

Nonlinearities in Hydrodynamics:

Is Israel-Stewart hydro self-consistent?

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- What is Relativistic Hydro?
- Why we need to do second order hydro (Israel-Stewart)
- Self-consistency: hydro's contribution to hydro coeff.
- Limits on Viscosity and the Problem Defining τ_π
- Conclusions

What is a fluid?

Many degrees of freedom

No local spont. breaking of trans, rotat. invariance

When does it behave hydrodynamically?

Define “mesoscopic” regions: each has many DOF,
but is nearly uniform.

Mesoscopic region near internal equilibrium
(thermodynamics applicable on meso scale)

Are there interesting *relativistic* examples?

Sure!

- Early universe cosmology: Universe was a relativistic fluid through most of its evolution. Applications: baryogenesis, leptogenesis, *etc*
- Heavy ion collisions: studied in the laboratory!
- Possibly laboratory E&M plasmas (intense laser program)

Most current interest in heavy ion collisions

Ideal Hydrodynamics

Ideal hydro: stress-energy conservation

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad (4 \text{ equations, } 10 \text{ unknowns})$$

plus local equilibrium *assumption*:

$$\begin{aligned} T^{\mu\nu} &= T_{\text{eq}}^{\mu\nu} = \epsilon u^\mu u^\nu + P(\epsilon) \Delta^{\mu\nu}, \\ u^\mu u_\mu &= -1, \Delta^{\mu\nu} = g^{\mu\nu} + u^\mu u^\nu \end{aligned}$$

depends on 4 parameters (ϵ , 3 comp of u^μ): closed.

What are systematic corrections?

Nonideal Hydro

Assume that ideal hydro is “good starting point,” look for small systematic corrections.

Near equilibrium iff $t_{\text{therm}} \ll t_{\text{vary}}, l_{\text{vary}}/v$ (so ∂ small)

Allows expansion of corrections in gradients:

$$T^{\mu\nu} = T_{\text{eq}}^{\mu\nu} + \Pi^{\mu\nu}[\partial, \epsilon, u]$$

$$\Pi^{\mu\nu} = \mathcal{O}(\partial u, \partial \epsilon) + \mathcal{O}(\partial^2 u, (\partial u)^2, \dots) + \mathcal{O}(\partial^3 \dots)$$

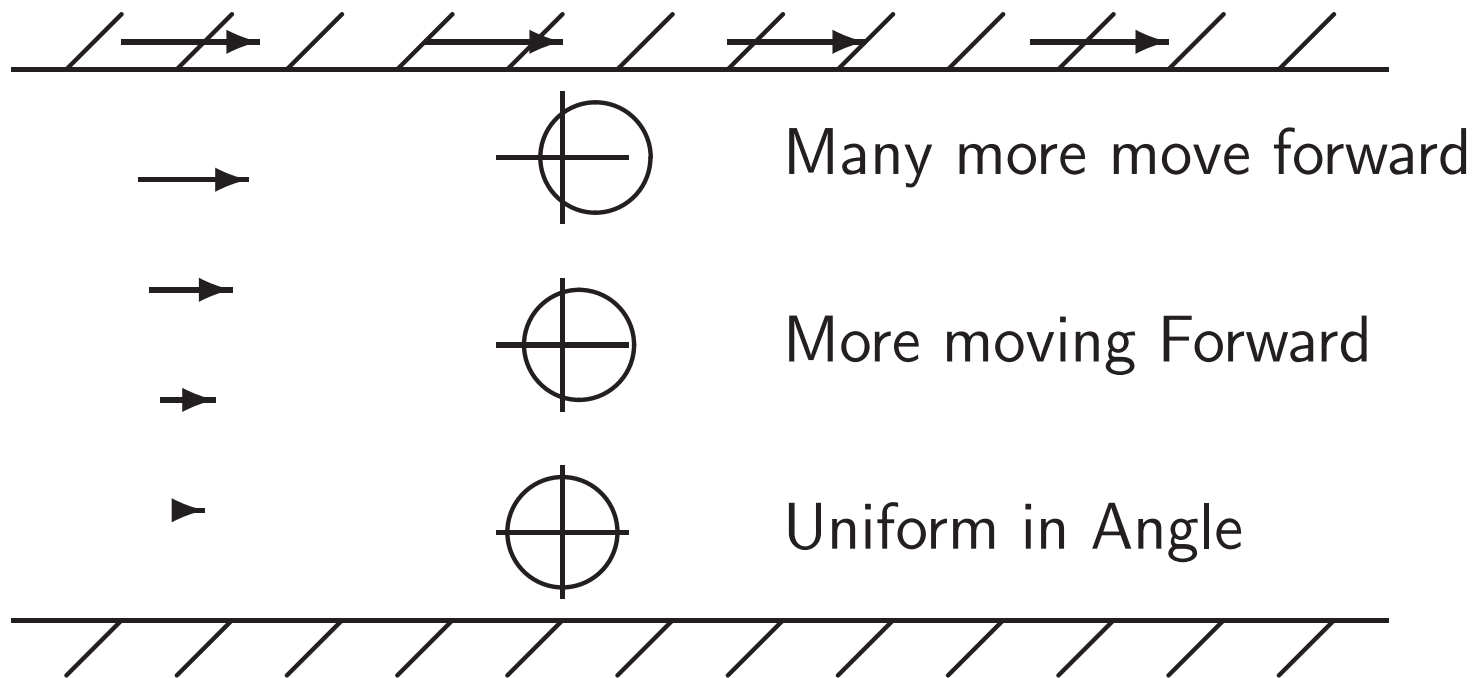
For Conformal theory $T_{\mu}^{\mu} = 0 = \Pi_{\mu}^{\mu}$, 1-order term unique:

$$\Pi^{\mu\nu} = -\eta \sigma^{\mu\nu}, \quad \sigma^{\mu\nu} = \Delta^{\mu\alpha} \Delta^{\nu\beta} \left(\partial_{\alpha} u_{\beta} + \partial_{\beta} u_{\alpha} - \frac{2}{3} g_{\alpha\beta} \partial \cdot u \right)$$

Coefficient η is shear viscosity.

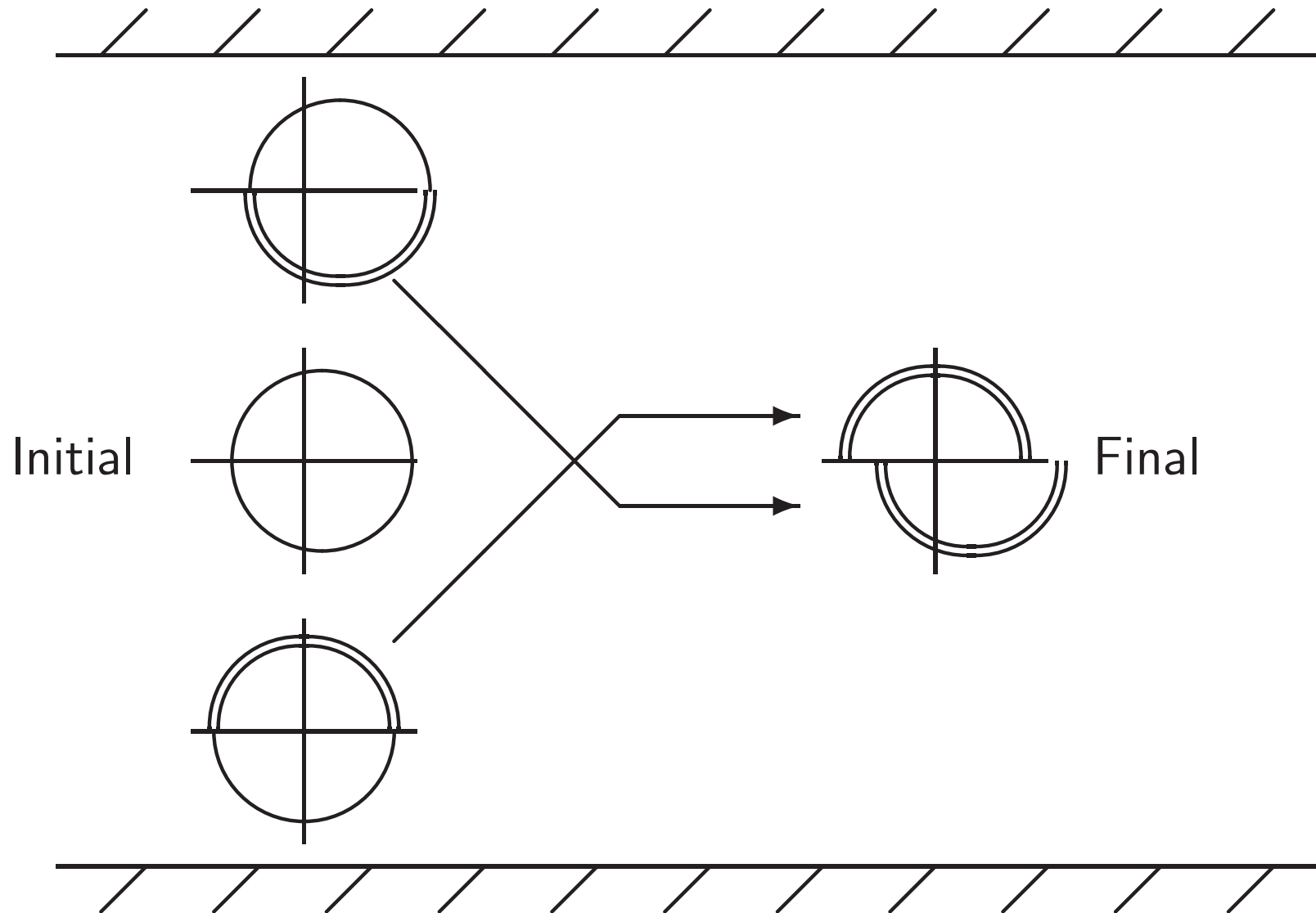
What is shear viscosity?

