

Nonequilibrium processes in disordered nonlinear  
lattices:  
From nonlinear diffusion to second sound

A. Pikovsky

Institut for Physics and Astronomy, University of Potsdam, Germany

Nonlinear Waves, 2020

# Fermi-Pasta-Ulam-Tsingou lattice: an example of computational nonlinear physics

Los Alamos report (1955): Study of a relaxation from an initially non-equilibrium state to a thermodynamic equilibrium – check for equipartition and ergodicity

982

266. – *Studies of non Linear Problems*

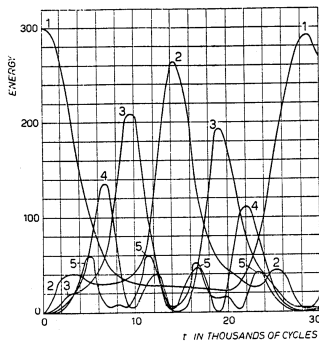


Fig. 1. – The quantity plotted is the energy (kinetic plus potential in each of the first five modes). The units for energy are arbitrary.  $N = 32$ ;  $\alpha = 1/4$ ;  $\beta^2 = 1/8$ . The initial form of the string was a single sine wave. The higher modes never exceeded in energy 20 of our units. About 30,000 computation cycles were calculated.

# Weakly nonlinear lattices

$$H = \sum \frac{p_l^2}{2} + \omega^2 \frac{q_l^2}{2} + \kappa \frac{(q_{l+1} - q_l)^2}{2} + U_{\text{nl}}(q_l) + V_{\text{nl}}(q_{l+1} - q_l)$$

- ▶ Examples: Fermi-Pasta-Ulam lattice, nonlinear Klein-Gordon lattice, etc
- ▶ Small perturbations: sound waves / phonons
- ▶ Large perturbations: nonlinearly interacting sound waves / interacting gas of phonons

# Nonequilibrium settings

- ▶ FPUT problem: equilibration in Fourier space: from one several modes to equipartition
- ▶ Equilibration in real space: from a localized perturbations on top of vacuum: dominated by spreading with sound velocity
- ▶ Slightly non-equilibrium state at constant density: Thermal conductivity paradox [see Lepri, Livi, and Politi, Thermal conduction in classical low-dimensional lattices, Physics Reports, v. 377 (2003)]
- ▶ Perturbations on top of finite phonon density: concepts of first and second sound on top of an underground turbulent/chaotic state as density and temperature modes in the “phonon gas”

# Disordered weakly nonlinear lattices

A way to prohibit linear waves: introduce disorder

$$H = \sum \frac{p_l^2}{2} + \omega_l^2 \frac{q_l^2}{2} + \kappa_l \frac{(q_{l+1} - q_l)^2}{2} + U_{\text{nl}}(q_l) + V_{\text{nl}}(q_{l+1} - q_l)$$

$\omega_l, \kappa_l$ : random quenched disorder

- ▶ Anderson localization: exponentially localized linear modes instead of propagating phonons
- ▶ Large perturbation: interacting localized modes
- ▶ Localized perturbations on top of vacuum: weak sub-diffusive spreading due to nonlinear interaction of localized modes

# Strongly nonlinear lattices - sonic vacuum

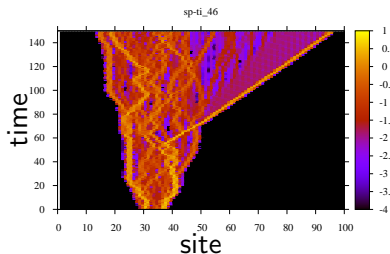
Strongly nonlinear lattice: no linear coupling terms

$$H = \sum \frac{p_l^2}{2} + \omega^2 \frac{q_l^2}{2} + U_{\text{nl}}(q_l) + V_{\text{nl}}(q_{l+1} - q_l)$$

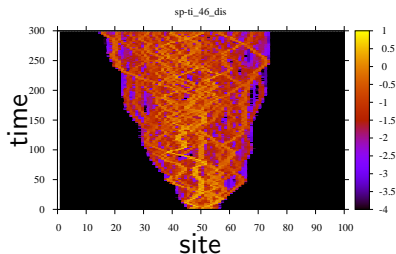
- ▶ No phonons, no linear propagating waves and modes (like in Anderson localization, localization length = 1)
- ▶ The only propagating waves are nonlinear ones – typically compactons (exist in homogeneous lattices only)
- ▶ At finite energy density: typically strongly chaotic/turbulent states (no chaoticity threshold like e.g. in the FPU lattice)

