

# Gregory-Laflamme instability and conformal symmetry

**Marco Caldarelli**

CPhT Ecole Polytechnique & LPT Orsay

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# ✧ How does **black hole physics** change as the **dimension D increases**?

~ **Vacuum** general relativity ( $R_{\mu\nu} = 0$ )

~ **Spacetime dimension** is the **only parameter** of vacuum GR!

# ✧ In what sense **black holes are like fluids**?

~ Early analogies (e.g. the **membrane paradigm**) Damour '70, Price & Thorne '80 ...

~ An example: The similarities between **black hole physics** and **lumps of fluids**

\* Both tend to **extremize surface area**

\* Their surface is **elastic**

\* **Evaporation** when microphysics included (Hawking radiation)

\* The evaporation rate is larger for small drops

## ✧ **Fluid dynamics:**

~ **Effective theory** for fluctuations away from thermodynamic equilibrium

$$\omega \rightarrow 0, \quad \lambda \rightarrow \infty$$

~ **Long wavelength expansion:**  $\lambda \gg \lambda_{\text{mfp}}, \quad \lambda \gg \lambda_{\text{thermal}}$

~ The theory has a **scale** that can for example distinguish between **small/large** liquid droplets

## ✧ **Classical General Relativity:**

~ The classical vacuum theory is **scale-invariant**

~ Length scale set by black hole size  $r_s \sim GM$

~ “Hydrodynamic modes”  $\lambda \gg r_s$  **don't fit!**

**We need an additional scale for fluid behavior**

~ Scale from cosmological constant :  $\lambda \gg \ell_{\text{cosmo}}$

**Large black holes in AdS -> AdS/Fluid correspondence** [Bhattacharya et al. 2007](#)

~ **Widely separated scales** arise naturally for higher D black holes in some regimes

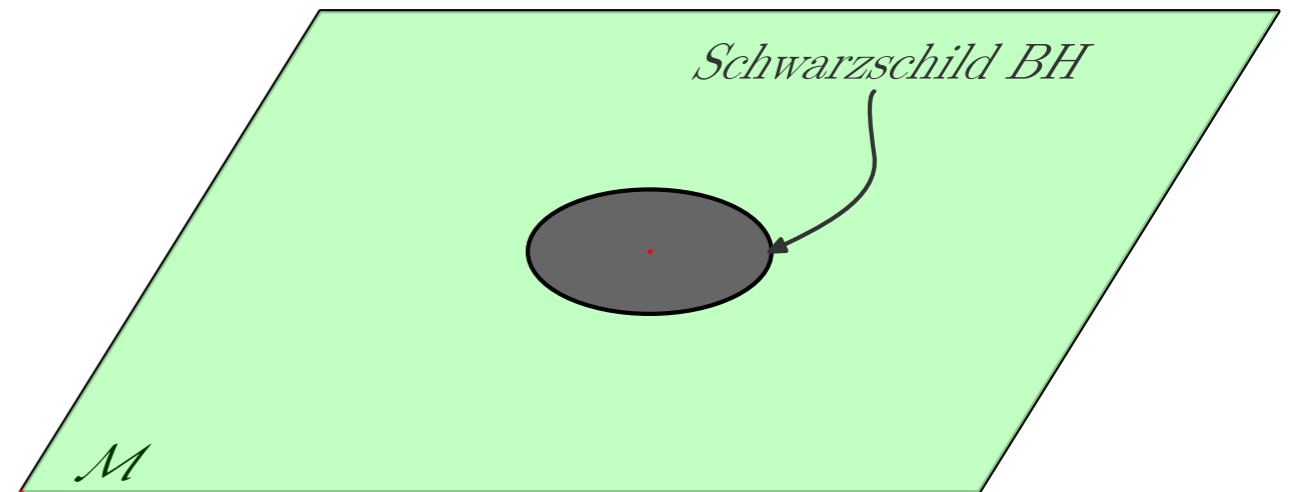
# THE BLACK STRING

*~ where we observe the emergence  
of fluid behavior for the first time ~*

# Extended horizons ( $D > 4$ )

**Start with a Schwarzschild  
black hole**

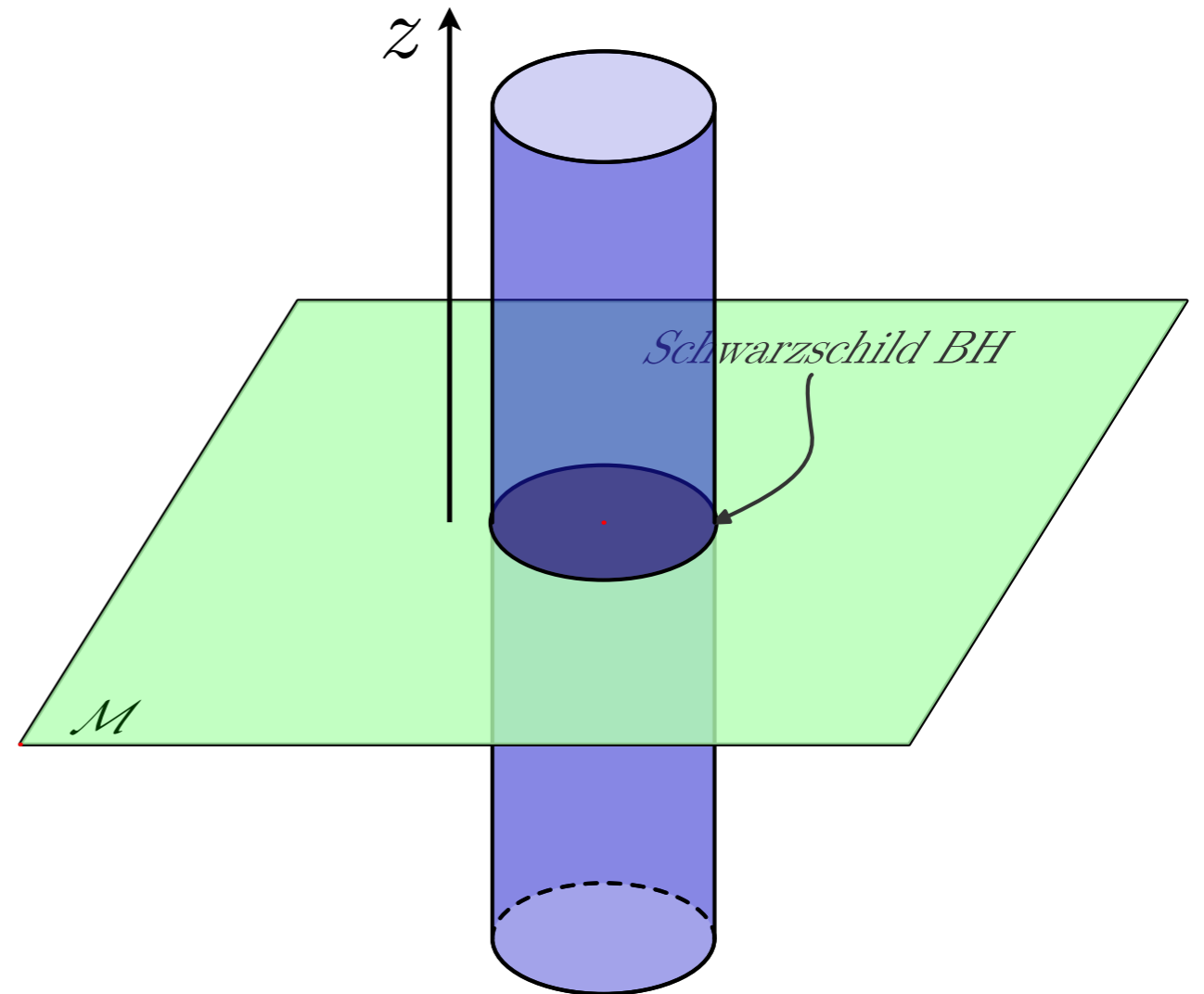
(Ricci flat)



# Extended horizons ( $D > 4$ )

**Start with a Schwarzschild black hole**

(Ricci flat)



**Take the direct product with a flat extra dimension**

(still Ricci flat)

Schwarzschild  $\times \mathbb{R}$

$$ds^2 = ds_{\text{Schw}}^2 + dz^2$$

**BLACK STRING**

[black membranes and black branes with an analogous construction]

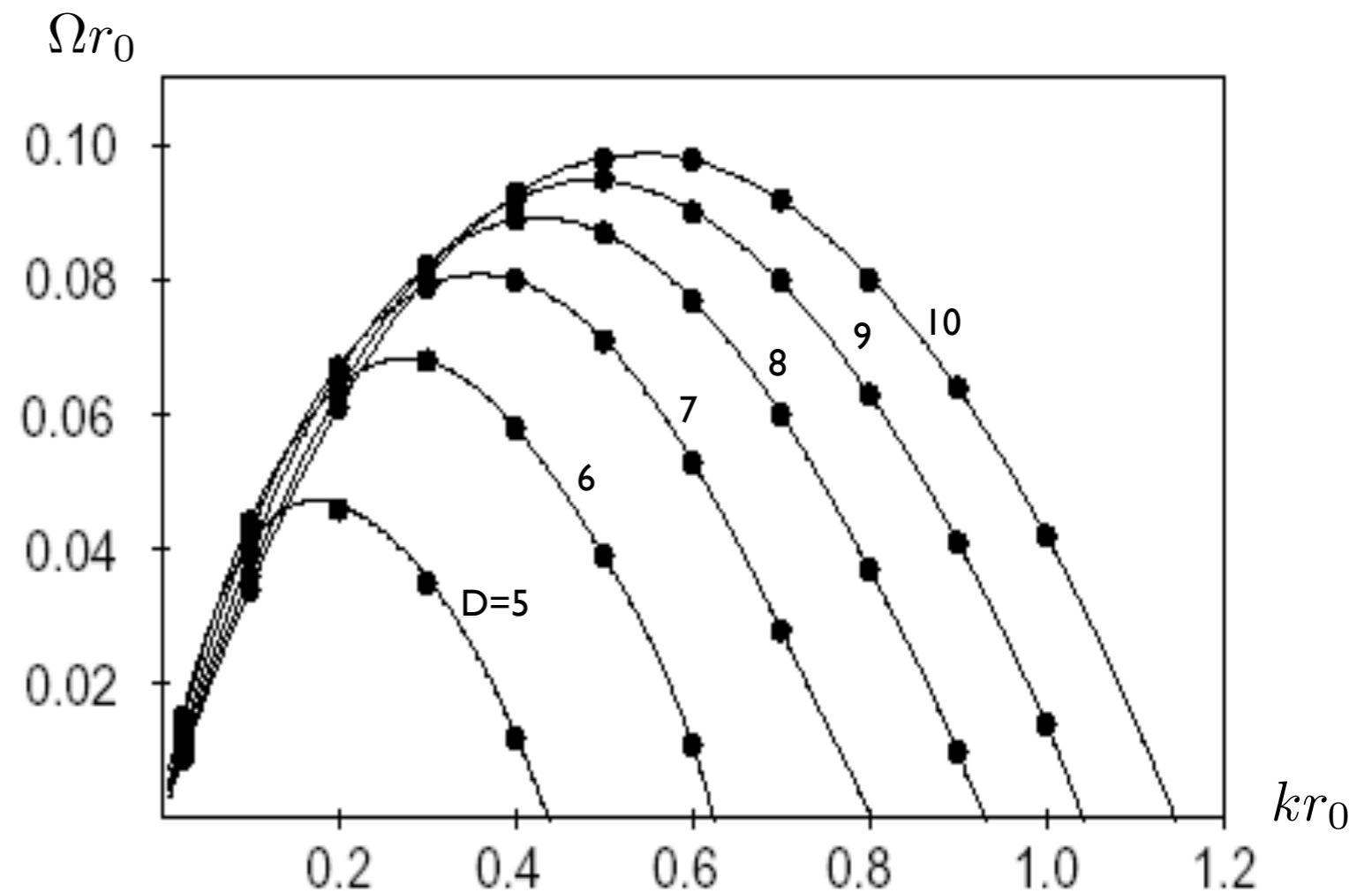
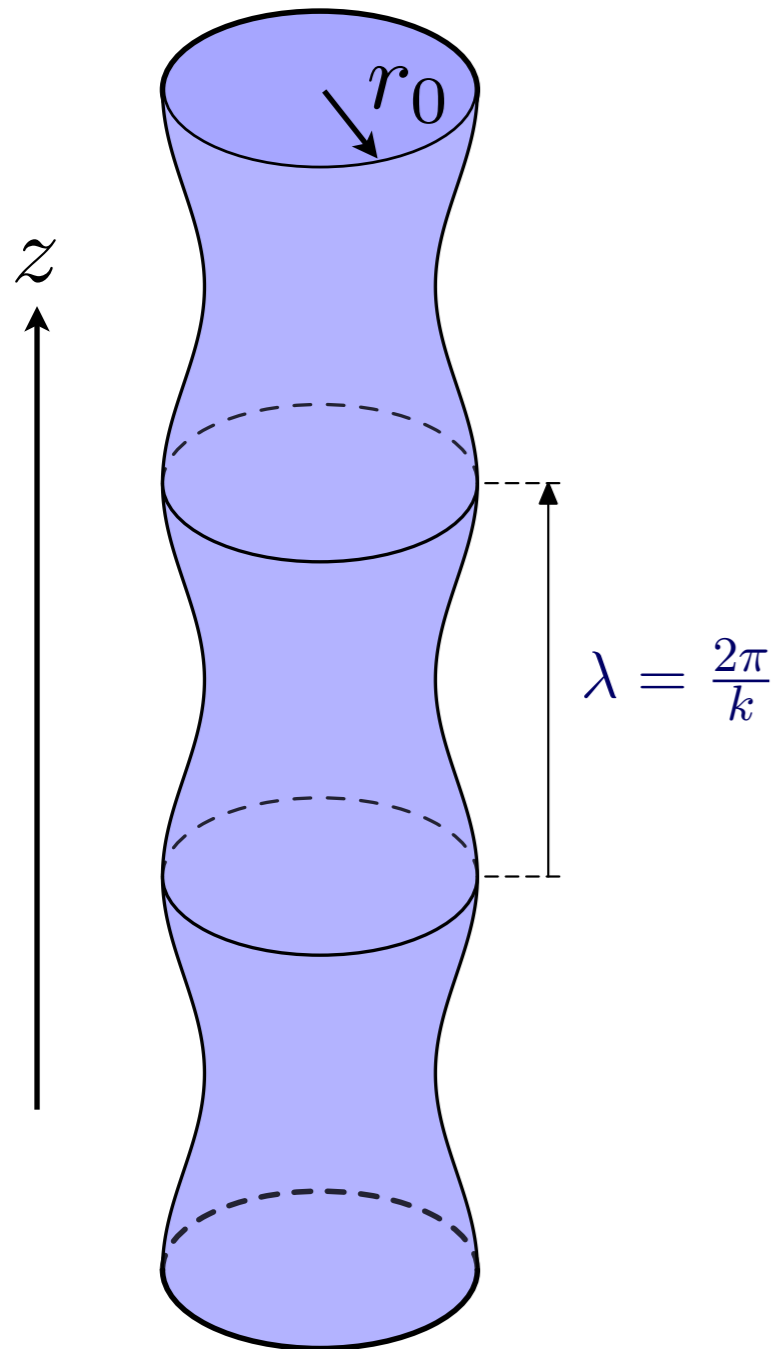
# Gregory-Laflamme instability

