

UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TRIESTE



# Gravitational waves from holographic phase transitions

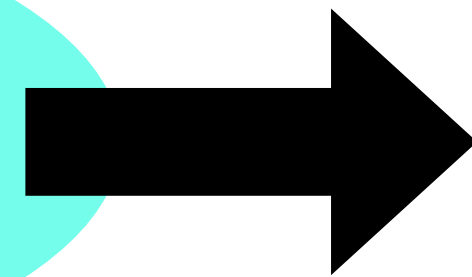
Enrico Morgante - U. Trieste & INFN

TAsP meeting — Turin

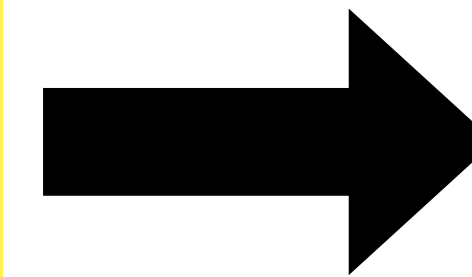
19/01/2024

# Motivation

- Composite sectors...
- Mirror sectors...
- String theory



**Strongly interacting  
dark sector**



**First-order  
confinement PT**  
**Gravitational waves**

EM, Nicklas Ramberg, Pedro Schwaller (U. Mainz)

Gravitational Waves from Dark  $SU(3)$  Yang-Mills Theory [2210.11821, PRD]

+ ongoing...

*see talks by  
Jacopo Nava  
Jun'ya Kume*

# Strong coupling

- Strongly coupled theory  $\rightarrow$  ?
- Lattice QCD: precious information, but no real-time analysis
- Effective models (Polyakov loop / NJL)
- Holography (bottom-up)
  - ➔  $\text{AdS}_5$  Einstein+dilaton gravity  $\leftrightarrow$  4D CFT

Focus on dark  $\text{SU}(3) \rightarrow \text{SU}(N)$ , w/ no fermions

- simple first step
- lattice data well available and understood
- good holographic model

# Improved holographic QCD

Gürsoy, Kiritsis, Mazzanti, Nitti

0707.1324, 0707.1349, 0812.0792, 0903.2859, ...

# Improved Holographic QCD

$$\mathcal{S}_5 = -M_P^3 N_c^2 \int d^5 x \sqrt{g} \left[ R - \frac{4}{3} (\partial\Phi)^2 + V(\Phi) \right] + 2M_P^3 N_c^2 \int_{\partial M} d^4 x \sqrt{h} K$$

- Radial fifth-dim coordinate  $r \leftrightarrow$  RG scale
- Scalar field  $\lambda = \exp \Phi \leftrightarrow$  't Hooft coupling  $\lambda_t = N_c g_{\text{YM}}^2$
- Scale factor  $b(r) \leftrightarrow$  Energy scale  $E = E_0 b(r)$
- Solutions of EOM  $\leftrightarrow$  phases of  $SU(N_c)$
- $\Phi$  fluctuations  $\leftrightarrow$  scalar glueballs
- Scalar potential  $V(\Phi) \rightarrow$  fit  $SU(3)$  thermodyn. and spectrum

# Choice of the potential

**UV:**  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$

- Asymptotic freedom
- $\beta$  function  $\longleftrightarrow$  potential

**IR:**  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$

- Confinement
- Linear glueball spectrum  $m_n^2 \sim n$
- Thermodynamics
- Screened singularity at  $r \rightarrow \infty$

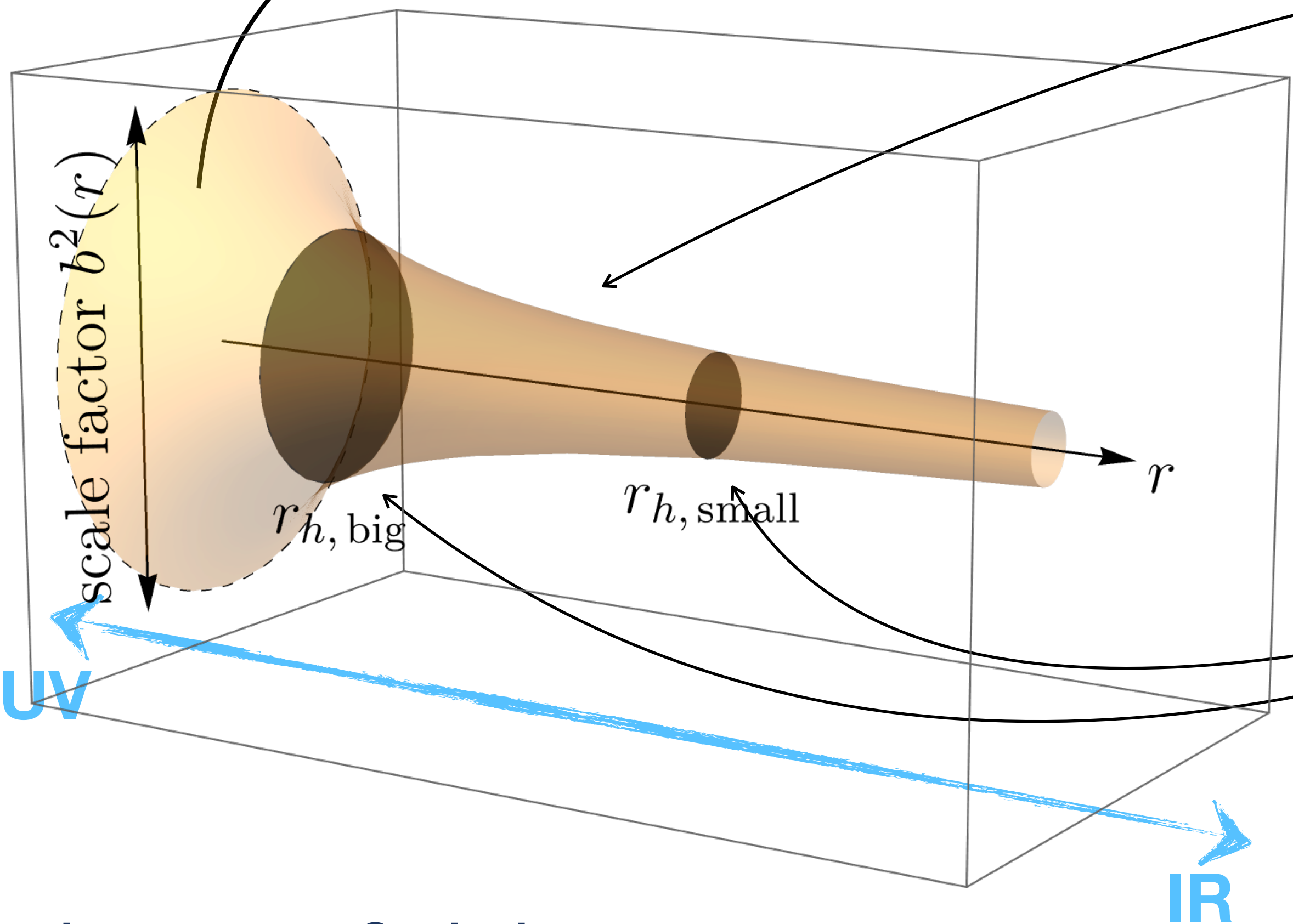
Ansatz:

$$V(\lambda) = \frac{12}{\ell^2} \left\{ 1 + V_0 \lambda + V_1 \lambda^{4/3} [\log(1 + V_2 \lambda^{4/3} + V_3 \lambda^2)]^{1/2} \right\}$$

# Solutions at $T \neq 0$

# Solutions

asymptotically AdS  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} b(r) \approx \frac{\ell}{r} \left[ 1 + \frac{4}{9} \frac{1}{\log r \Lambda} + \dots \right] \\ \lambda(r) \sim -\frac{1}{\log r \Lambda} \end{array} \right.$



Thermal gas  $\longleftrightarrow$  confined

$$ds^2 = b^2(r)(dr^2 - dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2)$$

$$\Phi = \Phi_0(r), \quad r \in (0, \infty)$$

Black Hole  $\longleftrightarrow$  deconfined

$$ds^2 = b^2(r) \left[ \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} - f(r)dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2 \right]$$

