Bubble wall dynamics at the electroweak phase transition

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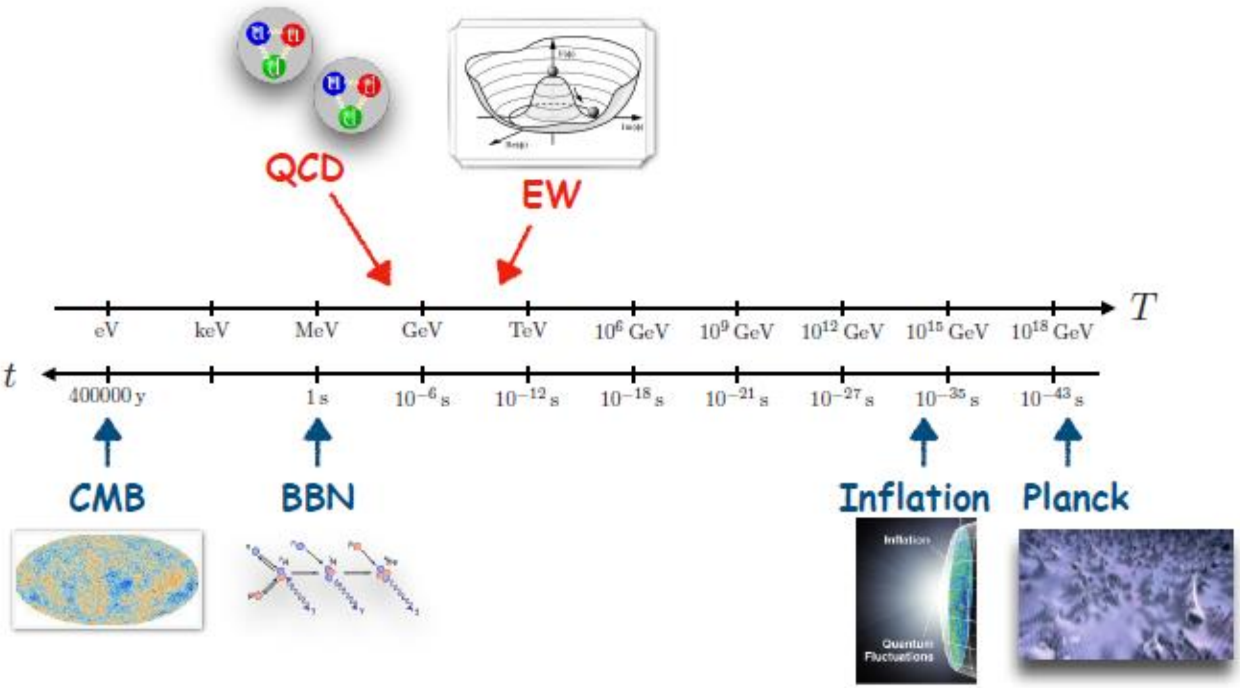
Based on: De Curtis, Delle Rose, Guiggiani, Gil Muyor, Panico [2201.08220]

Phase transitions in the SM

Phase trasitions are important events in the evolution of the Universe

- the SM predicts two of them (QCD confinement EW symmetry breaking)



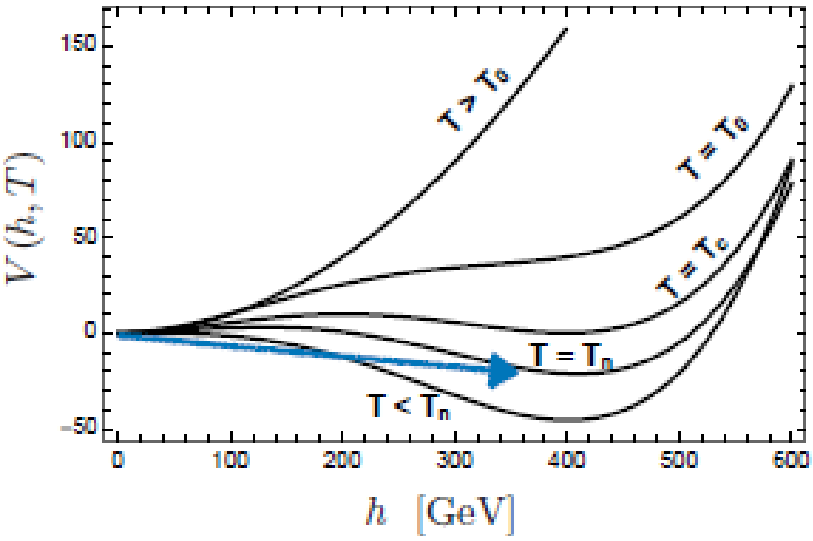
In the SM the QCD and EW PhTs are **extremely weak**

