

Quasinormal modes: from high order hydrodynamics to nonconformal plasma

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Outline

Introduction to quasinormal modes

Small excitations of a uniform static (strongly coupled) plasma

What is the physics of (the higher) quasinormal modes?

Example: Homogeneous isotropization

Quasinormal modes as a kind of UV completion of hydrodynamics

Quasinormal modes on top of a hydrodynamic background

Quasinormal modes and the range of applicability of hydrodynamics

Quasinormal modes in other setups

Nonconformal plasma

External magnetic fields

Nonrelativistic systems

Conclusions

What are quasinormal modes?

1. Within the AdS/CFT correspondence quasinormal modes correspond to poles in the retarded Green's function of some local operator (like the energy momentum tensor) evaluated at finite temperature
2. This corresponds to analyzing what kind of (collective) modes may propagate in the system at the linearized level
 - ▶ Typically we are interested in plane wave excitations

$$e^{-i\omega(k)t+ikx}$$

- ▶ ... and determining the dispersion relation $\omega(k)$
3. Using the above interpretation one can also ask a more general question about linearized excitations above some dynamical background...
 4. In this case the plane wave form will have to be modified...

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What kind of excitations propagate in a static uniform strongly coupled plasma system?

Answer 1: Hydrodynamics

- ▶ The energy-momentum tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$ is expressed in terms of a local temperature T and flow velocity u^μ
- ▶ $T_{\mu\nu}$ is expressed as an expansion in the gradients of the flow velocities (shown here for $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM)

$$T_{rescaled}^{\mu\nu} = \underbrace{(\pi T)^4 (\eta^{\mu\nu} + 4u^\mu u^\nu)}_{\text{perfect fluid}} - \underbrace{2(\pi T)^3 \sigma^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{viscosity}} + \underbrace{(\pi T^2) \left(\log 2 T_{2a}^{\mu\nu} + 2 T_{2b}^{\mu\nu} + (2 - \log 2) \left(\frac{1}{3} T_{2c}^{\mu\nu} + T_{2d}^{\mu\nu} + T_{2e}^{\mu\nu} \right) \right)}_{\text{second order hydrodynamics}}$$

- ▶ Consider small perturbations

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} E & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & p & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & p & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p \end{pmatrix} + \delta T_{\mu\nu} e^{-i\omega t + ikx}$$

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- ▶ If $T_{\mu\nu}$ is described by (1st order viscous) hydrodynamics then one can derive dispersion relation of long wavelength modes from hydrodynamic equations:

shear modes:

$$\omega_{shear} = -i \frac{\eta}{E + p} k^2$$

sound modes:

$$\omega_{sound} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} k - i \frac{2}{3} \frac{\eta}{E + p} k^2$$

- ▶ If we were to include terms in $T_{\mu\nu}$ with more derivatives (higher order viscous hydrodynamics), we would get terms with higher powers of k in the dispersion relations...
- ▶ Hypothetical resummed *all-order* hydrodynamics would predict the full dispersion relation for these modes $\omega_{shear}(k)$, $\omega_{sound}(k)$

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Answer 2: AdS/CFT – gravitational description

- ▶ Small disturbances of the uniform static plasma \equiv small perturbations of the black hole metric (\equiv quasinormal modes (QNM))

$$g_{\alpha\beta}^{5D} = g_{\alpha\beta}^{5D, \text{black hole}} + \delta g_{\alpha\beta}^{5D}(z) e^{-i\omega t + ikx}$$

- ▶ Dispersion relation fixed by linearized Einstein's equations. Results for the sound channel

from Kovtun, Starinets hep-th/0506184

- ▶ This is equivalent to summing contributions from *all-order* viscous hydrodynamics
- ▶ But, in addition, there is an infinite set of higher QNM — effective degrees of freedom not contained in the hydrodynamic description at all!

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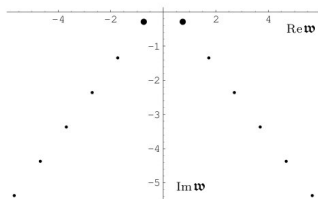
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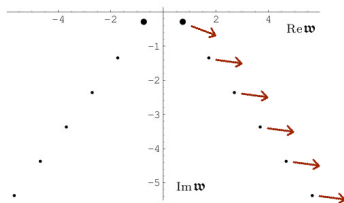
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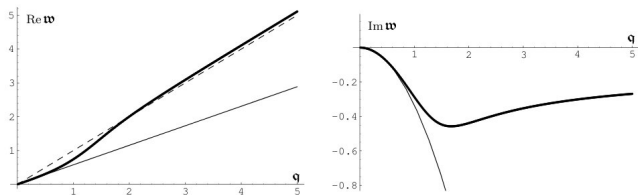
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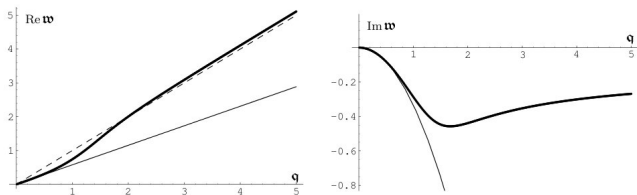
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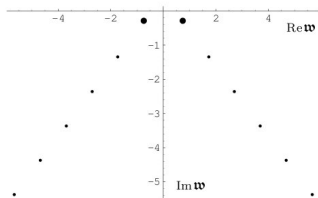
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Physics of higher QNMs

