

# Turbulence in High-Energy Physics

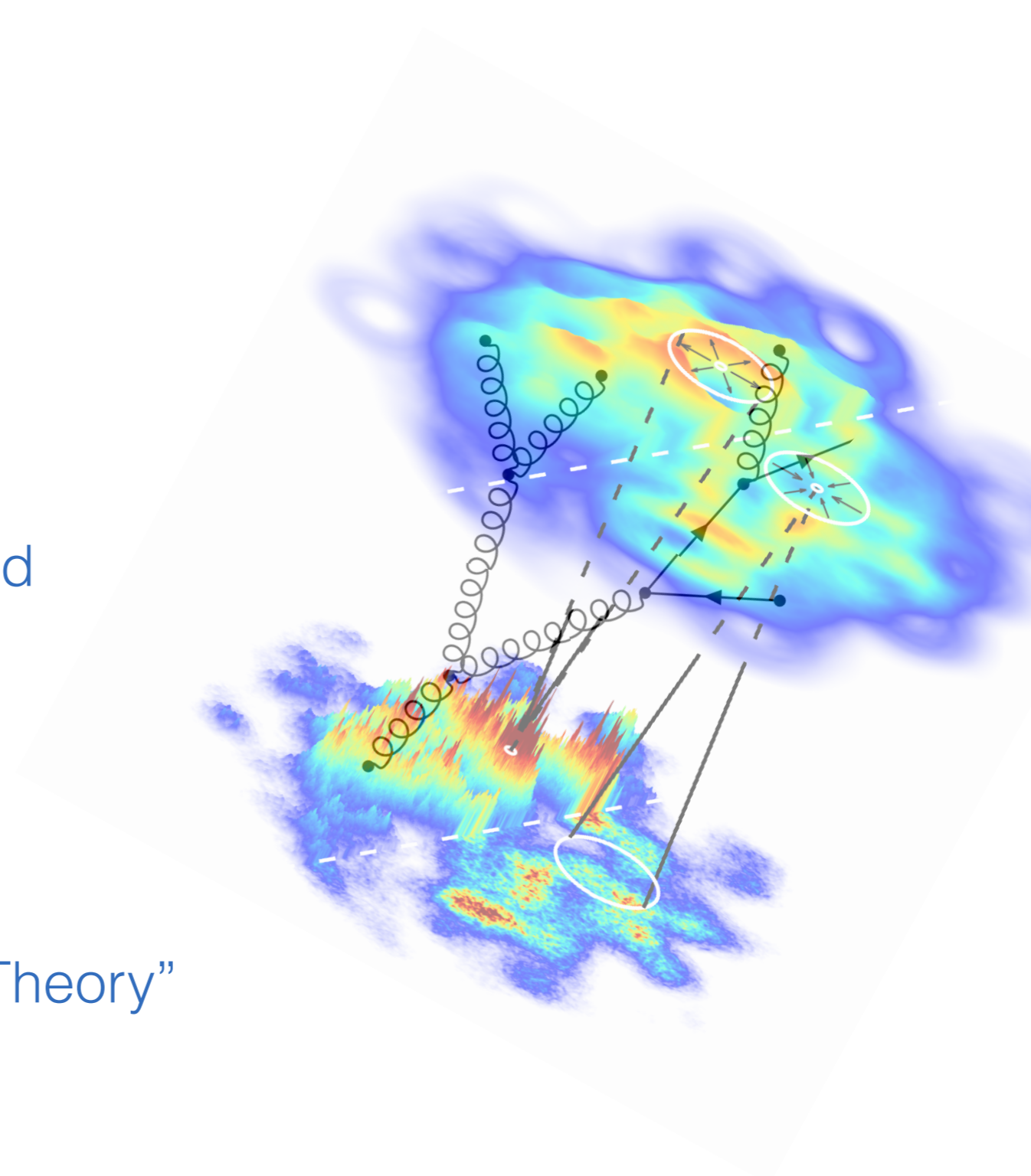
Sören Schlichting | Universität Bielefeld

*Reviews:*

*SS, Teaney, Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 69 (2019) 447-476*

*Berges, Heller, Mazeliauskas, Venugopalan arXiv:2005.12299*

Workshop on “Turbulence and Field Theory”  
The Graduate Center @ CUNY  
Mar 2021 (Online)



# Outline

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- 1 Introduction & Motivation
- 2 Turbulence in non-abelian gauge theories
- 3 Turbulence in scalar field theories
- 4 Conclusions & Outlook

# Turbulence in HEP

What is turbulence? —  
non-equilibrium dynamics associated  
with **transport of a conserved quantity**  
across a large **separation of scales**

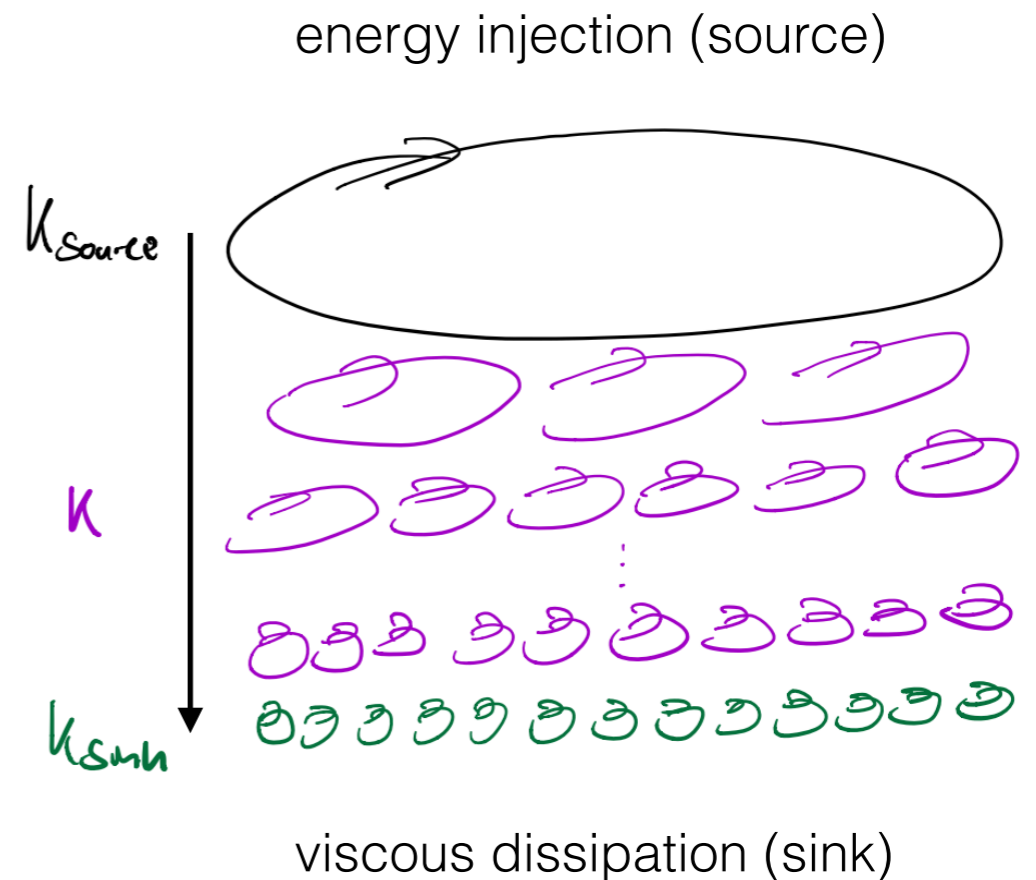
-> universal behavior

Different manifestations in different  
physical systems

**stationary vs. decaying turbulence**

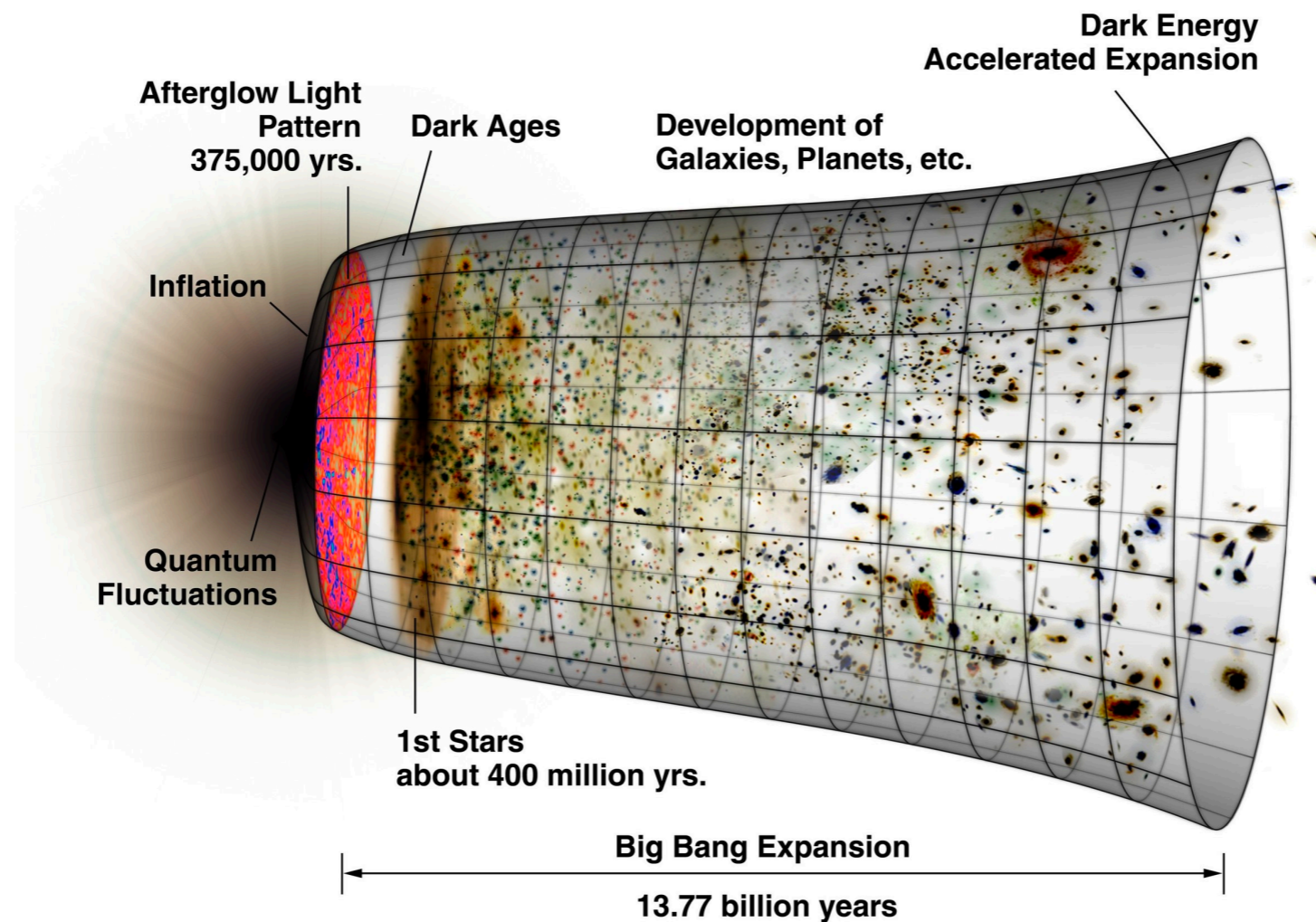
Non-equilibrium system ubiquitous in nature with many systems in HEP  
(Early Universe, Heavy-Ion Collisions, ...) exhibiting a large separation of  
scales

Since HEP systems are typically closed should expect  
**decaying turbulence** rather than stationary turbulence