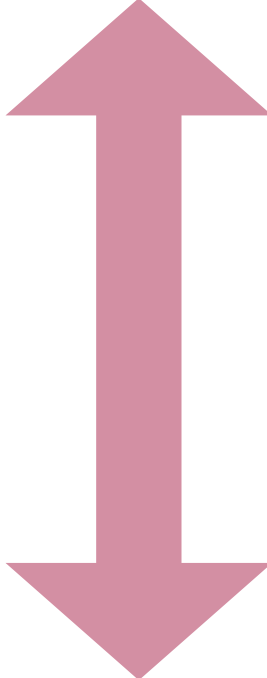
$f(r_h) = 0 \rightarrow$  BH horizon

$$\Phi = \Phi(r), \quad r \in (0, r_h)$$

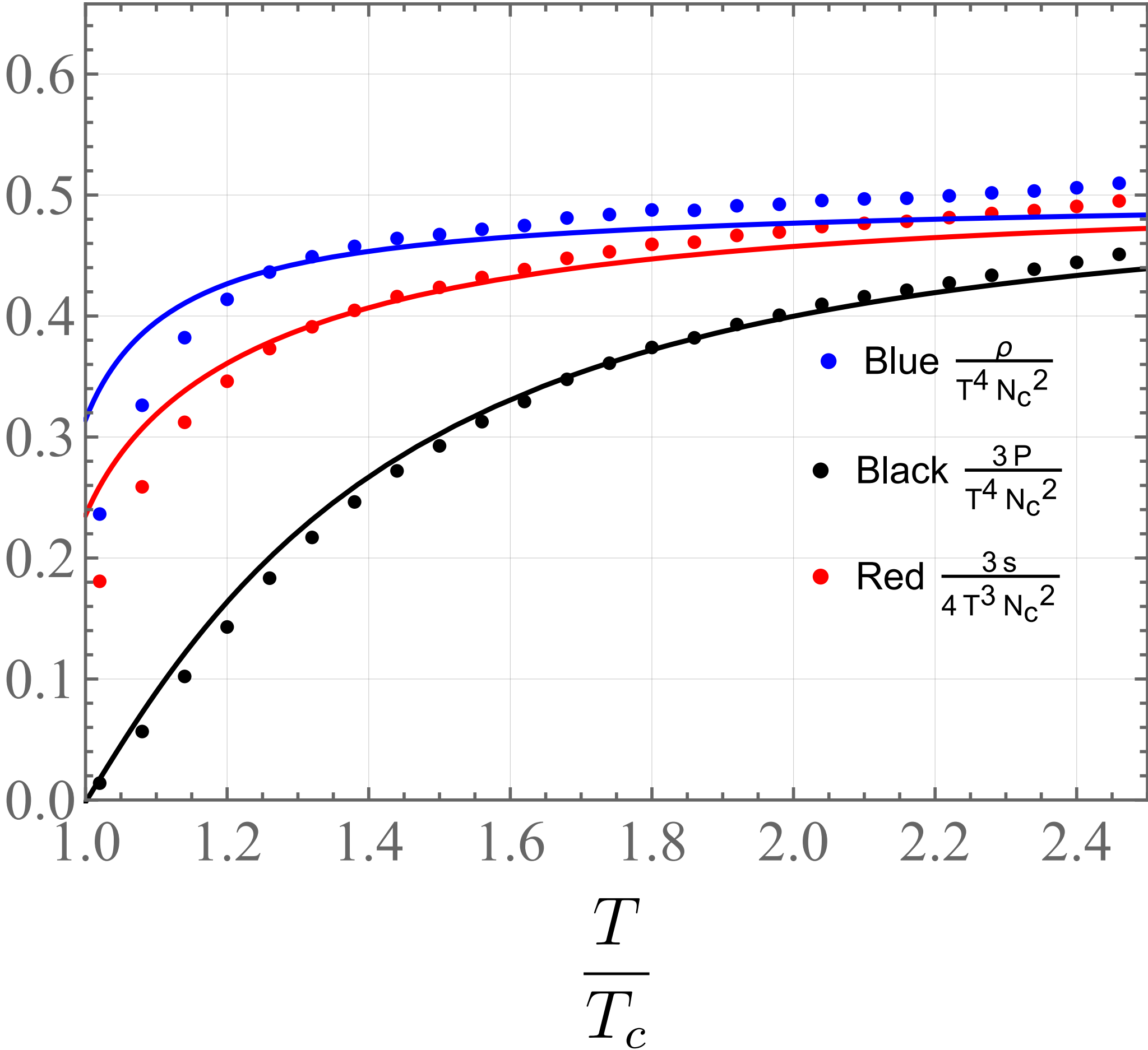


# Thermodynamics

thermodynamics of 4D theory



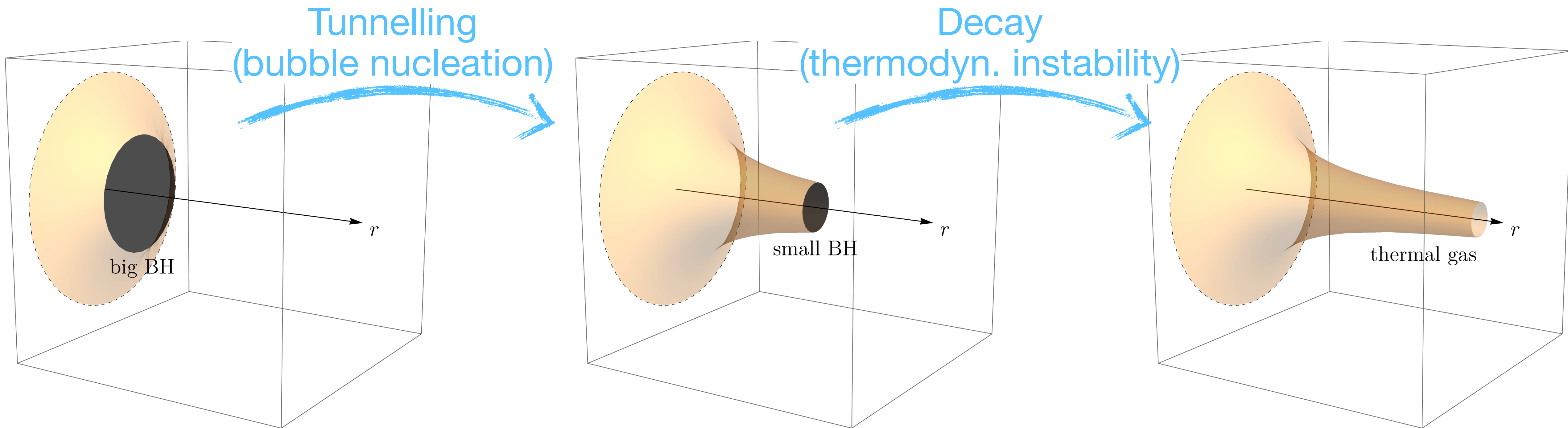
geometry of 5D dual



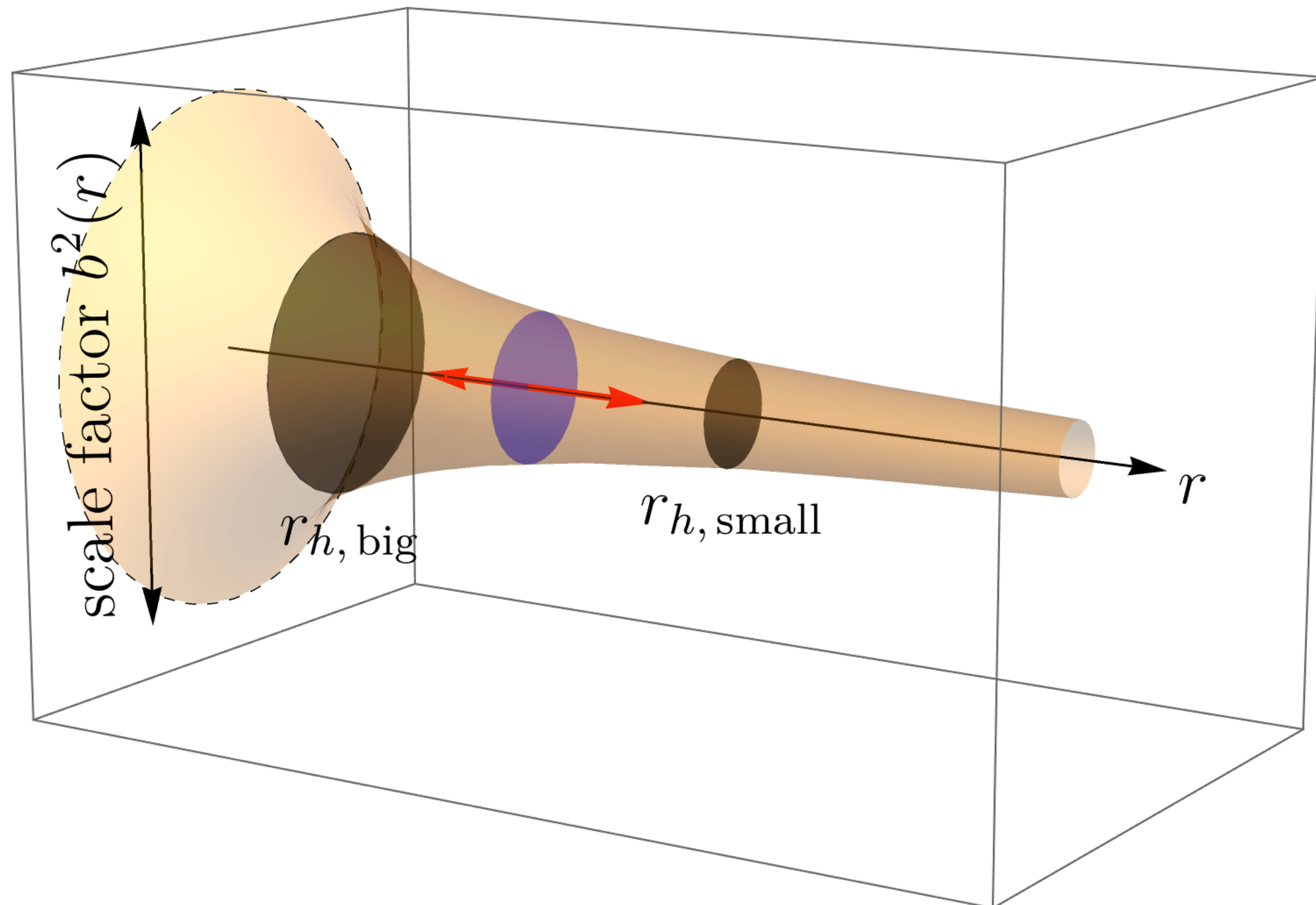
# Phase transition

# Confinement phase transition

- Hawking - Page phase transition [Hawking & Page '83]
- Small BH acts as an instanton

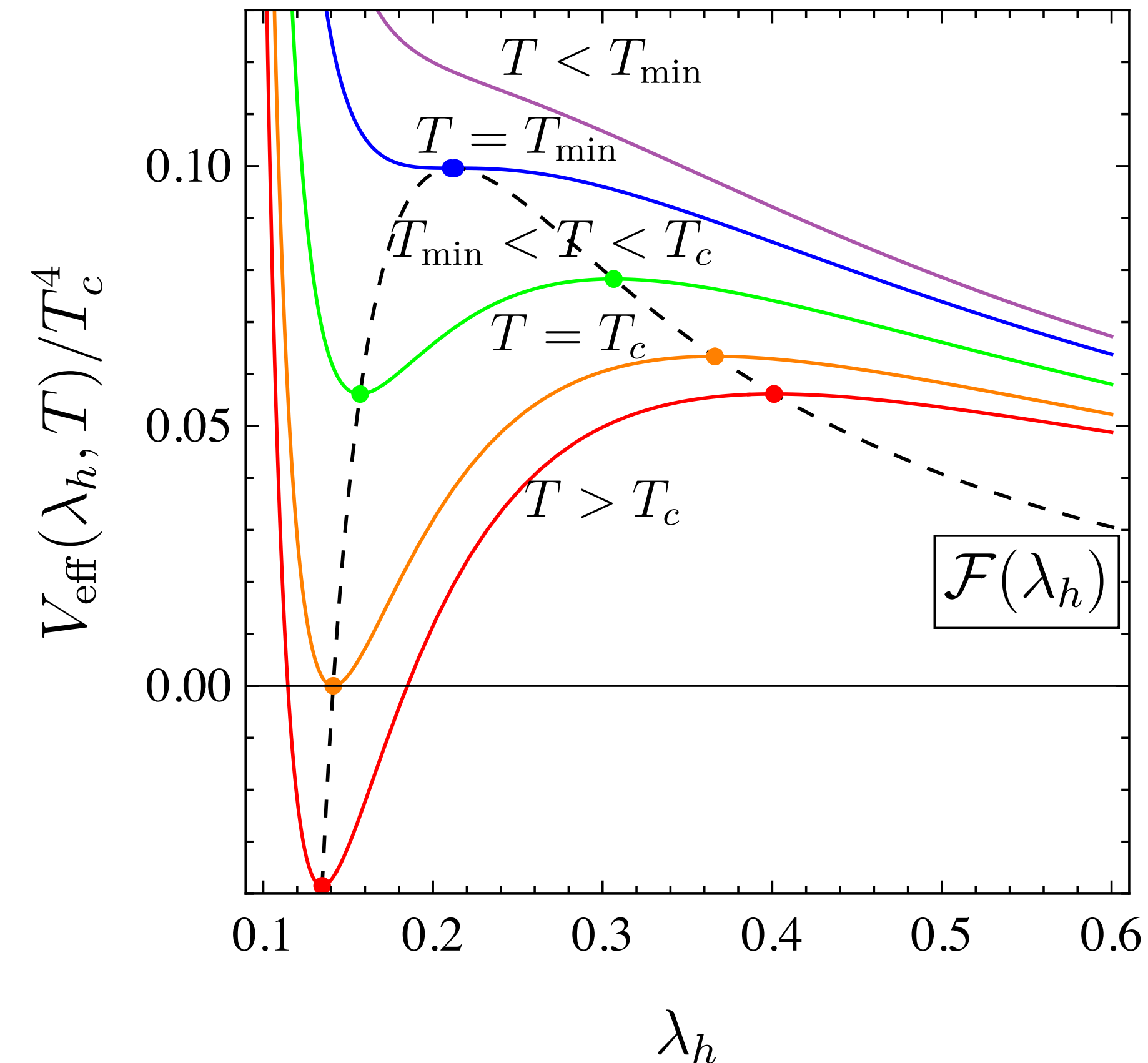


# Effective action for tunnelling



- Interpolate between big and small BH
- Choose an order parameter ( $r_h$  or  $\lambda_h$ )
- Violate the condition  $T_h = T$ 
  - ➔ BH not thermal eq.
  - ➔ Conical singularity
- Regularize the metric and compute the contribution to the action

