

Heavy quark momentum broadening in a non-Abelian plasma away from equilibrium

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Work in collaboration with Harshit Pandey & Sören Schlichting

Heavy quark diffusion in a quark gluon plasma

- Heavy quarks are formed in the very early stages of a heavy-ion collision event and hence an excellent probe of the medium formed.
- To model how fast their velocities adjust to hydrodynamic (elliptic) flow , heavy quark momentum diffusion coeff. is an important ingredient as $\tau_{m \rightarrow \infty} \sim \frac{m}{T} 2\pi D_s = \frac{4\pi m T}{\kappa}$
- Heavy quarks in quark gluon plasma typically modelled as a Brownian particle

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = -\eta \mathbf{p}(t) + \vec{\zeta}(t) , \quad \langle \zeta_i(t) \zeta_j(t') \rangle = \kappa \delta_{ij} \delta(t - t') .$$

- In a thermal medium, by virtue of fluctuation-dissipation theorem

$$\eta \simeq \frac{\kappa \langle \mathbf{v}^2 \rangle}{6T} .$$

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Heavy quark diffusion in QGP

- When a particle of mass M and color charge q accelerates in presence of color electric and magnetic fields with a $\langle v_i v_j \rangle = \delta_{ij} \frac{1}{3} \langle \mathbf{v}^2 \rangle$ given by

$$\mathbf{F} = q (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) = \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} .$$

- The two-point correlator of the force can be written as an expansion in velocity

$$\langle F_i(t') F_j(t) \rangle = q^2 \left[\langle E_i(t') E_j(t) \rangle - \frac{1}{3} \langle \mathbf{v}^2 \rangle \langle \delta_{ij} B_k(t') B_k(t) - B_i(t') B_j(t) \rangle \right] .$$

- The momentum diffusion coefficient κ is defined in the limit $\omega \rightarrow 0$ as

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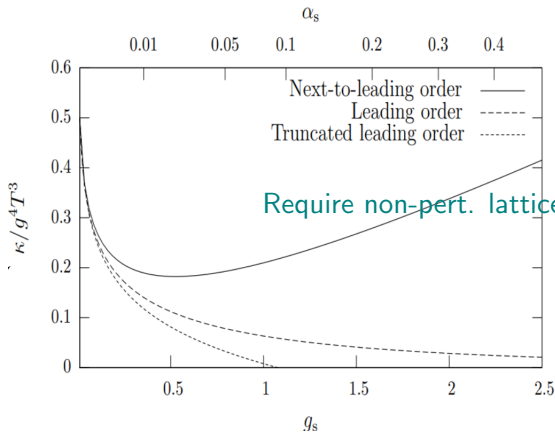
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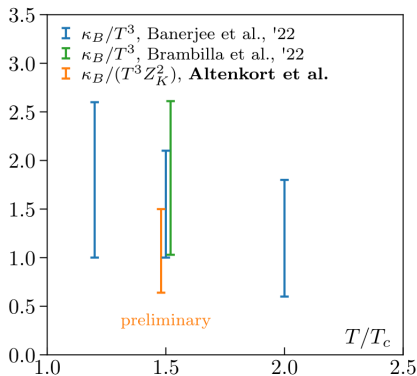
Heavy quark diffusion in QGP

- In non-relativistic limit $m \gg \pi T$, the velocity sq. $\langle \mathbf{v}^2 \rangle \sim \frac{T}{m} \rightarrow 0$ which means that the heavy quark momentum diffusion coefficient can be measured from **color electric 2-pt function**.
- Perturbative calculations are unreliable! [S. Caron-Huot & G. Moore, 08]



Heavy quark diffusion in QGP

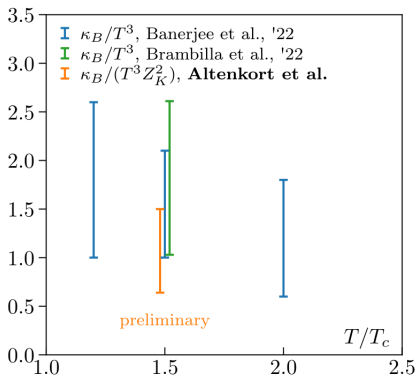
- On the lattice, the corresponding spectral function is constant as a function of ω/T as $\omega \rightarrow 0$.
- At $T = 2T_c$ the value of $\kappa_E/T^3 \simeq 1 - 2.1$
[H. B. Meyer, 09, D. Banerjee et. al., 11, A. Francis et. al., 11,1]
- Recently $\mathcal{O}(m/T)$ corrections have been included $\kappa \sim \kappa_E + \frac{2}{3}\kappa_B\langle v^2 \rangle$. The contribution from color magnetic part is large! \rightarrow for 2+1 QCD both contributions are similar in magnitude at $T = 352$ MeV.



