

**LPMCM**

laboratoire  
de physique et  
de modélisation  
des milieux condensés

# Phase topology in disordered media

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# Outline

- Generalities
- 3D infinite medium
- Wave guide
- Conclusion

**Motivation:** why investigate phase in multiply scattering media?

- It is a genuine property of waves
- There have been few studies of phase compared to amplitude or intensity.
- In microwaves, acoustics and seismology phase can be measured directly

A superposition of waves scattered by a disordered medium gives rise to a speckle pattern which presents a complicated network of phase vortices

**Layout:**

## **Phase Topology:**

topological charge  $Q$

fluctuations of  $Q$  in space

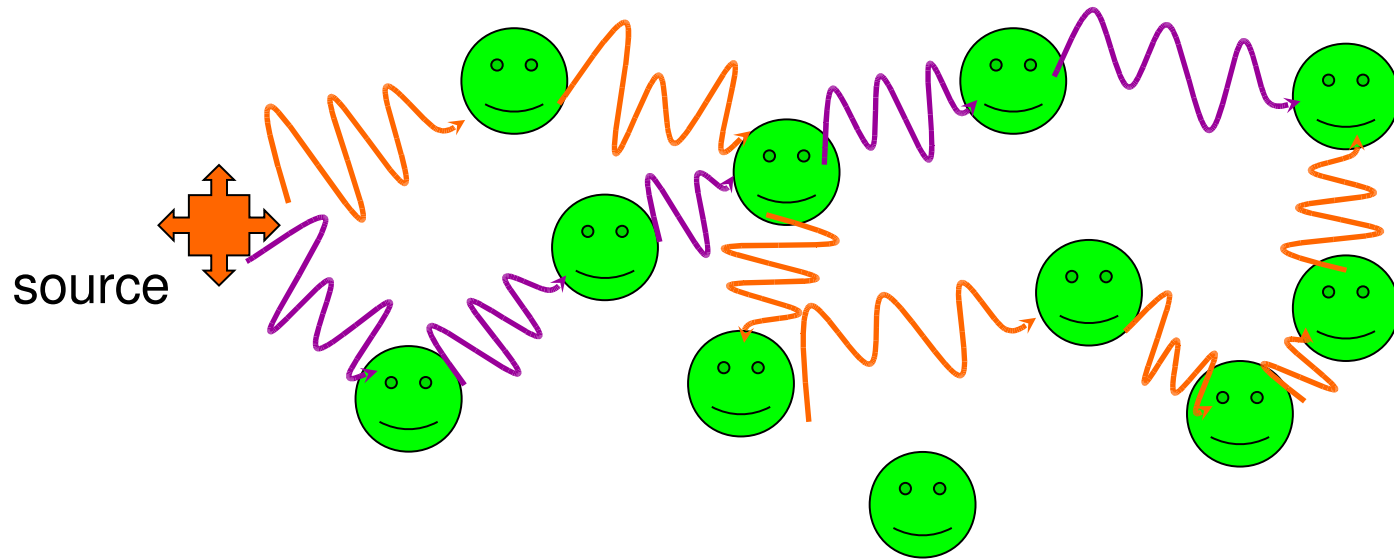
fluctuations of  $Q$  in a wave guide

**Result:** *role of mean free path and of the boundaries*

# Field in disordered media

- Generalities
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**Complex scalar field:**  $\Psi = A \exp(i\Phi) = \eta + i\xi$



**Sum of partial waves:**  $\Psi = A \exp(i\Phi) = \sum_{\alpha} A_{\alpha} \exp(i\Phi_{\alpha})$

After a few mean free path phase becomes random and partial waves become independent so applying central limit theorem:

$$P(\Psi_1, \dots, \Psi_N) = \frac{1}{\pi^N \det(C)} \exp \left( - [\Psi_1^* \dots \Psi_N^*] C^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \Psi_1 \\ \vdots \\ \Psi_N \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