# Initially localized perturbation in a strongly nonlinear lattice

Regular lattice



Disordered lattice



Disordered strongly nonlinear lattices: similar to nonlinear Anderson localization, but

- ▶ extremely localized modes – sharp profiles of the field
- ▶ if power of all nonlinear terms the same - no essential dependence of energy (energy can be rescaled, it influences the characteristic time only)

# Two setups for disordered strongly nonlinear lattices

We consider below two setups:

- ▶ localized initial spot (zero density) on top of vacuum:  
how it spreads?
- ▶ periodic in space modulation on top of finite energy density:  
do we see the first and the second sound?

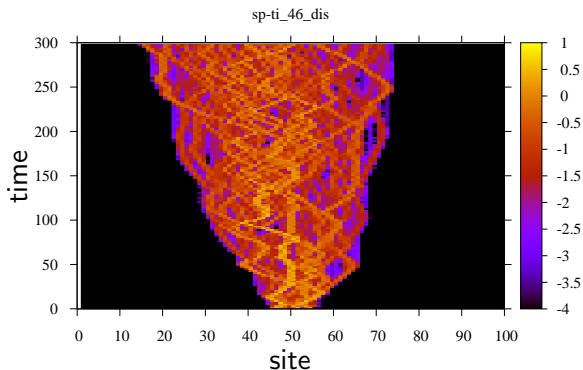


# Part I: Zero density: Spreading of a localized wave packet

[with Mario Mulansky, New J. Phys. (2013)]

Strong compactness of the spreading field:

Here "Anderson modes" are one site oscillators  $\Rightarrow$  no exponential tails, the excitation width  $L$  is well-defined at each moment of time  
Disorder prevents ballistic quasi-compactons



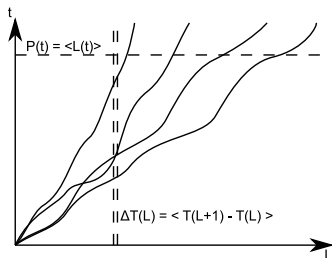
# How to average

Traditionally width is measured at a fixed time :

$\log P(t) = \langle \log L(t) \rangle$ , but due to large fluctuations one averages the propagation speed at different densities

Here the averaging of propagation/waiting time at fixed width, i.e. at fixed density, is possible (because the field has sharp edges):

$\log \Delta T = \langle \log(T(L+1) - T(L)) \rangle$



Goal: to describe  $\Delta T(L, E)$  for different total energies  $E$

## Guiding phenomenology

Use Nonlinear Diffusion Equation (NDE) as a heuristic model

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \rho^a \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} \right), \quad \text{with} \quad \int \rho \, dx = E$$

Self-similar solution (Zeldovich and Kompaneys, 1950;  
Barenblatt, 1952)

$$\rho(x, t) = \frac{1}{[D(t - t_0)]^{1/(2+a)}} \left( E - \frac{ax^2}{2(a+2)[D(t - t_0)]^{2/(a+2)}} \right)^{1/a}$$

yields subdiffusion

$$L = \sqrt{2 \frac{2+a}{a} E^{a/(2+a)} [D(t - t_0)]^{1/(2+a)}}$$

# One parameter scaling

Reformulate

$$L = \sqrt{2 \frac{2+a}{a}} E^{a/(2+a)} (D(t-t_0))^{1/(2+a)}$$

as scaling relations:

$$\frac{L}{E} \sim \left( \frac{t-t_0}{E^2} \right)^{1/(2+a)} \quad \boxed{\frac{1}{E} \frac{dt}{dL} \sim \left( \frac{E}{L} \right)^{-(a+1)}} \quad a(w)+1 = -\frac{d \log \frac{1}{E} \frac{dt}{dL}}{d \log w}$$

where  $w = E/L$  is the characteristic density,  $\frac{dt}{dL} \approx \Delta T$

# Spreading in a homogeneously nonlinear lattice

Fully self-similar lattice:

rescaling energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  rescaling time

$$H = \sum_k \frac{p_k^2}{2} + W\omega_k^2 \frac{q_k^\kappa}{\kappa} + \beta \frac{(q_{k+1} - q_k)^\kappa}{\kappa}$$

