

Superfluid Heat Conduction in the Neutron Star Crust

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[arXiv:0807.4754](https://arxiv.org/abs/0807.4754)

Superfluidity in the Crust Enhances Heat Conduction:

$$\kappa_{\text{sPh}} = 1.5 \times 10^{22} \left(\frac{T}{10^8 \text{ K}} \right)^3 \left(\frac{0.1}{v_s} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\lambda_{\text{sPh}}}{\text{cm}} \right) \frac{\text{erg}}{\text{cm s K}}$$

Conventional Wisdom: Electrons dominate conduction

At neutron drip and $T=10^8$ K $\kappa_e \simeq 10^{18} \frac{\text{ergs}}{\text{cm s K}}$

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Thermal Conductivity - Some Data

material	κ (ergs/cm·s·K)
air	0.00025
bronze	1.10
copper	4.01
diamond	8.95
graphite	19.5
helium (II)	>1000
ice cream (powder)	0.0005

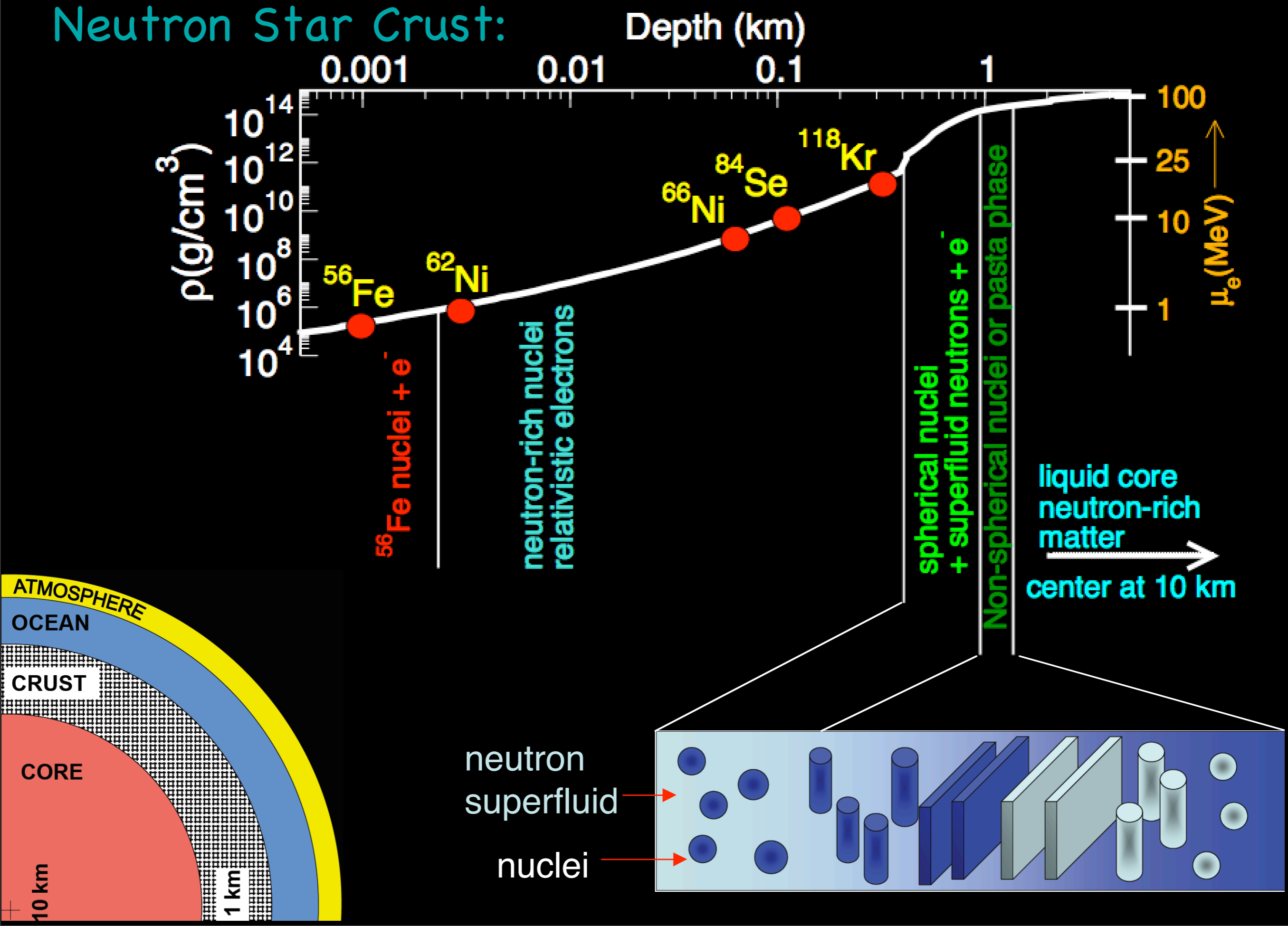
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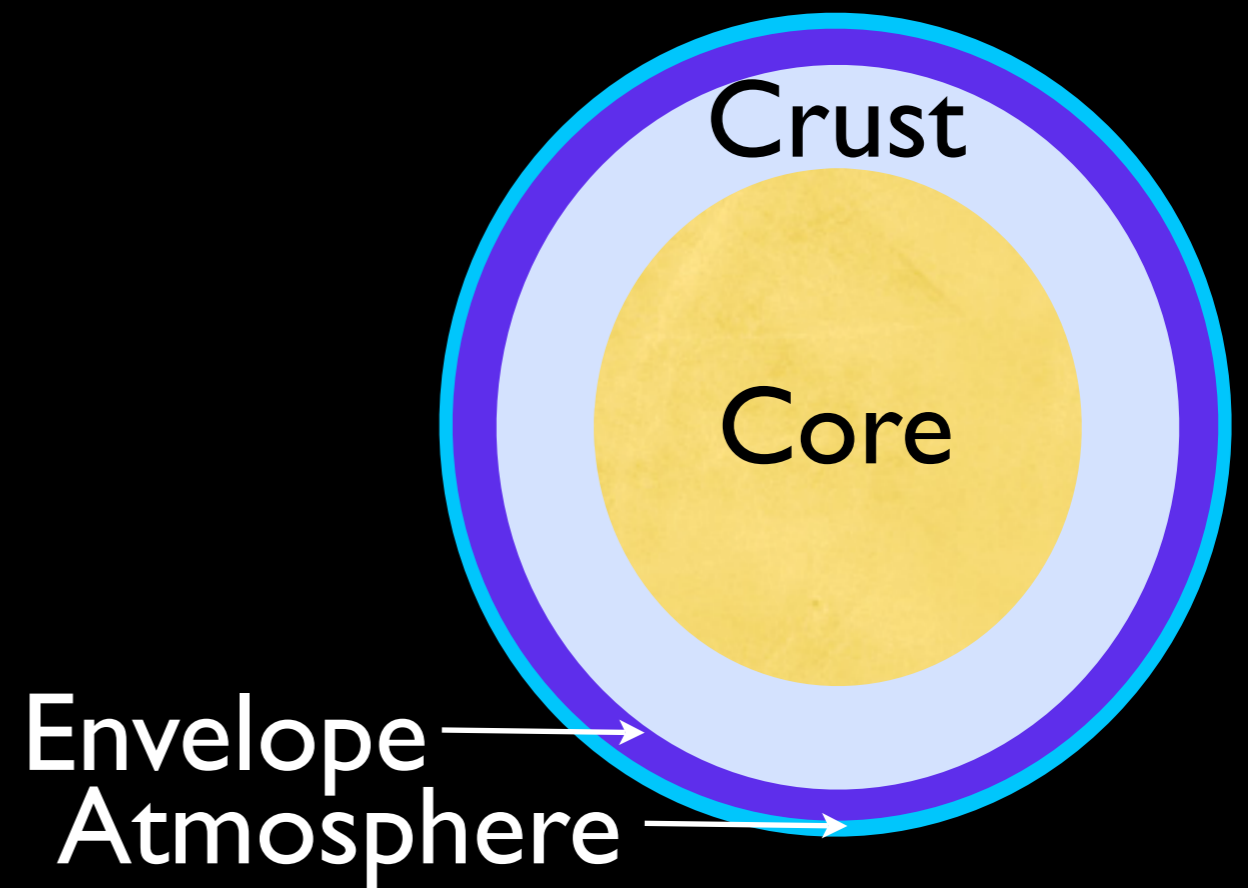
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Neutron Star Crust:



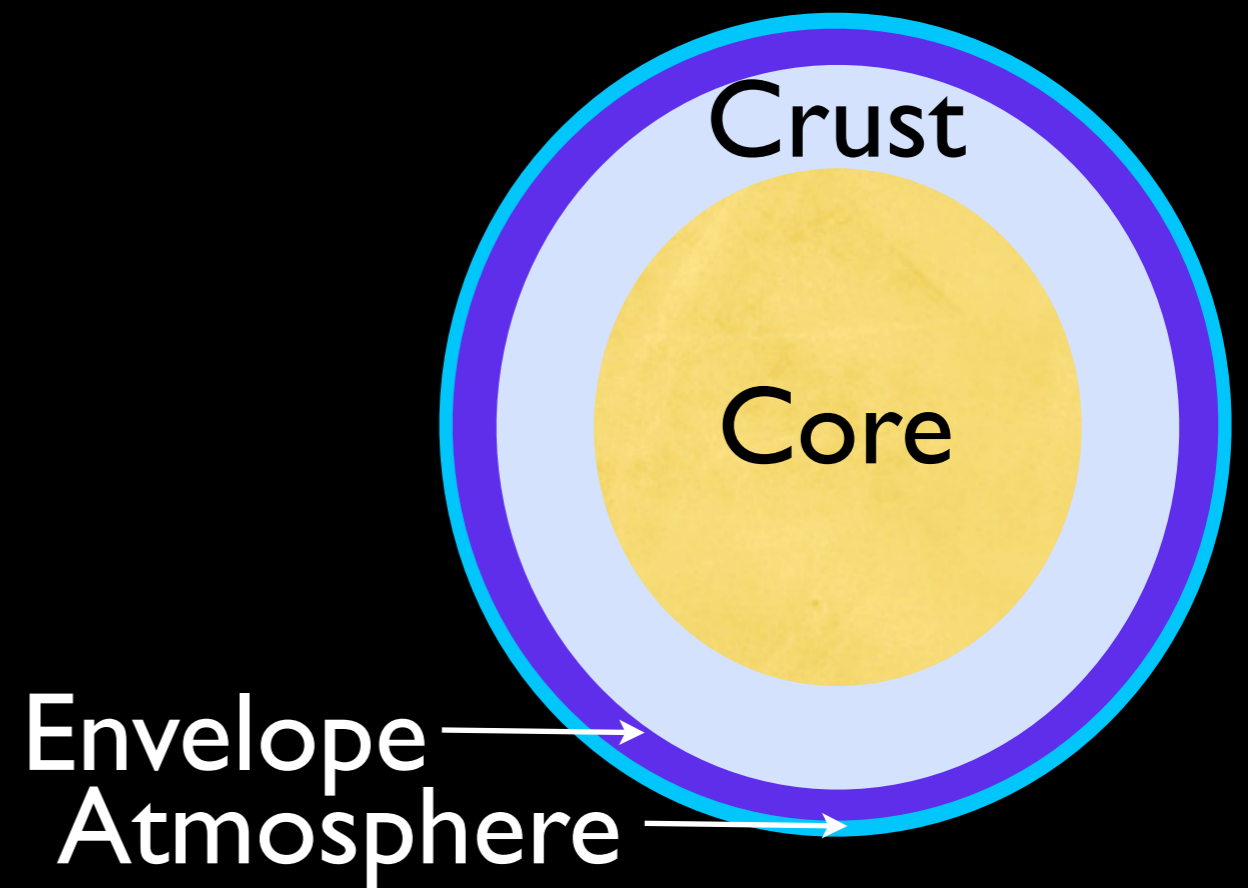
Neutron Star Thermal Evolution

- Long term cooling of isolated neutron stars.
- Thermal profiles of accreting neutron stars.
- Long term cooling of magnetars.
- Thermal relaxation in quiescence.



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Temperature gradient in the crust plays a role

Conduction in Terrestrial Solids

$$Q = \kappa \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}$$

$$\kappa \simeq \frac{1}{3} C_V v \lambda$$

$$C_e \propto \mathcal{N}(0) \frac{T}{\epsilon_F}$$

$$C_{\text{IPh}} \propto \frac{T^3}{v_{\text{IPh}}^3}$$

Electrons dominate transport in conductors:

$$\frac{C_e v_e}{C_{\text{IPh}} v_{\text{IPh}}} \simeq 3$$

In insulators lattice phonons dominate. Their conduction can be large.

Phonon Conduction in Solids

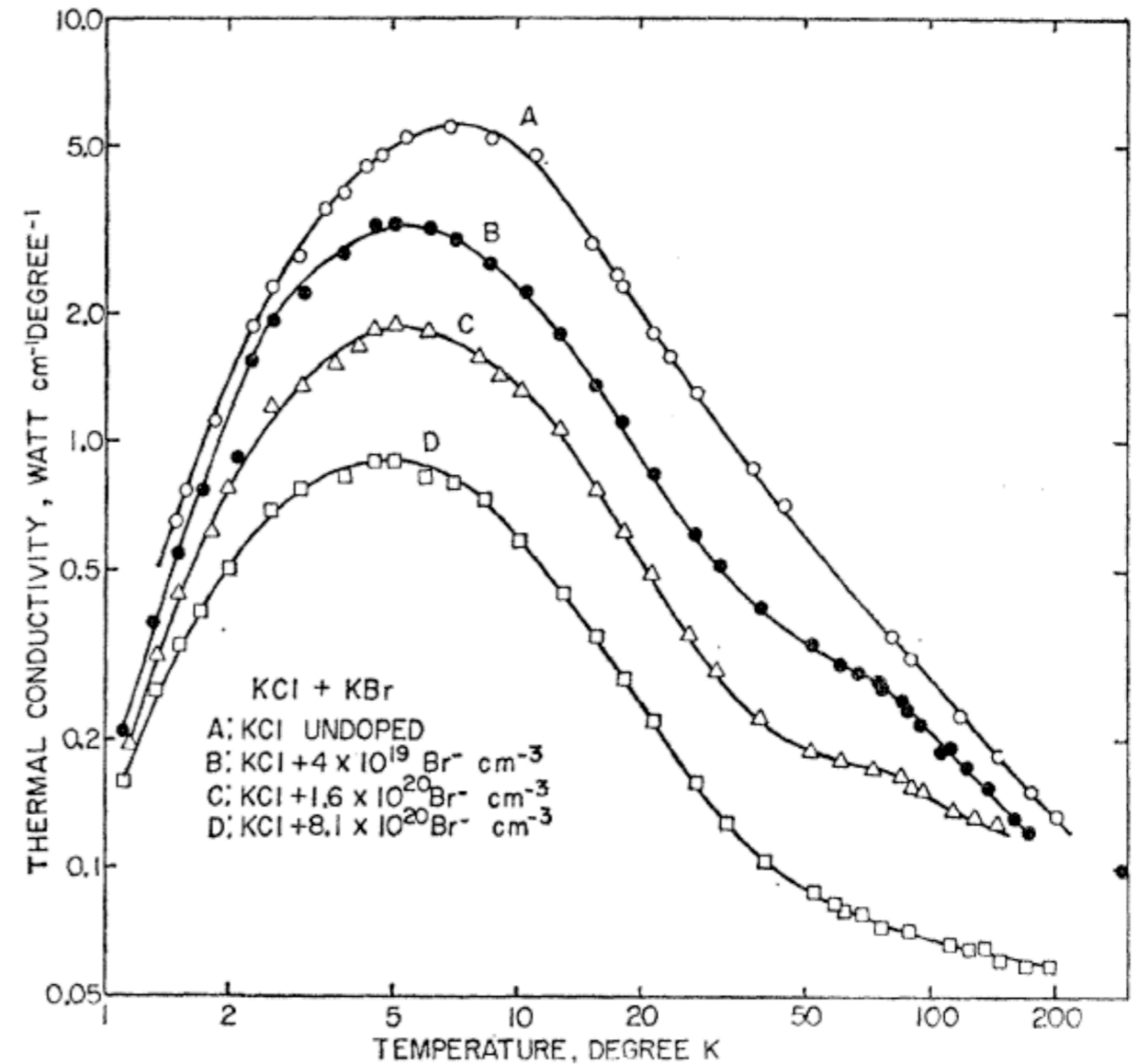
At low temperature phonons have very large mean free path.