# Effective potential



$$V_{\text{eff}} = \mathcal{F}(\lambda_h) - 4\pi M_p^3 N_c^2 b(\lambda_h)^3 \left(1 - \frac{T_h}{T}\right)$$

- Stationary points  $\longleftrightarrow$  regular solutions:
  - Big BH: min
  - Small BH: max
- $T > T_c \longrightarrow$  Big BH are stable
- $T < T_{\text{min}} \longrightarrow$  No BH solution (no deconfined phase)

# Bubble nucleation

- O(3) invariant bounce solutions

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{4\pi}{T} \int d\rho \rho^2 \left[ c \frac{N_c^2}{16\pi^2} (\partial_r \lambda_h(r))^2 + V_{\text{eff}}(\lambda_h(r)) \right]$$

- Tunnelling rate:

$$\Gamma = T^4 \left( \frac{\mathcal{S}_B}{2\pi} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\mathcal{S}_B}$$

- Nucleation:  $\Gamma \approx H^4$
- Percolation: Universe  $\sim$  filled with confined phase bubbles

# Phase transition parameters

- $T_n \approx T_p \approx 0.99T_c \rightarrow$  fast PT, no supercooling
- Inverse PT duration (controls the source duration)

$$\frac{\beta}{H} = T \left( \frac{dS_B}{dT} \right)_{T_p} \approx 10^5$$

- PT strength (energy released)

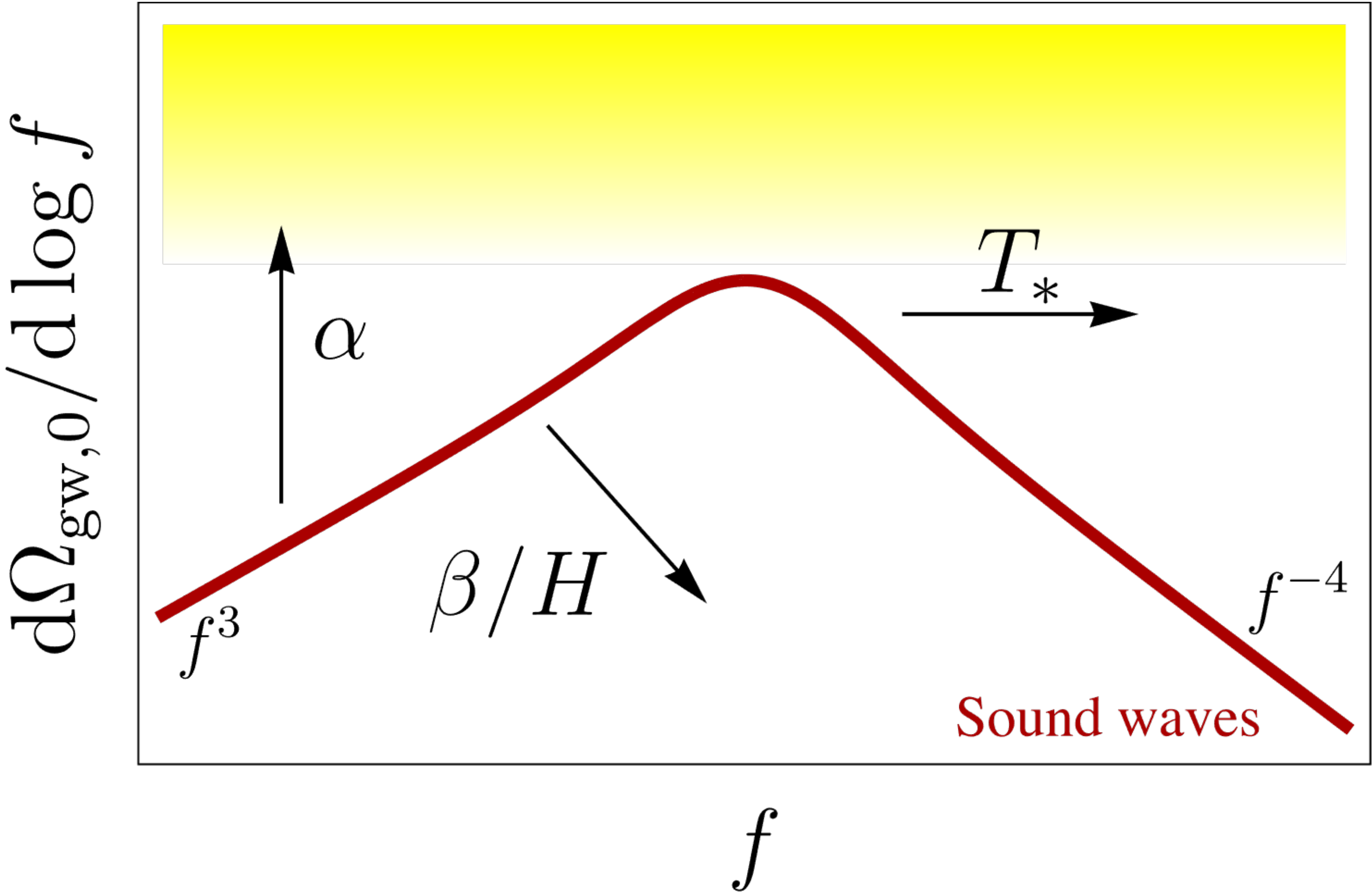
$$\alpha = \frac{4}{3} \frac{\Delta\theta}{w_+} = \frac{\Delta\rho - 3\Delta p}{w_+} \approx 0.34$$