No distinctive experimental signatures and breaking of thermal equilibrium

First-order EWPhT

Several extensions of the SM predict a first-order EWPhT

- two **minima** are separated by a **barrier** *(two phases may coexist)*
- tunneling from false to true minimum at $T = T_n < T_c$
- the transition proceeds through bubble nucleation

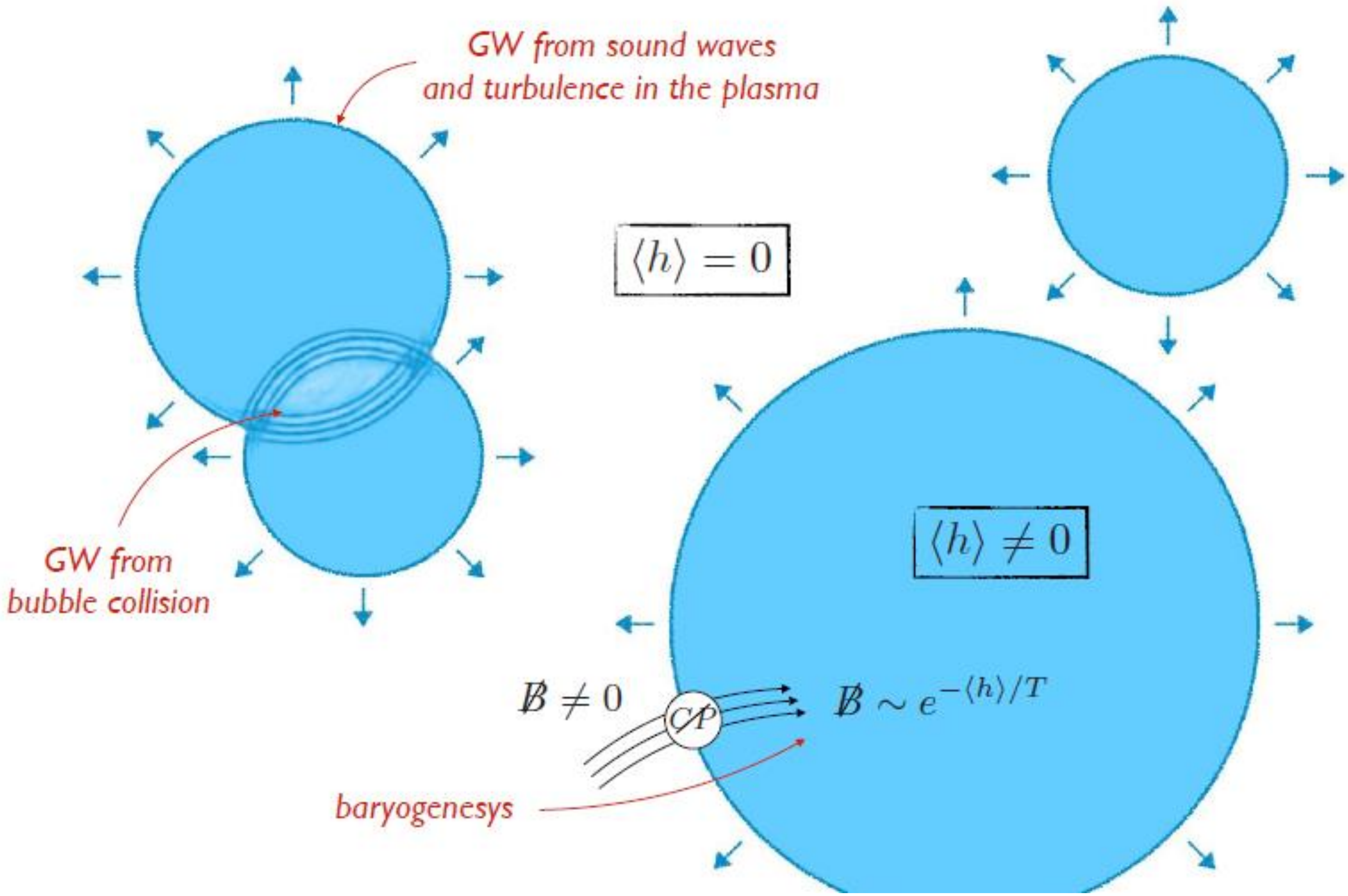


➢ interesting experimental signatures (*GW*)