Rayleigh scattering off impurities dominates at long-wavelength

$$\sigma_R = \pi r_0^6 q^4 \simeq \frac{A}{v^4} T^4$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{n_I \sigma_R}$$

$$\kappa \simeq \frac{1}{3} C_V v \lambda \simeq B \frac{v^2}{n_I T}$$



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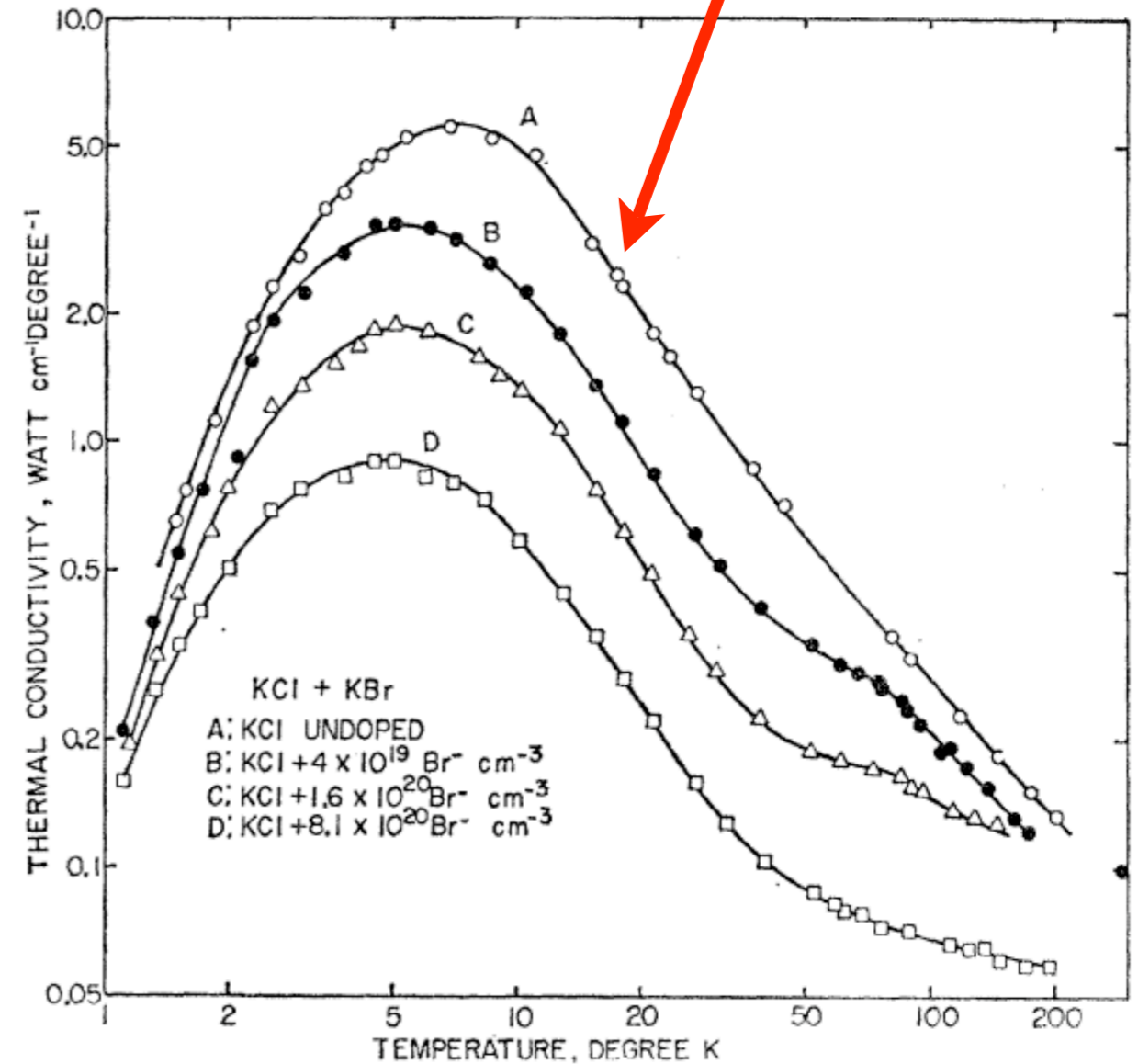
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Rayleigh Scattering



Baumann & Pohl (1967)
 Ziman (1960)

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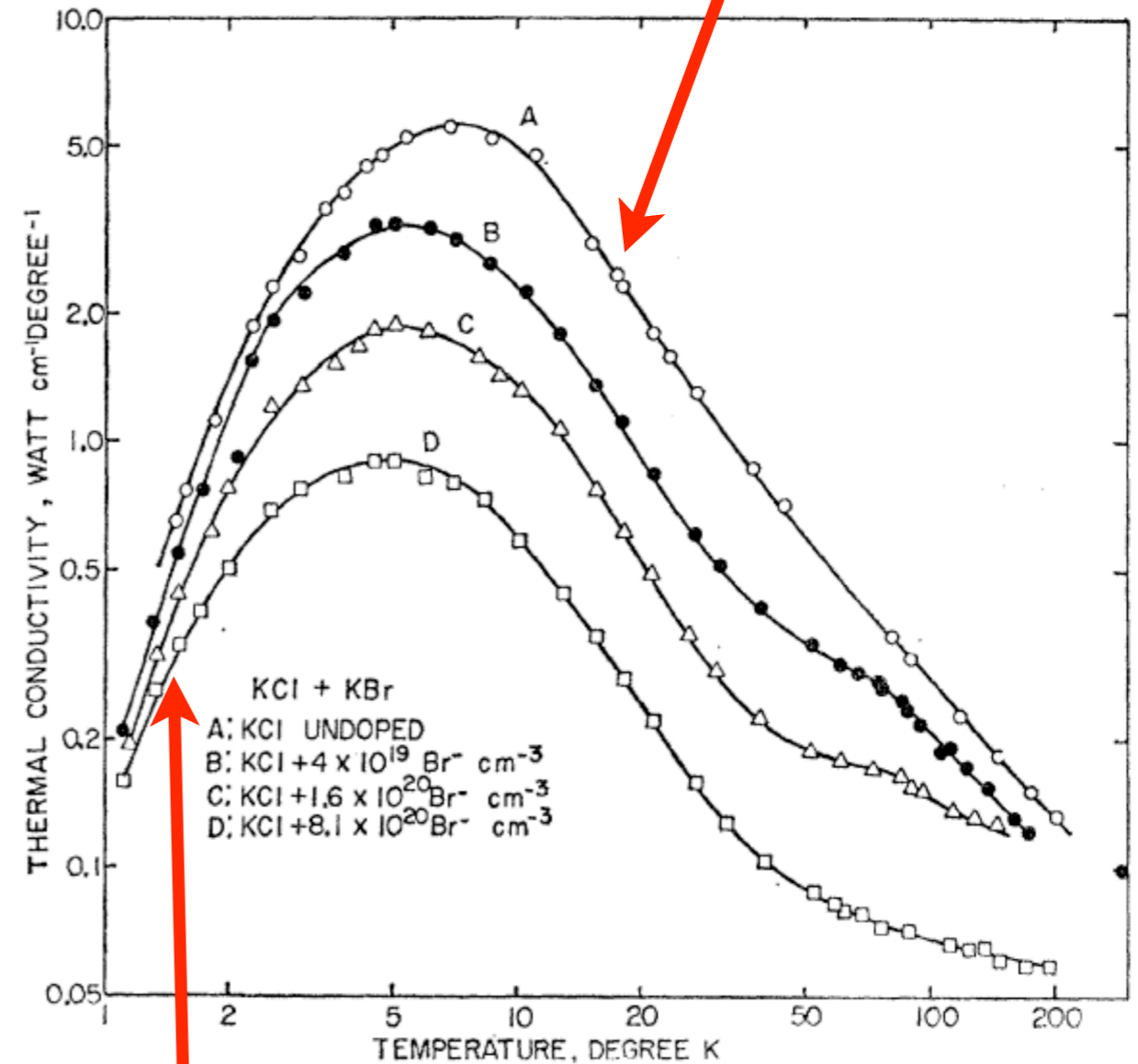
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Boundary Scattering

Thermal Conduction in the Crust

Outer Crust:

- Liquid Phase: Electrons & Ions
- Solid Phase: Electrons & Phonons

- Electrons carry heat
- The electron mean free path is limited due to interactions with ions/phonons
- Fermi momentum of electrons $k_F > 1/a$

Electron Thermal Conduction

$$\kappa = \frac{\pi^2}{3} n_e \left(\frac{T}{\mu_e} \right) \lambda_e$$

Electrons are degenerate & relativistic

Electron mean free path set by collisions with ions.

- Energy transfer $\sim T$
- Momentum transfer $\sim k_{Fe}$

$$\lambda_e = \tau_e = \frac{1}{\nu_e}$$

Electrons or Phonons ?

$$\frac{\kappa_{el}}{\kappa_{IPh}} = \frac{C_{el}}{C_{IPh}} \frac{1}{c} \frac{\lambda_e}{\lambda_{IPh}}$$

Typically electrons dominate
- unless there is a large magnetic field.

Magnetic field suppresses transverse conduction

$$\kappa_{\perp} = \frac{\kappa_{\parallel}}{1 + (\omega_g \tau_e)^2}$$

$$\kappa_{\parallel} = \kappa_{el}(B = 0)$$

$$\omega_g = \frac{eB}{\mu_e} = \text{Gyrofrequency}$$

$$\tau_e = \text{Collision time}$$

Canuto and Ventura (1977)
Uripin & Yakovlev (1980)

Electrons or Phonons ?

$$\frac{\kappa_{el}}{\kappa_{IPh}} = \frac{C_{el}}{C_{IPh}} \frac{1}{c} \frac{\lambda_e}{\lambda_{IPh}} \simeq \frac{\mu_e^2}{T^2} \frac{1}{c} \frac{\lambda_e}{\lambda_{IPh}} \gg 1$$

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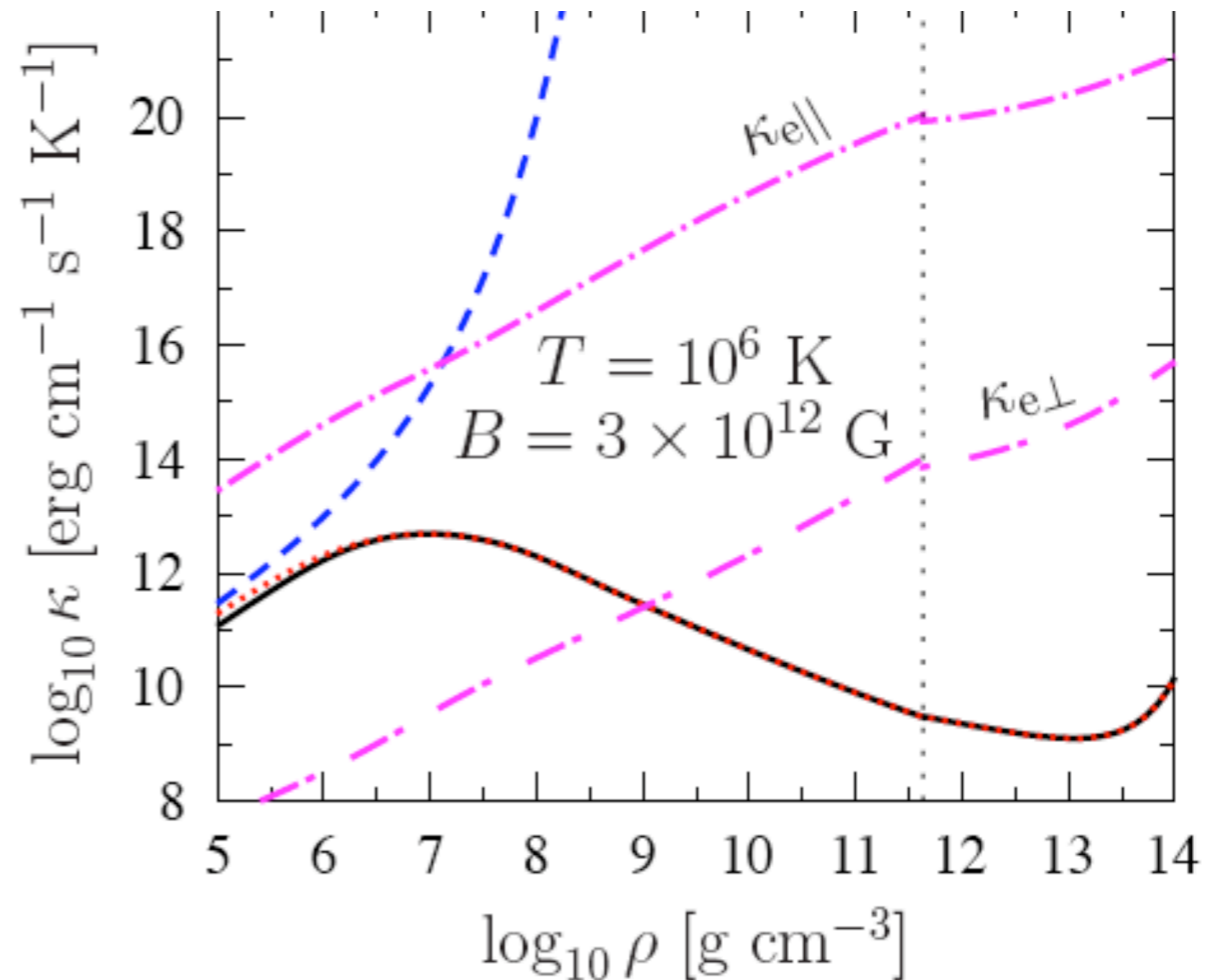
Phonon Conduction in the Outer Crust

Lattice Phonons have large mean free paths.

$$\lambda_{\text{IPh}} \gg \lambda_e$$

Mean free path set by:

1. Impurity scattering
2. Absorption by Electrons

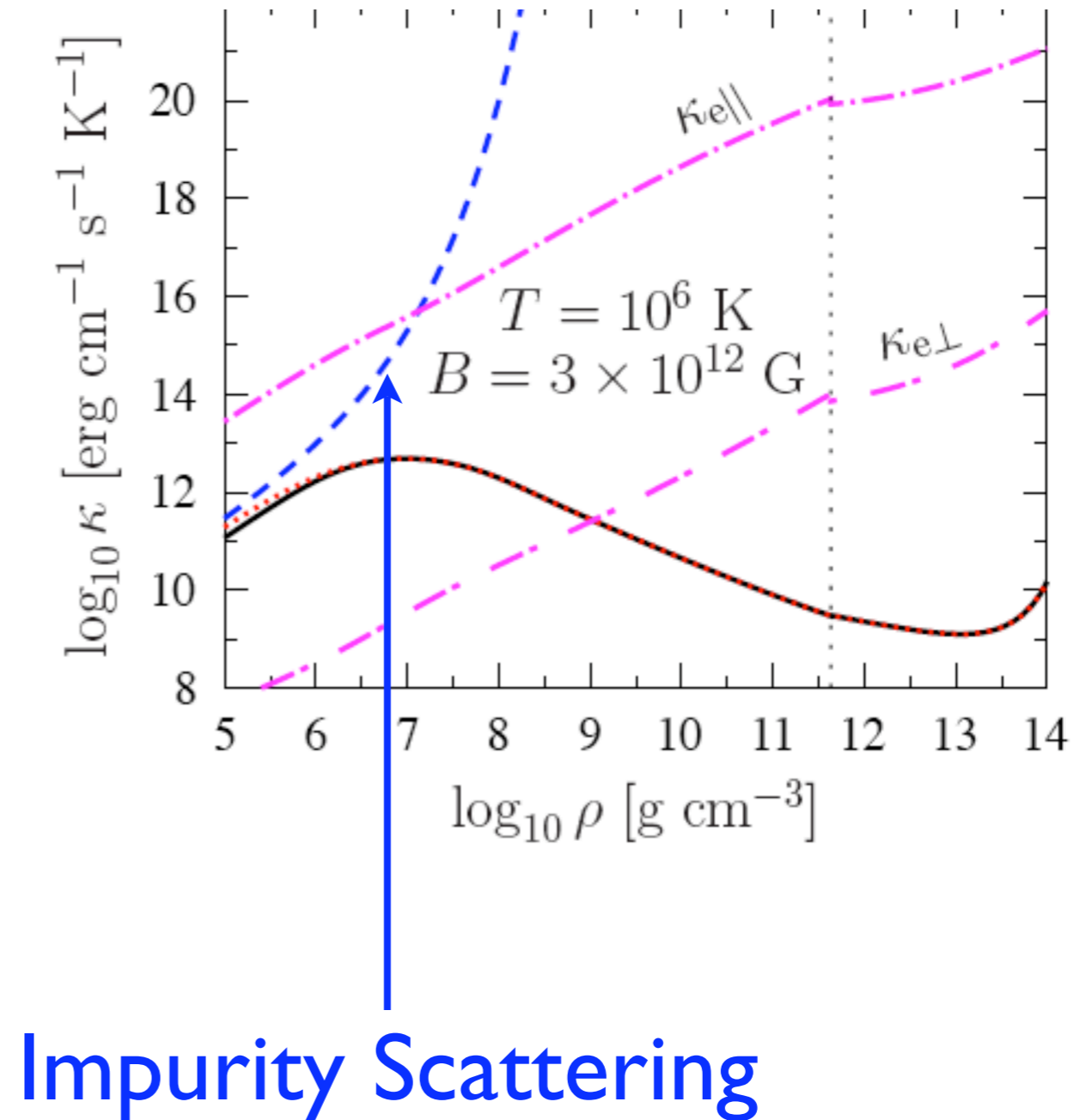


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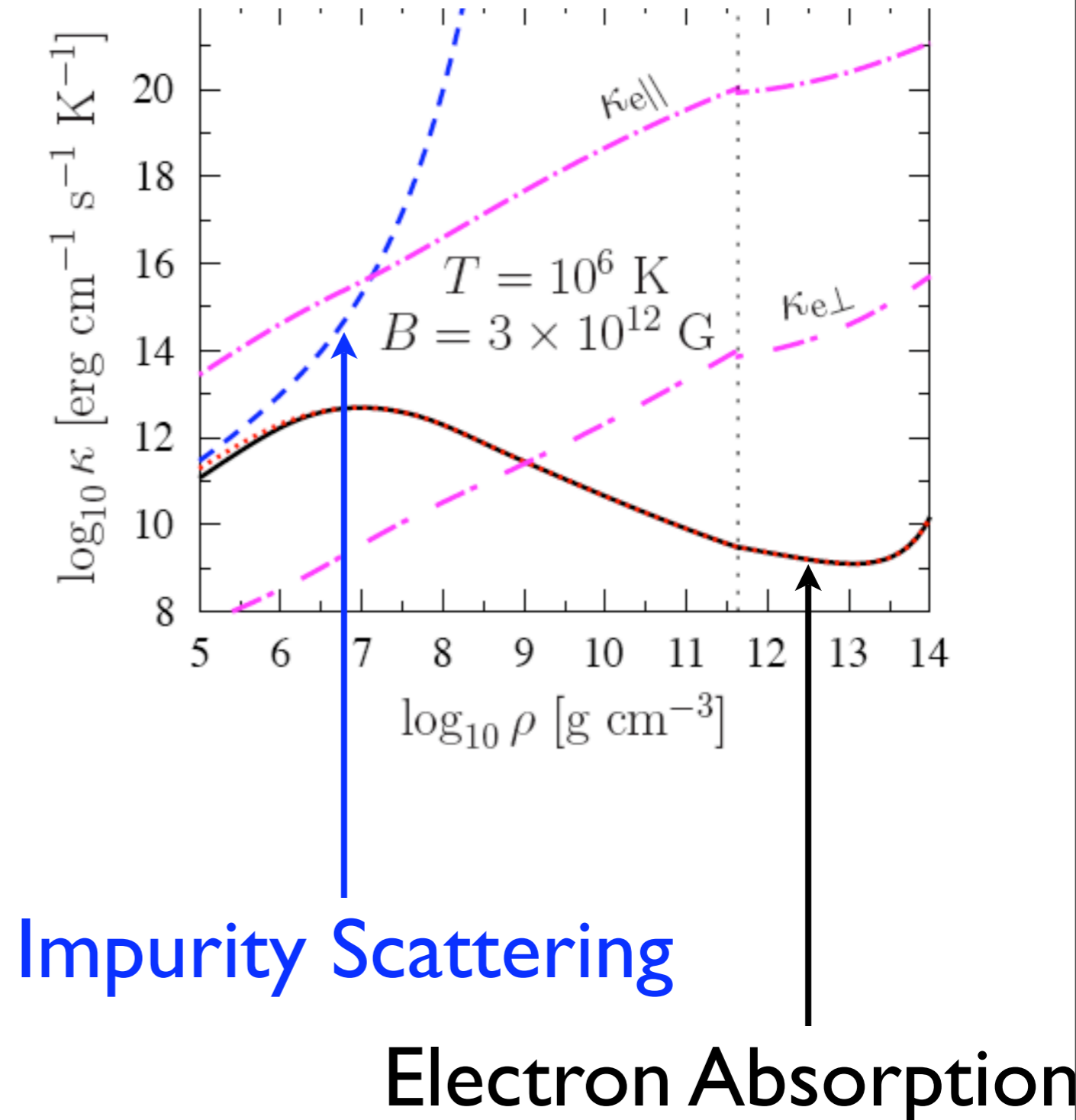


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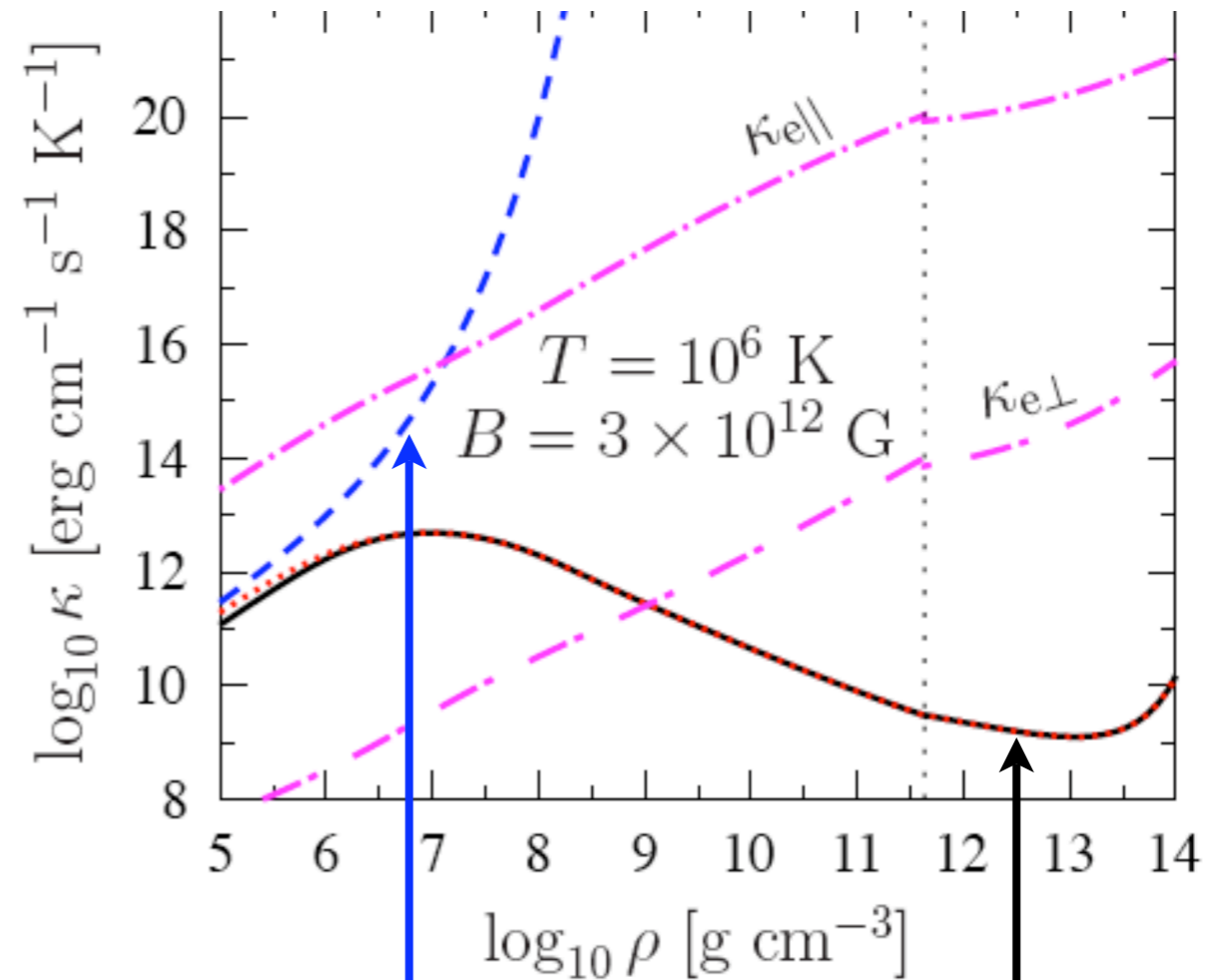
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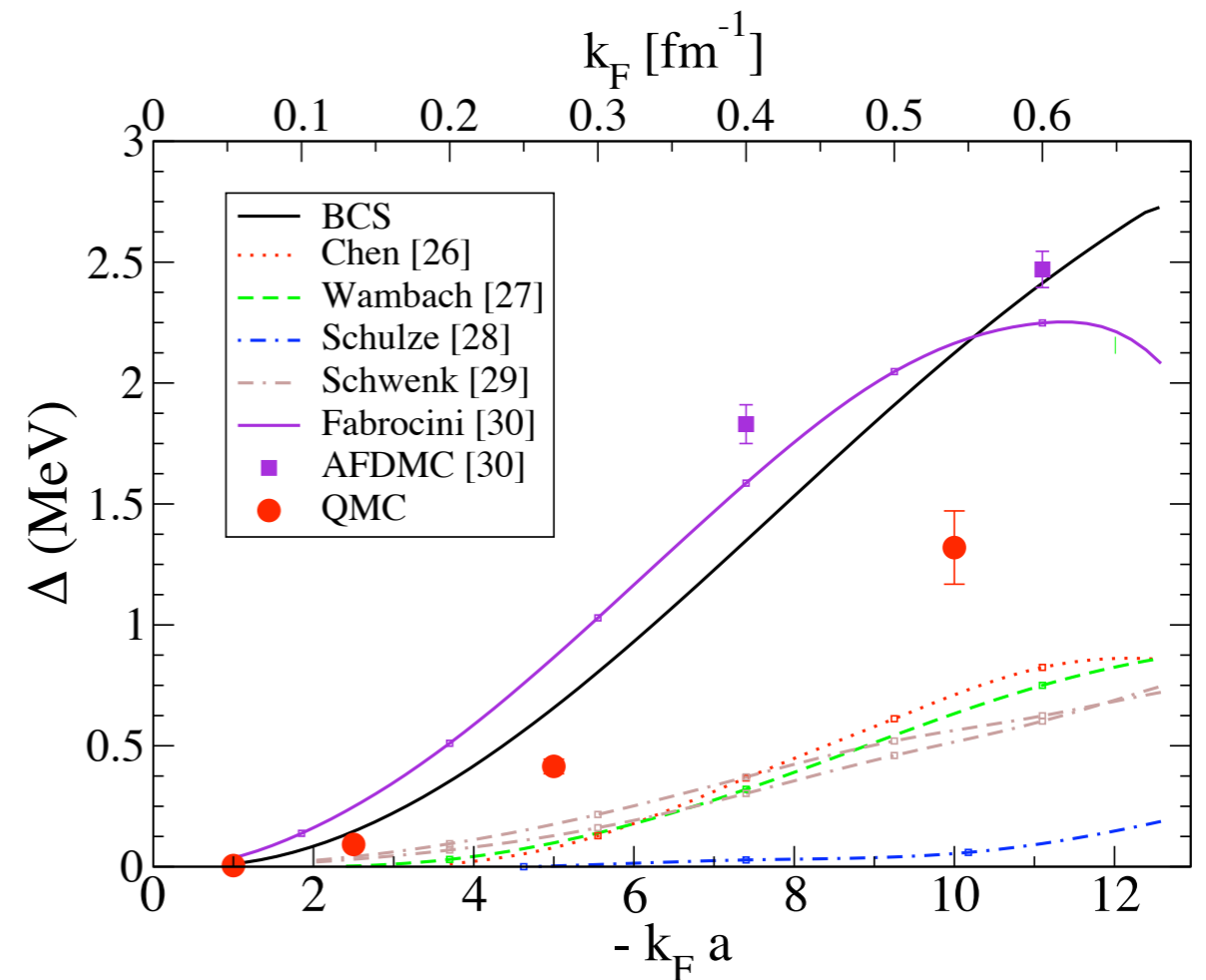