- Source duration (sound waves)  $\rightarrow$  signal suppression

$$\tau_{\text{sw}} H \sim 10^{-4}$$

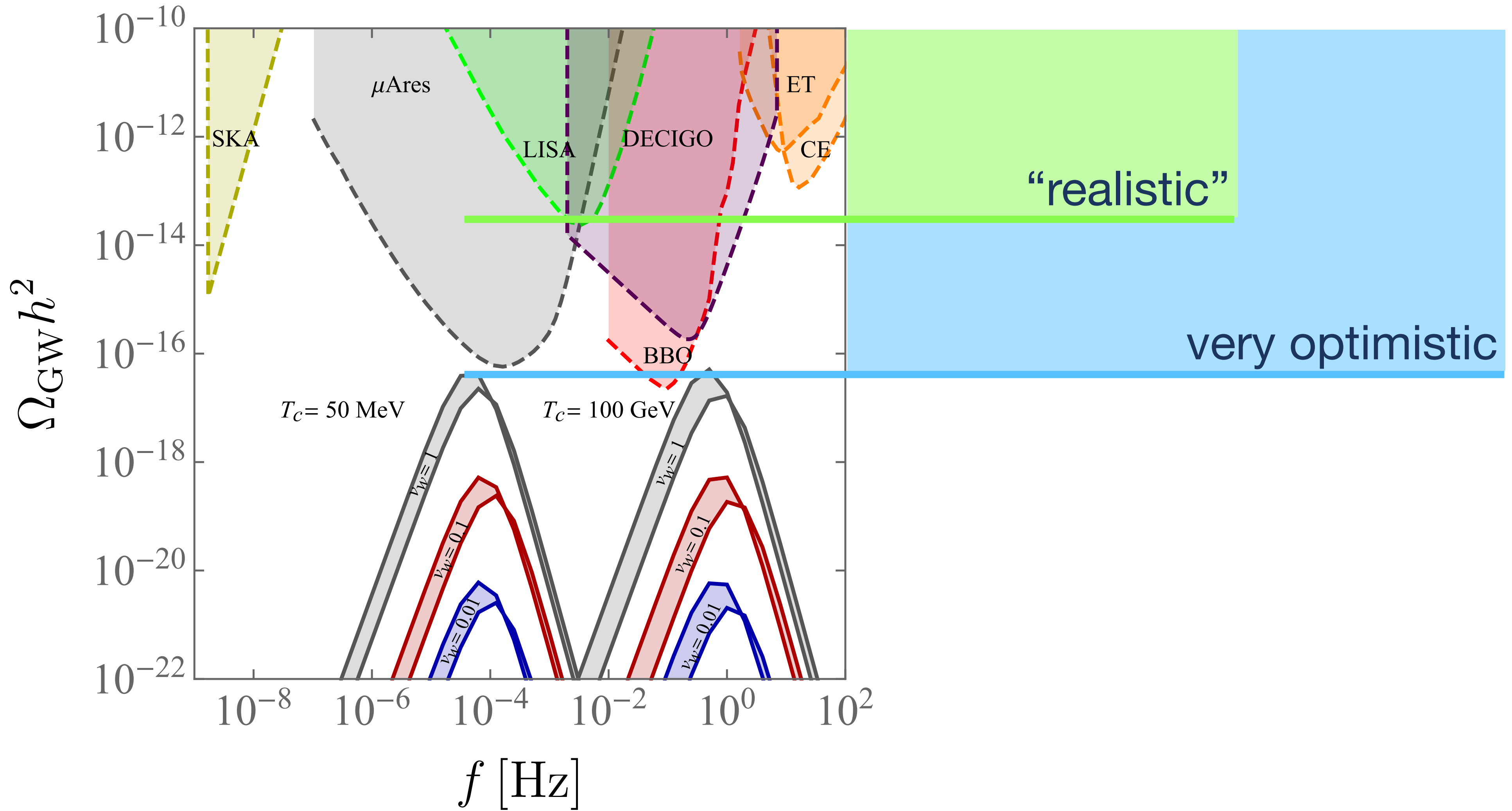
# GW - sound waves

1910.13125 LISA Cosmology Working Group

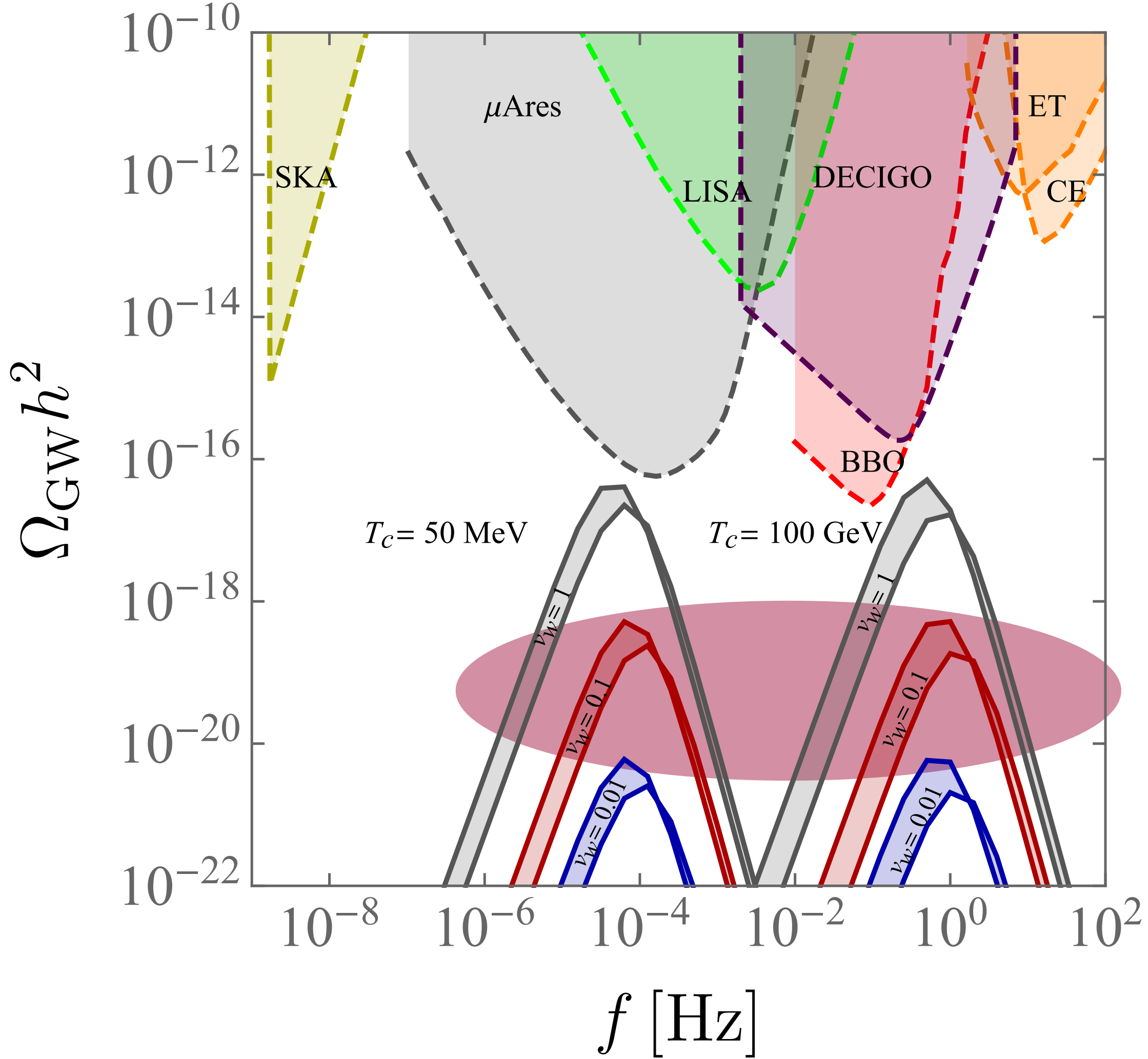




# GW spectra



# GW spectra



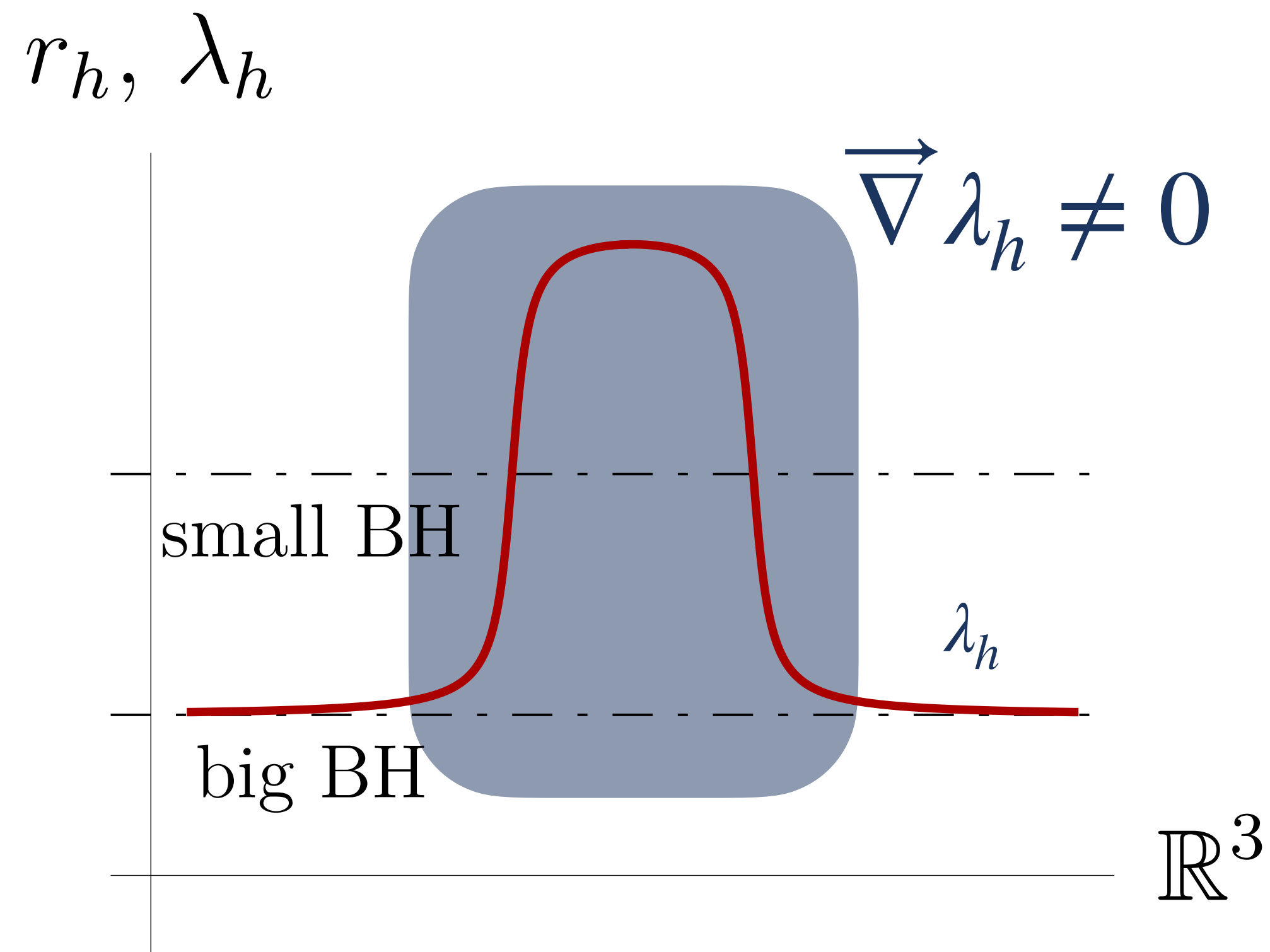
**wall velocity**

- often a free parameter
- can be estimated  $v_w \ll 1$  (eg 2104.05708, 2104.12817)
- for our model: 2312.09964 Sanchez-Garitaonandia+

←  $v_w \simeq 0.07$

# Kinetic term

## PRELIMINARY



$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{4\pi}{T} \int d\rho \rho^2 \left[ c \frac{N_c^2}{16\pi^2} (\partial_r \lambda_h(r))^2 + V_{\text{eff}}(\lambda_h(r)) \right]$$

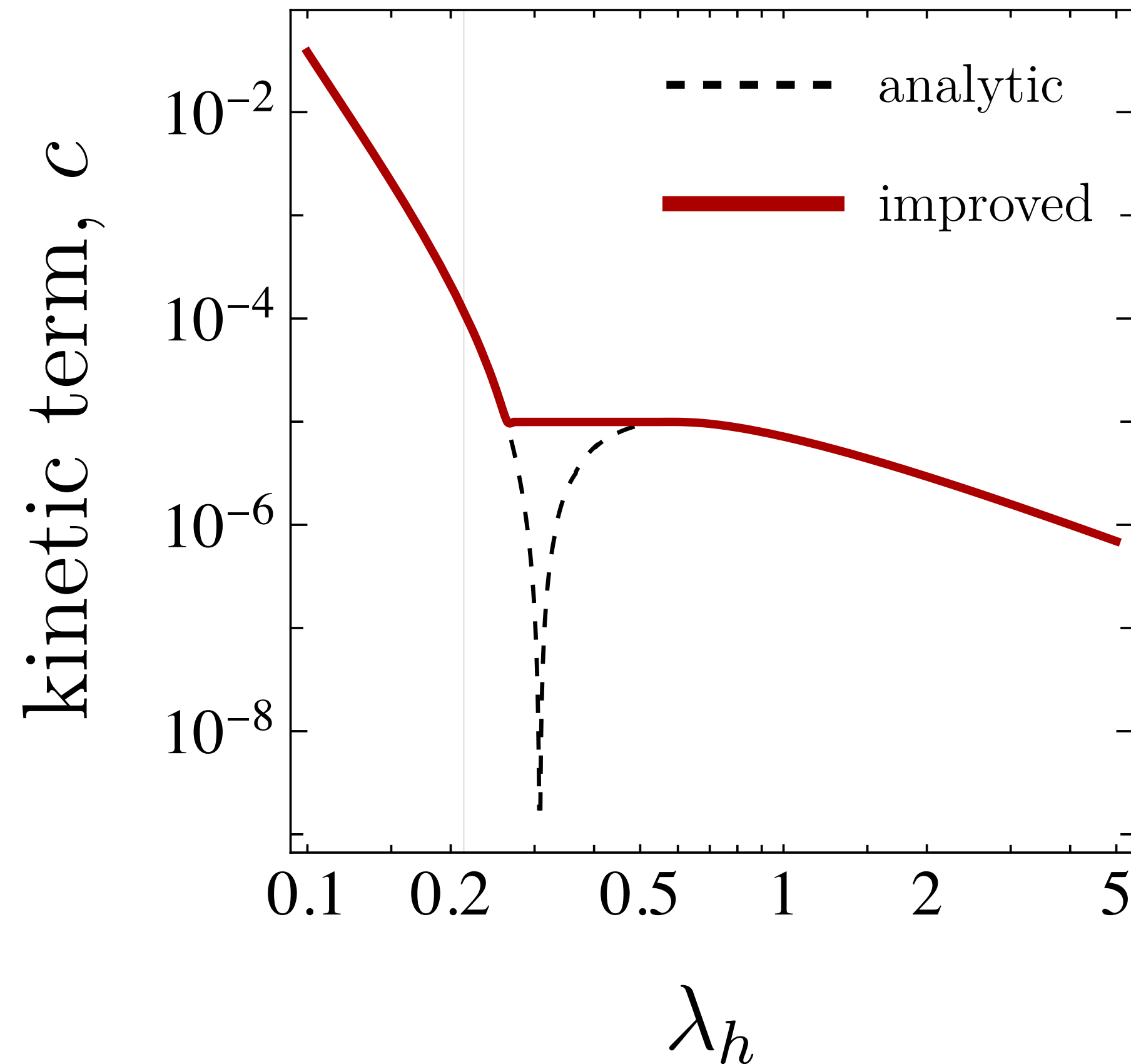
Is  $c \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$  a good approximation?