➢ possible explanation of baryogenesis

Bubble nucleation

Bubble dynamics can produce **gravitational waves** and **baryogenesys**



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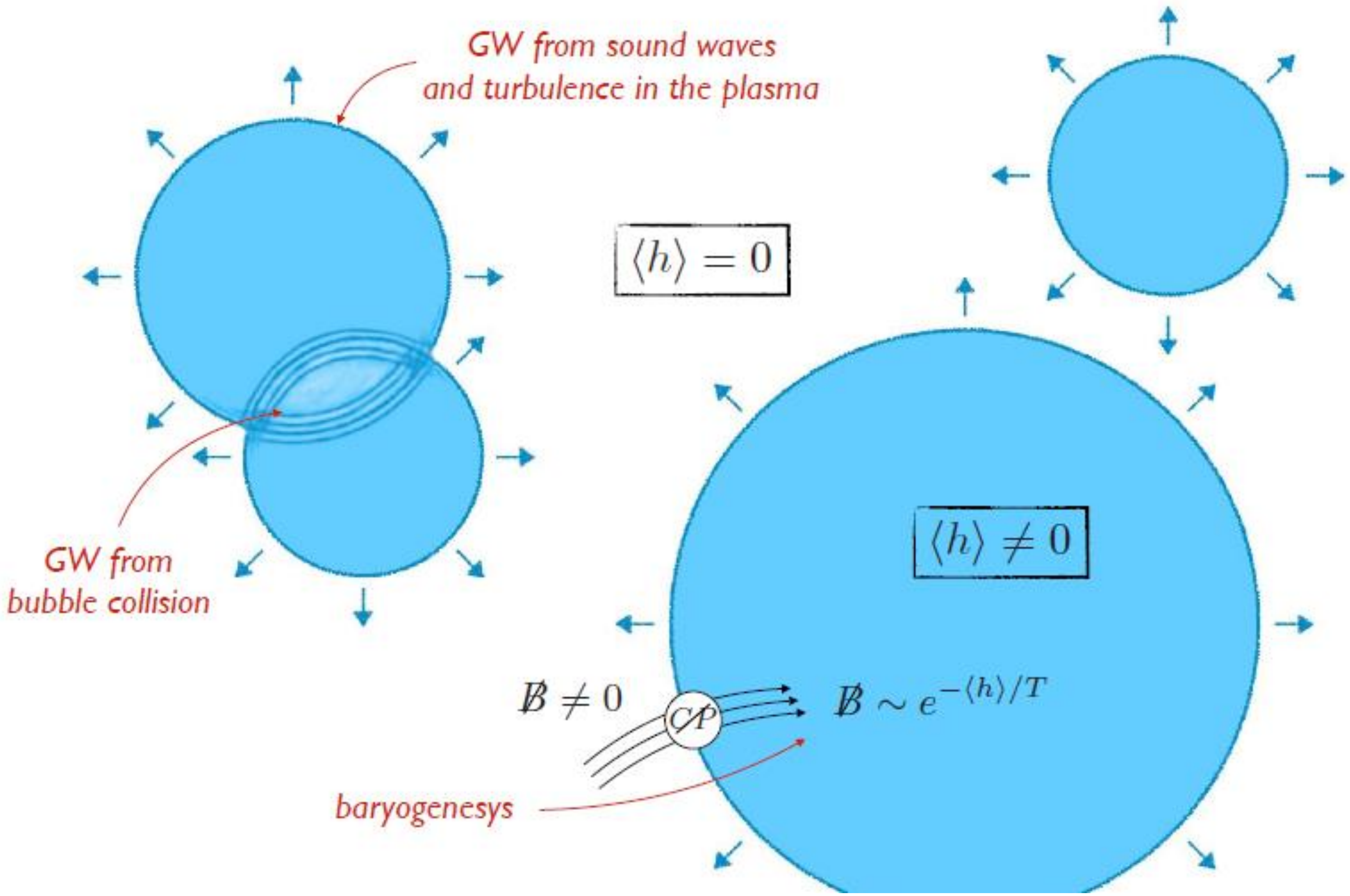


Gravitational waves and the **efficiency** of the EW-baryogenesis **crucially** depend on the wall velocity v_w