# Far-from-equilibrium dynamics in HEP

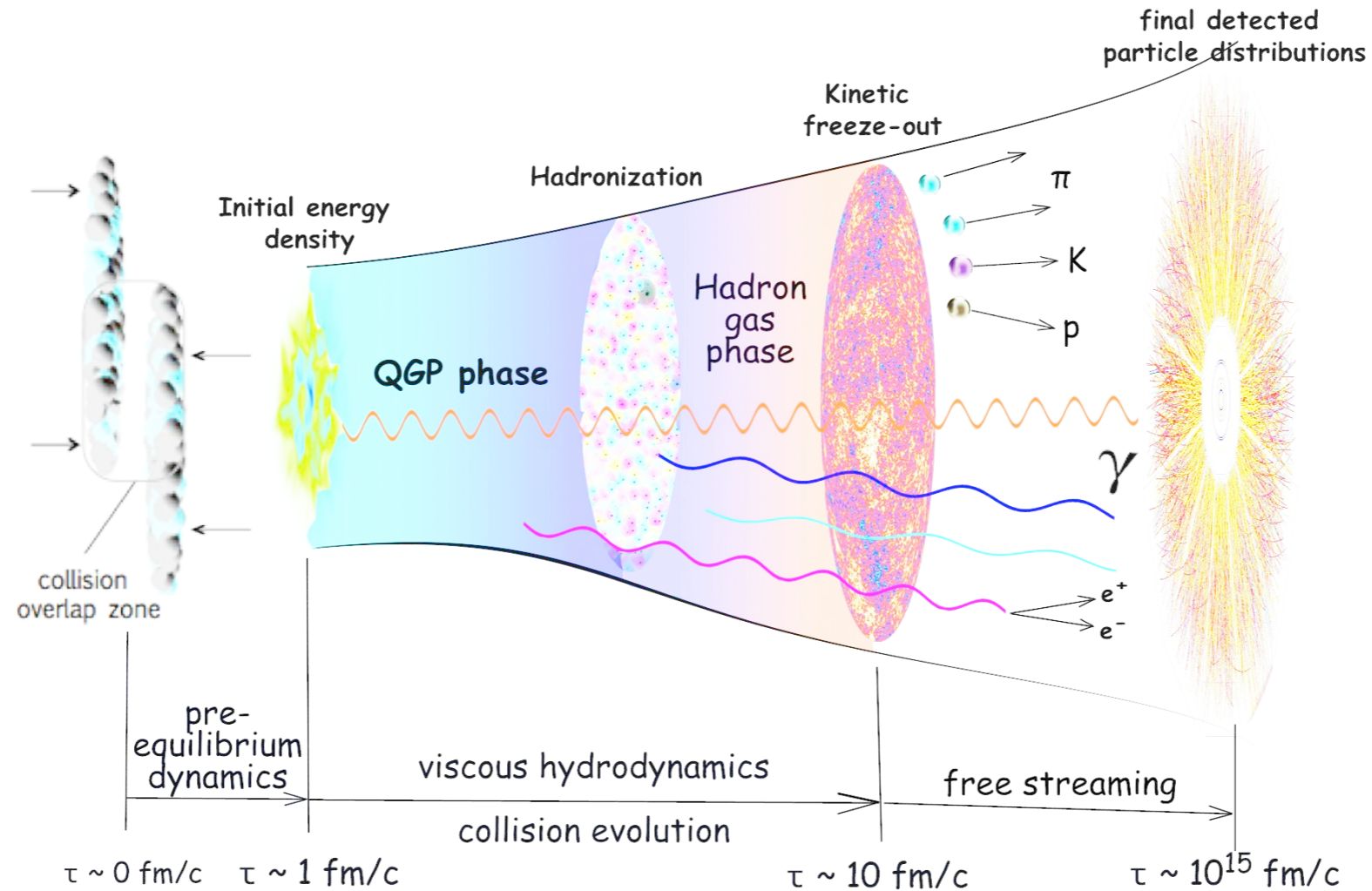
## Early Universe:



How is Standard Model Matter produced and equilibrated between end of Inflation and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)?

# Far-from-equilibrium dynamics in HEP

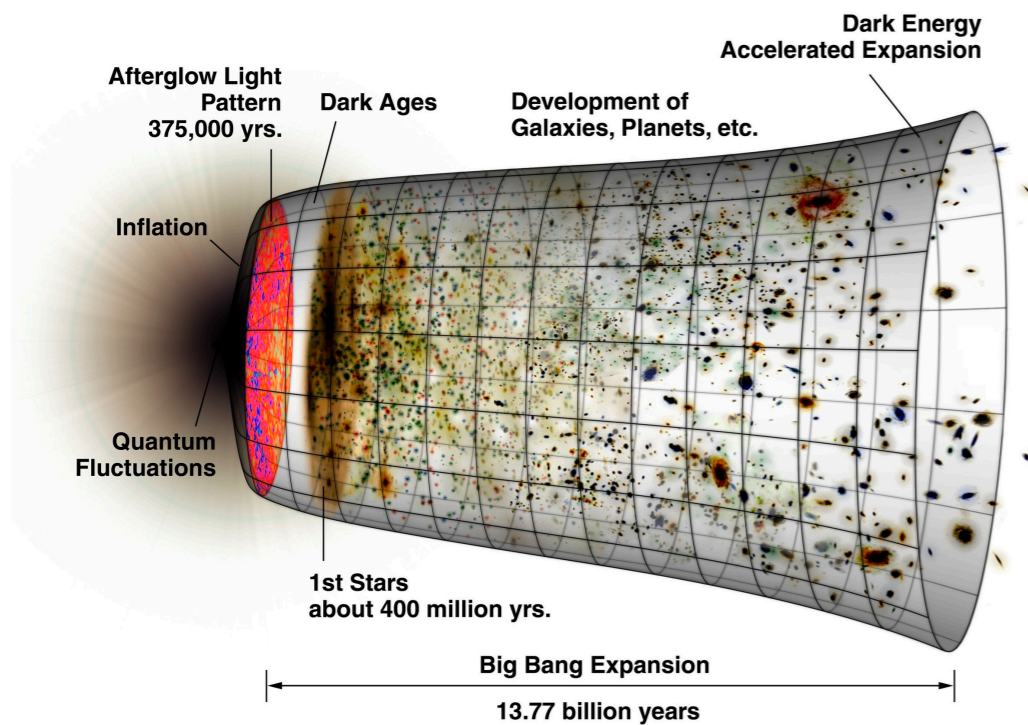
## High-Energy Heavy-Ion Collisions (HICs):



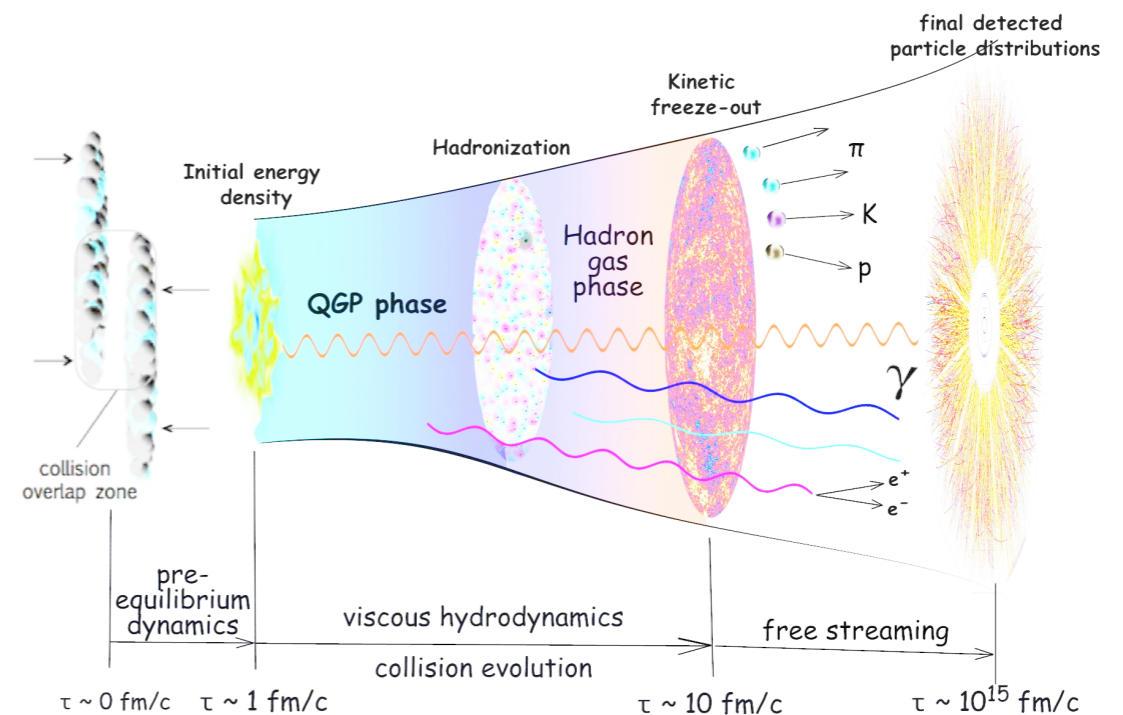
How is a new state of matter, the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP), created from dynamics of “primordial” far-from equilibrium plasma created in the collision?

# Disclaimer

## Early Universe:



## Heavy-Ion Collisions:



Will not discuss details relevant to Thermalization of the Early Universe or Heavy-Ion Collisions, but instead use them as motivation for simpler examples which are better understood and have a clear connection to turbulence

# Non-equilibrium QFT

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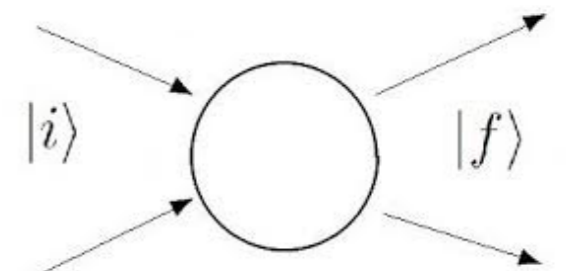
High-Energy Physics systems described by Quantum Field Theories

Generally there is no exact way to study non-equilibrium dynamics in an interacting quantum field theory

Weak coupling limit of QFT allows for description of non-equilibrium dynamics based on

## Kinetic theory:

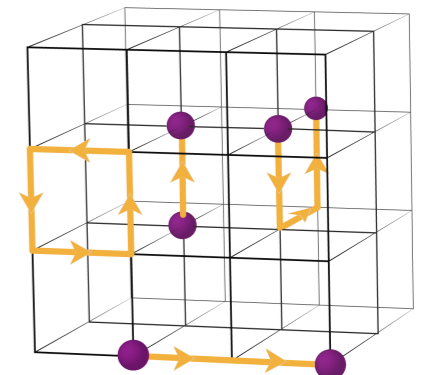
perturbative description in terms of weakly interacting quasi-particles



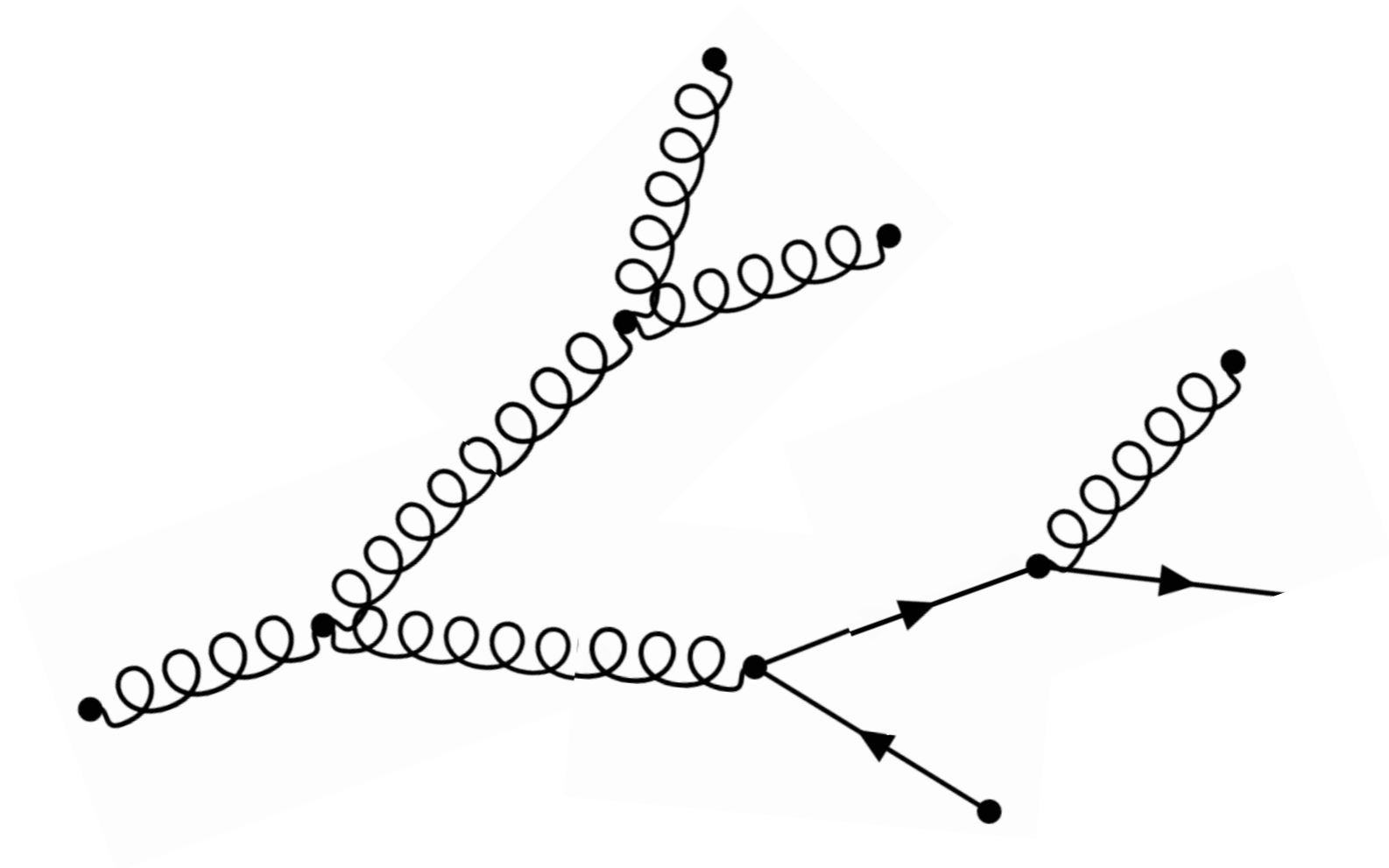
## Classical-statistical field theory

non-perturbative description of bosonic quantum fields in terms of classical fields

numerical solution of lattice discretized EOMs



2



Turbulence in  
non-abelian gauge theories



# Non-equilibrium QCD

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Strong interactions described by Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD)

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \sum_f^{N_f} \bar{q}_f (\gamma^\mu D_\mu + m_f) q_f - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} F_{\mu\nu}^2$$

fundamental dof's are self-interacting gauge bosons (**gluons**) and light & heavy Dirac fermions (**quarks**)