# Phase singularity

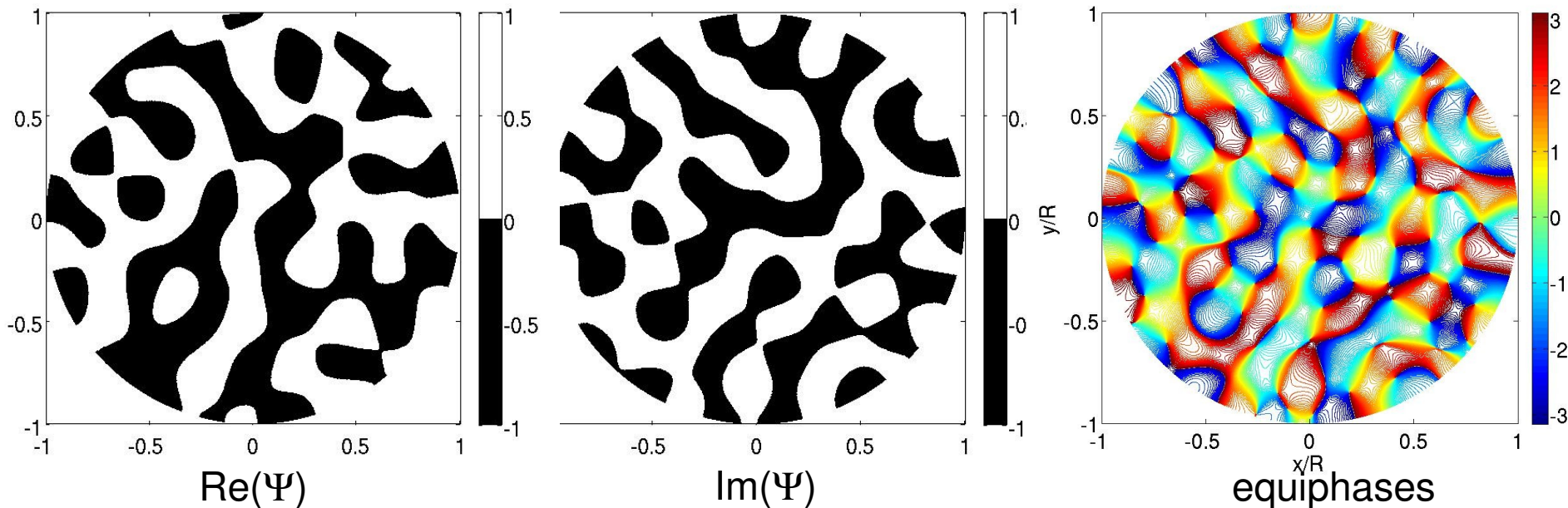
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## PHASE SINGULARITY:

Recall:  $\Psi = A \exp(i\Phi) = \eta + i\xi$

When the field cancels  $\eta=0$  and  $\xi=0$  then  $A=0$  but the phase  $\Phi$  is left undefined

