

Quantum fluctuation of energy and its pseudo-gauge dependence in subsystems of hot relativistic gas

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Motivation

- To model the bulk evolution of the strongly interacting matter produced in relativistic heavy-ion collisions, **relativistic viscous hydrodynamics** has become the basic theoretical tool. ^{1, 2}.
- Concepts used in hydrodynamics: energy density and pressure, both are defined locally – formally, the fluid cell has zero size.
- Interestingly, hydro models which are successful in explaining the experimental data can be used to conclude about the energy density attained in the collision processes.
- **Is the energy density is a well defined concept for fluid cell of arbitrary size?**
- **Does quantum fluctuation play any role?**
- Noether's theorem does not give a unique choice for the energy-momentum tensor → pseudo gauge choices.
- **Possible pseudo gauge dependence?**

¹C. Gale, S. Jeon, B. Schenke, Int.J.Mod.Phys.A 28 (2013) 1340011

²S. Jeon, U. Heinz, Int.J.Mod.Phys.E 24 (2015) 10, 1530010.

Scale dependence of quantum fluctuation

- For a real scalar field the canonical energy-momentum tensor is :

$$\hat{T}^{00} = \pi \dot{\phi} - \mathcal{L} \equiv \mathcal{H}. \quad (1)$$

In the Natural units, $\hbar = c = 1$, $[\hat{T}^{00}] = [\mathcal{L}] = [M^d] = [\mathcal{H}]$.

- We define a smeared operator,

$$A(a) = (a\sqrt{\pi})^{1-d} \int d^{d-1} \mathbf{x} \mathcal{H}(0, \mathbf{x}) e^{-\mathbf{x}^2/a^2}. \quad (2)$$

- Variance of the operator $A(a)$,

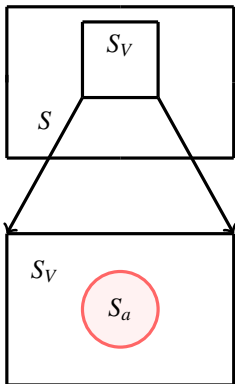
$$\text{var } A = \langle A^2 \rangle - \langle A \rangle^2 \implies [\text{var } A] = [A]^2 = [\mathcal{H}]^2 = [M]^{2d}. \quad (3)$$

- If we set,

$$\text{var } A(a) \sim a^\beta \implies \beta = -2d \quad (4)$$

- Therefore the fluctuations of the energy density grow rapidly at small distances ³.

³Quantum Field Theory: Lectures of Sidney Coleman



- S is closed/isolated system described by microcanonical ensemble.
- S_V is a sub system of the closed system in equilibrium, described by the canonical ensemble. Fluctuation in energy in S_V (large volume limit):

$$\sigma_H^2 = \frac{\langle H^2 \rangle - \langle H \rangle^2}{\langle H \rangle^2} = \frac{T^2 C_V}{V \varepsilon^2} \rightarrow 0. \quad (5)$$

H is the Hamiltonian, T is temperature, ε is energy density, C_V is specific heat.

- S_a is a subsystem of S_V which is described by the "Gaussian box": $(a\sqrt{\pi})^3 \exp(-\mathbf{x}^2/a^2)$.

Quantum scalar field

- We describe our system by a quantum scalar field in thermal equilibrium⁵.

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \int \frac{d^3k}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_k}} \left(a_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-ik \cdot x} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger e^{ik \cdot x} \right); \quad [a_{\mathbf{k}}, a_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger] = \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \quad (6)$$

Single particle energy: $\omega_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2 + m^2}$, $a^\mu b_\mu = a \cdot b = a^0 b^0 - \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$.

