



Quantum Criticality and Black Holes

Talk online: sachdev.physics.harvard.edu



Particle theorists

Sean Hartnoll, KITP
Christopher Herzog,
Princeton
Pavel Kovtun, Victoria
Dam Son, Washington

Condensed matter theorists



Markus Mueller, Harvard
Lars Fritz, Harvard
Subir Sachdev, Harvard

Three foci of modern physics

Quantum phase
transitions

Three foci of modern physics

Quantum phase transitions

Many QPTs of correlated electrons in $2+1$ dimensions are described by conformal field theories (CFTs)

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Black holes

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Bekenstein and Hawking originated the quantum theory, which has found fruition in string theory

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Hydrodynamics

Black holes

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Hydrodynamics

Universal description of fluids based
upon conservation laws and
positivity of entropy production

Black holes

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Hydrodynamics

Canonical problem in condensed
matter: transport properties of a
correlated electron system

Black holes

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Quantum phase transitions

Hydrodynamics

Canonical problem in condensed matter: transport properties of a correlated electron system

New insights and results from detour unifies disparate fields of physics

Black holes

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Black holes

Three foci of modern physics

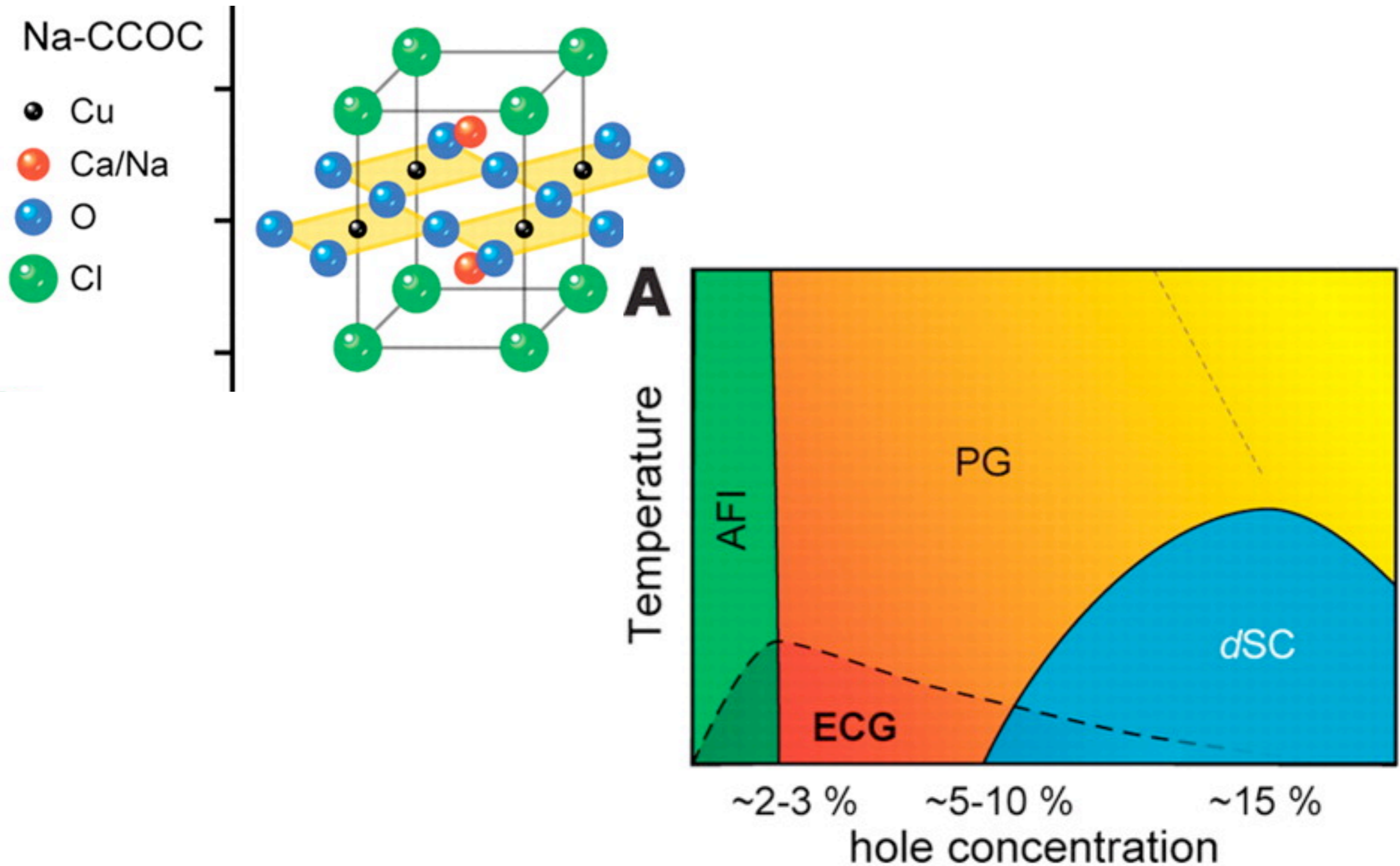
Quantum phase transitions

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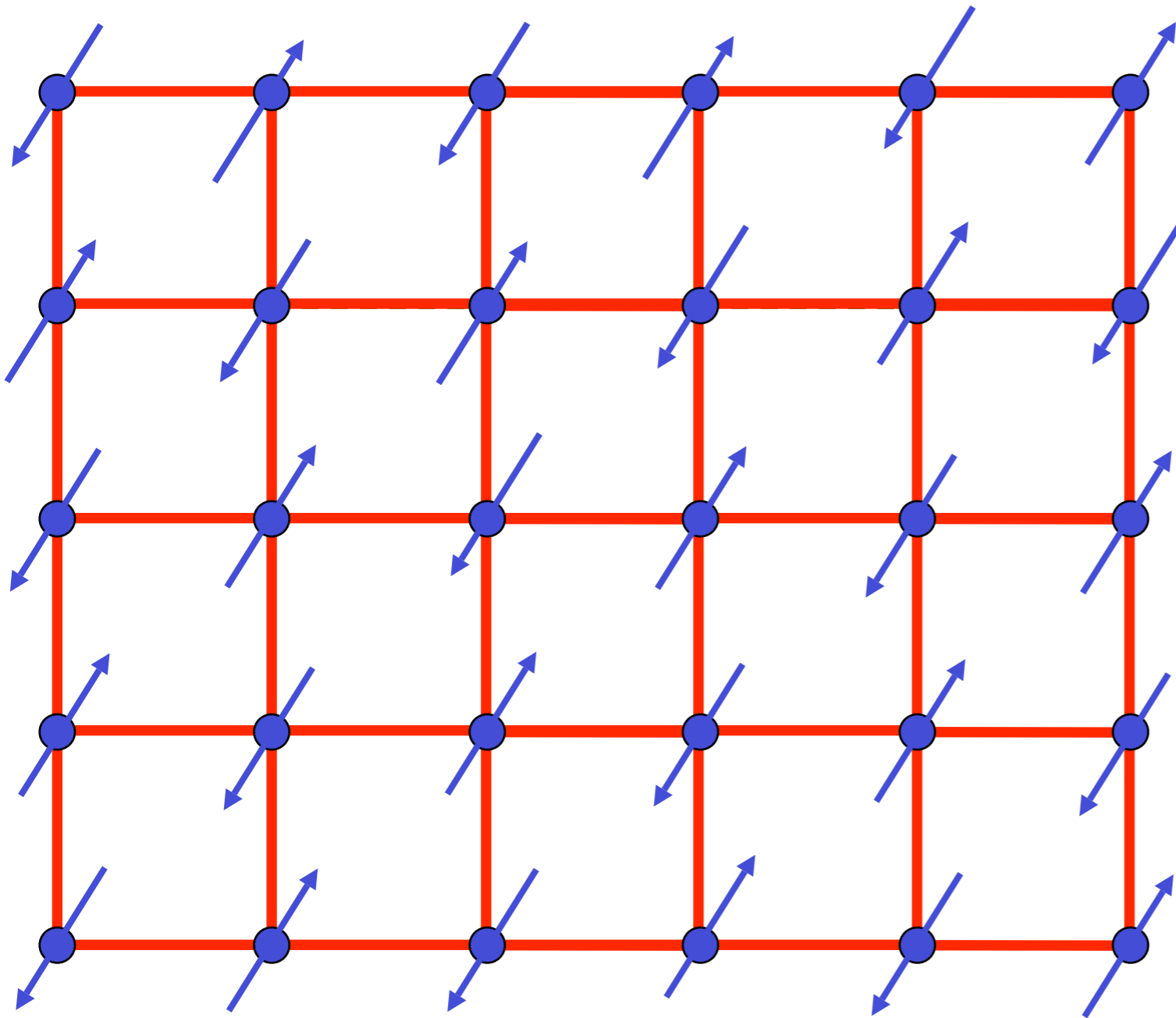
Hydrodynamics

Black holes

The cuprate superconductors



Antiferromagnetic (Neel) order in the insulator

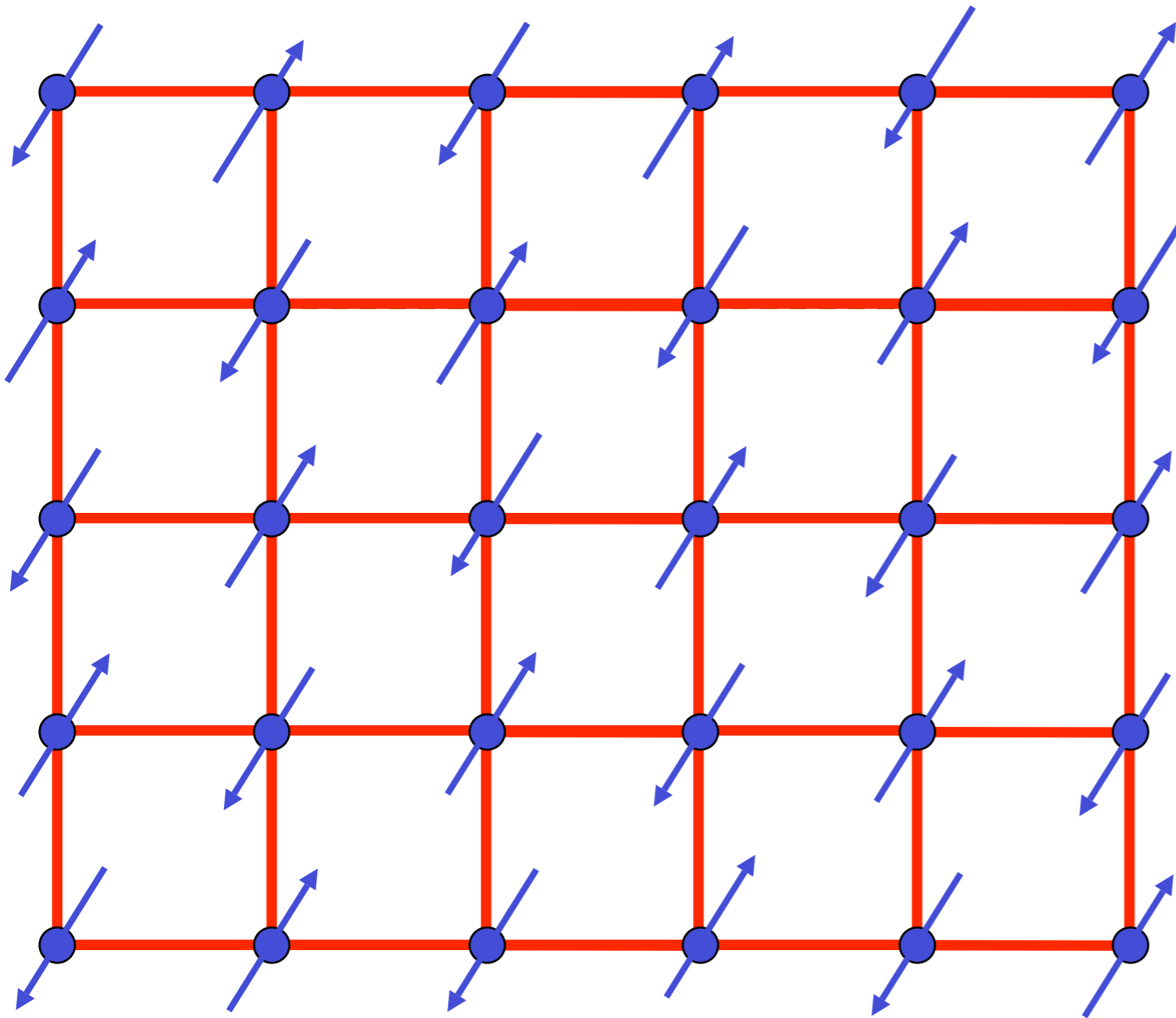


$$H = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

$\vec{S}_i \Rightarrow$ spin operator with $S = 1/2$

No entanglement of spins

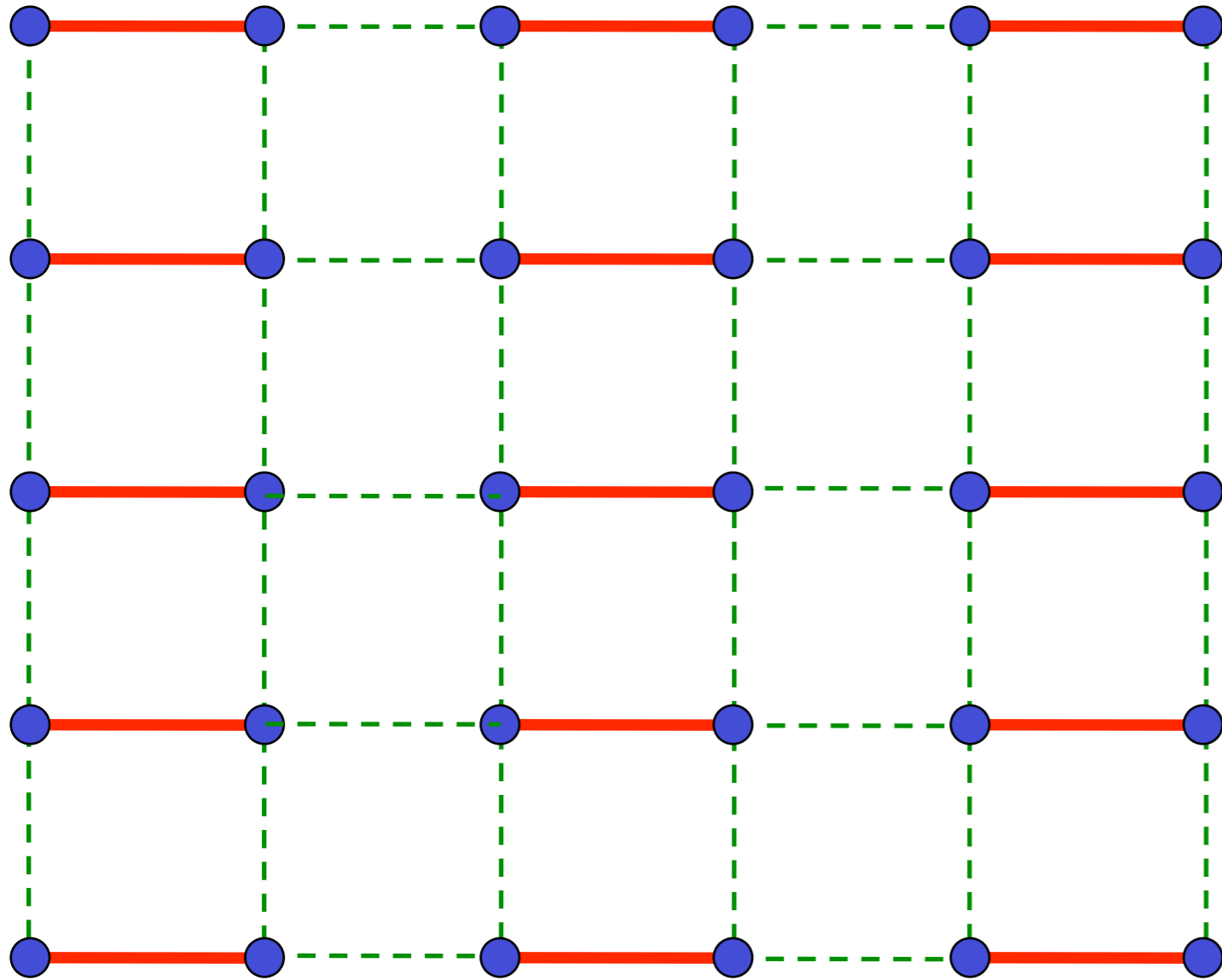
Antiferromagnetic (Neel) order in the insulator



$$H = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

$\vec{S}_i \Rightarrow$ spin operator with $S = 1/2$

Excitations: 2 spin waves (Goldstone modes)

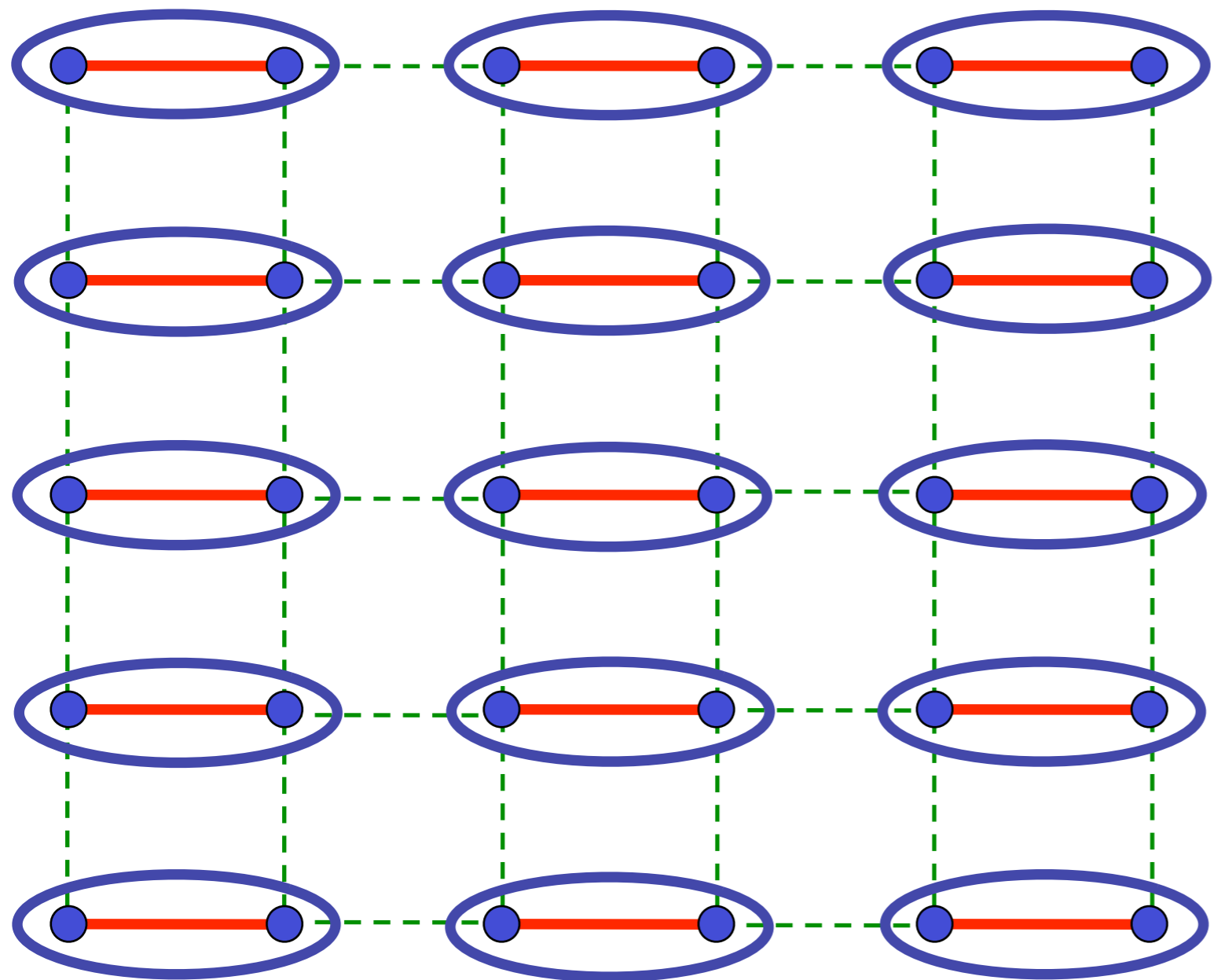


$$H = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

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Weaken some bonds to induce spin entanglement in a new quantum phase