## EXAMPLE:

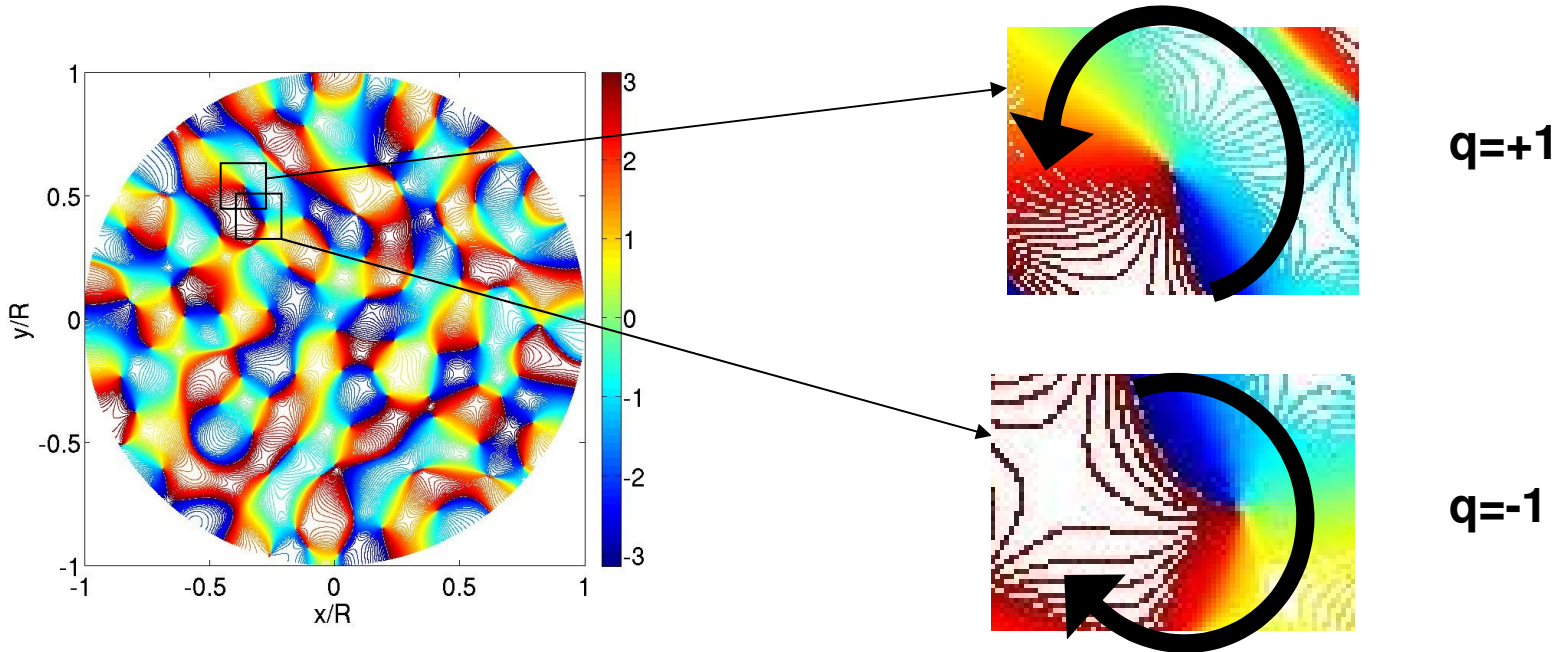


⇒ Singularities are points on a surface and locate at the intersection of the equiphasics

# Topological charge

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**TOPOLOGICAL CHARGE OF A SINGULARITY** = sign of the phase vortex



**TOTAL TOPOLOGICAL CHARGE PRESENT ON THE SURFACE:**

$$Q = \sum_i q_i$$

😊 Stokes' theorem:  $\oint_{\Gamma} d\mathbf{r} \cdot \nabla \Phi(\mathbf{r}) = 2\pi Q$

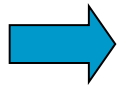
# Gaussian speckle

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## Exemple: monochromatic waves in space (Berry 78):

For a plane section, dislocation point density:  $d = \frac{k^2}{6\pi} = \frac{2\pi}{3\lambda^2}$

Surface of a speckle spot:  $\sim \lambda^2$



About 2 singularities for each speckle spot

## Statistics of topological charge:

As we average over the disorder:

$$\langle Q \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle Q^2 \rangle \neq 0$$

**Motivation:** study the dependence of  $\langle Q^2(R) \rangle$  with the mean free path and the surface size in space and in a wave guide.

# Charge screening

☹ Independent charges:  ~~$\langle Q^2(R) \rangle = \langle \left( \sum_{n=1}^N q_n \right)^2 \rangle = N = \pi R^2 d$~~   
=> Fluctuations proportional to the surface

SCREENING EFFECT (~electrical charge in ionic fluids or plasma)

Sign principle The continuity of the field imposes that two connected singularities are of **opposite sign**.

*Freund et al.*

😊 Wilkinson & Freund (98) study a random superposition of plane waves in space:

⇒ Fluctuations  $\langle Q^2(R) \rangle$  proportional to the radius R

😊 Berry & Dennis (2000) use gaussian smoothed boundaries:

⇒ Fluctuations  $\langle Q^2(R) \rangle$  independent of the number of singularities and independent of the surface

# Calculation method

- Generalities
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Field correlation function  $C = \langle \Psi(0) \Psi(x) \rangle$

3D:

$$C(x) = \frac{\sin(kx)}{kx} \exp\left(-\frac{x}{2\ell}\right)$$

$$C_{\Phi'} = \frac{1}{2} (\log C)'' \log(1 - C^2)$$

3D:

$$C_{\Phi'}(x > \lambda) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2x^2} \exp\left(-\frac{x}{\ell}\right)$$

Phase derivative correlation function

$$C_{\Phi'} = \left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}(\theta) \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}(\theta') \right\rangle$$

$$\langle Q^2(R) \rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \oint_{\Gamma(R)} \oint_{\Gamma(R)} ds \cdot \langle \nabla \Phi(s) \nabla \Phi(s') \rangle \cdot ds' = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\Delta\theta C_{\Phi'}(\Delta\theta, R)$$