The dynamics of a bubble wall

We model the Higgs scalar as a background field interacting with the SM plasma

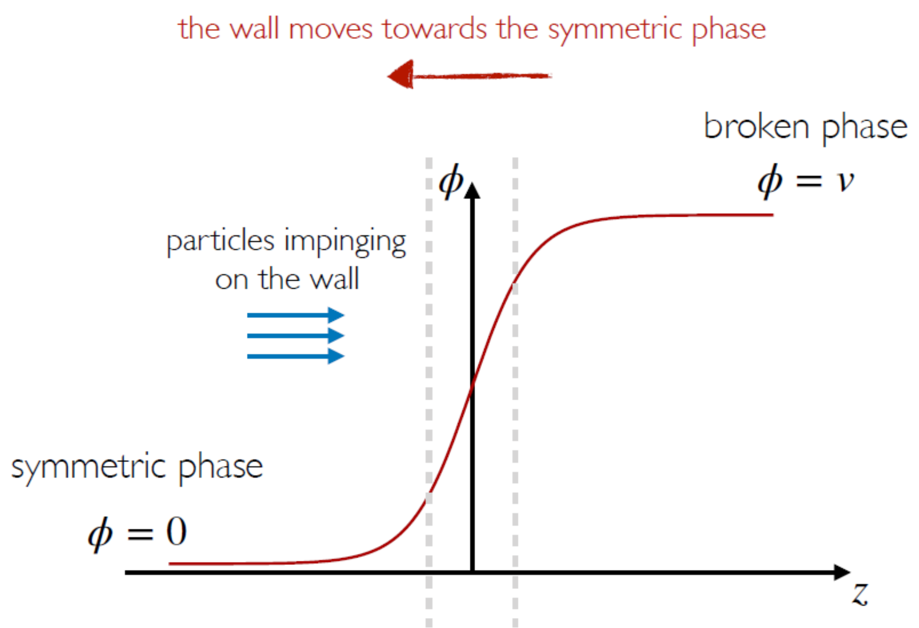
Scalar field + plasma

the wall front can reach a terminal velocity v_w if
the **pressure inside the bubble** balances the **friction of the plasma**

otherwise the bubbles never stop accelerating (run-away regime)

We assume **planar walls** and **steady state** (terminal velocity v_w reached)

Origin of the friction



- Friction arises from momentum transfer between bubble wall and particles
- Bubble wall movement brings the plasma out of equilibrium
- Fluctuations generate dissipation (Friction)

$$\phi' \Box \ \phi + \frac{dV_T}{dz} + \sum_i N_i \frac{dm_i^2}{dz} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3 2E} \delta f_i(p,z) = 0$$

The effective Boltzmann equation

Assumptions on the plasma

- High temperature, weakly coupled plasma
- Higgs varying scale $L_w \gg q^{-1}$ inverse of momentum transfer in the plasma
- Only $2 \to 2$ processes in the plasma are considered
- Plasma made of two different species
  - *Top quark (main contributions)*
  - *All the other SM particles (background, assumed to be in equilibrium)*

Effective Boltzmann equation

$$\mathcal{L}[f] \equiv \left(\frac{p_z}{E}\partial_z - \frac{(m^2)'}{2E}\partial_{p_z}\right) f = -\mathcal{C}[f]$$

Liouville operator (differential operator)

Collision operator (integral operator)

Goal: solve the Boltzmann equation to obtain the friction

Full solution to the Boltzmann equation

We propose an algorithm to solve the Boltzmann equation numerically **without** relying on any **ansatz** on the **shape** of δf

