

Electroweak phase transition

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Sections

- Computation of the effective potential at finite temperature in the SM
- Phase transitions from the false to the true vacuum: Bubble nucleation
- EWPT and Baryogenesis

References:

- S. W. Anderson & L. J. Hall PRD 45, p. 2685, 1992
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S. Coleman PRD 15, p. 2929, 1977
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Computation of the effective potential in the SM [1] and [2]

Electro-weak sector of the SM

$$L_{EW} = L_{Higgs} + L_{Gauge-field} + L_{Fermions} + L_{Yukawa} + L_{Gauge-fixing}$$

$$L_{Higgs} = (D_\mu \phi)^+ (D^\mu \phi) + c^2 (\phi^+ \phi) - \lambda (\phi^+ \phi)^2 \text{ with}$$

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig \frac{\gamma^\alpha}{2} A_\mu^\alpha + ig' \frac{1}{2} B_\mu$$

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \phi_3 + i\phi_4 \\ \phi_1 + i\phi_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

From the 3-level form of the potential we can assume that the v.e.v of the Higgs field can be taken as constant, and in general different from zero. This feature is conserved when we add 1-loop corrections and also temperature effects (although we can advance that at some temperature the v.e.v is null).

In order to consider a few written in terms of fields with zero v.e.v we can expand the Higgs field around the constant v.e.v.

$$\phi \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \phi_3 + i\phi_4 \\ v + \chi + i\phi_2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ with } v = \langle S | \phi_1 | S \rangle \text{ so that } \langle S | \chi | S \rangle = 0$$

The Higgs fields acquire mass terms.

$$m_\chi^2(v) = 3\lambda v^2 - c^2$$

$$m_{\phi_{1,3,4}}^2(v) = \lambda v^2 - c^2$$

At the classical level $v^2 = \frac{c^2}{\lambda}$

ϕ_1, ϕ_3, ϕ_4 Goldstone bosons.

From the covariant derivatives of the Higgs sector, gauge bosons acquire mass terms given by

$$\sim A_\mu^\alpha M_{AB}^2(v) A_\mu^\beta$$

$$\text{with } M_{AB}^2(v) =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} g^2 v^2/4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & g^2 v^2/4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & g^2 v^2/4 & -gg'v^2/4 \\ 0 & 0 & -gg'v^2/4 & g^{12}v^2/4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Working in the approximation that the only non-zero Yukawa coupling is the t-quark coupling denoted by f , the Yukawa term becomes (II)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}} = & f \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{t} t + f \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{t} x t - i \frac{f}{\sqrt{2}} (\bar{t} \gamma_5 \phi_2 t) \\ & + \frac{f}{2\sqrt{2}} [\bar{b}'(1+\gamma_5)(-\phi_3 + i\phi_4)t - \bar{t}(1-\gamma_5)(\phi_3 + i\phi_4)b'] \end{aligned}$$

the top quark acquires a mass $m_t^2(v) = \frac{f^2 v^2}{2t}$

Working in the R_ξ gauge, where the gauge-fixing part of \mathcal{L}_{EW} is:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge-fixing}} = -\frac{1}{2\xi} (\partial^\mu A_\mu - \frac{1}{2}\xi g v \chi^\mu)^2 - \frac{1}{2\xi} (\partial^\mu B_\mu - \frac{1}{2}\xi g' v \chi^\mu)^2$$

where $\chi^\mu = \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4$. In the London gauge $\xi \rightarrow 0$. In this gauge the ghost fields are massless and do not contribute to the v -dependent part of the 1-loop effective potential. Note that the $V_{\text{eff}}(v)$ will be gauge dependent, however physical quantities, such as the critique temperature are gauge independent.