- Hamiltonian density:


$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\dot{\phi}^2 + (\nabla\phi)^2 + m^2\phi^2 \right). \quad (7)$$

- We define an operator \mathcal{H}_a for a *finite* subsystem S_a placed at the origin of the coordinate system,

$$\mathcal{H}_a = \frac{1}{(a\sqrt{\pi})^3} \int d^3\mathbf{x} \mathcal{H}(x) \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{x}^2}{a^2}\right). \quad (8)$$

- **Our objective:**

$$\sigma^2(a, m, T) = \langle \mathcal{H}_a \mathcal{H}_a \rangle - \langle \mathcal{H}_a \rangle^2, \quad \sigma_n(a, m, T) = \frac{(\langle \mathcal{H}_a \mathcal{H}_a \rangle - \langle \mathcal{H}_a \rangle^2)^{1/2}}{\langle \mathcal{H}_a \rangle}. \quad (9)$$

⁵S. Coleman, Lectures of Sidney Coleman on Quantum Field Theory. WSP, Hackensack, NJ, 2018. 

- **Normal ordering:** Composite QFT operators \rightarrow Some "Normal ordering" prescription required.

$$\mathcal{H}_a \rightarrow: \mathcal{H}_a : \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_a \mathcal{H}_a \rightarrow: \mathcal{H}_a :: \mathcal{H}_a : \quad (11)$$

- To perform thermal averaging, it is sufficient to know the **thermal expectation values of the products of two and four creation and/or annihilation operators**^{6, 7,8}

$$\langle a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}'} \rangle = \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') f(\omega_{\mathbf{k}}), \quad (12)$$

$$\langle a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}'} \rangle = \left(\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}) \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{p}') + \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}') \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{p}) \right) f(\omega_{\mathbf{k}}) f(\omega_{\mathbf{k}'})$$

The Bose–Einstein distribution function, $f(\omega_{\mathbf{k}}) = 1/(\exp[\beta \omega_{\mathbf{k}}] - 1)$.

- Any other combinations of two and four creation and/or annihilation operators can be obtained through the commutation relation between $a_{\mathbf{k}}$ and $a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$.

⁶C. Cohen-Tannoudji, B. Diu, F. Lalo e, and S. R. Hemley, Quantum mechanics: Vol. 3, Wiley, New York, 1977.

⁷T. Evans and D. A. Steer, Nucl. Phys. B 474 (1996) 481.

⁸C. Itzykson and J. Zuber, Quantum Field Theory. International Series In Pure and Applied Physics. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1980.

- The thermal expectation value of the operator \mathcal{H}_a is

$$\langle : \mathcal{H}_a : \rangle = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \omega_k f(\omega_k) \equiv \varepsilon(T) \quad \text{well known result} \quad (13)$$

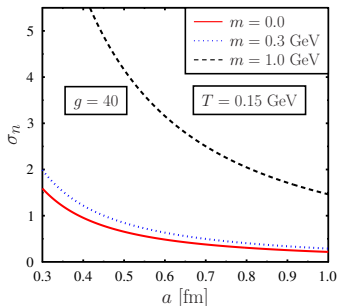
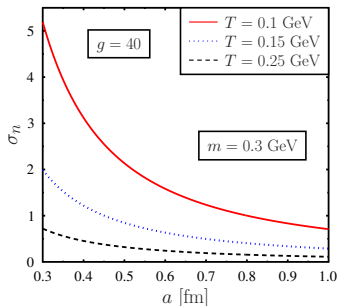
- **Important new result:** Fluctuation,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^2(a, m, T) &= \int dK dK' f(\omega_k)(1 + f(\omega_{k'})) \\ &\times \left[(\omega_k \omega_{k'} + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' + m^2)^2 e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')^2} + (\omega_k \omega_{k'} + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' - m^2)^2 e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}(\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{k}')^2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

here $dK = d^3k / ((2\pi)^3 2\omega_k)$.