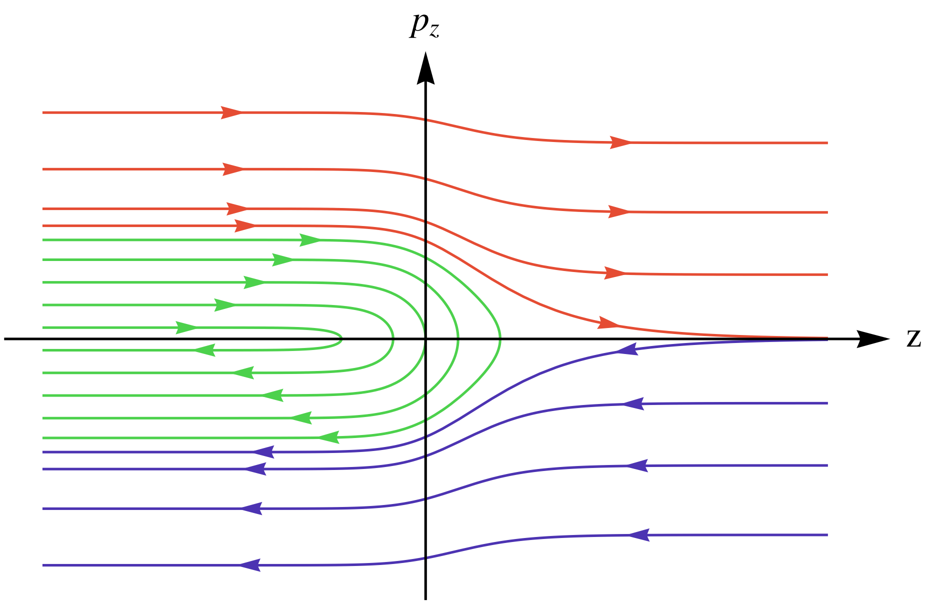
Key features

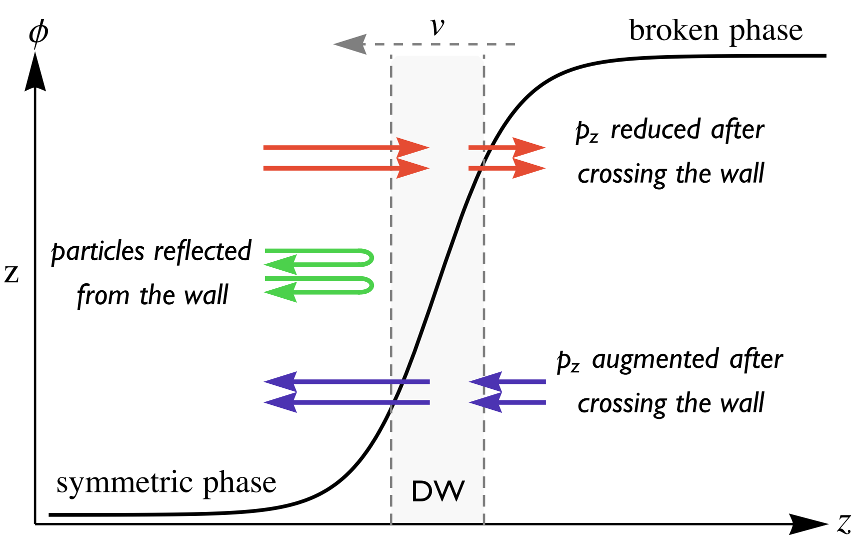
- Inclusion of **all terms** in the Boltzmann equation
- New approach to deal with collision integrals
- **Iterative** routine where convergence is achieved in **few steps**

Structure of the Liouville operator

Liouville operator is a derivative along flow paths

$$\mathcal{L}[f] = \left(\frac{p_z}{E}\partial_z - \frac{\left(m^2(z)\right)'}{2E}\partial_{p_z}\right) f \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{p_z}{E}\frac{df}{dz}$$





$E, p_\perp$ and $c = \sqrt{p_z^2 + m^2(z)}$ are **conserved** along the flow paths

General structure of the Boltzmann equation

$$f_v = \frac{1}{e^{\gamma(E - v\, p_z)} + 1}$$

$$\frac{d}{dz}\delta f - \frac{Q}{p_z}\frac{\delta f}{f_v'} = \mathcal{S}$$

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$$\langle \delta f(k)\rangle \propto \int \frac{d^3k}{2E_k}\mathcal{K}\,\delta f(k)$$

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$$\langle \delta f(k)\rangle \propto \int \frac{d^3k}{2E_k}\mathcal{K}\, \delta f(k)$$

- Stop when $\sim 1\%$ convergence is reached

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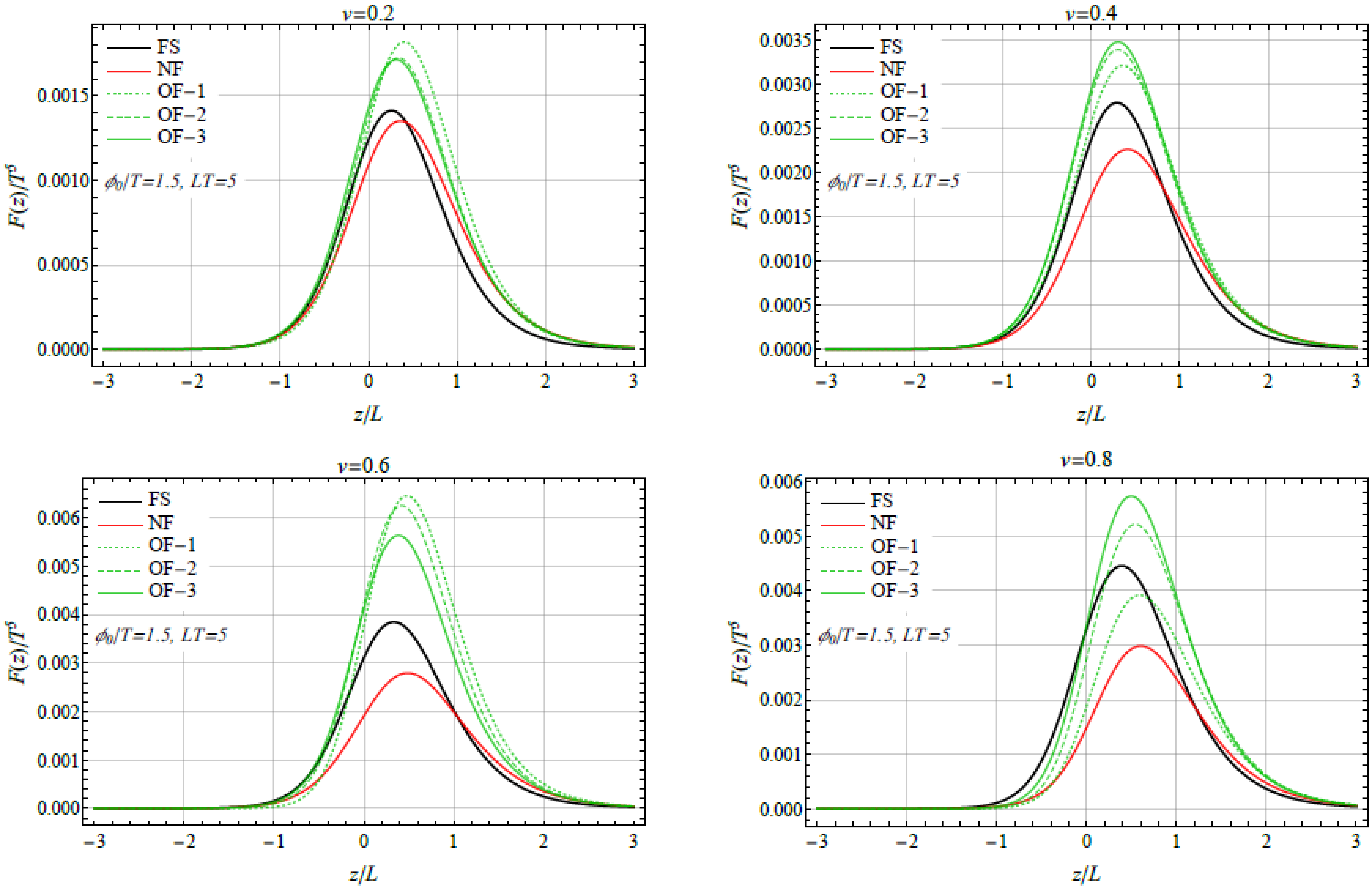
Friction results