Non-perturbative features (confinement, chiral symmetry breaking, ...) at low energy scales  $< 1$  GeV, but asymptotically free at high energies

Dynamics of QCD at LO\* described by relativistic Boltzmann equation

Arnold, Moore, Yaffe JHEP 0301 (2003) 030

$$p^\mu \partial_\mu f(x, p) = \mathcal{C}_{2 \leftrightarrow 2}[f] + \mathcal{C}_{1 \leftrightarrow 2}[f]$$

considerations apply to non-abelian SU(N) plasmas

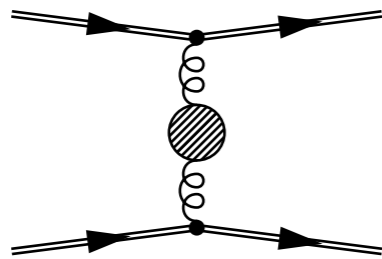
\*Note that expansion is in  $g$  rather than  $\alpha_s = g^2/4\pi$

# Non-equilibrium QCD

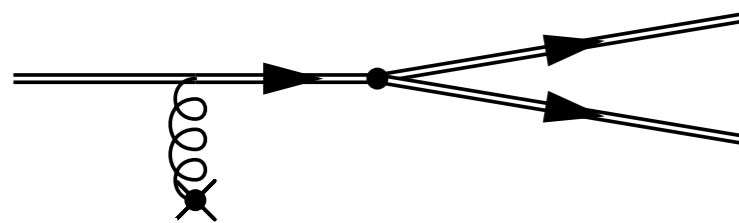
Characteristic features of effective kinetic theory of QCD

$$p^\mu \partial_\mu f(x, p) = \mathcal{C}_{2 \leftrightarrow 2}[f] + \mathcal{C}_{1 \leftrightarrow 2}[f]$$

- ultra-relativistic massless quasi-particles (g,u,ubar,d,dbar,s,sbar)
- scale invariant interactions
- elastic ( $2 \leftrightarrow 2$ ) & in-elastic ( $1 \leftrightarrow 2$ ) processes at the same order



elast.  $2 \leftrightarrow 2$  scattering screened by Debye mass



collinear  $1 \leftrightarrow 2$  Bremsstrahlung  
incl. Landau-Pomeranchuk-Migdal (LPM) effect  
via eff. vertex re-summation

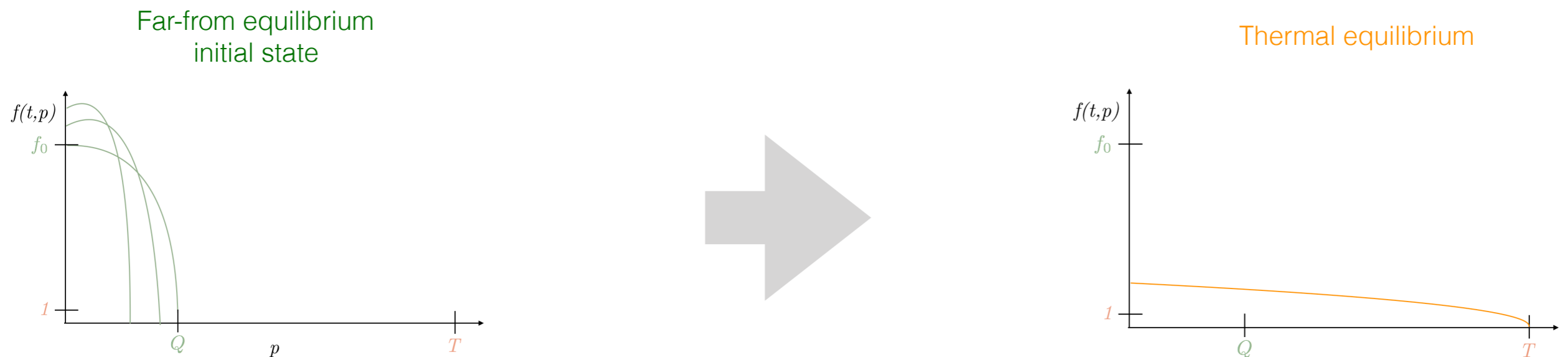
Solve numerically as integro-differential equation, with in-medium matrix elements for  $2 \leftrightarrow 2$  and  $1 \leftrightarrow 2$  processes self-consistently determined

# Turbulence in QCD plasmas

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Will not address the complex problem of thermalization in HICs but instead discuss thermalization of *homogenous & isotropic QCD plasmas*

c.f. (weak-) wave-turbulence in statistically homogenous & isotropic media



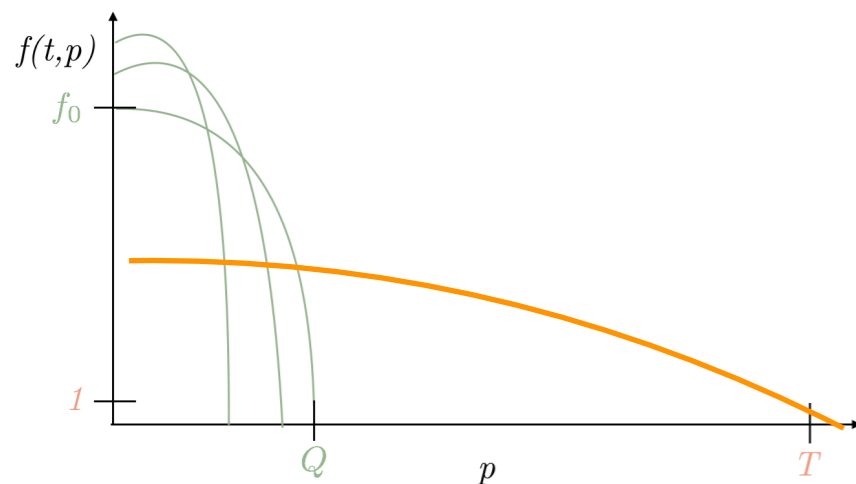
Equilibration of the system requires transport of conserved quantities across a large separation of scales

Since system closed final equilibrium state is determined by conserved quantities of the system — energy density:  $e$ , valence charge:  $\Delta n_f$

# Turbulence in QCD plasmas

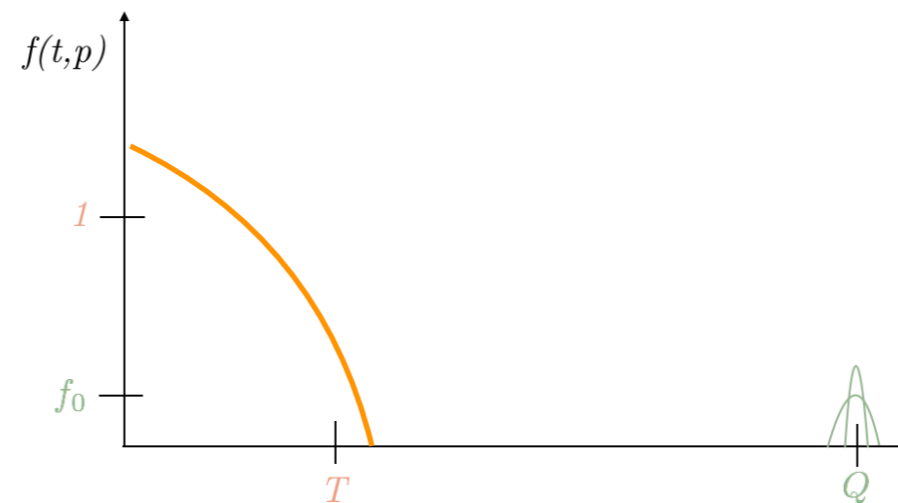
Distinguish between two qualitatively different far from-equilibrium scenarios

Over-occupied system



Energy carried by large number of low energy dof's  $\langle p \rangle \ll T$  (e.g. due to instabilities)

Under-occupied system



Energy carried by small number of high energy dof's  $\langle p \rangle \gg T$  (e.g. high-energy jets)

for which basic thermalization mechanisms have been worked out

# Over-occupied QCD plasmas

Classical-statistical simulations of non-equilibrium dynamics

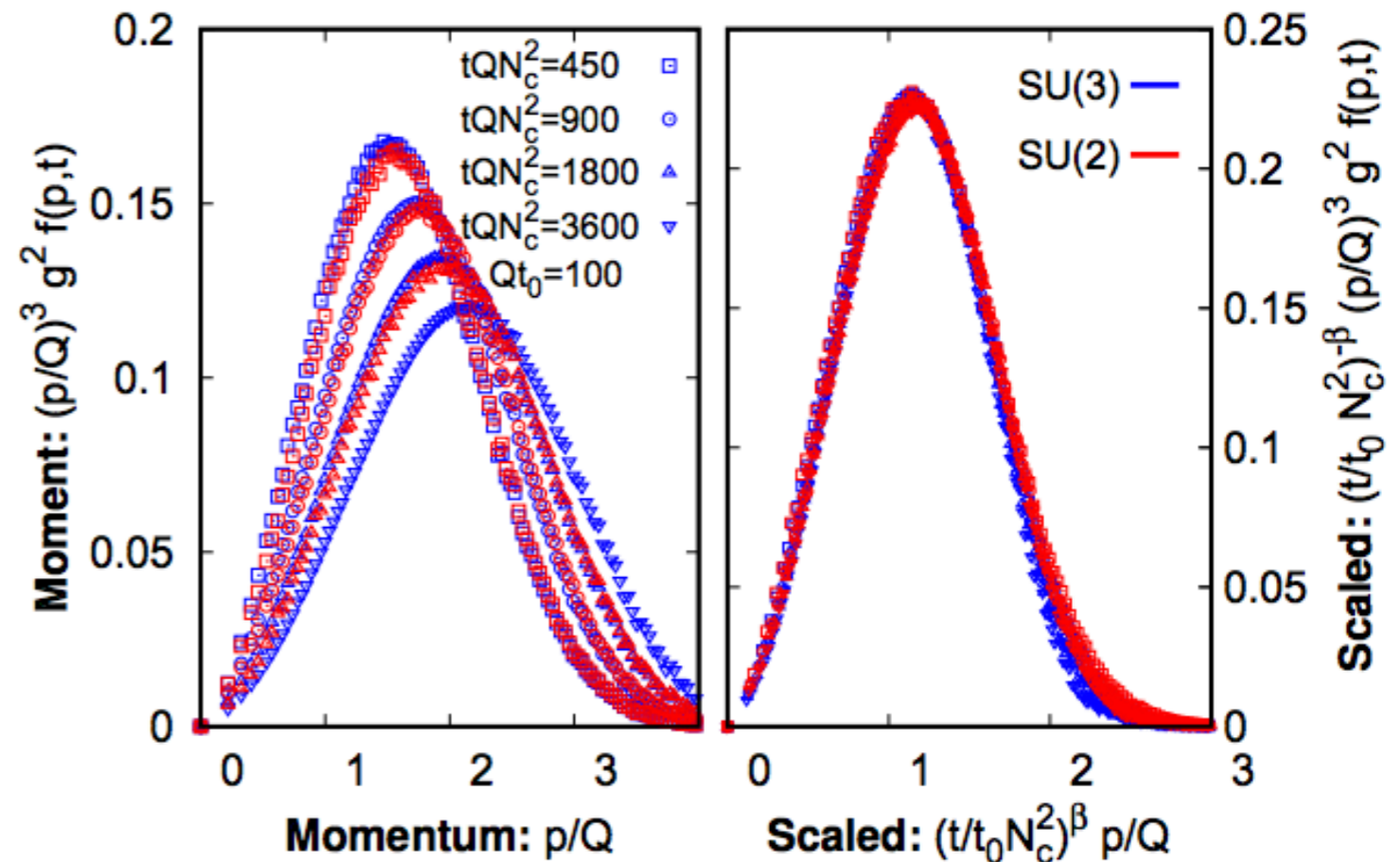
Early time dynamics:

Strongly depends on the initial conditions and can be essentially non-perturbative

Intermediate times:

Evolution becomes insensitive to initial conditions and proceeds via a self-similar ultra-violet cascade

$$f_g(t, p) = t^\alpha f_g^S(t^\beta p)$$



SS PRD 86 (2012); Berges, Boguslavski, SS, Venugopalan  
PRD 89 (2014) 11; Berges, Mace SS PRL 118 (2017) 19;