Gregory & Laflamme '94

Linearized perturbations:  $g_{\mu\nu} + \epsilon h_{\mu\nu}$

$$\delta r_0 \sim e^{\Omega t + ikz}$$

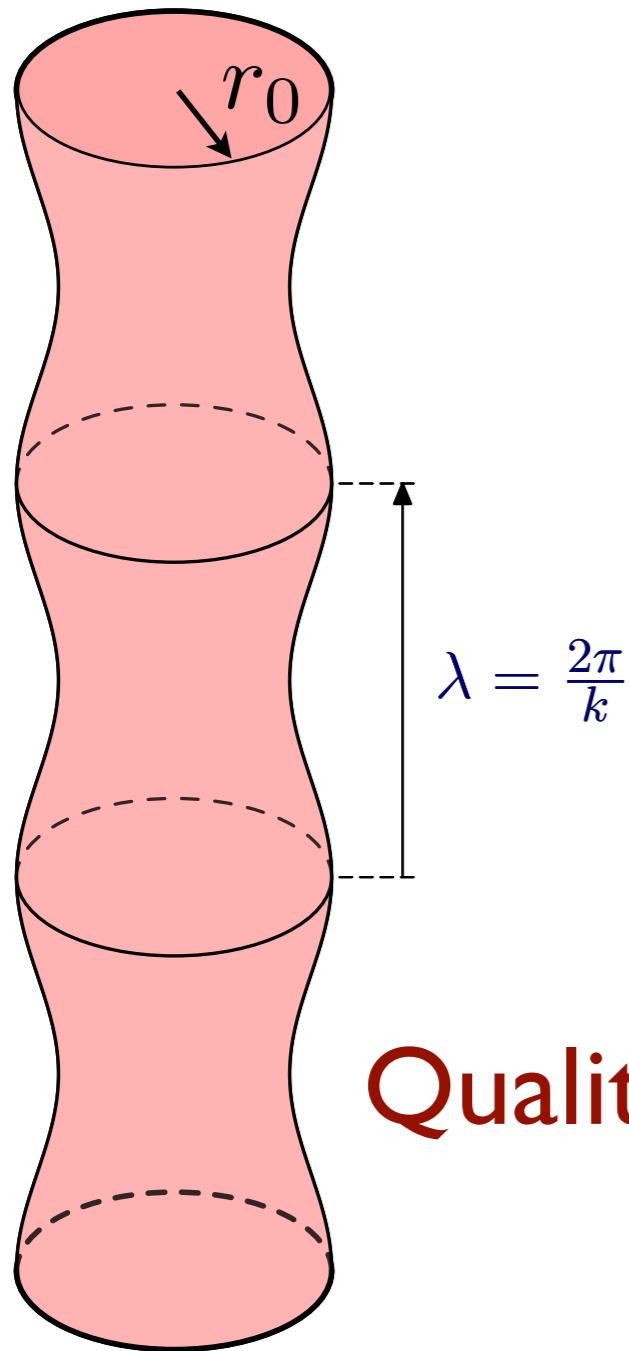
Instability for  $\lambda \gtrsim r_0$



# Black holes as fluid droplets

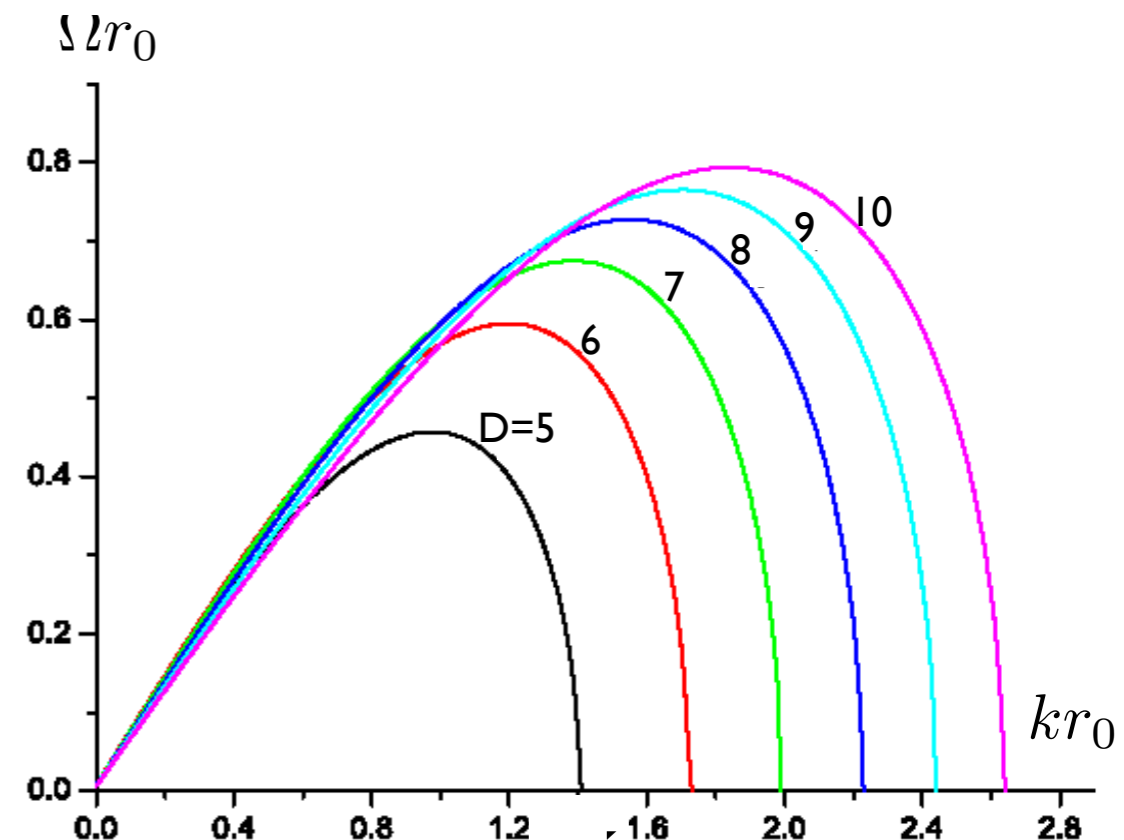
~ Column of fluid held by surface tension ~

- \* If long enough, **capillary breakup** is energetically advantageous
- \* Perturbations of wavelength longer than circumference **grow** exponentially



## Rayleigh-Plateau instability

Qualitatively, RP=GL!

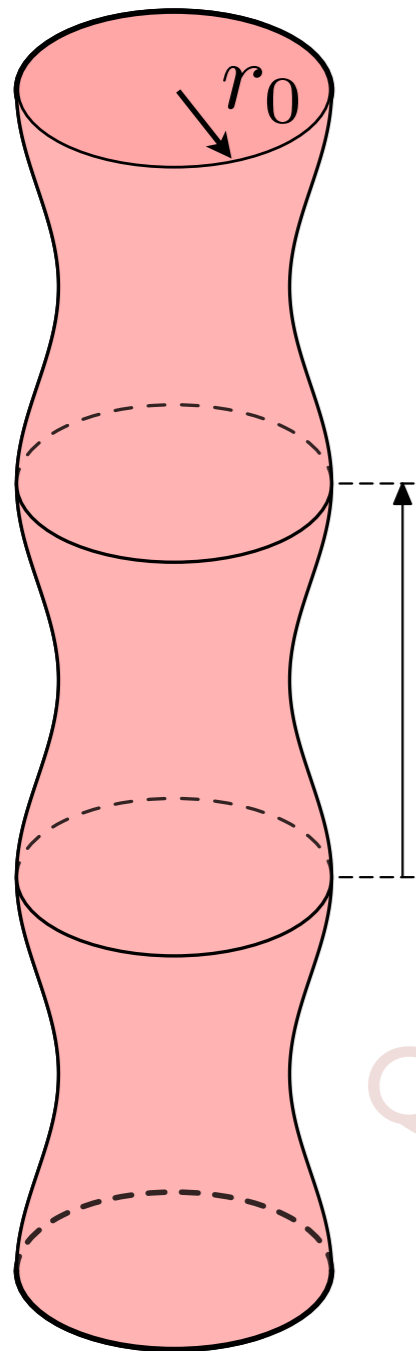




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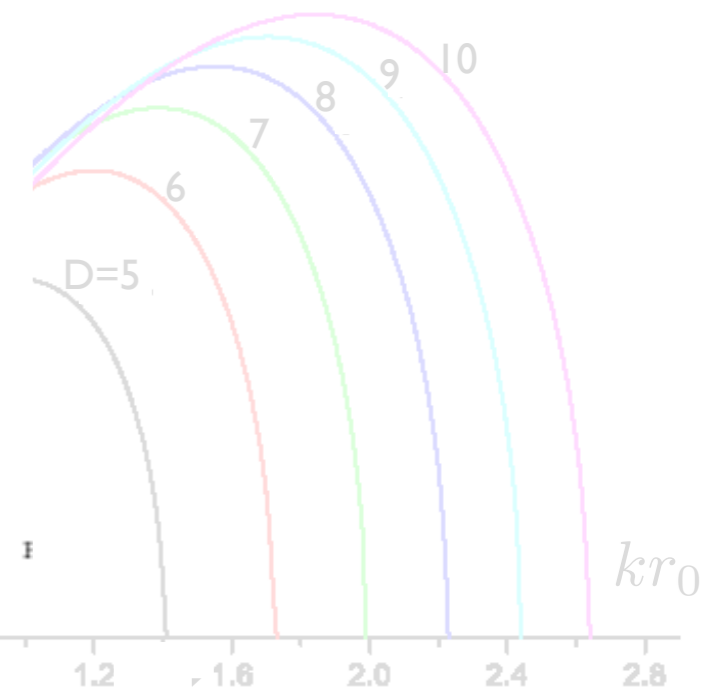
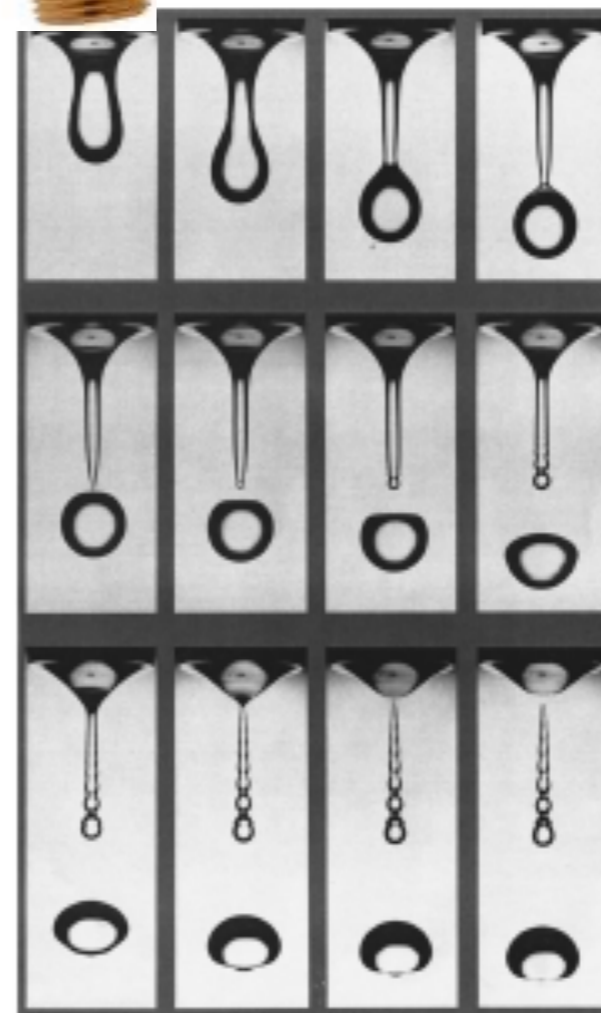


$$\lambda = \frac{2\pi}{k}$$

Rayleigh

instability

Qualitatively, RP:

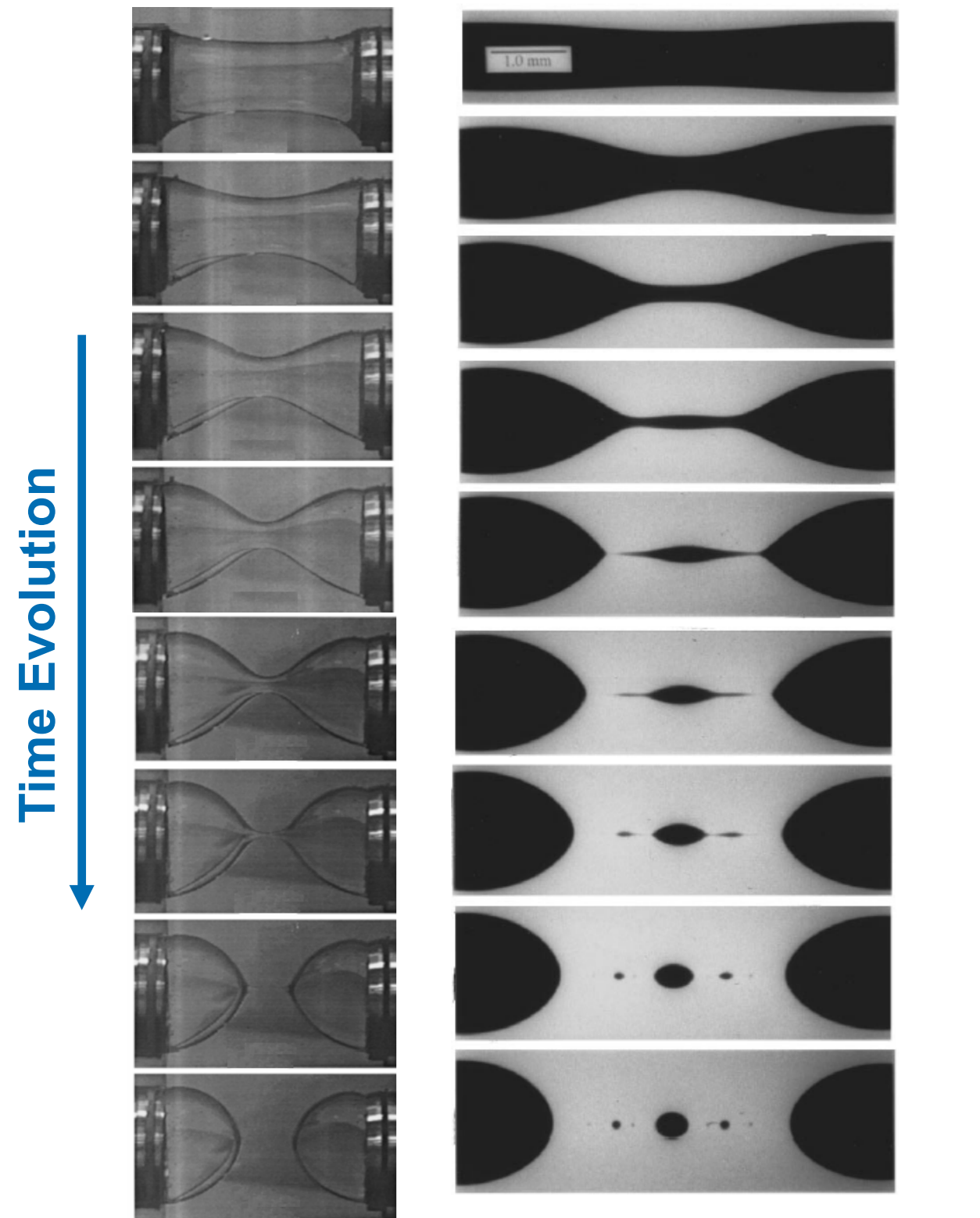


Cardoso & Dias '06

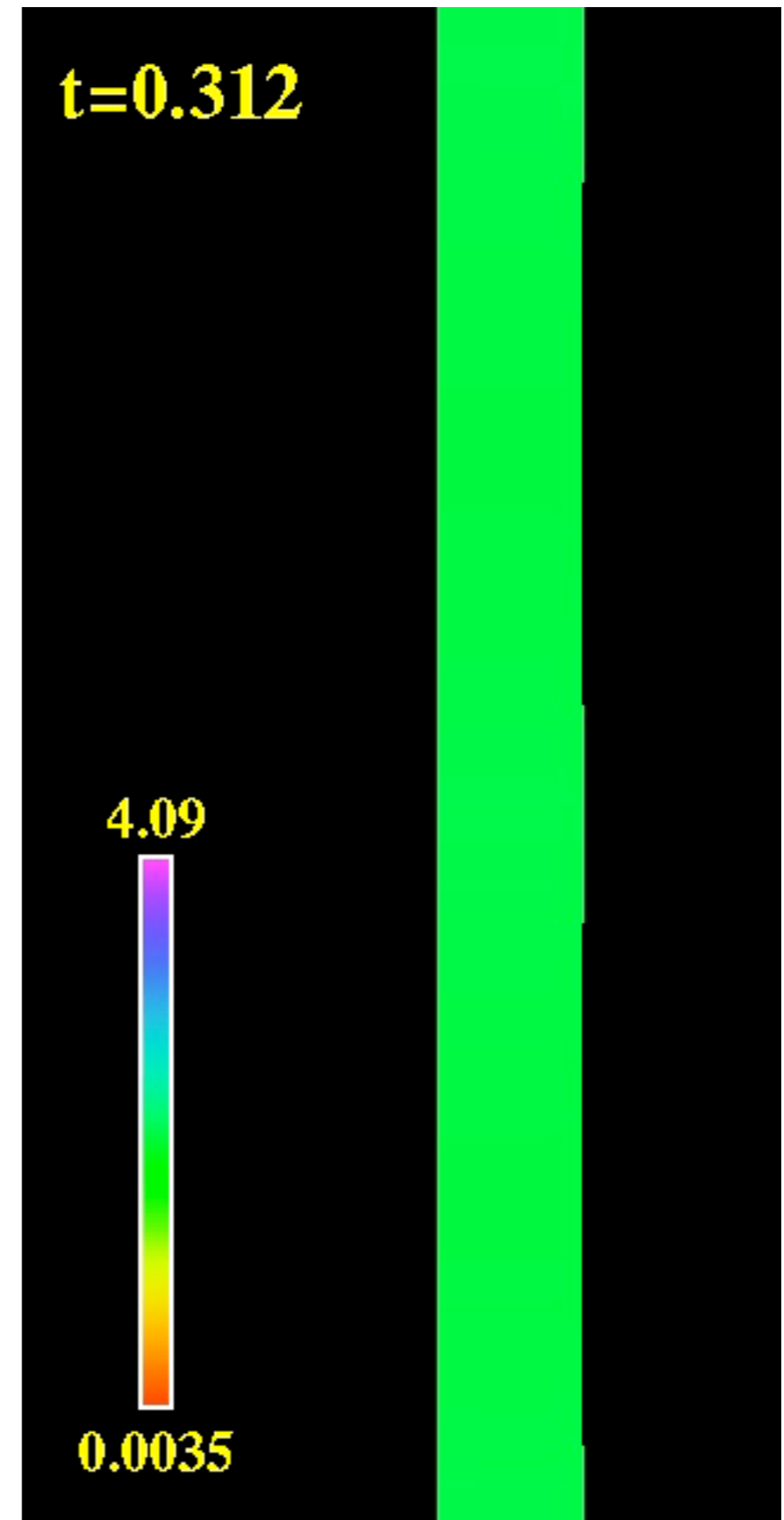
Shi, Brenner & Nagel 1994

## Rayleigh-Plateau Time Evolution

## Gregory-Laflamme Time Evolution



Tjahjadi, Stone & Ottino 1992

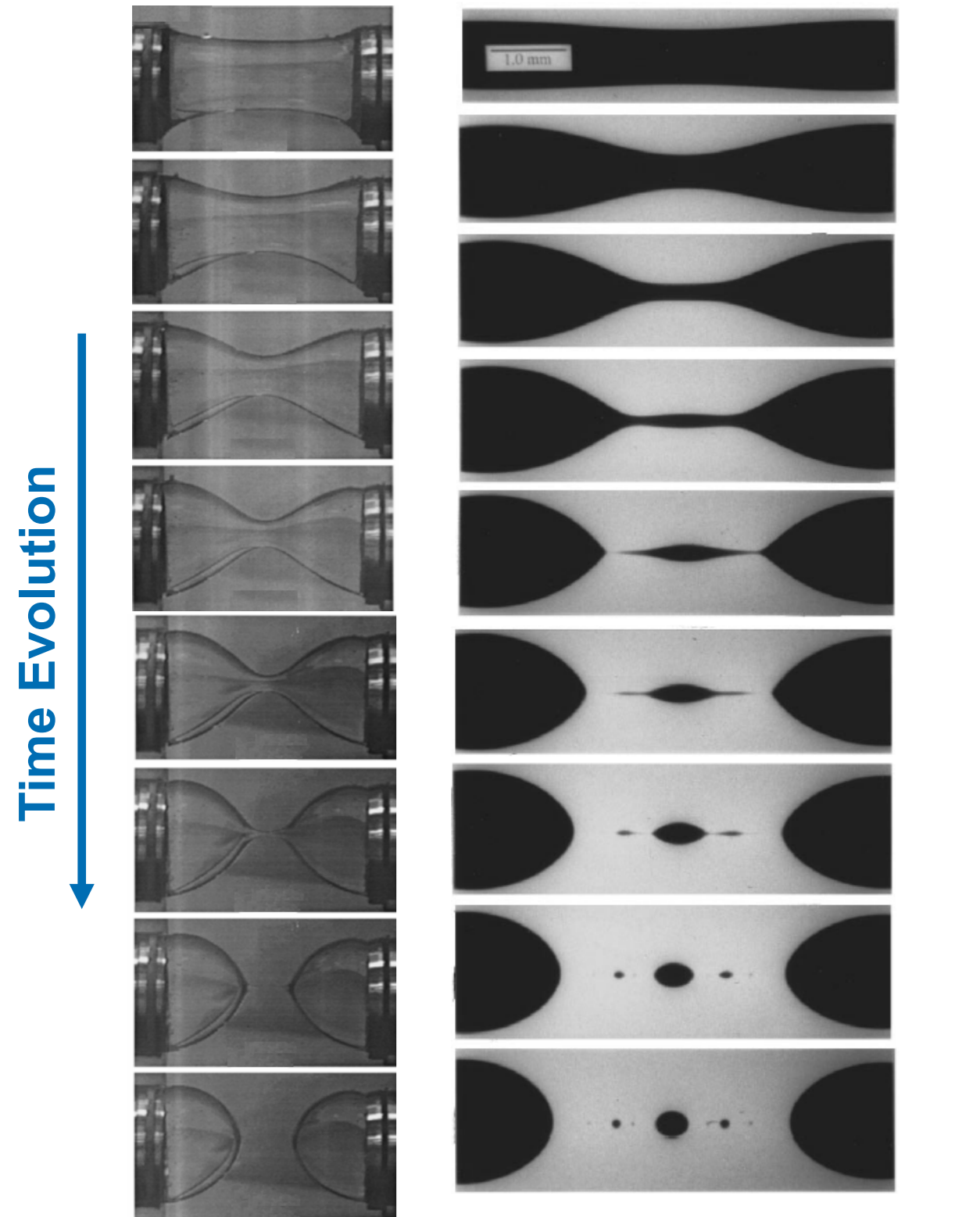


Lehner & Pretorius 2010

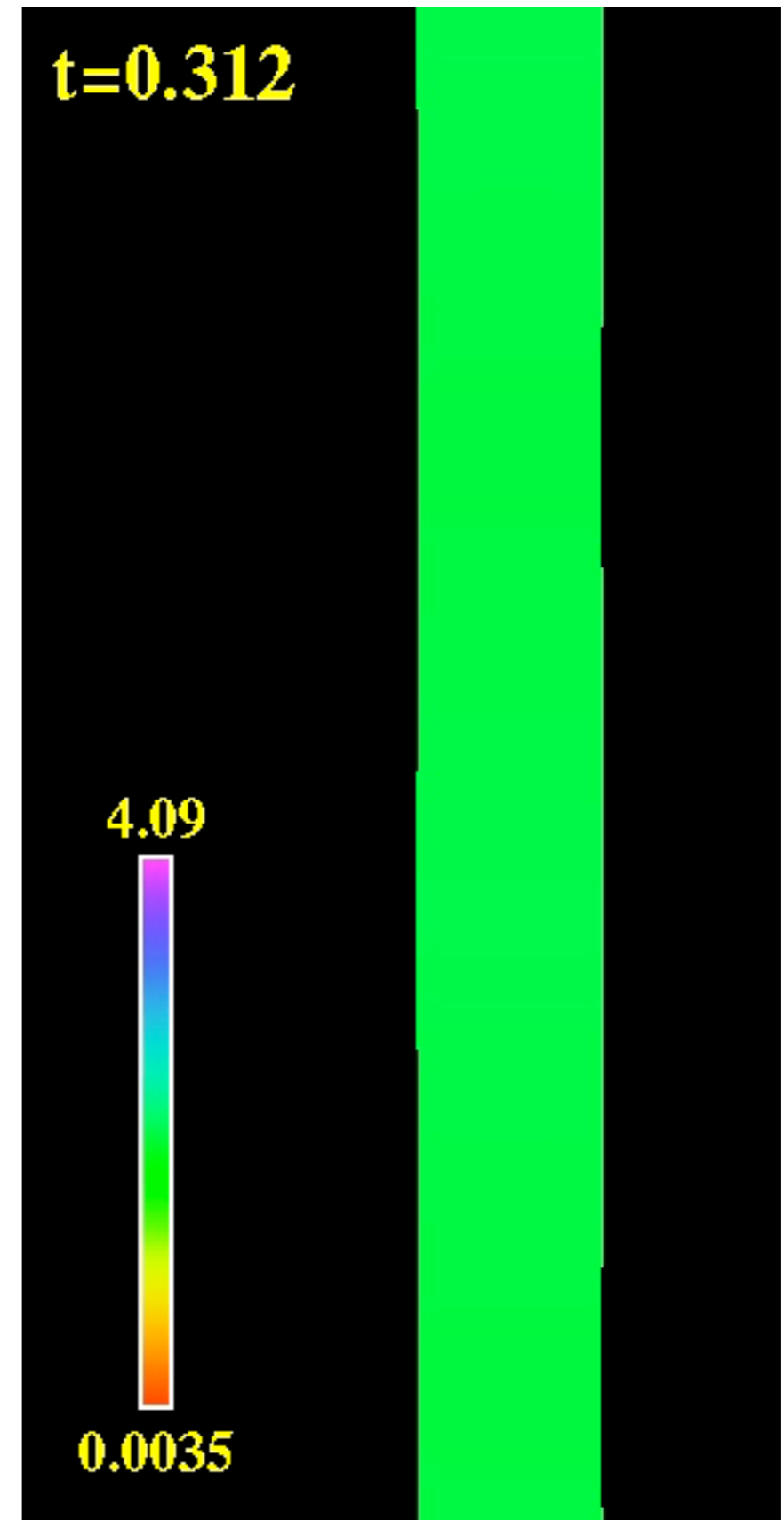
Spiegelberg Gaudet & McKinley 1994

## Rayleigh-Plateau Time Evolution

## Gregory-Laflamme Time Evolution



Tjahjadi, Stone & Ottino 1992



Lehner & Pretorius 2010

Spiegelberg Gaudet & McKinley 1994

- \* Gravitational duals to confining theories: Aharony, Minwalla & Wiseman '05  
BHs dual to **plasma balls**, with surface tension Lahiri & Minwalla '07