From the rescaling of energy and time it follows

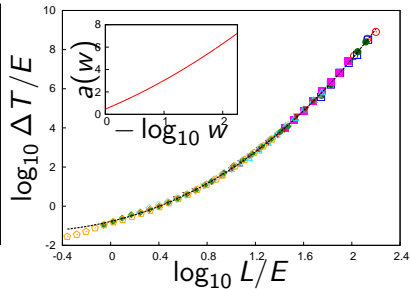
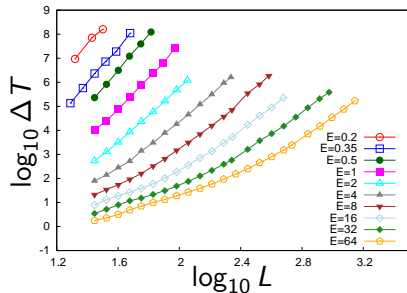
$$t \sim E^{\frac{2\kappa}{2-\kappa}} \Rightarrow a = \frac{\kappa - 2}{2\kappa} \Rightarrow L \sim (t - t_0)^{\frac{2\kappa}{5\kappa - 2}}$$

For the case  $\kappa = 4$  we have

$$L \sim (t - t_0)^{4/9} \quad \Delta T \sim L^{5/4}$$

# Spreading in a lattice of nonlinearly coupled linear oscillators

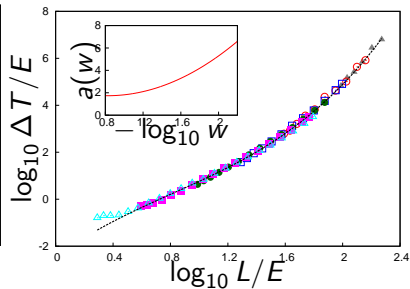
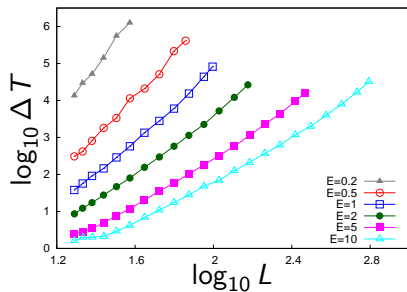
$$H = \sum_k \frac{p_k^2 + \omega_k^2 q_k^2}{2} + \frac{(q_{k+1} - q_k)^4}{4}$$



- ▶ Good news: Scaling of NonDiffEq works
- ▶ Bad news: nonlinearity index  $a$  is not a constant, but increases in course of spreading

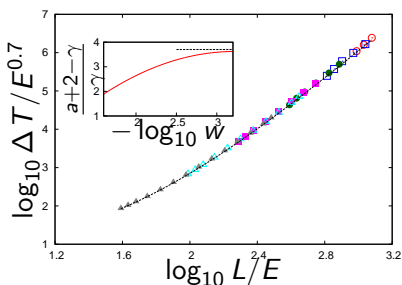
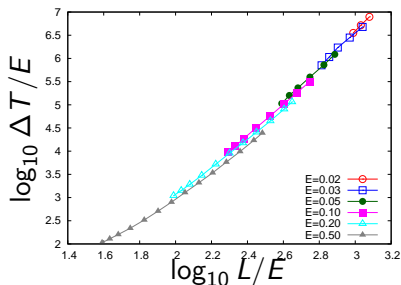
# Spreading in a lattice of nonlinearly coupled linear oscillators

$$H = \sum_k \frac{p_k^2 + \omega_k^2 q_k^2}{2} + \frac{(q_{k+1} - q_k)^6}{6}$$



# Nonlinearly coupled nonlinear oscillators

$$H = \sum_k \frac{p_k^2}{2} + \omega_k^2 \frac{q_k^4}{4} + \frac{(q_{k+1} - q_k)^8}{8}$$

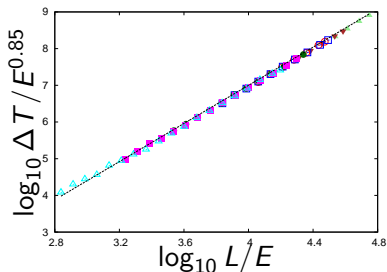
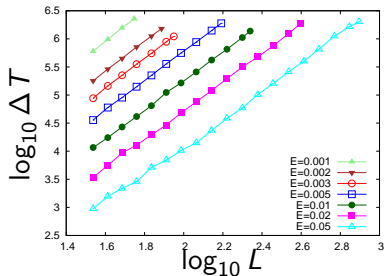


