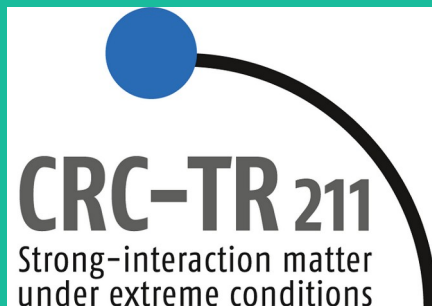


**HGS-HIRe** *for FAIR*

Helmholtz Graduate School for Hadron and Ion Research



# Formation of bound states in the Lindblad approach

Transport-Meeting, 05 Feb. 2026

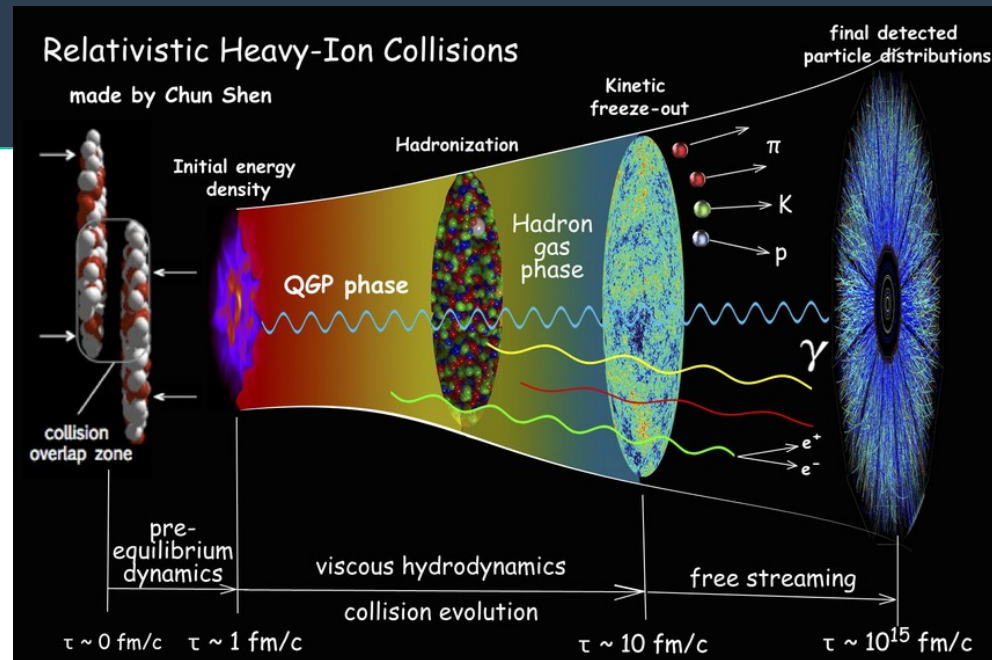
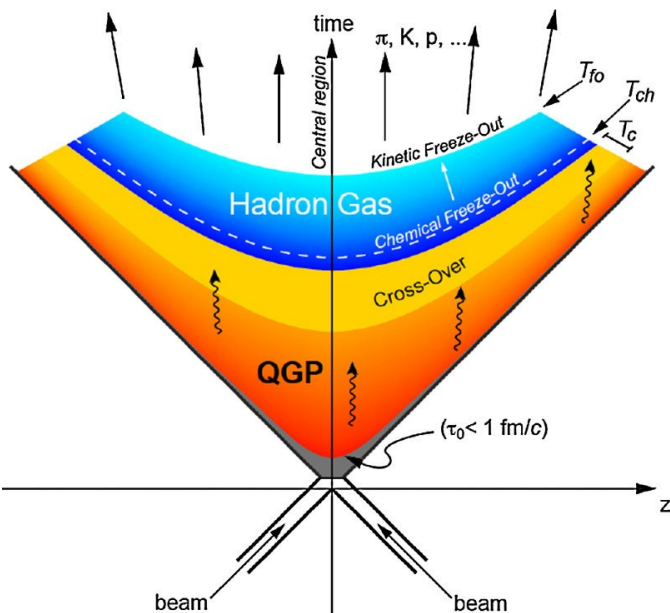
Jan Rais

In collaboration with C. Greiner, H. van Hees, T. Neiding

# Bound states in HICs

- Charmonia ( $J/\psi$ ,  $\Upsilon$ )
- Light Nuclei (deuterons, tritons, and helium nuclei)
- Exotic Bound States: (Hypernuclei)

Probe for QGP  
(Color Debye Screening,  
QGP Thermometer)



Low binding energy (deuteron  $\sim 2.3$  MeV): "Ice in a Fire"

- Probe of the freeze-out phase (chemical and kinetic) at  $\sim 150$  MeV
- Measuring collective flow (non-static fireball  $\rightarrow$  recombinations)
- Searching for the QCD Critical Point

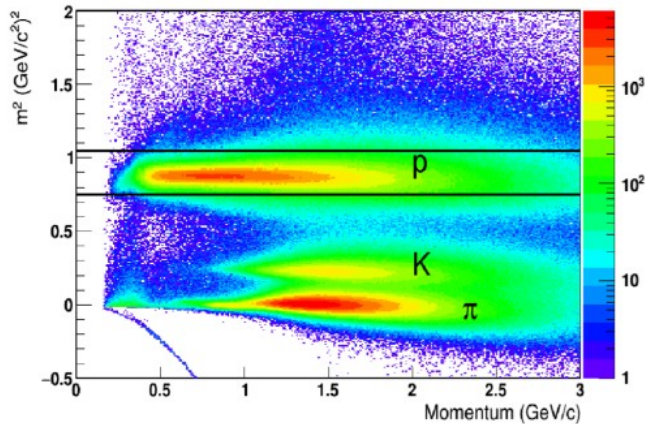
# Measuring deuteron with TPC

(Time Projection Chamber)

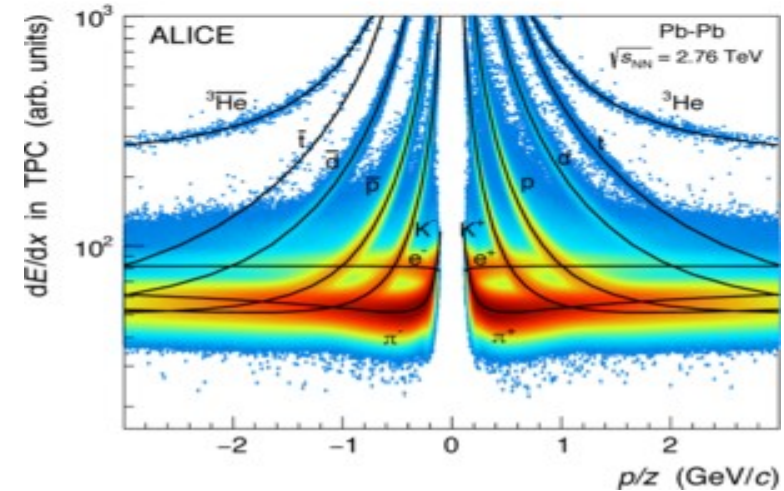
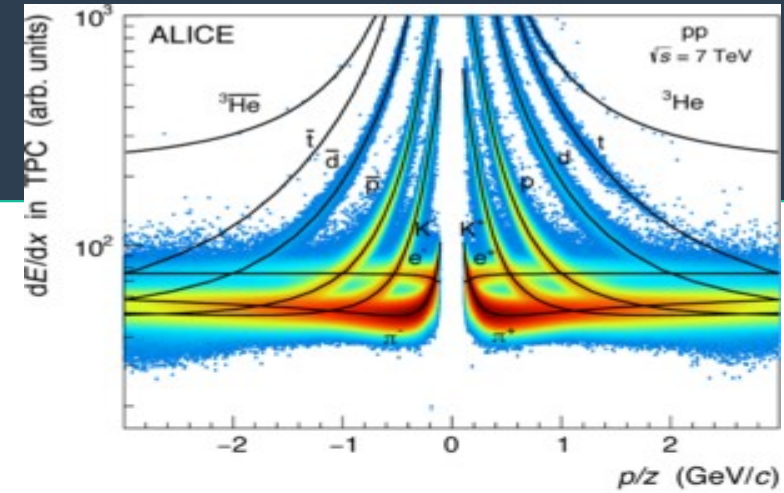
Calculation of  $dE/dx$  via Bethe-Bloch formula:

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = K z^2 \frac{Z}{A} \frac{1}{\beta^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2 \gamma^2 W_{\max}}{I^2} \right) - \beta^2 - \frac{\delta(\beta\gamma)}{2} \right]$$