Large BHs in AdS: fluid lumps of deconfined plasma

**Gregory Laflamme/Rayleigh-Plateau** analogy  
becomes a precise **duality**

MC, Dias, Emparan & Klemm '08

Miyamoto & Maeda '08

- \* **No intrinsic scale** of vacuum gravity:  
no way to tell **small/large** black holes

However, the black string is “**thin**”

- \*  **$D > 4$**  black holes: emergence of **widely separated scales**  
BHs **effectively** described by a **fluid** that lives on  
a **dynamical worldvolume**

# **On black hole phases and instabilities**

*~ where we learn that black holes rotating extremely fast resemble black strings and black branes ~*

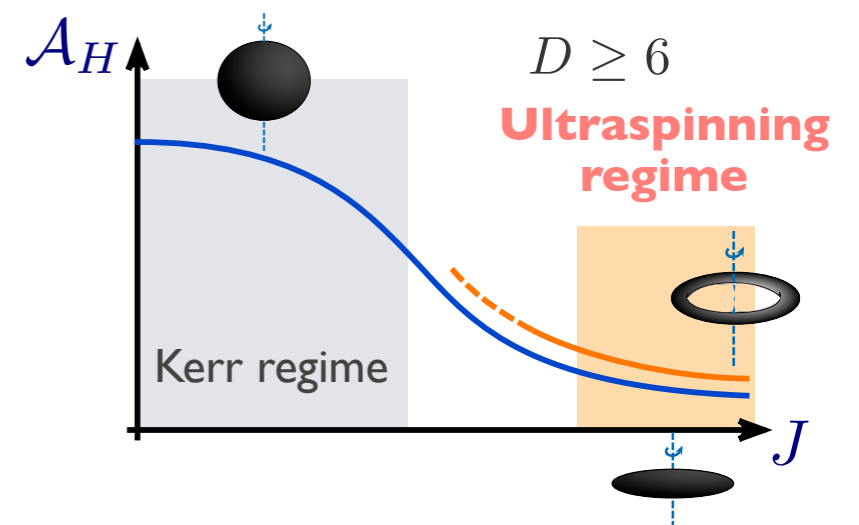
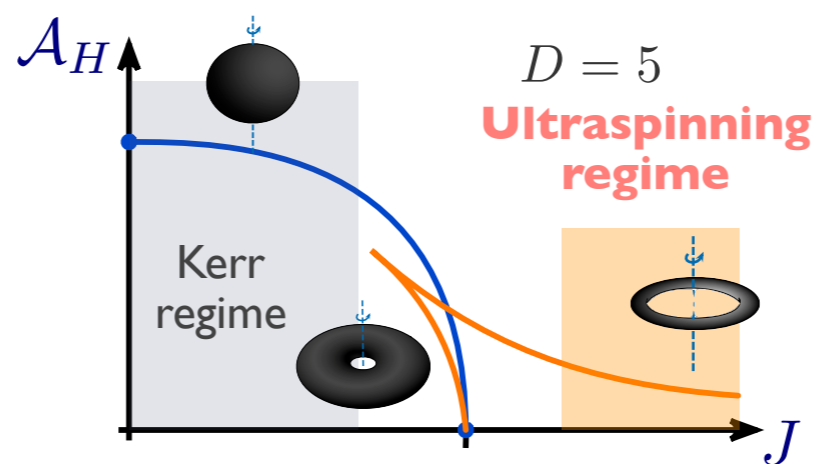
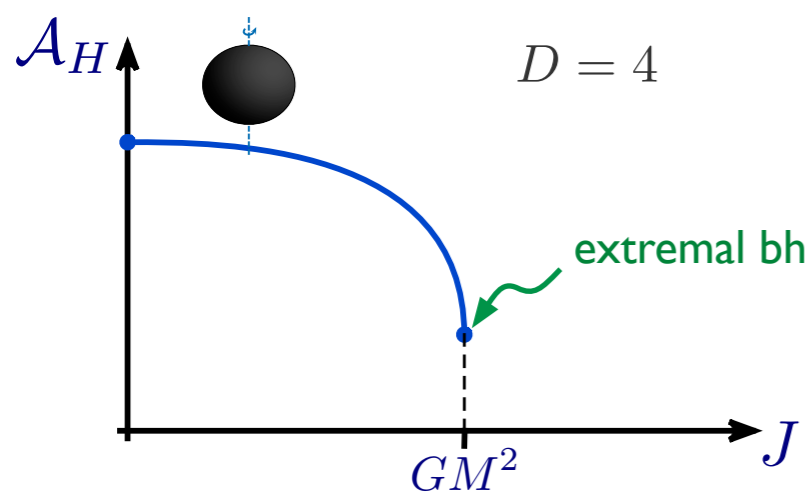
# The Origin of Scales

★ **Newtonian vs. Rotational** potential competition:

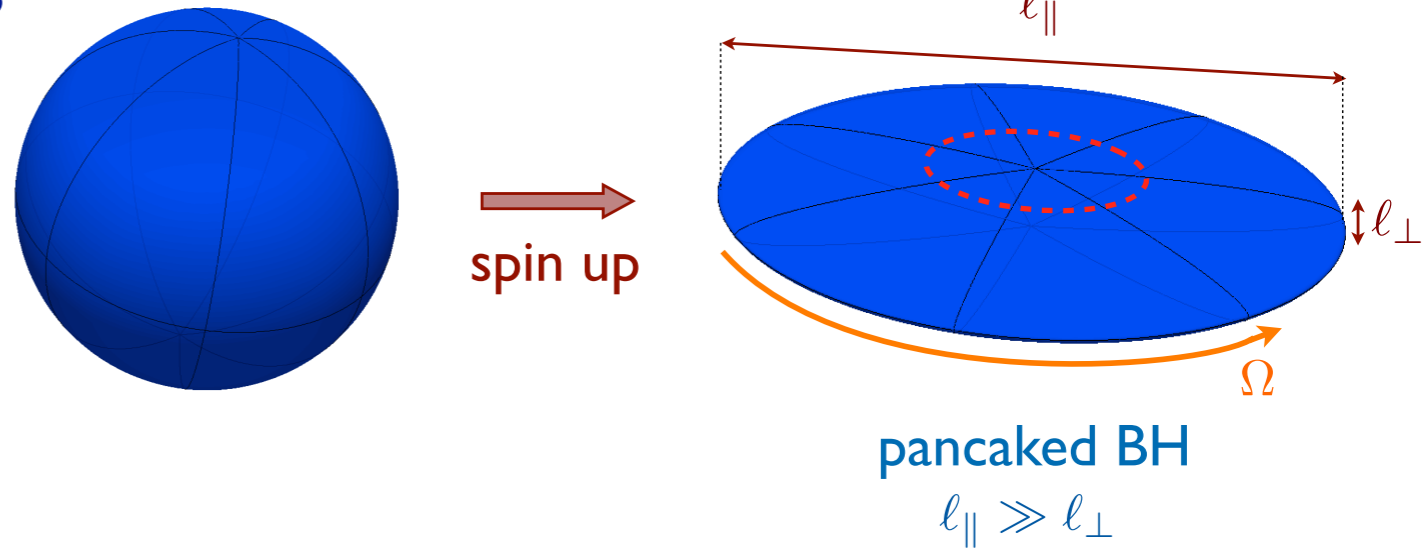
$$V_{\text{Newton}} \sim \frac{1}{r^{D-3}} \qquad V_{\text{centrif}} \sim \frac{1}{r^2}$$

When  $D \geq 6$  the **centrifugal potential dominates**

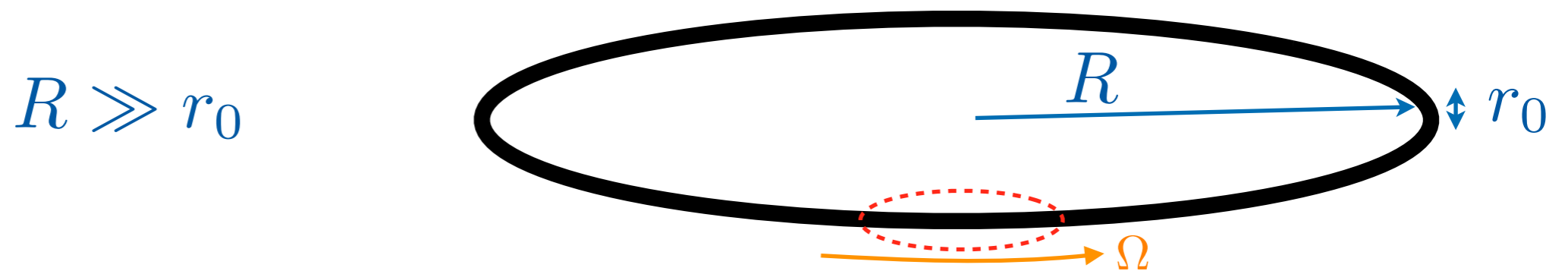
➔ rotating objects tend to **pancake**



- ★ **Ultraspinning black holes**  
locally resemble a  
**boosted black brane**



- ★ **Black rings: large and thin** when ultraspinning  
locally resemble a **boosted black string**