evaluate the action on a bubble configuration

$$\mathcal{S} \supset \int d^5 x \dots (\vec{\nabla} \lambda_h)^2 + \dots (\vec{\nabla} \lambda_h)^4 + \dots$$

# Kinetic term

## PRELIMINARY



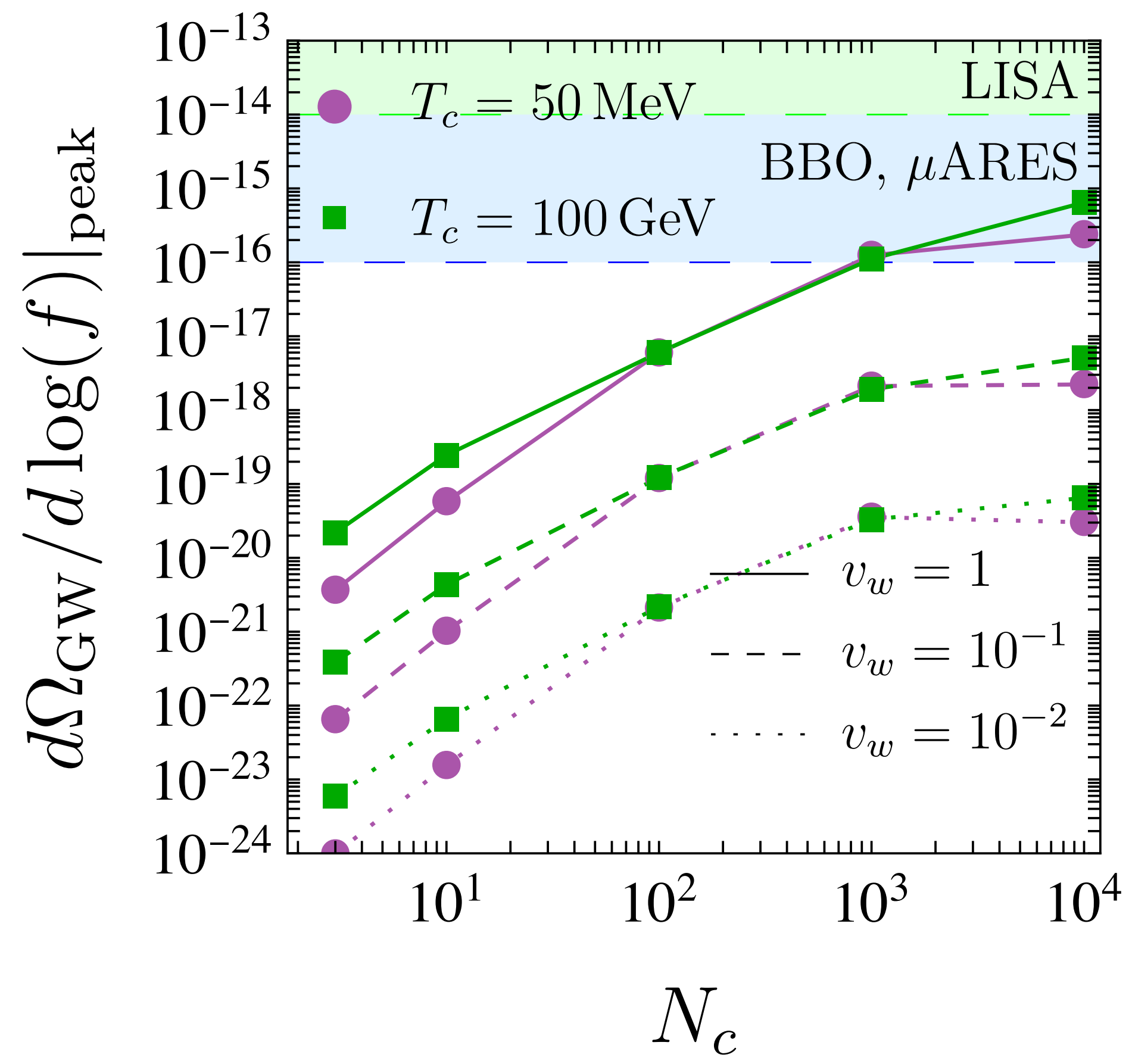
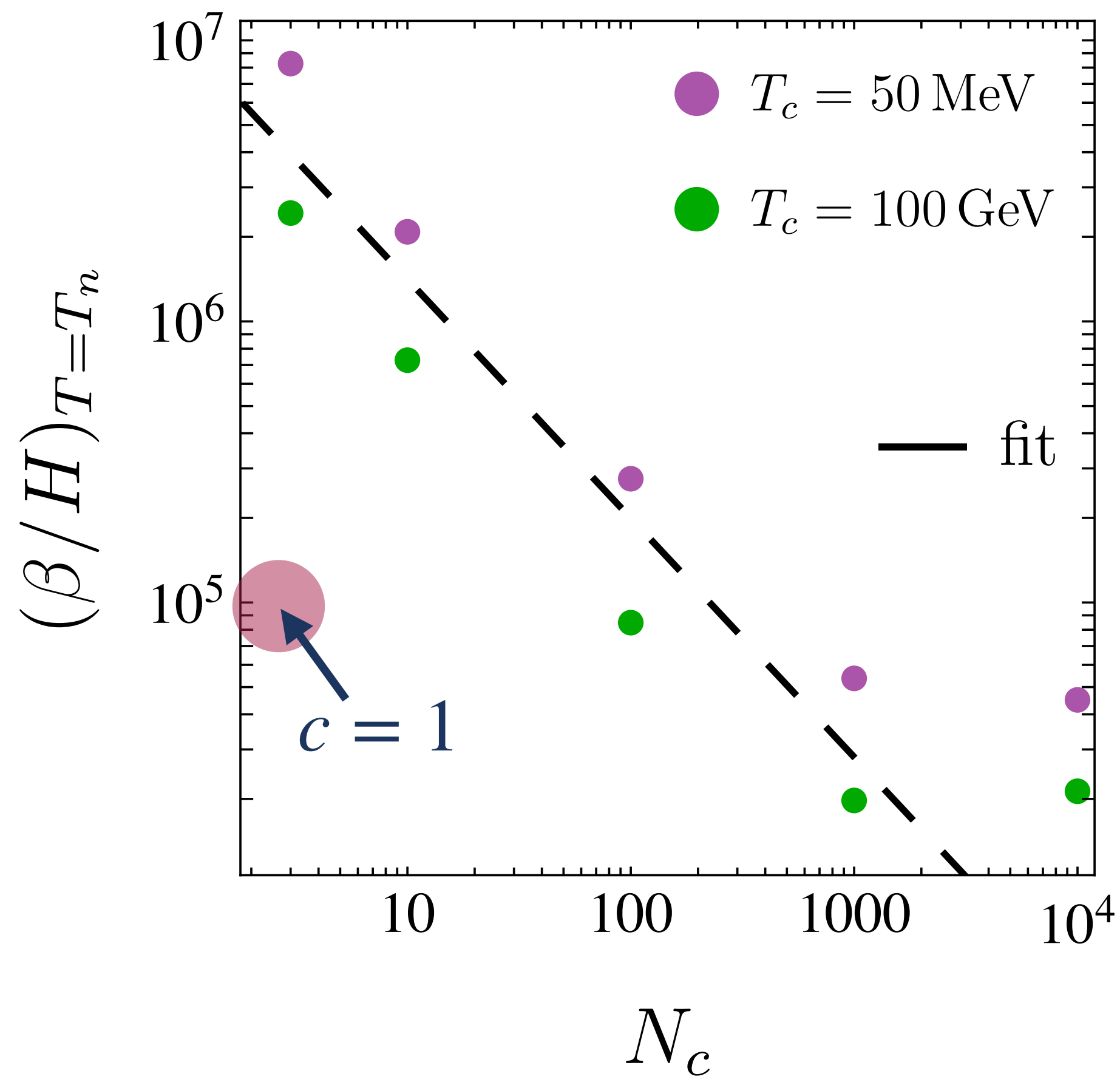
$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{4\pi}{T} \int d\rho \rho^2 \left[ c \frac{N_c^2}{16\pi^2} (\partial_r \lambda_h(r))^2 + V_{\text{eff}}(\lambda_h(r)) \right]$$

Small kinetic term

- expect fast transition

# Effect of the kinetic term

**PRELIMINARY**



# Summary

- GW signal from confinement in a dark  $SU(3)$  gauge group
  - theoretically robust model based on holography
  - fitted to resemble real-world QCD
- Uncertainties
  - wall velocity **but see 2312.09964**
  - (kinetic term of the effective action) **in progress**

## OUTLOOK

- wall velocity, fit to lattice for large  $N_c$ , (add flavour/axion)
- kinetic term  $\leftrightarrow$  physical properties of the theory

# Backup

# UV: asymptotic freedom

$\beta$  function of the 't Hooft coupling  $\lambda_t = g^2 N_c$

$$\beta(\lambda_t) \equiv \frac{d\lambda_t}{d \log E} = -\beta_0 \lambda_t^2 - \beta_1 \lambda_t^3 + \dots \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{in the UV}$$

$$\beta_0 = \frac{22}{3(4\pi)^2}$$
$$\beta_1 = \frac{51}{121} \beta_0^2$$

conformal sym broken by logarithmic running

Holographic equivalent: **geometry**  $\rightarrow$  **AdS space (logarithmically)**