Consider non-uniform fluid flow of *particles*:



(Plotting ϕ =direction, $r = \#$ particles in that ϕ)

Propagation by Mean Free Path



Skewed momentum distribution.

Viscosity as transverse momentum diffusion

Small-fluctuation analysis of (Navier-Stokes) $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$

Plane wave varying in z, t , consider $\partial_\mu T^{\mu x}$:

$$\partial_\mu \left((\epsilon + P) u^\mu u^x + P g^{\mu x} - \eta \Delta^{\mu\alpha} \partial_\alpha u^x \right) = 0$$

To linear order in spatial u , this is

$$(\epsilon + P) \partial_t u^x - \eta \partial_z^2 u^x = 0$$

Diffusion equation for u^x : $\eta/(\epsilon+P)$ is diffusion coefficient.

Propagation speed of information is infinite!

Is infinite propagation speed a problem?

Argument against: smooth initial data

If heat equation initial data smooth, propagation speed is finite.
Only believe hydro for smooth conditions. No problem?

Argument for: numerical reality

Nonlinear equations: non-smooth stuff always gets excited.
Do numerical work with coarse space-time lattice: UV modes not present. But discretization errors “numerical viscosity”.
If I really want some given η value, I *have* to over-resolve!

Israel-Stewart approach

Add one second order term:

$$\Pi^{\mu\nu} = -\eta\sigma^{\mu\nu} + \eta\tau_\pi u^\alpha \partial_\alpha \sigma^{\mu\nu}$$

Make (1'st order accurate) $\eta\sigma \rightarrow -\Pi$ in order-2 term:

$$\tau_\pi u^\alpha \partial_\alpha \Pi^{\mu\nu} \equiv \tau_\pi \dot{\Pi}^{\mu\nu} = -\eta\sigma^{\mu\nu} - \Pi^{\mu\nu}$$