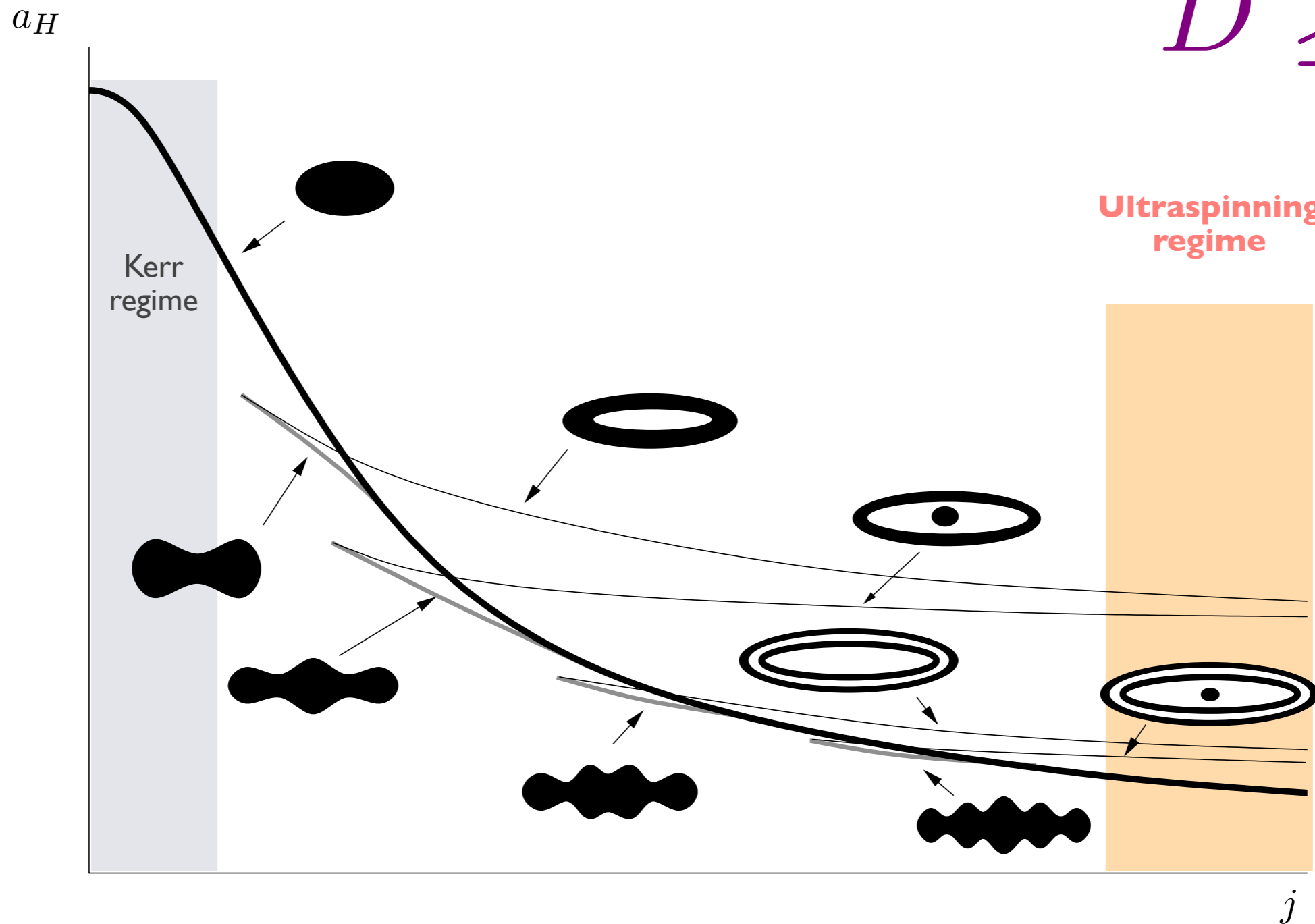


\* **Length scales**  $l_M \sim (GM)^{\frac{1}{D-3}}$   $l_J \sim \frac{J}{M}$

\* **Ultraspinning regime when**  $l_J \gg l_M$

# Towards full phase diagram

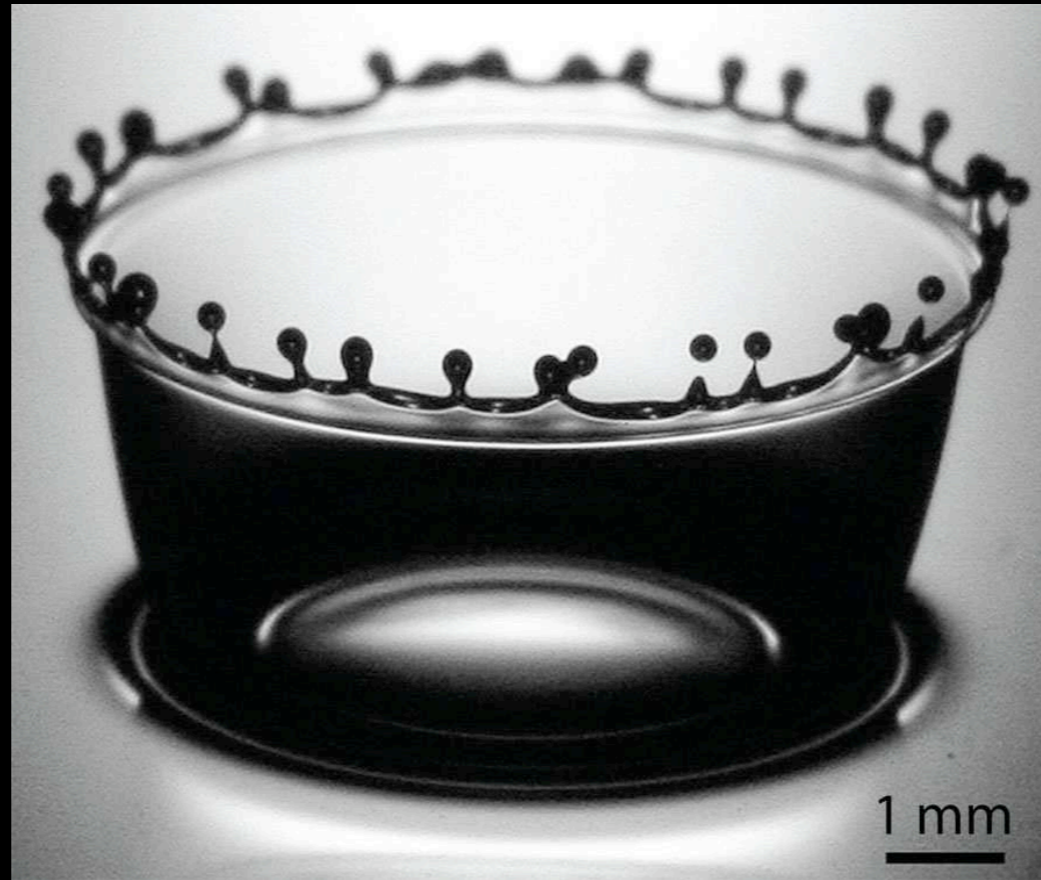
$$D \geq 6$$



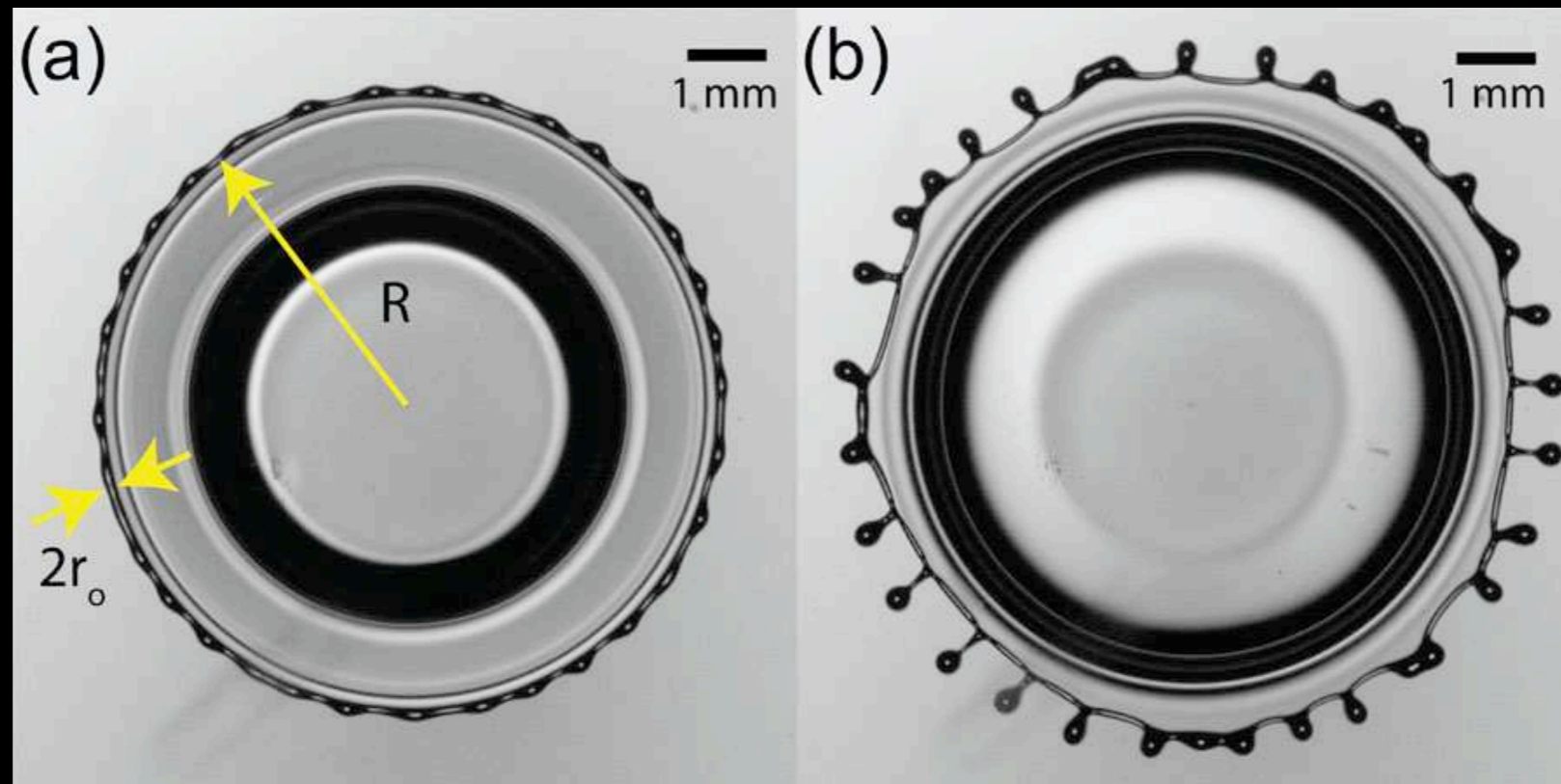
Empanan Harmark Niarchos Obers & Rodriguez 2007  
Empanan Figueras 2010  
Kleihaus, Kunz & Radu 2012



# Crown splash ~ thin black ring instability ?



Deegan, Brunet & Eggers '08



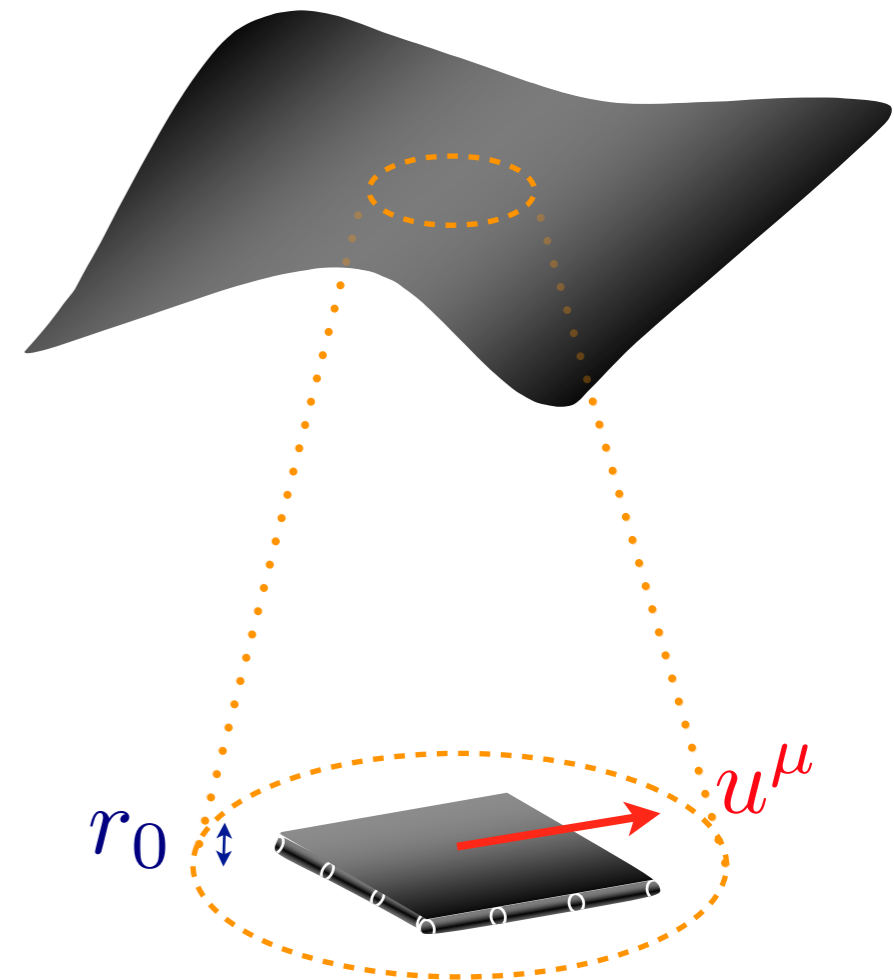
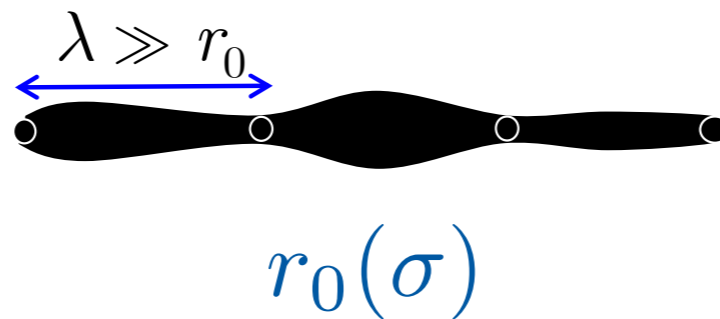
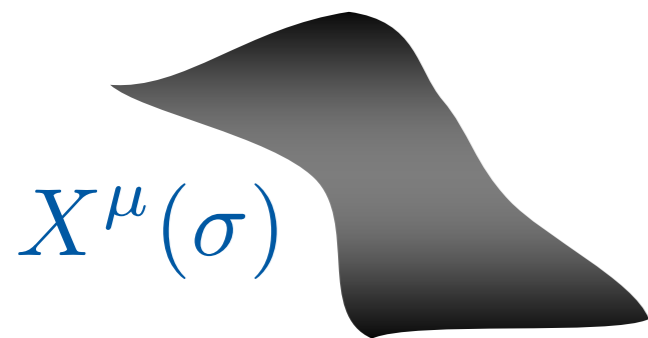
# BLACKFOLDS

*~ where the separation of scales is used to describe effectively  
black holes as fluids living in a dynamical worldvolume ~*

# BLACKFOLDS

Emparan, Harmark, Niarchos & Obers '09

- ★ Long wavelength dynamics captured by an effective worldvolume theory



Collective variables:

(can vary on scales  $R \gg r_0$ )

$X^\mu(\sigma^a)$  embedding functions

$r_0(\sigma^a)$  thickness of the horizon

$u^a(\sigma^a)$  local boost field

# BLACKFOLDS

Emparan, Harmark, Niarchos & Obers '09

Underlying conservative dynamics:

$$\nabla_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

Quasi-local stress energy tensor of Brown and York in weak field region  $r_0 \ll r \ll R$

$$16\pi G T_{\mu\nu} = K_{\mu\nu} - h_{\mu\nu} K - \left( \hat{K}_{\mu\nu} - h_{\mu\nu} \hat{K} \right)$$

➔ Perfect fluid stress tensor

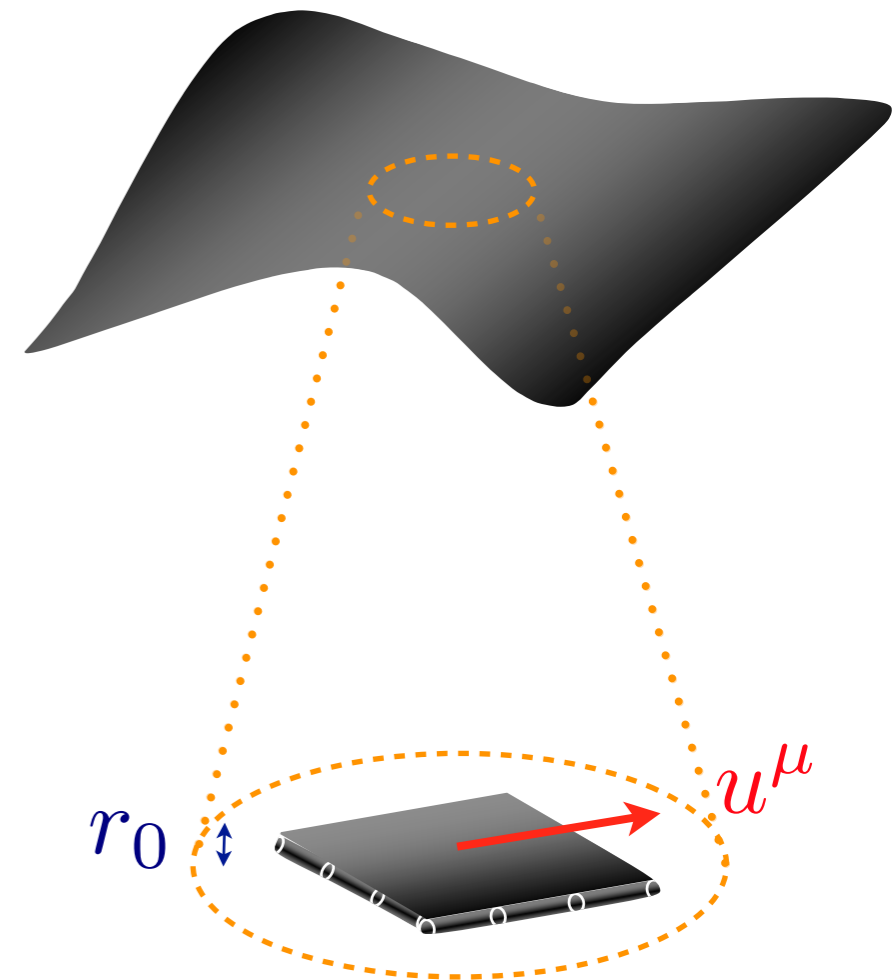
$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Omega_{(n+1)}}{16\pi G} (n+1) r_0^n$$

$$P = -\frac{\Omega_{(n+1)}}{16\pi G} r_0^n$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = (\varepsilon + P) u_{\mu} u_{\nu} + P h_{\mu\nu}$$

$$n = D - 3 - p \quad (\text{at leading order..})$$

(for the black string:  $n = D - 4$  )