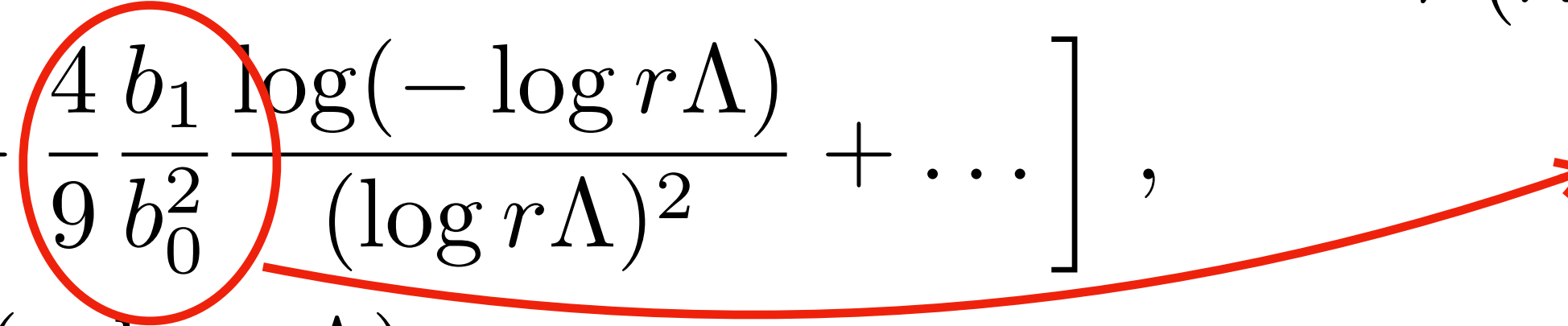
# Geometry in the UV

The solution asymptotes to AdS for  $r \rightarrow 0$

$$b(r) = \frac{\ell}{r} \left[ 1 + \frac{4}{9} \frac{1}{\log r \Lambda} - \frac{4 b_1 \log(-\log r \Lambda)}{9 b_0^2 (\log r \Lambda)^2} + \dots \right],$$

$$b_0 \lambda(r) = -\frac{1}{\log r \Lambda} + \frac{b_1 \log(-\log r \Lambda)}{b_0^2 (\log r \Lambda)^2} + \dots$$

$$V(\lambda) = \frac{12}{\ell^2} (1 + v_0 \lambda + v_1 \lambda^2 + \dots)$$

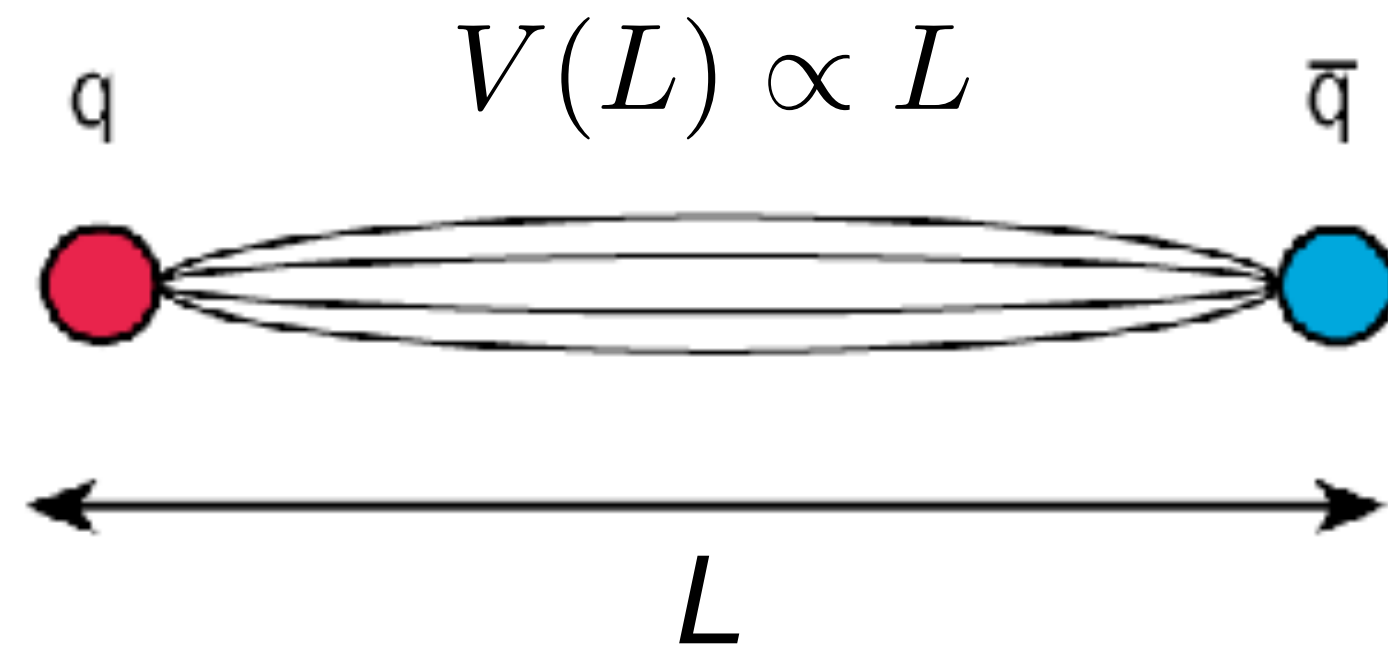
$$b_0 = \frac{9}{8} v_0 \quad b_1 = \frac{9}{4} v_1 - \frac{207}{256} v_0^2$$


Identify  $b \leftrightarrow E$ ,  $\lambda \leftrightarrow \lambda_t \rightarrow \beta$  function:

$$\beta(\lambda) \equiv \frac{d\lambda}{d \log E} = -b_0 \lambda^2 - b_1 \lambda^3 + \dots = \beta(\lambda_t) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} b_0 = \beta_0 \\ b_1 = \beta_1 \end{cases}$$

# IR: Confinement

1. The static potential of a probe  $q \bar{q}$  pair is linear in the distance



(flux tube w/ constant energy/length)

2. Mass gap: no asymptotic massless state (no free gluon)

$$m_{\text{glue}}^2 > 0$$

3. Linear glueball spectrum

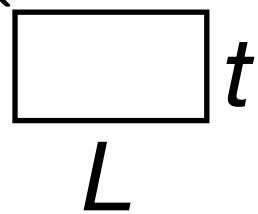
$$m_n^2 \sim n$$

# Confinement in holography

in QFT:

Wilson loop follows area law:

$q \bar{q}$  potential:  $\longrightarrow W = \text{tr} \left[ \mathcal{P} \exp \left( i \oint_{\square} A_{\mu} dx^{\mu} \right) \right] \propto L \times t \longrightarrow$



Holography:  
Nambu-Goto string action  
on a rectangle of sides  $L \times t$

glueball masses:  $\longrightarrow$  Spectrum of fluctuations  $\Phi(r)$

equations of motion

$$b(r), \Phi(r) \leftrightarrow V(\lambda)$$

$$V(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{4/3} (\log \lambda)^{1/2}, \quad \lambda \rightarrow \infty$$

# Potential

**UV:**  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$

$$V(\lambda) = \frac{12}{\ell^2} (1 + v_0 \lambda + v_1 \lambda^2 + \dots)$$

**IR:**  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$

$$V(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{4/3} (\log \lambda)^{1/2}$$

Ansatz:

$$V(\lambda) = \frac{12}{\ell^2} \left\{ 1 + V_0 \lambda + V_1 \lambda^{4/3} [\log(1 + V_2 \lambda^{4/3} + V_3 \lambda^2)]^{1/2} \right\}$$

$$V_0, V_1 V_2^{1/2}$$

fixed by UV

$$V_1, V_3$$

fit to lattice data  
(thermodyn. or glueballs)

# Confined / deconfined

Witten hep-th/9803131

Thermal gas  $\longleftrightarrow$  confined

$$ds^2 = b^2(r)(dr^2 - dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2)$$

$$\Phi = \Phi_0(r), \quad r \in (0, \infty)$$

Black Hole  $\longleftrightarrow$  deconfined

$$ds^2 = b^2(r) \left[ \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} - f(r)dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2 \right]$$