- ▶ QFT has much more degrees of freedom than only hydrodynamic ones...
- ▶ Suppose that we have a weakly coupled system with some distribution of momenta
- ▶ Hydrodynamics is essentially a description of the evolution of the local conserved charges of the system
- ▶ We can also ask questions about the evolution of the *shape* of the distribution — this will correspond to nonhydrodynamic quasinormal modes...

Simple system governed only by nonhydrodynamic modes...

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Physics of higher QNMs — Homogeneous isotropization

- ▶ Consider spatially homogeneous plasma with anisotropic momentum distributions. This corresponds to a constant (in space) energy momentum tensor with anisotropic pressures
- ▶ The system will evolve in time with the energy-momentum tensor having the form

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & p_{\parallel}(t) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & p_{\perp}(t) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_{\perp}(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ Due to the symmetries of the system there is no flow — the setup is orthogonal to hydrodynamic degrees of freedom

The whole process of equilibration is due to degrees of freedom present in nonhydrodynamic quasinormal modes

- ▶ This has been first studied numerically in the context of a quench (time dependent gauge theory metric here) by Chesler, Yaffe.

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Physics of higher QNMs — Homogeneous isotropization

- ▶ Heller, Mateos, van der Schee, Triana made a detailed investigation of homogeneous isotropization from various initial conditions in terms of linearized/QNM approximations
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QNMs on top of a hydrodynamic background?
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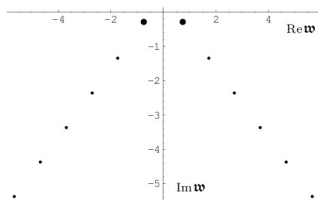
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from Kovtun,Starinets hep-th/0506184

- ▶ A characteristic generic feature is the nonzero **real part**
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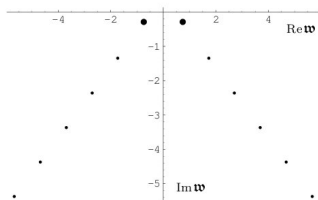


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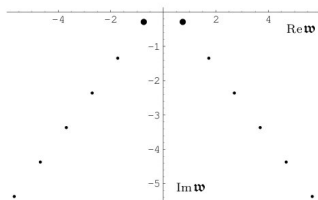


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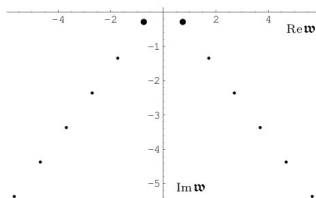


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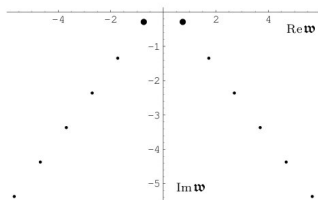


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Quasinormal modes as a kind of UV completion of hydrodynamics

Suppose that we know all high order hydrodynamic transport coefficients...

Are the nonhydrodynamic higher QNMs determined or arbitrary?

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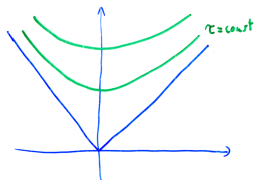
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Boost-invariant flow

Bjorken '83

Assume a flow that is invariant under longitudinal boosts and does not depend on the transverse coordinates.



- ▶ In a conformal theory, $T_{\mu}^{\mu} = 0$ and $\partial_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0$ determine, under the above assumptions, the energy-momentum tensor completely in terms of a single function $\varepsilon(\tau)$, the energy density at mid-rapidity.
- ▶ The assumptions of symmetry fix uniquely the flow velocity
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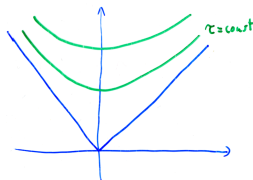
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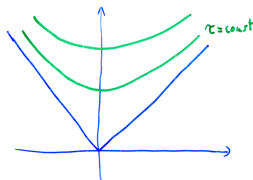
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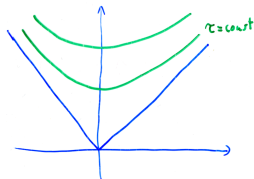
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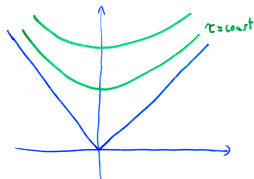
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- chief complication – generate the r.h.s. of the equations
- to get to so high orders we need very high precision computations
- first couple of orders – easy and fast

- ▶ Introduce $u \equiv 1/\tau^{2/3}$

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Can we infer anything about the **nonhydrodynamic** higher quasinormal modes just from this series?