# BLACKFOLDS

Emparan, Harmark, Niarchos & Obers '09

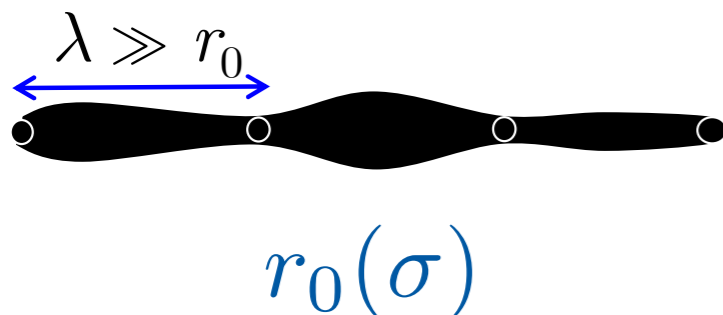
Underlying conservative dynamics:

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Intrinsic dynamics  
(fluid excitations)

$$D_a T^{ab} = 0 \quad \text{[fluid]}$$

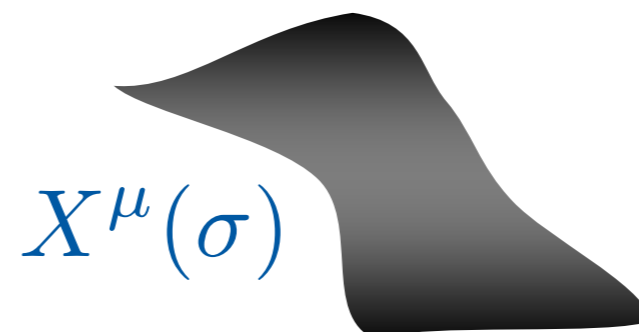
fluid equations (with conserved  
particle/string numbers)



Extrinsic dynamics  
(elastic deformations)

$$T^{\mu\nu} K_{\mu\nu}{}^{\rho} = 0 \quad \text{[Carter's equation]}$$

balance of forces on the black  
brane worldvolume



# BLACKFOLDS

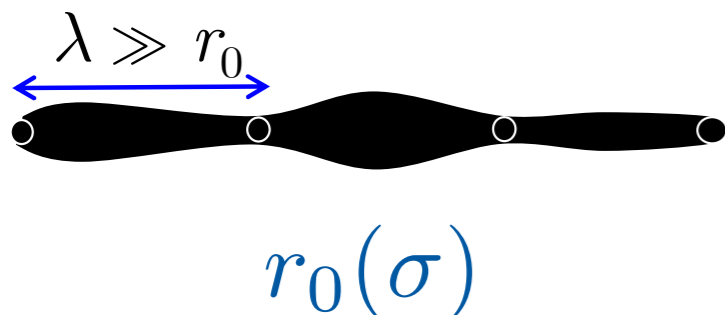
Emparan, Harmark, Niarchos & Obers '09

- \* Blackfold eqns can be derived from Einstein eqns
- \* The horizon of the black brane remains regular

Intrinsic dynamics  
(fluid excitations)

$$D_a T^{ab} = 0 \quad \text{[fluid]}$$

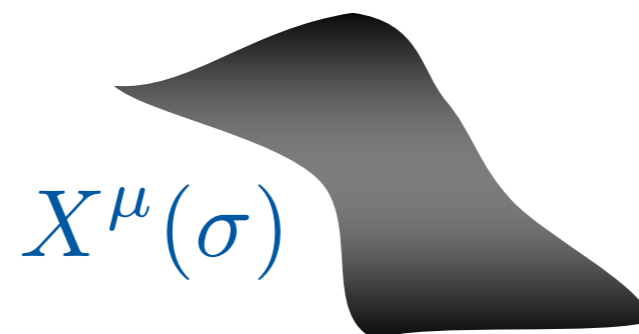
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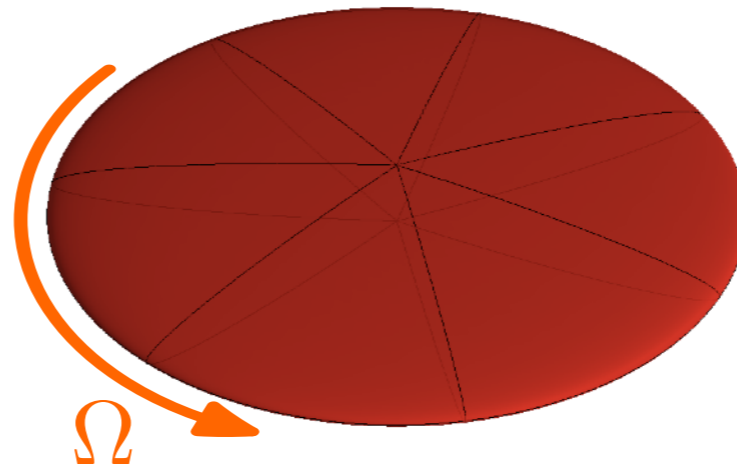
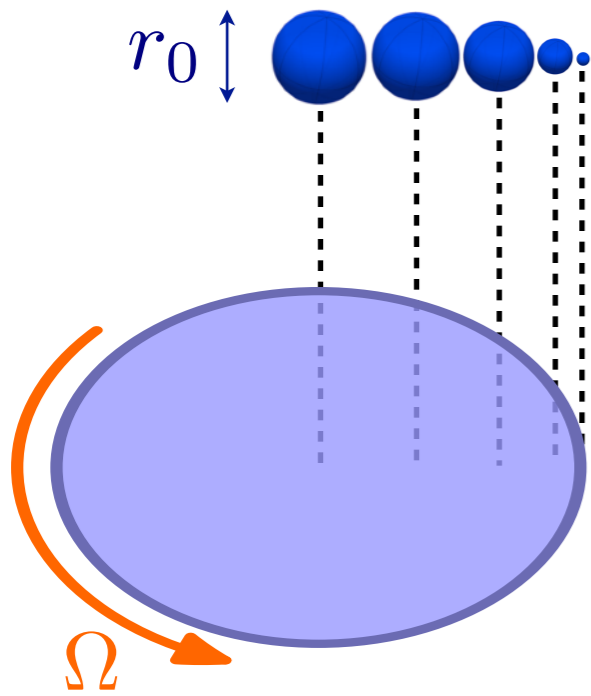
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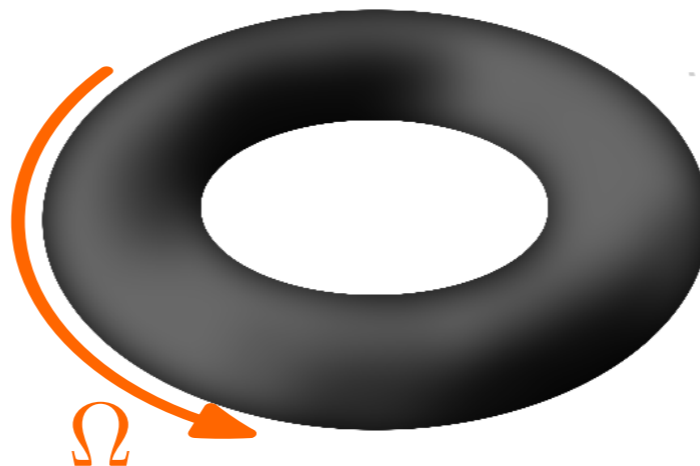
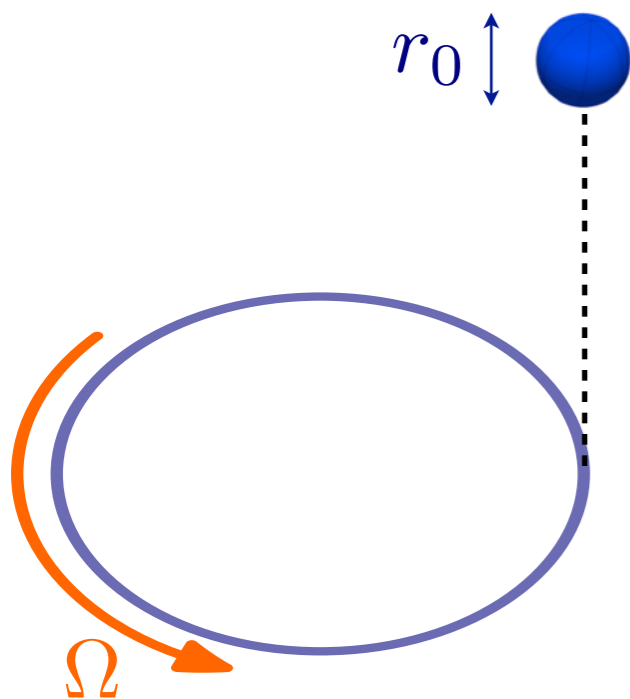
balance of forces on the black  
brane worldvolume



\* Straightforward to study properties of ultraspinning MP & BR



Pancaked Black Hole  
 $S^{n+3}$  horizon



Black Ring  
 $S^1 \times S^{n+1}$  horizon

# Sound waves on a black string/brane

Intrinsic fluctuations  $\delta r_0$   $\rightarrow$  pressure/density fluctuations  
**\* sound waves \***

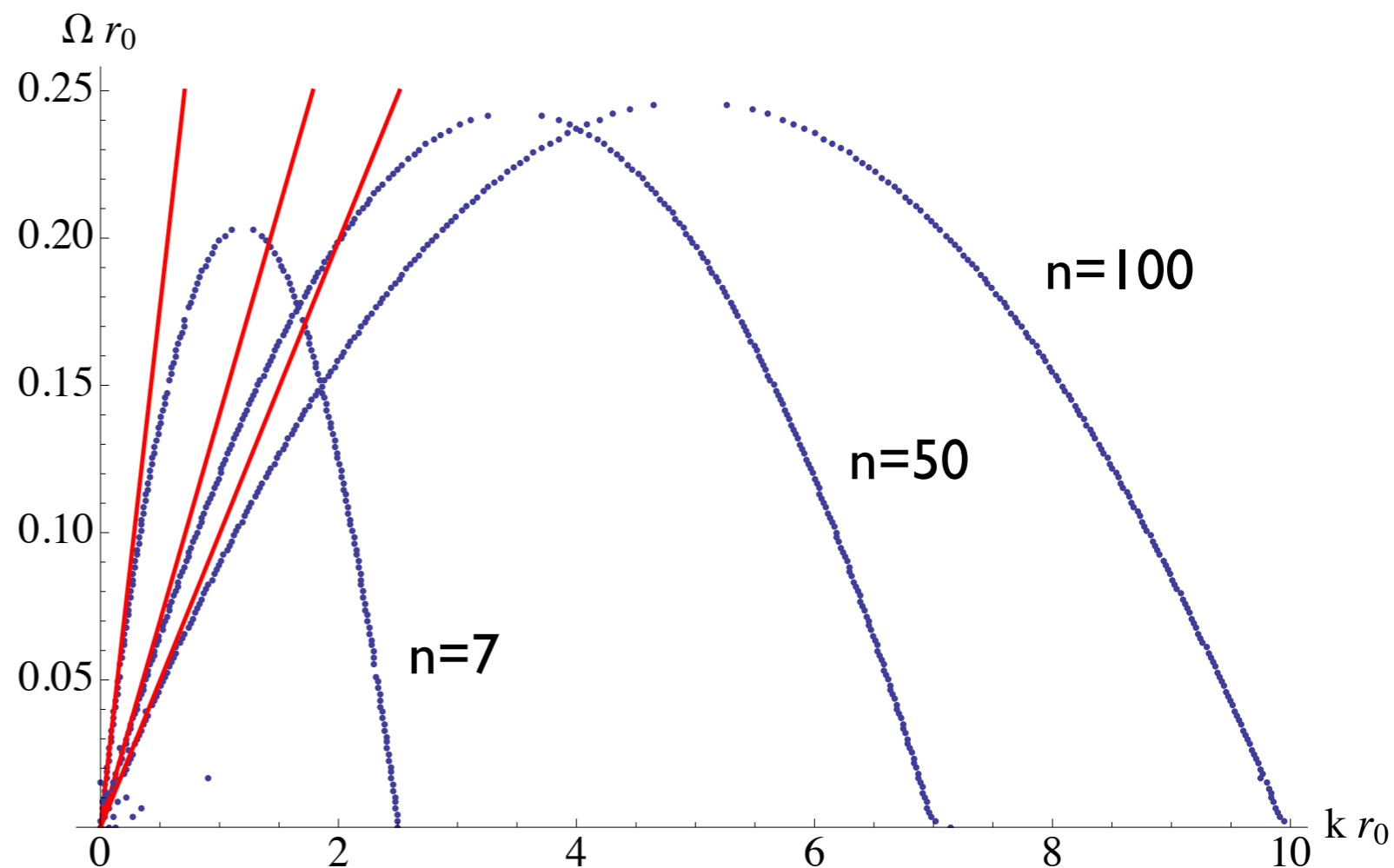
$$v_s^2 = \frac{dP}{d\epsilon} = -\frac{1}{n+1} < 0$$