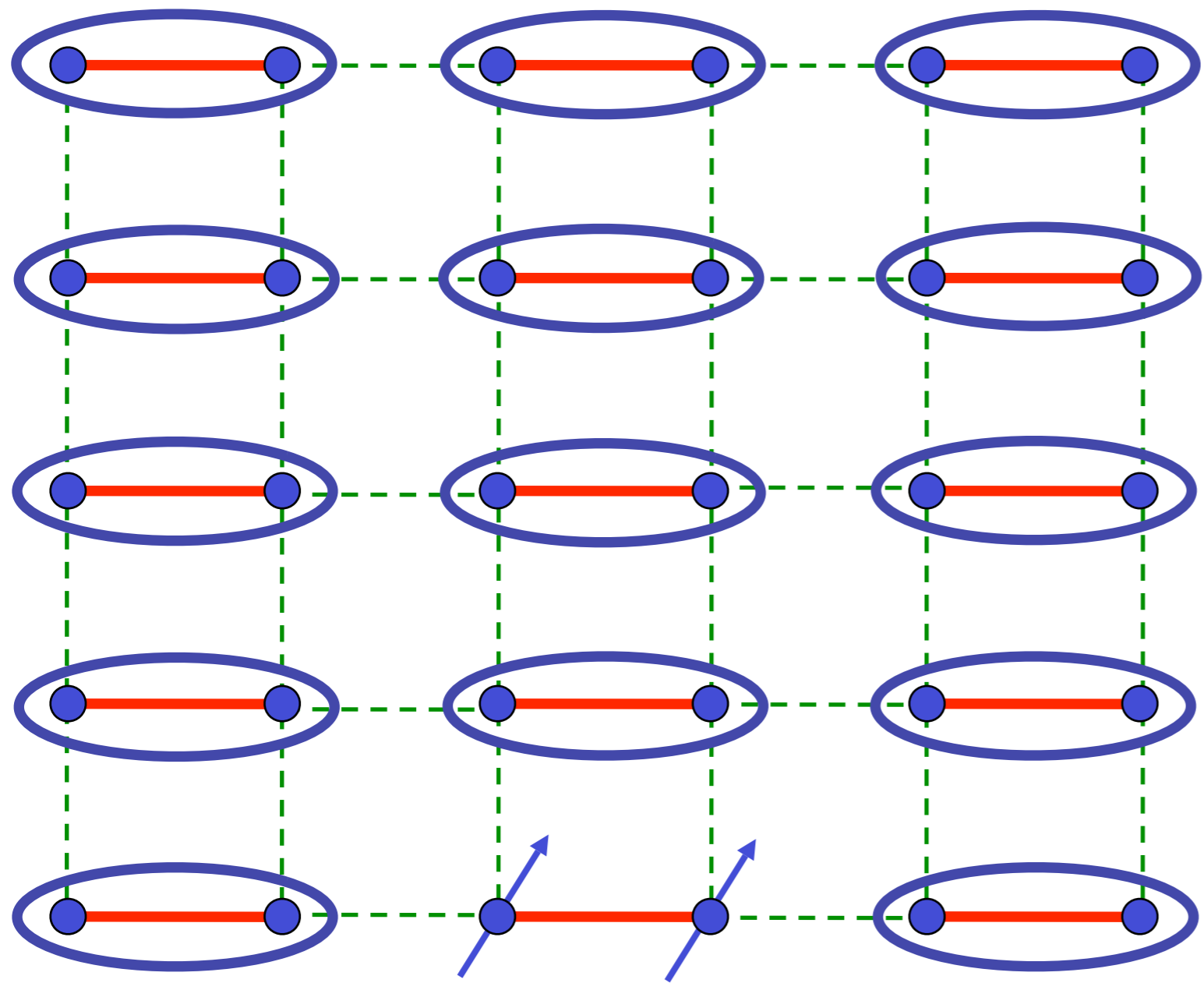
$$H = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

$\vec{S}_i \Rightarrow$ spin operator with $S = 1/2$



$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$

Ground state is a product of pairs of entangled spins.



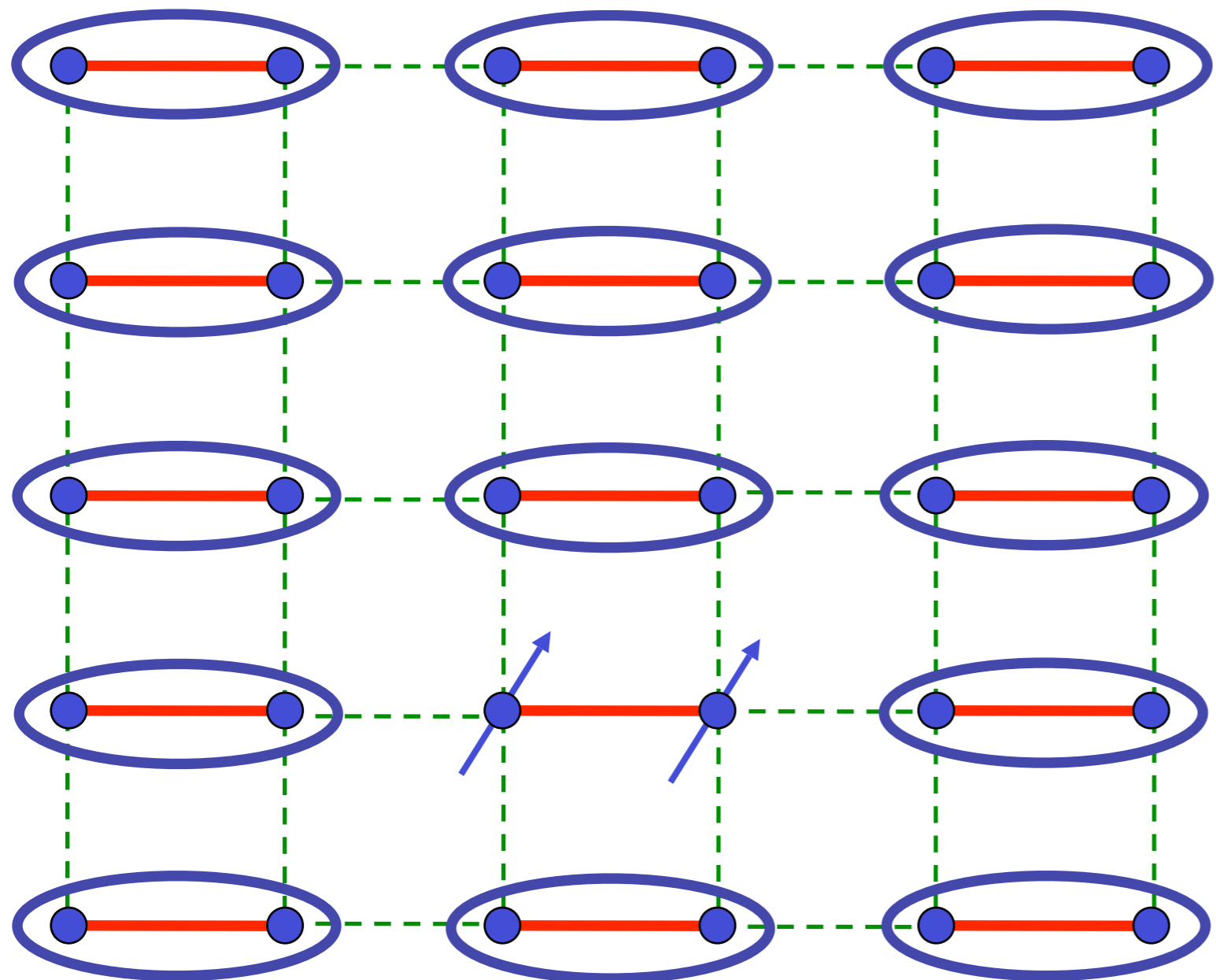
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Excitations: 3 $S=1$ triplons



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J

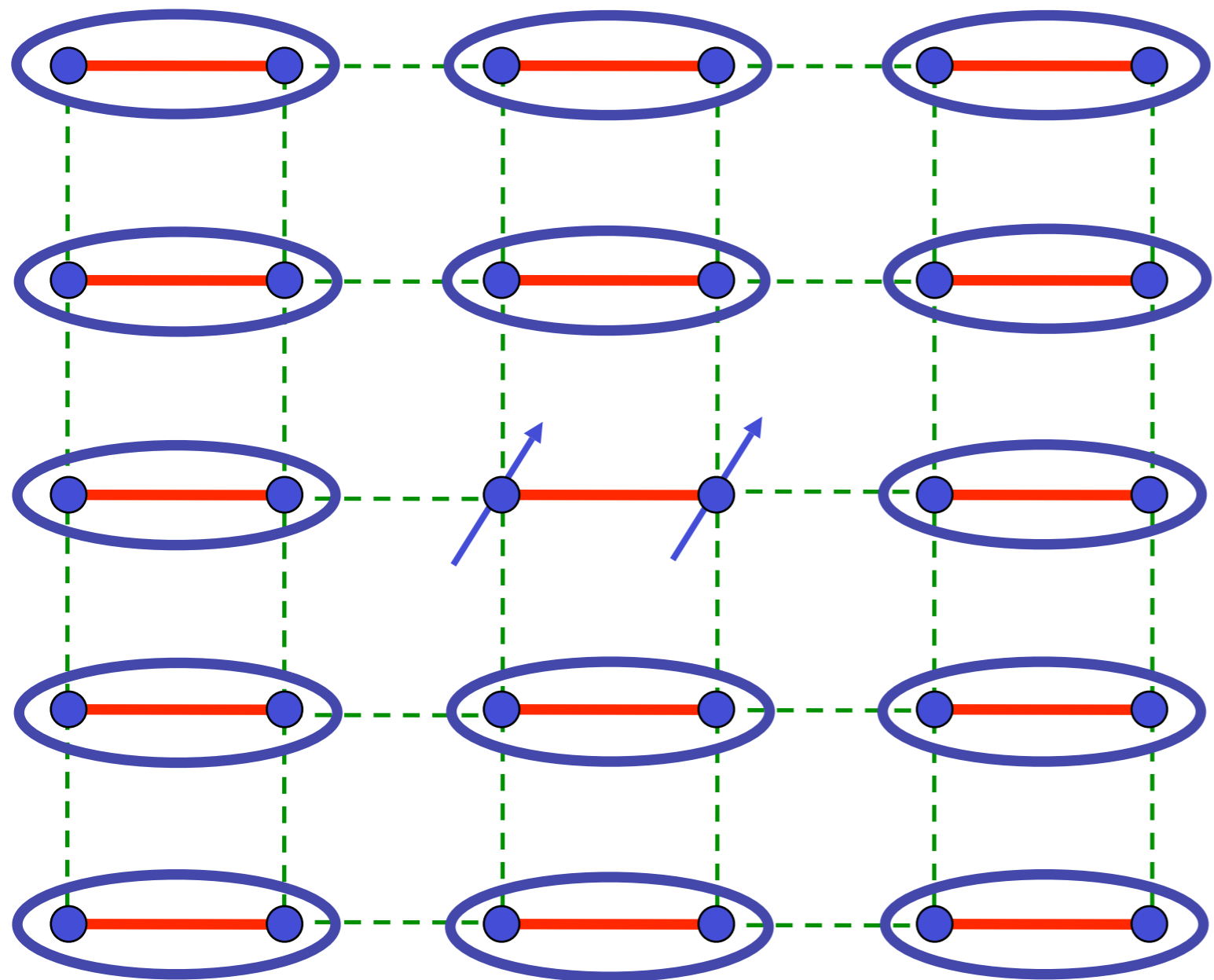


J/λ



$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$

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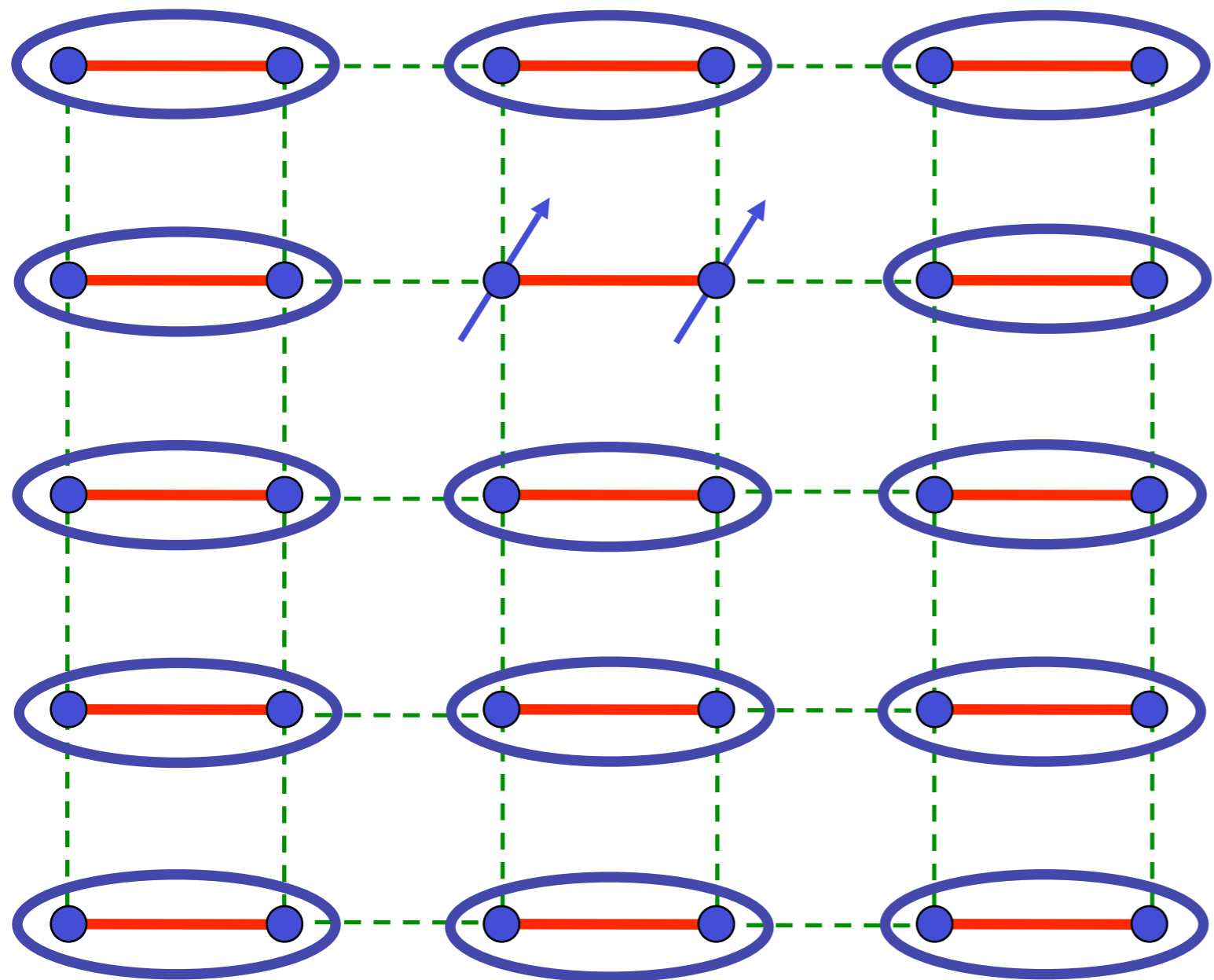
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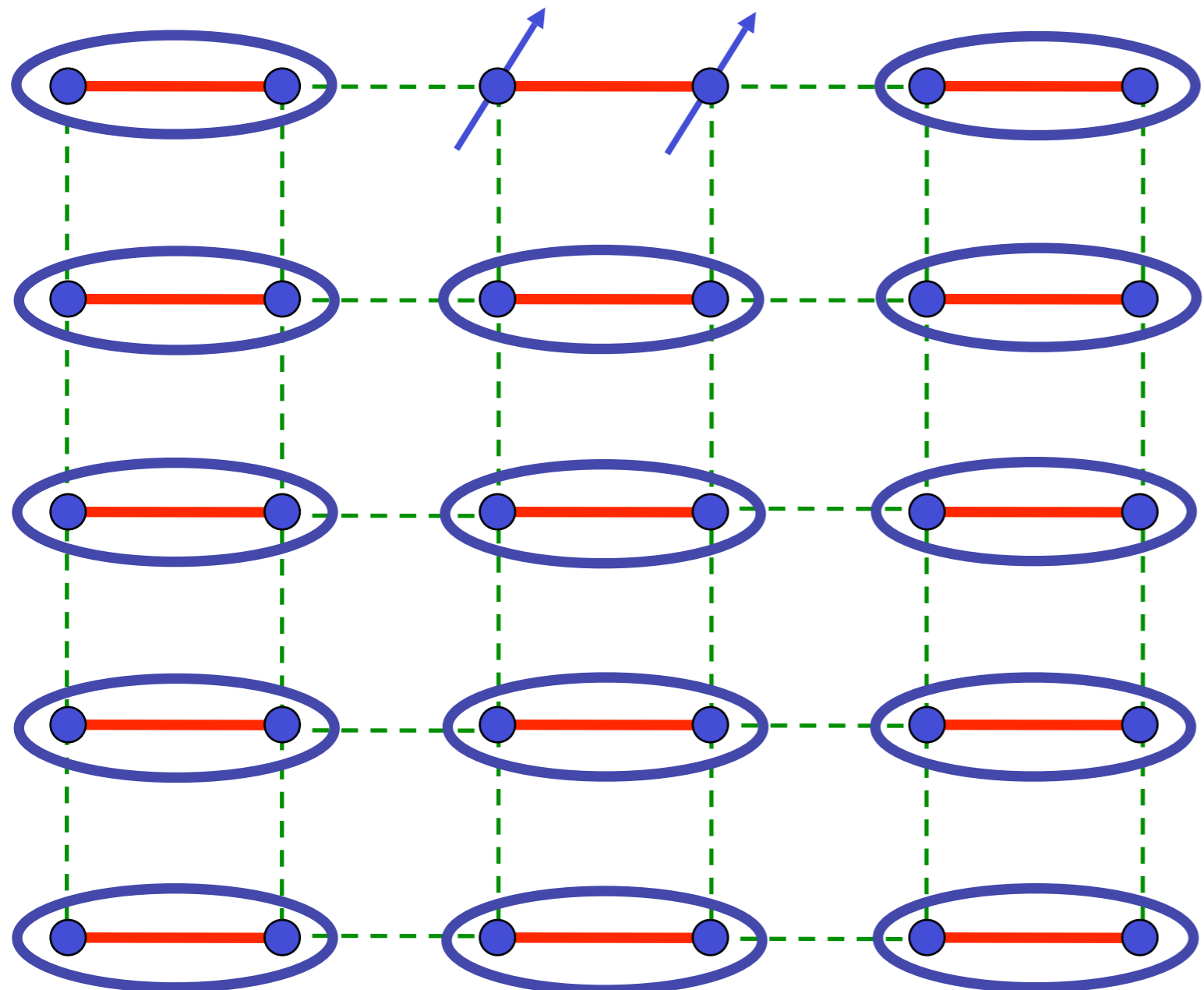
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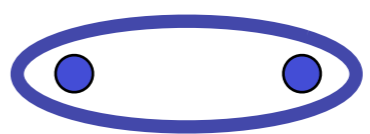
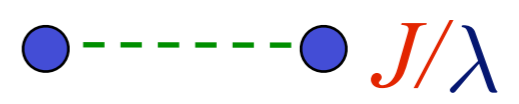
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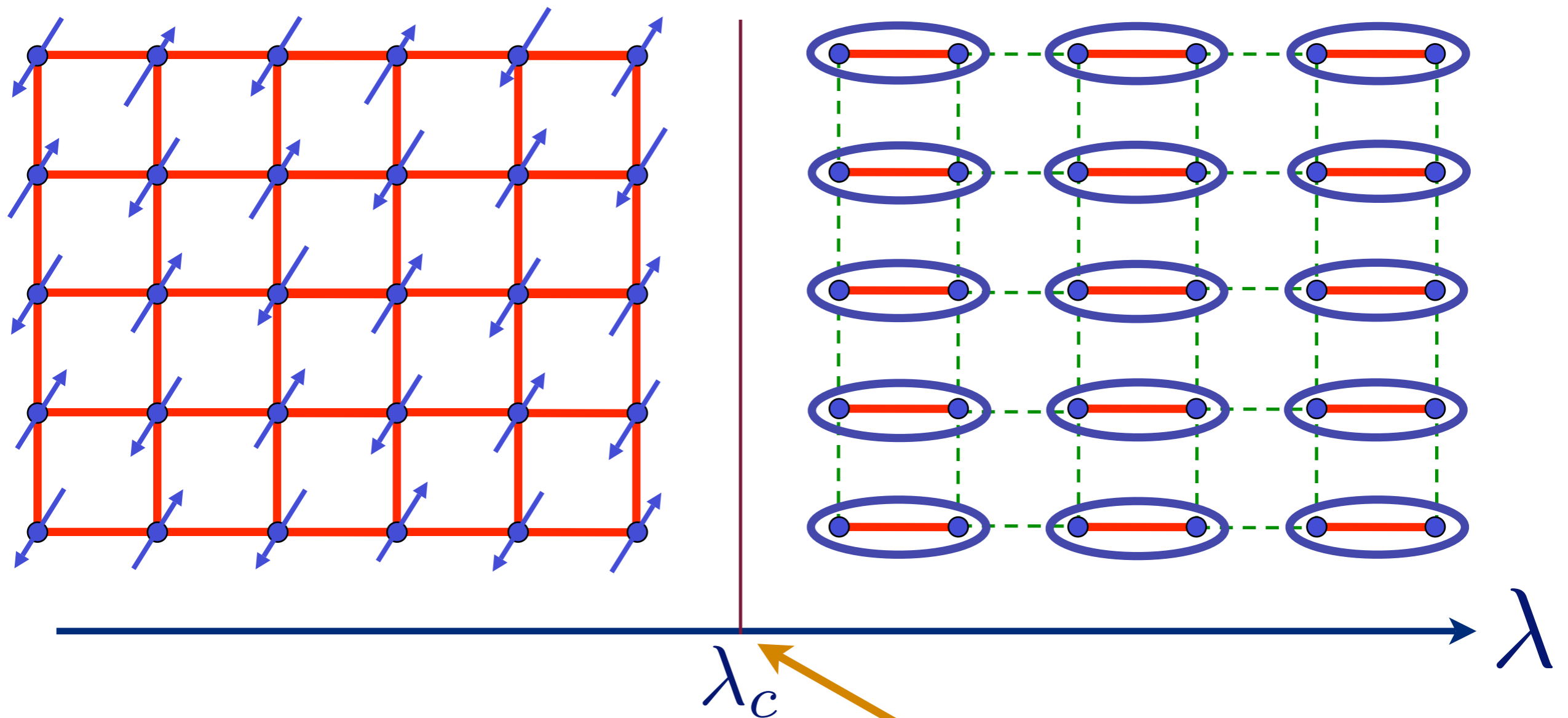
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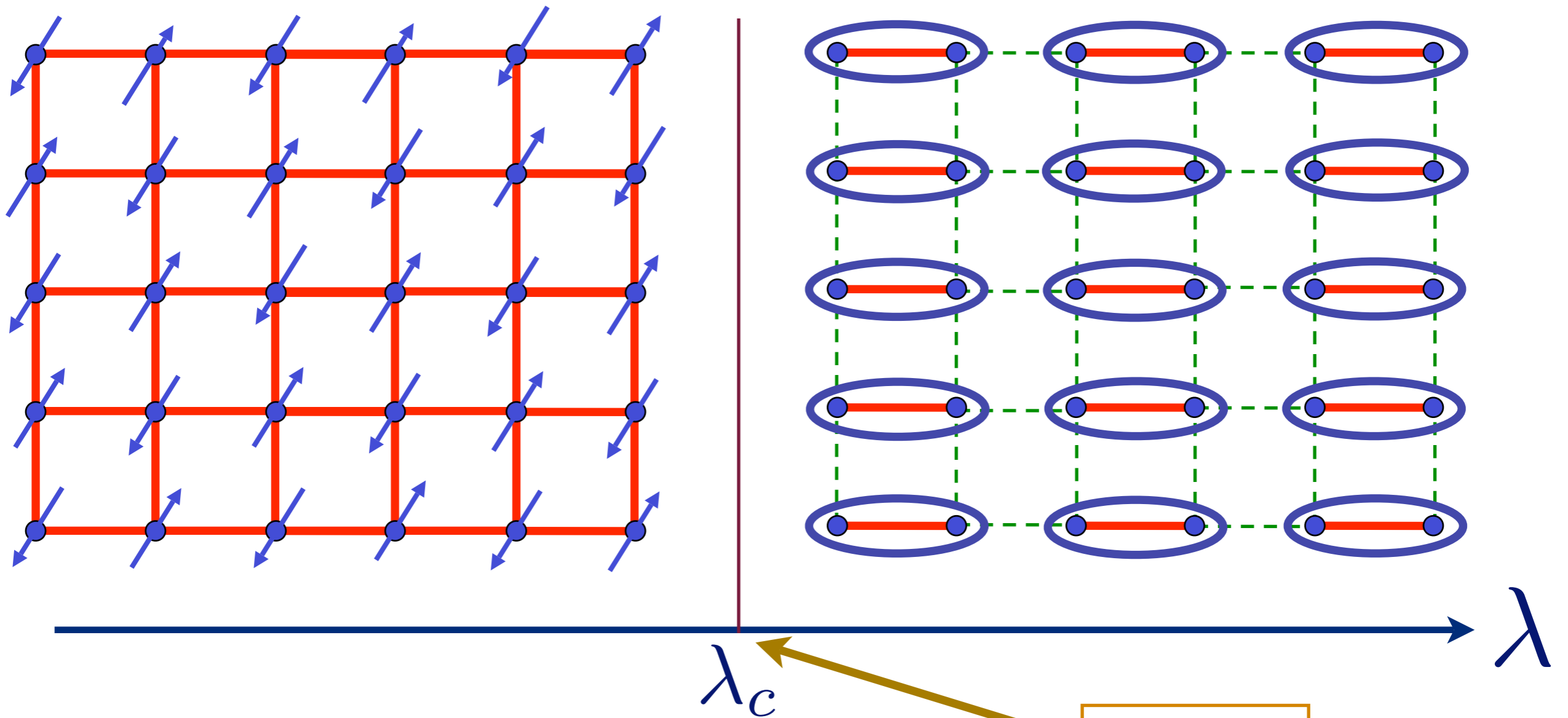
Excitations: 3 $S=1$ triplons