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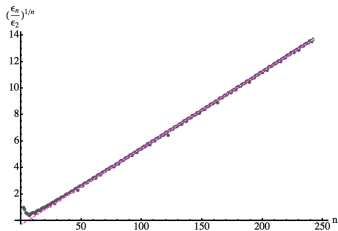
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1. Define the Borel transform

$$\tilde{\varepsilon}(u) = \sum_{n=2}^{242} \frac{\varepsilon_n}{n!} u^n$$

2. Identify singularities of the Borel transform $\tilde{\varepsilon}(u)$ (Pade approximant)
3. Interpret the meaning of the singularities through the inverse Borel transform

$$\varepsilon_{\text{inverse Borel}}(u) = \int_C e^{-s} \tilde{\varepsilon}(su) ds \quad \text{where } u = \tau^{-\frac{2}{3}}$$



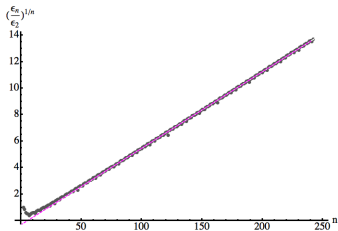
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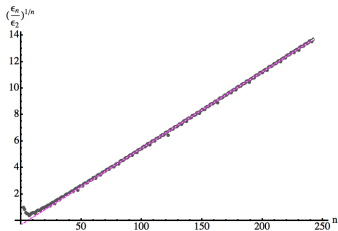
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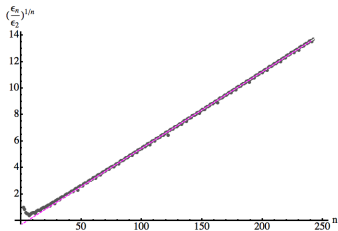
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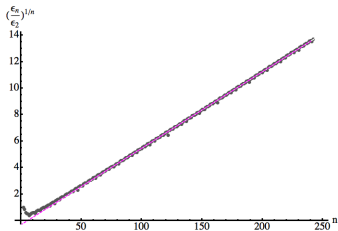
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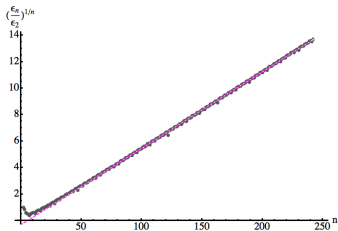
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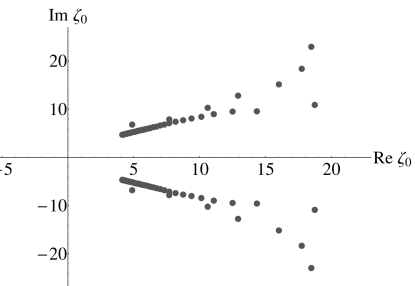
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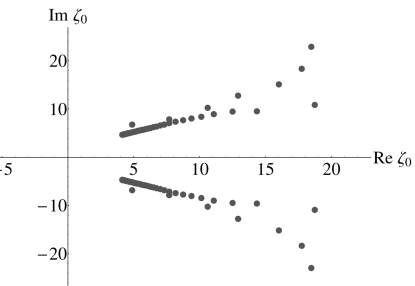


- ▶ Branch cuts on the Borel plane
- ▶ Branch points set the radius of convergence of the Borel transform

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What is the physical interpretation of the branch cut singularities?

Singularities in the Borel plane

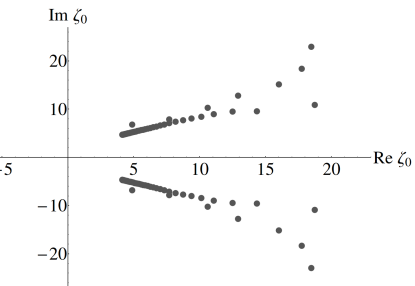


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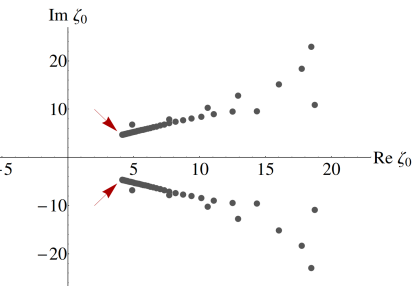


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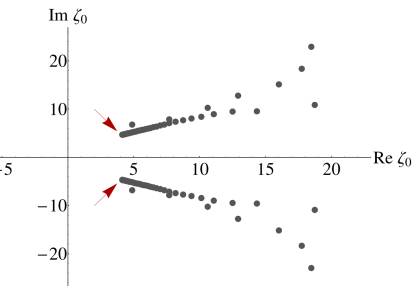


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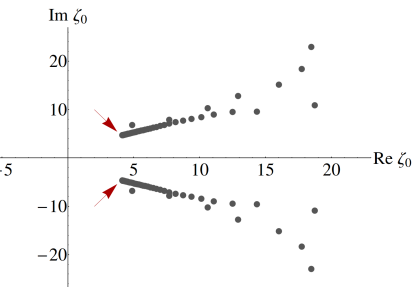