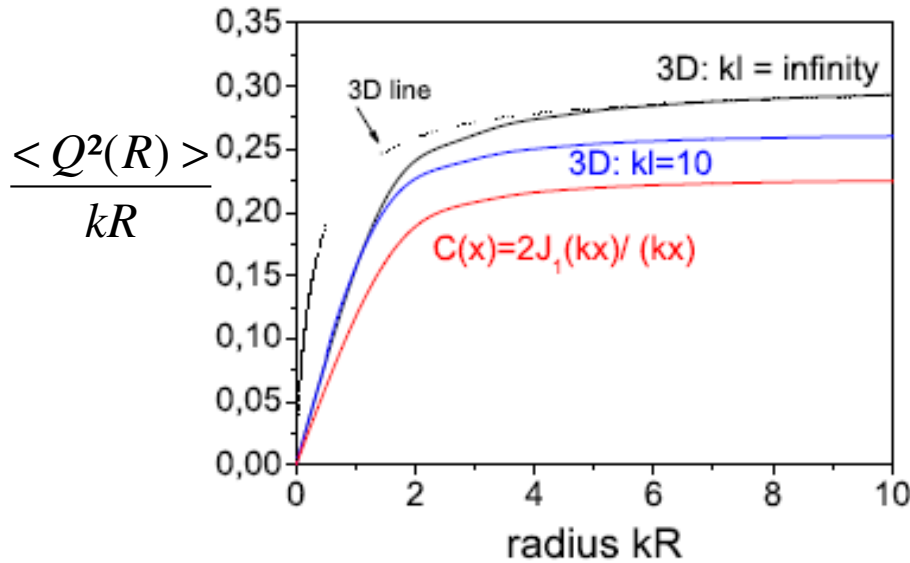
Topological charge variance  $\langle Q^2(R) \rangle$  included in a circular surface  $S(R)$  with a contour  $\Gamma(R)$ .



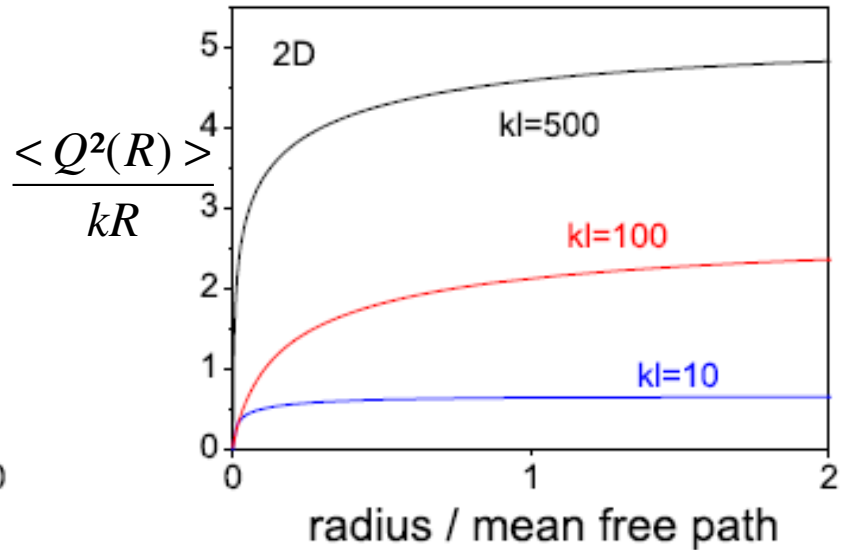
# Infinite media: diffuse behaviour

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(a) 3D



(b) 2D



- Diffuse behaviour as found by Wilkinson and Freund
- 3D: very weak dependence on the mean free path  $\ell$
- 2D:  $\langle Q^2 \rangle$  depends logarithmically on  $k\ell$

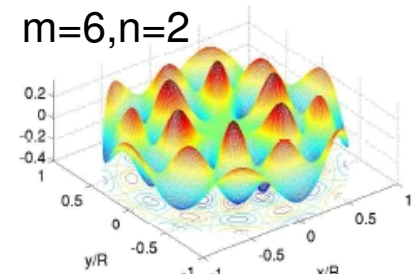
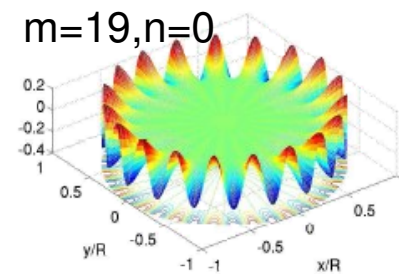
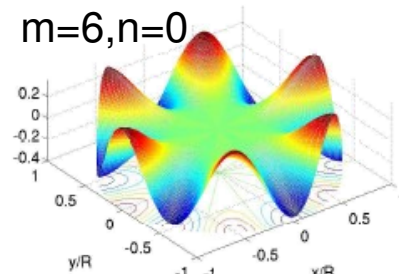
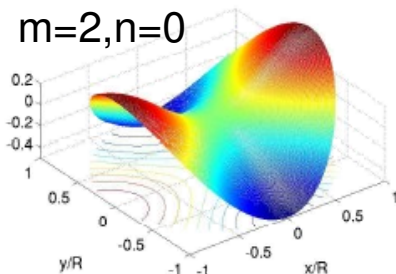
# Wave guide (WG)

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- Motivation:
- configuration used in experiments (Sebbah, Genack et al.)
  - Field is confined inside the WG => sure not to forget any contribution to the screening process.
  - Study the influence of boundaries on the screening

System: a hollow conductive **cylindrical WG** with infinite length containing disorder.