[Bouttefeux & Laine, 20, D. Banerjee, S. Datta, M. Laine, 22, N. Brambilla et. al. 23, Fig. courtesy L. Altenkort et. al. 22, 23]

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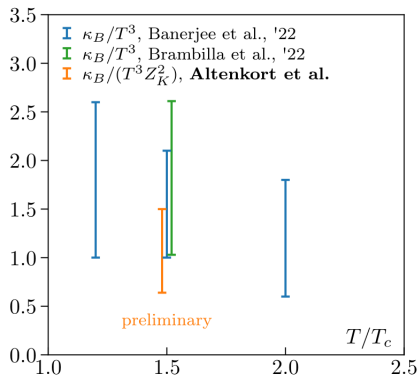
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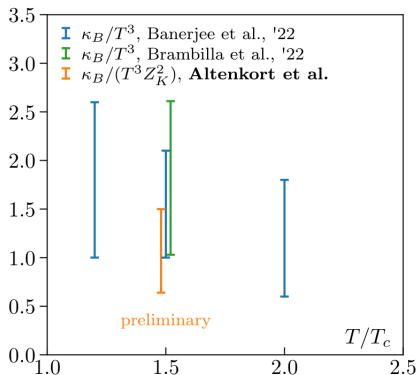
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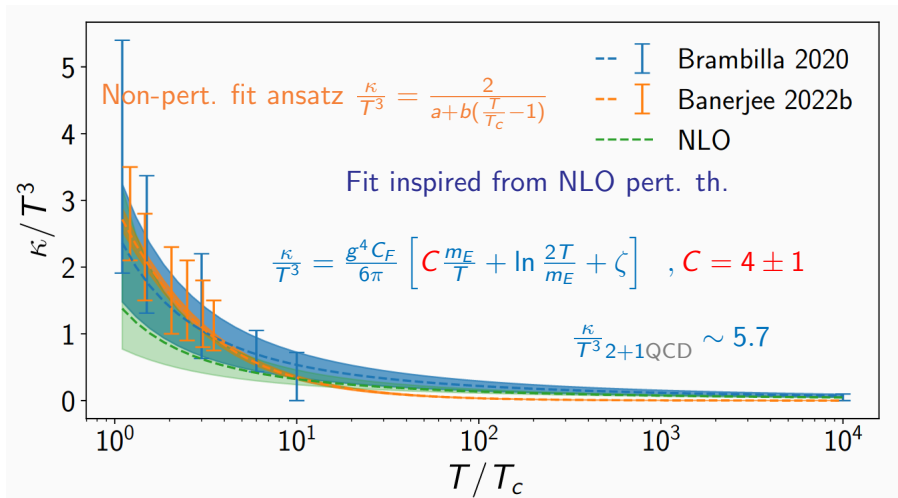
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[Fig. from V. Leino, INT Workshop 22-3, Ref. N. Brambilla et al. 20, D. Banerjee et. al., 22, L. Altenkort et. al., 23]

Diffusion coefficient for charm quarks

- For charm one takes $\langle \mathbf{v}^2 \rangle \sim 0.5$ [L. Altenkort et. al. , 23] \Rightarrow spatial diffusion coeff. at $T \sim 350$ MeV is $2\pi T D_s \sim 3.6$
- However for charm quarks an (HQET) expansion in m/T is **questionable at these temperatures**. Charm quarks also show collective behaviour similar to the light quarks [ALICE Collaboration, S. Acharya et al., 18, See talk by Johanna Stachel]
- Difficult to obtain from the heavy quark vector spectral function as the transport peak is narrow $\omega \sim T^2/m$ [Petreczky & Teaney, 06].