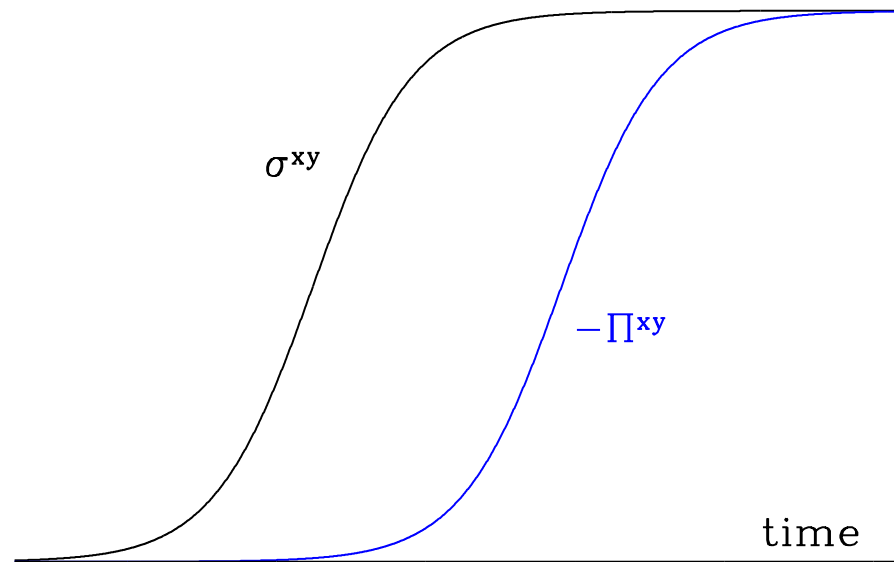
Relaxation eq driving $\Pi^{\mu\nu}$ towards $-\eta\sigma^{\mu\nu}$.

Momentum diff. no longer instantaneous.

Causality, stability are restored (depending on τ_π)

Viscous hydro for heavy ions all use this!

How to think about τ_π



Suppose shear flow σ^{xy} “turns on” as a function of time. Then Π^{xy} rises to $-\eta\sigma^{xy}$. But there is a *delay* in Π^{xy} turning on. τ_π is average length of the delay.

Time for flow pattern in slide 7 to develop.

Full 2'nd order hydro

Assume *conformality* and *vanishing chem. potentials*:

5 possible terms [Baier et al, \[arXiv:0712.2451\]](#)

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_{2 \text{ ord.}}^{\mu\nu} = & \eta\tau_\pi \left[u^\alpha \partial_\alpha \sigma^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{3} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \partial_\alpha u^\alpha \right] + \lambda_1 \left[\sigma_\alpha^\mu \sigma^{\nu\alpha} - (\text{trace}) \right] \\ & + \lambda_2 \left[\frac{1}{2} (\sigma_\alpha^\mu \Omega^{\nu\alpha} + \sigma_\alpha^\nu \Omega^{\mu\alpha}) - (\text{trace}) \right] \\ & + \lambda_3 \left[\Omega^\mu_\alpha \Omega^{\nu\alpha} - (\text{trace}) \right] + \kappa (R^{\mu\nu} - \dots) , \\ \Omega_{\mu\nu} \equiv & \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{\mu\alpha} \Delta_{\nu\beta} (\partial^\alpha u^\beta - \partial^\beta u^\alpha) \quad [\text{vorticity}] .\end{aligned}$$

What are η , τ_π ?

Are they parameters in an *ad hoc*, unjustified model?

Are they numerical coefficients in a rigorously defined effective theory?

Are they *scale dependent* Wilson coefficients in an effective field theory?

Hint: Kubo relation [Baier et al, arXiv:0712.2451 \[hep-th\]](#)

$$G_{ra}^{xy,xy}(\omega) = P - i\eta\omega + \eta\tau_\pi\omega^2 + \dots$$

Why you should worry

We said $\Pi^{\mu\nu} = \mathcal{O}(\partial u) + \mathcal{O}(\partial^2 u, (\partial u)^2) + \dots$

based on assumption thermalization is local, microscopic.