Modes:  $\Psi_{mnk}(\rho, \theta, z) \propto J_m\left(\frac{\alpha_{mn}\rho}{R}\right) \exp(im\theta) \exp(ikz)$  with  $J'_m(\alpha_{mn}) = 0$   
 $m \in \mathbb{Z}, n \in \mathbb{N}$



Dispersion relation:  $\omega^2 = k^2 c^2 + \alpha_{mn}^2 c^2 / R^2$

Cut-off frequency:  $\omega_{mn} = \alpha_{mn} c / R$ .

# Calculation method

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Green function:

$$G^{\pm}(\rho, \theta, z; \rho', \theta', z'; \omega) = \sum_{m,n} \int dk \frac{\Psi_{mnk}(\rho, \theta, z) \Psi_{mnk}^*(\rho', \theta', z')}{\omega_{mn}(k)^2 - \omega^2 \pm i\epsilon + i\omega/\tau_{mn}}$$

Field correlation function:

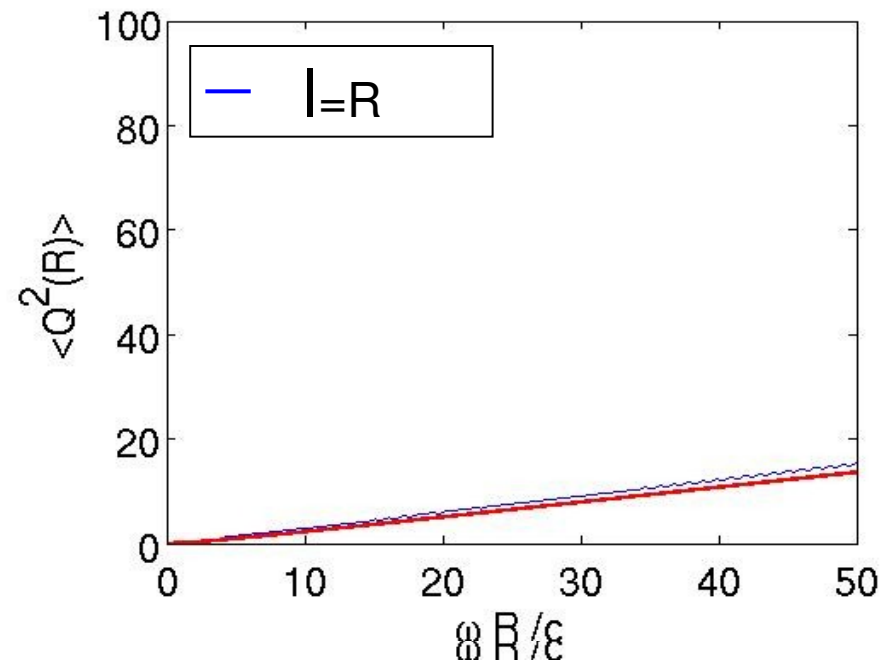
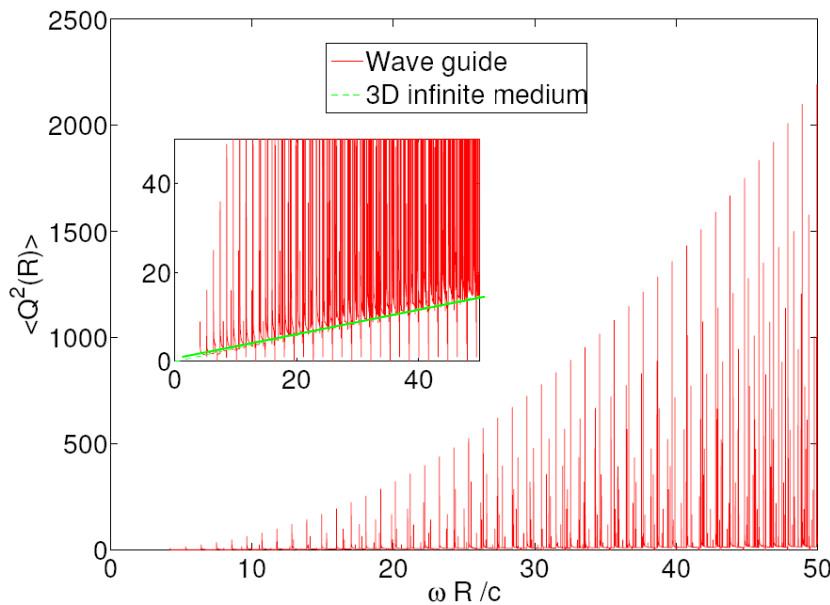
$$\begin{aligned} C_{\Psi}(\rho, \Delta\theta, \omega) &= \langle \Psi(\rho, \theta, z) \Psi(\rho, \theta', z) \rangle \propto \text{Im} G(\rho, \theta, z; \rho, \theta', z; \omega) \\ &\propto \sum_{m,n} \frac{1}{R} \cos(m\Delta\theta) \frac{2\alpha_{mn}^2}{\alpha_{mn}^2 - m^2} \left| \frac{J_m(\frac{\alpha_{mn}\rho}{R})}{J_m(\alpha_{mn})} \right|^2 A_{mn}(\omega) \end{aligned}$$