Measuring of the specific ionization and TOF

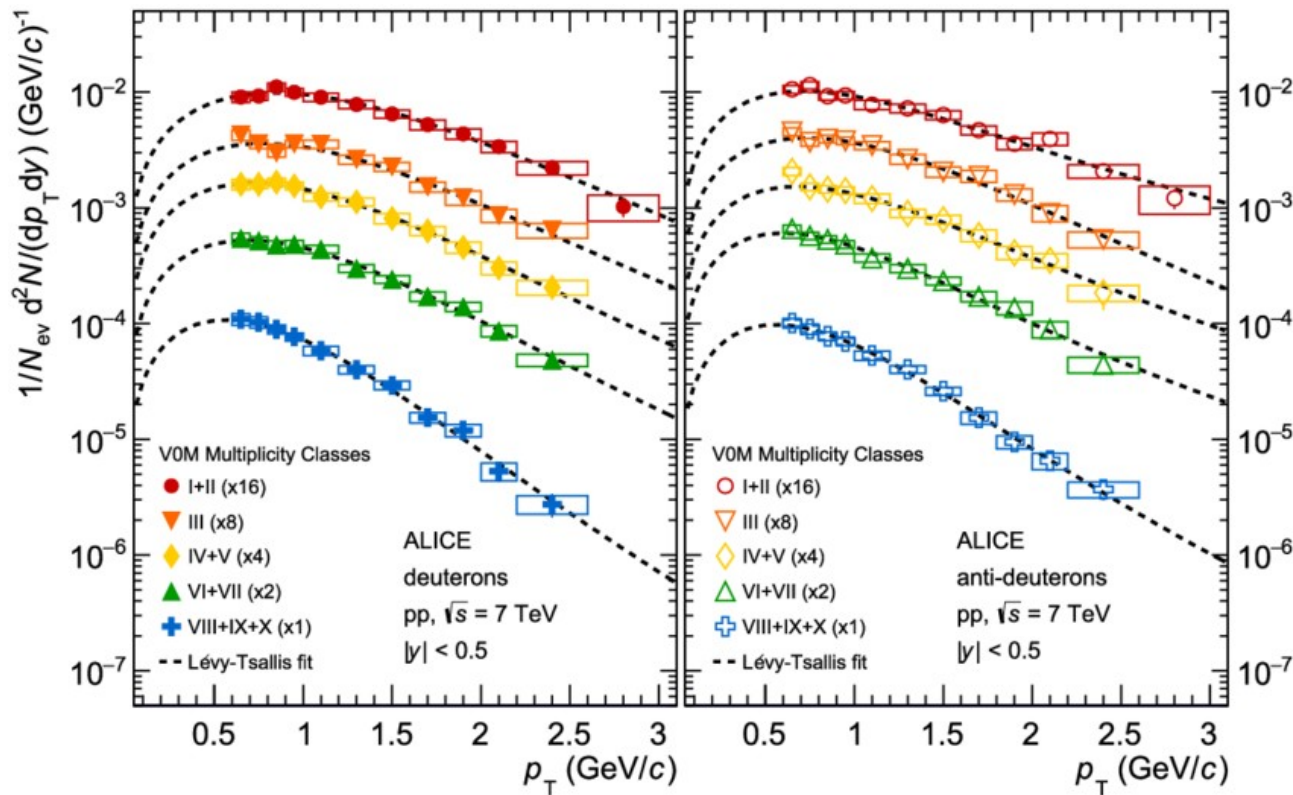


$$m = \frac{p}{\beta\gamma c} = \frac{p}{c} \sqrt{\frac{c^2 t^2}{L^2} - 1}$$



# $p_T$ -spectra for (anti-)deuteron

- spectrum broad and exp-like for high  $p_T$
- can be explained via coalescence:
- protons and neutrons in the bulk medium: thermal distribution at high  $p_T$  as the system cools.
- steepness is influenced by the kin. freeze-out temperature
- spectrum flat for low  $p_T$ 
  - radial flow
  - most (anti-)deuterons for low  $p_T$

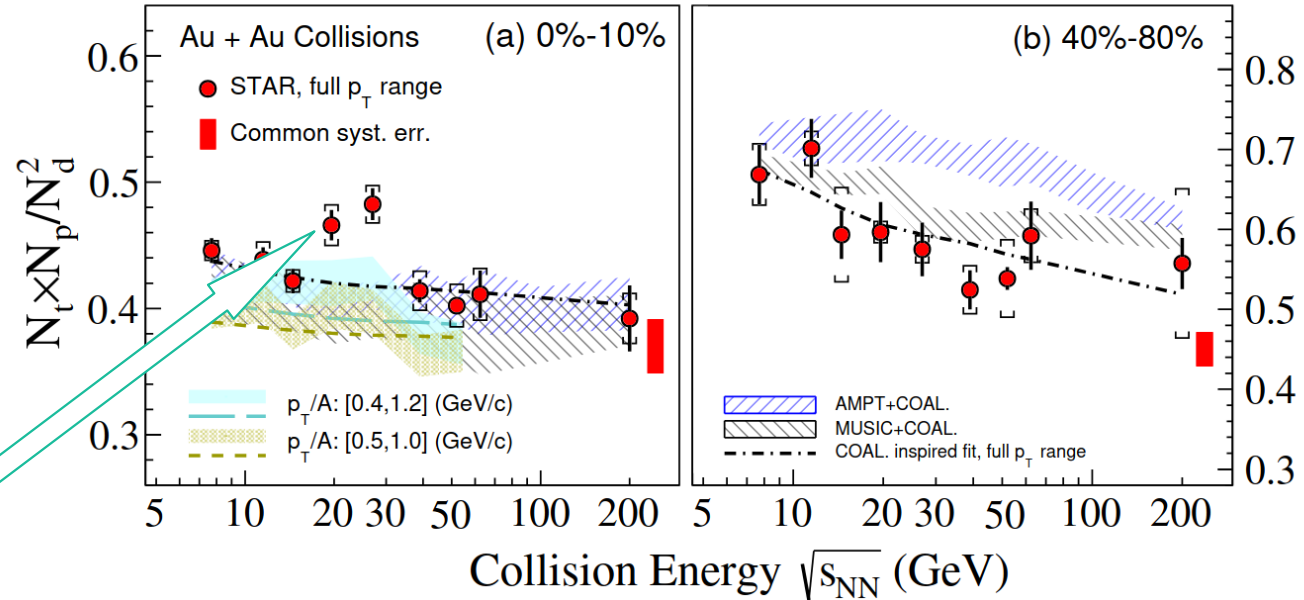


# The deuteron also helps to understand phase diagram

Rate of tritons, protons and deuterons

$$O_{tpd} = N_t N_p / N_d^2$$

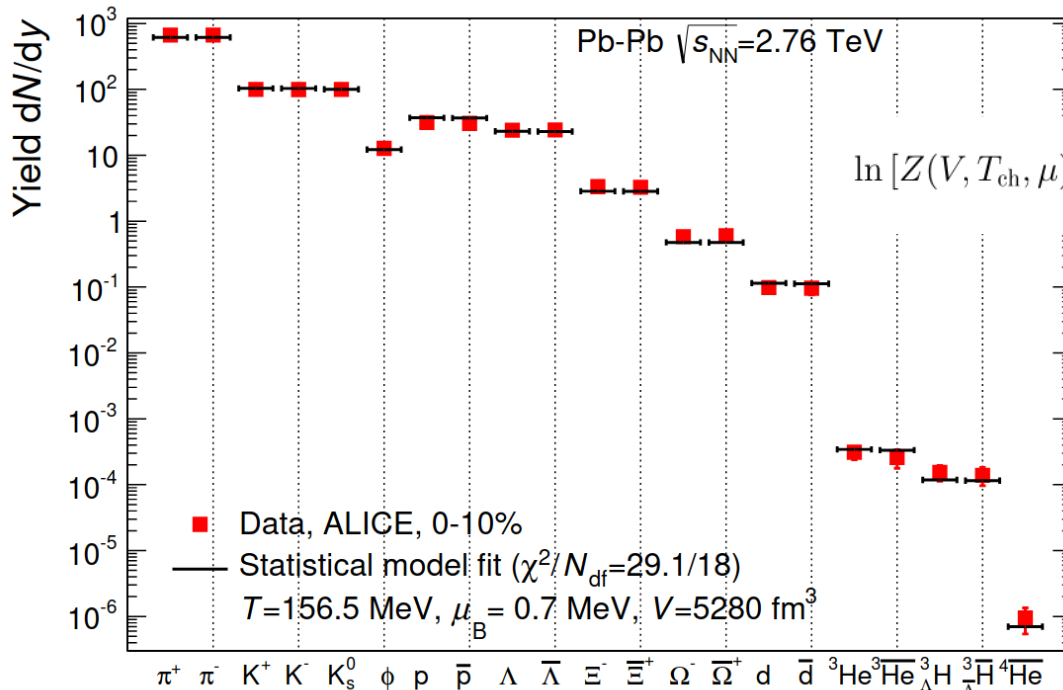
Sensitivity to density fluctuations



Also helps to distinguish between thermal model and coalescence



# Coalescence usually basis for theoretical description



Thermal model predicts particle yields  
(at chem. freeze out) very well

$$\ln [Z(V, T_{ch}, \mu)] = \sum_i [\ln Z_i(V, T_{ch}, \mu)] = \sum_i \frac{g_i V}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty dp \left[ \pm p^2 \ln \left( 1 \pm \lambda_i e^{-\frac{E}{T_{ch}}} \right) \right]$$

$$N_i = T_{ch} \frac{\partial \ln Z_i(V, T_{ch}, \mu)}{\partial \mu_i} \approx \lambda_i \frac{q_{ii} g_i V T_{ch}}{2\pi^2} m_i^2 K_2 \left( \frac{m_i}{T_{ch}} \right)$$

Can be used estimating the yields at a given temperature or  $T_{ch}$  for given yields.



no formation of the deuteron

# The coalescence model

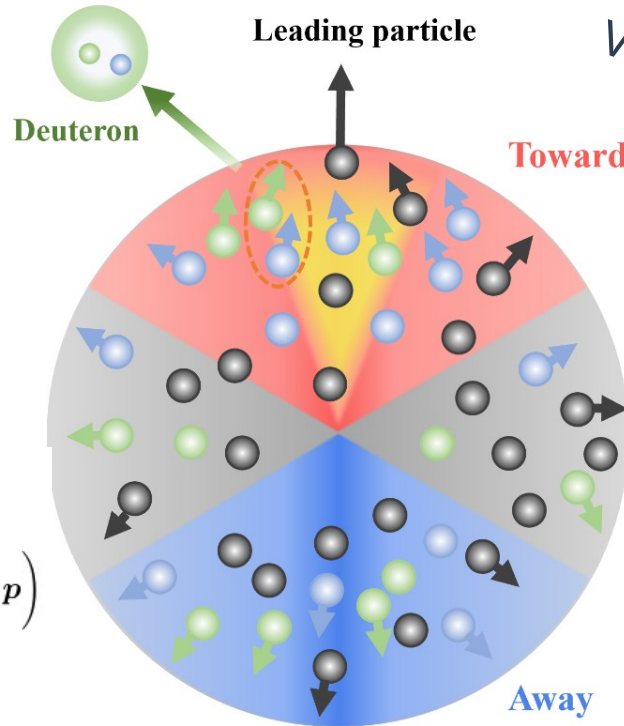
$$E_d \frac{d^3 N_d}{dp_d^3} = B_2 \left( E_p \frac{d^3 N_p}{dp_p^3} \right) \left( E_n \frac{d^3 N_n}{dp_n^3} \right)$$

In Wigner-representation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^3 N_d}{d\mathbf{P}_d^3} &= \frac{S_d}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3 \mathbf{r}_d \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) \\ &\times f_p^W \left( \mathbf{r}_d + \frac{\mathbf{r}}{2}, \frac{\mathbf{P}_d}{2} + \mathbf{p} \right) f_n^W \left( \mathbf{r}_d - \frac{\mathbf{r}}{2}, \frac{\mathbf{P}_d}{2} - \mathbf{p} \right) \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = \int d^3 \xi e^{-iq\xi} \varphi_d \left( \mathbf{r} + \frac{\xi}{2} \right) \varphi_d^* \left( \mathbf{r} - \frac{\xi}{2} \right)$$