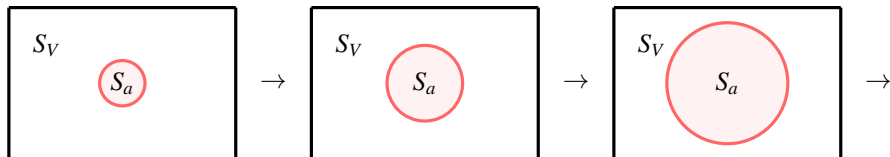
- All the vacuum energy term coming from the composite operator may not be removed by "Normal ordering".
- $\langle : \mathcal{H}_a : \rangle$ is independent of the scale a , but the fluctuation $\sigma^2(a, m, T)$ depends on the scale.
- Degeneracy factor: $\varepsilon \rightarrow g\varepsilon, \quad \sigma^2 \rightarrow g\sigma^2$.

Temperature and mass dependence of σ_n



- With a possible interpretation of heavy-ion data in mind, we consider temperatures in the range $0.1 \text{ GeV} < T < 0.25 \text{ GeV}$, and particle masses: $m = 0, 0.3$ and 1.0 GeV .
- The value of g varies between 37 (for two quark flavor QGP) and 47.5 (for three quark flavor QGP). $g \sim 400$ for Hadron gas, but high mass hadronic contribution is thermally suppressed.
- For high T and m , σ_n is small, but the fluctuation σ is large.

Thermodynamic limit



- Gaussian representation of the three dimensional Dirac delta function

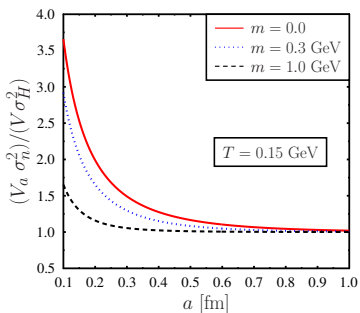
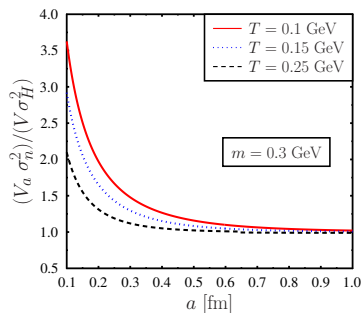
$$\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}) = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a^3}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p})^2}. \quad (15)$$

- One obtains,

$$V_a \sigma_n^2 = \frac{T^2 c_V}{\varepsilon^2} = V \frac{\langle H^2 \rangle - \langle H \rangle^2}{\langle H \rangle^2} \equiv V \sigma_H^2, \quad (16)$$

- $V_a = a^3 (2\pi)^{3/2}$ can be considered as the volume of the subsystem S_a — a nontrivial factor of $(2\pi)^{3/2}$ is an artifact of using the “Gaussian” box.
- $V \sigma_H^2$ can be identified as the normalized energy fluctuation in the system S_V .

Approach to the thermodynamic limit



- Variation of $V_a \sigma_n^2/V \sigma_H^2$ with the size of the subsystem S_a in the case where particles have a non vanishing mass and they obey Bose-Einstein statistics.
- One expects that in the thermodynamic limit $V_a \sigma_n^2/V \sigma_H^2$ should approach unity.
- Quantum fluctuations agree with the thermodynamic ones already for $a > 1$ fm.
- Quantum fluctuations become very important at the scale of 0.1 fm.

System of fermions

- We describe our system by a spin-1/2 field in thermal equilibrium. The field operator has the standard form ⁹

$$\psi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \sum_r \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 \sqrt{2\omega_{\mathbf{k}}}} \left(U_r(\mathbf{k}) a_r(\mathbf{k}) e^{-ik \cdot x} + V_r(\mathbf{k}) b_r^\dagger(\mathbf{k}) e^{ik \cdot x} \right), \quad (17)$$

- The canonical anti-commutation relations,

$$\{a_r(\mathbf{k}), a_s^\dagger(\mathbf{k}')\} = (2\pi)^3 \delta_{rs} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \quad (18)$$

$$\{b_r(\mathbf{k}), b_s^\dagger(\mathbf{k}')\} = (2\pi)^3 \delta_{rs} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \quad (19)$$