# Huge topological fluctuations

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$\langle Q^2(R) \rangle$  in an entire cross-section of a wave-guide:

**Very large  $l$  :**

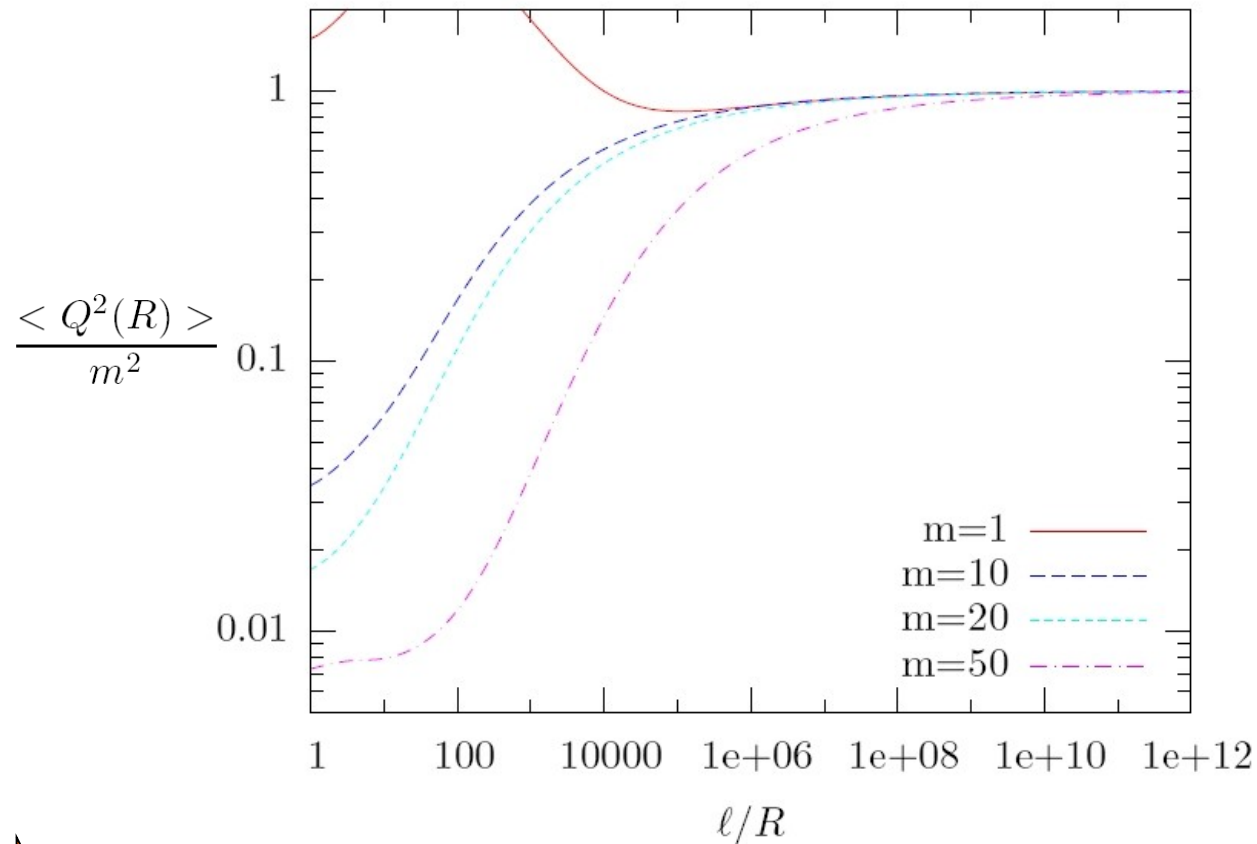


- Global behaviour consistent with the calculation for 3D infinite media
- Huge fluctuations at the cut-off frequencies of the wave guide
- $\langle Q^2(R) \rangle = m^2$  for  $l$  sufficiently large