Finite temperature effective potential at 1-loop

→ [v in this talk]

The Effective Potential $V_{\text{eff}}(\phi_{\text{ce}})$, with $\phi_{\text{ce}} = \langle \psi \bar{\psi} |\phi| \psi \bar{\psi} \rangle$, is defined as

$$\boxed{\Gamma[\phi_{\text{ce}}] = \int_0^B d\tau \int d^3x [-V_{\text{eff}}[\phi_{\text{ce}}]]}, \text{ with } \boxed{\Gamma[\phi_{\text{ce}}]}: \text{Effective action at finite temperature}$$

Recalling Mathias talk the expression for the $V_{\text{eff}}[\phi_{\text{ce}}]$ is given by

$$V_{\text{eff}}[\phi_{\text{ce}}] = V_0(\phi_{\text{ce}}) + \sum_B \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^4 p_E}{(2\pi)^4} \log [p_E^2 + m_B^2(\phi_{\text{ce}})] - \sum_F 2 \int \frac{d^4 p_E}{(2\pi)^4} \ln [p_E^2 + m_F^2(\phi_{\text{ce}})] + \dots$$

The tree-level contribution is $V_0(\phi_{\text{ce}}) = -\frac{1}{2} c^2 \phi_{\text{ce}}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda \phi_{\text{ce}}^4$. For the 1-loop contribution it is advisable to split the factors for each SM particle

$$V_1(r) = V_1^{(0)}(r) + V_1^{(T)}(r)$$

$$V_1^{(0)}(r) = V_{1,\phi}^{(0)}(r) + V_{1,gb}^{(0)}(r) + V_{1,\psi}^{(0)}(r)$$

$$V_1^{(T)}(r) = V_{1,\phi}^{(T)}(r) + V_{1,gb}^{(T)}(r) + V_{1,\psi}^{(T)}(r)$$

(0) : zero temperature contribution

(T) : finite temperature contributions

Defining the functions $f(m_x(r))$, $g(m_x(r))$ and $h(m_x(r))$ as

$$f(m_x(r)) = \frac{\Lambda^2}{32\pi^2} m_x^2(r) + \frac{m_x^4(r)}{64\pi^2} \left[\ln \left(\frac{m_x^2(r)}{\Lambda^2} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \right] \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \Lambda = \text{cut-off} \\ \text{1-loop contributions} \\ (\text{scalar and fermions}) \end{array}$$

$$g(m_x(r)) = \frac{T}{2\pi^2} \int dk k^2 \ln \left(1 - e^{-\beta(k^2 + m_x^2(r))^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{scalar finite T} \\ \text{contribution} \end{array}$$

$$h(m_x(r)) = \frac{T}{2\pi^2} \int dk k^2 \ln \left(1 + e^{-\beta(k^2 + m_x^2(r))^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{Fermion finite T} \\ \text{contribution} \end{array}$$

The contributions of each field are:

$$V_{1,\phi}(r) = [f(m_1(r)) + 3f(m_2(r)) + g(m_1(r)) + 3g(m_2(r))]$$

$$V_{1,gb}(r) = 3f(m_3(r)) + 6f(m_4(r)) + 3g(m_3(r)) + 6g(m_4(r))$$

$$V_{1,\psi}(r) = -12f(m_5(r)) + 12h(m_5(r))$$

The different factors in front of each contribution are given by the degrees of freedom for each particle. In order to eliminate the cut-off dependence the normalization condition:

$$\left[\frac{dV^{(0)}(r)}{dr} \right]_{r=\langle r \rangle_0} = 0 \quad \text{with } V^{(0)}(r) = V_1(r) + V_2(r) \text{ is imposed.}$$

If we do not want to restrict to the ultra-relativistic regime $\frac{m(r)}{T} \ll 1$ the contributions at finite temperature have to be computed numerically. However there exist a problem in the Higgs sector because the masses are negative in the regions

$$r^2 < \frac{c^2}{3\lambda} \quad \text{and} \quad r^2 < \frac{c^2}{\lambda} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{complex terms for } k \rightarrow 0 \\ \text{"Infrared problem"} \end{array}$$