- Nevertheless the kinetic equilibration time estimated from the lattice results

$$\tau \sim \frac{m}{T^2} 2\pi T D_s \sim 6 \text{ fm}/c$$

- However during evolution a fairly large time ~ 1 fm/c may be spent in a non-equilibrium phase. **How much does it affect the kinetic equilibration time?**

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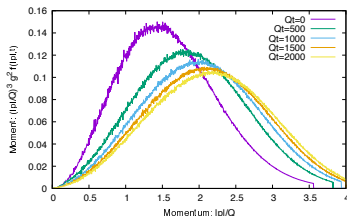
Charm momentum broadening in non-equilibrium gluonic plasma

- We consider a non-equilibrium phase consisting of highly occupied gluon states $n_g \sim 1/\alpha_s$.
- We have performed our simulations on large fixed volume $N_s^3 = 256^3$ lattice, with lattice spacing $Qa_s = 0.5$, with $N_c = 2$.
- We consider the following initial phase-space distribution of the gluons, motivated from the Color Glass condensate effective theory

[L. McLerran and R. Venugopalan, 94]

$$g^2 f_g(p) = n_0 \frac{Q}{p} e^{-\frac{p^2}{2Q^2}}$$

where $n_0/g^2 \gg 1$.



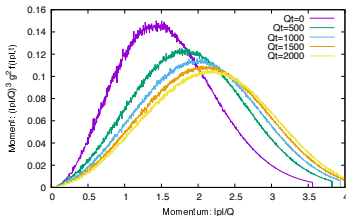
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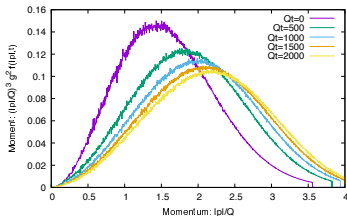
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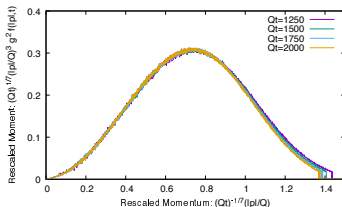


Initial Conditions: Non-Abelian plasma in the self-similar regime

- Starting with this initial condition we have evolved the gauge fields till $Qt = 1500$ where these are described by a self-similar scaling distribution,

$$\left(\frac{\tilde{p}}{Q}\right)^3 f_S(\tilde{p}) = (Qt)^{\frac{1}{7}} \left(\frac{|\mathbf{p}|}{Q}\right)^3 f(|\mathbf{p}|, t)$$

(Here, $\tilde{p} = (Qt)^{-\frac{1}{7}} |\mathbf{p}|$.)



- In analogy to QGP at high enough temperatures, there is a clear separation of scales here as well [J. Berges, K. Boguslavski, S. Schlichting, R. Venugopalan 14]

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\sigma(t)} &< m_D(t) \ll \Lambda(t) \\ \sim Q(Qt)^{-3/10} &\sim Q(Qt)^{-1/7} \sim Q(Qt)^{1/7} \end{aligned}$$

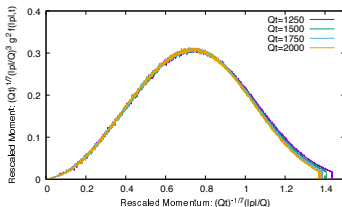
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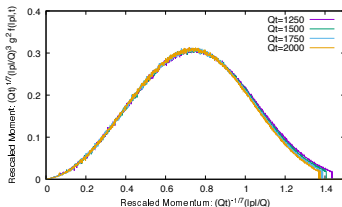
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Evolving the heavy quarks

- We have implemented for the first time the **evolution of heavy quarks as relativistic particles** in this gluon background using tree-level improved Wilson-Dirac Hamiltonian on the lattice.

$$\hat{H}_f = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \hat{\psi}_{\mathbf{x}}^\dagger \gamma^0 (-i\hat{D}_W + m) \hat{\psi}_{\mathbf{x}}$$
$$i\gamma^0 \partial_{x^0} \hat{\psi}_{\mathbf{x}} = (-i\hat{D}_W + m) \hat{\psi}_{\mathbf{x}} .$$

- Our formalism is thus much more general in comparison to studies done earlier in the infinite-mass limit with non-relativistic quarks.
[K. Boguslavski et. al., 21]
- We have chosen a wide set of quark masses, $m/Q = 0.001 - 12.0$. For $Q \sim 1$ GeV, the choice of $m/Q = 1.2$ represents a particle with mass close to that of the charm quark.