- Normalization of Dirac spinors,

$$\bar{U}_r(\mathbf{k}) U_s(\mathbf{k}) = 2m \delta_{rs} \quad (20)$$

$$\bar{V}_r(\mathbf{k}) V_s(\mathbf{k}) = -2m \delta_{rs} \quad (21)$$

⁹L. Tinti and W. Florkowski, arXiv:2007.04029

- To perform thermal averaging:

$$\langle a_r^\dagger(\mathbf{k}) a_s(\mathbf{k}') \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta_{rs} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') f(\omega_{\mathbf{k}}), \quad (22)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle a_r^\dagger(\mathbf{k}) a_s^\dagger(\mathbf{k}') a_{r'}(\mathbf{p}) a_{s'}(\mathbf{p}') \rangle \\ &= (2\pi)^6 \left(\delta_{rs'} \delta_{r's} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}') \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{p}) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \delta_{rr'} \delta_{ss'} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}) \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{p}') \right) f(\omega_{\mathbf{k}}) f(\omega_{\mathbf{k}'}). \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Here $f(\omega_{\mathbf{k}}) = 1/(\exp[\beta(\omega_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu)] + 1)$ is the Fermi–Dirac distribution function for particles.

- Anti particle operators also satisfies similar relation.
- For antiparticles, the Fermi–Dirac distribution function differs by the sign of the chemical potential μ , i.e. $\bar{f}(\omega_{\mathbf{k}}) = 1/(\exp[\beta(\omega_{\mathbf{k}} + \mu)] + 1)$
- We consider a case with zero baryon chemical potential.

- Contrary to the real scalar field, the canonical energy momentum tensor operator is not symmetric,

$$\hat{T}_{\text{Can}}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^{\nu} \psi - g^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L}_D = \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^{\nu} \psi, \quad \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^{\mu} \equiv \overrightarrow{\partial}^{\mu} - \overleftarrow{\partial}^{\mu} \quad (24)$$

Here \mathcal{L}_D denotes the Lagrangian density of a spin-1/2 field, which can be expressed as

$$\mathcal{L}_D = \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{\mu} \psi - m \bar{\psi} \psi, \quad (25)$$

- Mathematically, for any original energy-momentum tensor $\hat{T}^{\mu\nu}$ satisfying $\partial_{\mu} \hat{T}^{\mu\nu} = 0$ we can construct a different one by adding the divergence of an antisymmetric object, namely ¹⁰

$$\hat{T}'^{\mu\nu} = \hat{T}^{\mu\nu} + \partial_{\lambda} \hat{A}^{\nu\mu\lambda}; \quad \hat{A}^{\nu\mu\lambda} = -\hat{A}^{\nu\lambda\mu} \quad (26)$$

- By construction, the new tensor is also conserved, i.e., $\partial_{\mu} \hat{T}'^{\mu\nu} = 0$.
- For spin 1/2 field the energy momentum tensor is "Pseudo-gauge" dependent.

¹⁰E. Speranza and N. Weickgenannt, "Spin tensor and pseudo-gauges: from nuclear collisions to gravitational physics," arXiv:2007.00138 [nucl-th].

- Belinfante-Rosenfeld framework (BR):

$$\hat{T}_{\text{BR}}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^\nu \psi - \frac{i}{16} \partial_\lambda \left(\bar{\psi} \left\{ \gamma^\lambda, [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] \right\} \psi \right). \quad (27)$$

- de Groot-van Leeuwen-van Weert framework (GLW)¹¹:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{T}_{\text{GLW}}^{\mu\nu} &= -\frac{1}{4m} \bar{\psi} \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^\mu \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^\nu \psi - g^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L}_D \\ &= \frac{1}{4m} \left[-\bar{\psi} (\partial^\mu \partial^\nu \psi) + (\partial^\mu \bar{\psi}) (\partial^\nu \psi) + (\partial^\nu \bar{\psi}) (\partial^\mu \psi) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - (\partial^\mu \partial^\nu \bar{\psi}) \psi \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