In order to solve the infrared problem the contribution at I-loop level of the propagators are included. The net effect on the future expressions will be given by a shift on the masses in the m^3 terms (IV)

$$m_1^3(v) \rightarrow (m_1^2(v) + \Pi_1(0))^{\frac{3}{2}} \quad \text{with} \quad \Pi_1(0) = T^2 \left(\frac{g^2}{8} + \frac{(g^2 + g'^2)}{16} + \frac{\lambda}{2} + \frac{f^2}{4} \right)$$

$$m_2^3(v) \rightarrow (m_2^2(v) + \Pi_2(0))^{\frac{3}{2}} \quad \Pi_2(0) = \Pi_1(0)$$

$$M^3(v) \rightarrow \underbrace{(M^2(v) + \Pi_{00}(0))}_{\bar{m}_1^3(v), \bar{m}_2^3(v), \bar{M}^3(v)}^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$\Pi_{00}(0) = \text{diag}(\Pi_{00}^{(1)}(0), \Pi_{00}^{(2)}(0), \Pi_{00}^{(2)}(0), \Pi_{00}^{(1)}(0))$$

$$\Pi_{00}^{(2)}(0) = T^2 \left(\frac{2}{3}g^2 + \frac{g^2}{6} + g'^2 \right)$$

$$\Pi_{00}^{(1)}(0) = T^2 \left(\frac{g'^2}{6} + \frac{5}{3}g'^2 \right)$$

Considering this general solution, now we can safely take the limit of high temperature and write the approximated effective potential of the Standard Model:

$$V_{\text{eff}}(v, T) = D(T^2 - T_2^2) v^2 - E T v^3 + \frac{\lambda_T}{4} v^4$$

where $D = \frac{1}{24v^2} \left(m_1^2(v) + 3m_2^2(v) + 6m_W^2(v) + 3m_Z^2(v) + 6m_t^2(v) \right)$

$$10^{-2} \sim E = \frac{1}{12\pi v^3} \left(\bar{m}_1^3(v) + 3\bar{m}_2^3(v) + 6\bar{m}_W^3(v) + 3\bar{m}_Z^3(v) + 6\bar{m}_t^3(v) \right)$$