Phase diagram as a function of the ratio of exchange interactions, λ



Quantum critical point with non-local entanglement in spin wavefunction

Phase diagram as a function of the ratio of exchange interactions, λ

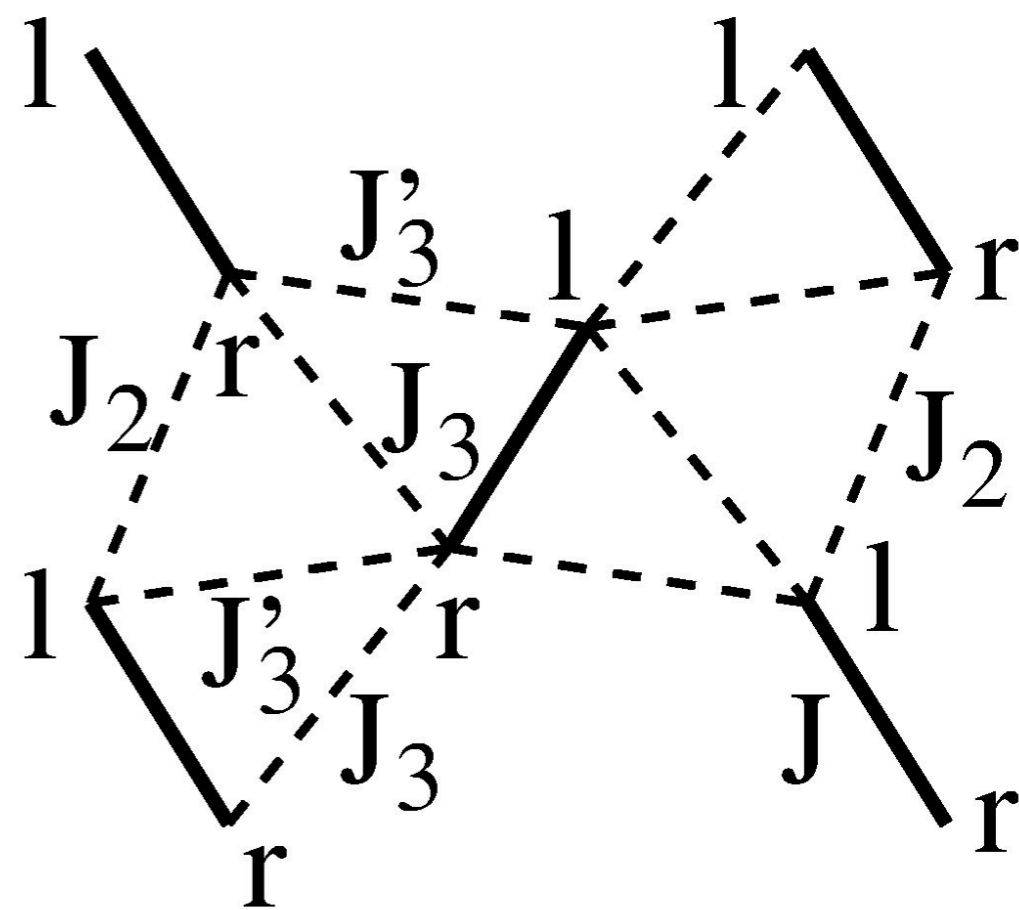
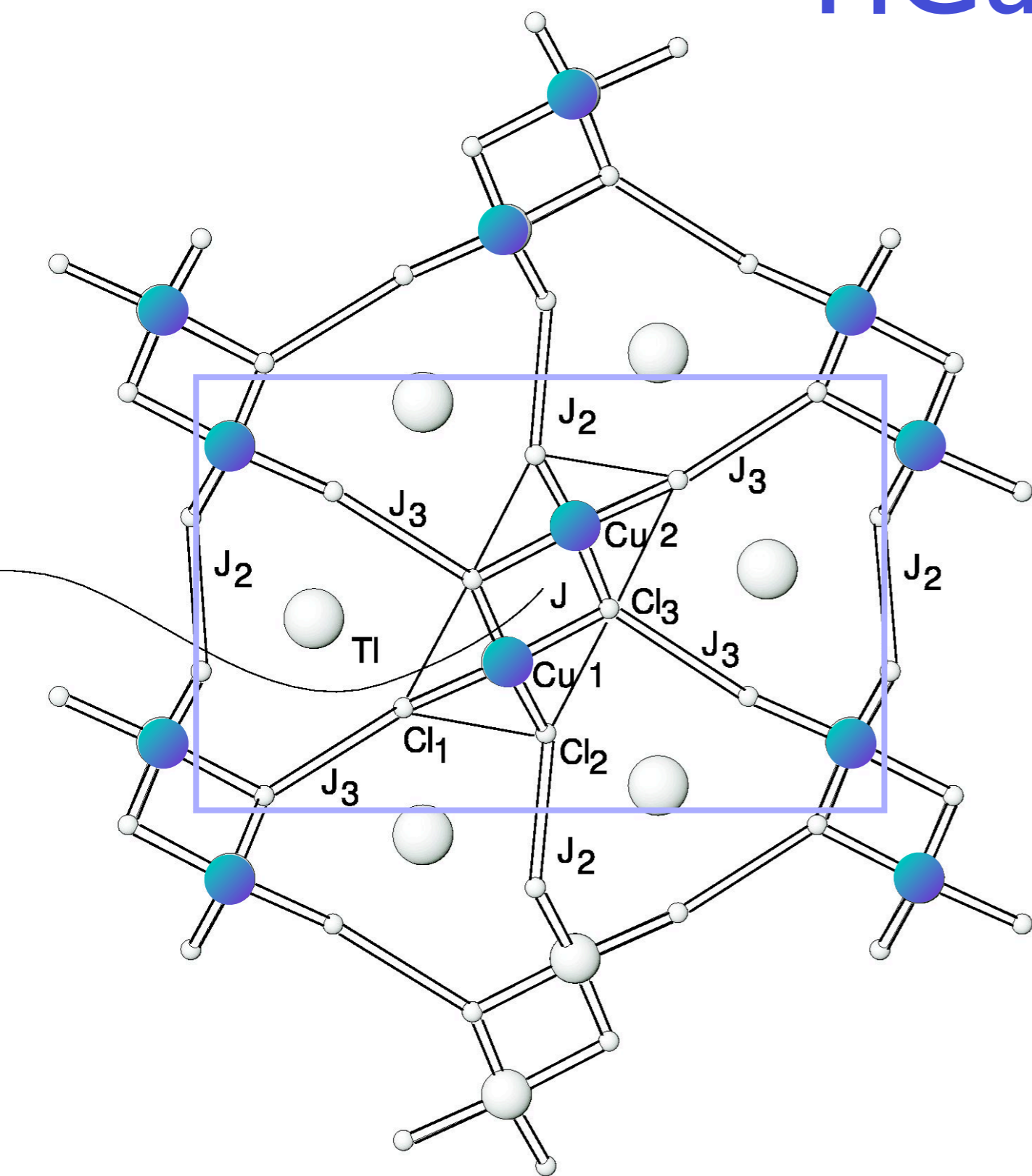


O(3) order parameter $\Phi = (-1)^i S_i$

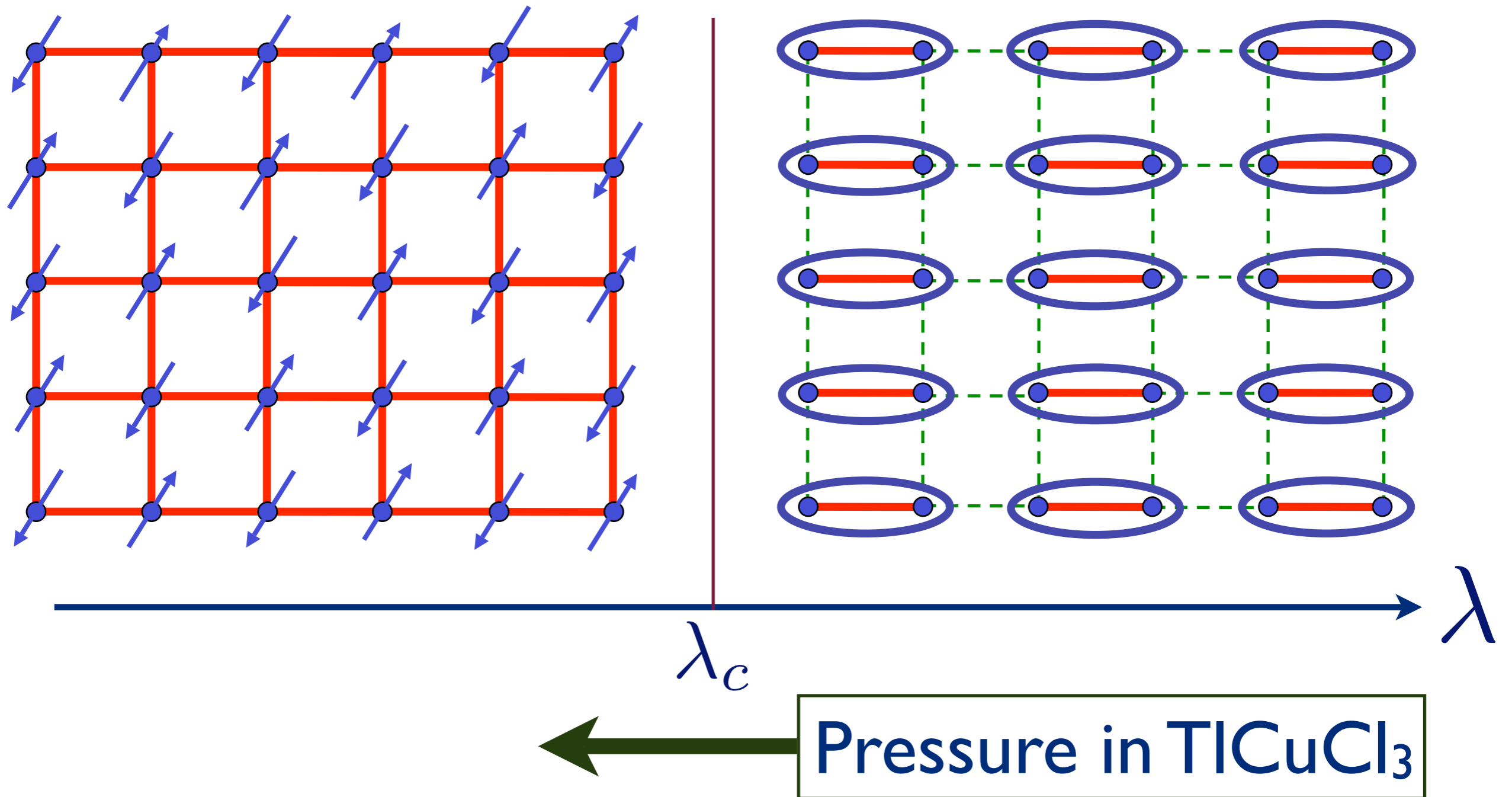
CFT3

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^2 r d\tau \left[(\partial_\tau \Phi)^2 + c^2 (\vec{\nabla} \Phi)^2 + s \Phi^2 + u (\Phi^2)^2 \right]$$

TlCuCl₃



Phase diagram as a function of the ratio of exchange interactions, λ



TlCuCl₃ at ambient pressure

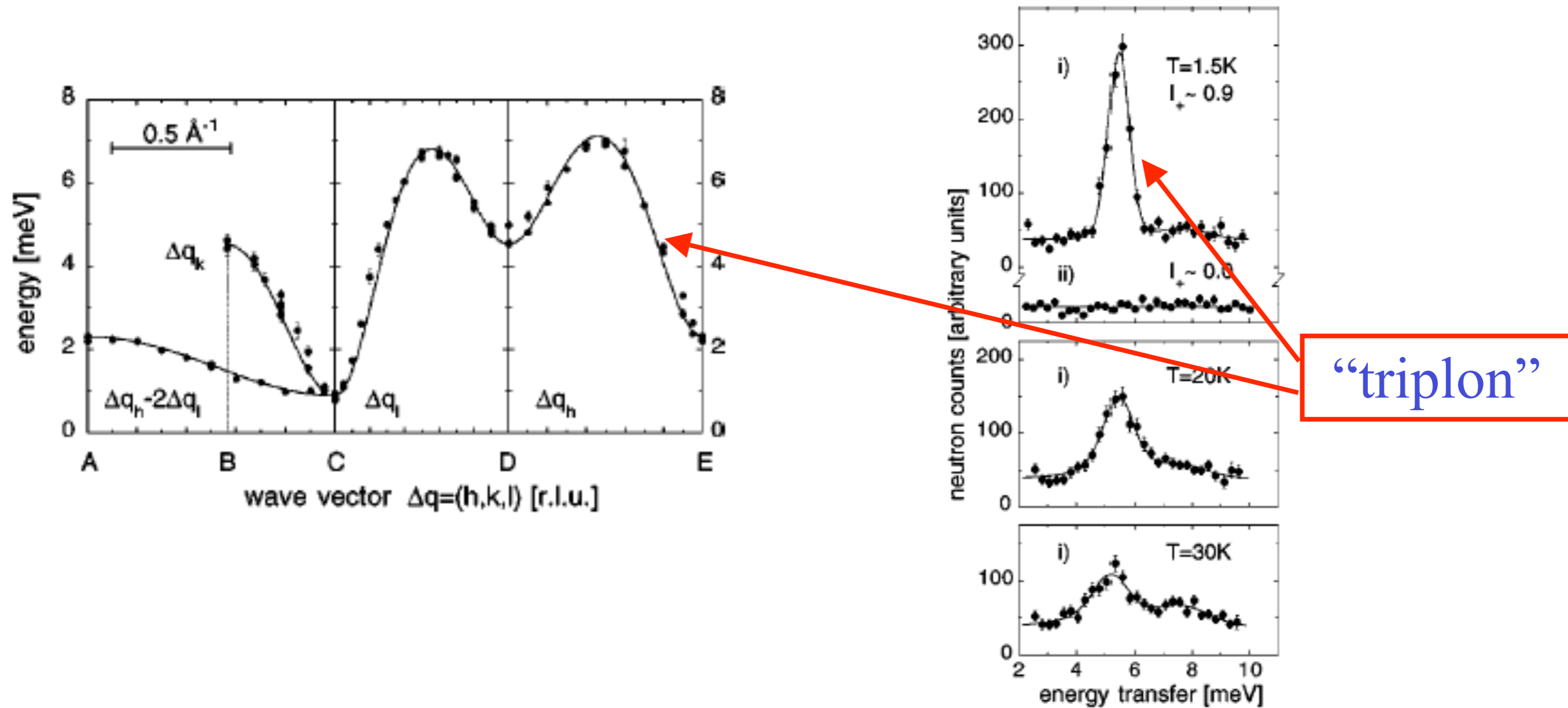
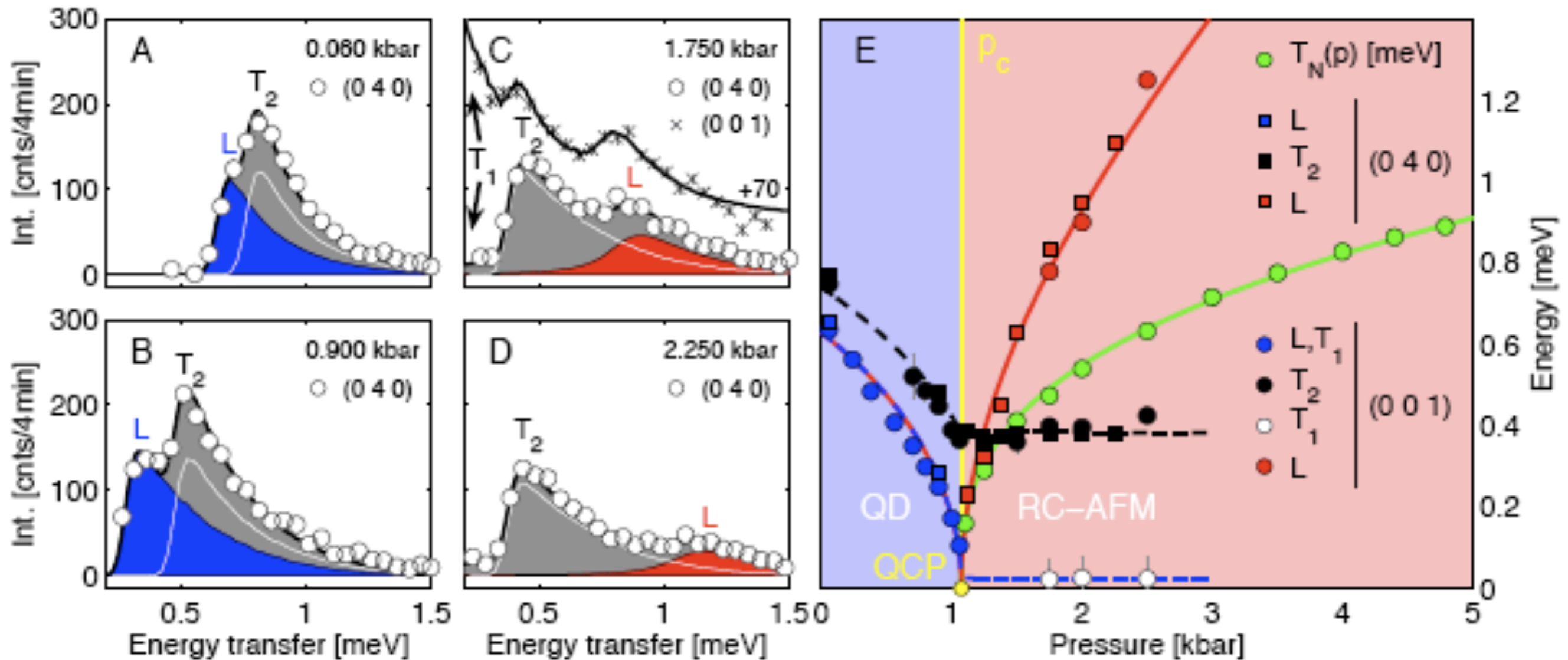