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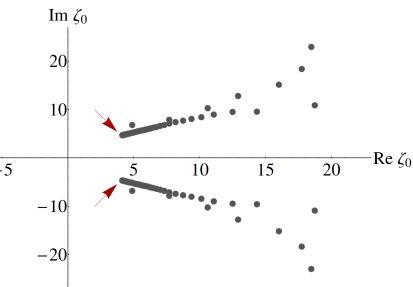
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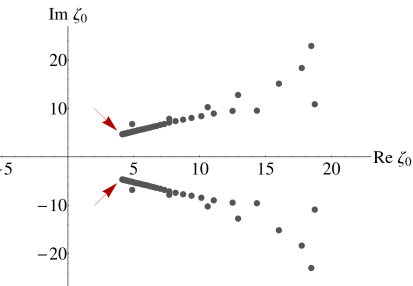
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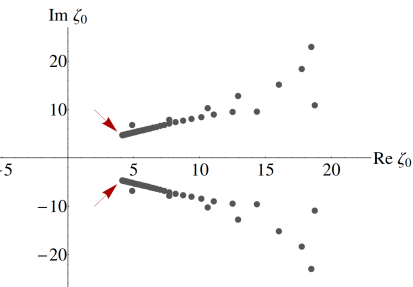
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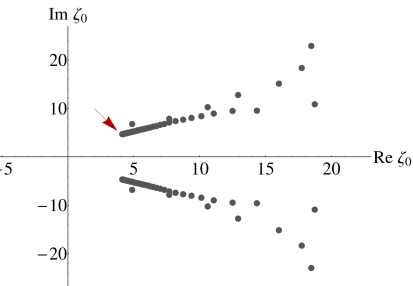
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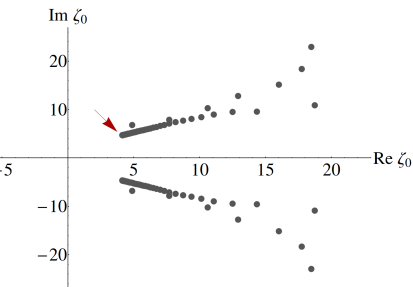
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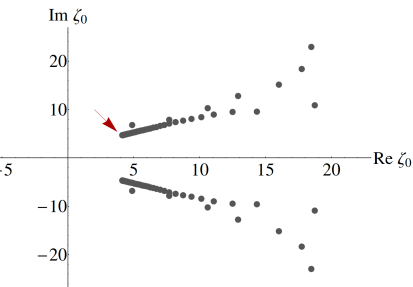
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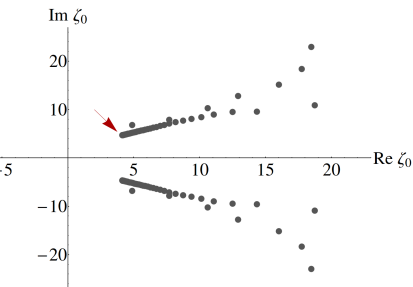
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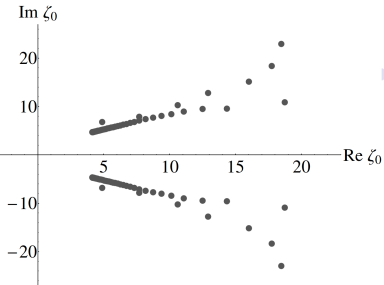
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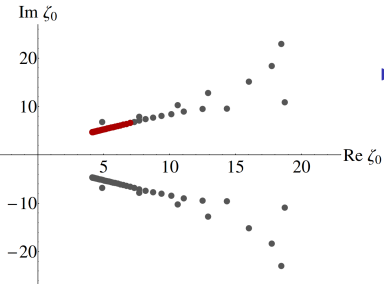
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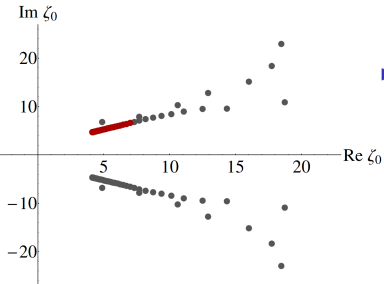
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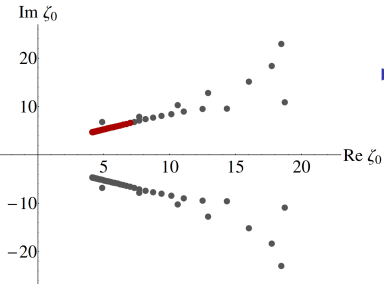
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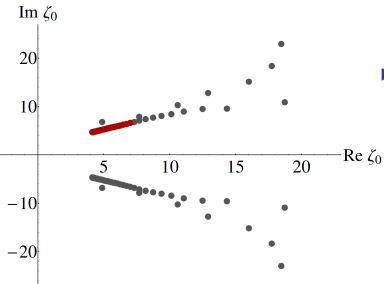
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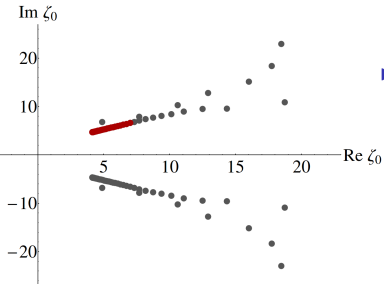
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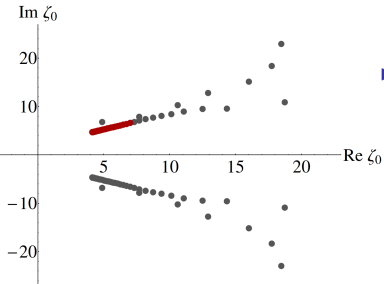
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Plasma in a FRW background