- ▶ Bad news: Different scaling:  $\Delta T / E^{0.7} = F(L/E)$
- ▶ Good news: nonlinearity index appears to approach to a constant



# Nonlinearly coupled nonlinear oscillators

$$H = \sum_k \frac{p_k^2}{2} + \omega_k^2 \frac{q_k^4}{4} + \frac{(q_{k+1} - q_k)^6}{6}$$



Yet another power but nearly a straight line in rescaled coordinates

# Another strongly nonlinear lattice: Ding-Dong model

Newton's cradle:

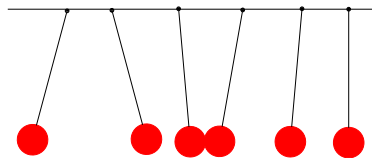


The elastic force between two spheres is, according to H. Hertz (1881),  $\sim x^{3/2}$ . A chain of spheres is strongly nonlinear

$$\frac{d^2 x_l}{dt^2} = (x_{l-1} - x_l)^{3/2} - (x_l - x_{l+1})^{3/2}$$

# Toy strongly nonlinear lattice model: Ding-Dong lattice

This is a strongly nonlinear lattice that is easy to model numerically



Ding-Dong model (Prosen, Robnik, 92) is a chain of linear oscillators with elastic collisions

# Ding-Dong dynamics

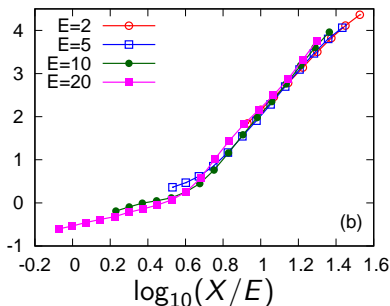
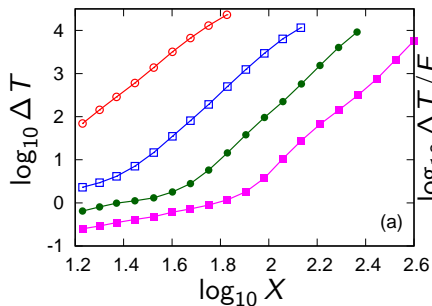
Hamiltonian and collision condition

$$H = \sum_k \frac{p_k^2 + q_k^2}{2} \quad \text{when } q_k - q_{k+1} = 1 \text{ then } p_k \rightarrow p_{k+1}, p_{k+1} \rightarrow p_k$$

Effective calculation of the collision times – simulation on very long times possible

Strongly nonlinear lattice: no linear waves, no phonons, all propagating perturbations are nonlinear

# Check for Nonlinear Diffusion Equation scaling [JSTAT, to appear]



Slow subdiffusion:

$$\frac{\Delta T}{E} \sim \left(\frac{X}{E}\right)^5 \quad X \sim T^{1/6}$$

# Conclusions for wavepacket spreading

- ▶ Nonlinearly coupled linear oscillators:  
Nonlinear Diffusion Equation scaling works, slowing down of spreading
- ▶ Nonlinearly coupled nonlinear oscillators:  
Nonlinear Diffusion Equation scaling does not work, but some scaling works , good power-law
- ▶ How to extend to weakly (exponentially) localized modes in the Anderson localization problems?

## Conclusions for Ding-Dong model

- ▶ simple but singular strongly nonlinear lattice
- ▶ NDE scaling works without slowing down
- ▶ holds for distance and mass disorder

## Part II: Finite energy density: “sound” modes on top of turbulence [JSTAT, 2015]

Basic model for numerics:

Strongly nonlinear lattice with local and coupling nonlinearities

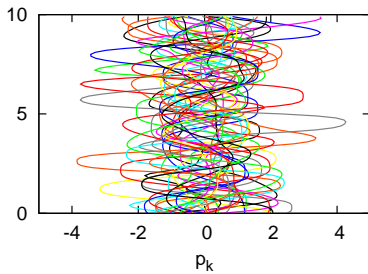
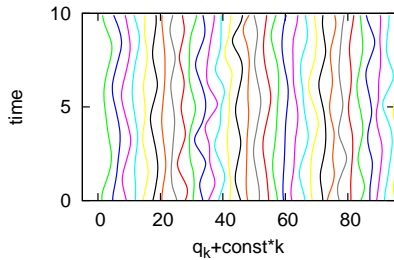
$$H = \sum_l \frac{p_l^2}{2} + \beta_l \frac{q_l^4}{4} + \kappa_l \frac{(q_{l+1} - q_l)^4}{4}$$