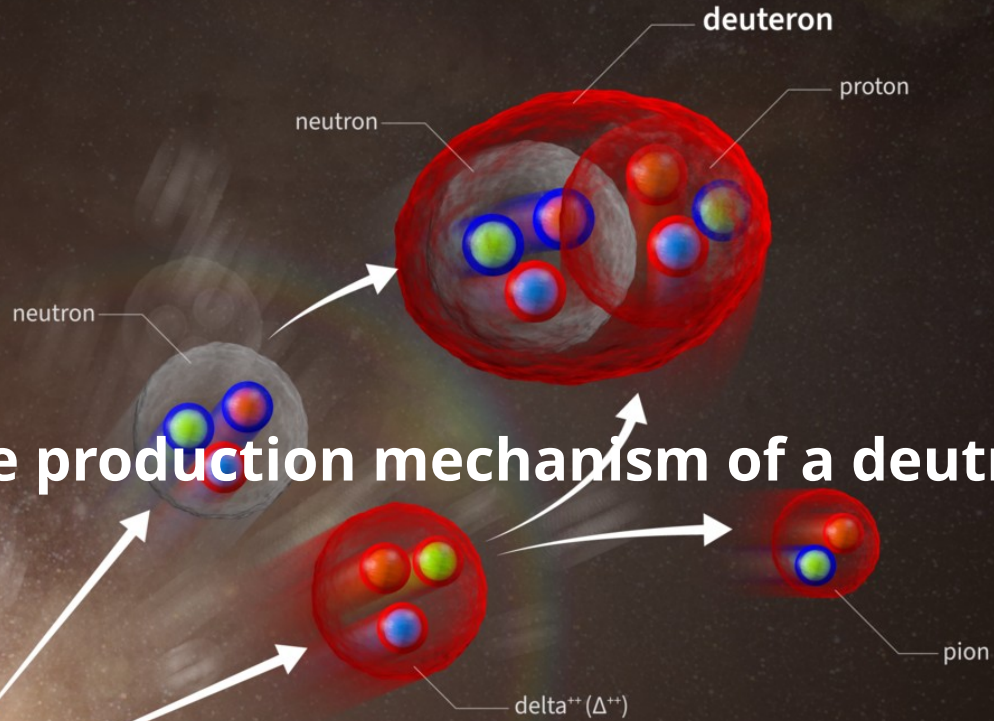
Violation of energy-conservation!

$$B_2 = \frac{3\pi^{3/2} \langle C_d \rangle}{2m_T R^3}$$

$$B_2 \approx \frac{3}{4} (2\pi)^3 \int d^3 r_1 d^3 r_2 \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{r}_1) \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{r}_2) |\psi_d(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2)|^2$$

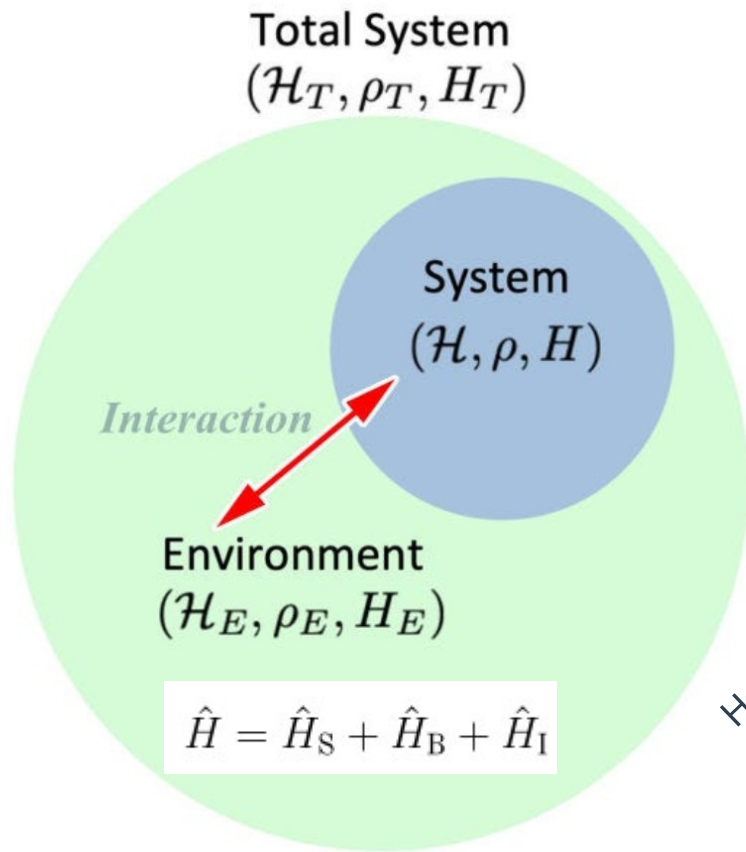
$$B_2(p_T) = \frac{\text{Yield}_d(p_T)}{[\text{Yield}_p(p_T/2)]^2}$$

**So: What is the production mechanism of a deuteron?**





# Open quantum system approach



Find dynamics of the reduced density matrix  $\rho = \text{Tr}_E \rho_T$

Use Caldeira-Leggett Modell for the full system:

$$H_T = \frac{1}{2m} P^2 + \frac{1}{2} M \Omega^2 X^2 + \sum_n \left( \frac{1}{2m_n} p_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_n \omega_n^2 x_n^2 \right) - X \sum_n c_n x_n + X^2 \sum_n \frac{c_n^2}{2m_n \omega_n^2}$$

H of the Bath

Linear coupling to the bath

H of the system

Counter term including the bath spectrum

# Caldeira-Leggett Master Equation

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(x, y, t) &= \int dx_0 \int dy_0 K(x, y, t; x_0, y_0, 0) \rho(x_0, y_0, 0) \\ &= \int dx_0 \int dy_0 \int_{x_0}^x \mathcal{D}x_+ \int_{y_0}^y \mathcal{D}y_- \\ &\quad \exp \left( i \int_0^t dt' \left\{ \frac{M}{2} [\dot{x}^2(t') - \dot{y}^2(t')] - [V_{\text{ren}}(x(t')) - V_{\text{ren}}(y(t'))] \right\} \right) \\ &\quad \times \exp \left[ i \frac{M\gamma}{2} \int_0^t dt' (x\dot{x} + x\dot{y} - y\dot{x} - y\dot{y})(t') \right] \\ &\quad \times \exp \left[ -2M\gamma T \int_0^t dt' (x - y)^2(t') \right] \rho(x_0, y_0, 0),\end{aligned}$$



- inserting Trotter formula
- motivate stationary state from statistical distribution

Approximations:

- Markovian System -- kills one time integral
- Ohmic heat bath:
- linear source term (coupling)
- high temperatures

But: not norm preserving  
and  
necessarily positive

Dissipative dynamics of system

$$\dot{\hat{\rho}} = -i [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}] - i \frac{\gamma}{2} [\{\hat{p}, \hat{x}\}, \hat{\rho}] - 2m\gamma T [\hat{x}, [\hat{x}, \hat{\rho}]] - i\gamma ([\hat{x}, \hat{\rho}\hat{p}] - [\hat{p}, \hat{\rho}\hat{x}])$$

# Lindblad dynamics

$$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\rho} = -i [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}] - \frac{1}{2} \left( \{ \hat{L}^\dagger \hat{L}, \hat{\rho} \} - 2 \hat{L} \hat{\rho} \hat{L}^\dagger \right) = -i [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}] + \mathcal{D}$$

Norm-conserving  
and positive!

$\hat{L} = \mu \hat{x} + i\nu \hat{p}$   
Linear combination of x and p?  
What are the coefficients?

For the harmonic oscillator,  
coefficients  
can be evaluated analytically:  $\mu^2 = 2\gamma mT$ ,  
 $2\mu\nu = \gamma$ ,  
 $\nu^2 = \frac{\gamma}{8mT}$ ,

But: no general mechanism to  
derive Lindblad operators

Obtain coefficients from Wigner transform 

„Diffusion“-coefficients connected to  
widths in xx, px, and pp of  $\rho$

Coefficients time dependent?

for example:  $\frac{\langle p^2 \rangle}{2m} = T$

# Lindblad equation as diffusion-advection equation

$$\partial_t \vec{u} + \partial_x \vec{f}^x[\vec{x}, \vec{u}] + \partial_y \vec{f}^y[\vec{x}, \vec{u}] = \partial_x \vec{Q}^x[\partial_x \vec{u}, \partial_y \vec{u}] + \partial_y \vec{Q}^y[\partial_x \vec{u}, \partial_y \vec{u}] + \vec{S}[t, \vec{x}, \vec{u}]$$

$$\vec{f}^x[\vec{x}, \vec{u}] = \begin{pmatrix} -2D_{px}(x-y)\rho_R + \gamma(x-y)\rho_I \\ +2D_{px}(x-y)\rho_I + \gamma(x-y)\rho_R \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\vec{Q}^y[\partial_x \vec{u}, \partial_y \vec{u}] = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( -\frac{1}{2m} \rho_R + D_{xx} \rho_I \right) + D_{xx} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rho_I \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{1}{2m} \rho_I + D_{xx} \rho_R \right) + D_{xx} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rho_R \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\vec{f}^y[\vec{x}, \vec{u}] = \begin{pmatrix} -2D_{py}(x-y)\rho_R - \gamma(x-y)\rho_I \\ +2D_{py}(x-y)\rho_I - \gamma(x-y)\rho_R \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\vec{S}[t, \vec{x}, \vec{u}] = \begin{pmatrix} [V(y) - V(x)] \rho_R + [2\gamma - D_{pp}(x-y)^2] \rho_I \\ [V(x) - V(y)] \rho_I + [2\gamma - D_{pp}(x-y)^2] \rho_R \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\vec{Q}^x[\partial_x \vec{u}, \partial_y \vec{u}] = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{1}{2m} \rho_R + D_{xx} \rho_I \right) + D_{xx} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_I \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( -\frac{1}{2m} \rho_I + D_{xx} \rho_R \right) + D_{xx} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_R \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\vec{u} = \vec{u}(\vec{x}, t) = (\rho_I(x, y, t), \rho_R(x, y, t))^T$$

Terms can be interpreted clearly:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \tilde{u} = & \left[ \begin{pmatrix} D_{xx} & 0 \\ 0 & D_{xx} \end{pmatrix} \partial_q^2 + \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma \end{pmatrix} \partial_r - 4 \begin{pmatrix} D_{pp} & 0 \\ 0 & D_{pp} \end{pmatrix} r^2 \right] \tilde{u} + \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{2m} \\ -\frac{1}{2m} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \partial_q \partial_r \right. \\ & \left. + 4 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & D_{px} \\ -D_{px} & 0 \end{pmatrix} r \partial_q + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & V(r+q) - V(r-q) \\ V(r+q) - V(r-q) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right] \tilde{u} \end{aligned}$$