Buchel, Heller, Noronha

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- ▶ Hydrodynamic entropy production in terms of scale factor
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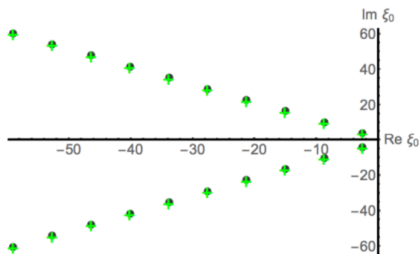
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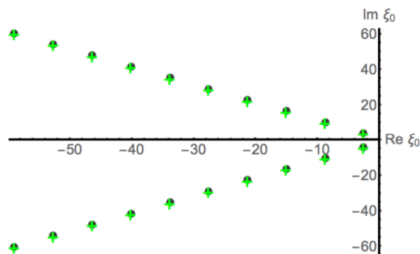
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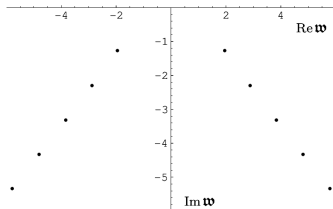
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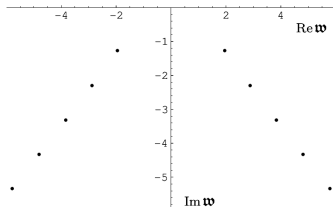
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from Kovtun,Starinets hep-th/0506184

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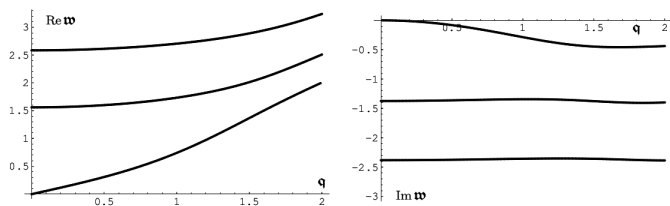
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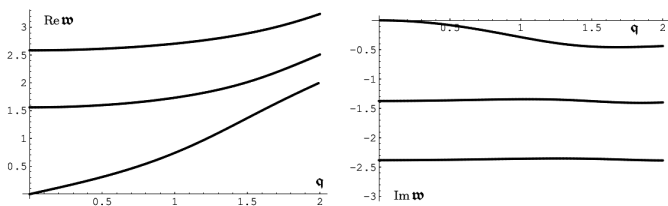
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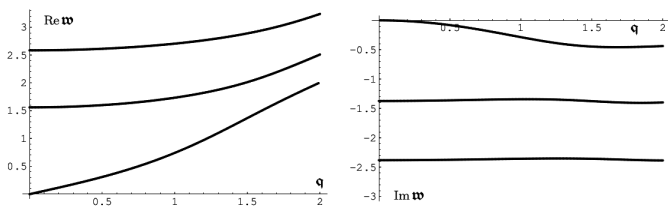
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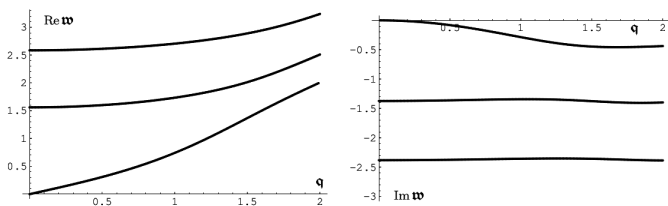
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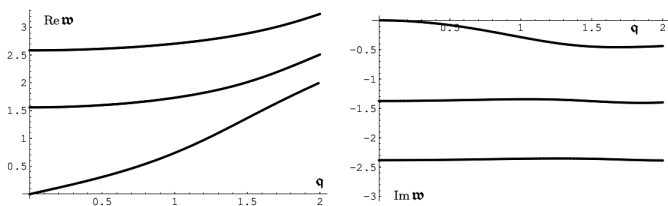
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from Kovtun, Starinets [hep-th/0506184](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0506184)

- **Key feature:** the frequencies have only very mild dependence on the spatial momentum — the dynamics becomes **'ultralocal'**
- Damping occurs locally (and independently) in space...

Proceed to general hydrodynamic flows...