# Role of mean free path

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Peak value of  $\langle Q^2(R) \rangle$  at different cut-off frequencies  $\omega_{me}$



Slow dependence on the mean free path  $\ell$

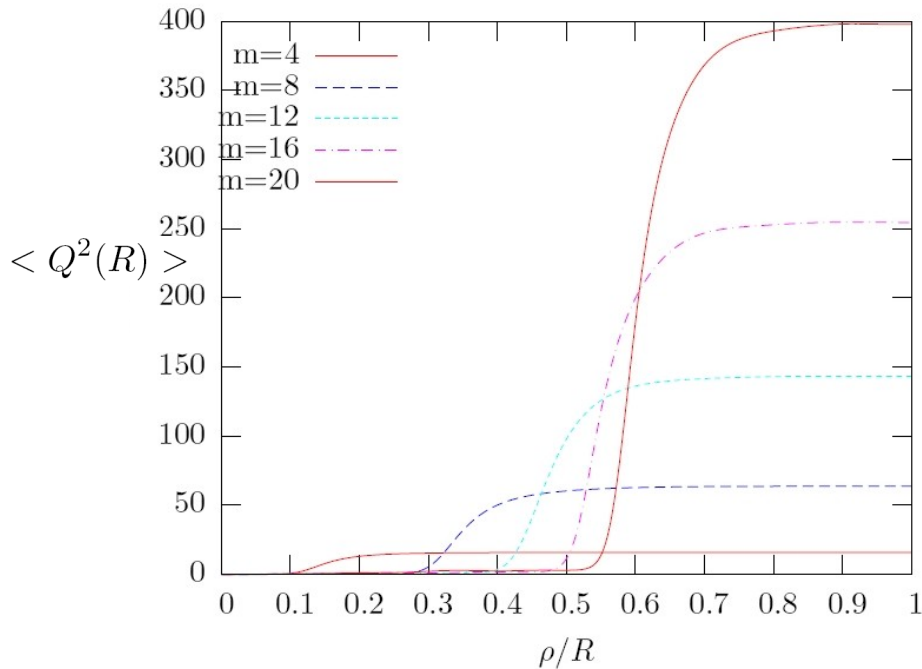
No peaks for  $\ell < R$

# An effect near the edges

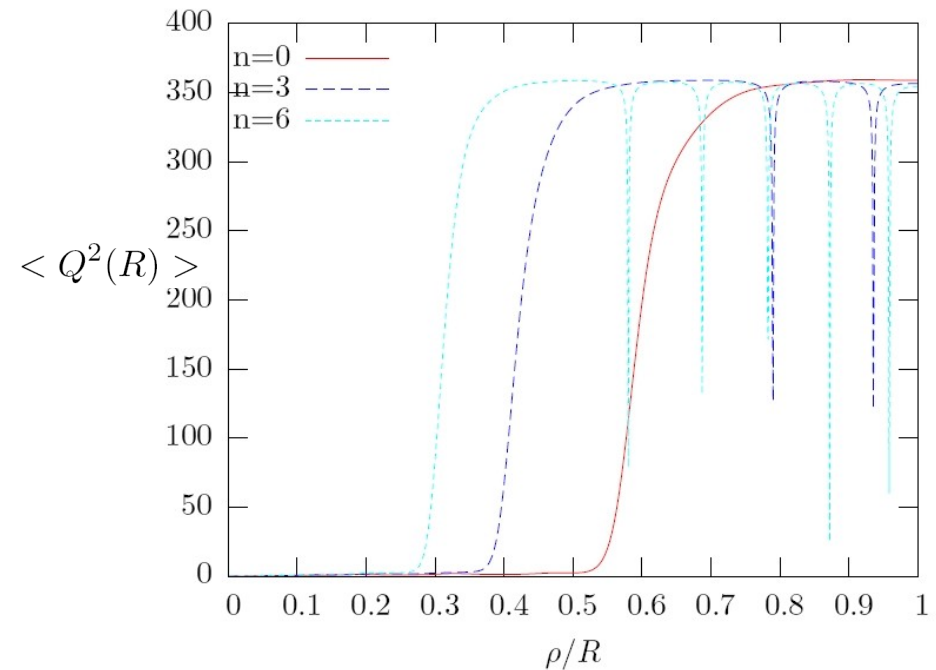
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Peak value of  $\langle Q^2(\rho) \rangle$  at different cut-off frequencies  $\omega_{m0}, \rho < R$