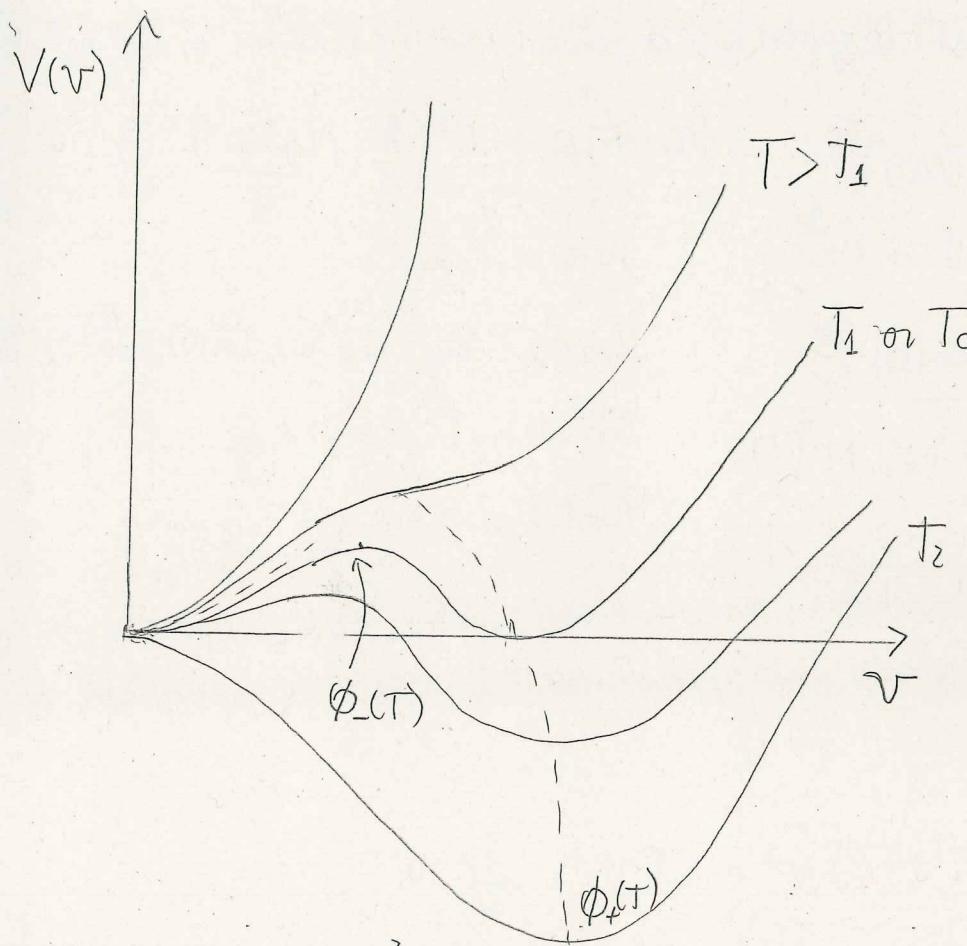
$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_T = & \lambda + \frac{1}{16v^4\pi^2} \left[6m_W^4(v) \ln \left(\frac{2v^2 + T^2 a_b}{c^2 m_W^2(v)} \right) + 3m_Z^4(v) \ln \left(\frac{2v^2 T^2 a_b}{c^2 m_Z^2(v)} \right) \right. \\ & + m_1^4(v) \ln \left(\frac{m_1^2(v)}{2c^2} \frac{T^2 a_b}{m_1^2(v)} \right) + 3m_2^4(v) \ln \left(\frac{m_2^2(v)}{2c^2} \frac{T^2 a_b}{m_2^2(v)} \right) \\ & \left. - 12m_t^4(v) \ln \left(\frac{2v^2 + T^2 a_f}{c^2 m_t^2(v)} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left[6\lambda^2 + \frac{3g^4}{16} + \frac{3(g^2 + g'^2)^2}{32} - \frac{3f^2}{2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$T_2^2 = \frac{1}{D} \left[\frac{1}{2} c^2 - \frac{3\lambda c^2}{32\pi^2} \right]$$

The terms D , λ_T and T_2^2 are independent on v . However the term E is not completely independent on v because the shift. For simplicity we take $E \rightarrow E(T=0) = E_0$.

The Picture of the Effective potential

(V)



T_1 indicates the degenerate case.

T_2 is found requiring
 $V''(v=0) = 0$

$$E_0 = E(T=0)$$

$$T_1^2 = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{E_0^2}{\lambda_F D}} T_2^2, \quad \phi_{\pm}(T_1) \approx \frac{3E_0 T_1}{2\lambda_T} \pm \frac{E_0 T_1}{2\lambda_T}, \quad \phi_{\pm}(T_2) \approx \frac{3E_0 T_2}{2\lambda_T} \pm \frac{3E_0 T_2}{2\lambda_T}$$

Assuming that $m_H(T=0)$ and $\langle v \rangle_0$ are known values, we can find the values of T_1 and T_2 using the conditions

$$\left(\frac{\partial V^0(v)}{\partial v} \right)_{v=\langle v \rangle_0} = 0, \quad \text{with } V^0(v) = V_{3L}(v) + V_{1-l}^{(0)}(v), \\ (\text{Renormalization condition})$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 V^0(v)}{\partial v^2} \right)_{v=\langle v \rangle_0} = m_H^2 \quad \boxed{\langle v \rangle = 246 \text{ GeV}}$$

$$\hookrightarrow T_2^2 = \frac{1}{4D} (m_H^2 - 3\lambda_F^{loop} \langle v \rangle_0^2)$$