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Calculating the quark spectral functions

- Quark spectral function, in terms of quark fields, is defined as

$$\rho^{\alpha\beta}(x, y) = \left\langle \left\{ \hat{\psi}^\alpha(x), \hat{\bar{\psi}}^\beta(y) \right\} \right\rangle.$$

- Can be decomposed into Scalar, Pseudo-scalar, Vector, Axial-vector, Tensor components

$$\rho = \rho_S + i\gamma_5\rho_P + \gamma_\mu\rho_V^\mu + \gamma_\mu\gamma_5\rho_A^\mu + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{\mu\nu}\rho_T^{\mu\nu}$$

- Within our non-equilibrium plasma, typical momenta of gluons $\sim 2 - 3 Q$, hence HTL approximation is justified for heavy quarks with momenta $p = |\mathbf{p}| \ll m_{bare}$.

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$$\text{Re}\rho_V^0(t) = e^{-\gamma(m_{bare})t} \cos m_{eff}t, \quad \rho_S^0(t) = e^{-\gamma(m_{bare})t} \sin m_{eff}t.$$

- For light quarks with zero momenta ($p = 0$), expression for the HTL spectral function simplifies to $\text{Re}\rho_V^0(t, p = 0) \approx e^{-\gamma(m_{eff}, p=0)t} \cos[\omega(m_{eff}, 0)t]$.

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- Quark spectral function, in terms of quark fields, is defined as

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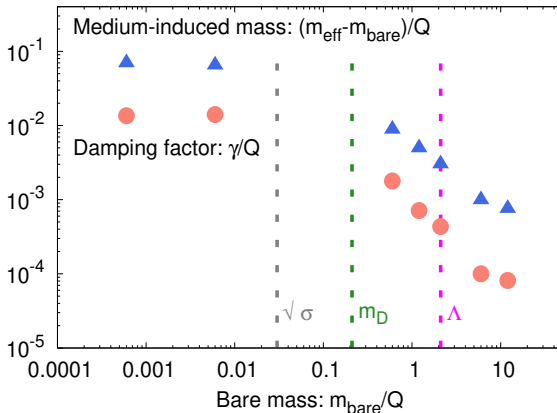
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In-Medium effects on the quark quasi-particles

- We obtain effective mass (m_{eff}) via fit to spectral function and subtract the bare mass to obtain **medium-induced mass**.

[Ref: H. Pandey, S. Schlichting, S.S., Phys. Rev. Lett., 132, 222301 (2024)]

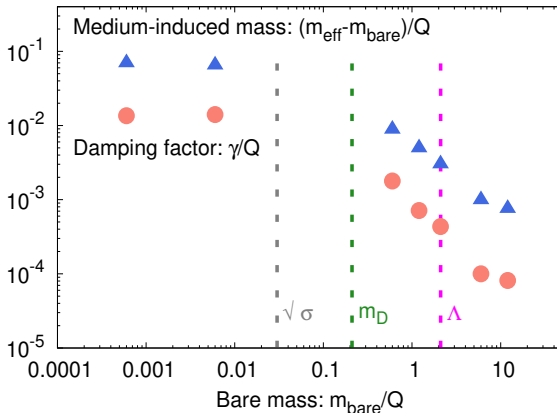


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Observations from the analysis of spectral functions

- For $m_{\text{bare}}/Q < 0.1$: medium modification is large \implies behaves more like a collective excitation than a weakly-interacting quasi-particle.
- For $m_{\text{bare}}/Q > 2.0$: in-medium modification is significantly less signifying more stable quasi-particle \rightarrow onset of heavy-quark NR regime. Small width, hence interacts with the medium to get kicks from gluons and diffuse.
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Momentum Broadening: How do we calculate it?

- We start with a **single quark in a fixed momentum (\mathbf{P}) and spin polarization (s) mode** with initial conditions

$$\langle b_{\lambda'}^{\dagger}(t=0, \mathbf{p}) b_{\lambda}(t=0, \mathbf{p}') \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\lambda'} \delta_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{p}'} \delta_{\lambda s} \delta_{\mathbf{p}\mathbf{P}}$$
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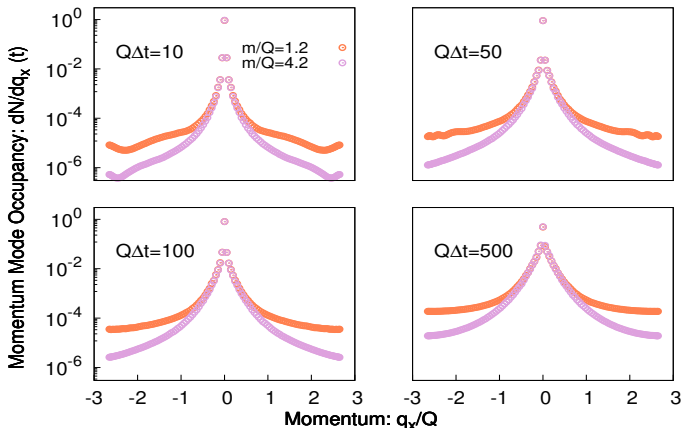
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Momentum Broadening of heavy quarks