Impurity Scattering

Electron Absorption

Heat Transport in the Inner Crust

- Neutron matter in the crust is superfluid.
- Neutron particle-hole excitations are gapped



Gezerlis & Carlson (2008)

- Low energy degrees of freedom:
1. Electrons
 2. Lattice Phonons (1 long. + 2 Trans.)
 3. Superfluid Phonons

Pairing in neutron matter

Attractive interactions destabilize the Fermi surface:

$$H = \sum_{k,s=\uparrow,\downarrow} \left(\frac{k^2}{2m} - \mu \right) a_{k,s}^\dagger a_{k,s} + g \sum_{k,p,q,s=\uparrow,\downarrow} a_{k+q,s}^\dagger a_{p-q,s}^\dagger a_{k,s} a_{p,s}$$

$$\Delta = g \langle a_{k,\uparrow} a_{p,\downarrow} \rangle \quad \Delta^* = g \langle a_{k,\uparrow}^\dagger a_{p,\downarrow}^\dagger \rangle$$

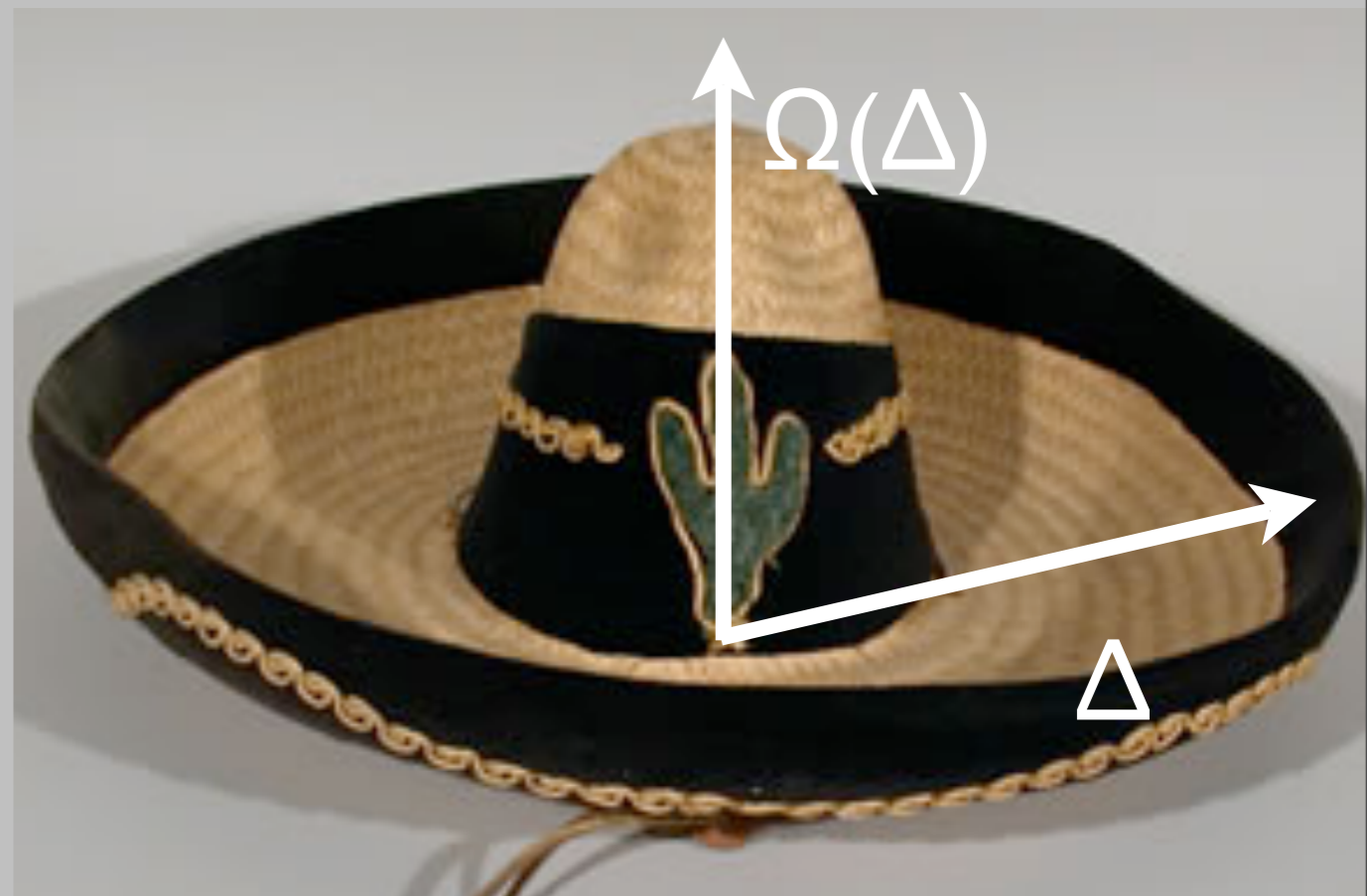
Cooper pairs leads to superfluidity

Energy gap for fermions:

$$E(p) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{p^2}{2M} - \mu \right)^2 + \Delta^2}$$

New collective mode:
Superfluid Phonon

$$\omega(k) = v_s k$$



sPh mean free path

Rayleigh Scattering $\sigma_R = \pi r_0^2 \left(\frac{q^4 r_0^4}{1 + q^4 r_0^4} \right)$

r_0 = Typical nuclear radii
 q = sPh momentum

$$q r_0 \simeq 10^{-3} \left(\frac{T}{10^7 \text{K}} \right) \ll 1$$

Scattering dominated by impurities:

$$\lambda_R = \frac{1}{n_I \sigma_R} = \frac{v_s^4}{81 \pi n_I r_0^6 T^4}$$

Very large mean free path!

$$\lambda_{\text{Ray}} = 450 \left(\frac{v_s}{0.1} \right)^4 \left(\frac{x}{10} \right)^3 \left(\frac{10 \text{ fm}}{r_0} \right)^3 T_7^{-4} \text{ cm}$$

If only impurity scattering is relevant:

$$\kappa_{\text{sPh}}(T = 10^8 \text{K}) \simeq 10^{21} \frac{\text{ergs}}{\text{cm s K}}$$

Dissipative Processes

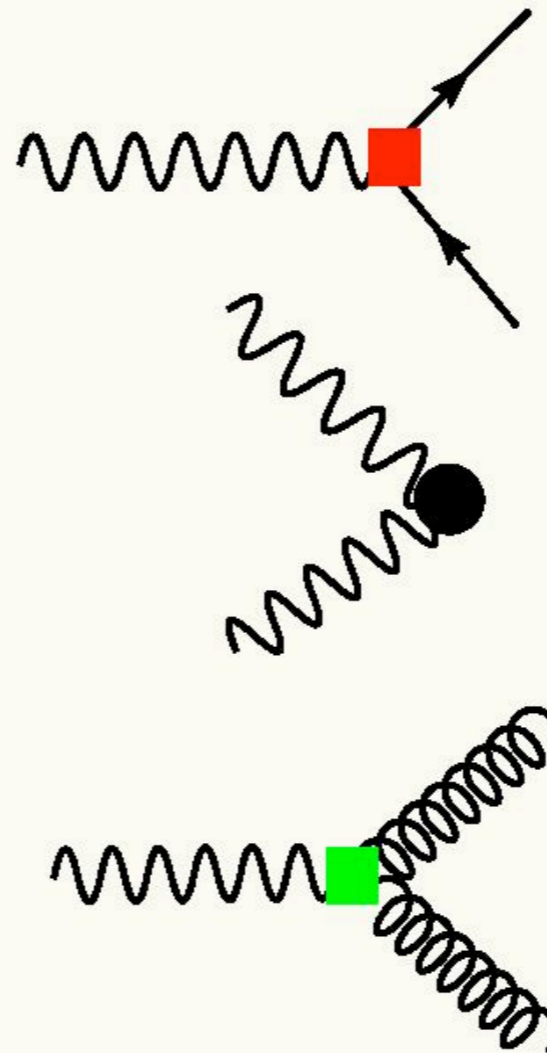
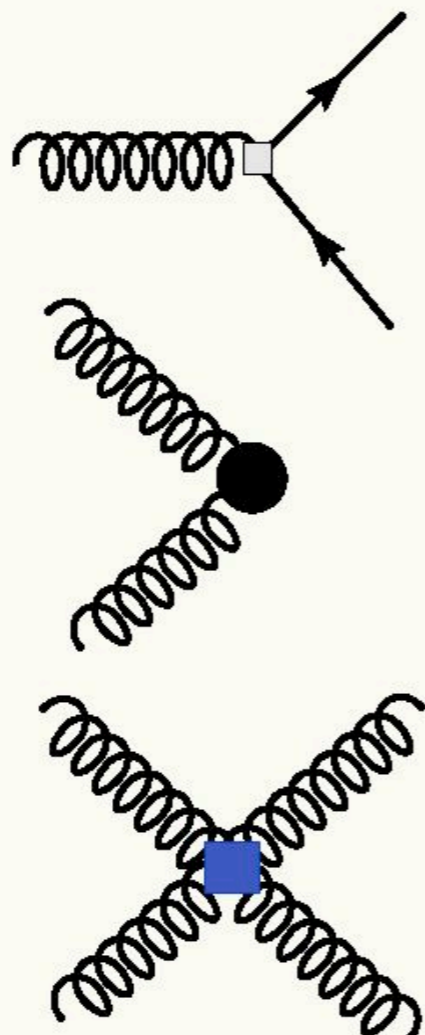
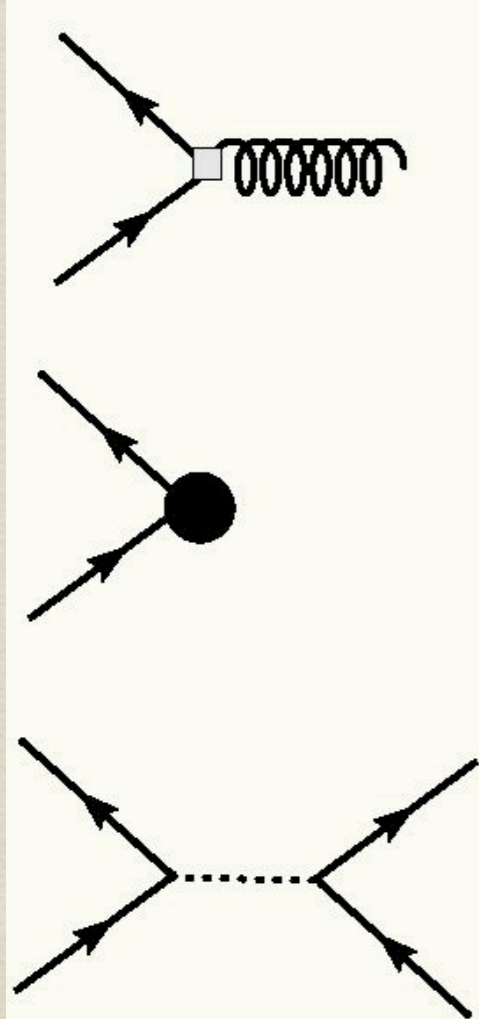
$E(p) = p$
Electrons

$\omega(p) = c p$
lPhs

$\omega(p) = v p$
sPhs

$c \approx 0.01 - 0.1$

$v \approx 0.01 - 0.1$




Electron-phonon processes


Impurity (Rayleigh) scattering

Multi electron and phonon processes

Dissipative Processes

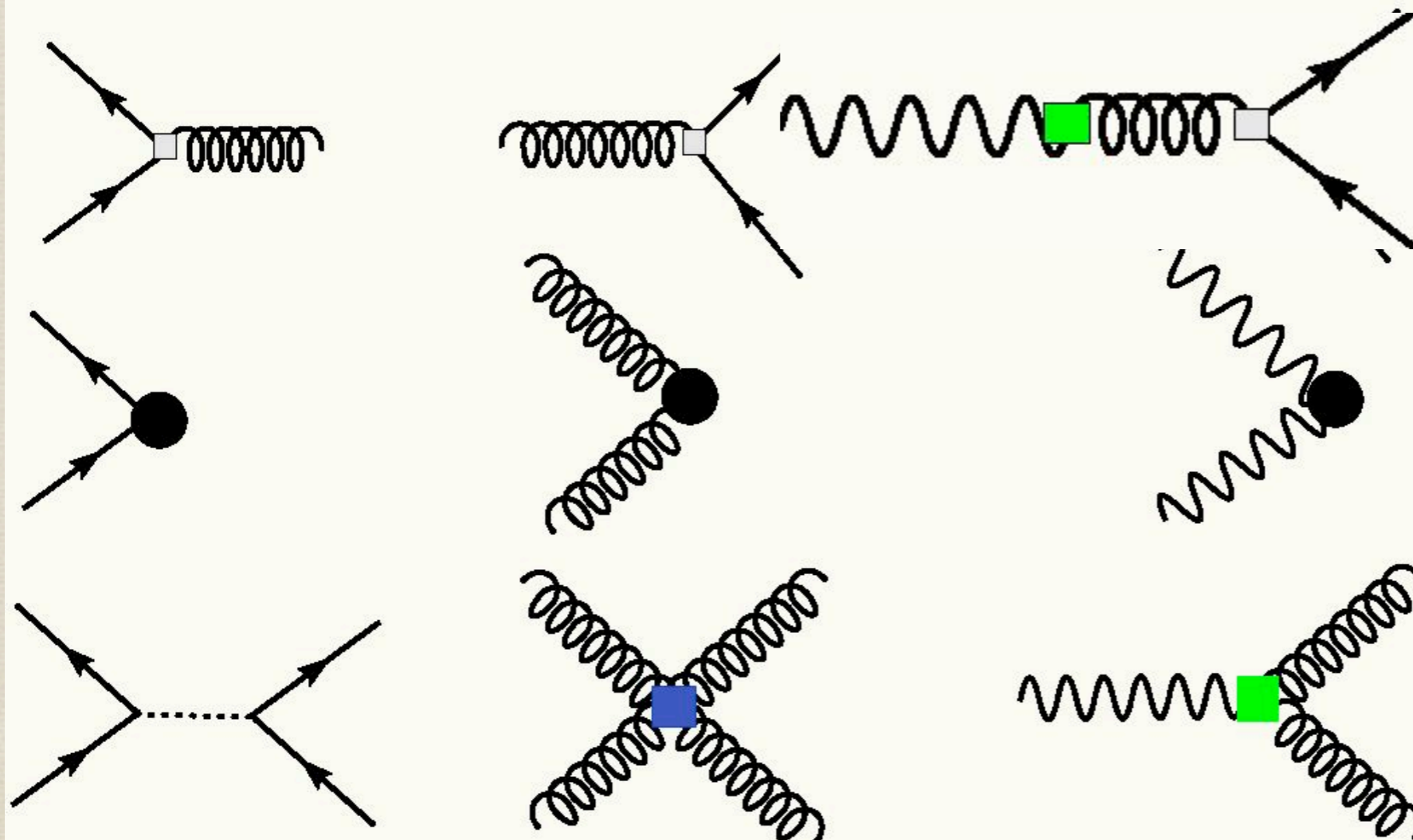
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Low Energy Effective Theory

Phonon coupling is derivative - Low momentum phonons interact weakly !