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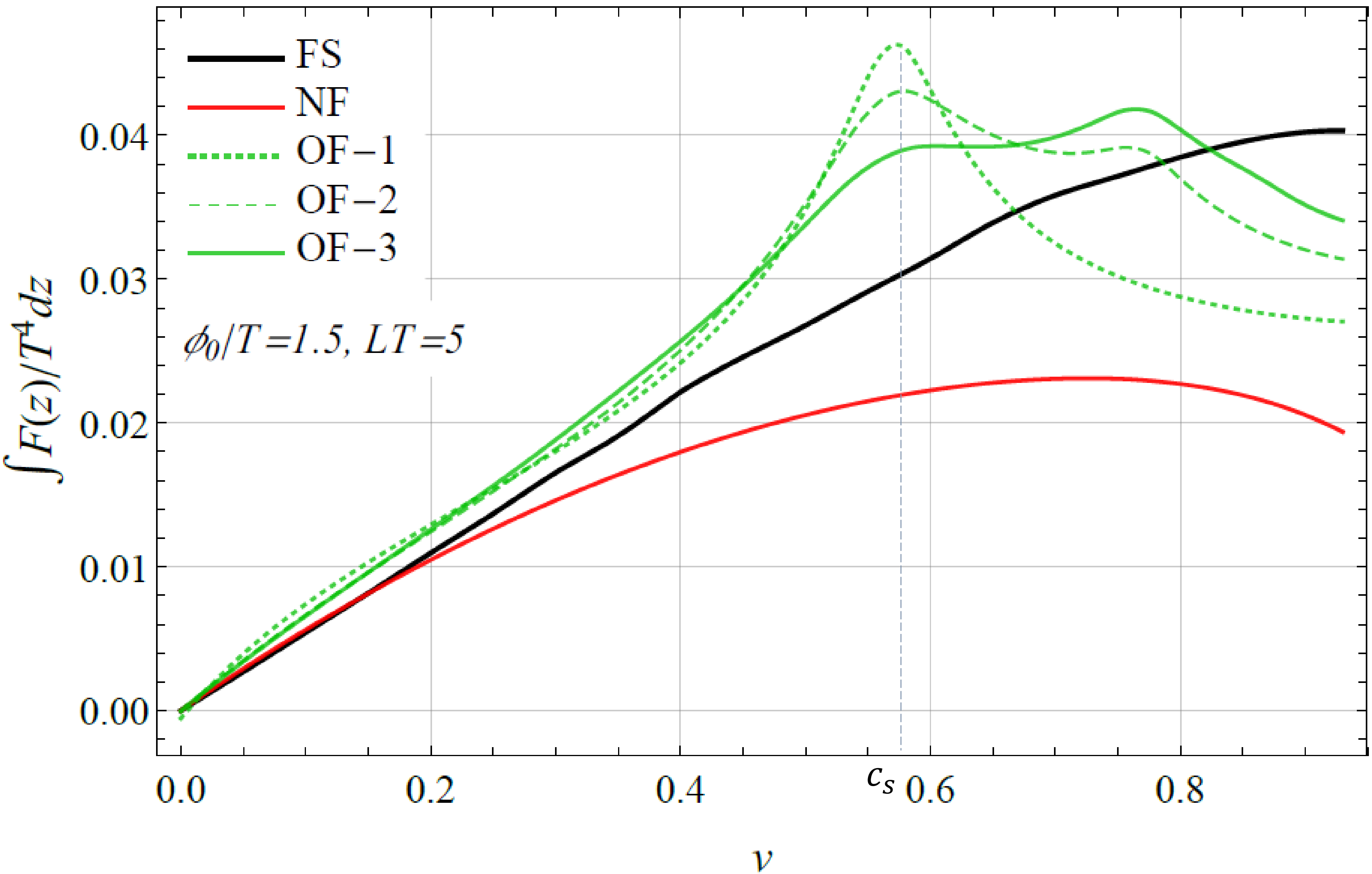
Integrated friction results