$$T_2 \sim (1.2 - 1.8)m_H \quad \text{for } m_H \sim 50 - 175 \text{ GeV}$$

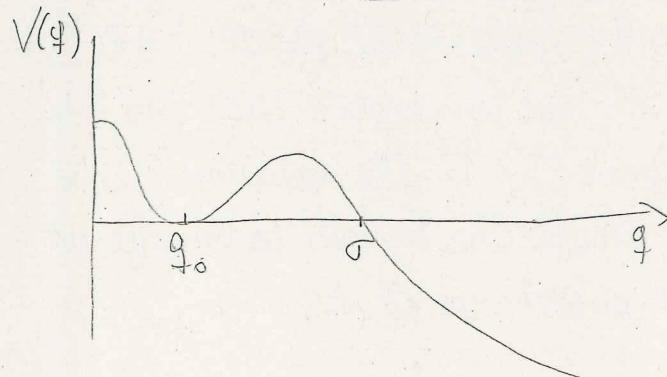
$\leftarrow T_1 \sim T_2$

Bubble nucleation

[3] and [1]

(I)

One particle Quantum-Mechanics discussion



$$L = \frac{1}{2} \vec{\dot{q}}^2 - V(\vec{q})$$

$$\Gamma \sim e^{-B/\hbar} [1 + O(\hbar)] \text{ where } B = 2 \int_{\vec{q}_0}^{\vec{\tau}} ds (2V)^{1/2},$$

↳ Probability for the decay of the false vacuum per unit of time.

In m -dimensions,

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \vec{\dot{q}} \cdot \vec{\dot{q}} - V(\vec{q}), \quad B = \int_{\vec{q}_0}^{\vec{\tau}} ds (2V)^{1/2} \quad ds^2 = d\vec{q} \cdot d\vec{q}$$

$\vec{\tau}$ is some point in the surface Σ of zeros of the potential and the integral is over that path for which B is a minimum.

$$\int_{\vec{q}_0}^{\vec{\tau}} ds (2V)^{1/2} = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{1}{2} \frac{d\vec{q}}{dt} \cdot \frac{d\vec{q}}{dt} - V = 0}$$

← Euler-Lagrange equations for the imaginary-time version of Hamilton's principle.

$$\int dt L_E = 0$$

$$L_E = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\vec{q}}{dt} \cdot \frac{d\vec{q}}{dt} + V$$

From this equation it is possible to obtain the boundary conditions:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} \vec{q} = \vec{q}_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \left. \frac{d\vec{q}}{dt} \right|_0 = 0$$

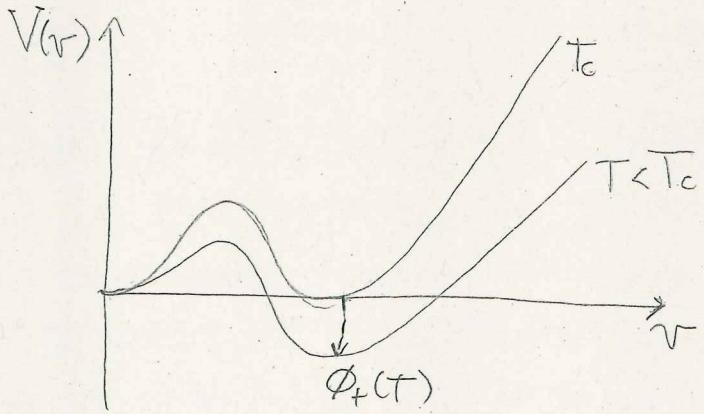
$\underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}$
 $V=0$ at $t=-\infty$
and symmetry
for $t=-t$

$\underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}$
we choose that at $t=0$
The kinetic energy is 0
⇒ we reach the point $\vec{\tau}$
at $t=0$.

→ This condition is independent on the specific point $\vec{\tau}$, but we fix the value of the energy at the escape point.

Thus the parameter $B = \int_{-\infty}^0 dt L_E = S_E +$ initial condition after crossing the barrier given by $\vec{q}(t=0)$

Quantum Field theory case + Temperature



Starting with a vacuum state in the metastable point $r=0$ for $T > T_c$ we can expect that for the regime $T < T_c$ the vacuum state penetrates the barrier to emerge at the point $r = \phi_+(T)$.