Dynamics can be entirely described in terms of

- scaling exponents  $\alpha=-4/7$   $\beta=-1/7$

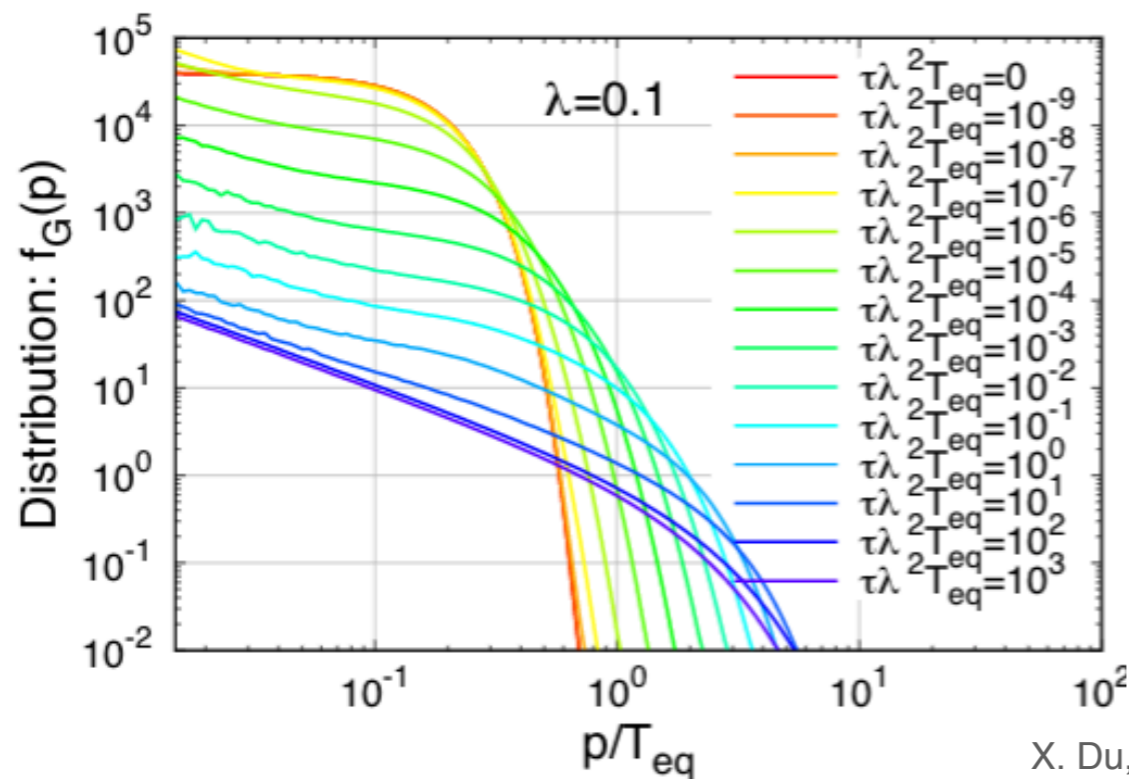
- stationary scaling functions  $f_g^S(x)$

# Over-occupied QCD plasmas

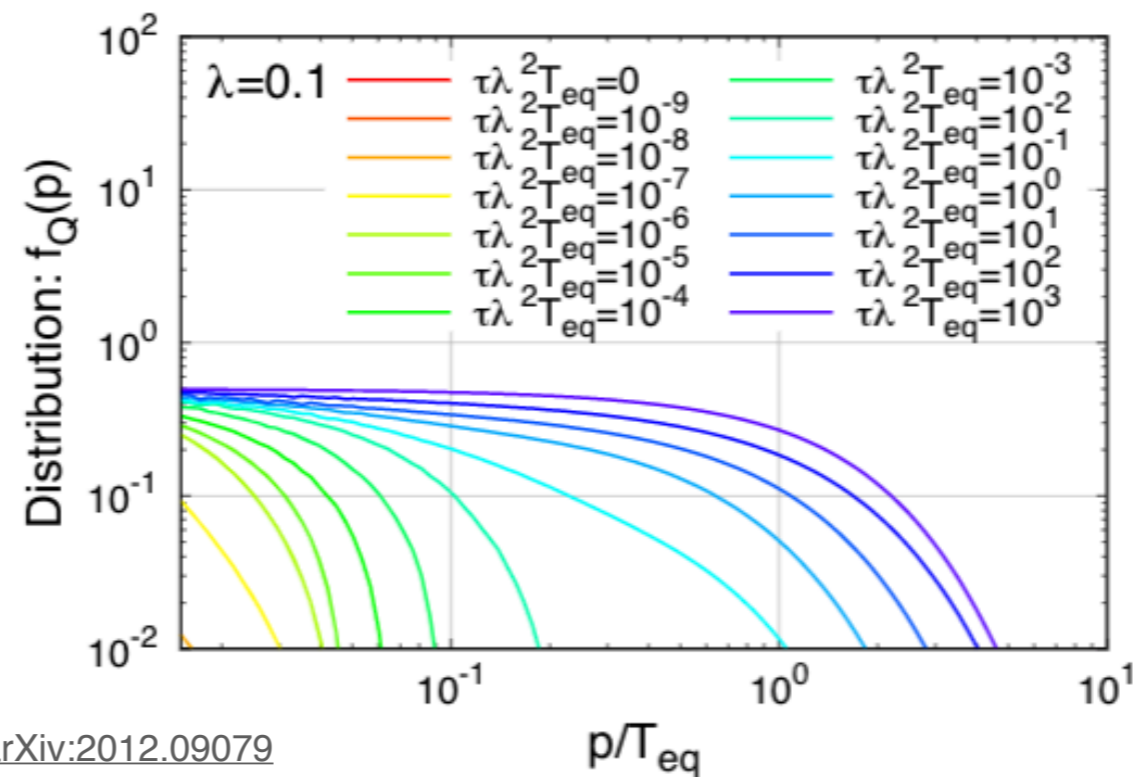
Effective kinetic description reproduces class. statistical results

SS *Phys.Rev.D* 86 (2012); Abrao York, Kurkela, Lu, Moore *Phys.Rev.D* 89 (2014) 7;

Berges, Boguslavski, SS, Venugopalan *Phys.Rev.D* 89 (2014) 11; Berges, Mazeliauskas *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 122 (2019)



X. Du, SS, [arXiv:2012.09079](https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.09079)



Self-similar evolution of gluon distribution  $f_G(t,p)$  associated with decaying turbulence

$$f_g(t, p) = t^\alpha f_g^S(t^\beta p)$$

Quarks are sub-dominant and simply follow gluon distribution

Equilibration occurs when energy transport to UV is accomplished

# Scaling analysis

Scaling exponents  $\alpha, \beta$  determined by standard scaling analysis

Search for self-similar scaling solution

$$\frac{\partial f(t, \mathbf{p})}{\partial t} = C[f](t, \mathbf{p})$$

$$f(p, t) = t^\alpha f_S(t^\beta p)$$

Scaling behavior of the collision integral

$$\xrightarrow[\text{(} f \gg 1 \text{)}]{\text{scale invariance}} C[f](p, t) = t^\mu C[f_S](t^\beta p)$$

-> Boltzmann equation can be decomposed into

$$[\alpha + \beta \mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}}] f_S(\mathbf{p}) = C[f_S](1, \mathbf{p}),$$

$$\alpha - 1 = \mu(\alpha, \beta)$$

**time independent fixed-point condition**

**scaling relation**

# Scaling analysis

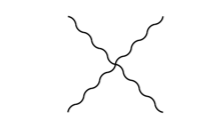
Dynamical scaling exponents  $\alpha, \beta$  are uniquely determined by

**Scaling of the collision integral** + **Conservation laws**

$$\alpha - 1 = \mu(\alpha, \beta)$$

$$\alpha = \beta(d + z)$$

allows for a universal classification scheme

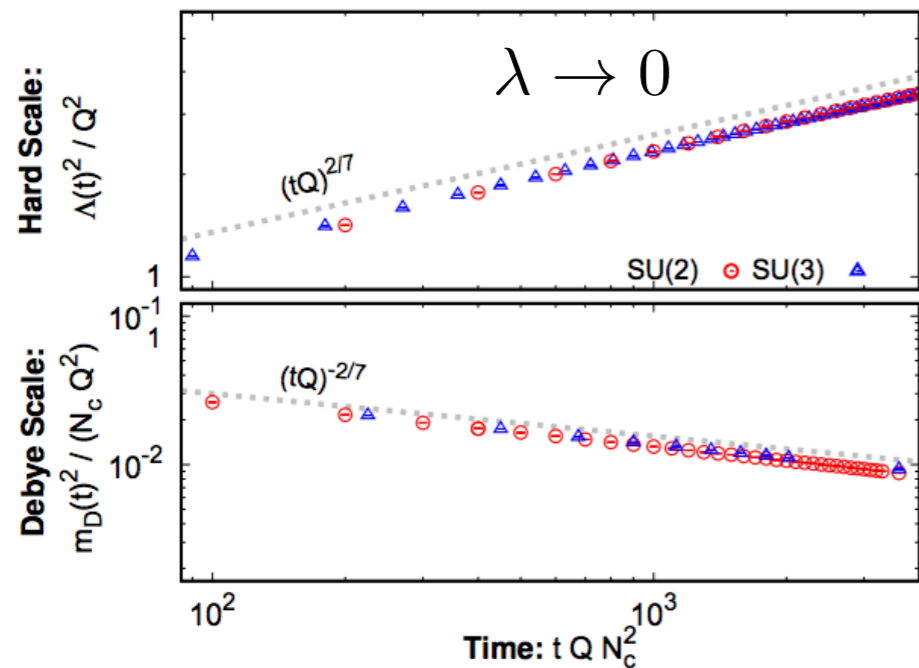
	<i>Interaction</i>	<i>Scaling exponents</i>	
<b>SU(N) Yang-Mills theory in 3+1D</b>		$\beta$	$\alpha$
	<b>2<math>\leftrightarrow</math>2 &amp; eff. 2<math>\leftrightarrow</math>1</b>	<b>-1/7</b>	<b>-4/7</b>

independent of microscopic parameters (e.g. coupling constant, number of field components,...)



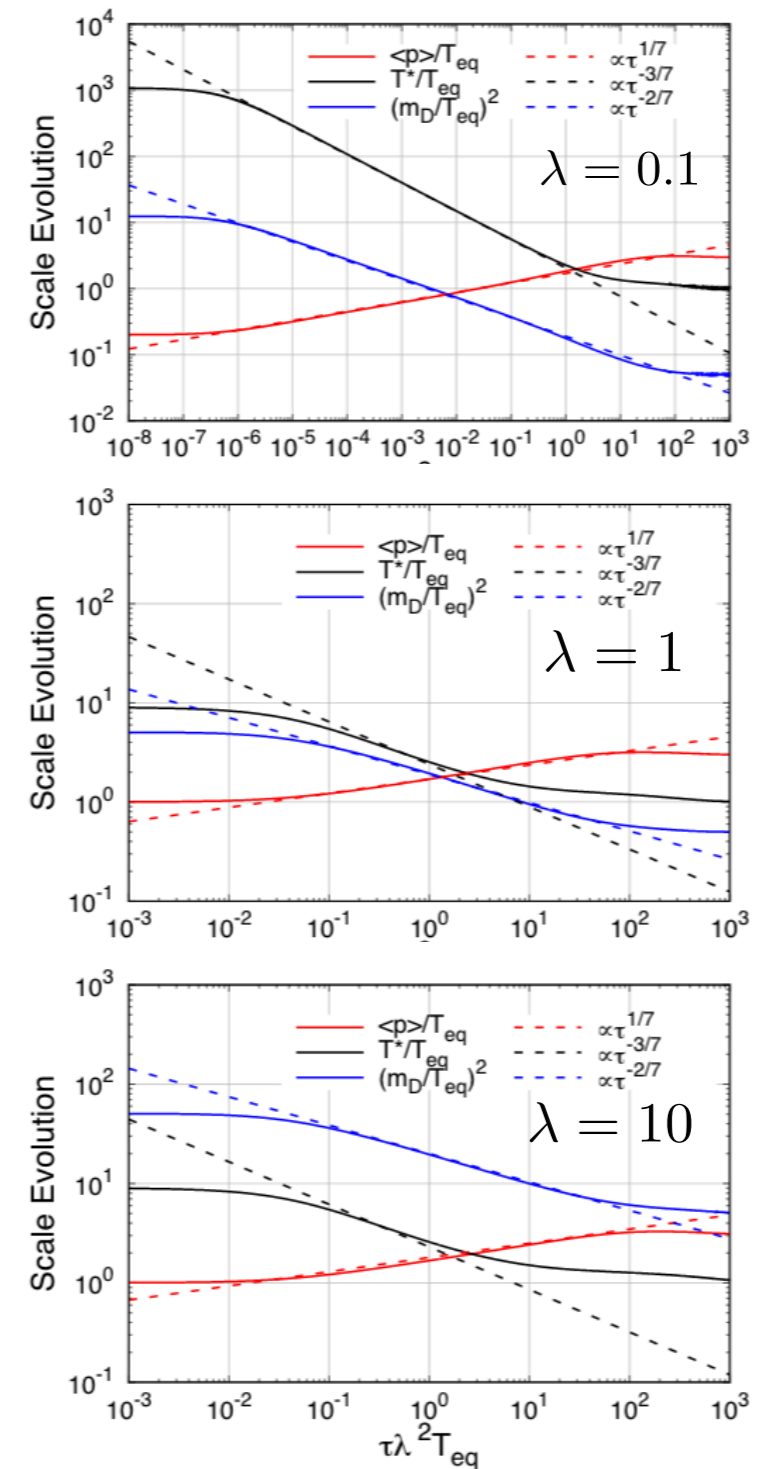
# Universality of scaling exponents

Universality of scaling exponents explicitly verified in class. statistical simulations of SU(2) and SU(3) plasmas