- exponential suppression with  $D_{pp}$  - decoherence
- potential as source
- $D_{xx}$  pure spatial diffusion
- $D_{px} \sim$  velocity field towards diagonal

# Decoherence

System gets less coherent during the process of thermalization  
(deconstruction of quantum superposition)

Dominant term in Lindblad-equation:  $\partial_t \rho_S(x, x', t) = -\gamma \left\{ \frac{(x - x')^2}{\lambda_T} \right\}^2 \rho_S(x, x', t)$

with

$$\lambda_T = \frac{(\hbar)}{\sqrt{2M(k_B)T}} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \tau_D^{-1} = \gamma \left( \frac{x - x'}{\lambda_T} \right)^2$$

Wigner transform of CLME shows phase in phase space:

$$\dot{W}_{\text{int}} \approx - \left( \frac{D \Delta x^2}{\hbar^2} \right) W_{\text{int}} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad W_{\text{int}} \sim \cos \left( \frac{\Delta x}{\hbar} p \right)$$

Study decoherence via purity of the system:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \text{Tr} \rho^2 = - \frac{2M\gamma k_B T}{\hbar} \left( \langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2 \right)$$

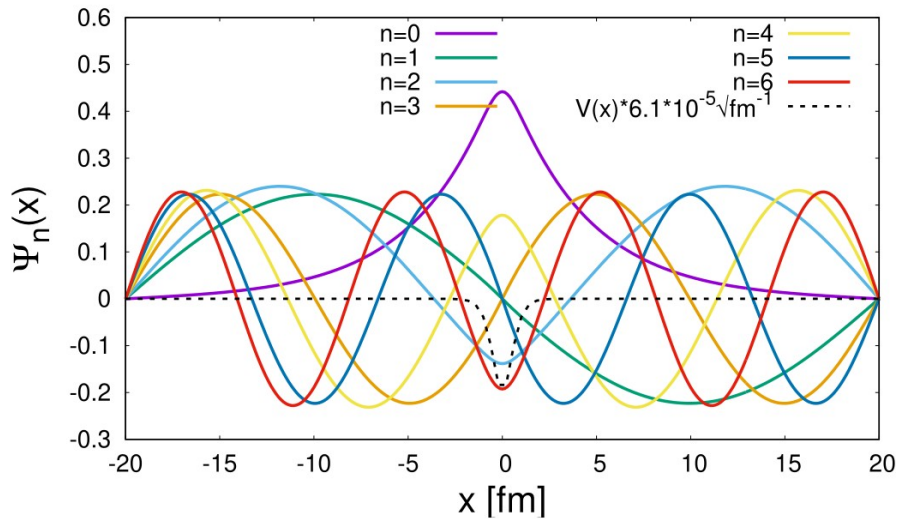
Relaxation time is not directly connected with decoherence time!

Bath in Lindblad approach is Markovian! -- No backflow from bath to system  $\hat{H}_{\text{int}} = x \sum_n c_n q_n$

But!!: decoherence is bath dependent, and different for different baths (no momentum dependence)



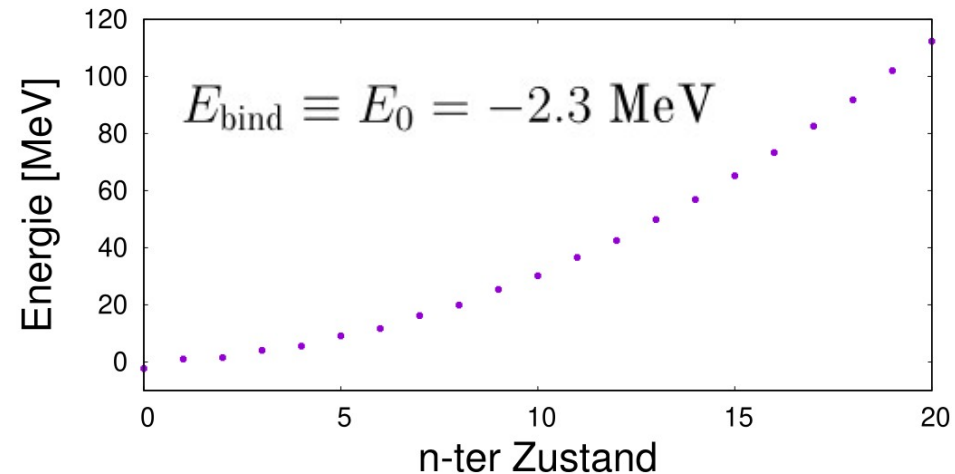
# A quantum bound state with deuteron parameters



Compute  $\psi$  with shooting method  
and use it for initial condition:

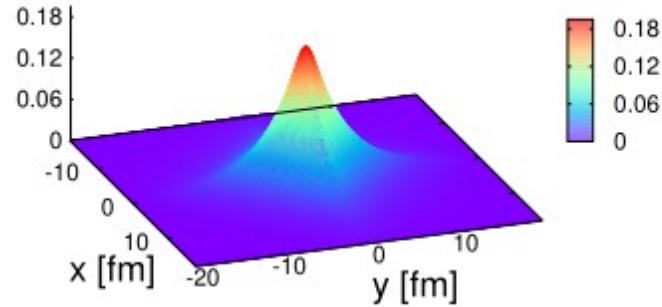
$$\rho(x, y, 0) = \sum_{m,n=0}^N c_{mn} \langle x | \psi_m \rangle \langle \psi_n | y \rangle$$

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} -V_0 \frac{1}{\cosh^2(\alpha x)}, & \text{für } |x| \leq 20 \text{ fm} \\ \infty, & \text{für } |x| > 20 \text{ fm} \end{cases}$$

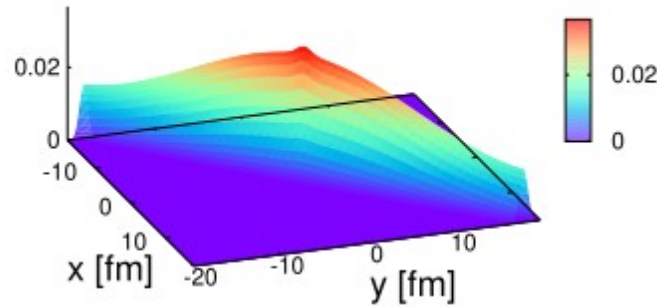


# Initial conditions – final distribution – bound state

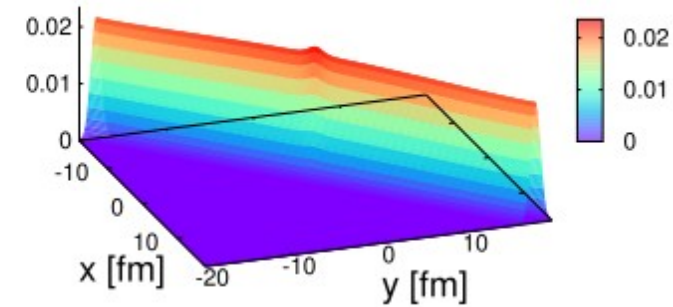
$\text{Re}(\rho(x,y,t=0 \text{ fm/c}))$



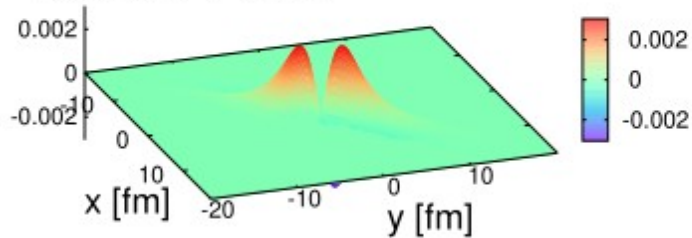
$\text{Re}(\rho(x,y,t=25 \text{ fm/c}))$



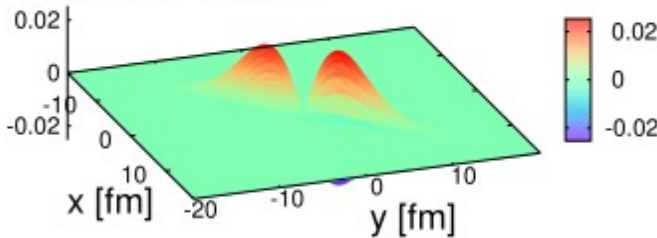
$\text{Re}(\rho(x,y,t=75 \text{ fm/c}))$