Hydro itself predicts long-lived shear, sound modes:

$$0 = \partial_\mu \left(T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P) u^\mu u^\nu + P g^{\mu\nu} - \eta \sigma^{\mu\nu} \right)$$

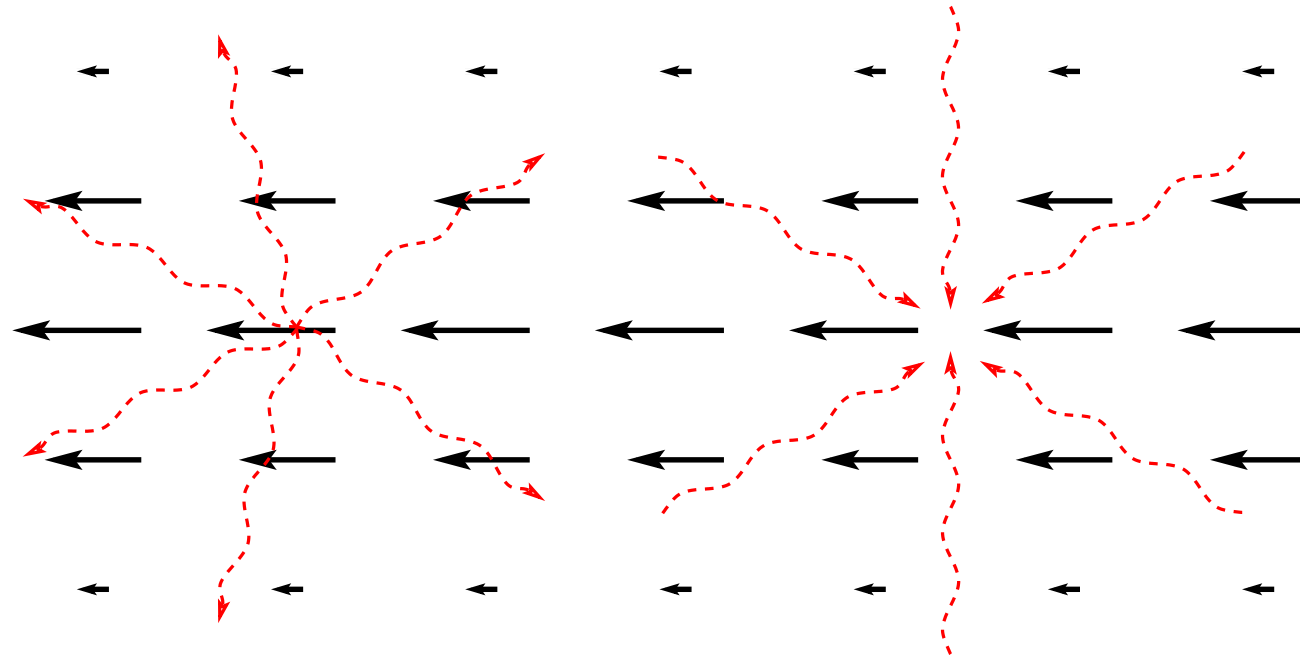
fluctuations in u^μ, ϵ : dispersion relations

$$\omega_{\text{shear}} = i \frac{\eta}{\epsilon + P} k^2, \quad \omega_{\text{sound}} = \pm \frac{k}{\sqrt{3}} + i \frac{2\eta}{3(\epsilon + P)} k^2$$

Small k : long lived, dissipation *not* local, microscopic

Hydro Waves Contribute to Viscosity!

Consider shear flow:



Flow decays because x -momentum leaves (diffuses from) flowing region. One mechanism: propagation of hydro (sound) waves!

Naive estimate: sound waves as “particles”

“stumbling drunk” with step length λ , time between steps $t = \lambda/c$: diffusion constant is $\lambda^2/t \sim c\lambda$.

Mean free path of a sound wave $\lambda \sim (\epsilon + P)/(\eta k^2)$.

Equipartition: Energy $T/2$, Mom. $T/2c$ per sound mode

Contribution of sound modes to momentum diffusion

$$\eta_{\text{from soundwaves}} \sim \int d^3k T \lambda \sim \int d^3k \frac{T(\epsilon + P)}{k^2 \eta}$$

Finite. Time scale to establish this contribution:

$$\eta \tau_{\pi} \sim \int d^3k T \lambda t \sim \int d^3k \frac{T(\epsilon + P)^2}{k^4 \eta^2} \quad \text{Divergent!!}$$

How to compute hydro contribution to η, τ_π

Use Kubo relation

$$G_{ra}^{xy,xy}(\omega) = P - i\eta\omega + \eta\tau_\pi\omega^2 + \dots$$

Calculate contrib. of hydro modes themselves to G^{xyxy} .