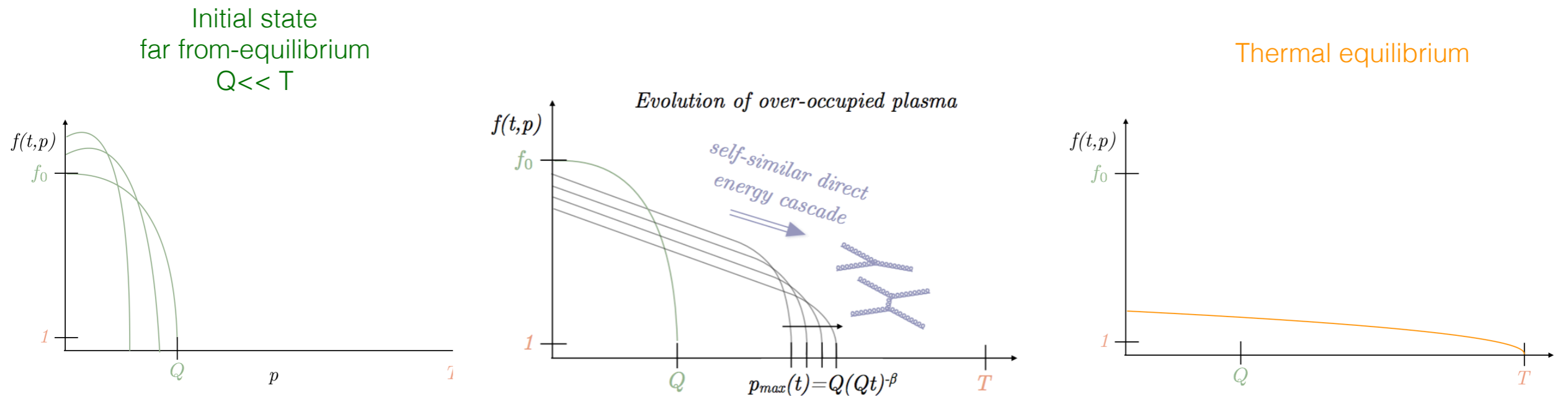
Berges, Mace SS PRL 118 (2017) 19;

Scaling behavior in kinetic theory persist even for moderately large values of the coupling constant



# Over-occupied QCD plasmas

Energy transfer to UV accomplished via self-similar turbulent cascade



equilibration accomplished on time scale  $t_{\text{thermal}} \sim \alpha_s^{-2} f_0^{-1/4} Q^{-1} \sim \alpha_s^{-2} T^{-1}$

Kurkela, Lu Phys.Rev.Lett. 113 (2014) 18; SS, Teaney Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 69 (2019)

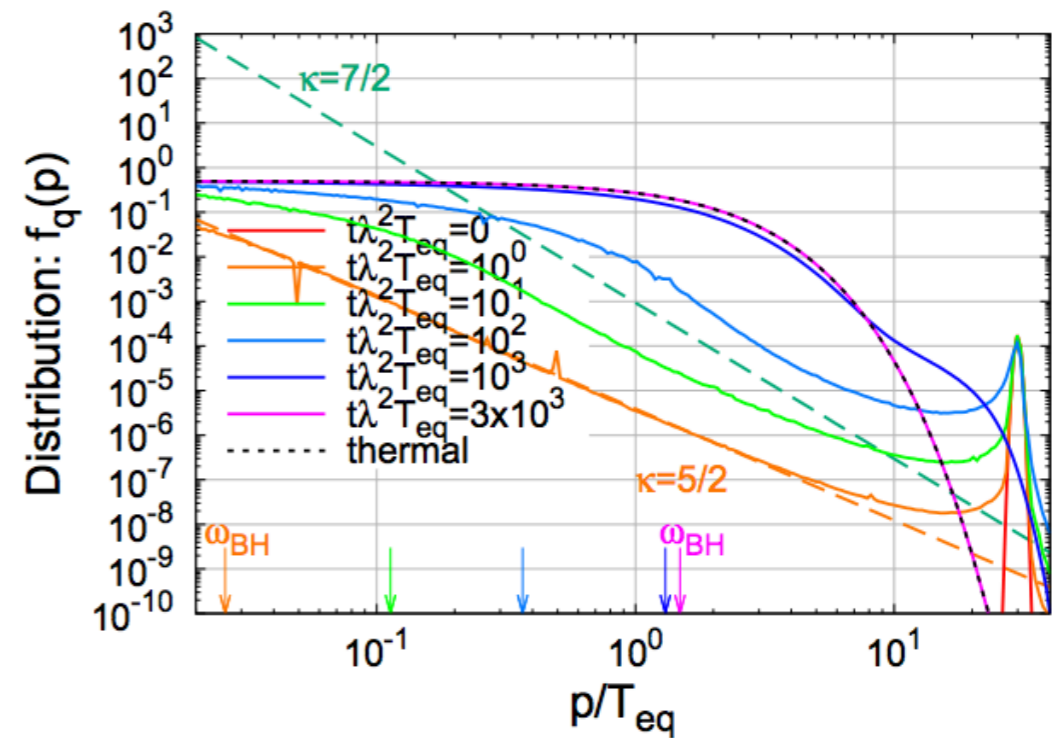
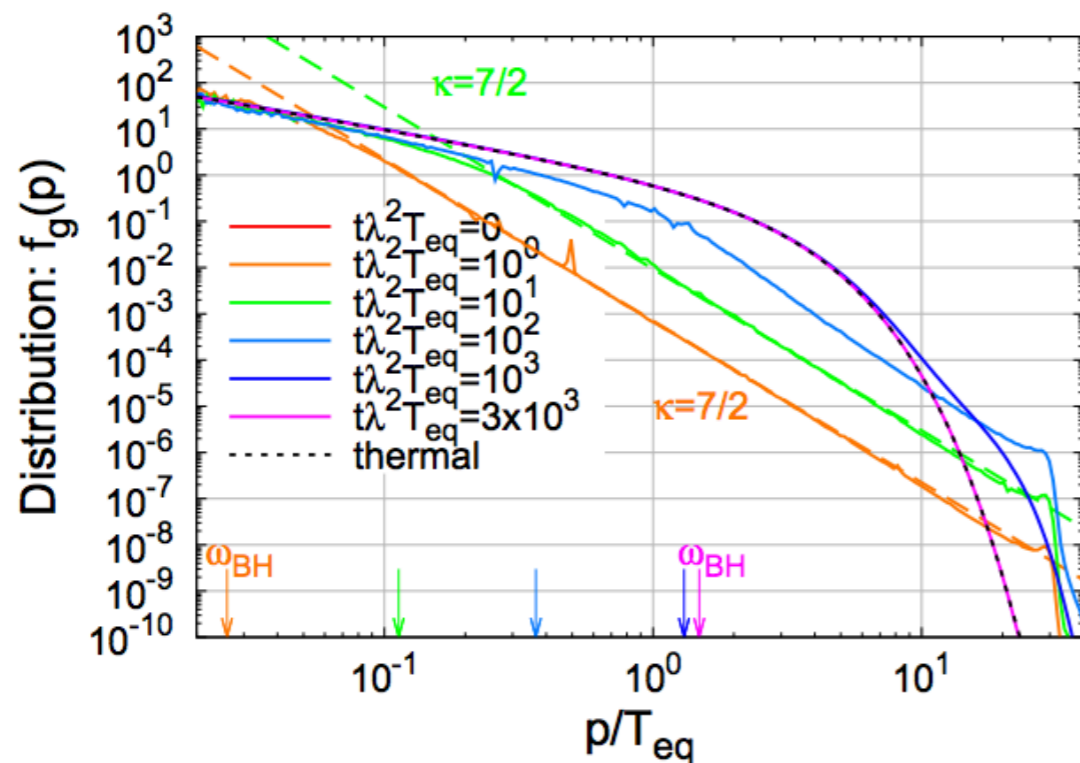
Scaling properties during turbulent thermalization extend to non-perturbative IR sector (sphaleron transitions, Wilson loops, ...)

Mace, SS, Venugopalan Phys.Rev.D 93 (2016) 7; Berges, Mace SS Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) 19

# Under-occupied QCD plasmas

Equilibration process driven by radiative break-up of hard particles

Baier et al. Phys.Lett.B 502 (2001); Kurkela, Lu Phys.Rev.Lett. 113 (2014) 18; X. Du, SS, arXiv:2012.09079



Hard particles emit soft quark/gluon radiation

X. Du, SS, arXiv:2012.09079

Soft quarks/gluons thermalize and form a thermal bath with low temperature

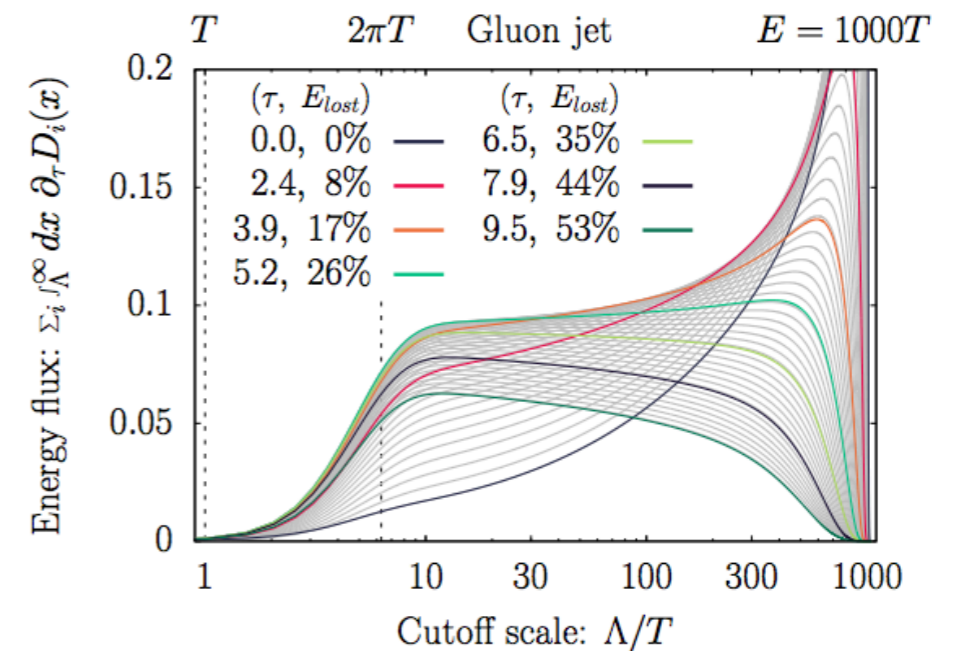
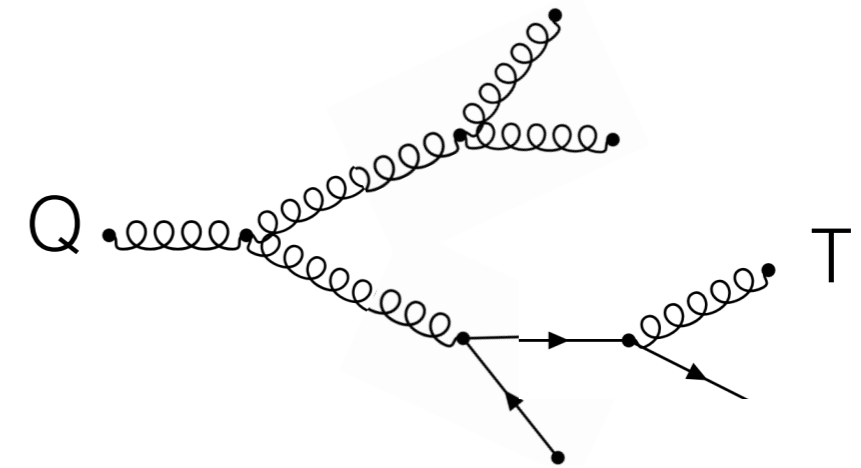
Inverse energy cascade deposits energy of hard particles into soft-thermal bath

# Under-occupied QCD plasmas

Successive radiative emissions lead to emergence of an (inverse) energy cascade associated from  $Q \rightarrow T$

Since radiation rates increase along the cascade, energy flux is scale invariant in an inertial range of momenta  $T \ll p \ll Q$

-> energy transported from  $Q$  to  $T$  without accumulation at intermediate scales



SS, I. Soudi arXiv:2008.04928

Standard features of weak wave turbulence observed for sufficiently large scale separation  $Q \gg T$  (e.g. high-energy Jet in thermal medium)

# Kolmogorov spectrum $f_{g/q}(T \ll p \ll Q) \sim p^{-7/2}$

Evolution of energy distribution  $D_{q/g}(t,x) = p^3 f_{g/q}(t,p)|_{x=p/Q}$  governed by successive radiative emissions in inertial range of energy fractions  $T/Q \ll x=p/Q \ll 1$

Baier et al. *Phys.Lett.B* 502 (2001),; Blaizot, Iancu, Mehtar-Tani *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 111 (2013) 052001; Mehtar-Tani, SS *JHEP* 09 (2018) 144

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} D_g(x, \tau) &= \int_0^1 dz \mathcal{K}_{gg}(z) \left[ \sqrt{\frac{z}{x}} D_g\left(\frac{x}{z}\right) - \frac{z}{\sqrt{x}} D_g(x) \right] - \int_0^1 dz K_{qg}(z) \frac{z}{\sqrt{x}} D_g(x) \\ &+ \int_0^1 dz K_{gq}(z) \sqrt{\frac{z}{x}} D_S\left(\frac{x}{z}\right), \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} D_S(x, \tau) = \int_0^1 dz \mathcal{K}_{qq}(z) \left[ \sqrt{\frac{z}{x}} D_S\left(\frac{x}{z}\right) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} D_S(x) \right] + \int_0^1 dz \mathcal{K}_{qg}(z) \sqrt{\frac{z}{x}} D_g\left(\frac{x}{z}\right)$$