A simple scalar example

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Quasinormal modes and the range of applicability of hydrodynamics

The range of applicability of hydrodynamics

- ▶ Once we know the (complex) dispersion relation of all modes we can ask whether for all momenta k , the hydrodynamic modes are less damped than the higher QNM's
- ▶ In the **conformal** case in the sound channel this is always the case:

from Kovtun,Starinets hep-th/0506184

- ▶ However Landsteiner discovered that in the shear channel, the hydrodynamic mode becomes **more** damped than the nonhydro mode for $q = \frac{k}{2\pi T} > 1.3$

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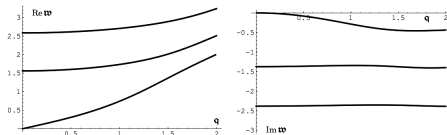
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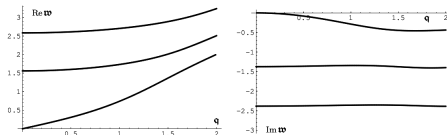
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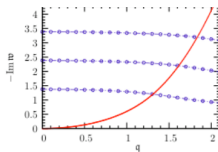
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Coupling dependence

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Waeber, Schafer, Vuorinen, Yaffe

Grozdanov, Kaplis, Starinets

- ▶ If one decreases the coupling, on the gravity side one has to add higher derivative corrections to Einstein gravity
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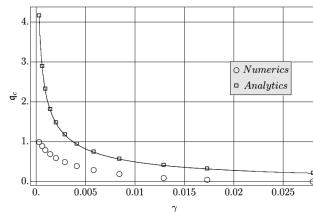
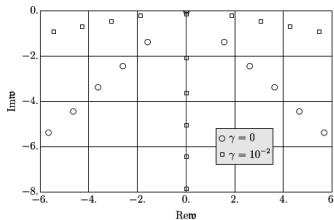
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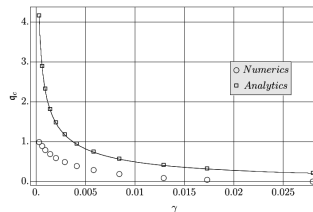
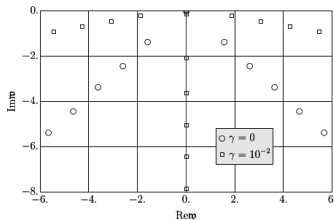
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RJ, Jankowski, Soltanpanahi
see talk by J. Jankowski

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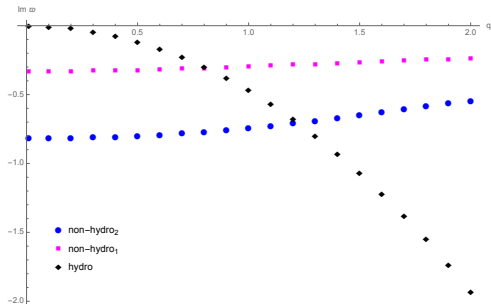
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How to model nonconformal plasma?

Two approaches:

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Deform $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM – explicitly known (but rather complicated)
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$\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ theory

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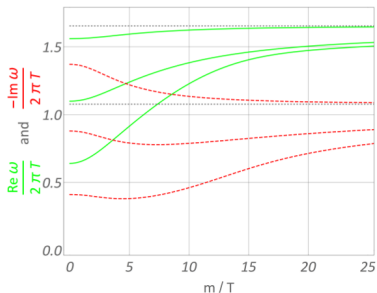
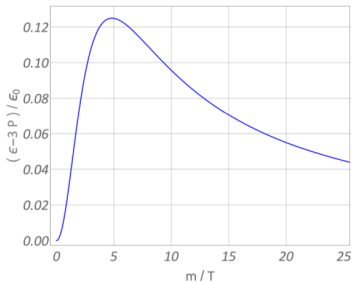
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from 1503.07114

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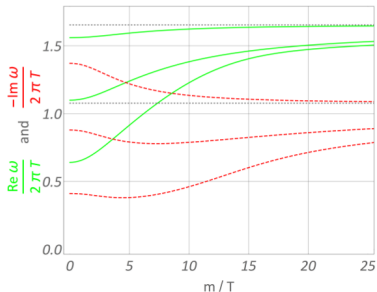
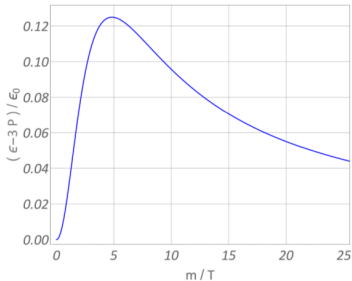
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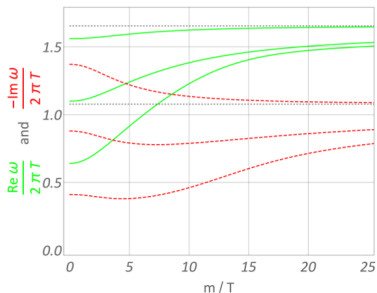
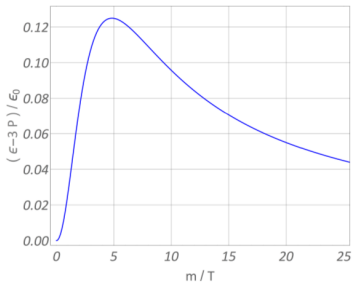
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RJ, Plewa, Soltanpanahi, Spaliński