(a)  $n=0$



(b)  $m=19$



$\rho < \rho_c$  : screening (like in infinite media)

$\rho > \rho_c$  : unscreened charges generating the huge  $\langle Q^2(R) \rangle$  value

# Simulation

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Simulation of a random circular Gaussian complex wave field

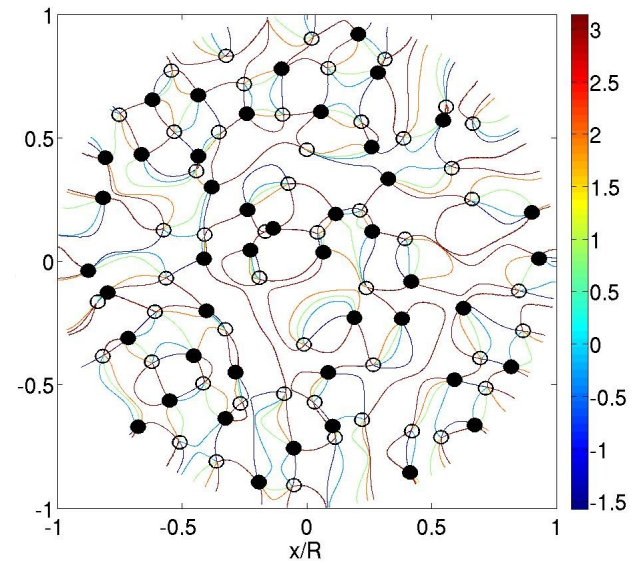
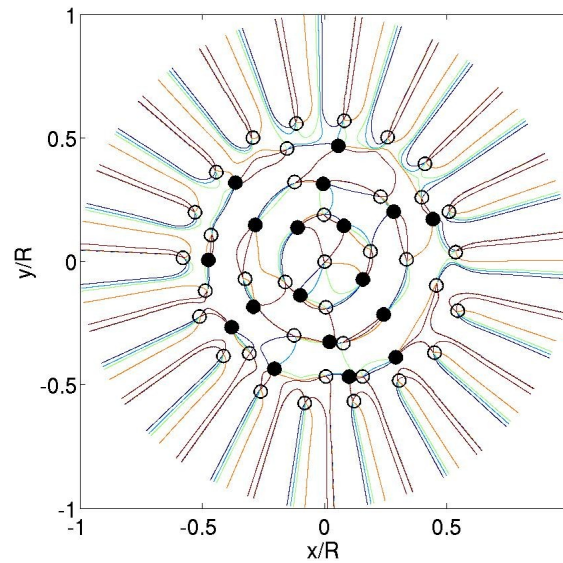
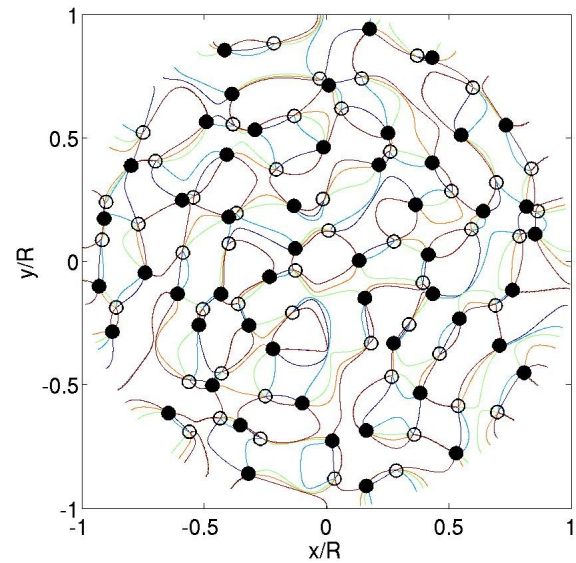
= superposition of the wave guide modes  $\Psi = A_{mn} \Psi_{mn}$  with  $\langle A_{mn} \rangle$  consistent with  $C_\Psi$

Frequency away from  
cut-off

Cut-off frequency  $\omega = \omega_{19,0}$

$\ell > 10^6 R$

$\ell = 10R$



$Q = -2$

$Q = 19$

$Q = 5$

$\Rightarrow Q^2 = 4$

$\Rightarrow Q^2 = 361$

$\Rightarrow Q^2 = 25$

## Fluctuation of charge in a wave guide:

- Screening
- Cutt off frequencies => giant fluctuations of the topological charge
- Probe the mean free path even when it is much larger than the wave guide size

## Other interest of phase:

You are welcome at the poster session to discuss about phase statistics and correlation and the possible applications to seismology.

**Thank you for your attention**