Extending the Quantum mechanics discussion to the realm of QFT + T the decay probability for this transition is given by:

$$\frac{P}{V} = A e^{-S_3} [1 + O(\hbar)]$$

where $S_3 = \int d^3x \left[\frac{1}{2} (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 + V(\phi, T) \right] = 4\pi \int_0^\rho r^2 dr \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d\phi}{dr} \right)^2 + V(\phi(r), T) \right]$

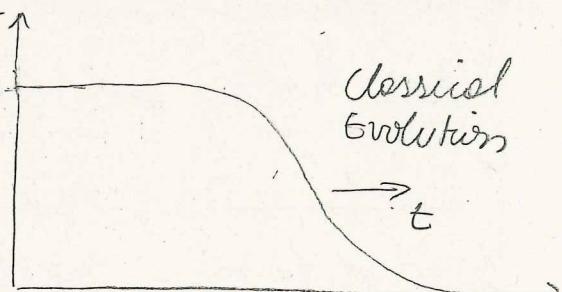
The configuration $\phi(x)$ is given by the solution of

$$\frac{d^2\phi}{dr^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{d\phi}{dr} = V'(\phi, T)$$

with boundary conditions $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \phi(r) = 0$ and $\frac{d\phi}{dr} \Big|_{r=0} = 0$

Considering the limit $\epsilon = \frac{(T_1 - T)}{(T_1 - T_2)} \ll 1 \rightarrow$ The solution for the field configuration at the moment just after the penetration of the potential is:

$$\phi(r) = \frac{v_0}{2} \left(1 - \tanh \left[\left(\frac{2\pi}{2\epsilon} \right)^{1/2} v_0 (r - R) \right] \right),$$



"Thin-Wall bubble limit"

$$S_3 = \frac{8\pi}{3} \sqrt{2\pi r} v^3 R^2 - \epsilon \frac{16\pi}{3} \gamma_T v^4 R^3; \frac{\partial S}{\partial R} = 0 \Rightarrow R_c = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi r}} (3\epsilon v)$$

Hence the critical free-energy to temperature ratio is $\frac{S_c}{T} = 2.85 \left[\frac{E}{(2\pi r)^2} \right] \frac{1}{\epsilon^2}$

The onset of bubble nucleation

To compute the temperature when the first bubble emerges we need two ingredients:

$$\frac{E}{V} = \Lambda^4(T) e^{-S_3(T)/T} : \text{probability per unit of volume to produce one transition from the false to the true vacua. } (\Lambda^4(T) = w T^4)$$

$$V_H(T) = 8 \xi^3 \frac{M_{pl}^3}{T^6} T^4 : \text{Size of causal volume at a temperature } T \\ \xi \approx 1/34.$$

For probabilities small compared to one, the probability that a bubble was nucleated inside a causal volume during a temperature interval dT is given by:

$$dP \sim 16 w \xi^4 \frac{M_{pl}^4}{T^4} e^{-S_3(T)/T} \frac{dT}{T}$$

$$dP = \frac{C}{V} \times V(T) dt \\ \text{with } t = \xi \frac{M_{pl}}{T^2}$$

Integrating this equation and requiring $P \approx 1$, the critical temperature of the first bubble nucleation is given by:

$$\frac{S_3(T_N)}{T_N} \sim 1/34 \Rightarrow T_c \gtrsim T_N \gtrsim T_z$$

At least one-bubble is created between T_c and T_z . Also is possible to prove that at a temperature $T_c \gtrsim T_z$ the complete space have been converted to the true vacuum.

EWPT and Baryogenesis

(I)

The Sakharov Criteria: a small baryon asymmetry η may have been produced in the early universe if three necessary conditions are satisfied:

- Baryon number violation $\Delta B \neq 0$
- C and CP violation
- Departure from thermal equilibrium

$$\eta_B = \frac{n_B - \bar{n}_B}{n_\gamma} \approx 10^{-10}$$

↓
observed

At sufficiently high temperatures, $T \approx T_c$ for example, the baryon number violation can be triggered by the production of sphalerons.

