

In this talk I show the behaviour of the lowest nonhydrodynamic modes in a class of holographic models which exhibit an equation of state closely mimicking the one determined from lattice QCD. I reveal the lowest quasinormal mode frequencies for a range of scalar self-interaction potentials and declare that the damping of the quasinormal modes at the phase transition/crossover falls off by a factor of around two from conformality after factoring out standard conformal temperature dependence. The damping encoded in the imaginary part of the frequencies turns out to be correlated with the speed of sound and is basically independent of the UV details of the model. I also show the ultra locality of the dynamics of the nonhydrodynamic degrees of freedom, even to a higher degree, as one deviates from conformality. These results indicate that the role of nonhydrodynamic degrees of freedom in the vicinity of the crossover transition may be enhanced.