FIG. 1. Measured neutron profiles in the a^*c^* plane of TlCuCl₃ for $i=(1.35,0,0)$, $ii=(0,0,3.15)$ [r.l.u.]. The spectrum at $T=1.5\text{K}$

N. Cavadini, G. Heigold, W. Henggeler, A. Furrer, H.-U. Güdel, K. Krämer and H. Mutka, *Phys. Rev. B* 63 172414 (2001).

TiCuCl₃ with varying pressure



Observation of 3 → 2 low energy modes, emergence of new longitudinal mode in Néel phase, and vanishing of Néel temperature at the quantum critical point

Christian Ruegg, Bruce Normand, Masashige Matsumoto, Albert Furrer, Desmond McMorro, Karl Kramer, Hans-Ulrich Gudel, Severian Gvasaliya, Hannu Mutka, and Martin Boehm, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **100**, 205701 (2008)

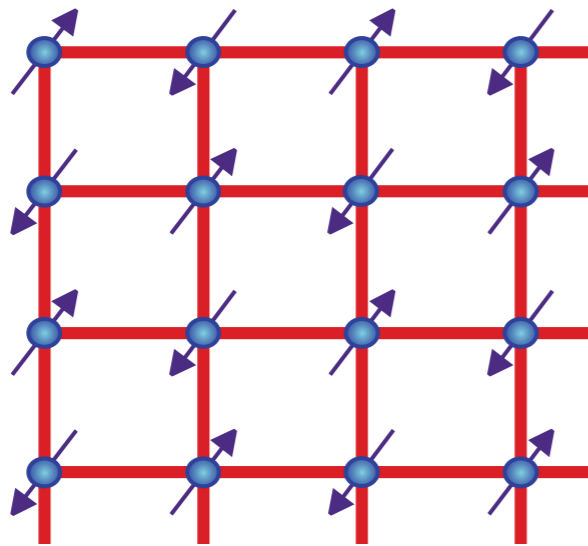
S=1/2 insulator on the square lattice

$$H = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j - Q \sum_{\langle ijkl \rangle} \left(\mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j - \frac{1}{4} \right) \left(\mathbf{S}_k \cdot \mathbf{S}_l - \frac{1}{4} \right)$$

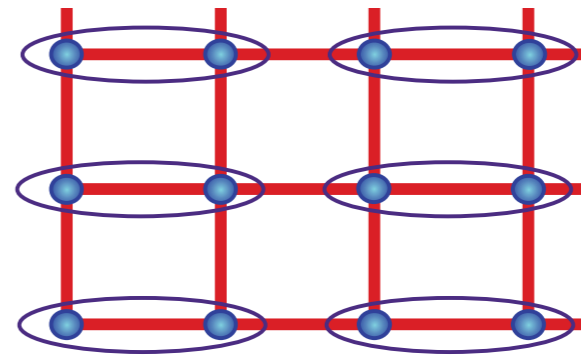
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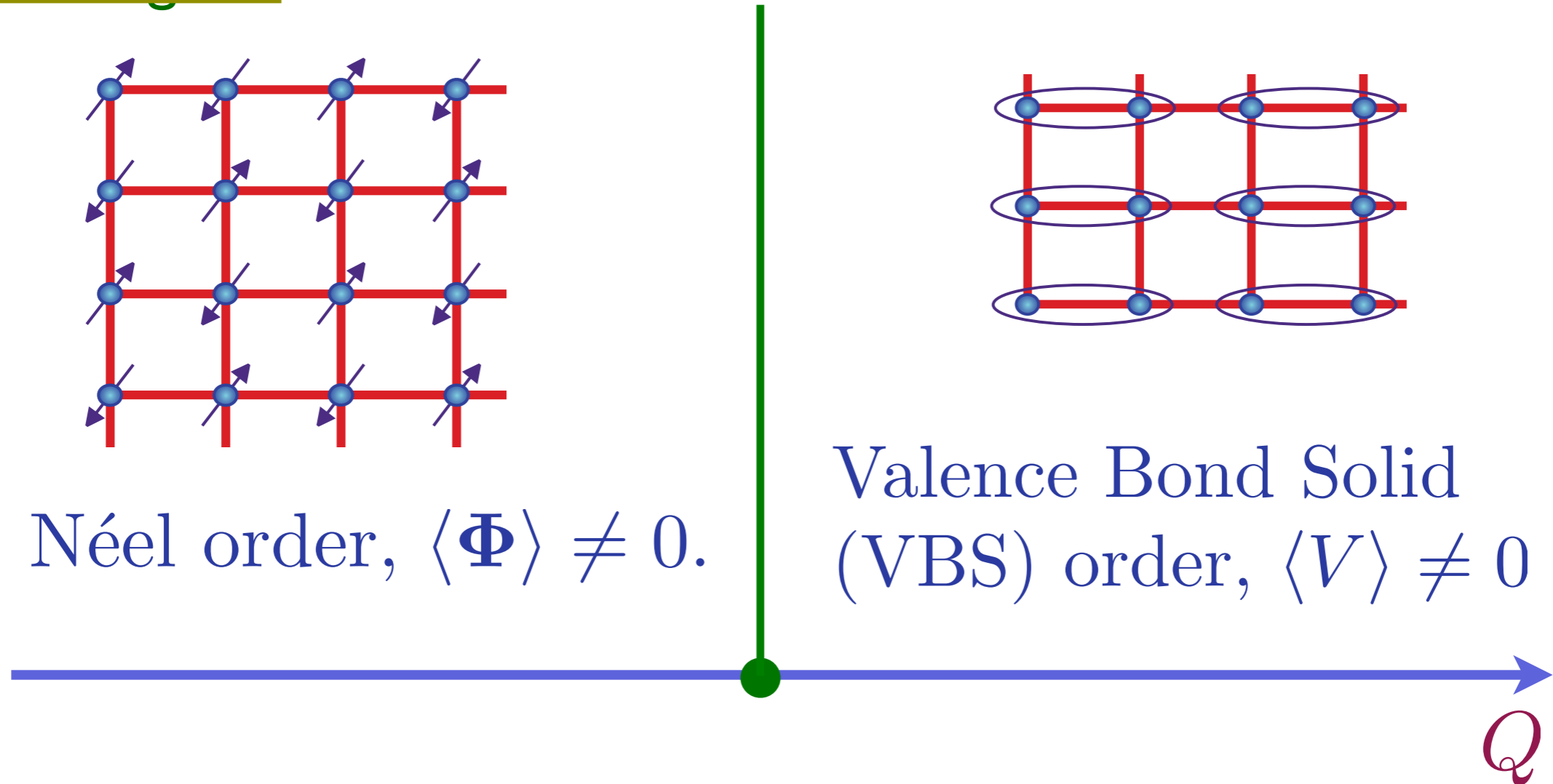
Phase diagram



Néel order, $\langle \Phi \rangle \neq 0$.



Valence Bond Solid
(VBS) order, $\langle V \rangle \neq 0$



A.W. Sandvik, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **98**, 227202 (2007).

R.G. Melko and R.K. Kaul, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **100**, 017203 (2008).

N. Read and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **62**, 1694 (1989).

T. Senthil, A. Vishwanath, L. Balents, S. Sachdev and M.P.A. Fisher, *Science* **303**, 1490 (2004).

Theory for loss of Neel order

Decompose Φ in terms of a complex scalar (a spinon) z_α , $\alpha = \uparrow, \downarrow$:

$$\Phi = z_\alpha^\dagger \vec{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} z_\beta$$

where $\vec{\sigma}$ are Pauli matrices. Theory must be invariant under the U(1) gauge transformation

$$z_\alpha \rightarrow e^{i\theta} z_\alpha$$

Low energy spinon theory for loss of Néel order is the CP¹ model

$$\mathcal{S}_z = \int d^2x d\tau \left[c^2 |(\nabla_x - iA_x)z_\alpha|^2 + |(\partial_\tau - iA_\tau)z_\alpha|^2 + s |z_\alpha|^2 + u (|z_\alpha|^2)^2 + \frac{1}{4e^2} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 \right]$$

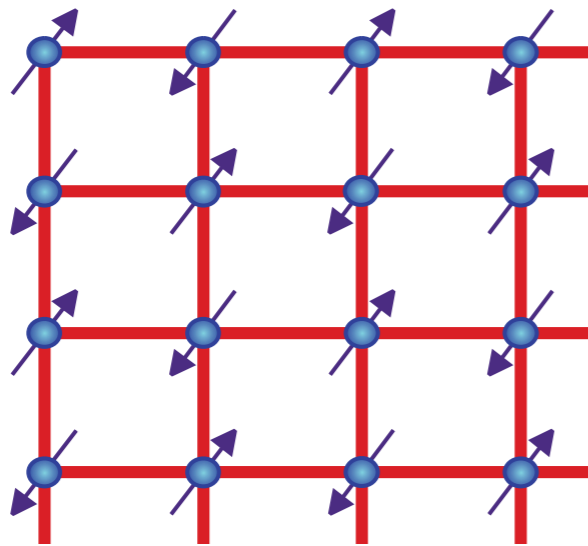
where A_μ is an emergent U(1) gauge field.

The monopole creation operator V is identical to the VBS order parameter (the global “shift” symmetry of the dual photon is an enlargement of the lattice rotation symmetry).

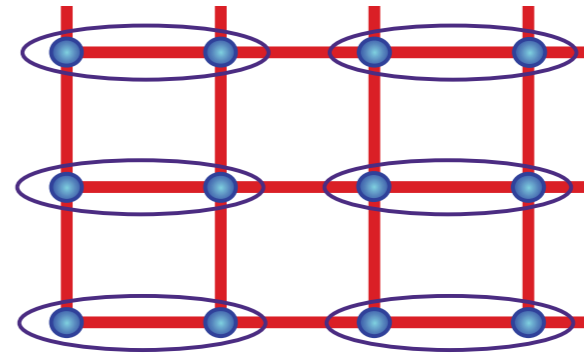
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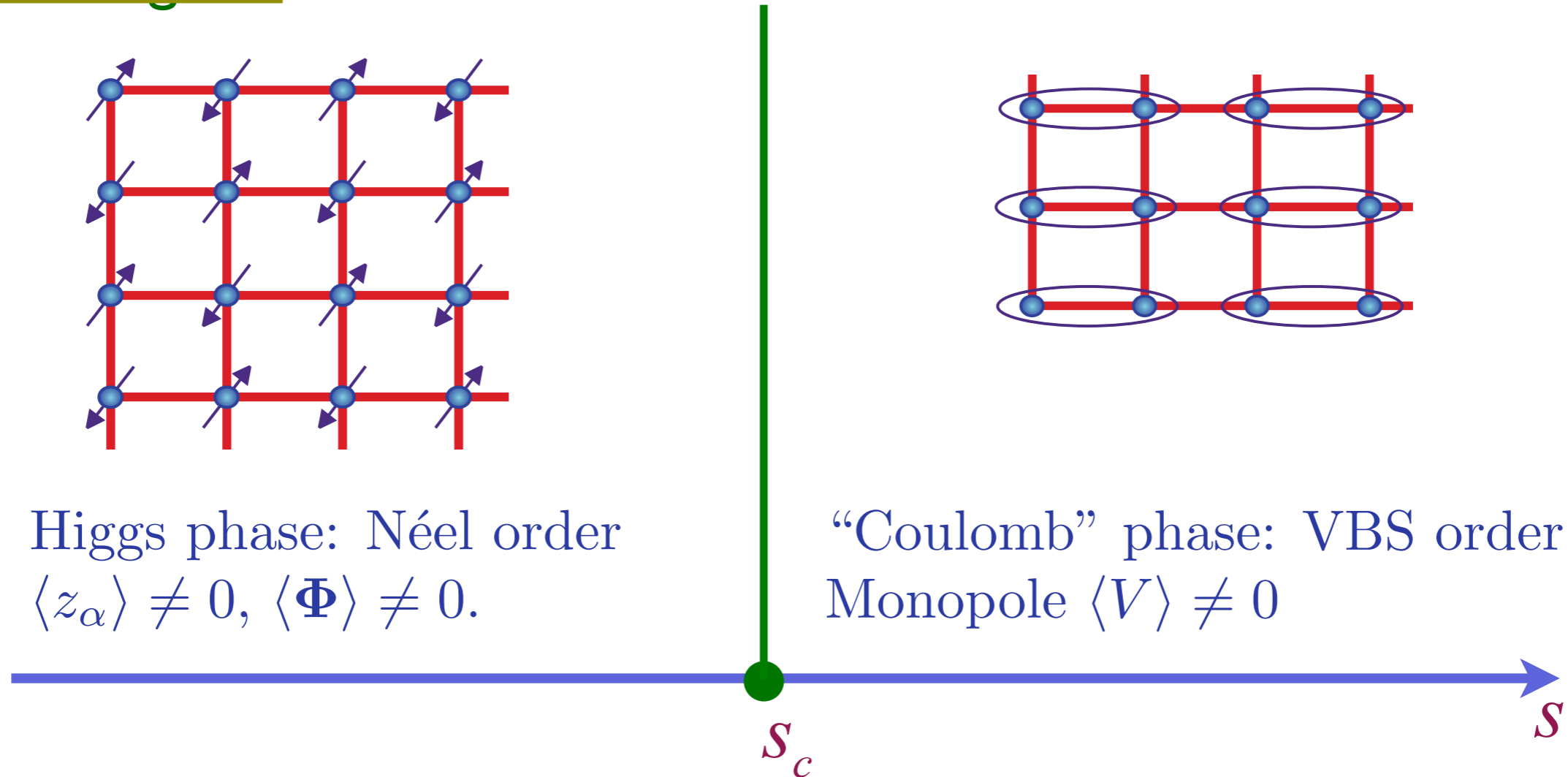
Phase diagram



Higgs phase: Néel order
 $\langle z_\alpha \rangle \neq 0$, $\langle \Phi \rangle \neq 0$.



“Coulomb” phase: VBS order,
 Monopole $\langle V \rangle \neq 0$

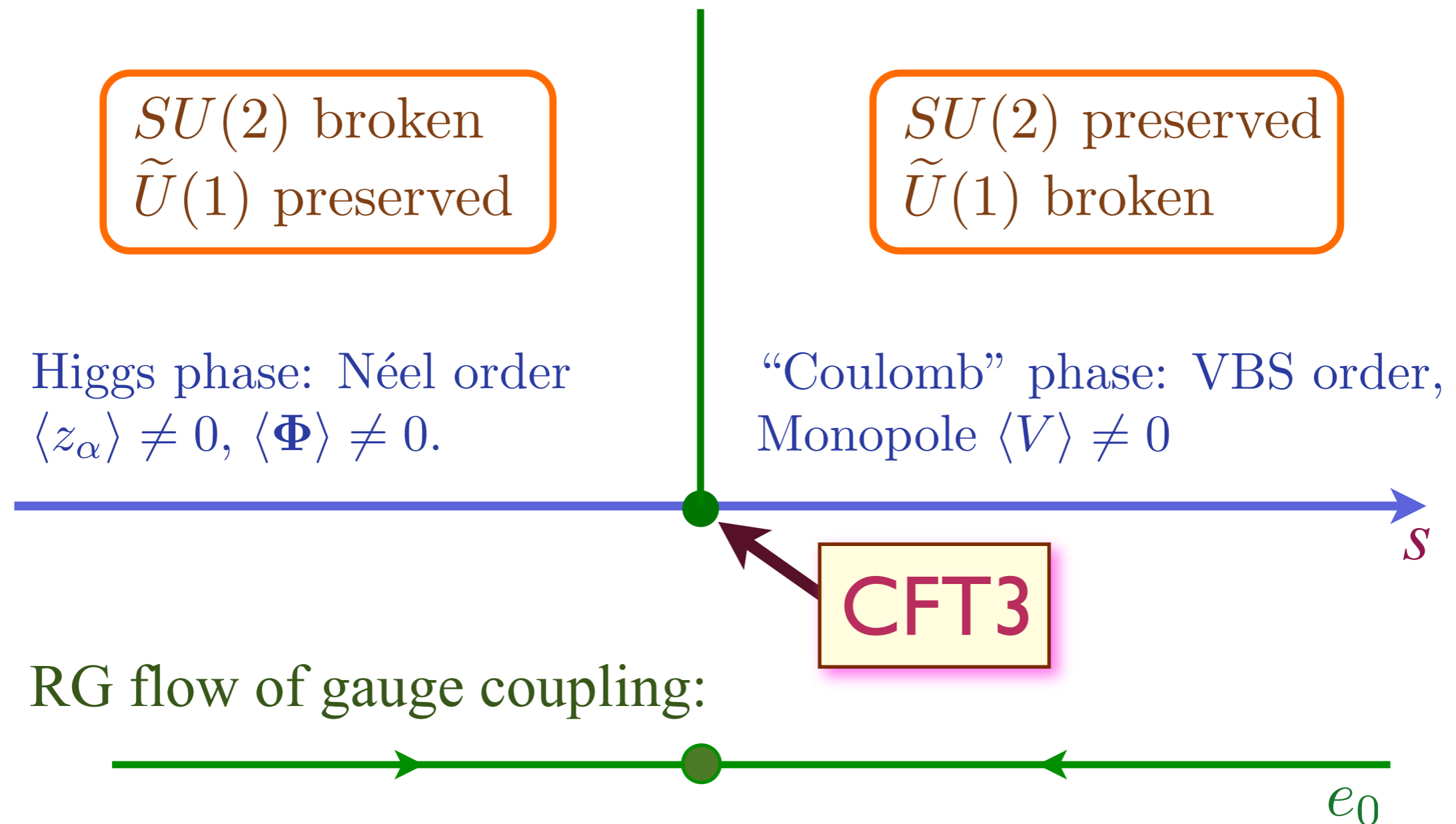


$$\mathcal{S}_z = \int d^2 r d\tau \left[|(\partial_\mu - iA_\mu)z_\alpha|^2 + s|z_\alpha|^2 + u(|z_\alpha|^2)^2 + \frac{1}{2e_0^2} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 \right]$$

S=1/2 insulator on the square lattice

$$\mathcal{S}_z = \int d^2r d\tau \left[|(\partial_\mu - iA_\mu)z_\alpha|^2 + s|z_\alpha|^2 + u(|z_\alpha|^2)^2 + \frac{1}{2e_0^2} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 \right]$$