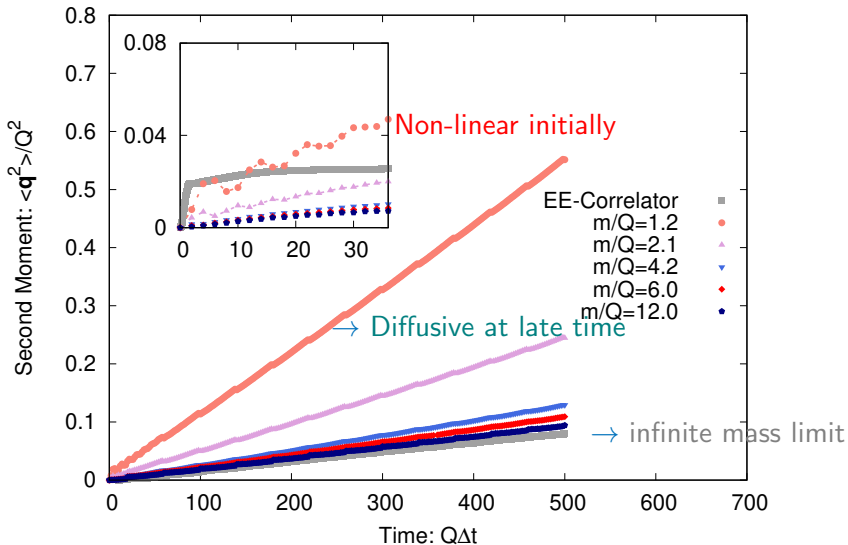
- Starting with zero initial momenta, the momentum distribution broadens due to kicks it receives from the gluon plasma.

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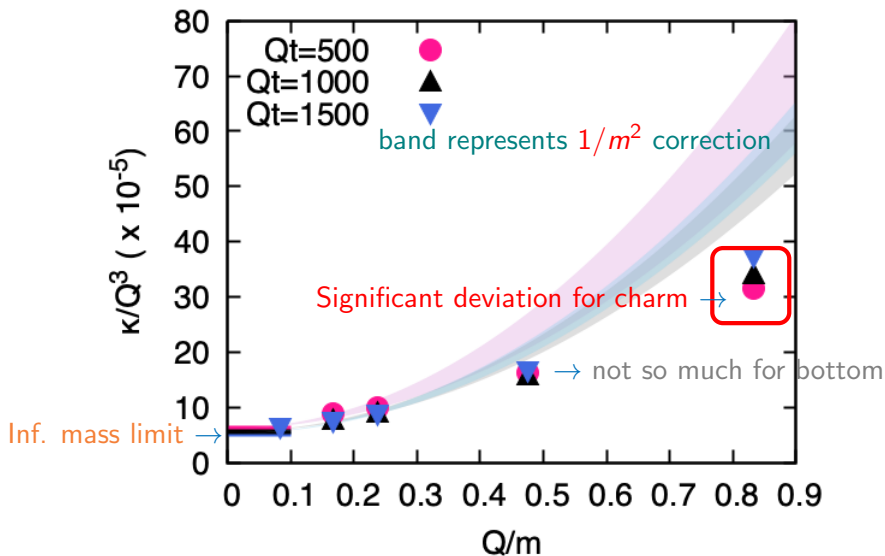
Quantifying broadening through second moment of the momentum distribution

[Ref: H. Pandey, S. Schlichting, S.S., Phys. Rev. Lett., 132, 222301 (2024).]



Extracting momentum diffusion coefficient at late times

[Ref: H. Pandey, S. Schlichting, S.S., Phys. Rev. Lett., 132, 222301 (2024).]



Summary and Outlook

- We have set up a formalism to study heavy quark momentum broadening and **extraction of heavy quark momentum diffusion coefficient**.
- We find that there are **large corrections** to momentum broadening of charm quarks in full relativistic treatment without resorting to expansion in $1/m^2$ about infinite mass limit.
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