Roughly speaking: $\frac{dn_B}{n_B} \propto \frac{\Gamma_{sp}}{HT} dT$ with: Γ_{sp} : rate of sphaleron production
 Given $n_B \neq 0$ there exists a dilution process.

H = Hubble parameter

The previous process does not produce baryon asymmetry if we start from the equilibrium $n_B^i = \bar{n}_B^i$ and C and CP are conserving. In the SM the amount of CP violation is not enough, thus is necessary to include effective operators like:

$$\mathcal{L} \subset \frac{\tilde{\chi}_{ij}}{M^2} (\phi^\dagger \phi) \phi u^i q_j \quad \phi: \text{Higgs field}$$

$$\Rightarrow m_{ij} = Y_{ij} \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{v^3}{2\sqrt{2} M^2} X_{ij}$$

This operator produce the non-trivial effect of different dispersion relations for particles and antiparticles when v is time-position dependent.

Finally the departure from the equilibrium is given in the EWPT by the production of bubbles. When a bubble is produced the value of v time-position dependent.

A cartoon of the process

(II)

<p>$T > T_c$</p> <p><u>False Vacuum age:</u></p> <p>$V = 0$</p> <p>$\phi = 0$</p> <p>$n_B^i = \bar{n}_B^i$</p> <p>Equilibrium system</p> <p>$n_B^{I_b} > \bar{n}_B^{I_b}$ and $n_B^{O_b} < \bar{n}_B^{O_b}$</p> <p>$\hookrightarrow n_B^{I_b} > 0$ $\hookrightarrow n_B^{O_b} < 0$</p>	<p>$T_N > T > T_2$</p> <p><u>Bubble nucleation</u></p> <p>$V = V(z)$</p> <p>Well of the bubble</p> <p>I_b</p> <p>R</p> <p>$V(z)$</p>
<p>$T_N > T > T_2$</p> <p><u>sphaleron process</u></p> <p>$V = V(z)$</p> <p>$\Gamma_{sp}^{O_b} = k(\alpha_w T^4) \quad 0.1 \leq k \leq 1.0$</p> <p>$\Gamma_{sp}^{I_b} = C_1 \exp\left[-(C_2 \frac{\phi_+(T)}{T})\right]$</p> <p>$\Delta n_B^{O_b} \approx \Delta T n_B^{O_b} \Gamma_{sp}^{O_b}(T)/H(T)$</p> <p>$\Delta n_B^{I_b} \approx \Delta T n_B^{I_b} \Gamma_{sp}^{I_b}(T)/H(T)$</p> <p>If $\Gamma_{sp}^{O_b}(T) > H(T)$ Baryon number variation inside the Bubble \Rightarrow dilution $\Delta T < 0$</p>	<p>$T \approx T_2$</p> <p><u>End of transition</u></p> <p>$V = \langle V \rangle$</p> <p>$n_B(T_2) \approx n_B^{O_b}(T_2) + n_B^{I_b}$</p> <p>We need sphaleron products outside the bubble</p> <p>$\overline{T_2 > T \geq 0}$ Nowadays</p> <p>$\Delta n_B = \Delta T n_B(T_2) \Gamma_{sp}^{I_b}(T)/H(T)$</p> <p>To avoid washout of the asymmetry we need $\frac{\Gamma_{sp}}{H} \ll 1$ just before T_2</p>

For us the interesting condition is the avoiding of baryon asymmetry washout. Including some detailed analysis this condition is

$$\left(\frac{\Gamma_{sp}}{H}\right)_{T_2} \ll 1$$

$$C_1 \sim C_2$$

\Rightarrow

$$\left[\frac{E}{\pi T}\right] \gtrsim \frac{1}{2}$$

\Rightarrow

In the SM \oplus EWPT

$m_H \lesssim 50 \text{ GeV}$

with $\frac{\Gamma_{sp}}{H T} = C_1 \exp\left[-C_2 \frac{\phi_+(T)}{T}\right]$

$$\frac{4 E v^2}{m_H^2} \gtrsim 1$$