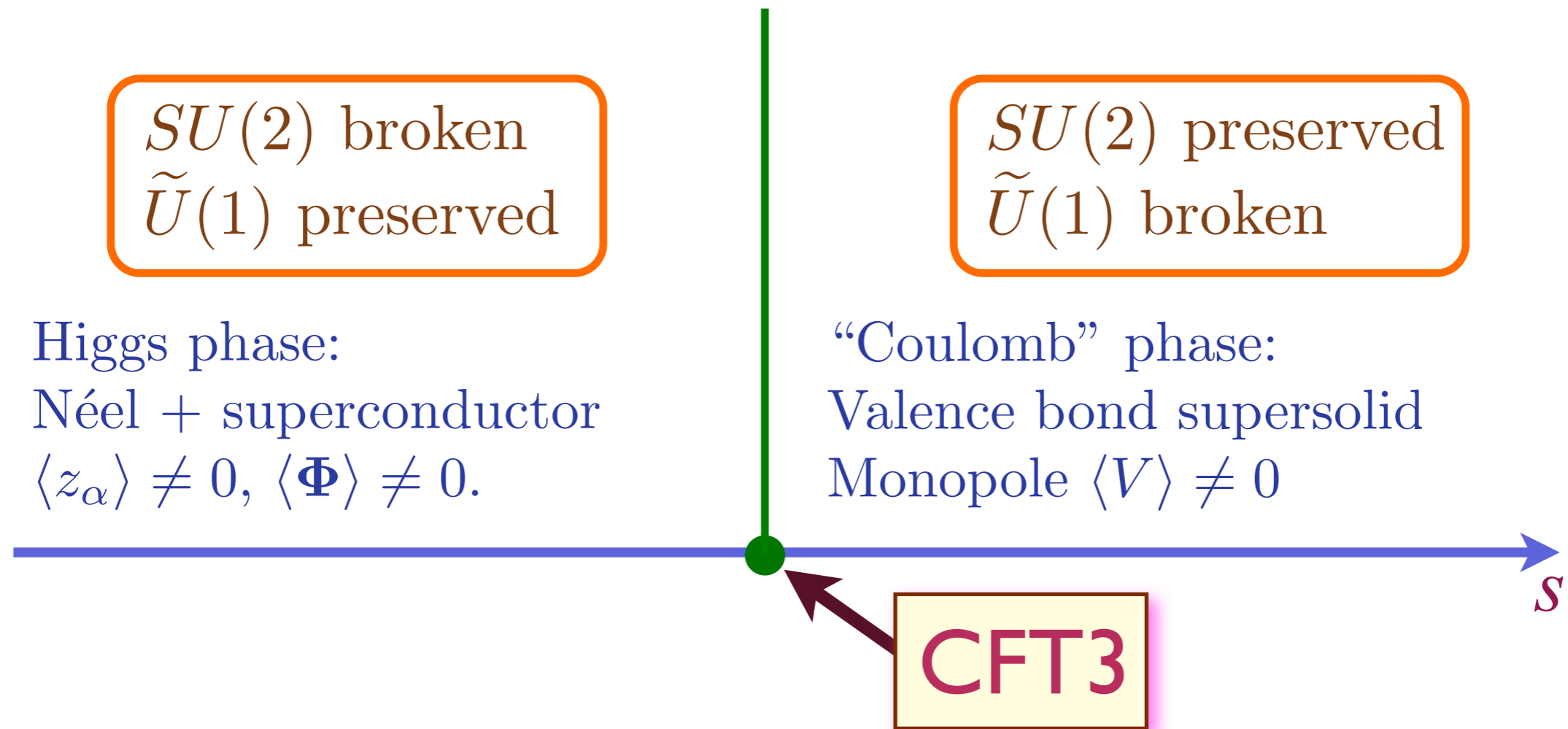
Global symmetry: $SU(2) \times \tilde{U}(1)$ (the $\tilde{U}(1)$ is the dual photon shift)



d-wave superconductor on the square lattice

$$\mathcal{S}_z = \int d^2r d\tau \left[|(\partial_\mu - iA_\mu)z_\alpha|^2 + s|z_\alpha|^2 + u(|z_\alpha|^2)^2 + \frac{1}{2e_0^2} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 + \bar{\psi}_a \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_a \right]$$

Global symmetry: $SU(2) \times \tilde{U}(1)$ (the $\tilde{U}(1)$ is the dual photon shift)



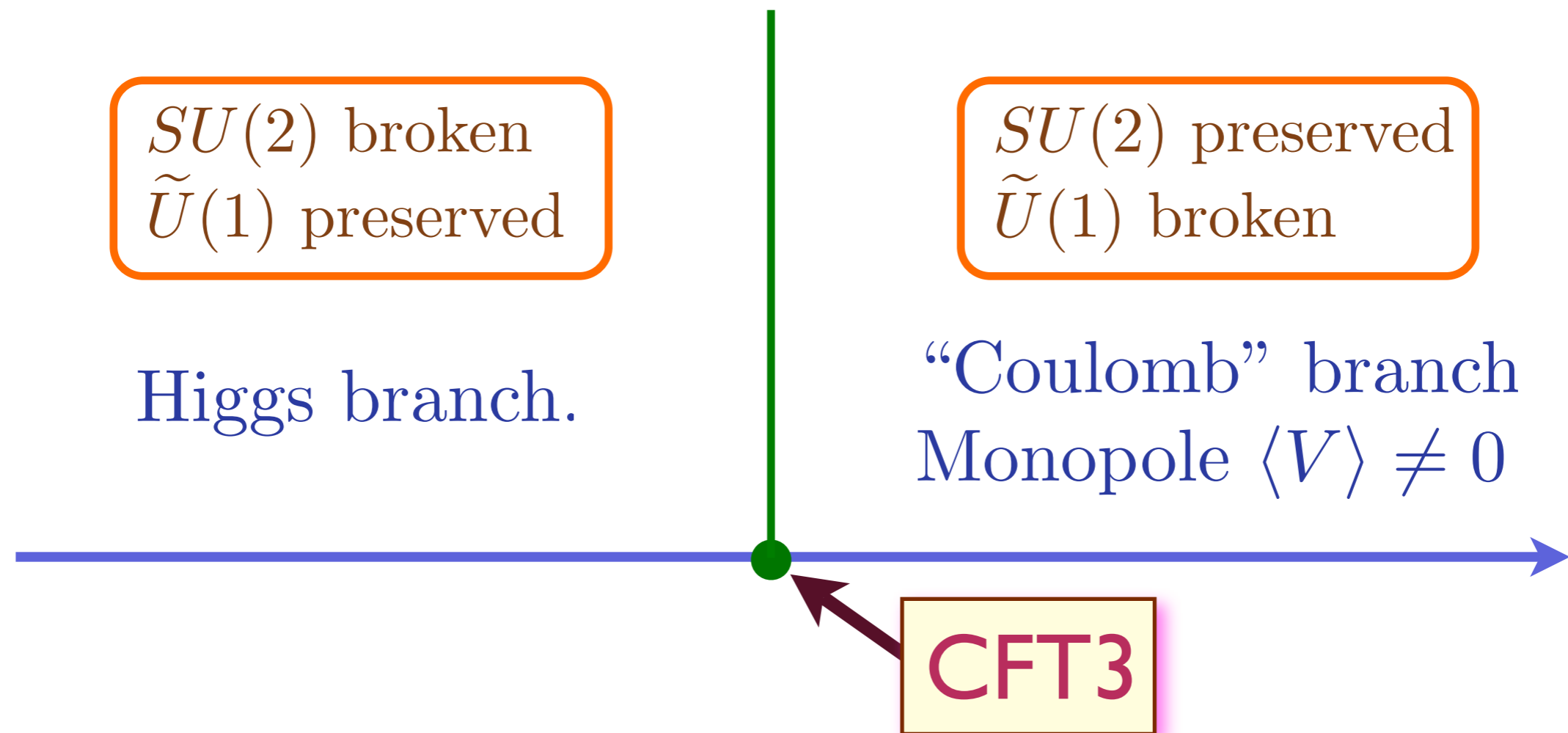
R. K. Kaul, Y. B. Kim, S. Sachdev, and T. Senthil, *Nature Physics* **4**, 28 (2008)

R. K. Kaul, M.A. Metlitski, S. Sachdev, and C. Xu, arXiv:0804.1794

$U(1)$ gauge theory with $\mathcal{N}=4$ supersymmetry

Theory with a $U(1)$ vector multiplet \mathcal{V} and 2 hypermultiplets Q_i .

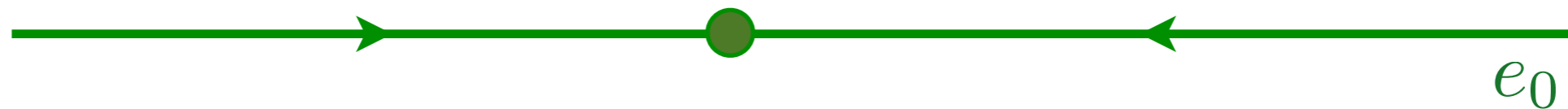
Global symmetry: $SU(2) \times \tilde{U}(1) \times SO(4)_R$



N. Seiberg and E. Witten, hep-th/9607163
K.A. Intriligator and N. Seiberg, hep-th/9607207
A. Kapustin and M. J. Strassler, hep-th/9902033

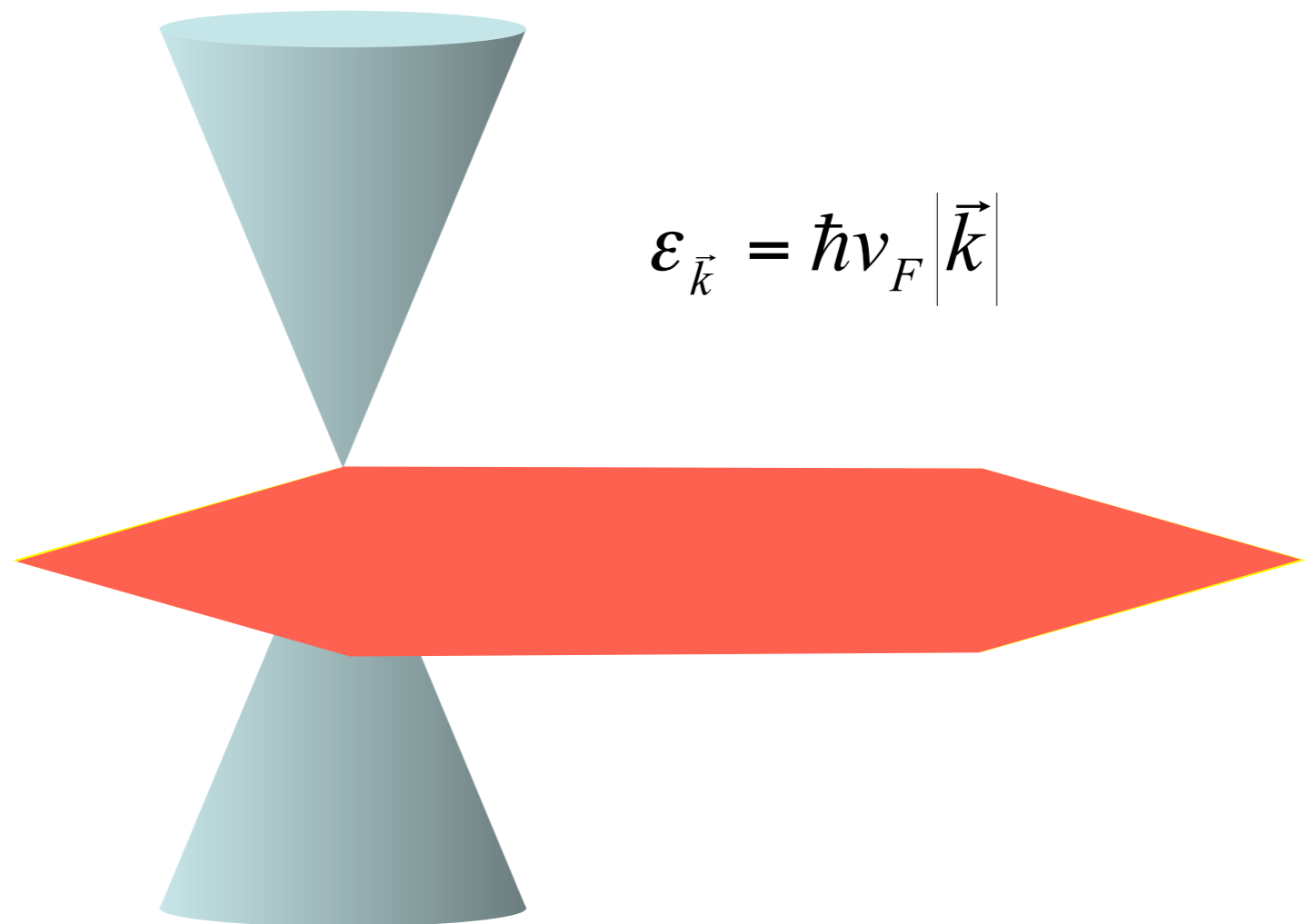
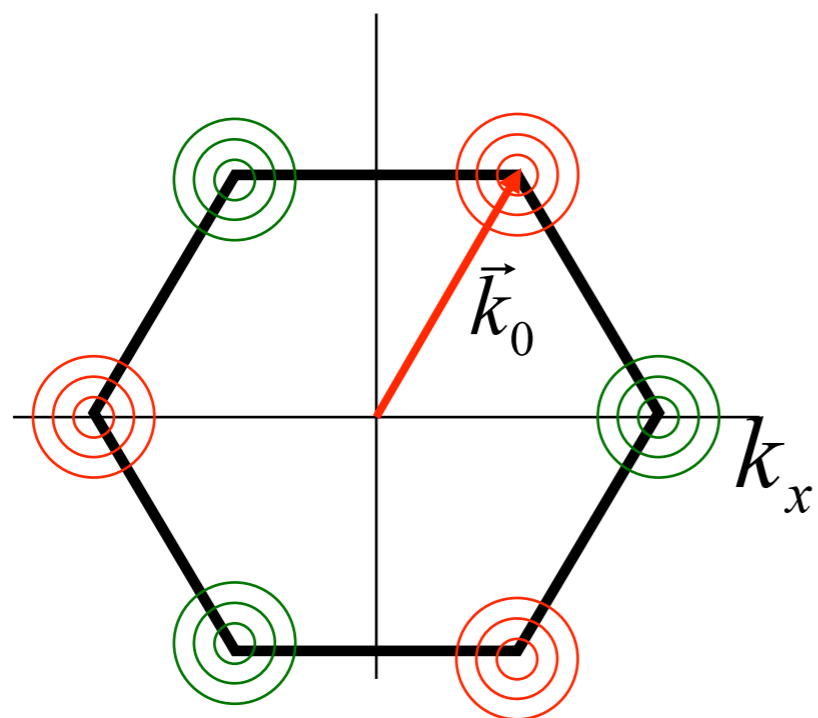
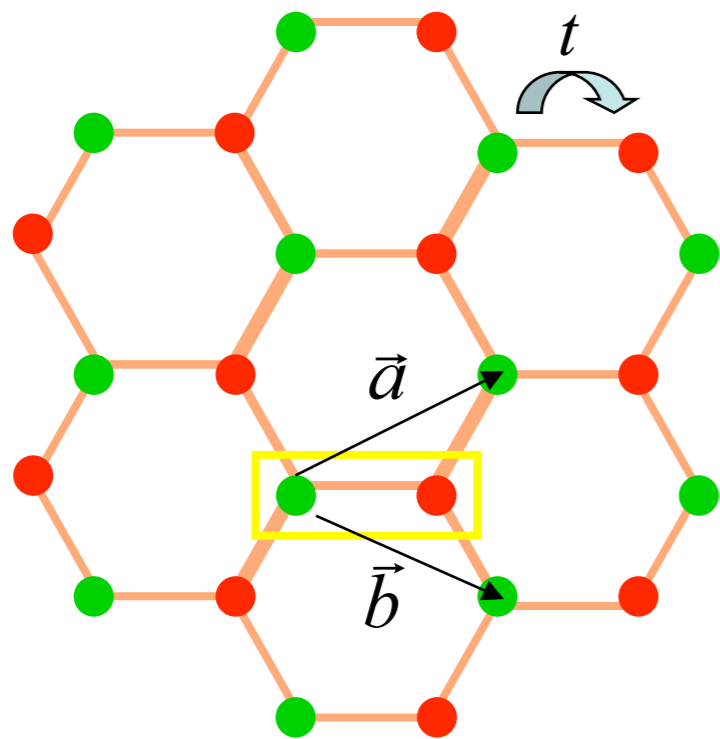
$SU(N)$ gauge theory with $\mathcal{N}=8$ supersymmetry (SYM3)

Unique theory with a single gauge coupling constant e_0 .



RG flow to an attractive fixed point

Graphene



Graphene

Low energy theory has 4 two-component Dirac fermions, ψ_α , $\alpha = 1 \dots 4$, interacting with a $1/r$ Coulomb interaction

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^2r d\tau \psi_\alpha^\dagger \left(\partial_\tau - i v_F \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \right) \psi_\alpha + \frac{e^2}{2} \int d^2r d^2r' d\tau \psi_\alpha^\dagger \psi_\alpha(r) \frac{1}{|r - r'|} \psi_\beta^\dagger \psi_\beta(r')$$

Dimensionless “fine-structure” constant $\alpha = e^2 / (4\hbar v_F)$.

RG flow of α :

$$\frac{d\alpha}{d\ell} = -\alpha^2 + \dots$$

Behavior is similar to a CFT3 with $\alpha \sim 1 / \ln(\text{scale})$.

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Hydrodynamics

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Hydrodynamics

Canonical problem in condensed
matter: transport properties of a
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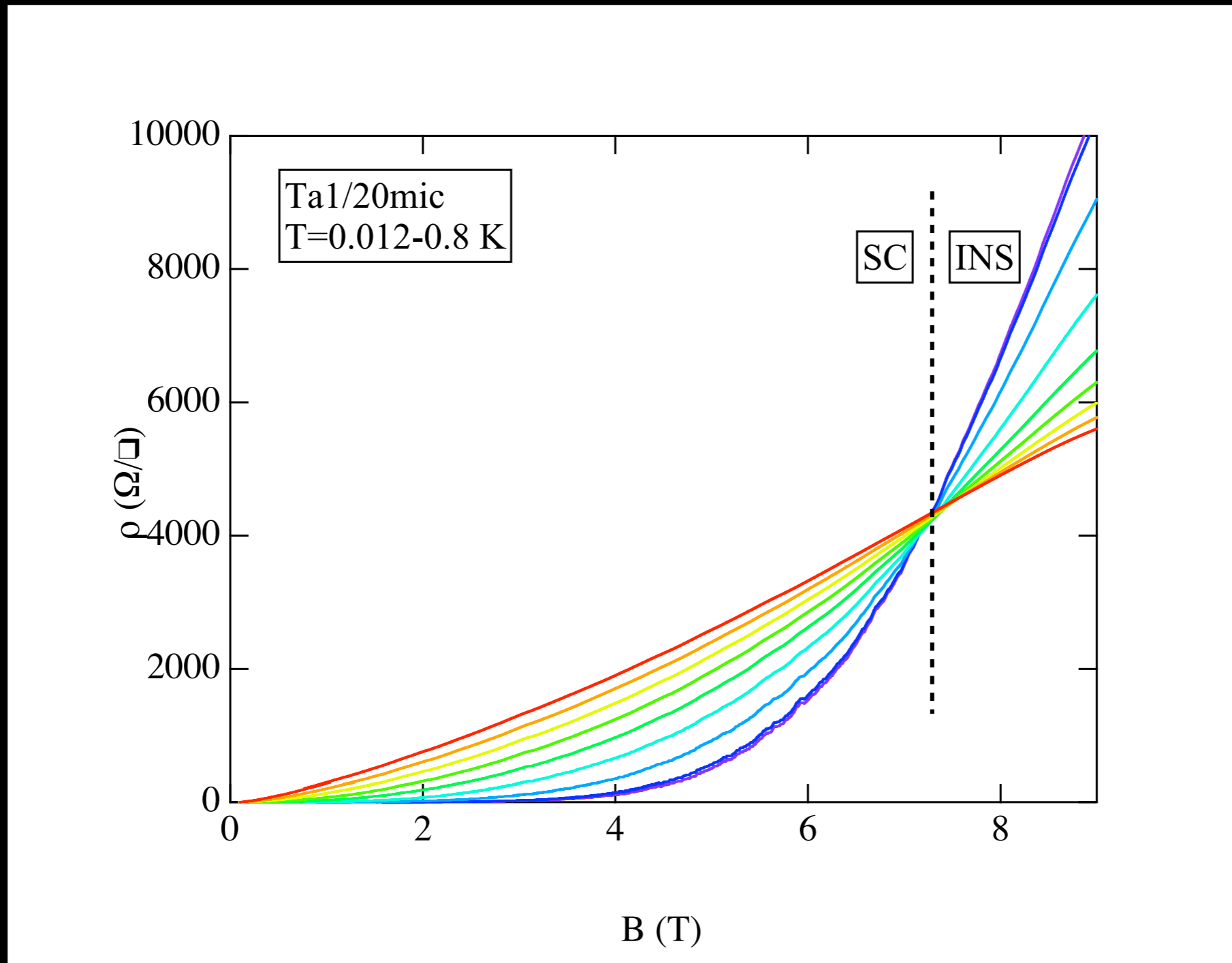
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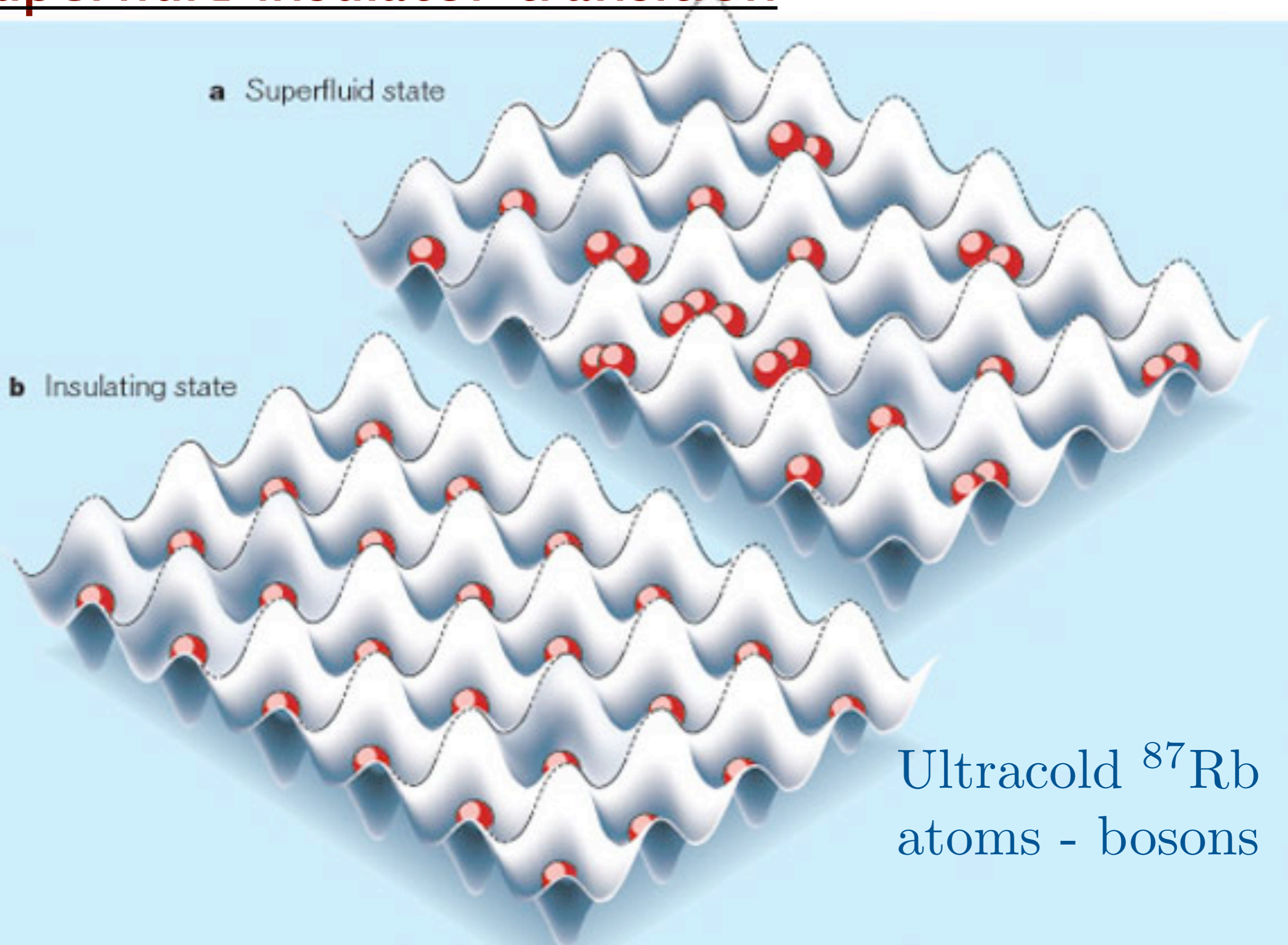
Superfluid-insulator transition