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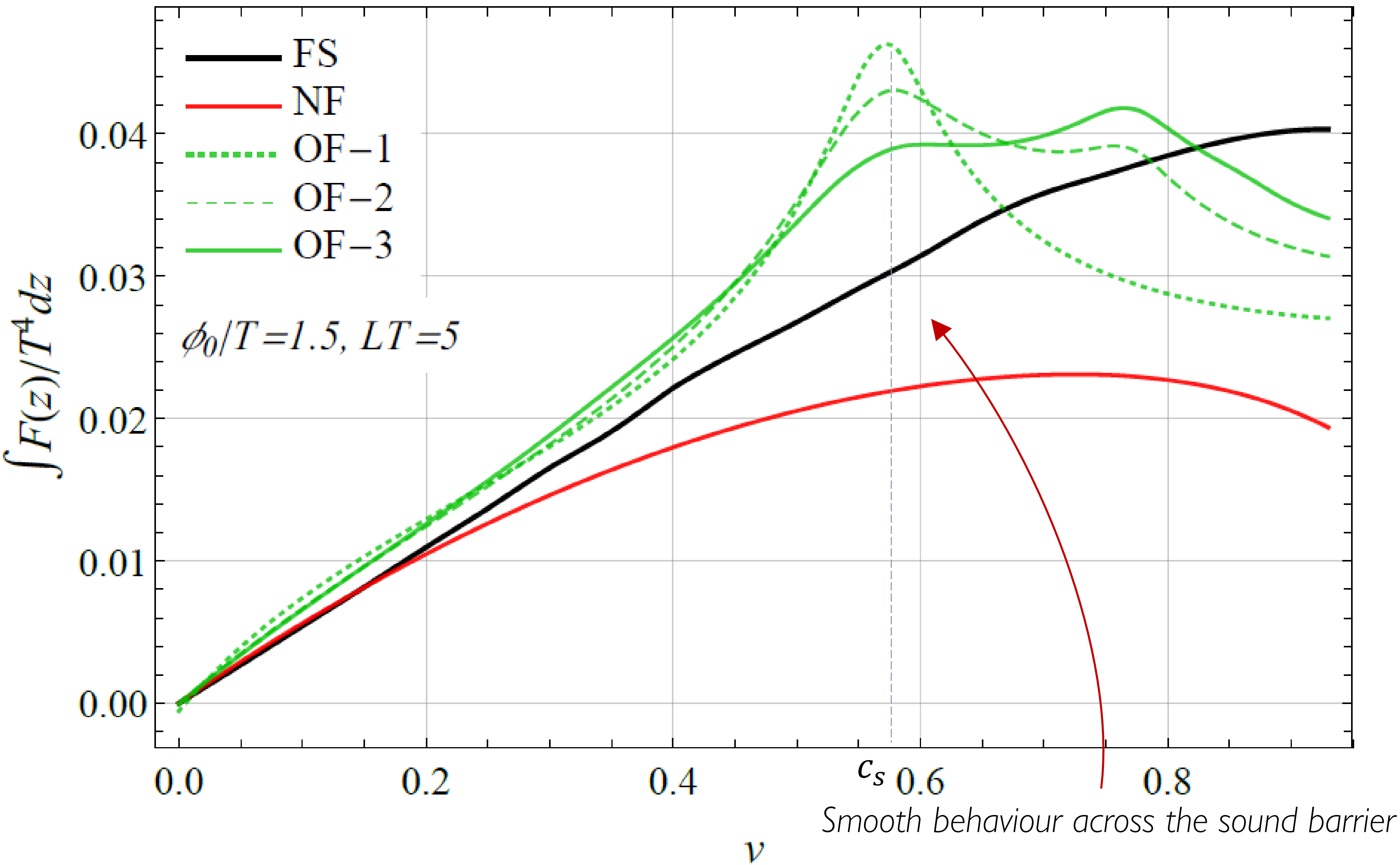