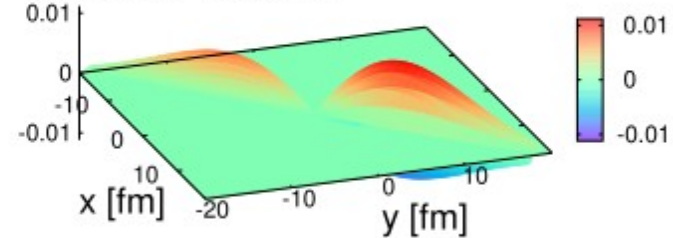
$\text{Im}(\rho(x,y,t=1 \text{ fm/c}))$



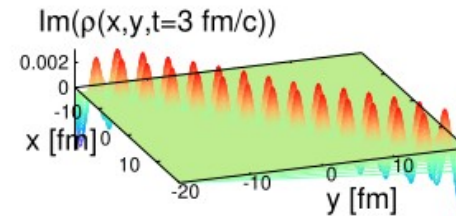
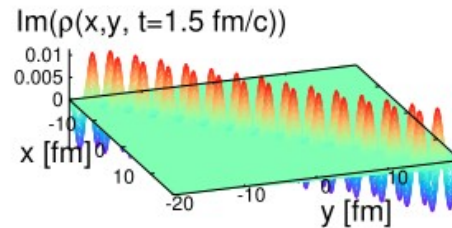
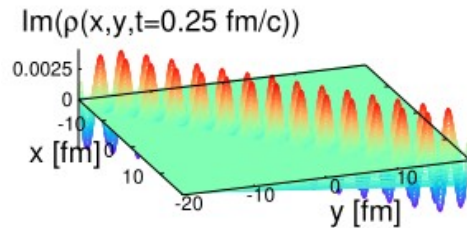
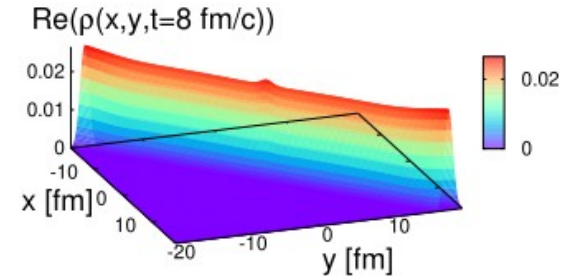
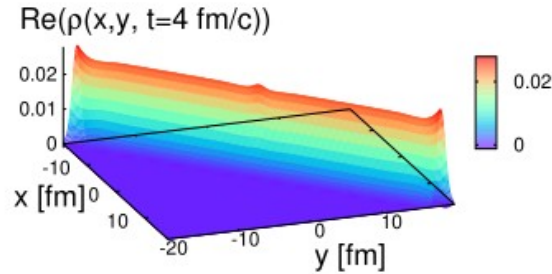
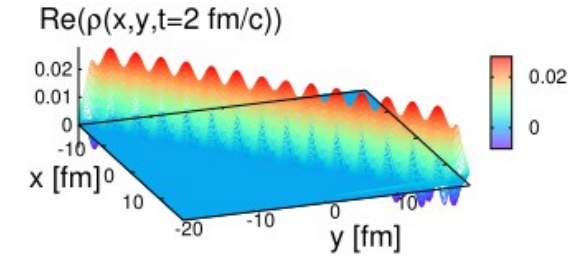
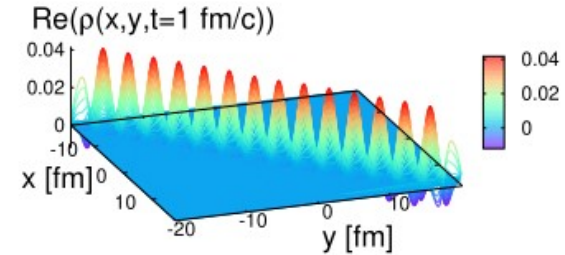
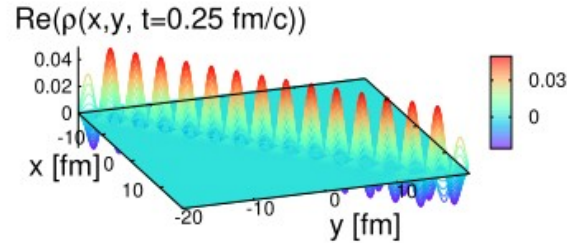
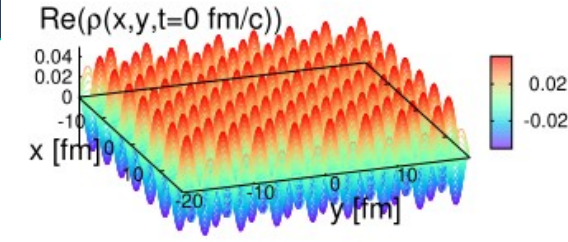
$\text{Im}(\rho(x,y,t=5 \text{ fm/c}))$



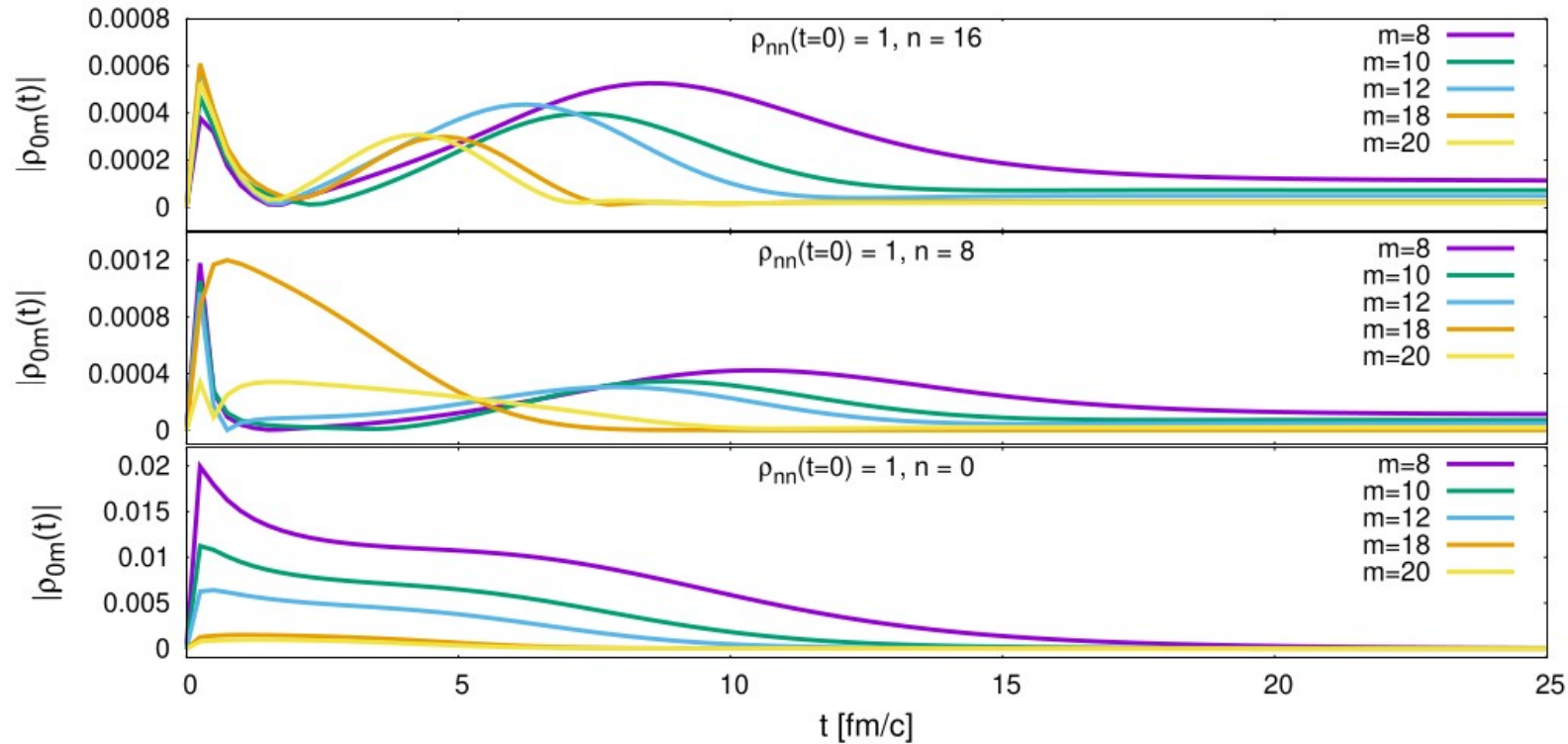
$\text{Im}(\rho(x,y,t=15 \text{ fm/c}))$



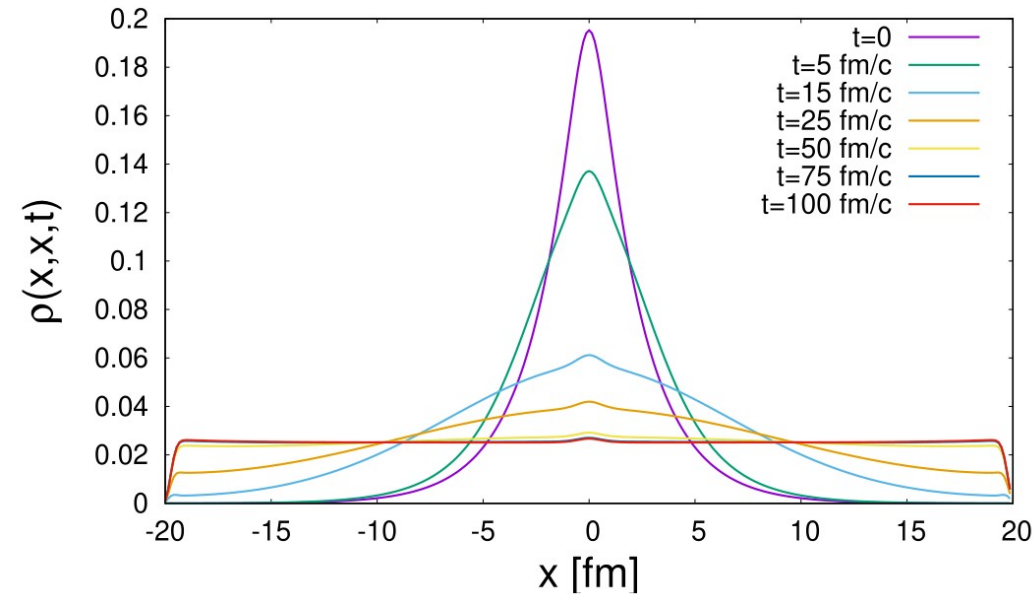
# Initial conditions – final distribution – 16<sup>th</sup> state