$$\Phi = \Phi(r), \quad r \in (0, r_h)$$

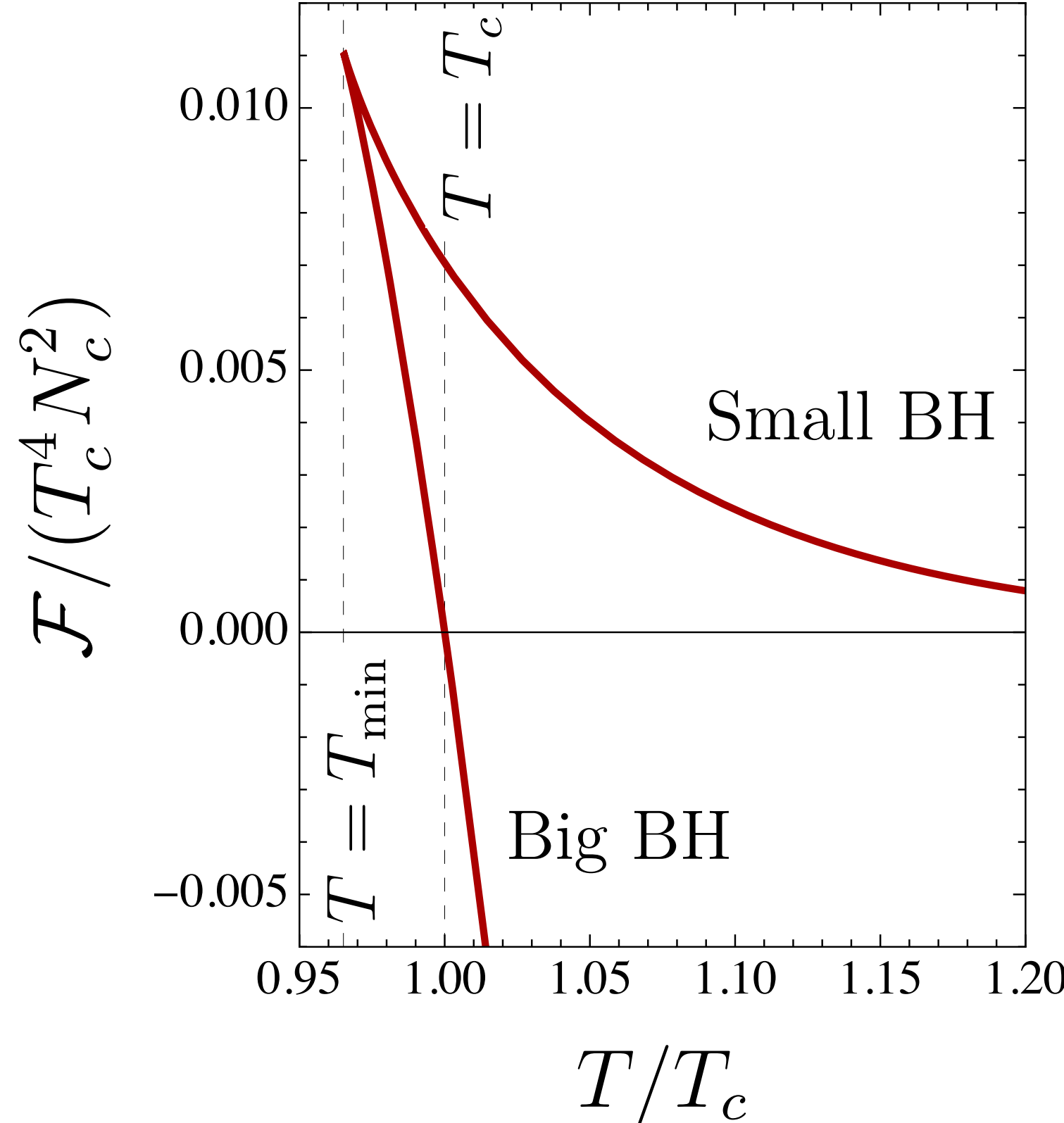
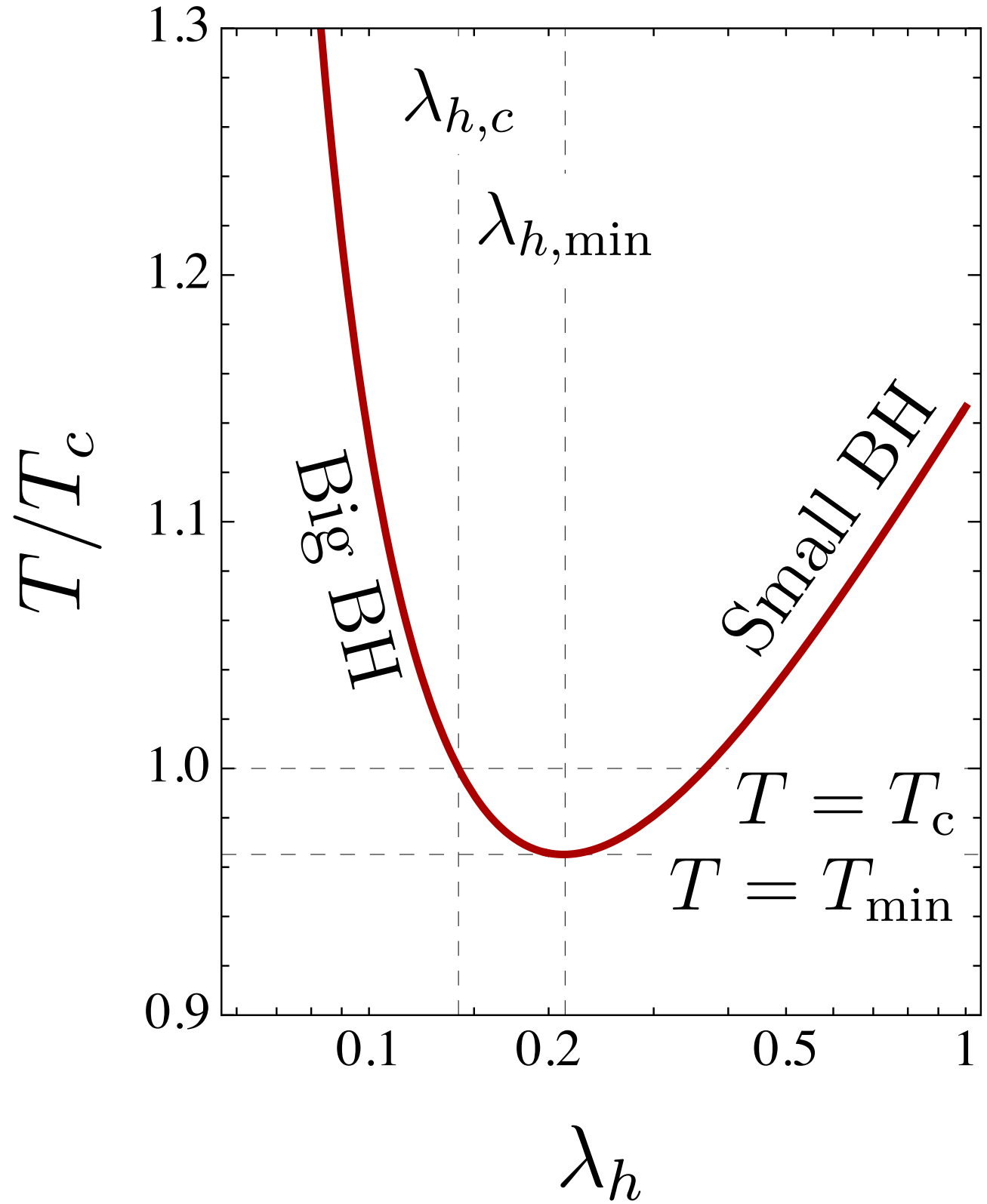
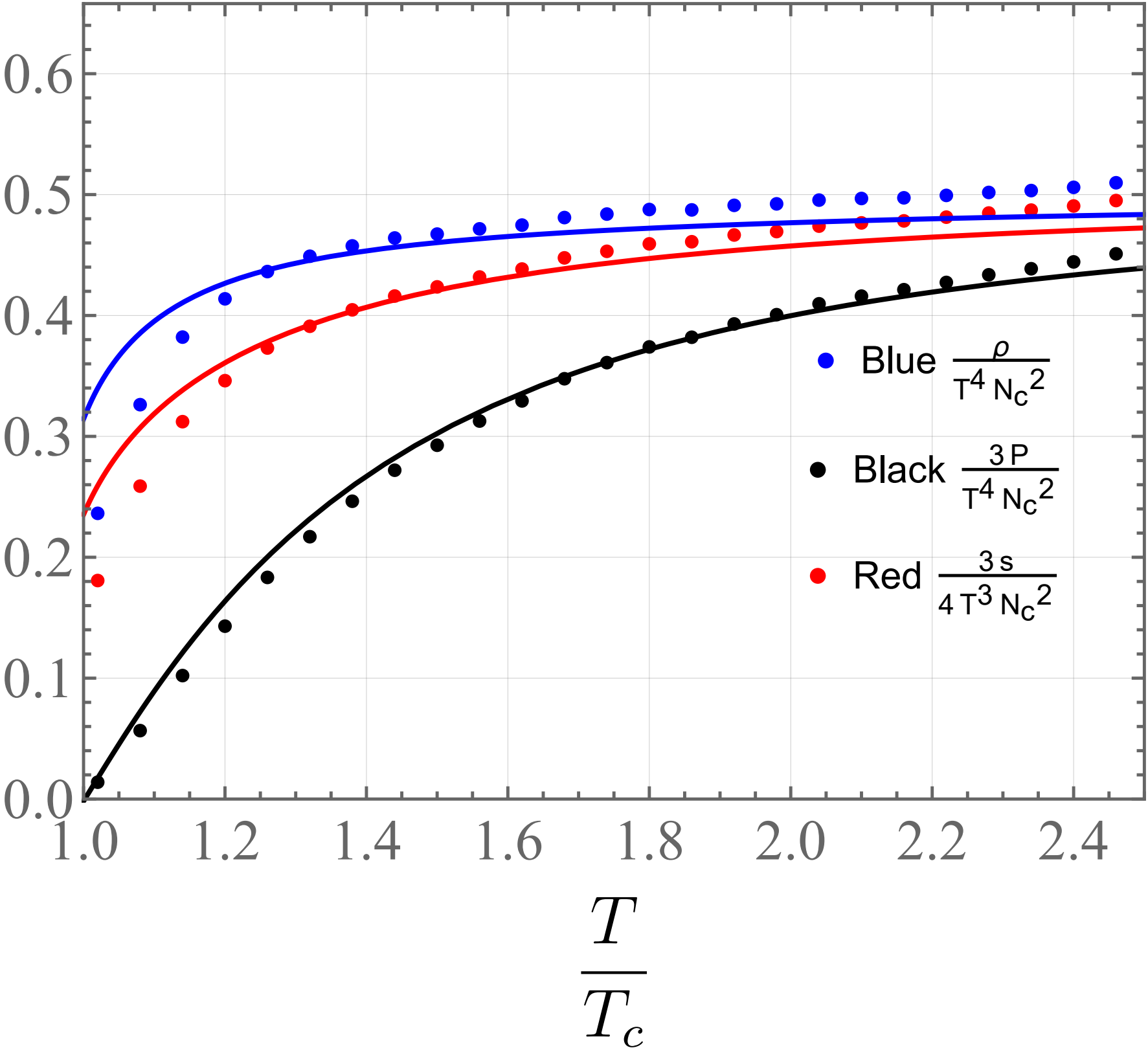
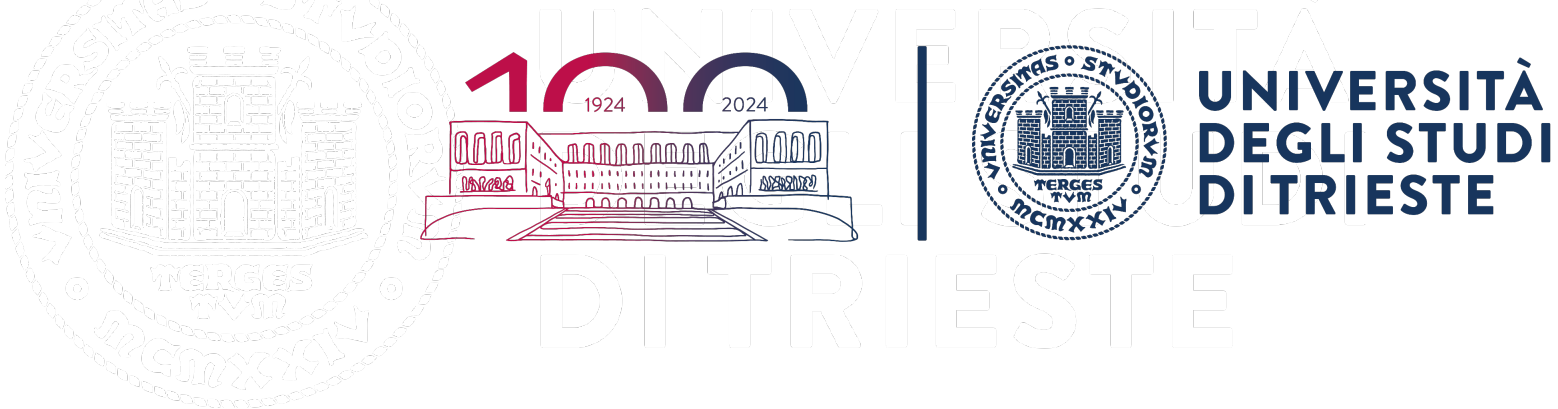
Polyakov loop