Feynman rules: $T^{ij} = (\epsilon + P)u^i u^j + P g^{ij},$

$$\langle u^i u^j(k, \omega) \rangle = \frac{T}{\epsilon + P} \frac{(\delta^{ij} - \hat{k}^i \hat{k}^j) 2\gamma_\eta k^2}{(\gamma_\eta k^2 - i\omega)(\gamma_\eta k^2 + i\omega)} \text{shearwave}$$

$$\left[\gamma_\eta = \frac{\eta}{\epsilon + P}, \gamma'_\eta = \frac{4}{3}\gamma_\eta \right] + \frac{T}{\epsilon + P} \frac{(\hat{k}^i \hat{k}^j) 2\gamma'_\eta k^2 \omega^2}{(\omega^2 - k^2/3)^2 + (\gamma'_\eta k^2 \omega)^2} \text{soundwave}$$

Think of hydro as IR effective theory, η etc are Wilson coeff.

Computing $G_{ra}^{xy,xy}(\omega, k = 0)$

Straightforward application of Feynman rules:

$$G_{ra}^{xy,xy}(\omega)[\text{hydro}] = -i\omega \left(\frac{17Tk_{\max}}{120\pi^2\gamma_\eta} \right) + (i+1)\omega^{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{7 + \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} T}{240\pi\gamma_\eta^{3/2}}$$

k_{\max} : k -scale above which hydro incorrect/inconsistent.

- $-i\omega$ term: extra contrib. to η
- $i\omega^{3/2}$: effective ω dependence of η .
- $\omega^{3/2}$: like τ_π but *wrong* ω dependence.

Lesson: η

Small η : freer propagation of sound, shear modes.

More efficient momentum transport, raising η .

Depends on k_{\max} . Where does hydro break down?

Scale where it's no longer self-consistent.

Safe guess: $k_{\max} < \tau_{\pi}^{-1}/2$. In $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM, this is about $2T$.

- $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM: added η/s is $\sim 1/N_c^2$.
- Weak coupling: $\eta_{\text{from hydro}} \sim \alpha^4$ while $\eta_{\text{tot}} \sim \alpha^{-2}$
- Real QCD: $\frac{\eta}{s} = .16$: add 0.01. $\frac{\eta}{s} = .08$: add 0.036!

Lesson: τ_π

Formally, τ_π does not exist! (At least it's not a number)

But 2-order hydro can make sense as effective theory over some range of frequencies if, in that range,

$$G^{xyxy} \sim -i\omega\eta + (i+1)\omega^{3/2} \frac{\left[7 + \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}\right] T(\epsilon+P)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{240\pi\eta^{\frac{3}{2}}} + \omega^2\eta\tau_\pi$$

has the $\omega^{3/2}$ term sub-dominant. Requires:

$$\frac{T^2(\epsilon+P)^3}{(4\pi)^2\eta^3} \ll \eta^2\tau_\pi$$

Then, in this range, τ_π is nearly ω and scheme-independent Wilson coefficient

When does this range exist? Weak coupling:

$$\eta \sim \alpha^{-2} T^3, \quad \tau_\pi \sim \alpha^{-2} T^{-1}, \quad \text{OK if } \alpha^2 T \gg \omega \gg \alpha^{14} T$$

Large N_c (many degrees of freedom):

$$\eta \sim N_c^2 T^3, \quad \tau_\pi \sim N_c^0 T^{-1}, \quad \text{OK if } T \gg \omega \gg N_c^{-4} T.$$

Real-world QCD at $T = 200\text{MeV}$: $(\epsilon+P) \sim 10T^4$,

- if $\eta/s = 0.16$, 2-order hydro valid for $T \gg \omega \gg T/20$
- if $\eta/s = 0.08$, 2-order hydro valid for $2T \gg \omega \gg 2.8T$

Conclusions

- Relativistic hydrodynamics has interesting applications
- Need 2'nd order Hydro for stability (Thanks Werner!)
- Hydro waves contribute to hydro coefficients!
- Hydro contributions to η means it cannot be too small
- No absolute definition for τ_π . Wilson coeff.
- Range of validity of 2-order hydro: wide unless η very small (but possibly an issue for heavy-ion collisions!)