RJ, Soltanpanahi, Jankowski x2

see talk by J. Jankowski

A bottom-up model

- ▶ Following Gubser et. al. we consider a gravity+scalar field system:

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

- ▶ Here $V(\phi)$ is a self-interaction potential which we choose to reproduce the physics of interest (like lattice QCD equation of state, or a 1st or 2nd order transition)
- ▶ We choose the following parametrization for $V(\phi)$:

$$V(\phi) = 12 \cosh(\gamma\phi) + b_2\phi^2 + b_4\phi^4 + b_6\phi^6 \sim -12 + \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 + O(\phi^4)$$

or (in the case of IHQCD)

$$V(\phi) = -12(1 + \phi^2)^{\frac{1}{4}} \cosh(\gamma\phi) + b_2\phi^2$$

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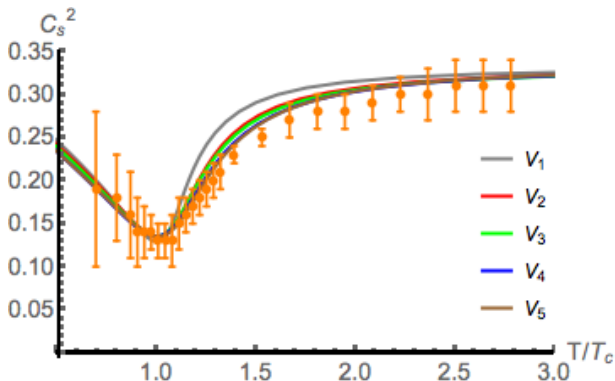
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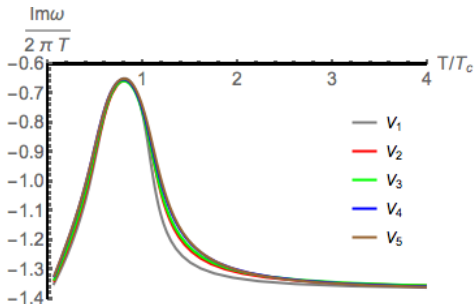
Massless scalar QNM's – QCD crossover potential

The damping of quasinormal modes decreases by a factor of two around T_c :

- ▶ The damping is essentially insensitive to differences in the UV
- ▶ The change in the damping seems to be correlated with deviations of the speed of sound from conformality
- ▶ **Message 1:** Approach to hydrodynamics is just as in the conformal case
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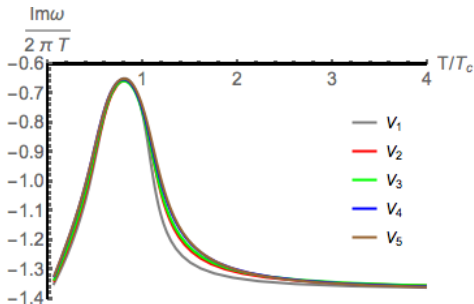
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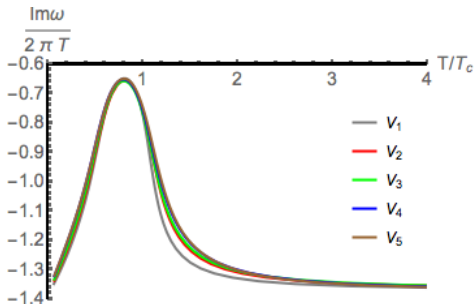
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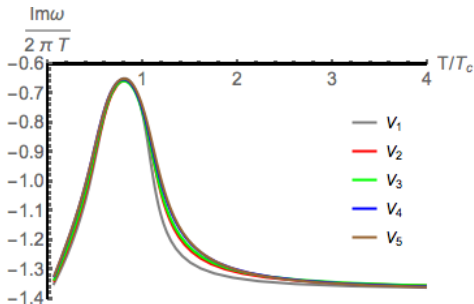
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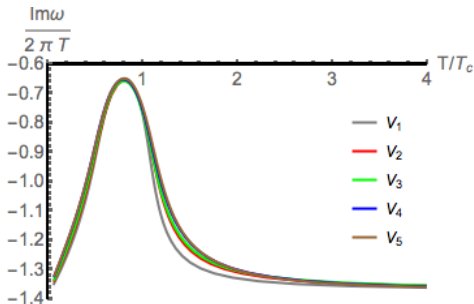
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We observe a rich variety of behaviours especially in the sound channel...
see talk by Jankowski

