
- Include the contribution of muonic Urca reactions to the bulk viscosity.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!