# Decoherence

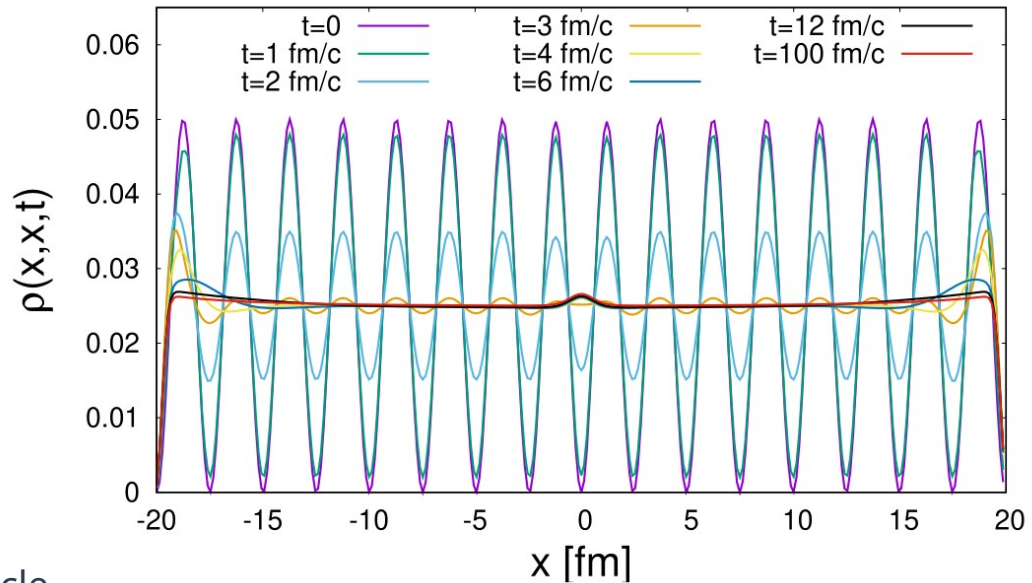


# $\rho(x,x,t)$ for initial $n=0$ and $n=16$



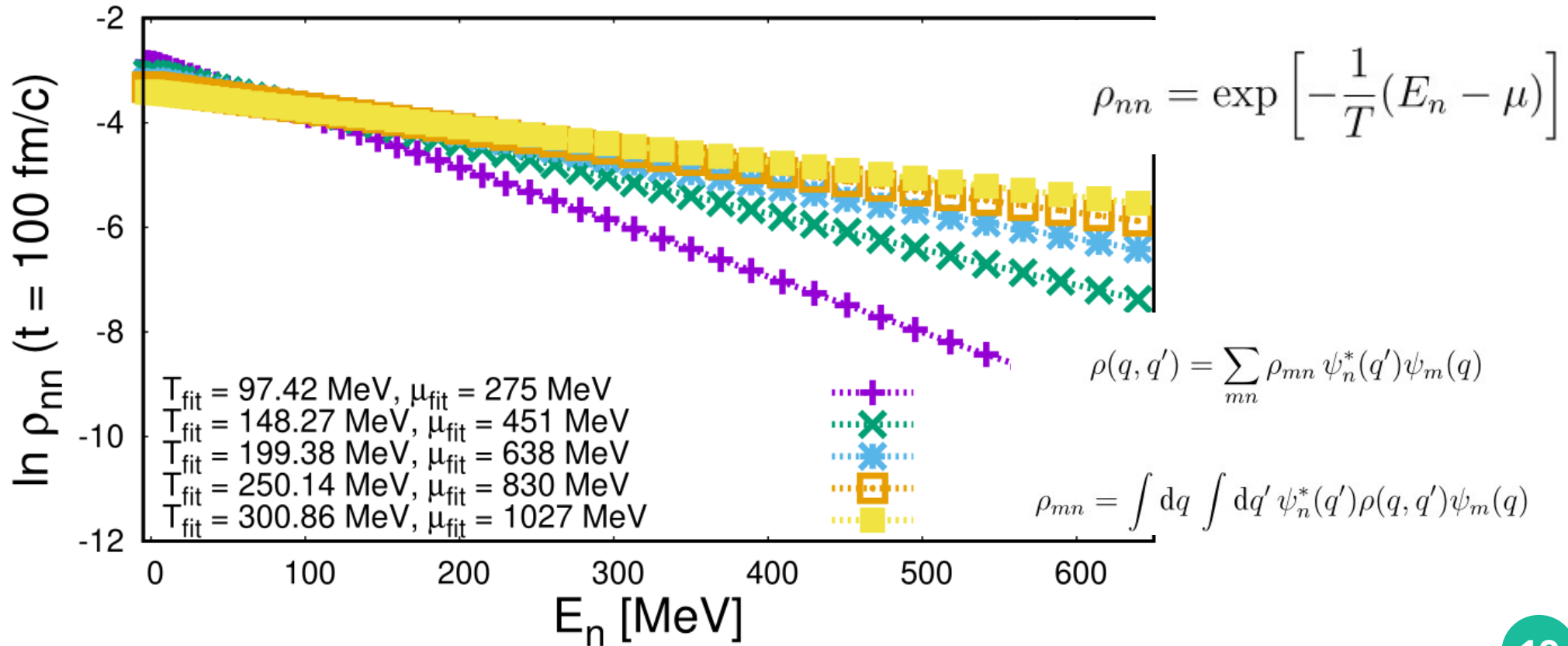
$$\rho_{\text{free}}(x, y, t \rightarrow \infty) = \frac{1}{L} e^{-\frac{mT}{2}(x-y)^2}$$

...valid to assume free particle

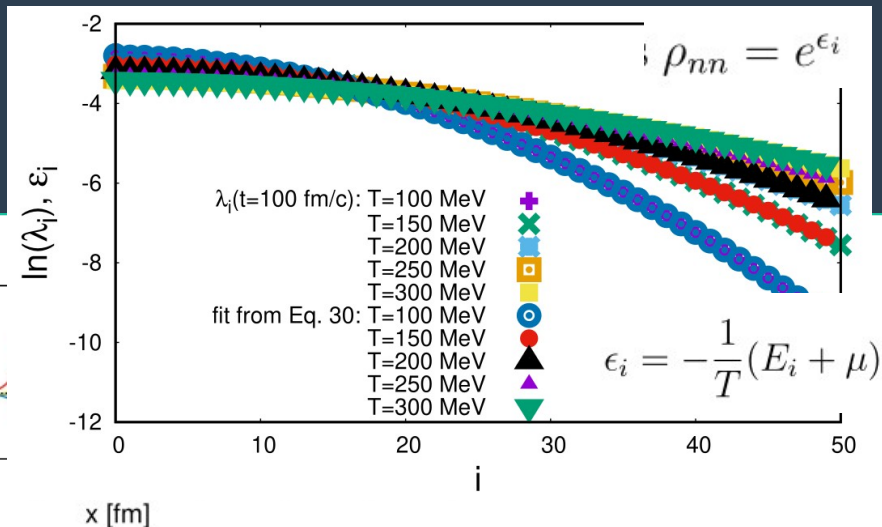
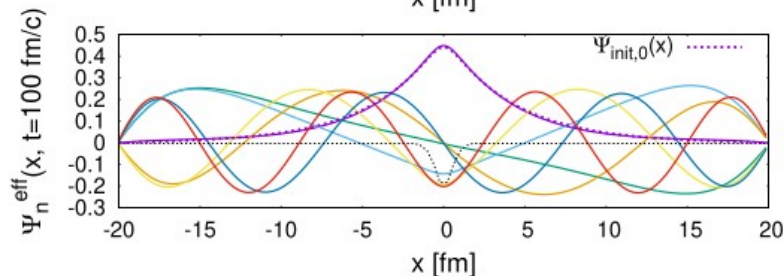
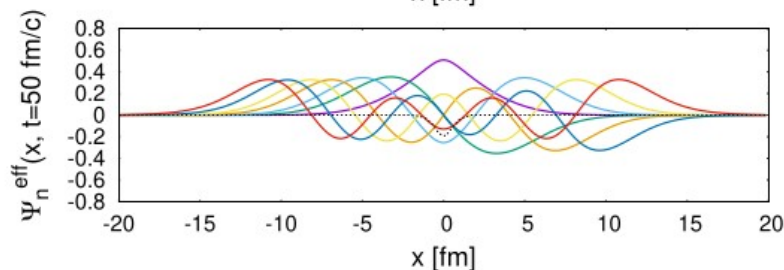
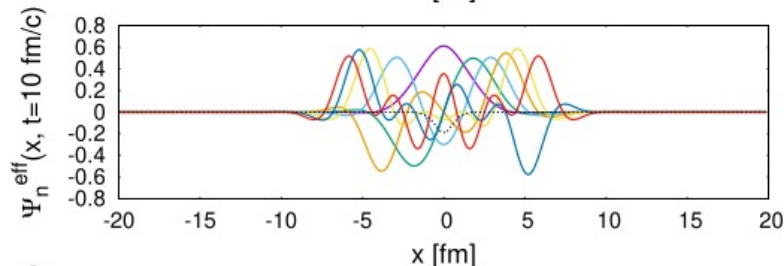
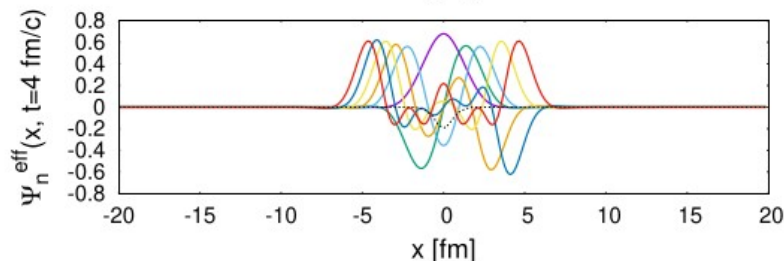
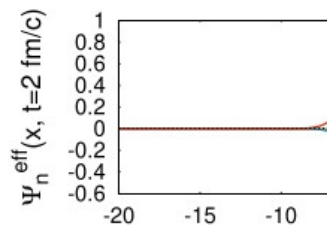
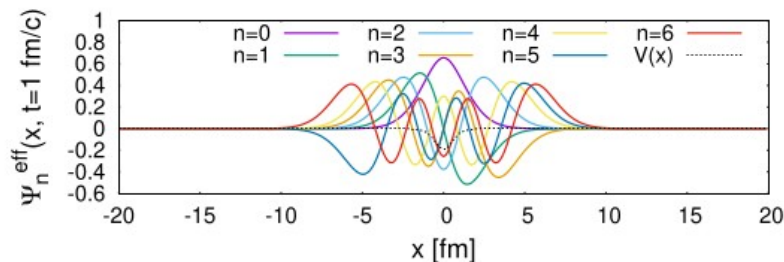