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}}^{\text{sPh}} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_o \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} v (\partial_i \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{f_s} \partial_o \phi \psi^\dagger \psi + \frac{1}{\Lambda_s^2} (\partial_o \phi)^3 + \dots$$
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}}^{\text{lPh}} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_o \xi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} c (\partial_i \xi_i)^2 + \frac{1}{f_l} \partial_i \xi^i \psi^\dagger \psi + \frac{1}{\Lambda_l^2} (\partial_i \xi^i)^3 + \dots$$

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kinetic terms

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lPh-sPh mixing

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lPh-sPh mixing

sPh \rightarrow 2 lPh

Electron-Phonon Coupling

Fetter & Walecka

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{el-Ion}} = \int d^3x \int d^3y V(x-y) \psi^\dagger(x) \psi(x) \Psi^\dagger(y) \Psi(y)$$

$$\Psi^\dagger(y) \Psi(y) = n_{\text{Ion}} + \delta\rho(y)$$

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← Canonically normalized lattice phonon field

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Neutron-IPh Interaction

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{n-Ion}} = \int d^3x \int d^3y V_{\text{n-A}}(x - y) \psi_n^\dagger(x) \psi_n(x) \Psi^\dagger(y) \Psi(y)$$

$$V_{\text{n-A}} = \frac{2\pi a_{\text{n-A}}}{A M} \delta^3(x)$$

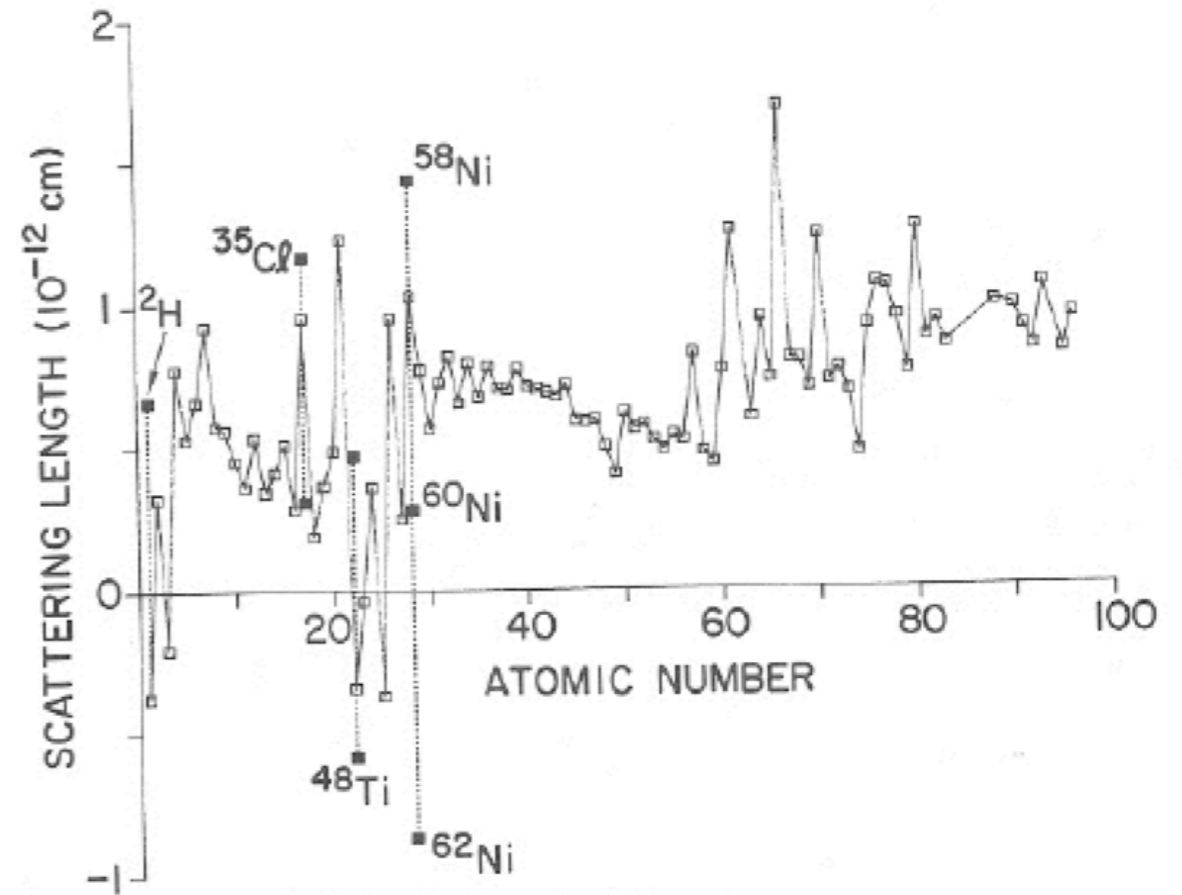
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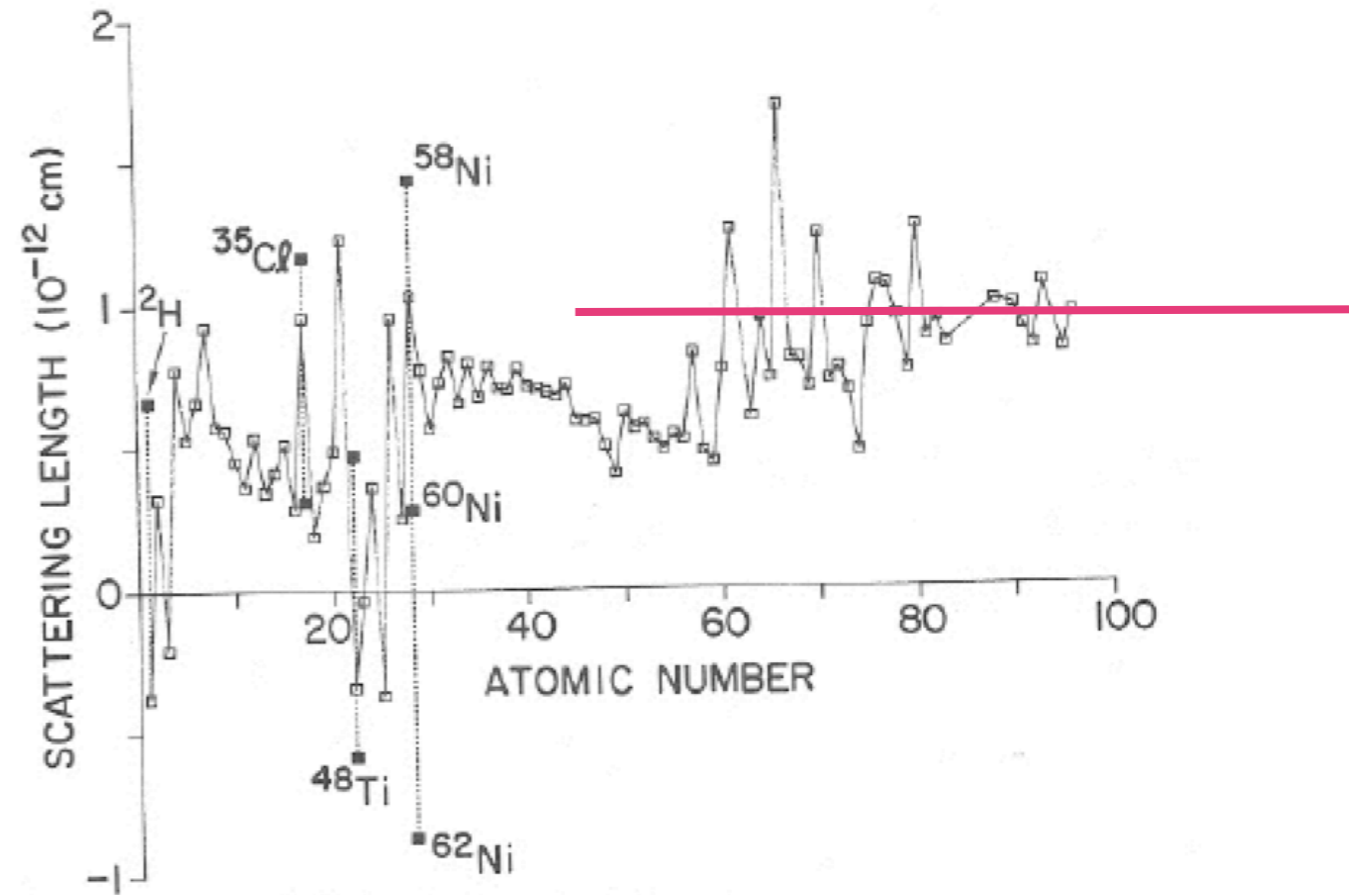


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Low-energy neutron-nucleus potential (Fermi Potential)

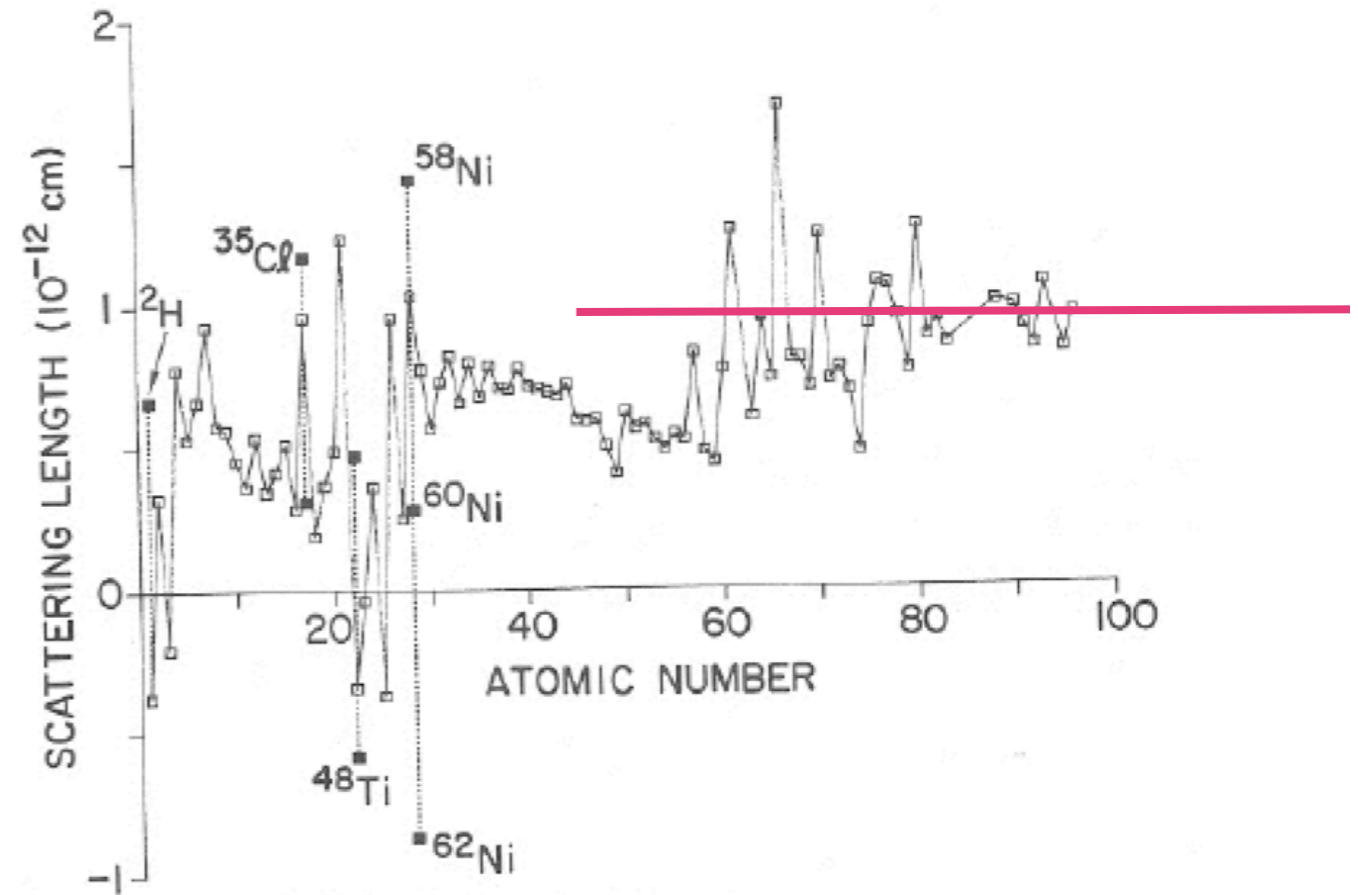


Neutron-IPh Interaction

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{n-Ion}} = \int d^3x \int d^3y V_{\text{n-A}}(x-y) \psi_n^\dagger(x) \psi_n(x) \Psi^\dagger(y) \Psi(y)$$

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Low-energy neutron-nucleus potential (Fermi Potential)



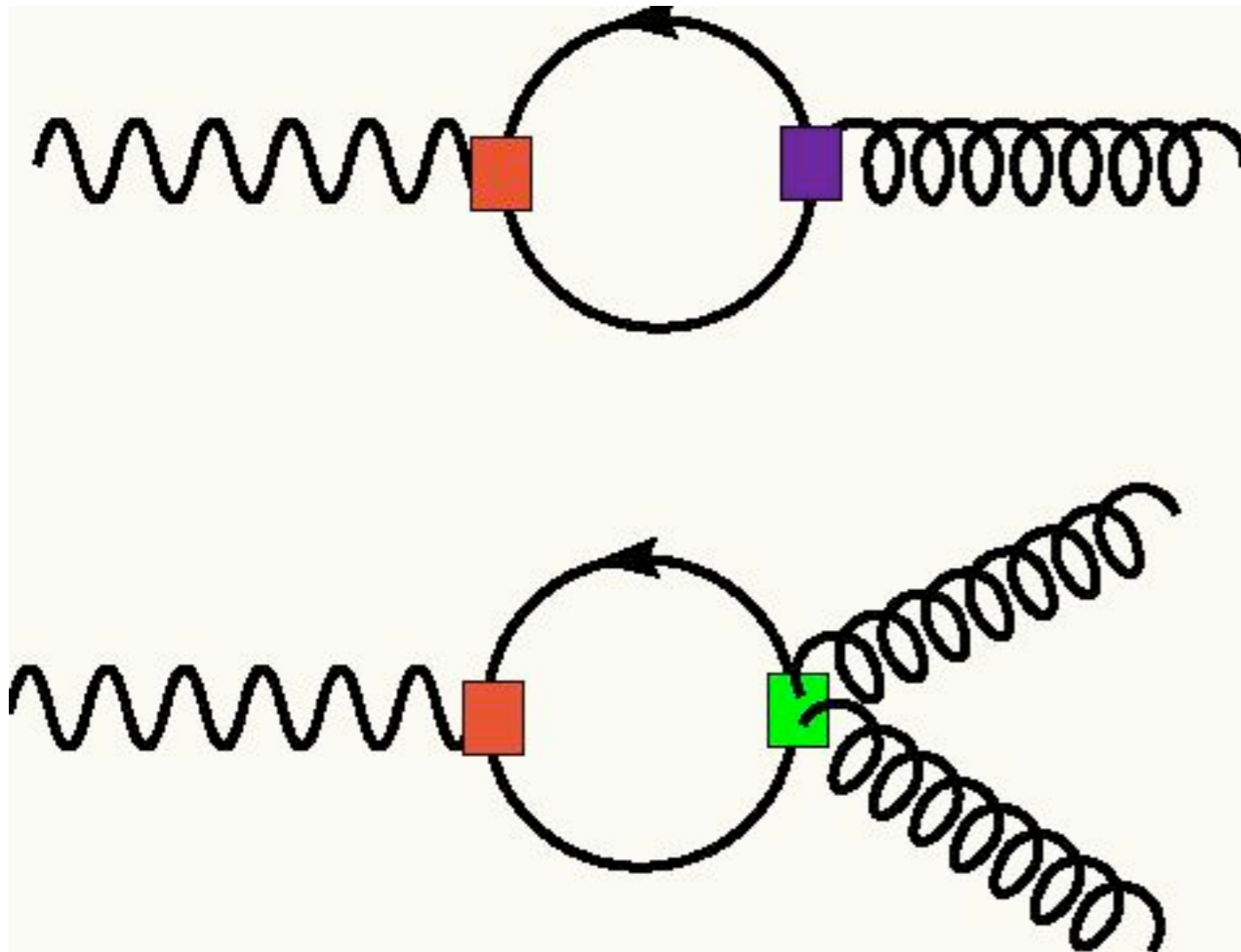
$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{n-IPh}} = \frac{1}{f_{\text{n-IPh}}} \int d^3x \psi_n^\dagger(x) \psi_n(x) \partial_i \xi_i(x)$$

$$\frac{1}{f_{\text{n-IPh}}} = -2\pi a_{\text{n-A}} \sqrt{\frac{n_{\text{Ion}}}{A M^3}}$$

sPh-IPh Interactions

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{sPh-IPh}} = g_{\text{mix}} \partial_o \phi \partial_i \xi_i + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \partial_o \phi \partial_i \xi^i \partial_i \xi^i + \dots$$