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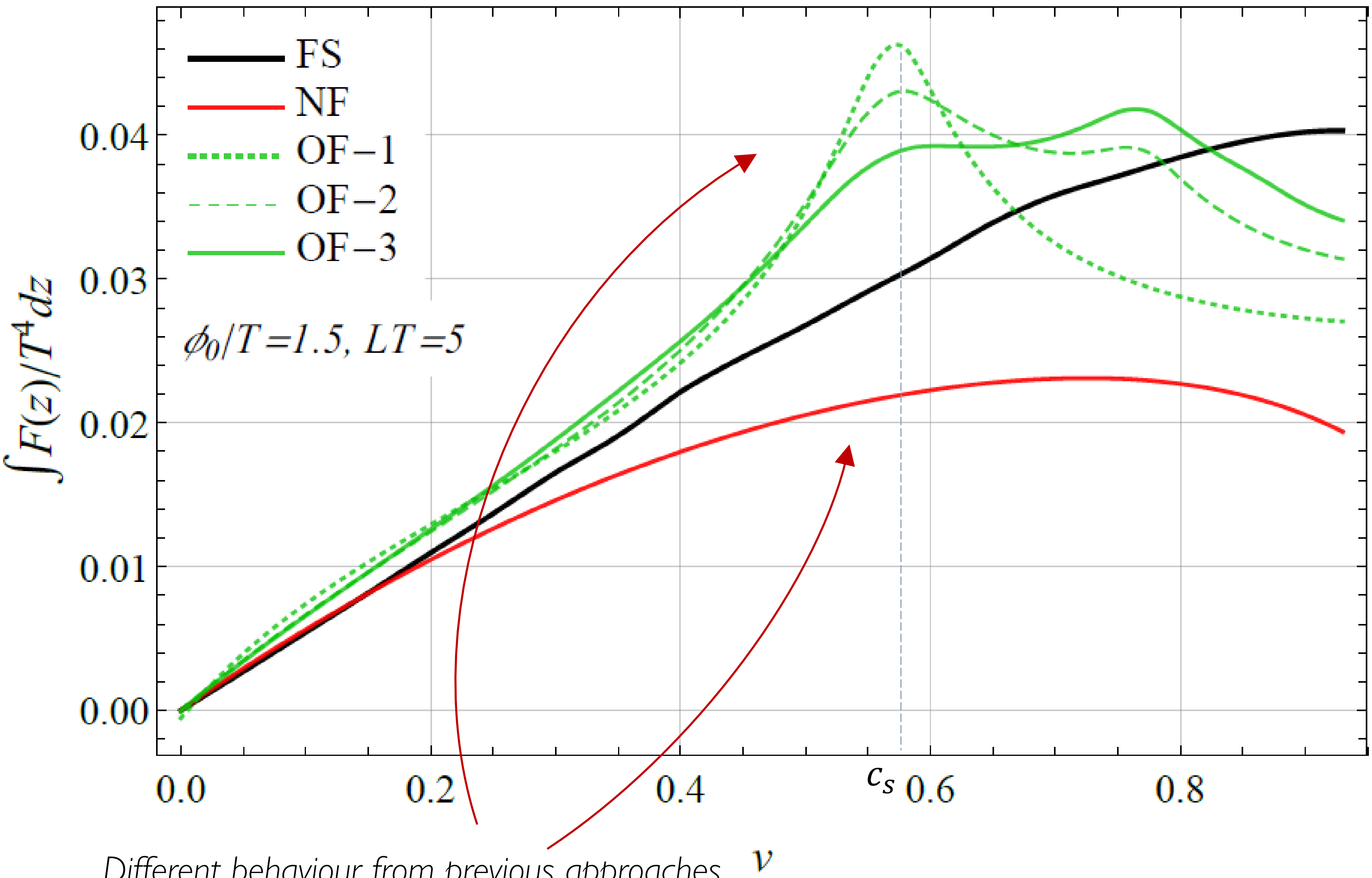

Different behaviour from previous approaches

Conclusions and outlook

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- Inclusion of the W, Z bosons
- Inclusion of the background
- Inclusion of $1 \to 2$ and $2 \to 1$ processes

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Future perspectives:

- Inclusion of the W, Z bosons
- Inclusion of the background $\longrightarrow$ Can be partially done as in [Cline, Laurent 2022]
- Inclusion of $1 \to 2$ and $2 \to 1$ processes