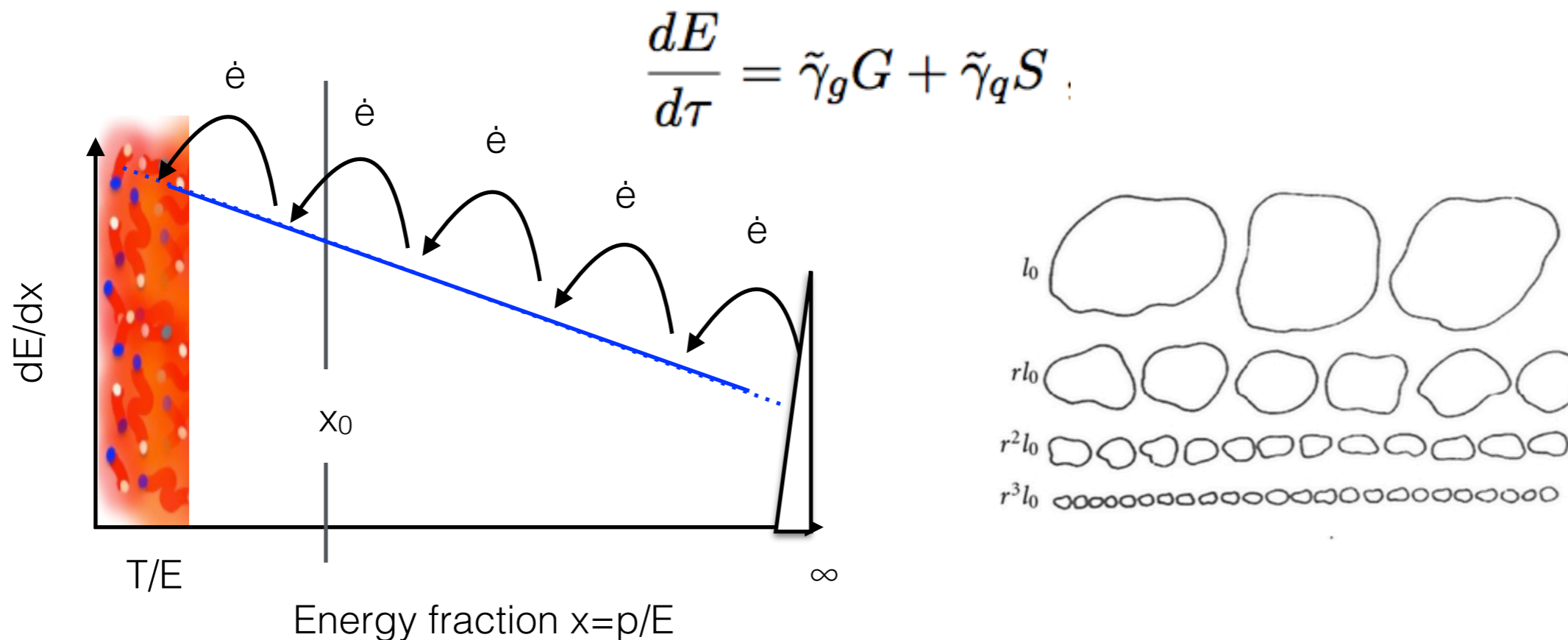
Stationary solution for Kolmogorov Zhakarov spectrum

$$D_g(x) = \frac{G}{\sqrt{x}}, \quad D_S = \frac{S}{\sqrt{x}},$$

Existence of solution does not rely on detailed form of  $K(z)$  but only on characteristic energy dependence  $\sim 1/\sqrt{E}$  of radiation rates

# Energy loss

Kolmogorov Zhakarov spectrum is associated with a finite energy flux from high to low momentum



$$\tilde{\gamma}_g = \int_0^1 dz z [\mathcal{K}_{gg}(z) + 2N_f \mathcal{K}_{qg}(z)] \log(z)$$

$$\tilde{\gamma}_q = \int_0^1 dz 2z [\mathcal{K}_{gq}(z) + \mathcal{K}_{qq}(z)] \log(z)$$

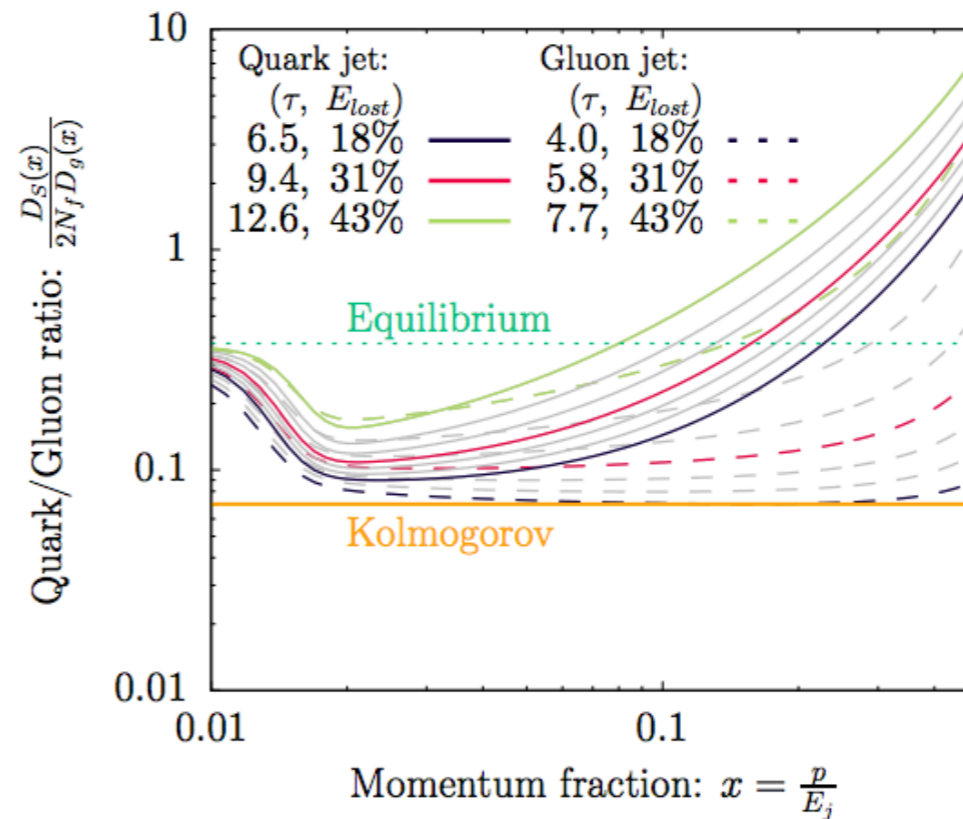
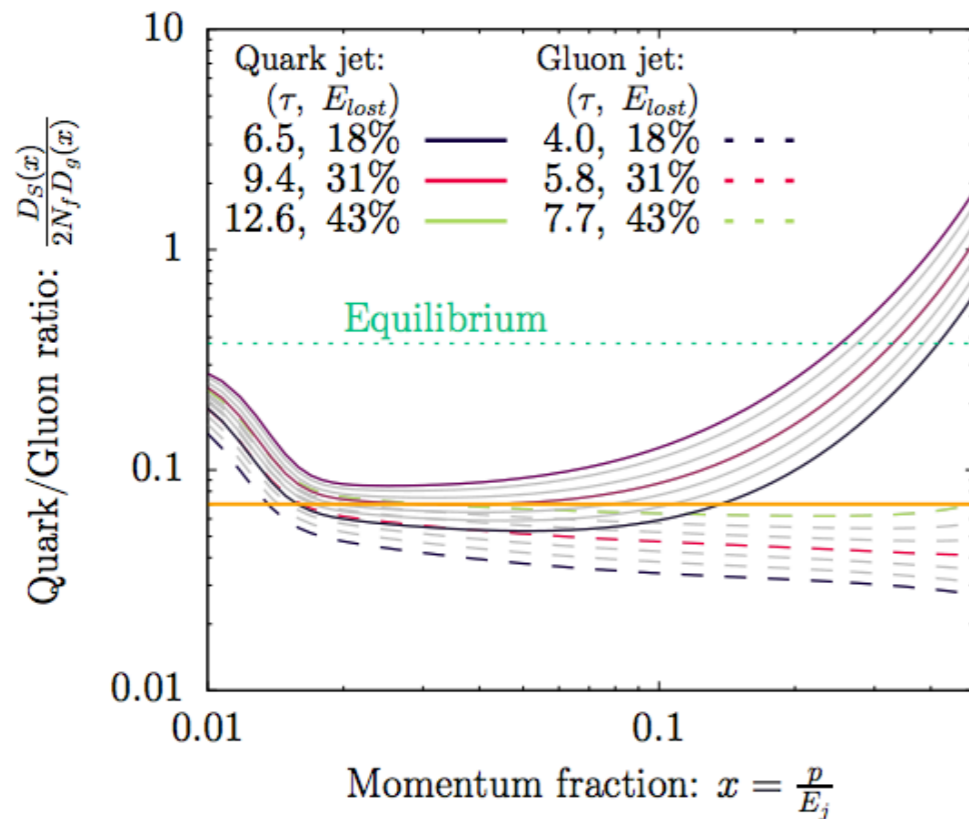
Energy loss rate is dominated by gluon radiation (g->gg); contributions from q->qg and g->qq to energy loss give 16% (0.6%)

# Chemistry of fragments

Chemistry of fragments within inertial range of momenta fixed by balance of  $g \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  and  $q \rightarrow gq$  processes

$$D_g(x) = \frac{G}{\sqrt{x}}, \quad D_S = \frac{S}{\sqrt{x}},$$

$$\frac{S}{G} = \frac{2N_f \int dz z \mathcal{K}_{qg}(z)}{\int dz z \mathcal{K}_{gq}(z)} \approx 0.07 \times 2N_f$$