Integrate-out neutron degree of freedom



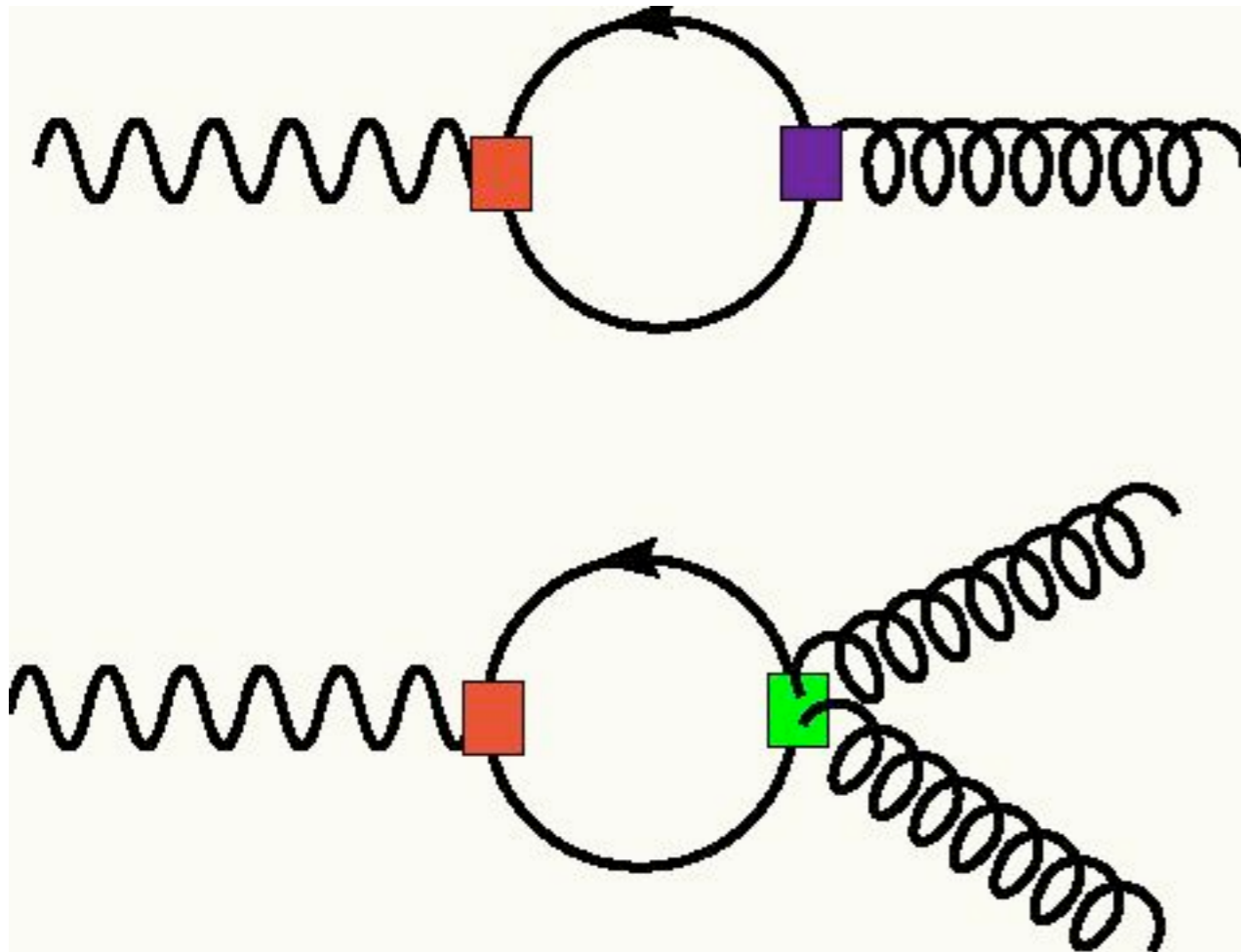
$$g_{\text{mix}} = 2a_{\text{n-Ion}} \sqrt{\frac{n_{\text{Ion}} k_{\text{Fn}}}{A M^2}}$$

$$\Lambda^2 = \sqrt{n_{\text{Ion}} A M}$$

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In the neutron star crust:

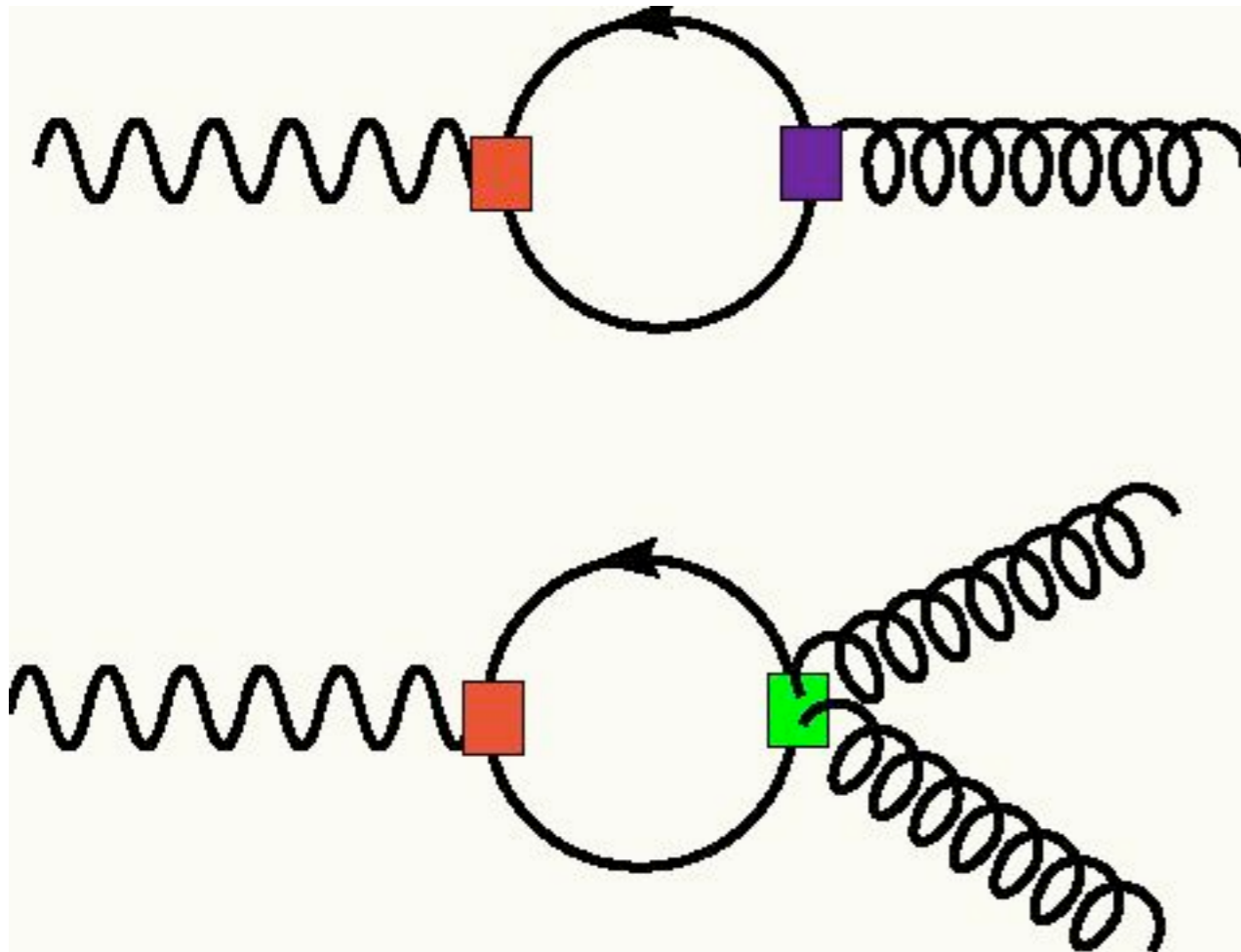
$$g_{\text{mix}} \simeq 10^{-3}$$

$$\Lambda \simeq 50 \text{ MeV}$$

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In the neutron star crust:

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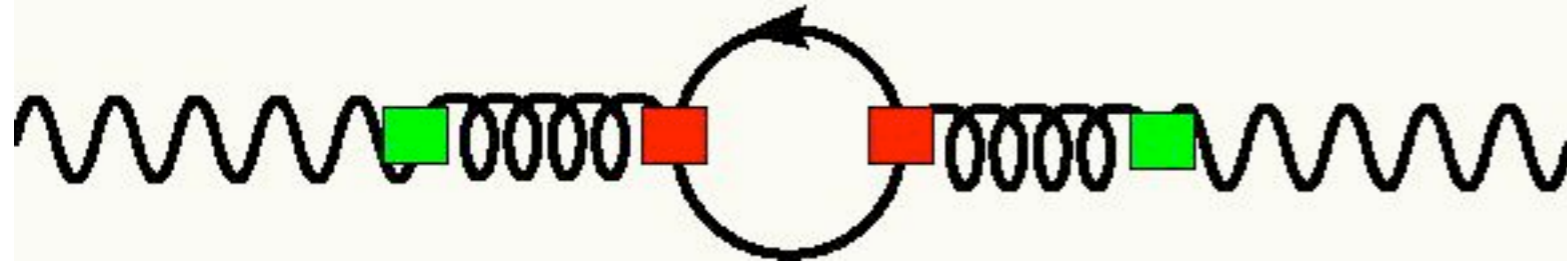
$$\Lambda \simeq 50 \text{ MeV}$$

Now we are ready to calculate the sPh mean free path

Mixing and Dissipation



Mixing leads to oscillations

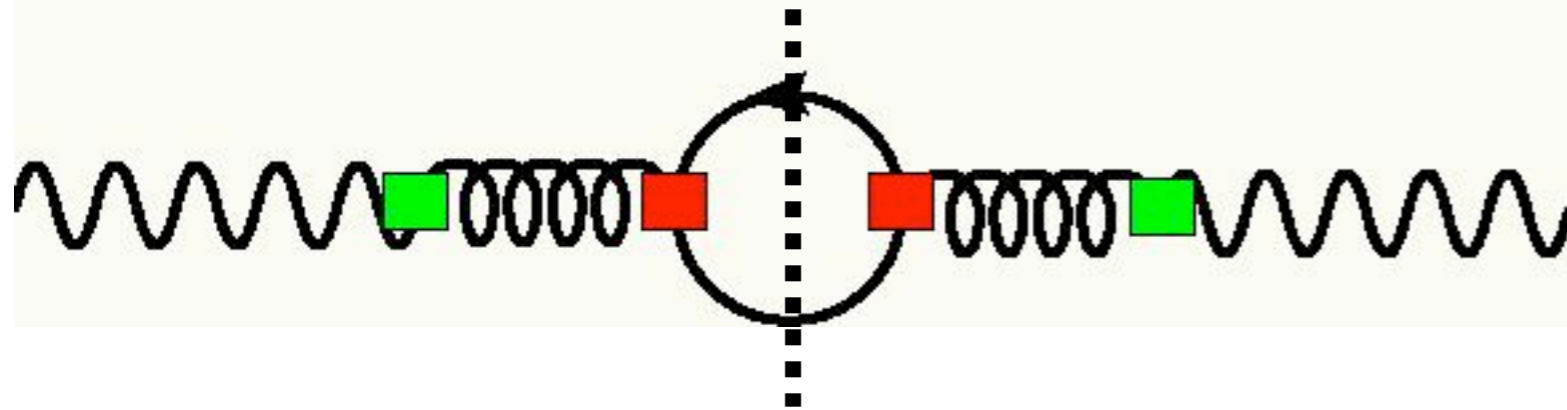


Dissipation of IPh leads to dissipation of sPh

Mixing and Dissipation



Mixing leads to oscillations

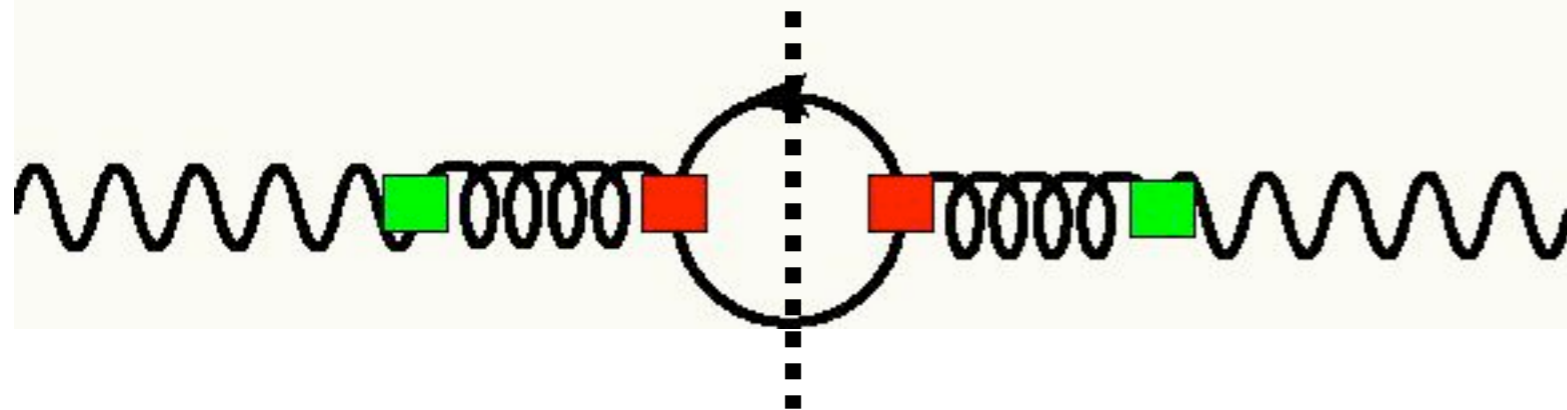


Dissipation of IPh leads to dissipation of sPh

Mixing and Dissipation



Mixing leads to oscillations



Dissipation of IPh leads to dissipation of sPh

$$\lambda_{\text{abs}}(\omega) = \frac{v_s^2}{g_{\text{mix}}^2} \frac{1 + (1 - \alpha^2)^2 (\omega \tau_{\text{IPh}})^2}{\alpha (\omega \tau_{\text{IPh}})^2} \lambda_{\text{IPh}}(\omega)$$