# Distribution of $\rho_{nn}$ for stationary system

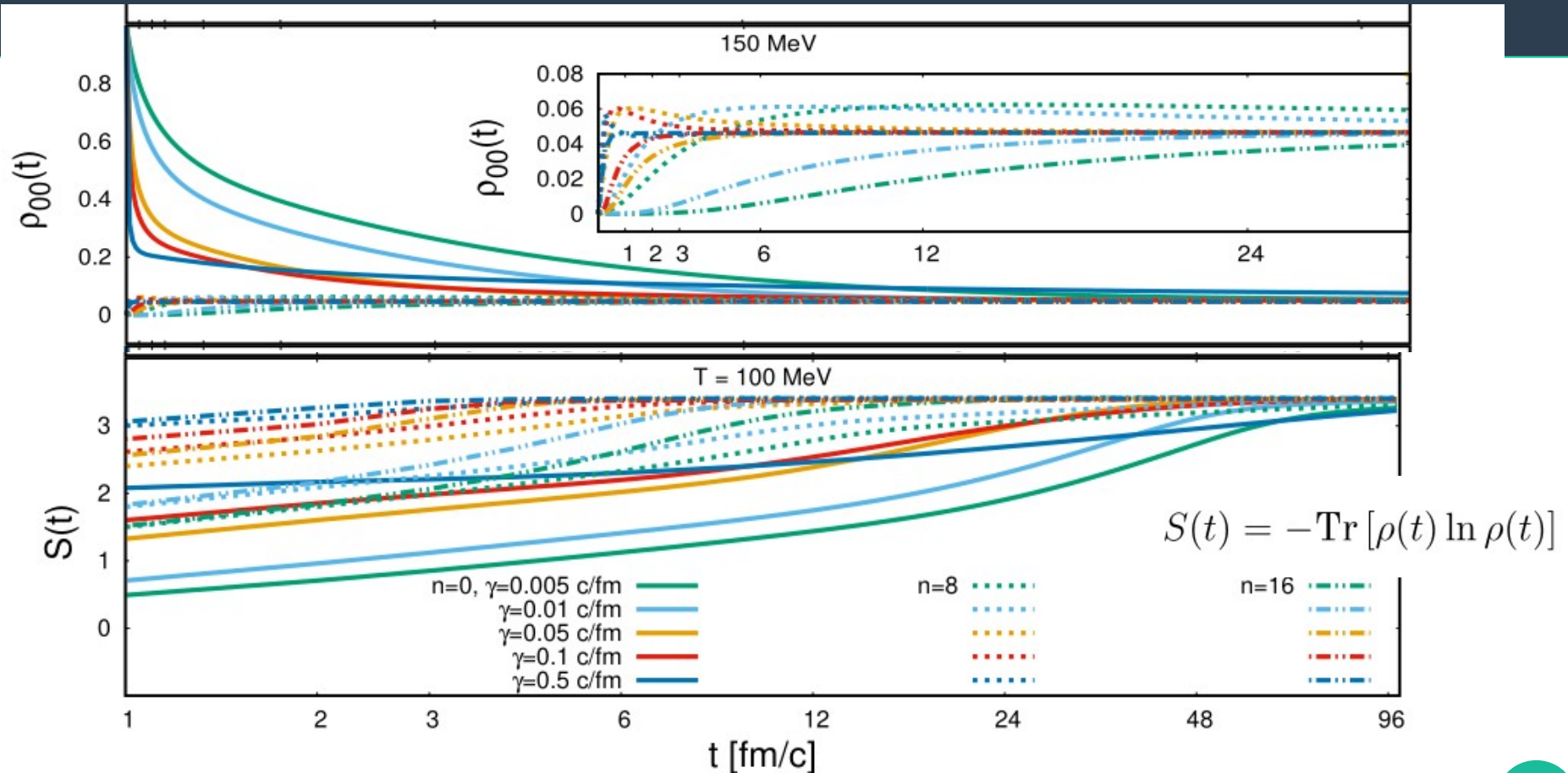


# Does the system really thermalize?

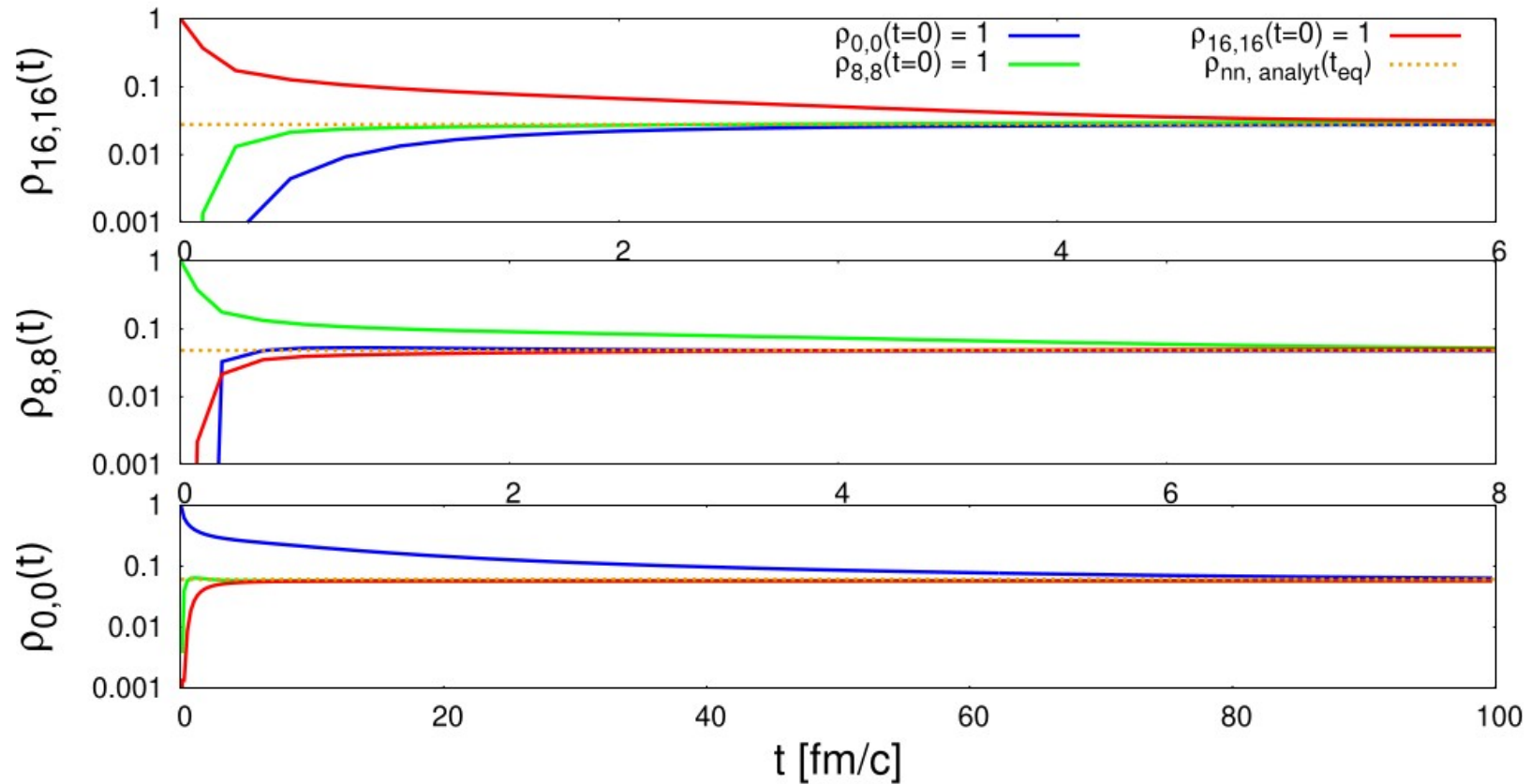


$$\ln(\lambda_i^\rho) = -\frac{\tilde{E}_i}{T}$$

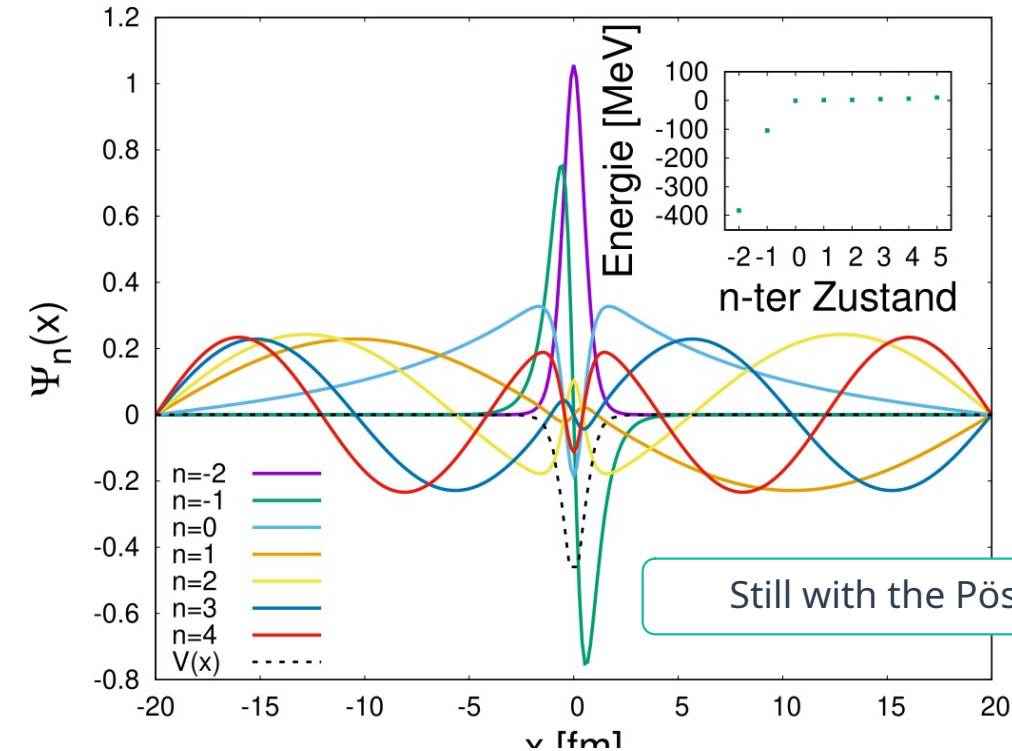
# Bound state and Entropy – different therm. times



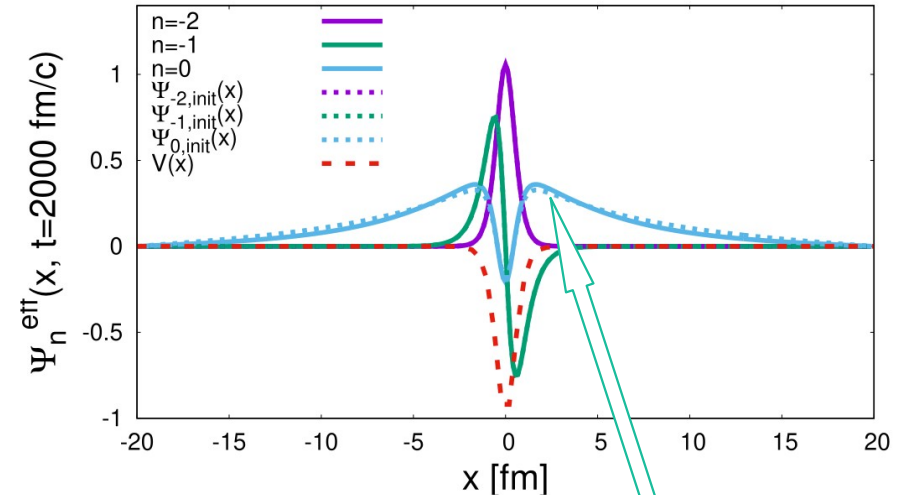
All (initially different) states reach the same result, but in different times!