Homogeneous lattices:  $\beta, \kappa = \text{const}$ , Disorder: random  $\beta_l, \kappa_l$

Energy can be rescaled:  $E \rightarrow \alpha E'$ ,  $t \rightarrow \alpha^{-1/2} t'$ , below we set energy density to one

Energy level determines time scale only, there is no transition order-chaos

# Chaotic state





# First sound on top of chaos in disordered lattices

Protocol of numerical simulations:

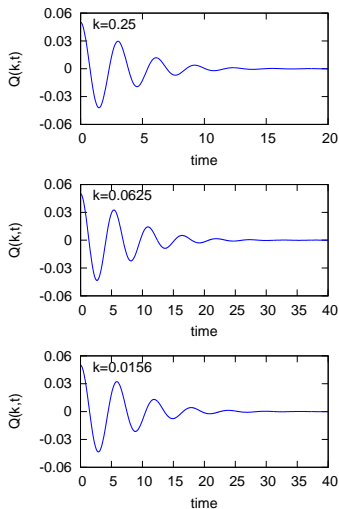
- ▶ fix energy density, evolve to equilibrium chaos
- ▶ add a perturbation having wave number  $k$ :

$$q_l \rightarrow q_l + \varepsilon \cos 2\pi kl$$

- ▶ follow amplitude of this mode  $Q(k, t) = \langle \sum_l q_l \cos 2\pi kl \rangle$

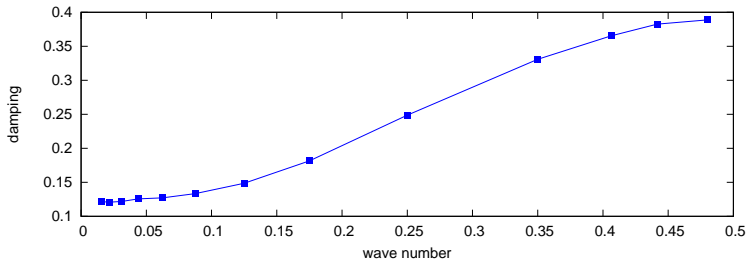
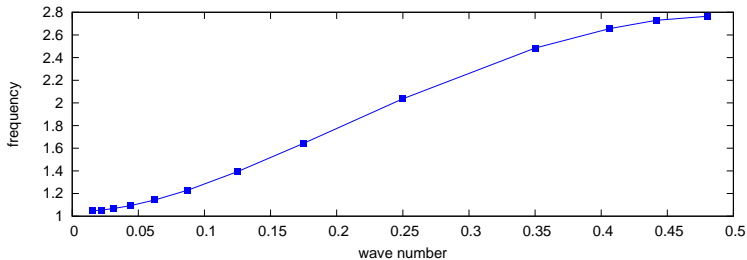
[cf. Lepri, Livi, Politi, Chaos, 15, 015118 (2005), Zhirov, Pikovsky, Shepelyansky, PRE 83, 016202 (2011)]

# First sound results



The data are nicely reproduced by a fit  $Q(t) = A \exp(-\gamma t) \cos \Omega t$

# First sound results: dispersion and damping



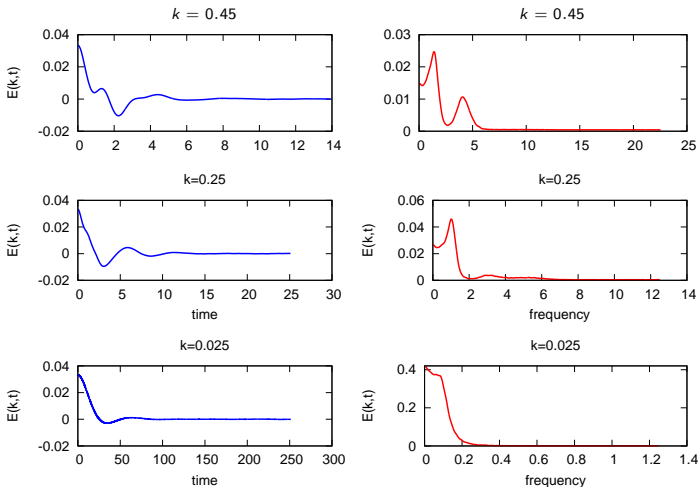
## Second sound on top of chaos in disordered lattices