Indium Oxide films

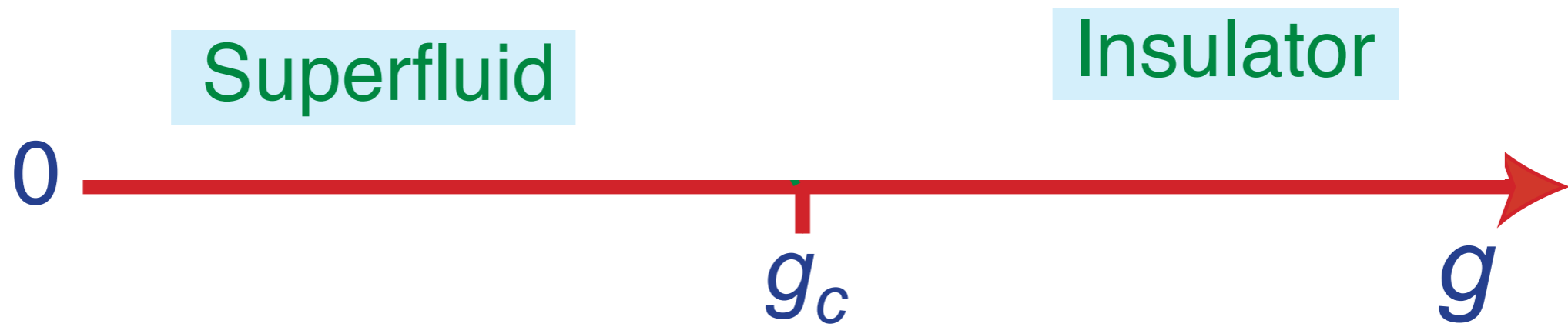


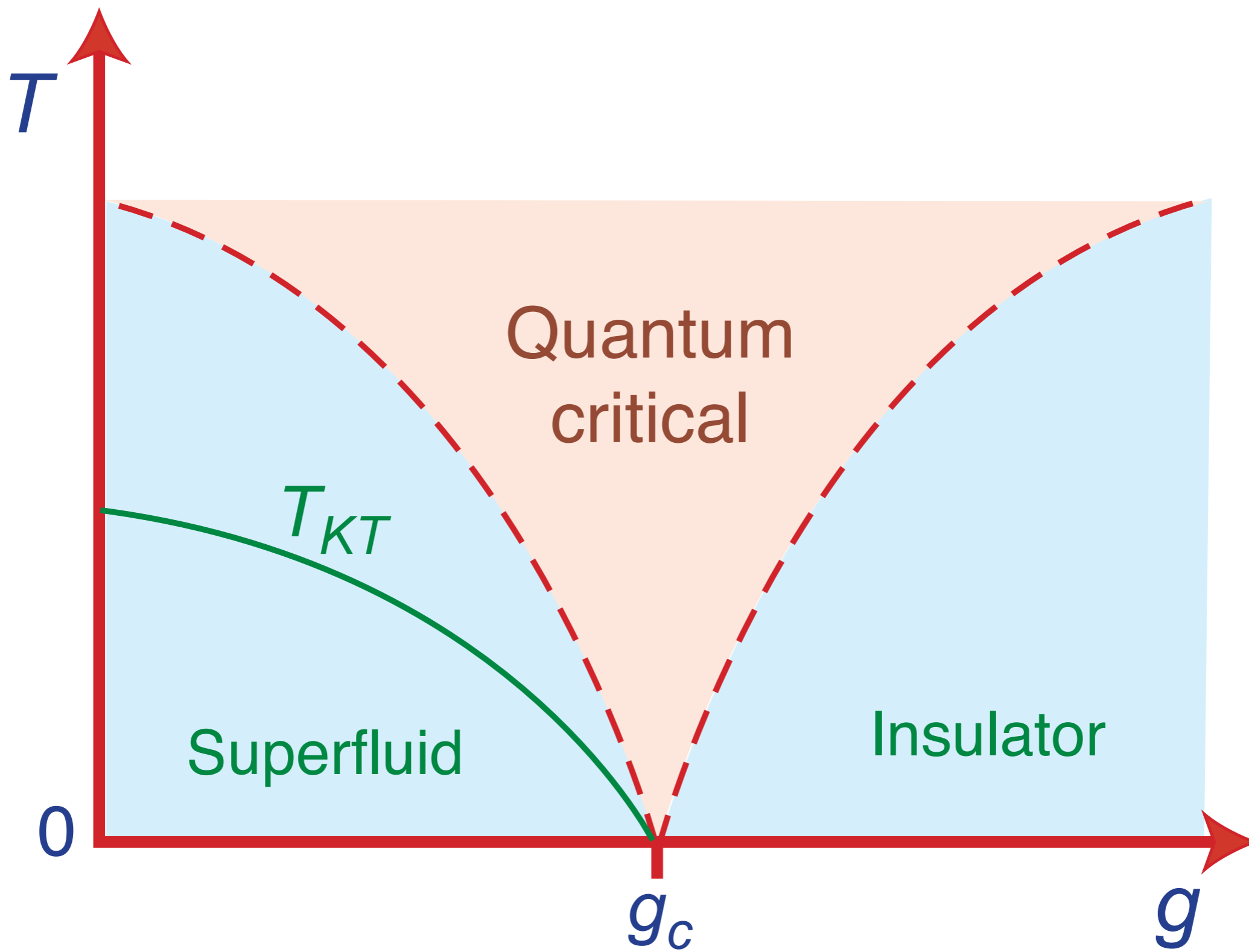
G. Sambandamurthy, A. Johansson, E. Peled, D. Shahar, P. G. Bjornsson, and K.A. Moler, *Europhys. Lett.* **75**, 611 (2006).