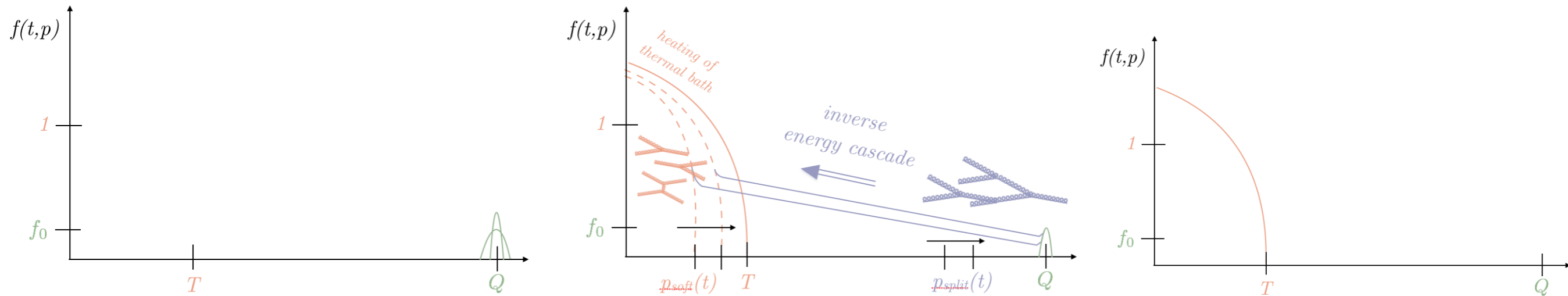
# Under-occupied QCD plasmas

Energy transfer to IR accomplished via inverse turbulent cascade

Initial state  
far from-equilibrium  
 $Q \gg T$

radiative break-up  
via inverse energy cascade

Thermal equilibrium



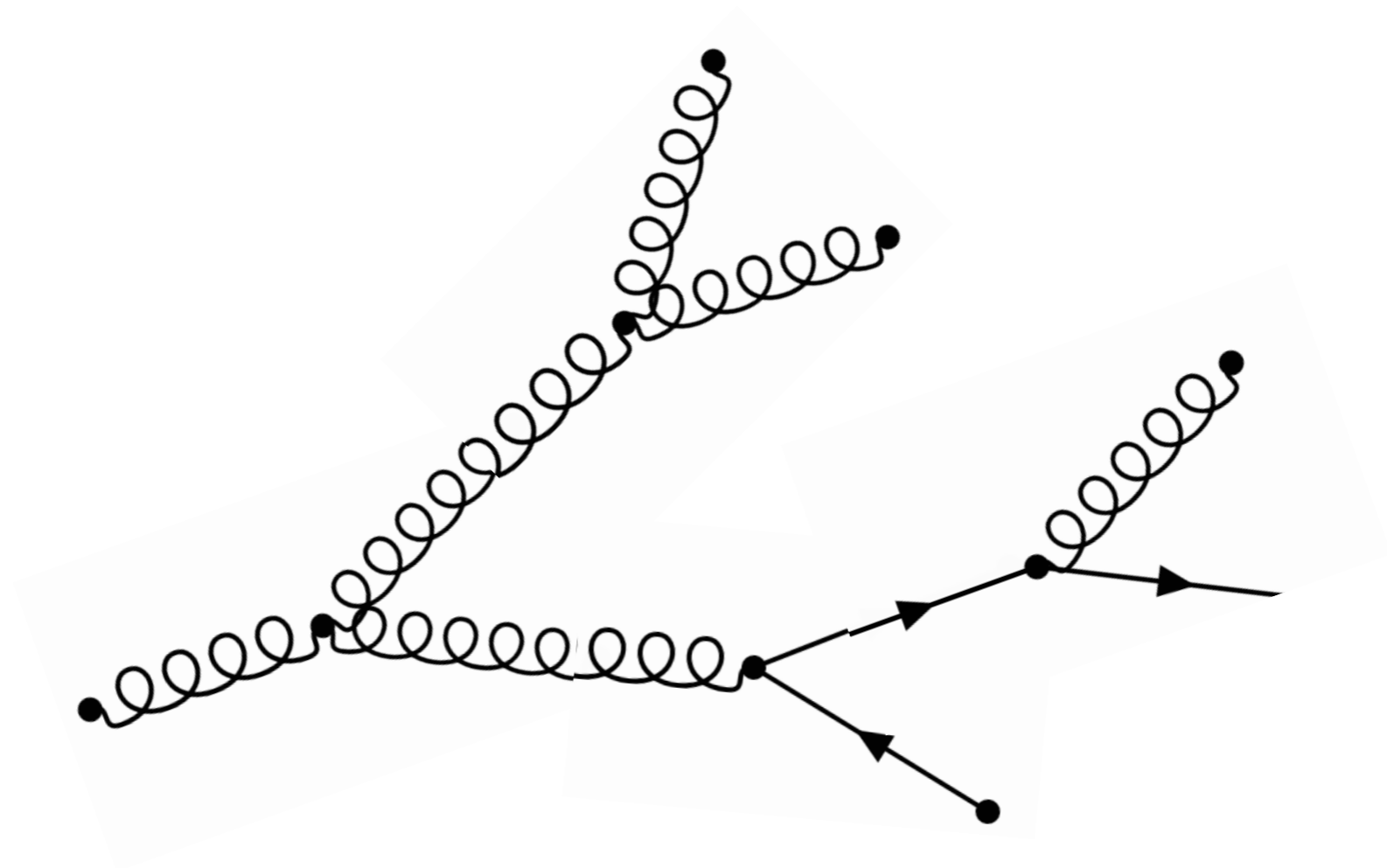
equilibration accomplished on time scale  $t_{\text{thermal}} \sim \alpha_s^{-2} f_0^{-3/8} Q^{-1} \sim \alpha_s^{-2} T^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{Q}{T}}$

Kurkela, Lu Phys.Rev.Lett. 113 (2014) 18; SS, Teaney Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 69 (2019)

Equilibration is delayed due to reduced radiation rates for high-momentum particles  $\Gamma_{\text{inel}}(Q) \sim (T/Q)^{1/2} \Gamma_{\text{eq}}$



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Turbulence in  
scalar field theories

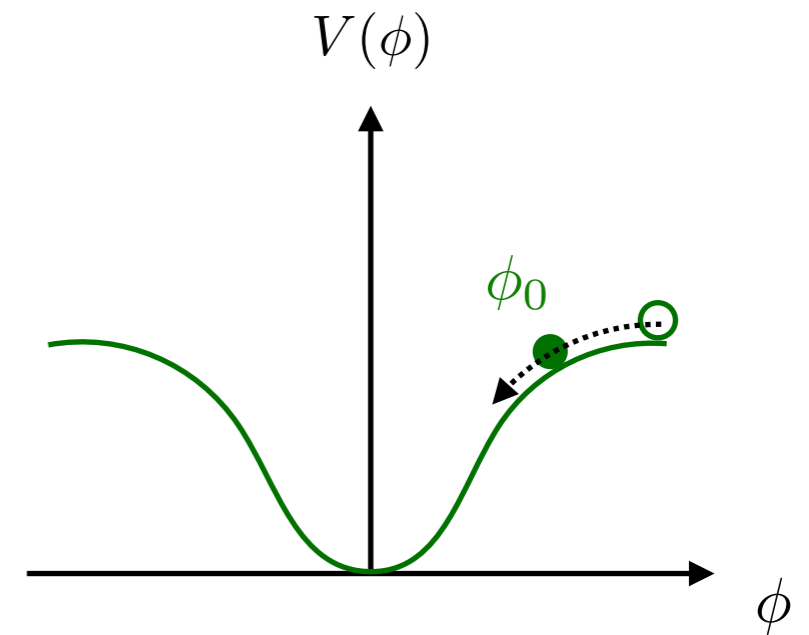
# Scalar fields in Cosmology

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Successful Inflation can be realized by scalar fields

Energy at the end of inflation mostly contained in spatially homogenous inflaton field

$$\langle \phi(\eta = 0) \rangle = \bar{\phi}_0 \quad \langle \partial_\eta \phi(\eta = 0) \rangle \approx 0$$



Since inflaton potential & field content not know, will consider simplest example of massless scalar fields

$$S[\phi] = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g(x)} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu}(x) (\partial_\mu \phi(x)) (\partial_\nu \phi(x)) - \frac{\lambda}{4!} \phi^4(x) \right\}$$

for radiation dominated universe can be mapped to non-expanding scalar fields

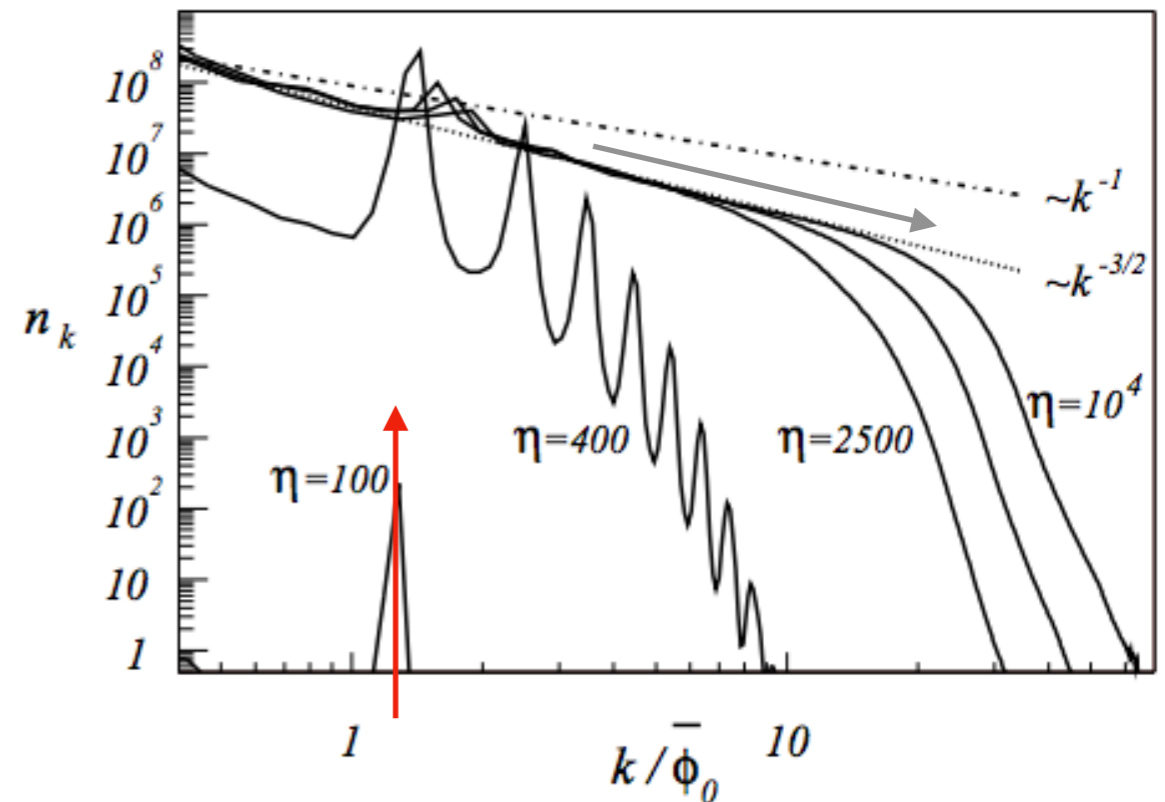
# Scalar field dynamics

Non-vanishing background field leads to (parametric resonance) instability, resulting in over-occupied system of scalar particles

Dynamics of (hard) scalar particles captured by LO kinetic description

$$p^\mu \partial_\mu f(x, p) = \mathcal{C}_{2\leftrightarrow 2}[f]$$

- ultra-relativistic massless particles
- scale invariant interactions
- particle number changing processes are highly suppressed for weakly coupled theories

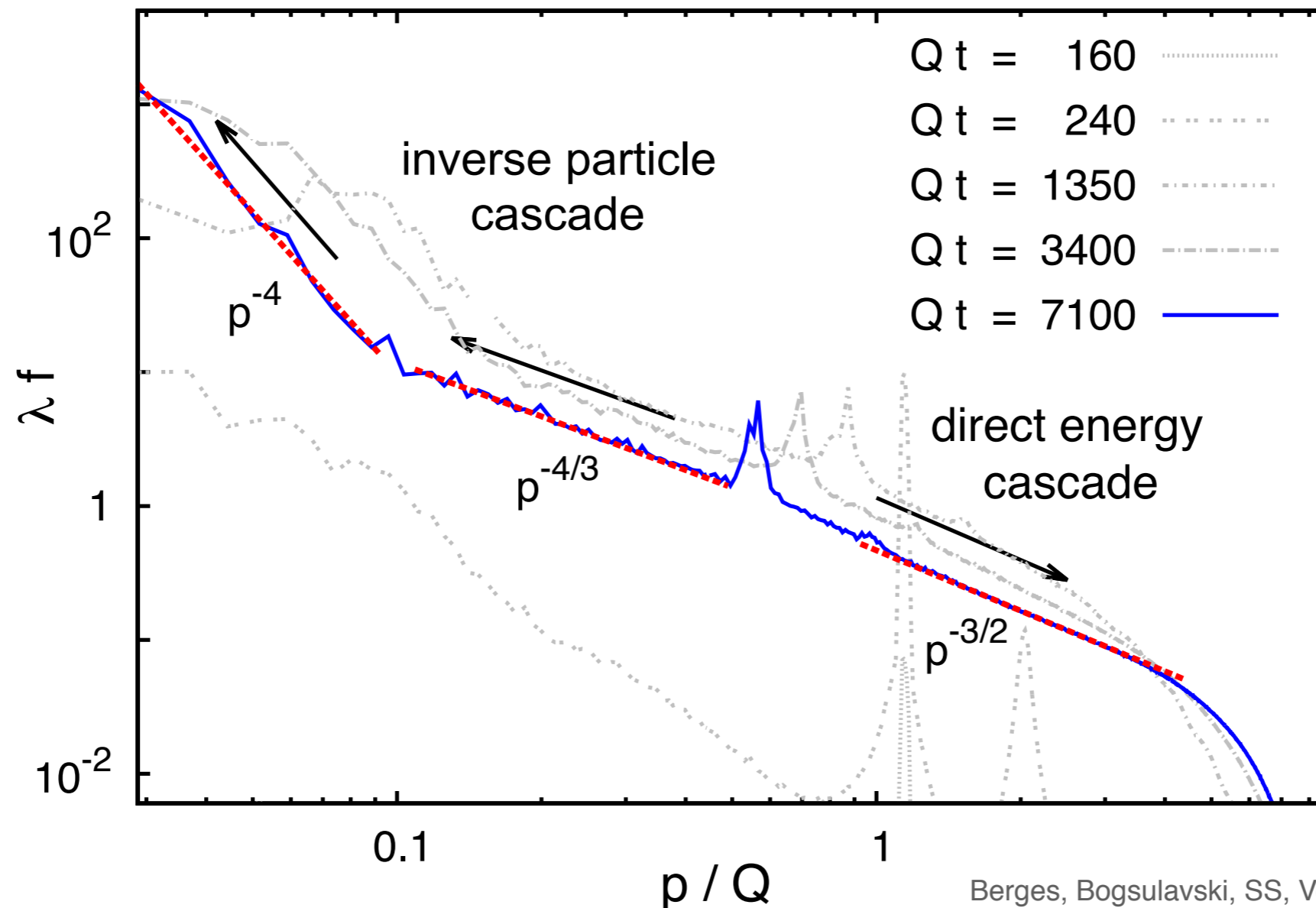


Micha, Tkachev PRD 70 (2004) 043538

Expect new phenomena due to eff. conserved particle number

# Scalar field dynamics

Dual cascade accomodates for simultaneous flux of energy to UV and particles towards IR



Berges, Bogsulavski, SS, Venugopalan *JHEP* 05 (2014) 054

Non-perturbative infrared dynamics due to large phase-space occupancy  $\lambda f \sim 1$

# Scalar field dynamics

Even though particle number is not conserved in relativistic field theory, can results in transient formation of Bose-Einstein Condensate