Protocol of numerical simulations:

- ▶ fix energy density, evolve to equilibrium chaos
- ▶ add a perturbation (wave number  $k$ ) to kinetic energy  
 $p_l^2 \rightarrow p_l^2 [1 + \varepsilon \cos(2\pi kl)]$
- ▶ follow amplitude of this mode  $E(k, t) = \langle \sum_l \mathcal{E}_l \cos 2\pi kl \rangle$ ,  
where  $\mathcal{E}_l$  is the local energy

[cf. Gendelman et al, PRE, 2010,2012]

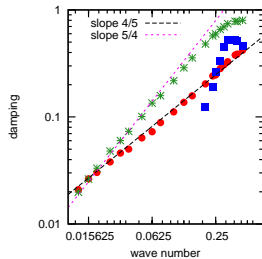
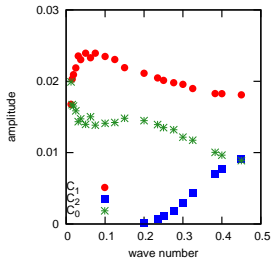
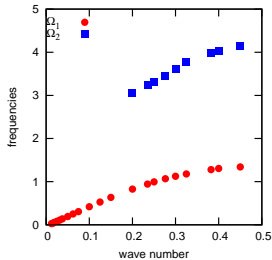
# Second sound results



Fourier transform of  $E(k, t)$  suggests fit

$$E(t) \sim C_0 \exp(-\gamma_0 t) + C_1 \exp(-\gamma_1 t) \cos(\Omega_1 t) + C_2 \exp(-\gamma_2 t) \cos(\Omega_2 t)$$

# Second sound results: dispersion

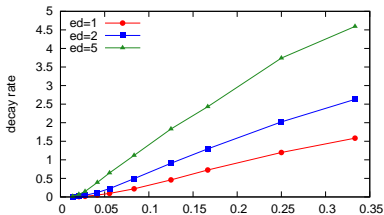
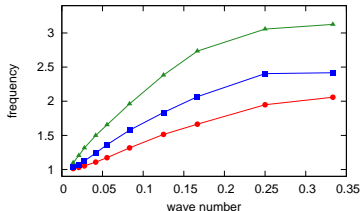
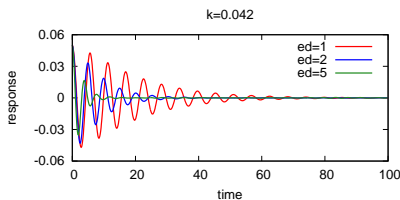
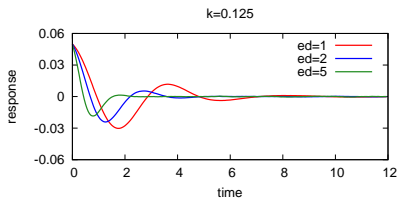


Two frequencies observed for large  $k$ , no one coincides with that of first sound

Damping constants  $\gamma_0 \sim k^{5/4}$ ,  $\gamma_1 \sim k^{4/5}$

# First sound in the Ding-Dong lattice

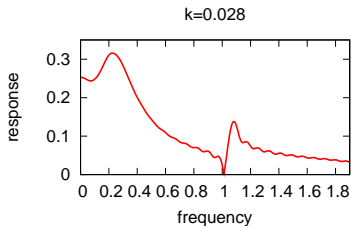
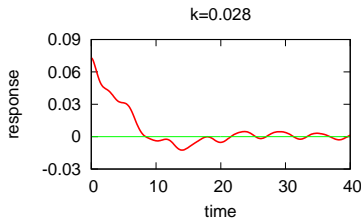
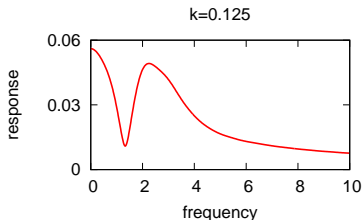
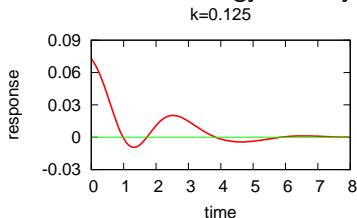
Properties of perturbations depend on the basic energy density, we study  $\mathcal{E} = 1, 2, 5$