# Conception of a system with three bound states



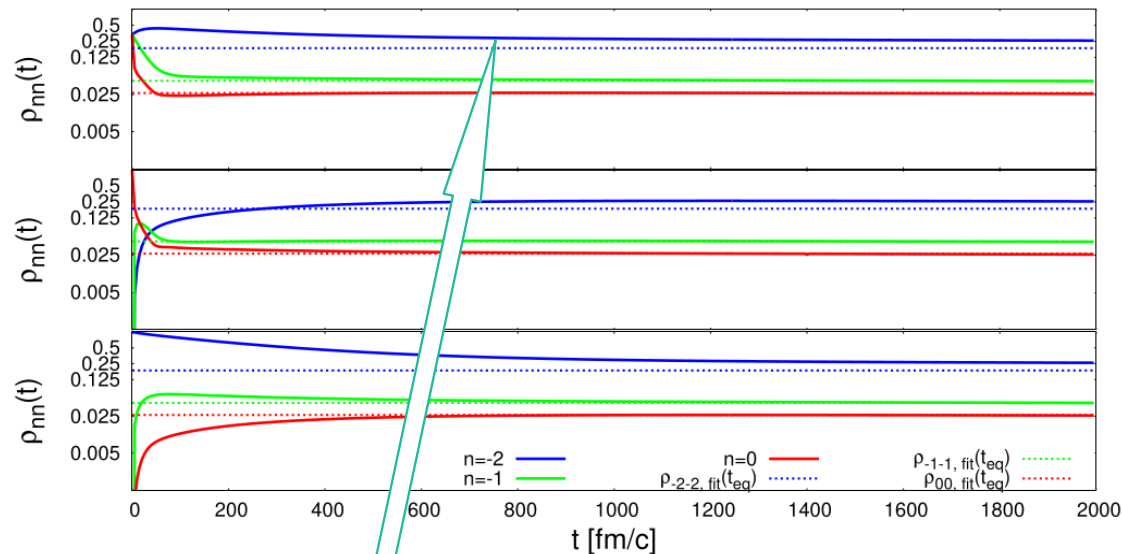
Still with the Pöschl-Teller Potential



Small difference between the diagonalized „thermal“ eigenstates and the initial wave functions

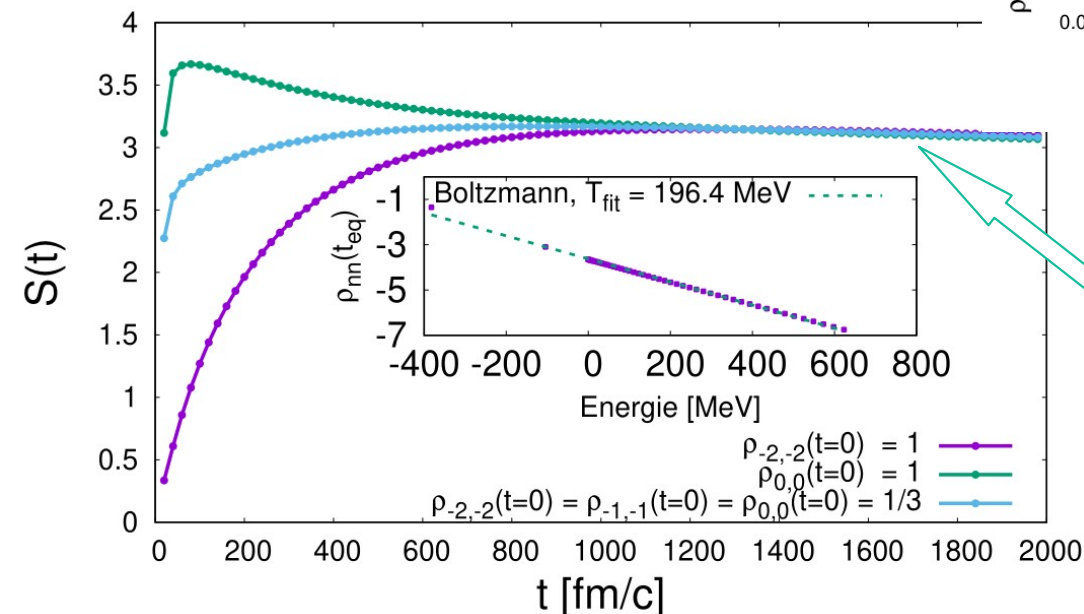


Do Lindblad dynamics  
thermalize for all  
systems?

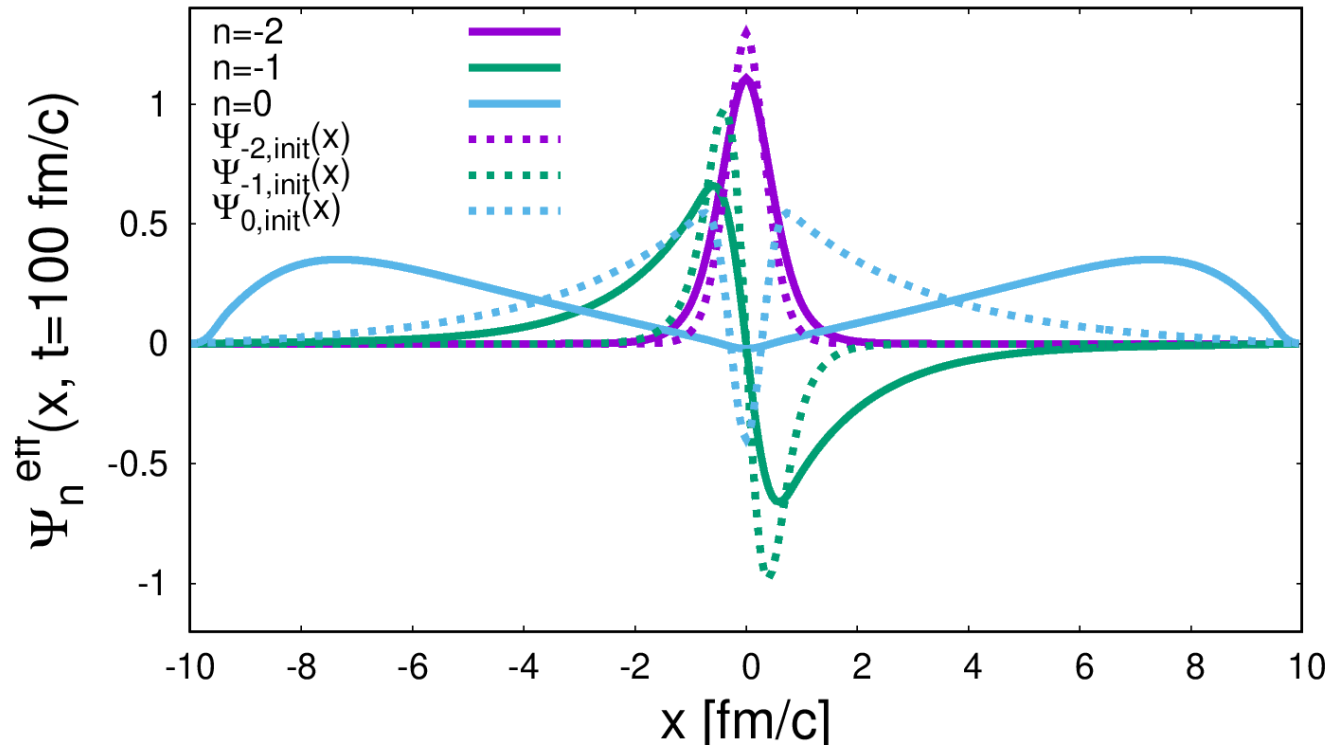


Lowest bound state stays above  
the analytic result

Entropy shows, that system is  
thermalized



# So what about other potentials? J/ψ?



$$V = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}k|x| - V_{SB} < 0 \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

$$k = 1.724 \text{ GeV}$$

$$V_{SB} = 0.7652 \text{ GeV}$$

# To conclude...

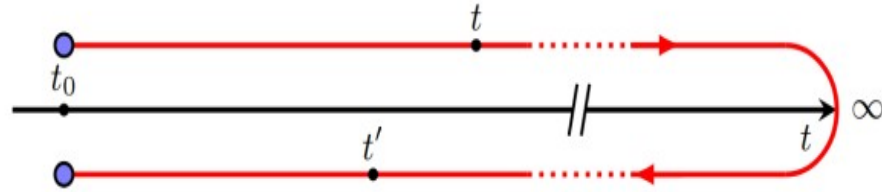
- Thermalization is reached for systems, where the impact of the potential is weak
- ... this results from the choice of the parameters (motivated from h.o.)
- diffusion coefficients are motivated from „right“ equilibrium
- goal to find a more general method to motivate diffusion coefficients
- ... diffusion coefficients are connected to the Lindblad operators
- ... to describe the formation of more strongly bound states, as of the  $J/\psi$



# Derivation of a master equation of the CLM

Starting point is the path intergral:

Solve at keldysh-contour



$$\begin{aligned}
 (x_b t | x_a t_0) &= \prod_i \oint \mathcal{D}q_i \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \mathcal{D}x \frac{1}{\prod_i Z_i} \exp \left\{ -i \int_{t_0}^t dt \left[ \frac{M}{2} \dot{x}^2 - V(x) \right] \right\} \\
 &\quad \times \exp \left\{ -i \int_{t_0}^t dt \sum_i \left[ \frac{m_i}{2} (\dot{q}_i^2 + \Omega_i^2 q_i^2) - \sum_i c_i q_i(t) x(t) \right] \right\} \\
 &= \int_{x_a}^{x_b} \mathcal{D}x \exp \left\{ -i \int_{t_0}^t dt \left[ \frac{M}{2} \dot{x}^2 - V(x) \right] \right\} \\
 &\quad \times \prod_i \oint \mathcal{D}q_i \frac{1}{\prod_i Z_i} \exp \left\{ -i \int_{t_0}^t dt \sum_i \left[ \frac{m_i}{2} (\dot{q}_i^2 + \Omega_i^2 q_i^2) - \sum_i c_i q_i(t) x(t) \right] \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Dissipation

$$C(t, t') = -i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \rho_{\text{Bad}}(\omega') \sin(\omega'(t - t'))$$

Fluctuations

$$\begin{aligned}
 A(t, t') &= \sum_i c_i^2 \frac{1}{M_i \omega_i} \coth \left( \frac{\omega_i}{2k_B T} \right) \cos(\omega_i(t - t')) \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \rho_{\text{Bad}}(\omega') \coth \left( \frac{\omega'}{2k_B T} \right) \cos(\omega'(t - t'))
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\rho_{\text{Bad}}(\omega') = 2\pi \sum_i \frac{c_i^2}{2M_i \Omega_i} \delta(\omega' - \Omega_i)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} [A(t, t') + C(t, t')] = G(t, t')$$