- Hilgevoord-Wouthuysen framework (HW)¹²:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{T}_{\text{HW}}^{\mu\nu} &= \hat{T}_{\text{Can}}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{i}{2m} \left(\partial^\nu \bar{\psi} \sigma^{\mu\beta} \partial_\beta \psi + \partial_\alpha \bar{\psi} \sigma^{\alpha\mu} \partial^\nu \psi \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{i}{4m} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\lambda \left(\bar{\psi} \sigma^{\lambda\alpha} \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_\alpha \psi \right), \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

¹¹S. R. De Groot, Relativistic Kinetic Theory. Principles and Applications. 1980.

¹² Hilgevoord and S. Wouthuysen, Nucl. Phys. 40 (1963) 1-12; J. Hilgevoord and E. De Kerf, Physica 31 No.7 (1965) 1002-1016

Energy density is pseudo-gauge independent

- We define an operator, \hat{T}_a^{00} :

$$\hat{T}_a^{00} = \frac{1}{(a\sqrt{\pi})^3} \int d^3\mathbf{x} \hat{T}^{00}(x) \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{x}^2}{a^2}\right). \quad (30)$$

- We consider the variance

$$\sigma^2(a, m, T) = \langle : \hat{T}_a^{00} :: \hat{T}_a^{00} : \rangle - \langle : \hat{T}_a^{00} : \rangle^2 \quad (31)$$

and the normalized standard deviation

$$\sigma_n(a, m, T) = \frac{(\langle : \hat{T}_a^{00} :: \hat{T}_a^{00} : \rangle - \langle : \hat{T}_a^{00} : \rangle^2)^{1/2}}{\langle : \hat{T}_a^{00} : \rangle}. \quad (32)$$

- Mean/thermal averaged \hat{T}_a^{00} :

$$\langle : \hat{T}_{\text{Can},a}^{00} : \rangle = 4 \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \omega_k f(\omega_k) \equiv \varepsilon_{\text{Can}}(T) \quad (33)$$

$$= \langle : \hat{T}_{\text{BR},a}^{00} : \rangle = \langle : \hat{T}_{\text{GLW},a}^{00} : \rangle = \langle : \hat{T}_{\text{HW},a}^{00} : \rangle \quad (34)$$

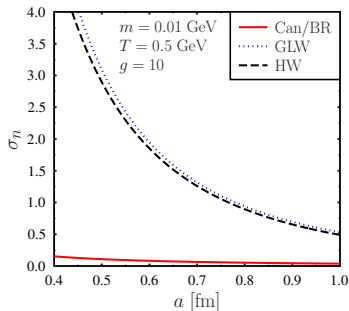
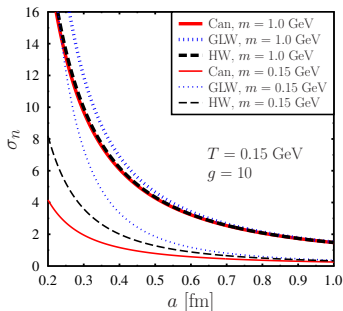
Energy density fluctuation– pseudo-gauge dependent

- Contrary to energy density the energy density fluctuation is pseudo-gauge dependent, e.g.
- For the Canonical framework:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\text{Can}}^2(a, m, T) &= 2 \int dK dK' f(\omega_k)(1 - f(\omega_{k'})) \\ &\times \left[(\omega_k + \omega_{k'})^2 (\omega_k \omega_{k'} + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' + m^2) e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - (\omega_k - \omega_{k'})^2 (\omega_k \omega_{k'} + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' - m^2) e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}(\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{k}')^2} \right],\end{aligned}\quad (35)$$