$\rightarrow$  **unstable modes: the inhomogeneities tend to grow**

$$\delta r_0 \sim e^{\Omega t + ikz}$$

$$\Omega = \frac{k}{\sqrt{n+1}} + O(k^2)$$

**captures the slope of the curve near the origin**





# Viscosity corrections to the blackfold stress tensor

Camps, Emparan & Haddad '10

$$T_{\mu\nu} = p (\eta_{\mu\nu} - (n+1)u_\mu u_\nu) - 2\eta \sigma_{\mu\nu} - \zeta \theta \Pi_{\mu\nu}$$

**Shear viscosity**

$$\eta = \frac{s}{4\pi} = \frac{\Omega_{n+1} r_0^{n+1}}{16\pi G_D}$$

Universal, saturates KSS bound

**Bulk viscosity**

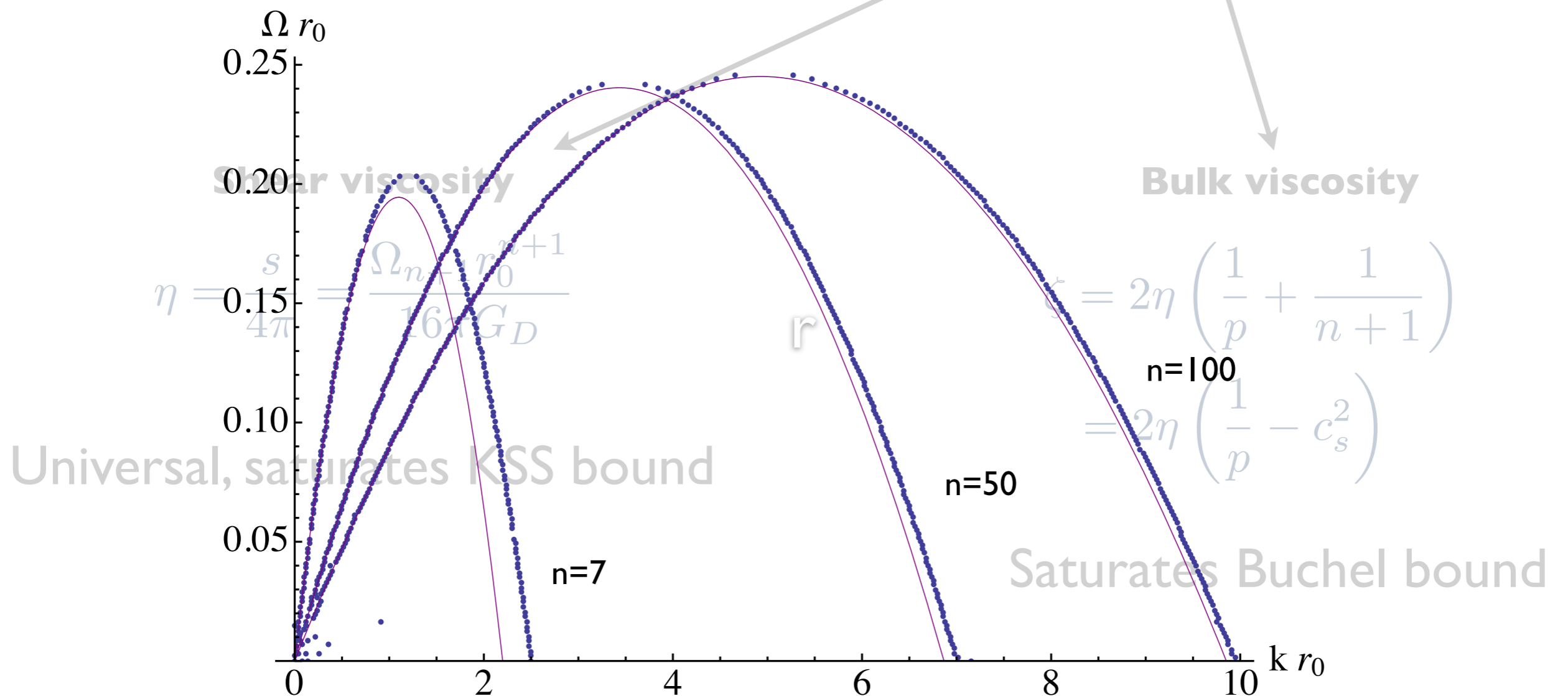
$$\begin{aligned} \zeta &= 2\eta \left( \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{n+1} \right) \\ &= 2\eta \left( \frac{1}{p} - c_s^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Saturates Buchel bound

# Viscosity corrections to the blackfold stress tensor

Camps, Emparan & Haddad '10

$$T_{\mu\nu} = p (\eta_{\mu\nu} - (n + 1)u_\mu u_\nu) - 2\eta \sigma_{\mu\nu} - \zeta \theta \Pi_{\mu\nu}$$



# Blackfold stress tensor to second order in the derivative expansion

MC, Camps, Goutéraux & Skenderis '12

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_{\mu\nu} = & p (\eta_{\mu\nu} - (n+1)u_\mu u_\nu) - 2\eta \sigma_{\mu\nu} - \zeta \theta \Pi_{\mu\nu} \\
 & + 2\eta\tau_\omega \left[ \Pi_\mu^\alpha \Pi_\nu^\beta u^\lambda \partial_\lambda \sigma_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{\theta}{n+1} \sigma_{\mu\nu} + \omega_\mu^\lambda \sigma_{\lambda\nu} + \omega_\nu^\lambda \sigma_{\mu\lambda} \right] \\
 & + \zeta\tau_\omega \left[ \Pi_{\mu\nu} u^\lambda \partial_\lambda \theta - \frac{1}{n+1} \theta^2 \Pi_{\mu\nu} \right] \\
 & - 2\eta r_0 \left[ \Pi_\mu^\alpha \Pi_\nu^\beta u^\lambda \partial_\lambda \sigma_{\alpha\beta} + \left( \frac{2}{p} + \frac{1}{n+1} \right) \theta \sigma_{\mu\nu} + \sigma_\mu^\lambda \sigma_{\lambda\nu} + \frac{\sigma_{\alpha\beta} \sigma^{\alpha\beta}}{n+1} \Pi_{\mu\nu} \right] \\
 & - \zeta r_0 \left[ \Pi_{\mu\nu} u^\lambda \partial_\lambda \theta + \left( \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{p}{(n+1)^2} \right) \theta^2 \Pi_{\mu\nu} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

Shear viscosity

Bulk viscosity

Relaxation time

$$\eta = \frac{s}{4\pi} = \frac{\Omega_{n+1} r_0^{n+1}}{16\pi G_D}$$

$$\zeta = 2\eta \left( \frac{1}{p} - c_s^2 \right)$$

$$\tau_\omega$$

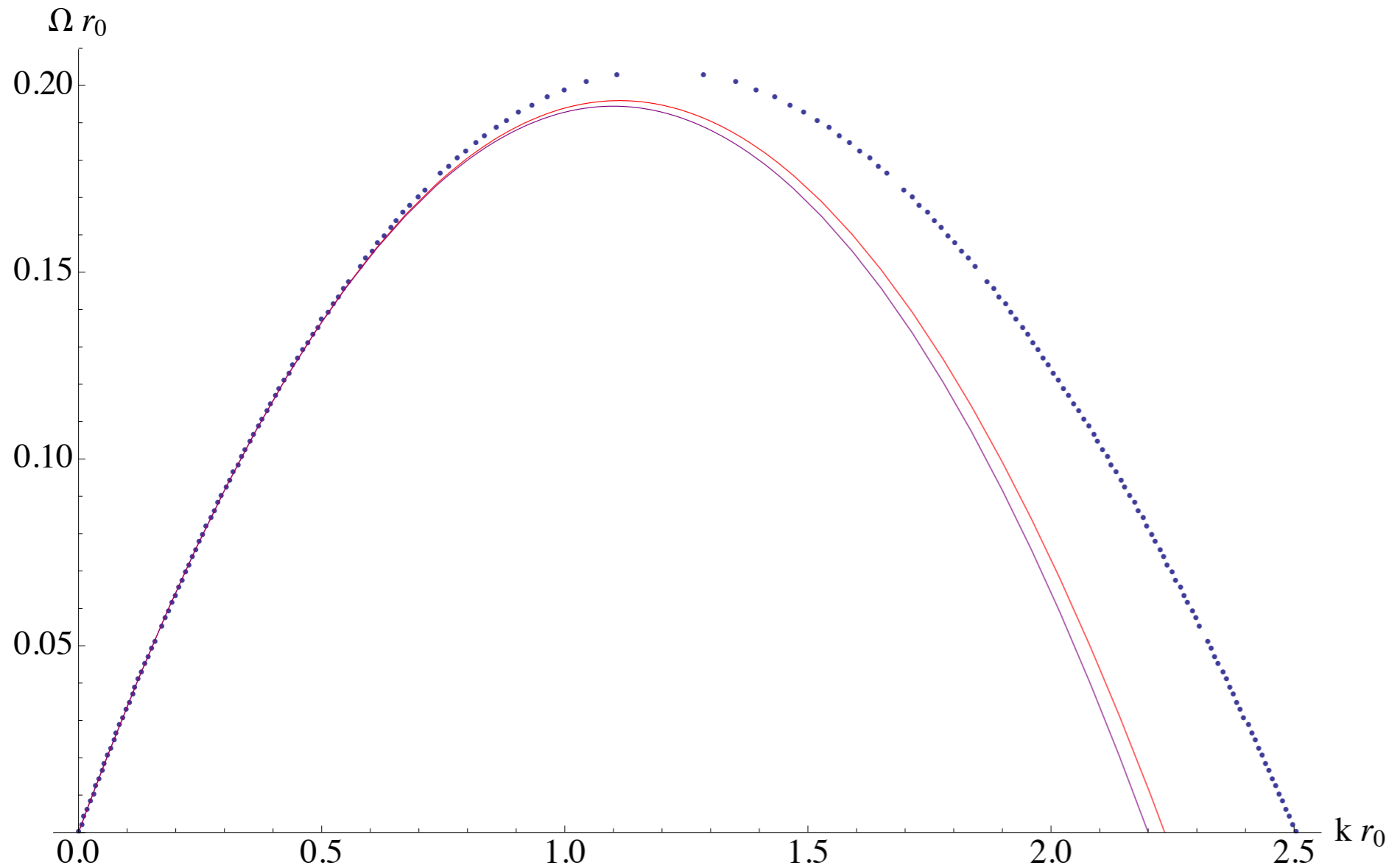
# GL dispersion relation for n=7

..... numerical data (P. Figueras)

— first order

— second order

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}}k - \frac{2+n}{n(1+n)}k^2 + \frac{(2+n)[1+n(2\tau_\omega-1)]}{2n^2(1+n)^{3/2}}k^3 + O(k^4)$$