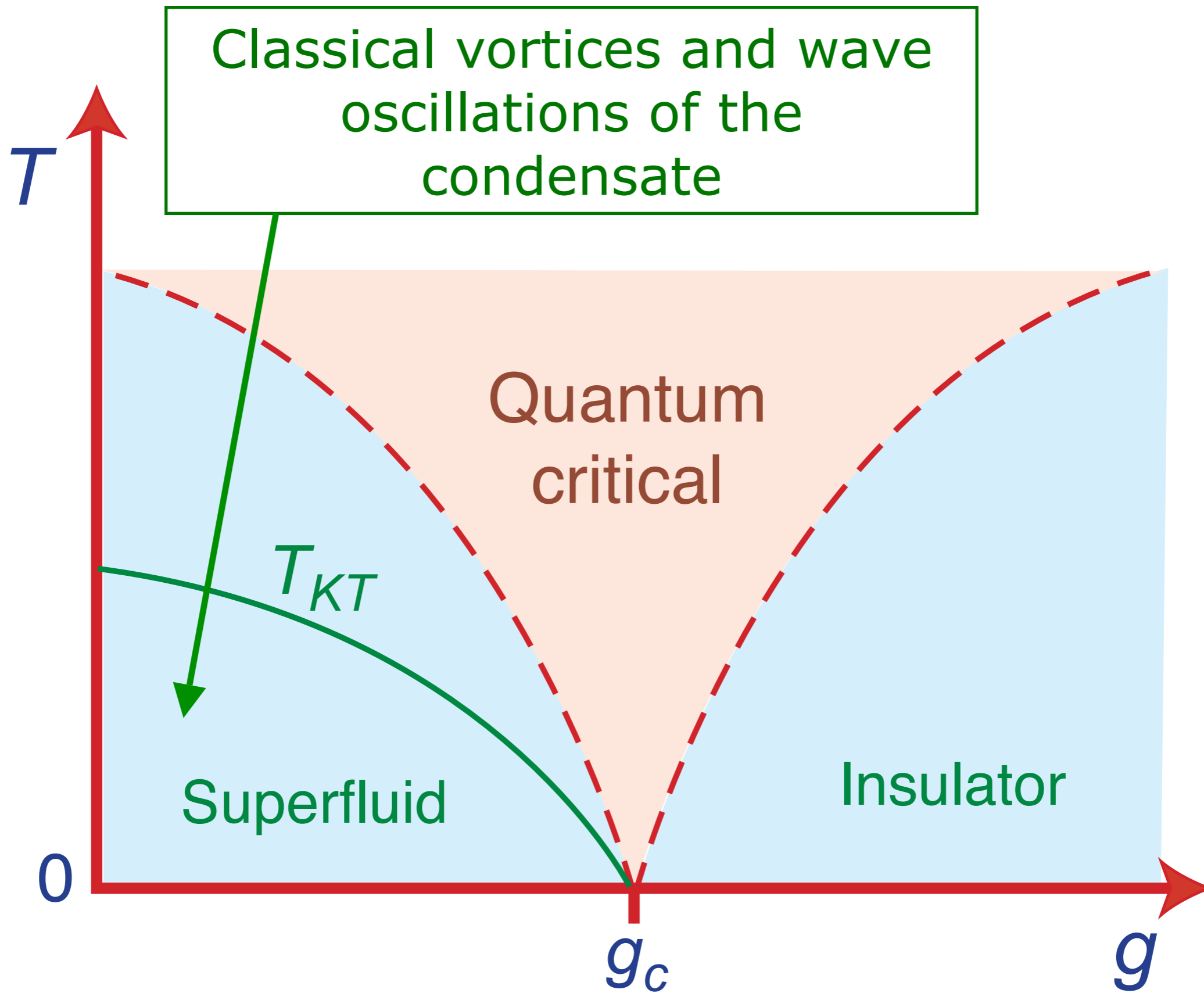
Superfluid-insulator transition



Ultracold ^{87}Rb
atoms - bosons

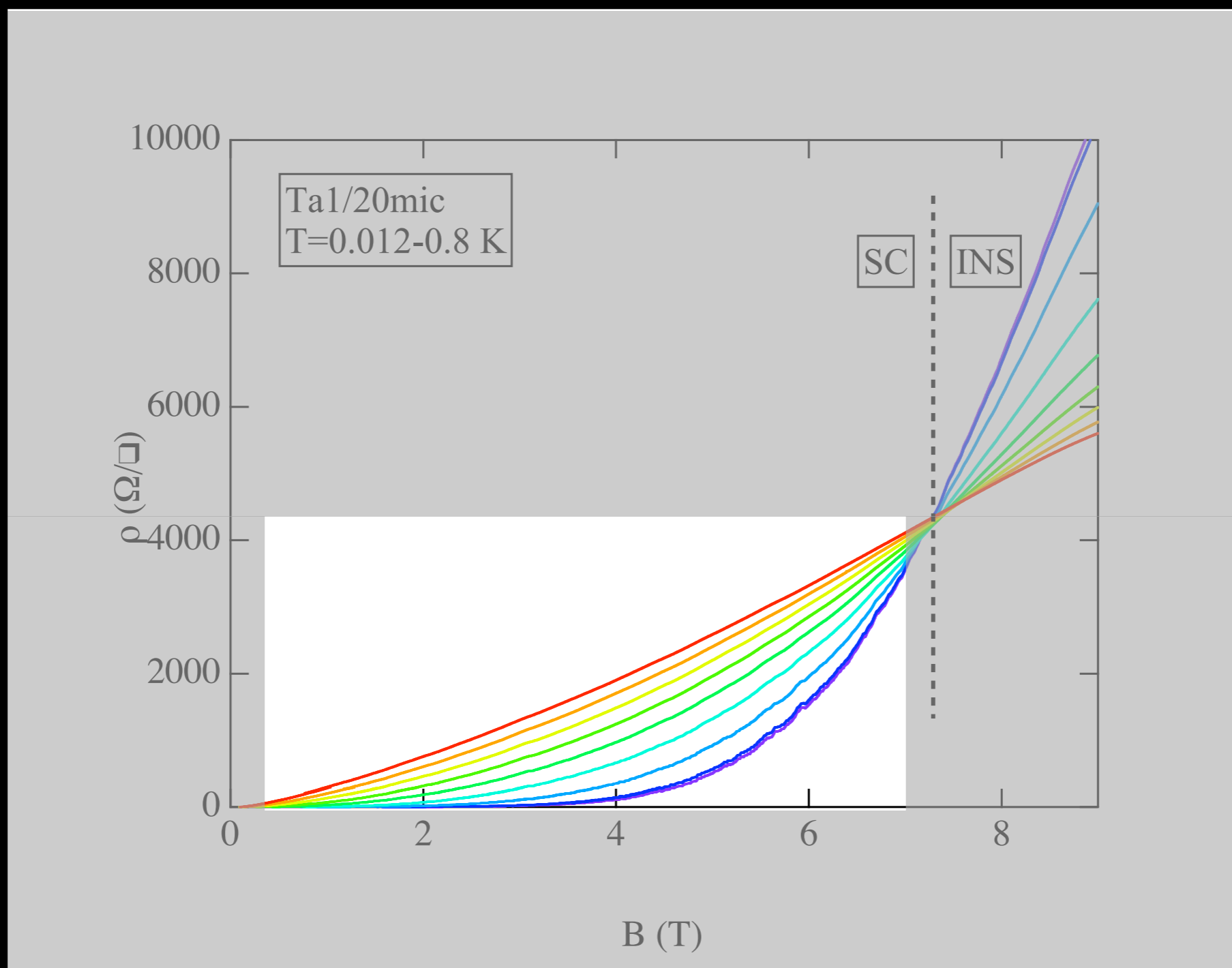




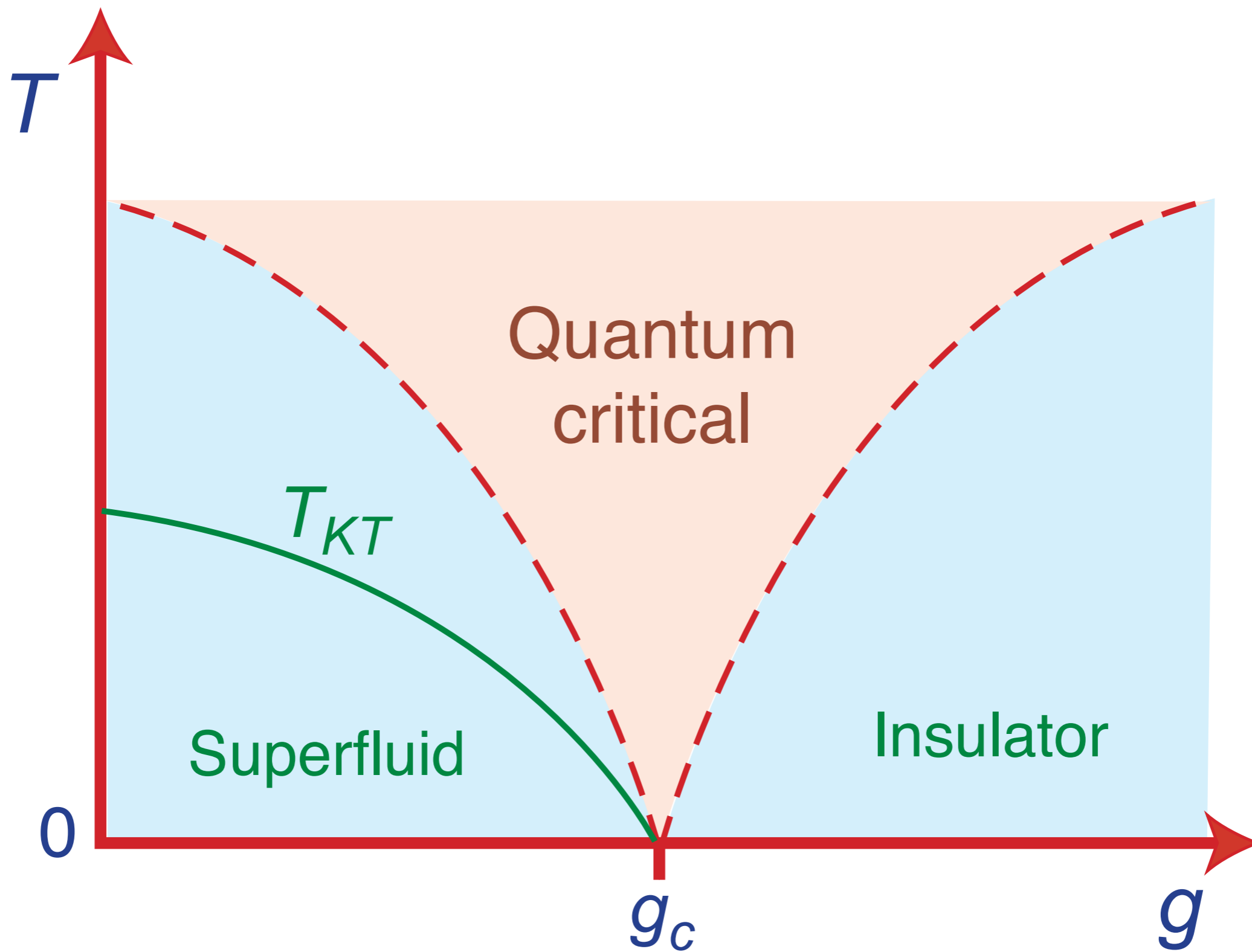


Superfluid-insulator transition

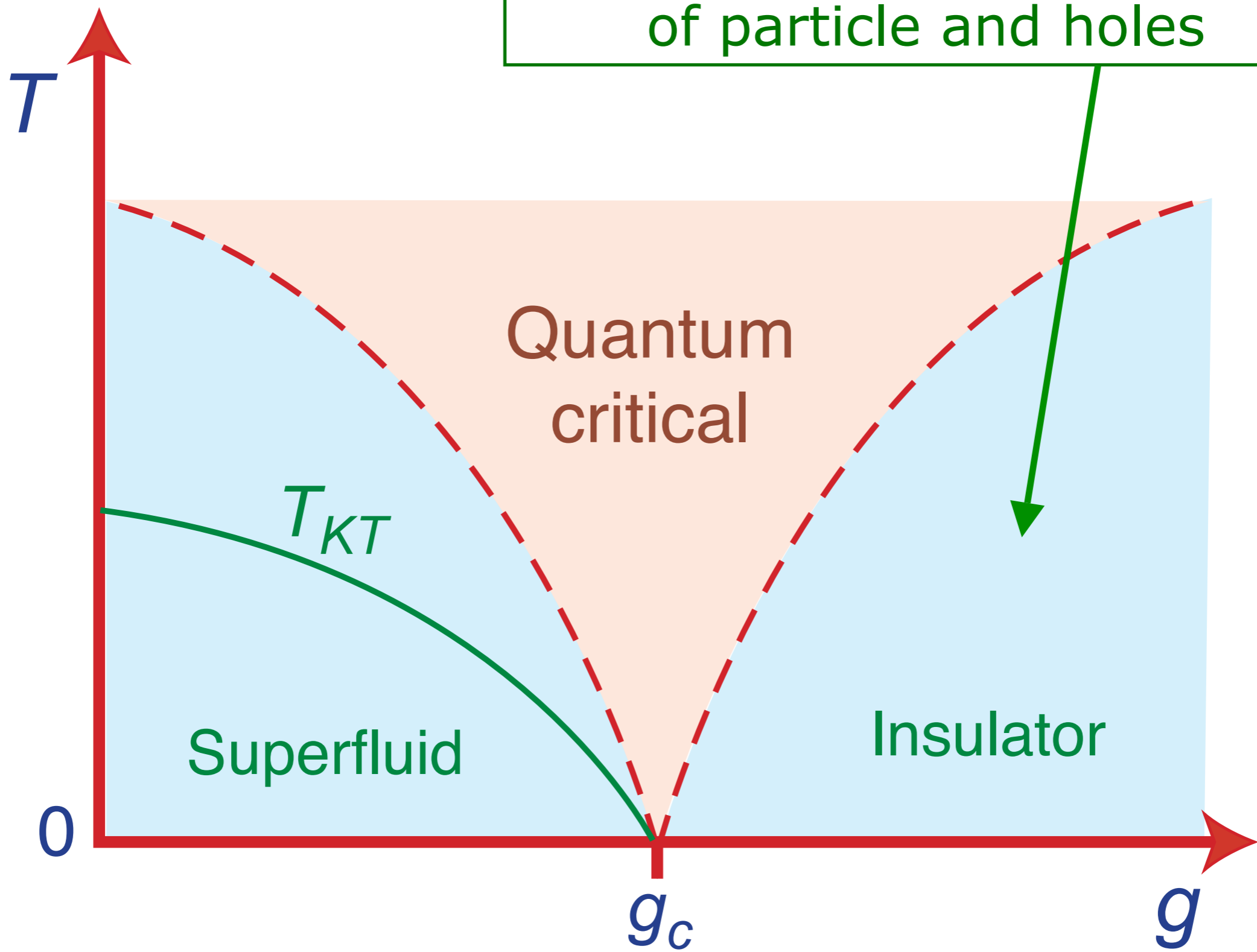
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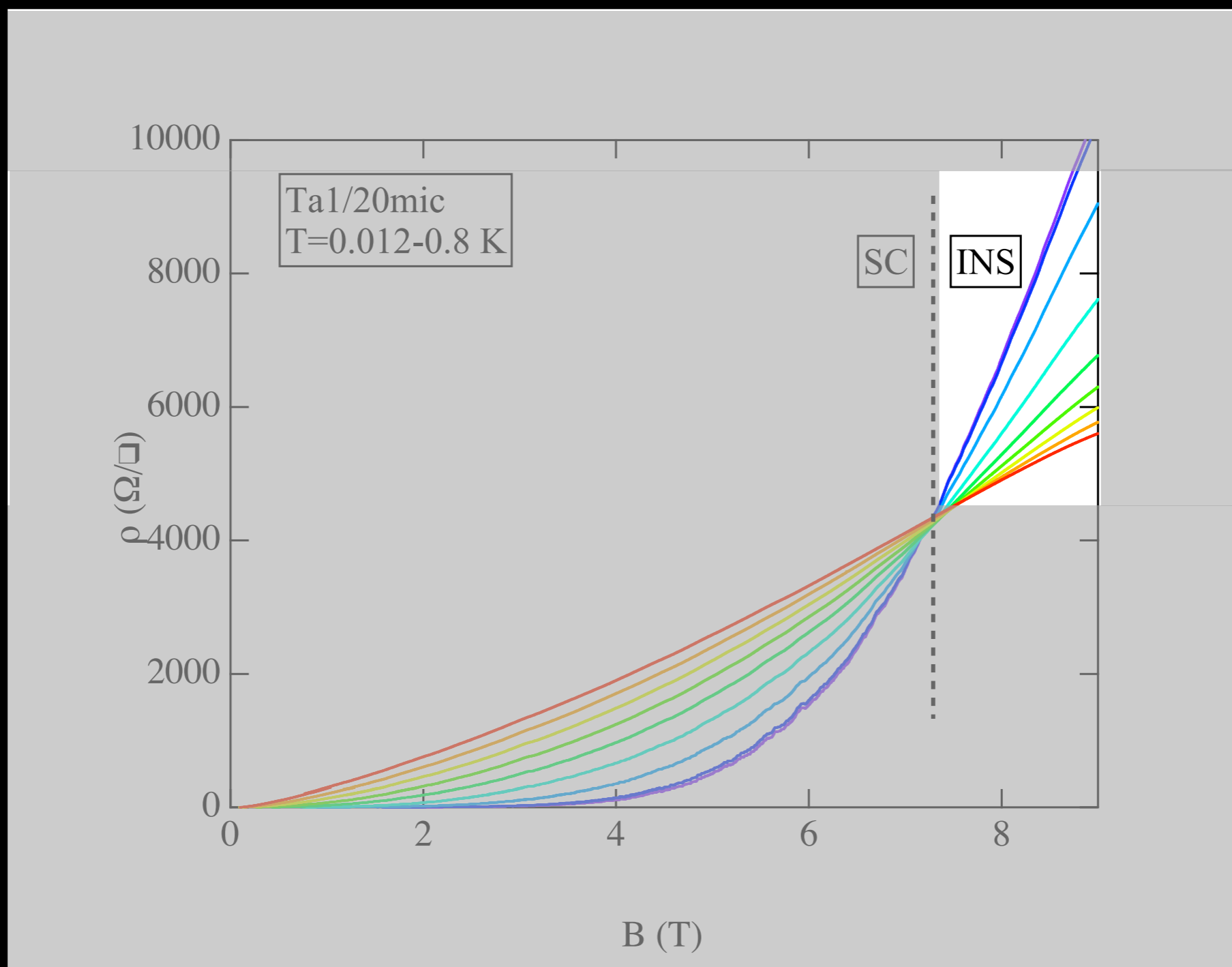


Dilute Boltzmann/Landau gas
of particle and holes

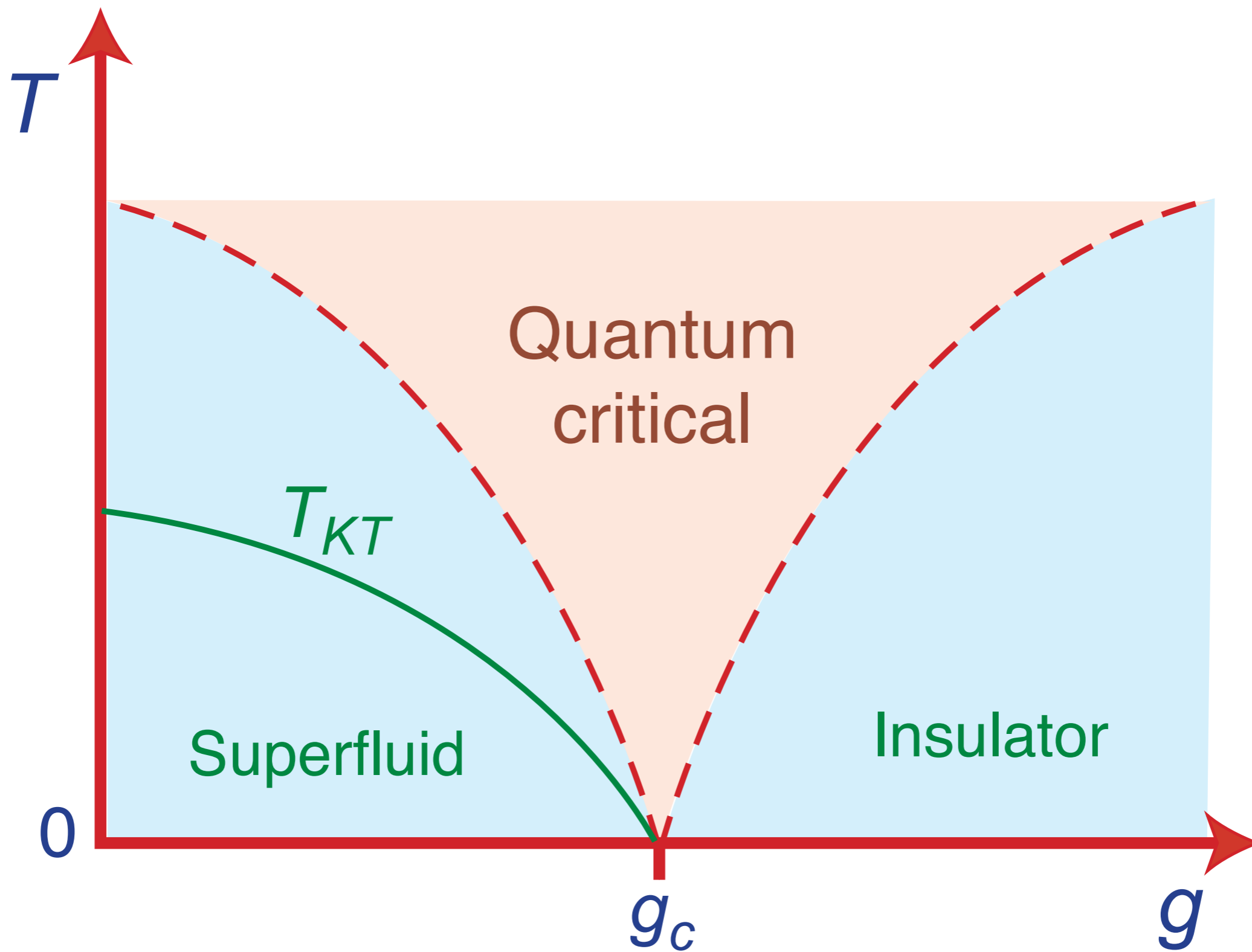


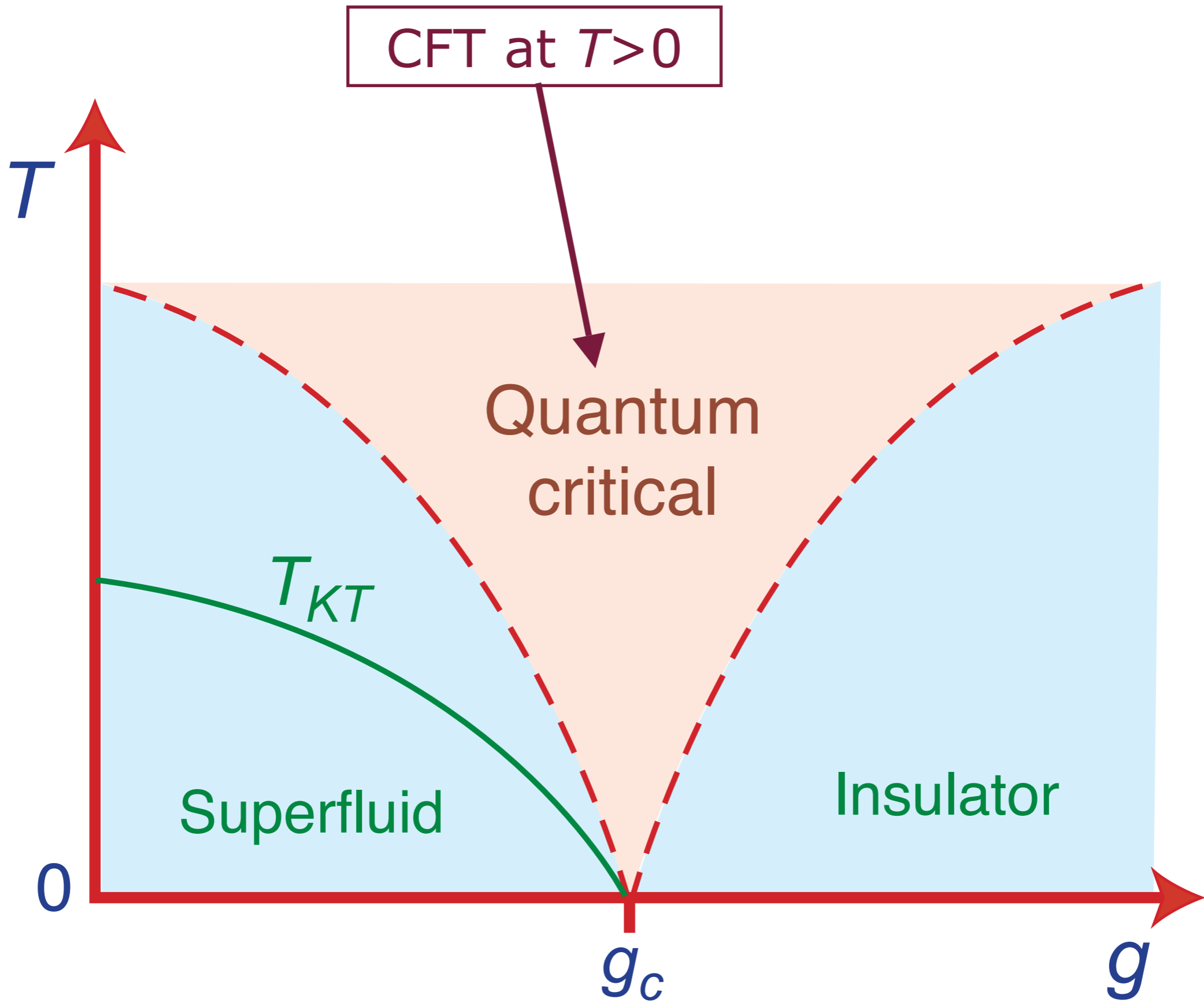
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Quantum critical transport

Quantum “*perfect fluid*”
with shortest possible
relaxation time, τ_R

$$\tau_R \gtrsim \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$$

Quantum critical transport

Transport co-efficients not determined
by collision rate, but by
universal constants of nature

Electrical conductivity

$$\sigma = \frac{e^2}{h} \times [\text{Universal constant } \mathcal{O}(1)]$$

Quantum critical transport

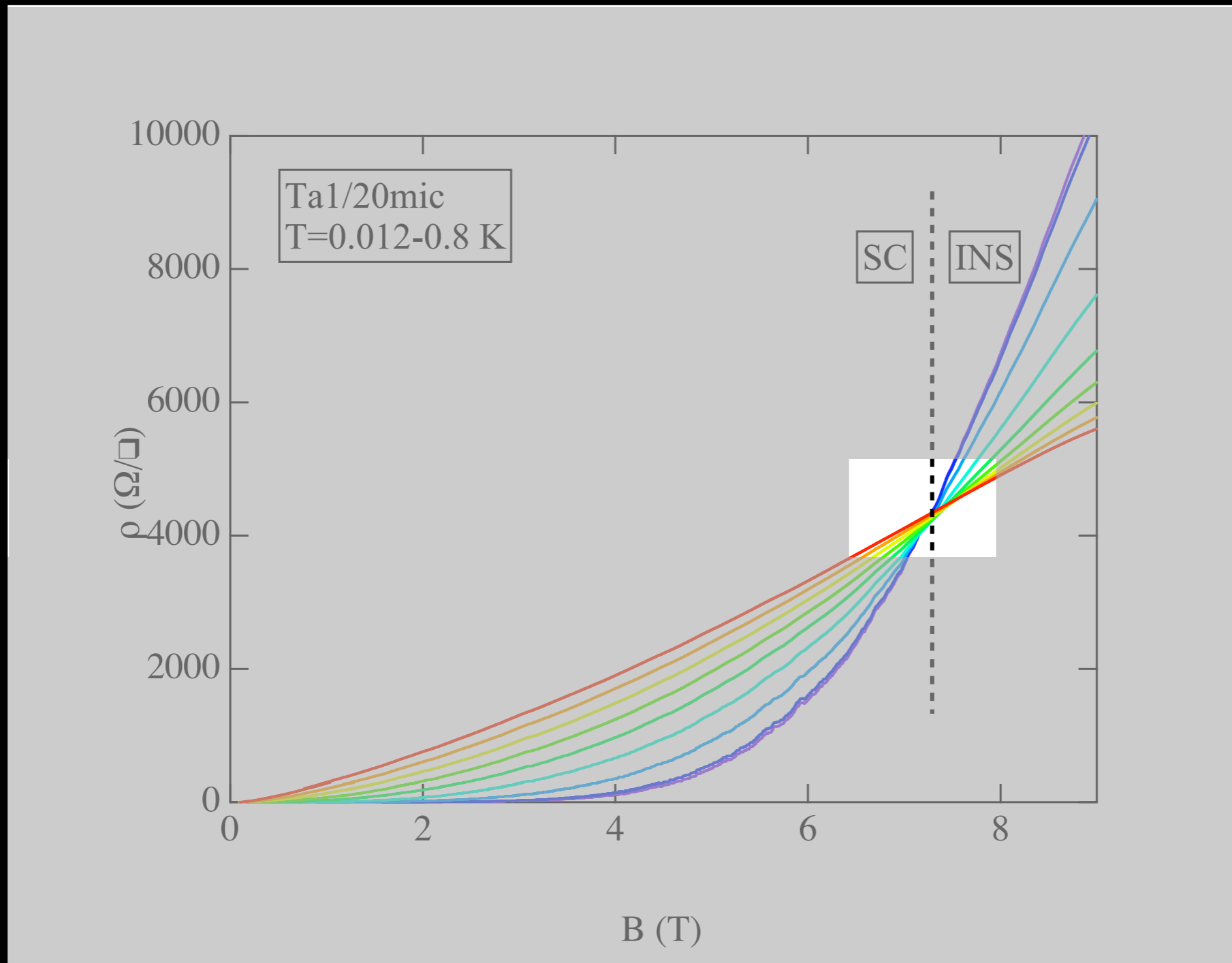
Transport co-efficients not determined
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Momentum transport

$$\frac{\eta}{s} \equiv \frac{\text{viscosity}}{\text{entropy density}}$$
$$= \frac{\hbar}{k_B} \times [\text{Universal constant } \mathcal{O}(1)]$$