1st order phase transition example

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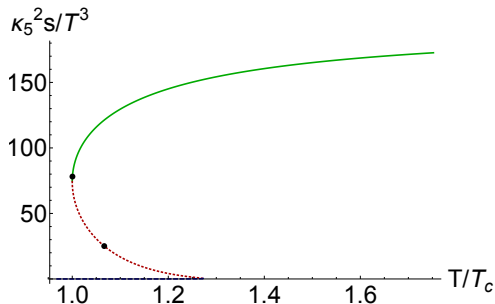
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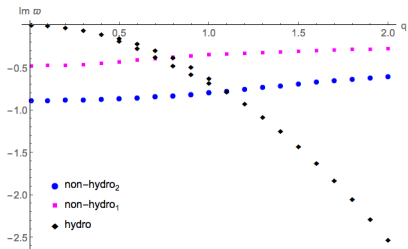
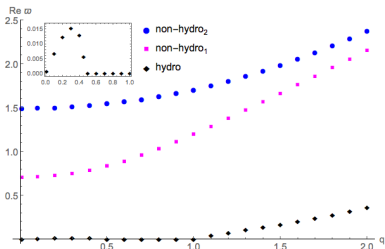
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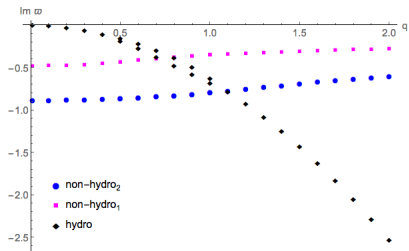
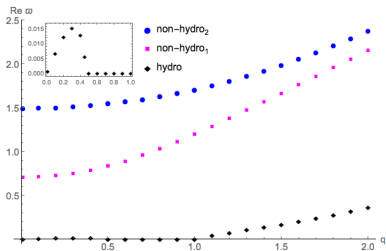


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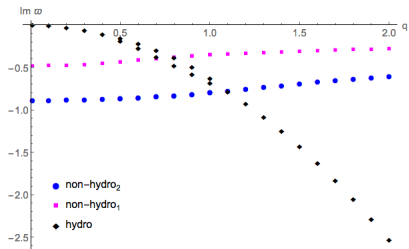
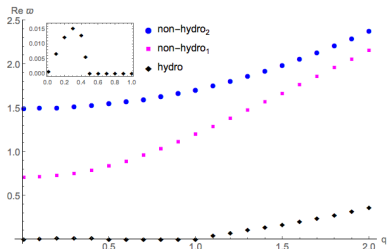


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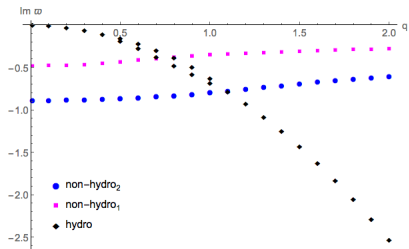
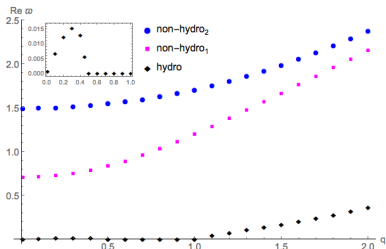


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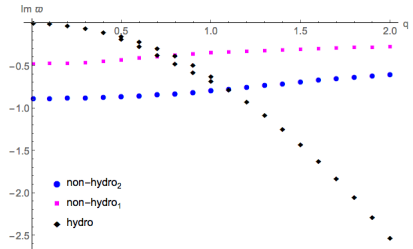
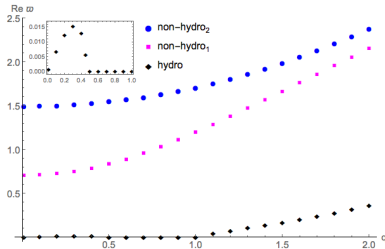


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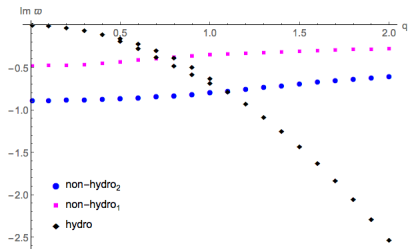
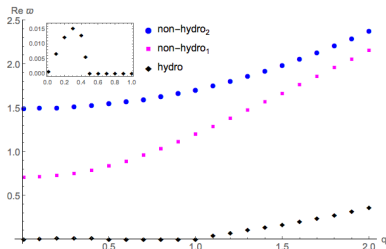


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- ▶ Janiszewski, Kaminski studied magnetic black branes (top-down)
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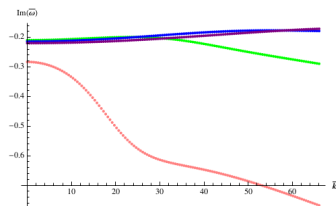
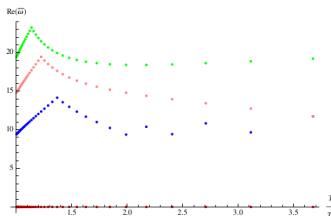
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- ▶ They are intrinsically linked with high order hydrodynamics akin to the relation of perturbation theory and nonperturbative instantons
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- ▶ One can study QNM on top of fluid/gravity backgrounds – ultralocality – but still a lot to understand
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- ▶ They exhibit quite intricate behaviours in the nonconformal and/or magnetic field case
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