

ABSTRACT: Plasma balls are droplets of deconfined plasma surrounded by a confining vacuum. We present the first holographic simulation of their real-time evolution via the dynamics of localized, finite-energy black holes in the five-dimensional AdS soliton background. New features compared to non-confining models include the dual of particle production in the gauge theory and a longer equilibration time. If time permits I will also discuss recent holographic studies of the dynamics of bubbles in cosmological phase transitions.