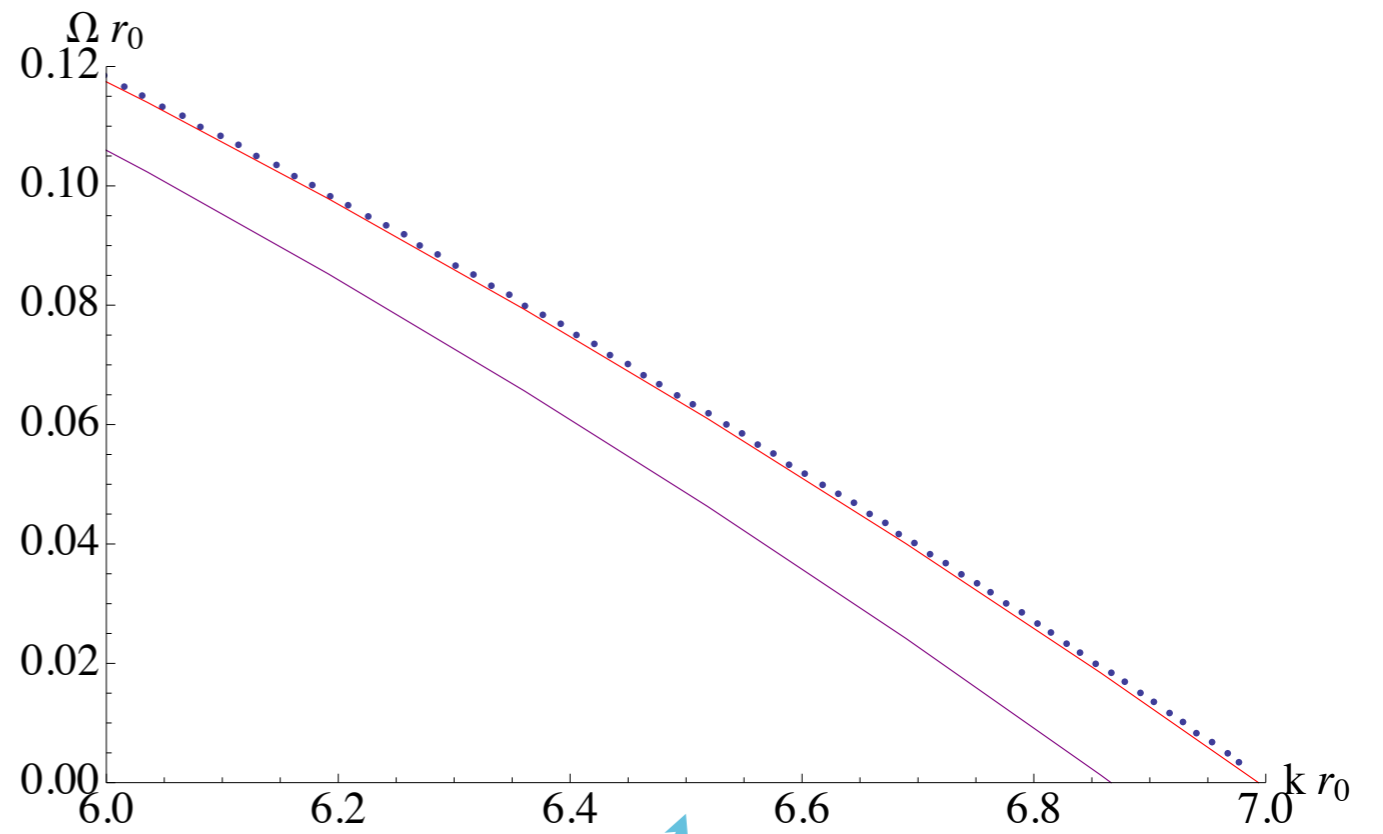
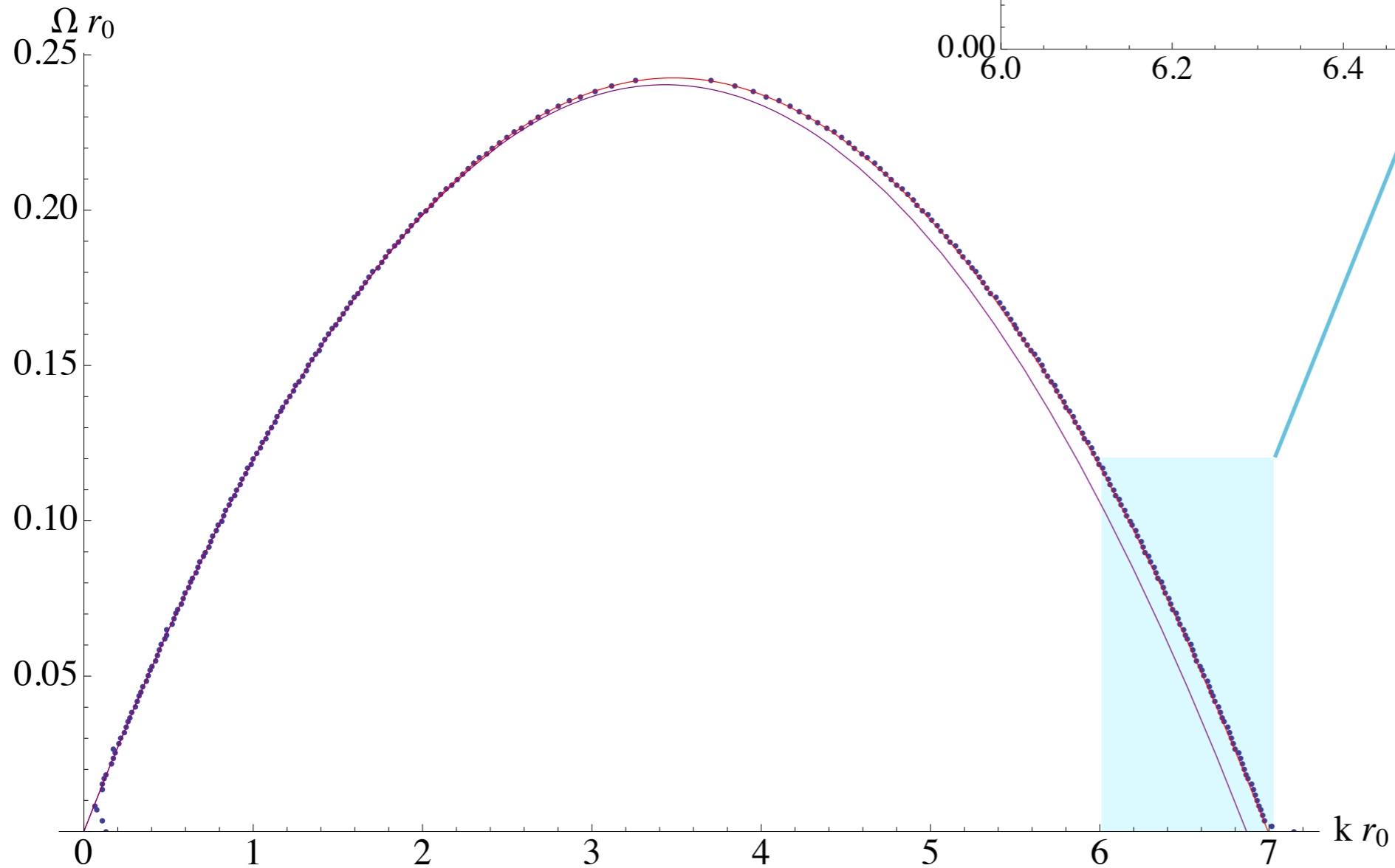


# GL dispersion relation for $n=50$

..... numerical data (P. Figueras)

— first order

— second order

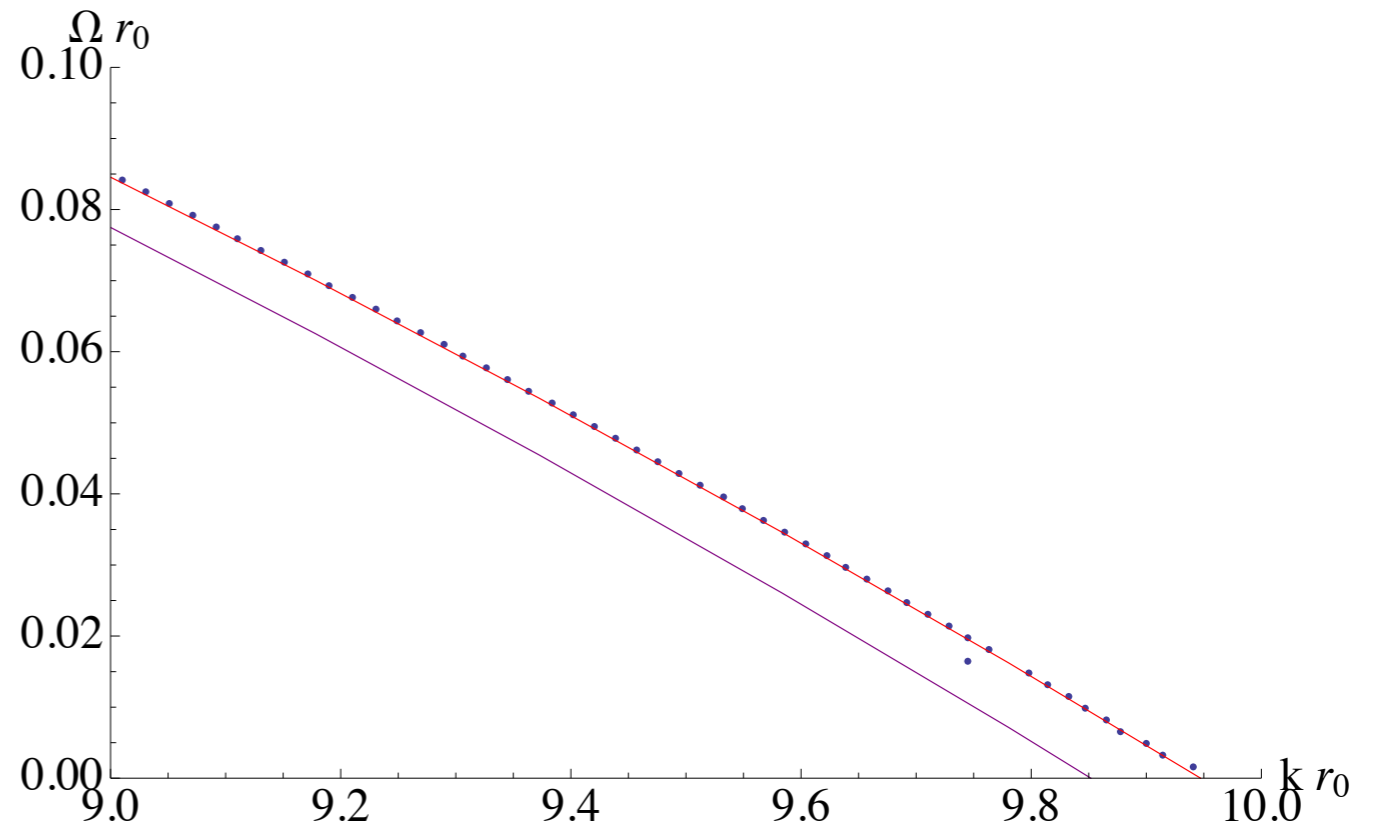
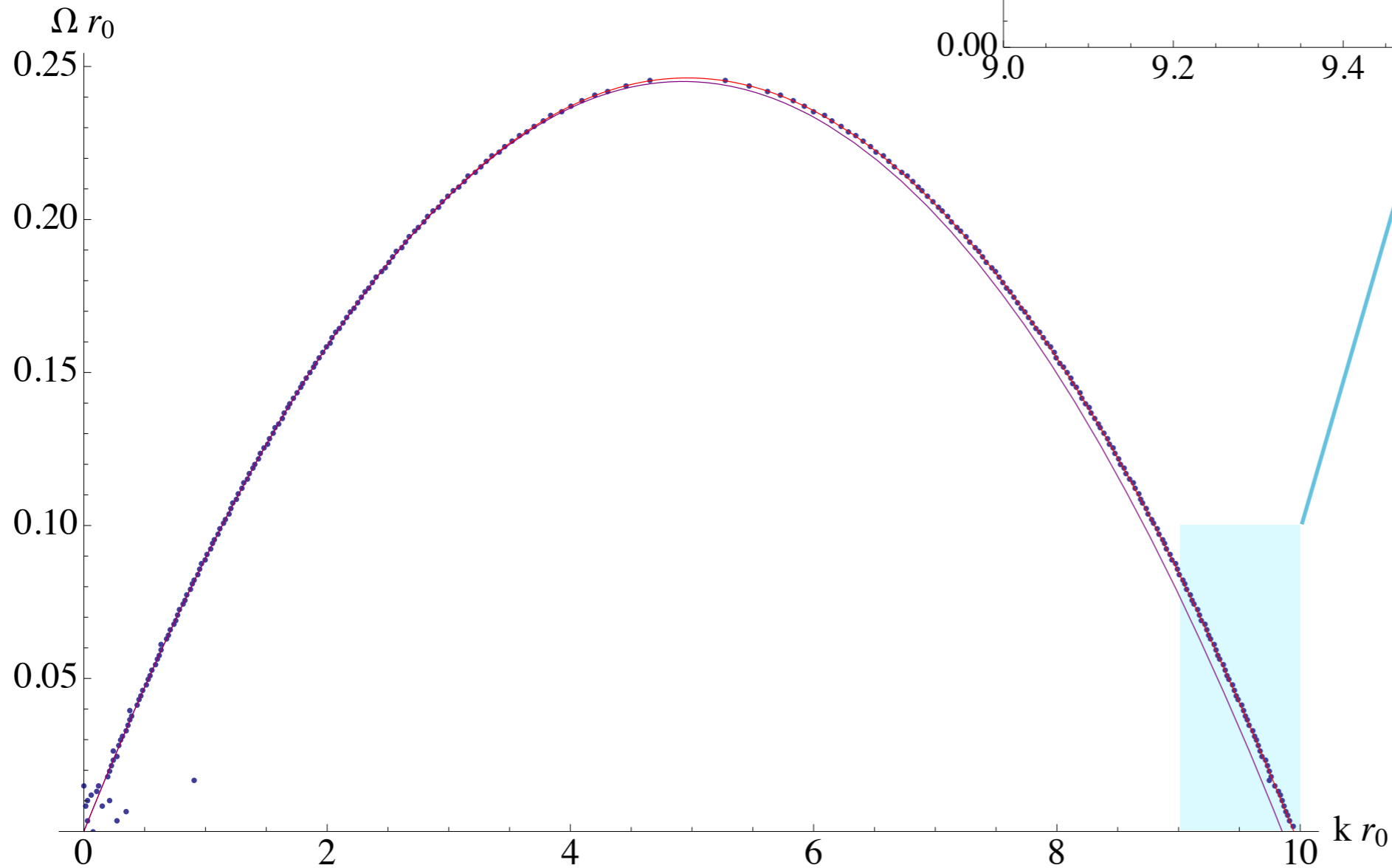


# GL dispersion relation for $n=100$

..... numerical data (P. Figueras)

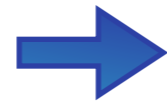
— first order

— second order



# Conformal origin of the dispersion relation

**Anti-de Sitter**



**Asympt. Flat**

Goutéraux, Smolic, Smolic, Skenderis & Taylor '11

$$D = n + p + 3 = d + 1$$

$$\bar{D} = \bar{n} + p + 3$$

$$ds_D^2 = ds_{p+2}^2 + A(x) dy_{n+1}^2$$

$$ds_{\bar{D}}^2 = \frac{1}{A(x)} (ds_{p+2}^2 + \ell^2 d\Omega_{\bar{n}+1}^2)$$

➔ **Analytic continuation:**  $d = -\bar{n}$

**Start with AdS/Fluid metric**



**Blackfold metric to second order in derivatives**

Bhattacharyya, Hubeny, Minwalla & Rangamani '07

Bhattacharyya, Loganayagam, Mandal, Minwalla & Sharma '08

MC, Camps, Goutéraux & Skenderis '12

$$v_s^2 = \frac{1}{d-1}$$

$$v_s^2 = -\frac{1}{\bar{n}+1} < 0$$

- \* Hyperbolic system → time evolution **numerics**
- \* **Holography** for asymptotically flat spacetimes



- \* Hyperbolic system → time evolution **numerics**
- \* **Holography** for asymptotically flat spacetimes
- \* New stationary black holes
  - ~ New topologies, black helices, etc Emparan, Harmark, Niarchos & Obers '09
  - ~ Black Rings in anti-de Sitter and de Sitter spaces  
MC, Emparan & Rodriguez '08, Armas & Obers '10
- \* Study of dynamics at long wavelengths Camps, Emparan & Haddad '10  
MC, Camps, Goutéraux & Skenderis '12
  - ~ Instabilities (GL as sound-mode instability)
  - ~ study beyond linear perturbations
- \* Charged rotating black holes (electric and dipole)
  - ~  $D > 4$  Kerr-Newman MC, Emparan & Van Pol '10
  - ~ new instabilities Emparan Harmark, Niarchos & Obers '11
- \* D-brane probes in thermal backgrounds Grignani, Harmark, Marini, Obers & Orselli '10 '11 '12

# LESSONS TO TAKE BACK HOME

- ✧ Richer BH **phases & dynamics** in higher dimensions  
*(lack of uniqueness, non-spherical topology, instabilities...)*
- ✧ Emergence of **widely separated scales** on BH  
*(horizons well approximated by black strings & membranes)*
- ✧ BH dynamics can be captured by **fluid dynamics**  
*(effective theories for black holes, non-linear evolution...)*