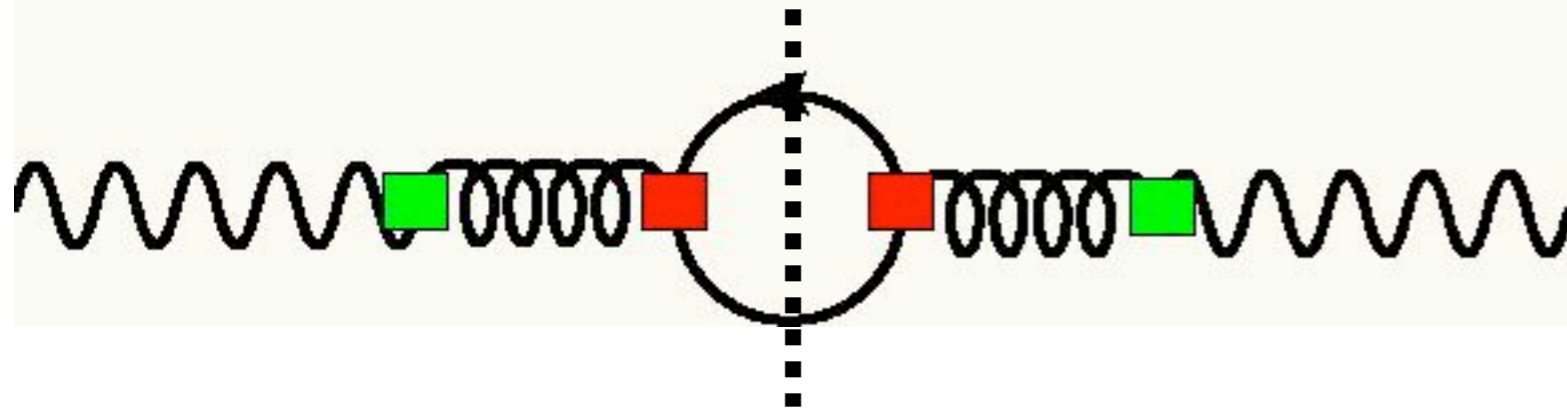
↑
sPh mean
free path

↑
IPh mean
free path

Mixing and Dissipation



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sPh mean
free path

$$\alpha = \frac{c_s}{v_s}$$

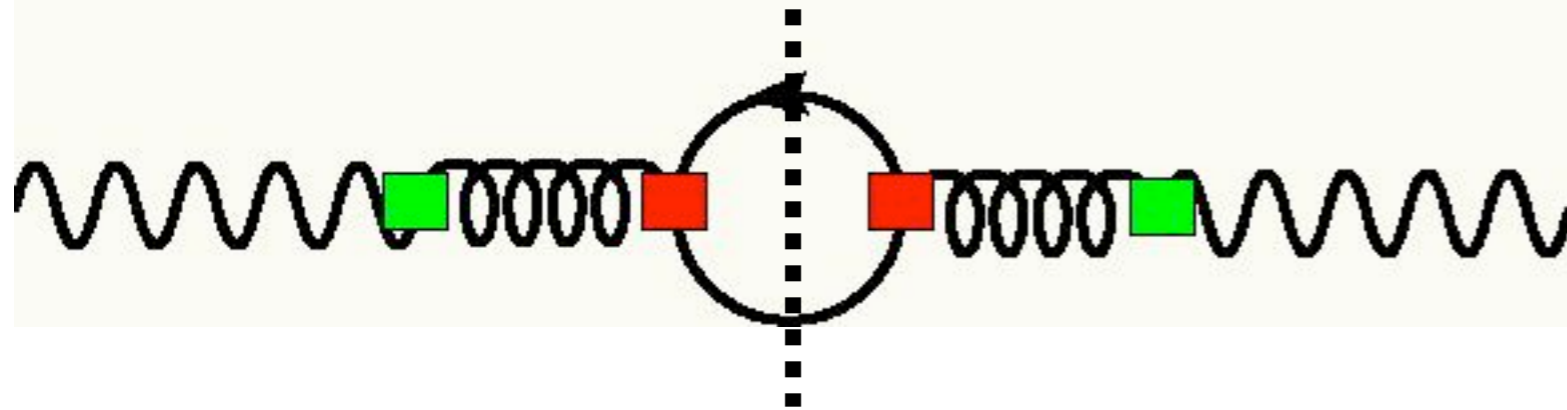
$$\lambda_{\text{IPh}} = c_s \tau_{\text{IPh}}$$

IPh mean
free path

Mixing and Dissipation



Mixing leads to oscillations



Dissipation of IPh leads to dissipation of sPh

$$\lambda_{\text{abs}}(\omega) = \frac{v_s^2}{g_{\text{mix}}^2} \frac{1 + (1 - \alpha^2)^2 (\omega \tau_{\text{IPh}})^2}{\alpha (\omega \tau_{\text{IPh}})^2} \lambda_{\text{IPh}}(\omega)$$