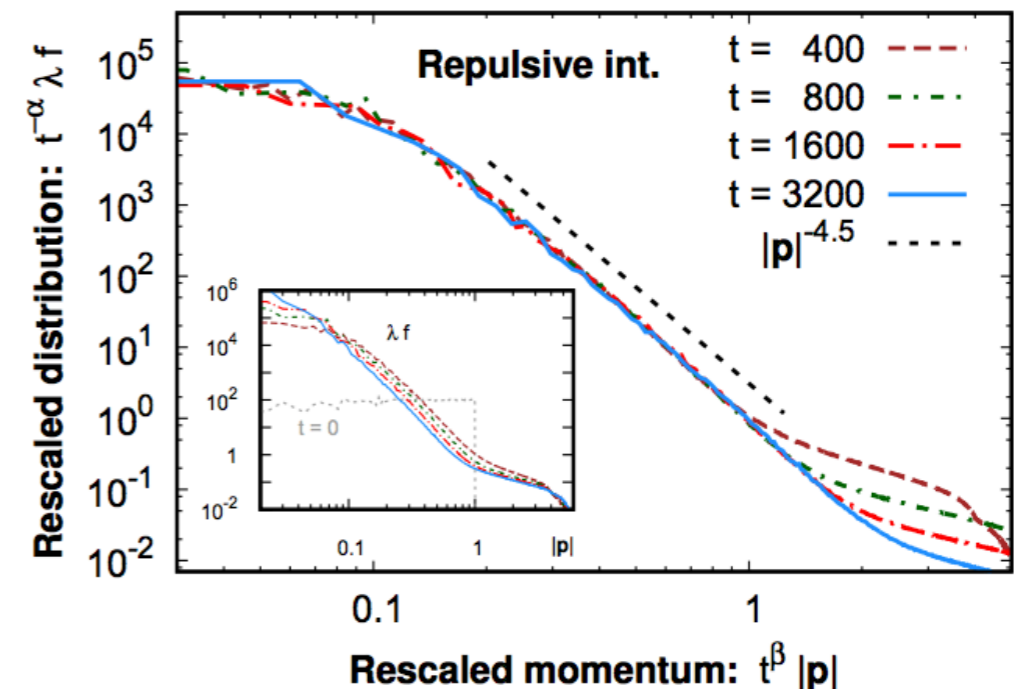
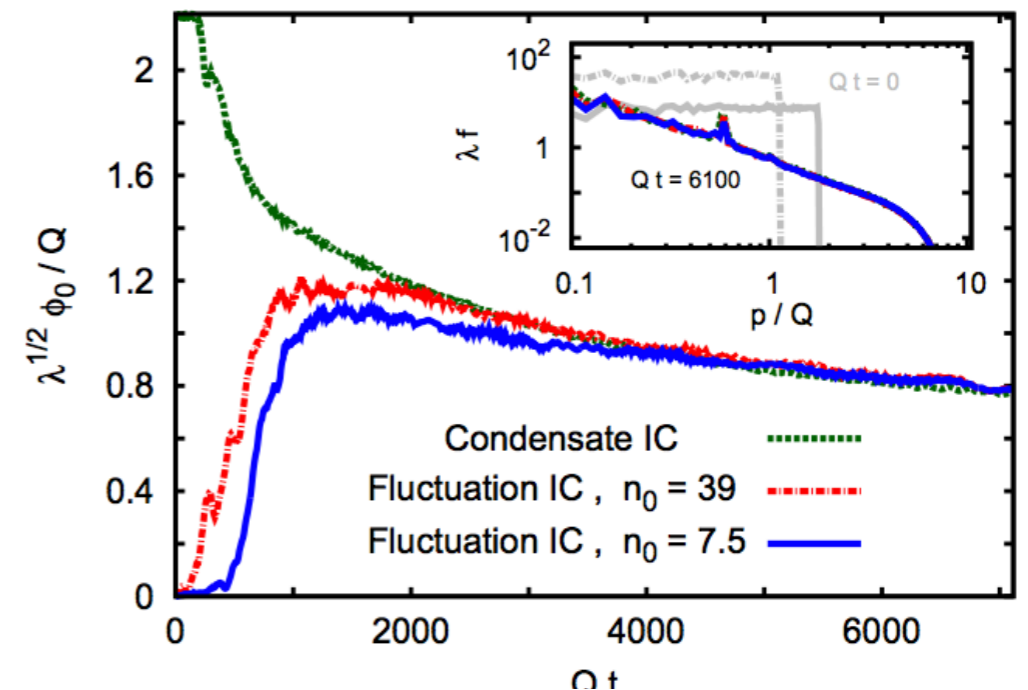
Berges, Sexty PRL 108 (2012) 161601;  
 Berges, Boguslavski, SS, Venugopalan JHEP 05 (2014) 054  
 Berges, Boguslavski, Chatrchyan, Jaeckel PRD 96 (2017) 7, 076020

Self-similar scaling of infrared cascade  $\alpha \approx 3/2$ ,  $\beta \approx 1/2$  determines condensate formation; condensation time diverges in the large volume (V) limit

$$t_{\text{cond}} \sim V^{1/\alpha}$$

Pinero Orioli, Boguslavski, Berges, PRD 92 (2015) 2, 025041

Berges, Boguslavski, SS, Venugopalan JHEP 05 (2014) 054



Berges, Boguslavski, Chatrchyan, Jaeckel PRD 96 (2017) 7, 076020

# Scaling analysis

Dynamical scaling exponents  $\alpha, \beta$  are uniquely determined by

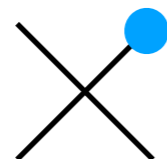
**Scaling of the collision integral** + **Conservation laws**

$$\alpha - 1 = \mu(\alpha, \beta)$$

$$\alpha = \beta(d + z)$$

**Direct energy cascade (UV)** described by pert. kinetic theory

**$O(N)$  scalars  
(UV) in 3+1D**



*Interaction*

**$2 \leftrightarrow 1 + \text{soft}$**

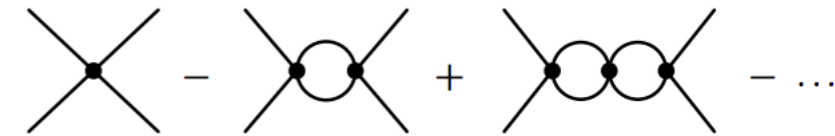
*Scaling exponents*

$\beta$   
 **$-1/5$**

$\alpha$   
 **$-4/5$**

# Scaling analysis

Description of non-perturbative infrared behavior requires vertex resummation (2PI 1/N @ NLO)



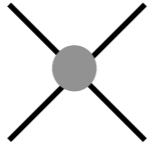
Berges, Rothkopf, Schmidt PRL 101 (2008) 041603; Pinero Orioli, Boguslavski, Berges, PRD 92 (2015) 2, 025041

$$\lambda_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim \frac{1}{|1 + \Pi_R|^2}$$

$$\Pi_R(p) \sim \lambda \int_k G_R(p - k) F_k$$

Since effective coupling is weak in the IR, can still have kinetic description **of inverse particle cascade (IR)** Walz, Boguslavski, Berges PRD 97 (2018) 11, 116011

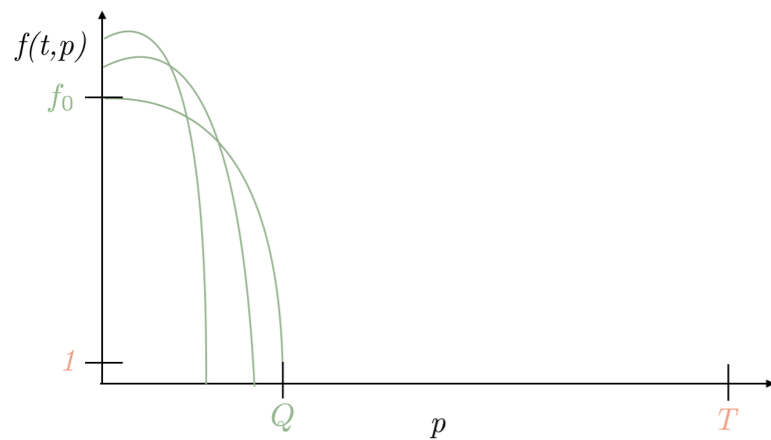
$$C_{\text{NLO}}^{\text{rel}}[f](t, \mathbf{p}) = \int_{\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}} \frac{\lambda_{\text{eff}}^2(t, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})}{6N} I^{2 \leftrightarrow 2}[f](t, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}) \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{l} - \mathbf{q} - \mathbf{r}) \frac{\delta(\omega_{\mathbf{p}}^{\text{rel}} + \omega_{\mathbf{l}}^{\text{rel}} - \omega_{\mathbf{q}}^{\text{rel}} - \omega_{\mathbf{r}}^{\text{rel}})}{2\omega_{\mathbf{p}}^{\text{rel}} 2\omega_{\mathbf{l}}^{\text{rel}} 2\omega_{\mathbf{q}}^{\text{rel}} 2\omega_{\mathbf{r}}^{\text{rel}}}.$$

	Interaction	Scaling exponents	
<b><i>O(N) scalars (IR) in 3+1 D</i></b>		<b><i>eff. 2&lt;-&gt;2</i></b>	
		$\beta$	$a$
		<b><i>1/2</i></b>	<b><i>-4/5</i></b>

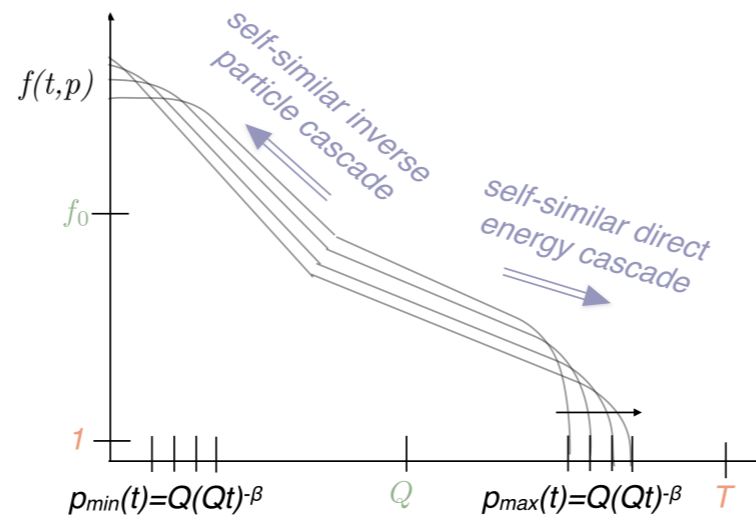
# Over-occupied scalar system

Simultaneous energy transfer to UV and particle transfer to IR accomplished via self-similar turbulent cascades

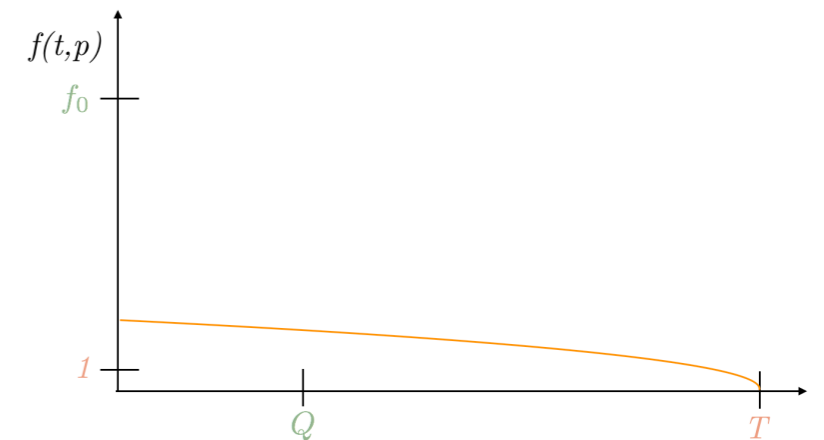
Initial state  
far from-equilibrium  
 $Q \ll T$



Evolution of over-occupied scalars



Thermal equilibrium



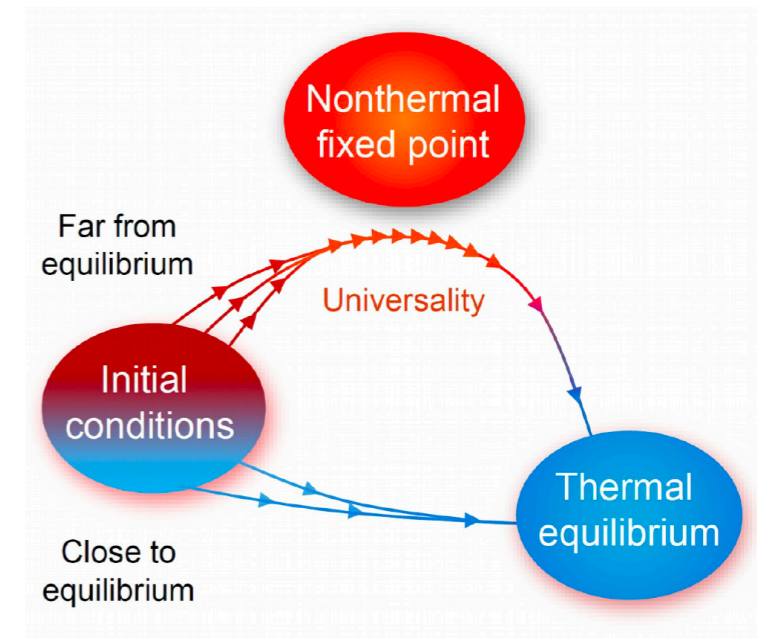
Equilibration time depends on efficiency of particle number changing processes



# Conclusions & Outlook

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Due to scale invariant interactions & large separations of scale decaying turbulence can play a prominent role in non-equilibrium evolution of HEP systems



Different manifestations in scalar and gauge theories  
direct/inverse cascades, self-similarity, dual cascades

Based on progress in kinetic descriptions of scalar and gauge theories, complex questions as thermalization of Standard Model plasma within reach