- For the de Groot-van Leeuwen-van Weert framework:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\text{GLW}}^2(a, m, T) &= \frac{1}{2m^2} \int dK dK' f(\omega_k)(1 - f(\omega_{k'})) \\ &\times \left[(\omega_k + \omega_{k'})^4 (\omega_k \omega_{k'} - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' + m^2) e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - (\omega_k - \omega_{k'})^4 (\omega_k \omega_{k'} - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' - m^2) e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}(\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{k}')^2} \right].\end{aligned}\quad (36)$$



- A comparison of the normalized standard deviation of fluctuations obtained for three different pseudo-gauges (Can=BR, GLW, HW).
- For $a < 0.5$ fm, we observe that the results obtained with various pseudo-gauges differ, with differences growing as a decreases.
- Irrespective of the choice of pseudo-gauges with growing system size the normalized standard deviation of fluctuations (σ_n) decreases.

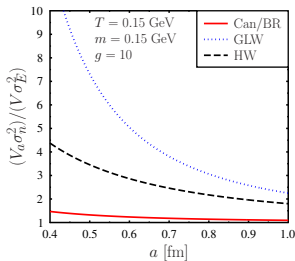
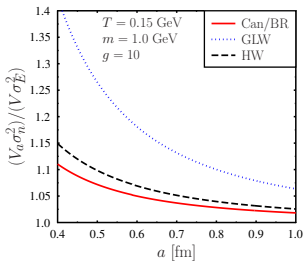
What about thermodynamic limit??

- Using the Gaussian representation of the Dirac delta function it can be shown that, in the large a limit,

$$\sigma_{\text{Can}}^2 = \frac{4g}{(2\pi)^{3/2}a^3} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \omega_k^2 f(\omega_k)(1-f(\omega_k)) = \sigma_{\text{BR}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{GLW}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{HW}}^2. \quad (37)$$

- In the large a limit we find,

$$V_a \sigma_n^2 = \frac{T^2 c_V}{\varepsilon^2} = V \frac{\langle E^2 \rangle - \langle E \rangle^2}{\langle E \rangle^2} \equiv V \sigma_E^2; \quad V_a = a^3 (2\pi)^{3/2}. \quad (38)$$



Conclusions

- We have derived the formula characterizing the quantum fluctuation of energy in subsystems of a hot relativistic gas.
- It agrees with the expression for thermodynamic fluctuations, if the size of the subsystem is sufficiently large.
- For smaller sizes the effects of quantum fluctuations become relevant and the classical description with “well defined energy density” makes sense only after coarse graining over sufficiently large scale.
- For fermions quantum fluctuation of energy density does depend on the choice of the pseudo-gauge.
- On the practical side, the results of our calculations can be used to determine a scale of coarse graining for which the choice of the pseudo-gauge becomes irrelevant.
- This may be useful, in particular, in the context of hydrodynamic modeling of high-energy collisions.
- These results might be relevant for small systems.

Thank You!

Normal ordering: alternative approach

- For a composite operator we considered the following normal ordering method:
 $\mathcal{H}_a \mathcal{H}_a \rightarrow : \mathcal{H}_a :: \mathcal{H}_a :$
- Therefore we are first normal ordering first then then multiplying to construct the composite operator.
- Alternatively one can also argue about different method of normal ordering:

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

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Semiclassical gravity theory and quantum fluctuations

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$$\Delta(x) \equiv \left| \frac{\langle : T_{00}^2(x) : \rangle - \langle : T_{00}(x) : \rangle^2}{\langle : T_{00}^2(x) : \rangle} \right|.$$

- If we consider such a normal ordering then:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^2(a, m, T) &= \langle : \mathcal{H}_a \mathcal{H}_a : \rangle - \langle : \mathcal{H}_a : \rangle^2 = \int dK dK' f(\omega_k) f(\omega_{k'}) \\ &\times \left[(\omega_k \omega_{k'} + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' + m^2)^2 e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2} (k-k')^2} + (\omega_k \omega_{k'} + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' - m^2)^2 e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2} (k+k')^2} \right]. \end{aligned}$$