(finite T version of  
Wilson loop)

$$\mathbf{PL} = \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} \left[ \mathcal{T} \exp \left( i \int_0^\beta A_0 d\tau \right) \right] \quad \begin{cases} = 0 & \text{confined} \\ \neq 0 & \text{deconfined} \end{cases}$$

$$|\mathbf{PL}| = \exp(-\beta F) \longleftrightarrow \text{energy cost of removing one colour charge}$$

# Thermodynamics



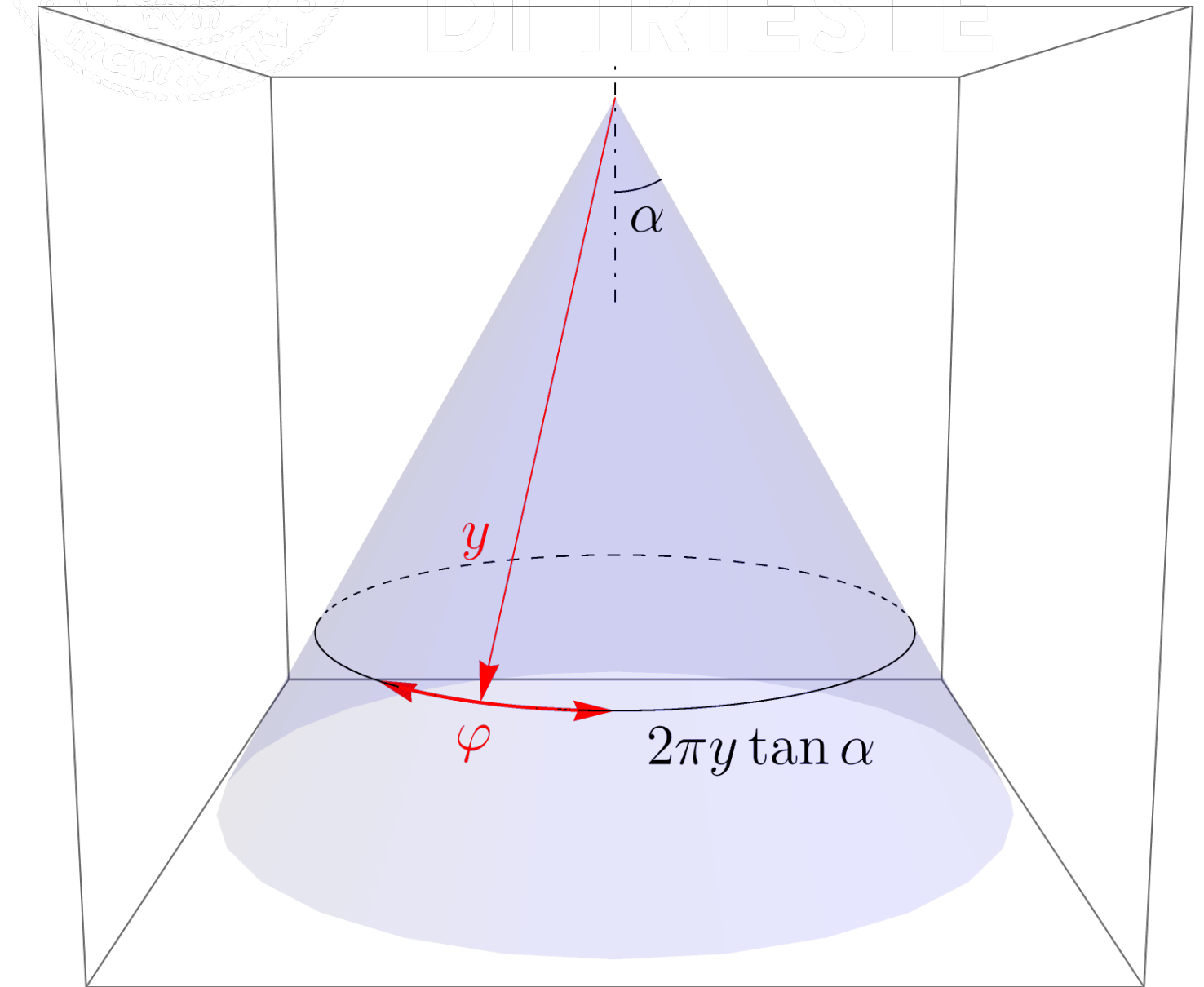
# Conical singularity

Expand BH metric at the horizon

$$ds^2 = b(r)^2 \left( \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + f(r)dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2 \right) \quad f(r) \approx \dot{f}_h(r - r_h), \quad b(r) \approx b_h$$

define

$$\begin{cases} y = \frac{2b_h}{\dot{f}_h^{1/2}} \sqrt{r - r_h}, & y > 0 \\ \varphi = 2\pi T t, & 0 < \varphi < 2\pi \end{cases}$$

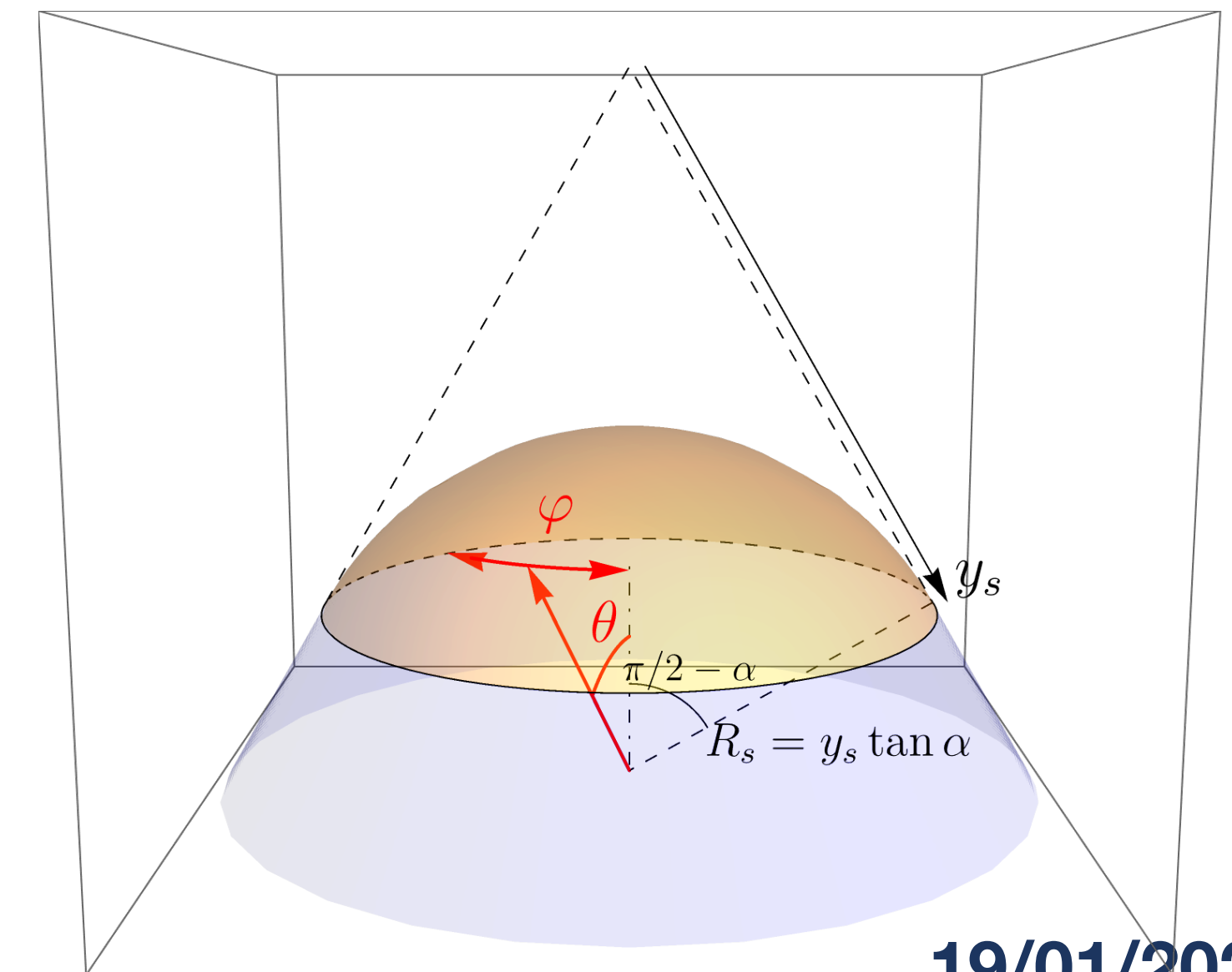


The metric describes a cone  $\rightarrow$  regular for  $\sin \alpha = 1$

$$ds^2 = dy^2 + y^2 \left( \frac{\dot{f}_h}{4\pi T} \right)^2 d\varphi^2 \quad \sin \alpha = \frac{\dot{f}_h}{4\pi T} \equiv \frac{T_h}{T}$$

Regularize with a small spherical cap

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{cap}}^{\text{BH}} = -M_p^3 N_c^2 \int d^5x \sqrt{g} \left[ \mathcal{R} - \frac{4}{3} \underbrace{(\partial\phi)^2 + V(\phi)}_{\substack{\text{finite} \\ \text{vanish as } R_s \rightarrow 0}} \right]$$



# GW - sound waves

1910.13125 LISA Cosmology Working Group

Normalized to photon density

$$F_{\text{gw},0} = \Omega_{\gamma,0} \left( \frac{g_{s0}}{g_{s*}} \right)^{\frac{4}{3}} \frac{g_*}{g_0} \sim 10^{-5} \left( \frac{100}{g_*} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Duration of linear fluid evolution (source duration)

$$\tau_{\text{sh}} \sim R_* / \sqrt{\langle U_f^2 \rangle} \propto (\beta/H)^{-1}$$

typical fluid length / av. plasma velocity

$$\frac{d\Omega_{\text{gw},0}}{d \log f} = 0.687 F_{\text{gw},0} K^2 \left( \frac{H_* R_*}{c_s} \right) \left( \frac{H_* R_*}{K^{1/2}} \right) \tilde{\Omega}_{\text{gw}} C \left( \frac{f}{f_{p,0}} \right)$$

Kinetic energy fraction

$$K = \frac{\alpha \kappa}{1 + \alpha} \quad \kappa = \frac{3}{\epsilon v_w^3} \int w(\xi) v^2 \gamma^2 \xi^2 d\xi$$

$\xi = r/t$

$$\kappa^2 \sim 10^{-5} - 10^{-1}$$

Long-lasting source:  
correlation time of  
acoustic production

$$\propto (\beta/H)^{-1}$$

$$\sim 10^{-2}$$

$$\begin{cases} f^3 & \text{for } f < f_p \\ f^{-4} & \text{for } f > f_p \end{cases}$$

$$f_{p,0} \simeq 26 \left( \frac{1}{H_* R_*} \right) \left( \frac{z_p}{10} \right) \left( \frac{T_*}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right) \left( \frac{g_*}{100} \right)^{1/6} \mu\text{Hz}$$