The data are nicely reproduced by a fit  $Q(t) = A \exp(-\gamma t) \cos \Omega t$

# Second sound in the Ding-Dong lattice

Results for small energy density  $\mathcal{E} = 1$

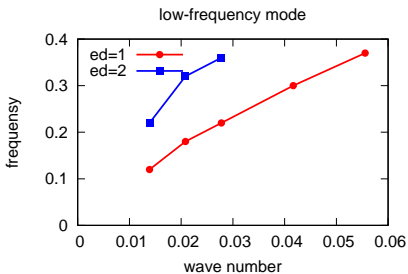
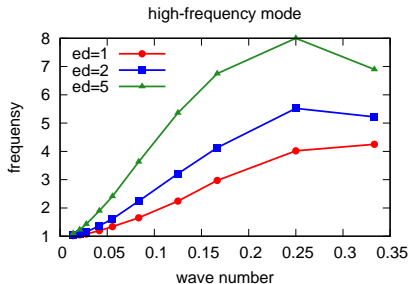


Fourier transform suggests a two-frequency fit

$$E(t) \sim C_0 \exp(-\gamma_0 t) + C_1 \exp(-\gamma_1 t) \cos(\Omega_1 t) + C_2 \exp(-\gamma_2 t) \cos(\Omega_2 t)$$



# Second sound in the Ding-Dong lattice: dispersion



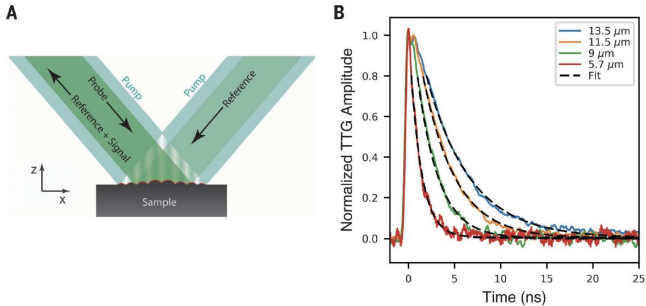
Two frequencies observed for small wave numbers  $k$  for low energy densities

# Second sound in experiments

## Observation of second sound in graphite at temperatures above 100 K

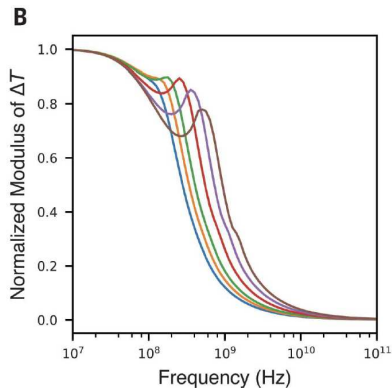
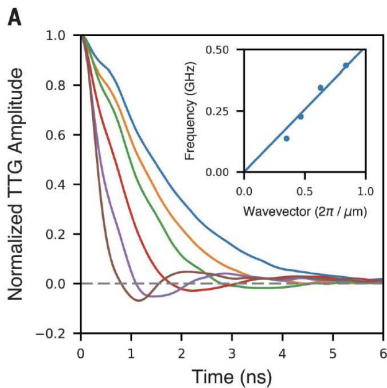
S. Huberman<sup>1\*</sup>, R. A. Duncan<sup>2\*</sup>, K. Chen<sup>1</sup>, B. Song<sup>1</sup>, V. Chiloyan<sup>1</sup>, Z. Ding<sup>1</sup>,  
A. A. Maznev<sup>2</sup>, G. Chen<sup>1†</sup>, K. A. Nelson<sup>2†</sup>

*Science* **364**, 375–379 (2019) 26 April 2019



At room temperature no second sound is observed

# Second sound in experiments



Second sound at  $T = 85\text{K}$

# Conclusions for the 1st and the 2nd sound calculations

- ▶ In strongly nonlinear lattices, with a smooth potential and in the Ding-Dong model, on top of a “turbulent state” one can excite first sound (density variations) and second sound (energy variations)
- ▶ Two second sound modes
- ▶ The same protocol can be realized experimentally
- ▶ Any link to the nonlinear diffusion equation ?