sPh mean
free path

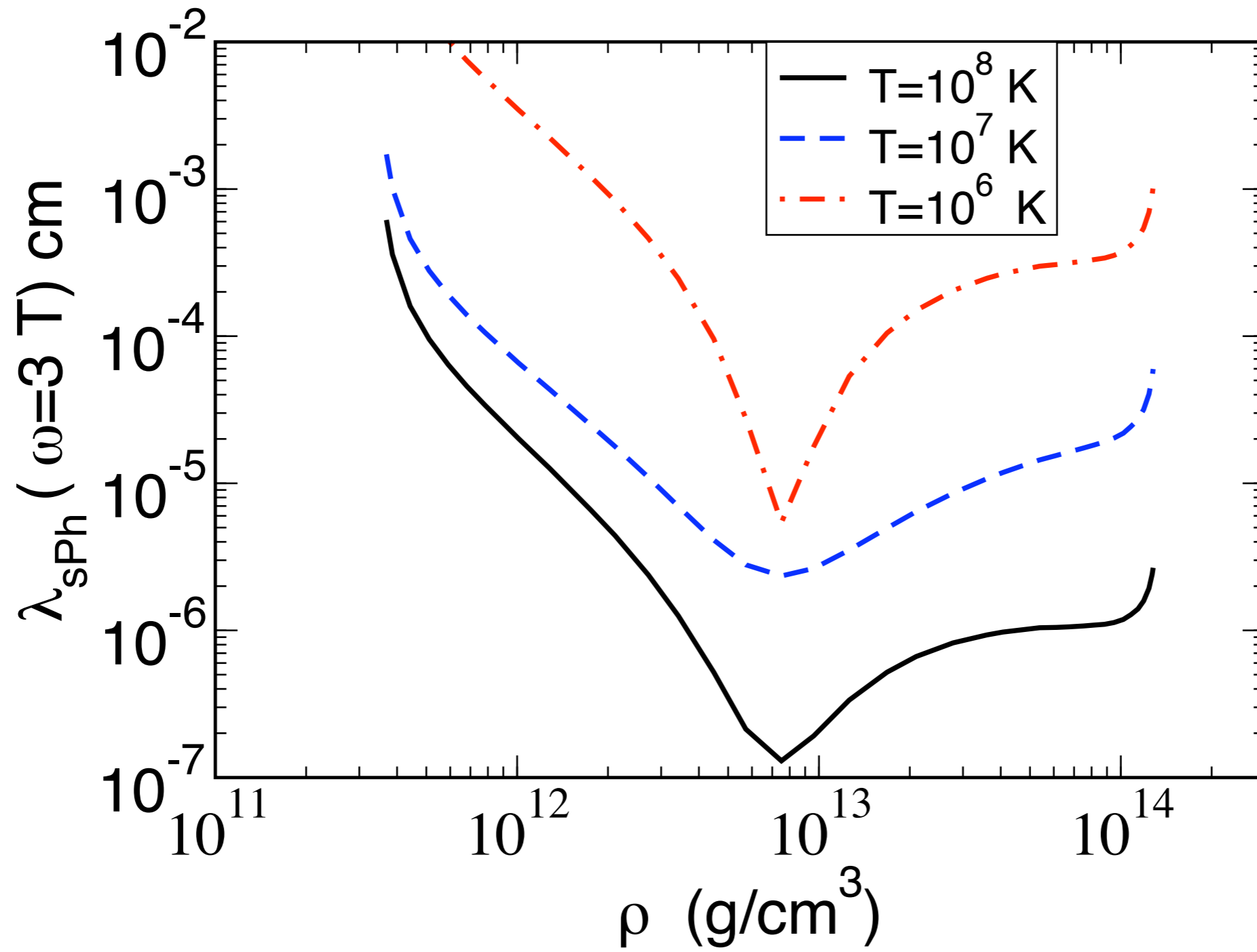
$$\alpha = \frac{c_s}{v_s}$$

$$\lambda_{\text{IPh}} = c_s \tau_{\text{IPh}}$$

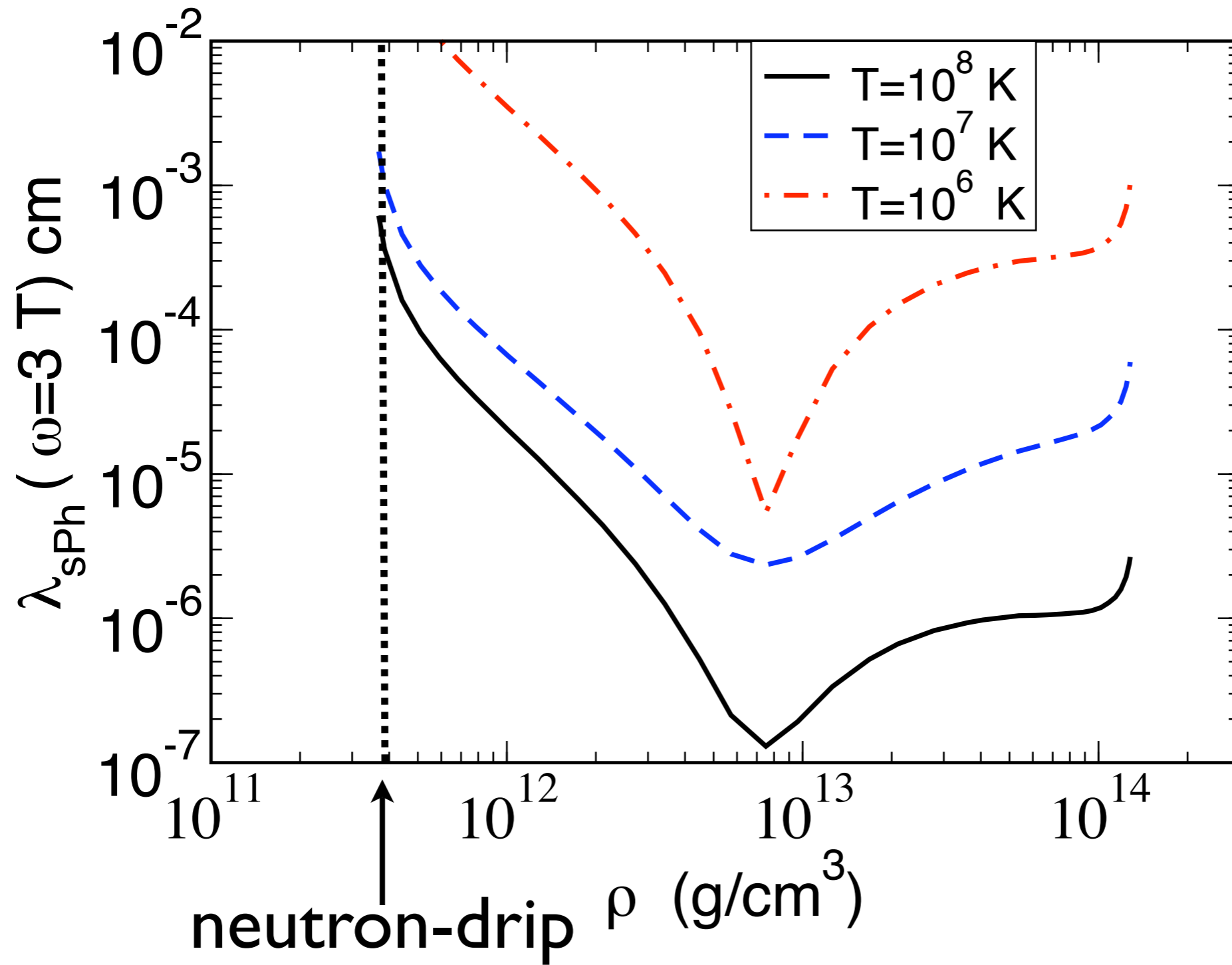
IPh mean
free path

Away from resonance $\lambda_{\text{sPh}} \simeq 10^5 \lambda_{\text{IPh}}$

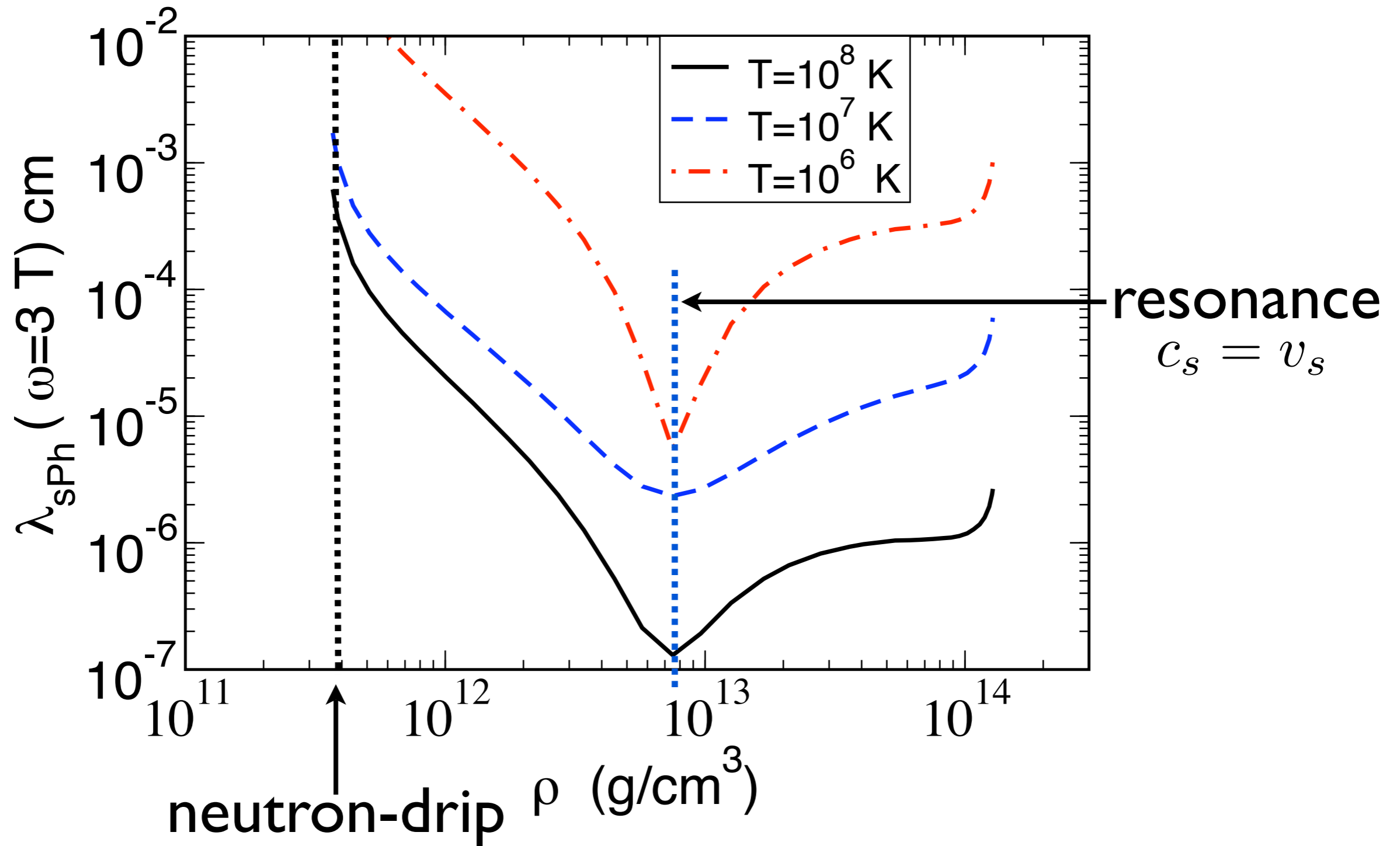
Superfluid Phonon Mean Free Path



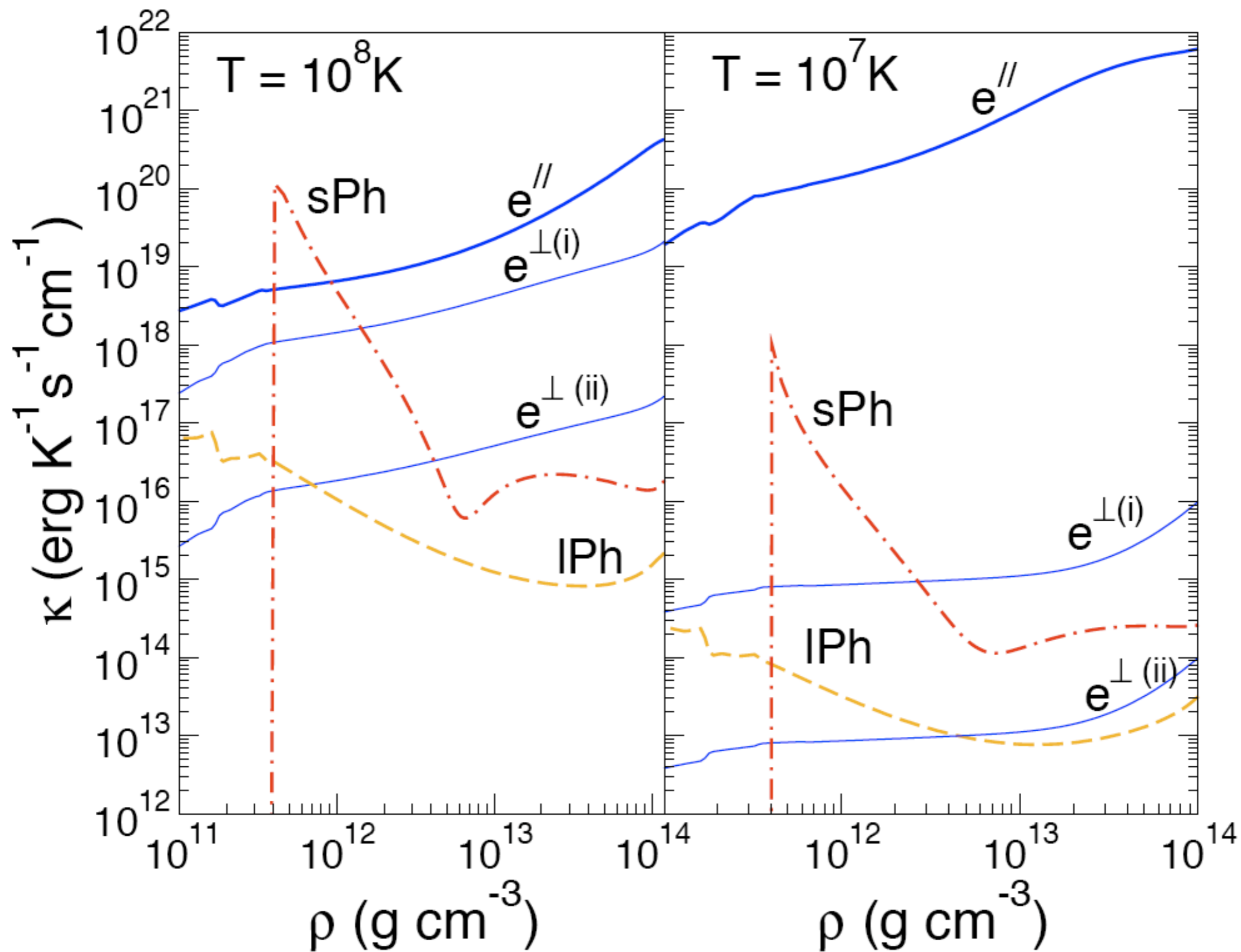
Superfluid Phonon Mean Free Path



Superfluid Phonon Mean Free Path

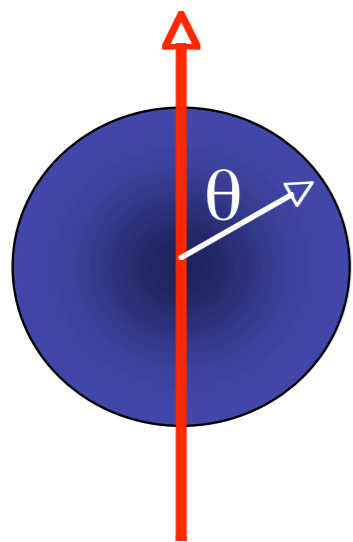


Thermal Conductivity



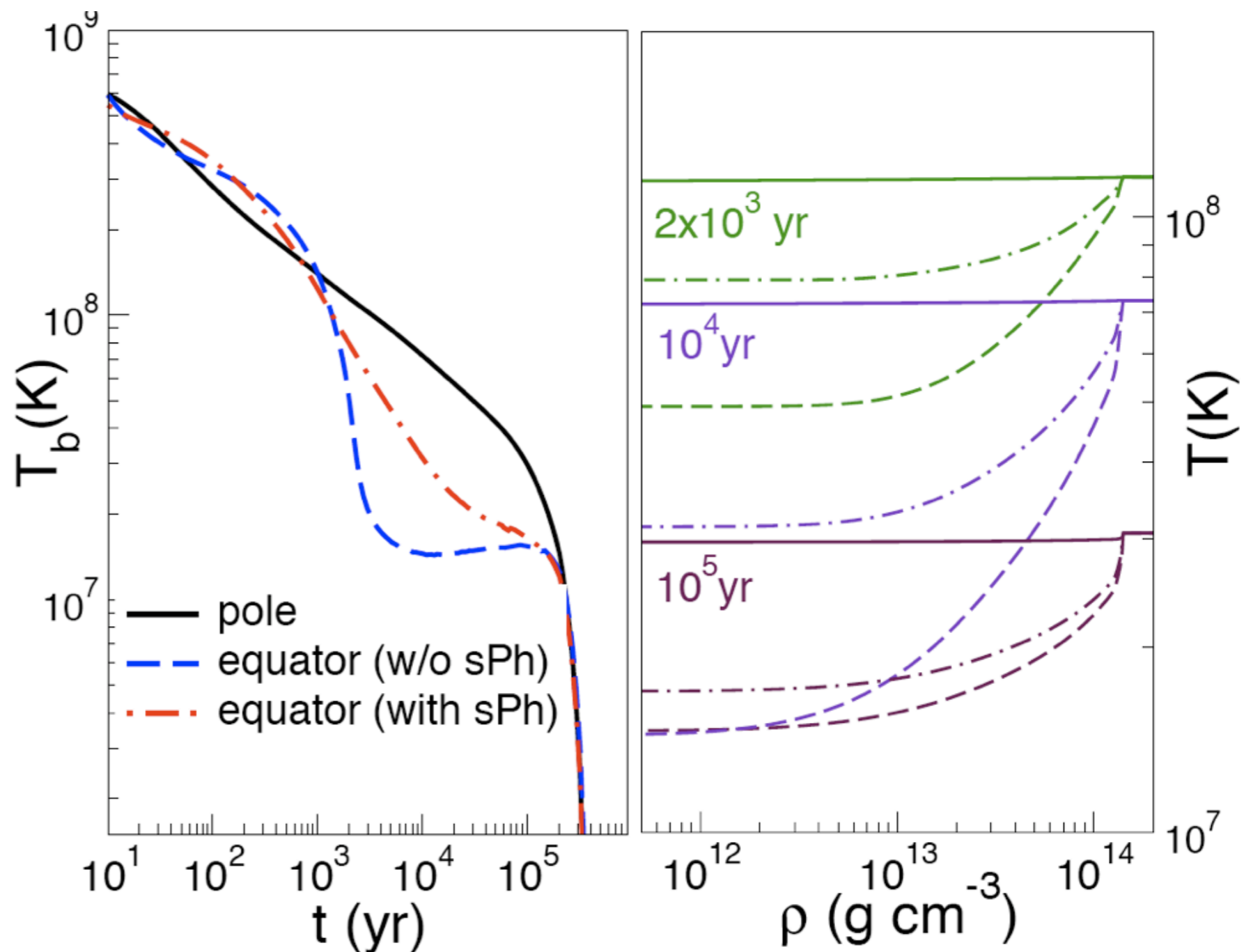
Consequences for Magnetar Cooling

Surface temperature anisotropy due to anisotropic conduction.



sPh can limit the anisotropy

$$T^4(\theta) = T_{\text{eff}}^4 \left(\cos^2 \theta + \frac{\kappa^\perp}{\kappa^\parallel} \sin^2 \theta \right)$$



Conclusions

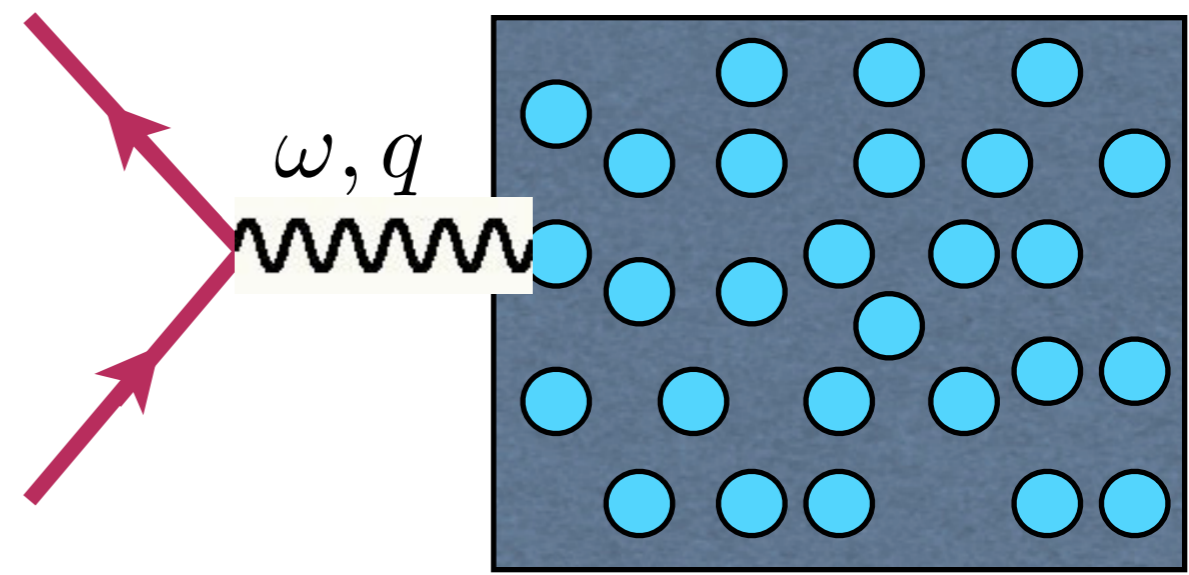
- New mode for heat conduction in the inner crust.
- Low energy EFT for sPhs, lPhs and electrons.
- sPh conduction is likely to be important for thermal evolution of magnetars.

Conclusions

- New mode for heat conduction in the inner crust.
- Low energy EFT for sPhs, lPhs and electrons.
- sPh conduction is likely to be important for thermal evolution of magnetars.

Large temperature anisotropy on the surface can probe efficiency of phonon transport in the crust.

Electron Scattering and the Dynamic Structure Factor



$$\frac{1}{\lambda_e} = \nu_e = \frac{4\pi Z^2 e^4 n_{\text{ions}}}{k_{Fe}^2 v_{Fe}} \Lambda_\kappa$$

$$\Lambda_\kappa = \int_0^{2k_{Fe}} dq q^3 V_{\text{eff}}(q)^2 S_\kappa(q) \left[1 - \frac{v_{Fe}^2 q^2}{4k_{Fe}^2} \right]$$

Coulomb Logarithm

Flowers & Itoh (1976)
Yakovlev & Urpin (1980)
Potekhin et al. (1999)

$$\Lambda_\kappa = \int d\omega S(q, \omega) \left[\frac{z + f(q) z^3}{1 - e^{-z}} \right] \quad z = \frac{\omega}{T}$$

Dynamic Structure Factor

$$S(q, \omega) = \int dt e^{i\omega t} \langle \rho(q, t) \rho(-q, 0) \rangle$$

Plasma physics of the outer crust:

$$\Gamma = \frac{Z^2 e^2}{a kT} \quad \Gamma_c \simeq 175$$

$$a \simeq 125 \left(\frac{A}{50} \frac{1}{\rho_{10}} \right)^{1/3} \text{ fm}$$

$$kT = 4.4 \cdot 10^{-5} \frac{T}{10^8 \text{ K}} \text{ fm}^{-1}$$

$$\omega_{\text{plasmon}} = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi e^2 Z^2 n_I}{AM}}$$

$$q_{\text{TFe}} = \sqrt{\frac{4e^2}{\pi}} k_{\text{Fe}}$$