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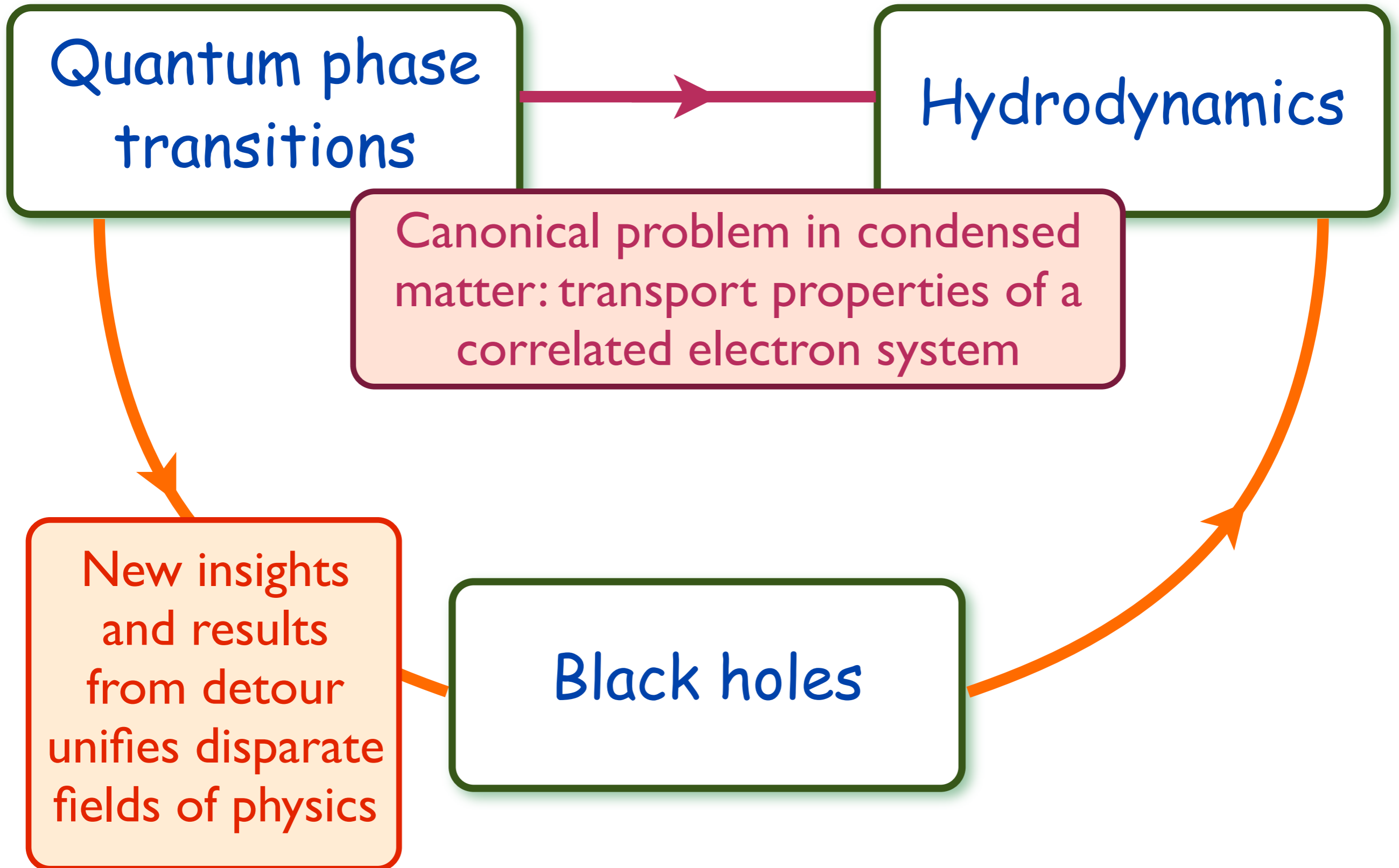
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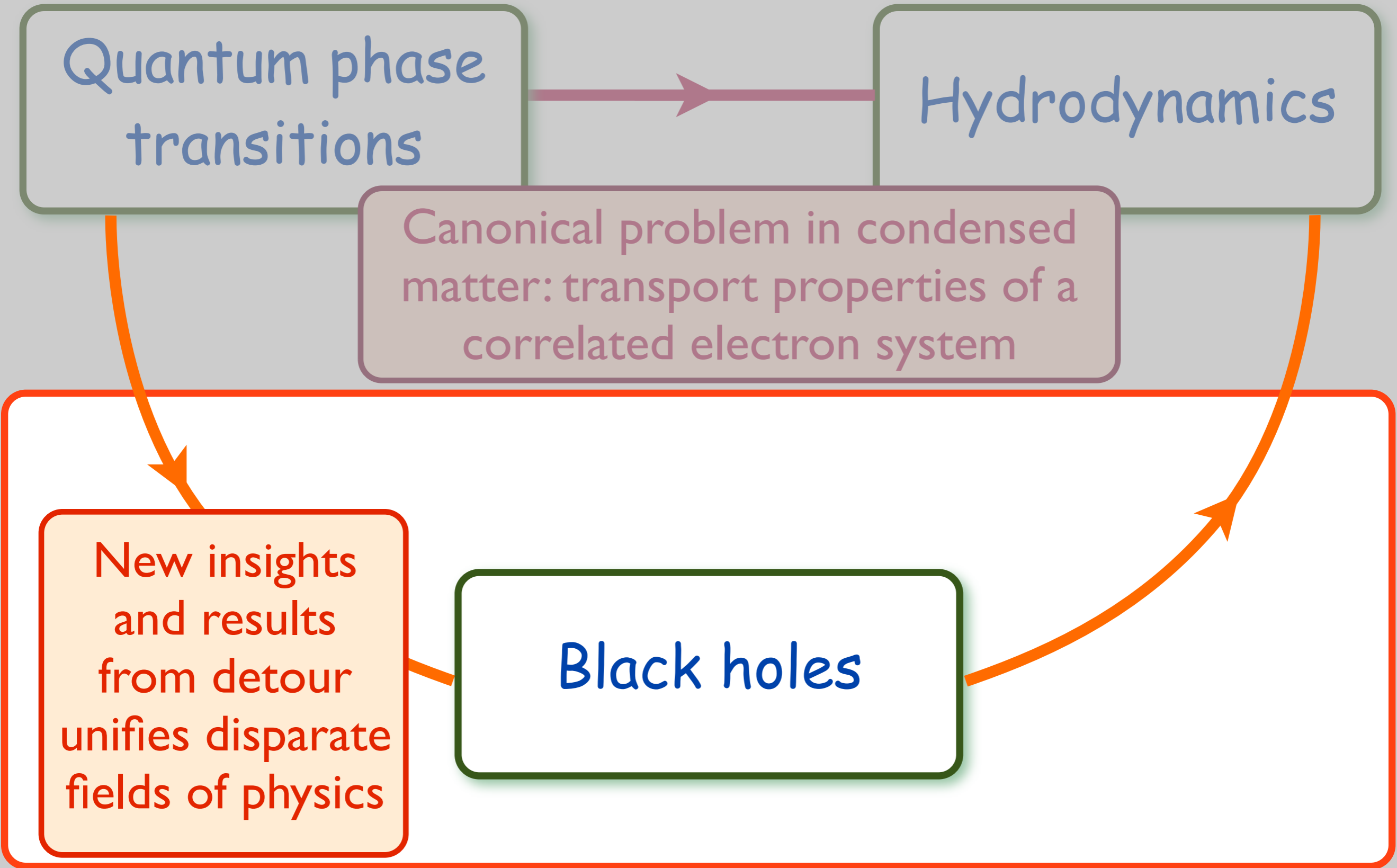
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Objects so massive that light is gravitationally bound to them.

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The region inside the black hole **horizon** is causally disconnected from the rest of the universe.

$$\text{Horizon radius } R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

Black Hole Thermodynamics

Bekenstein and Hawking discovered astonishing connections between the Einstein theory of black holes and the laws of thermodynamics

Entropy of a black hole $S = \frac{k_B A}{4\ell_P^2}$

where A is the area of the horizon, and

$\ell_P = \sqrt{\frac{G\hbar}{c^3}}$ is the Planck length.

The Second Law: $dA \geq 0$

Black Hole Thermodynamics

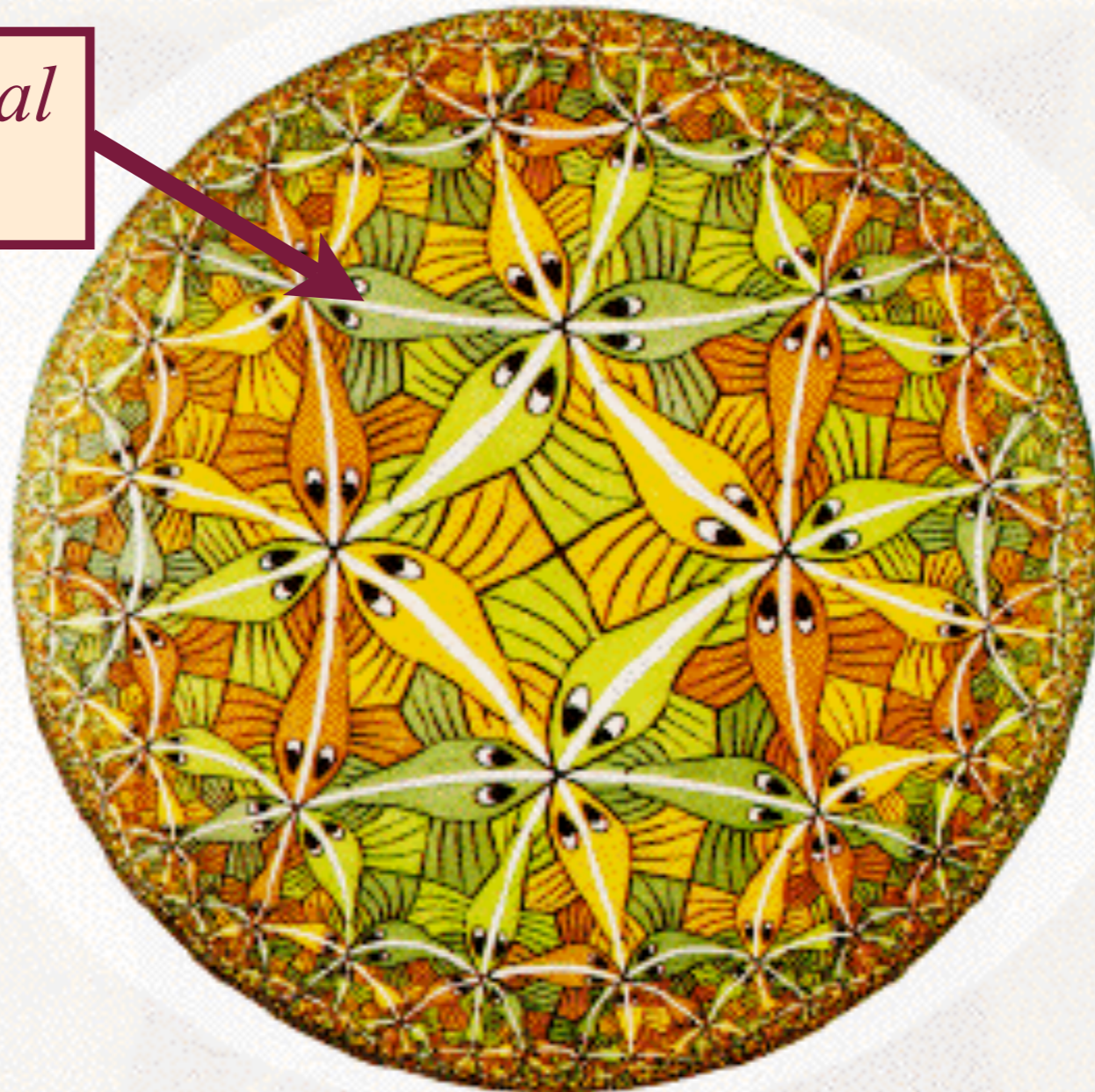
Bekenstein and Hawking discovered astonishing connections between the Einstein theory of black holes and the laws of thermodynamics

Horizon temperature: $4\pi k_B T = \frac{\hbar^2}{2M\ell_P^2}$

AdS/CFT correspondence

The quantum theory of a black hole in a 3+1-dimensional negatively curved AdS universe is holographically represented by a CFT (the theory of a quantum critical point) in 2+1 dimensions

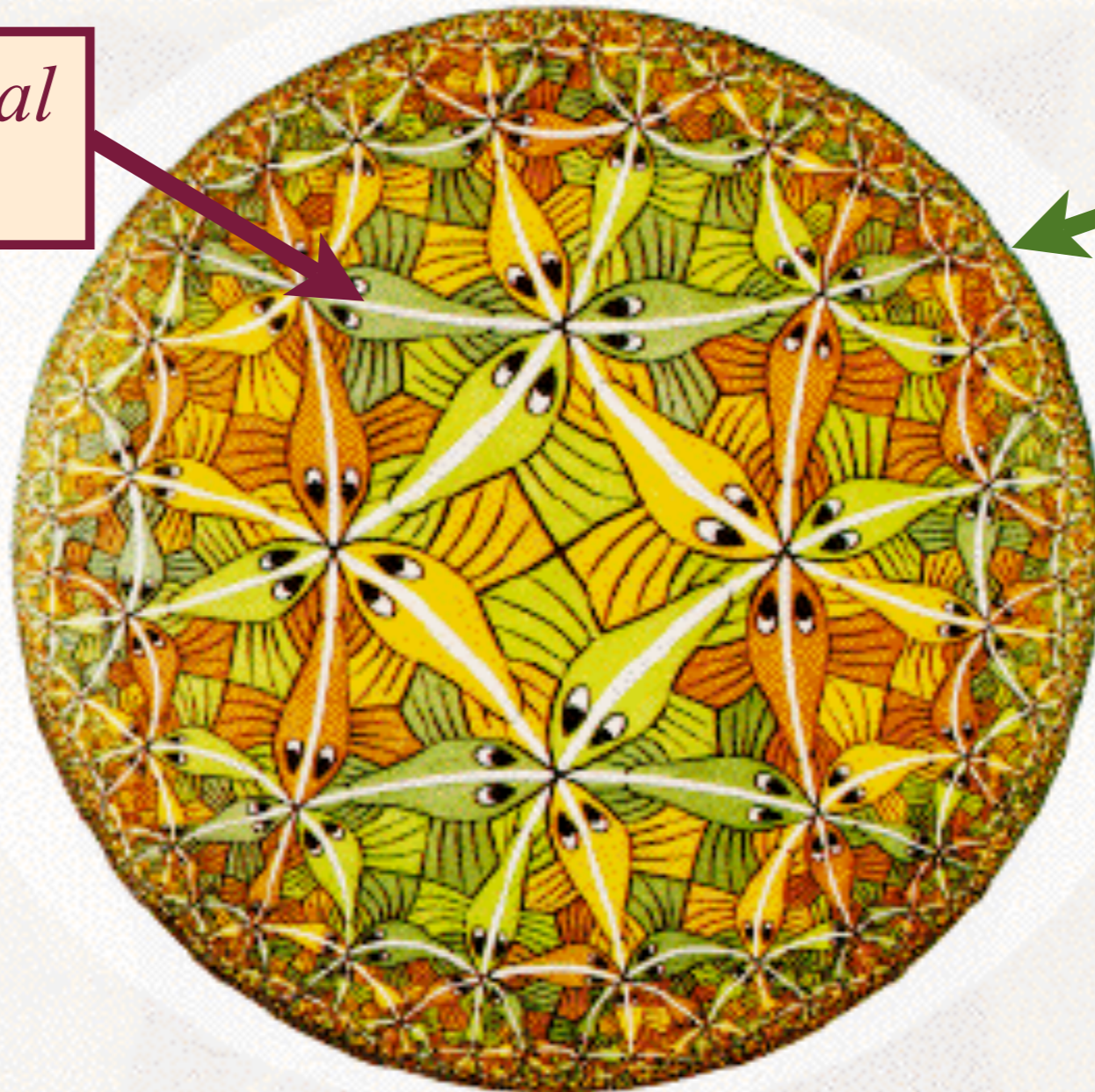
*3+1 dimensional
AdS space*



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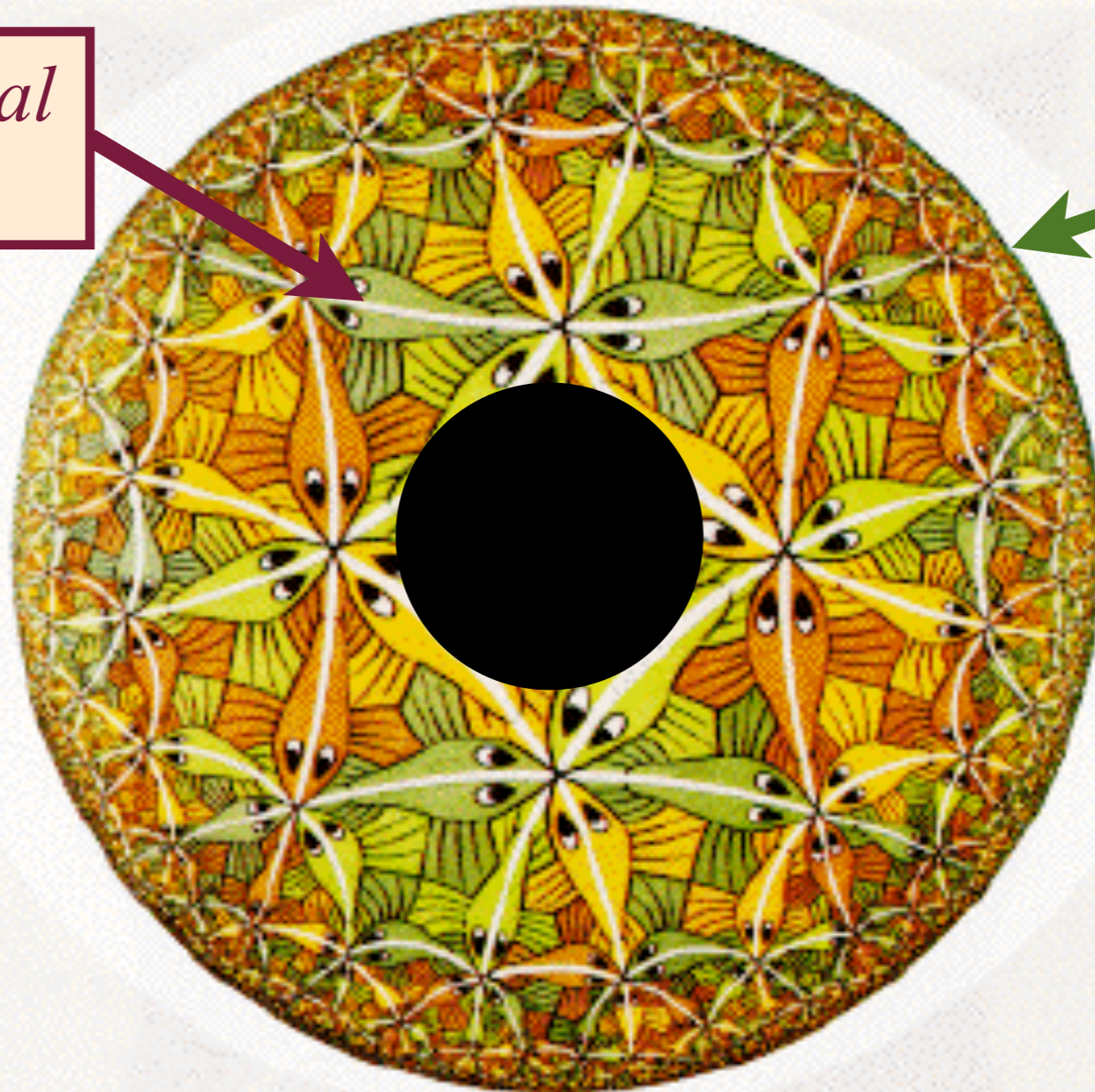


A 2+1
dimensional
system at its
quantum
critical point

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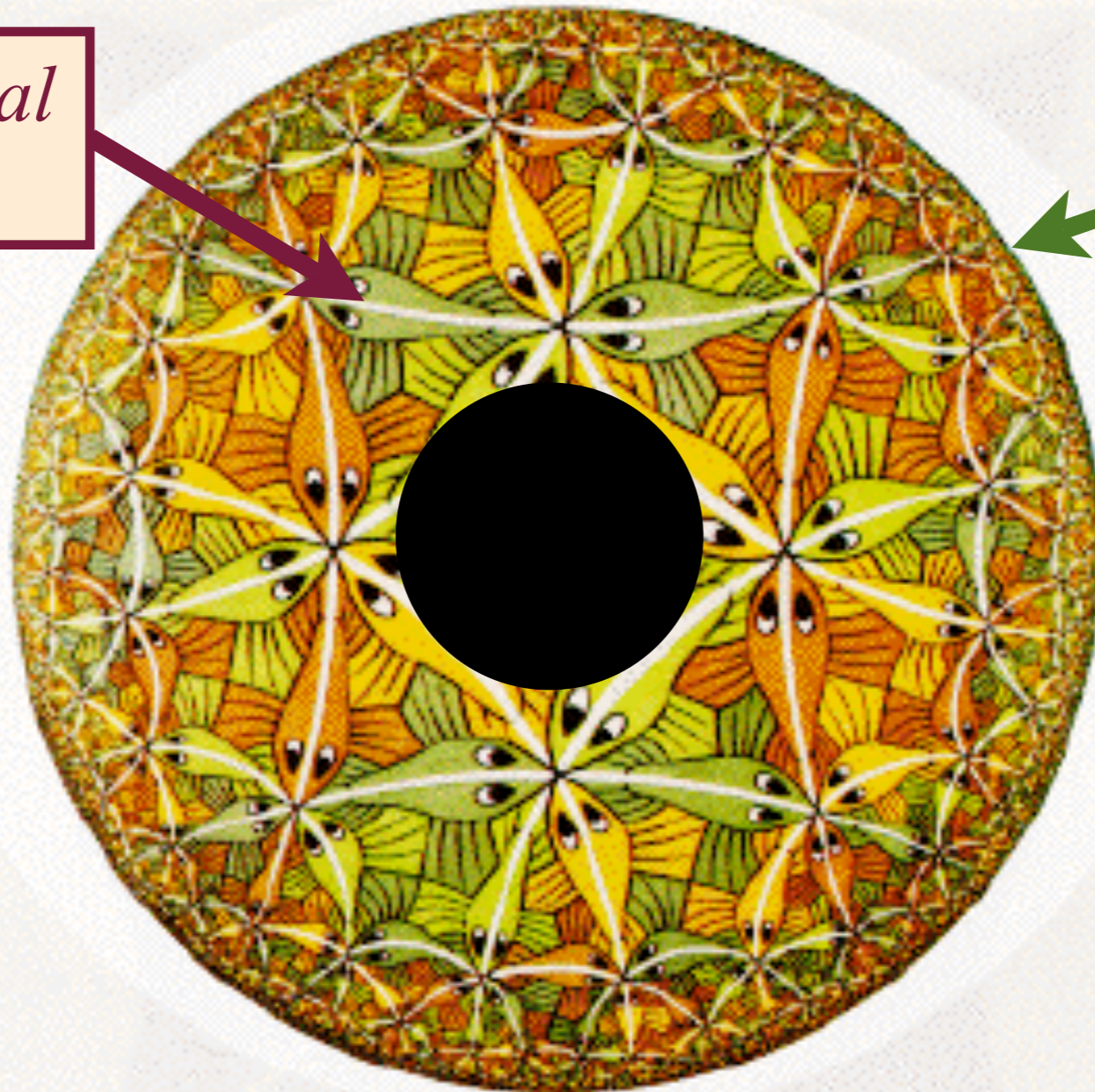
Quantum
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Black hole
temperature
=
temperature
of quantum
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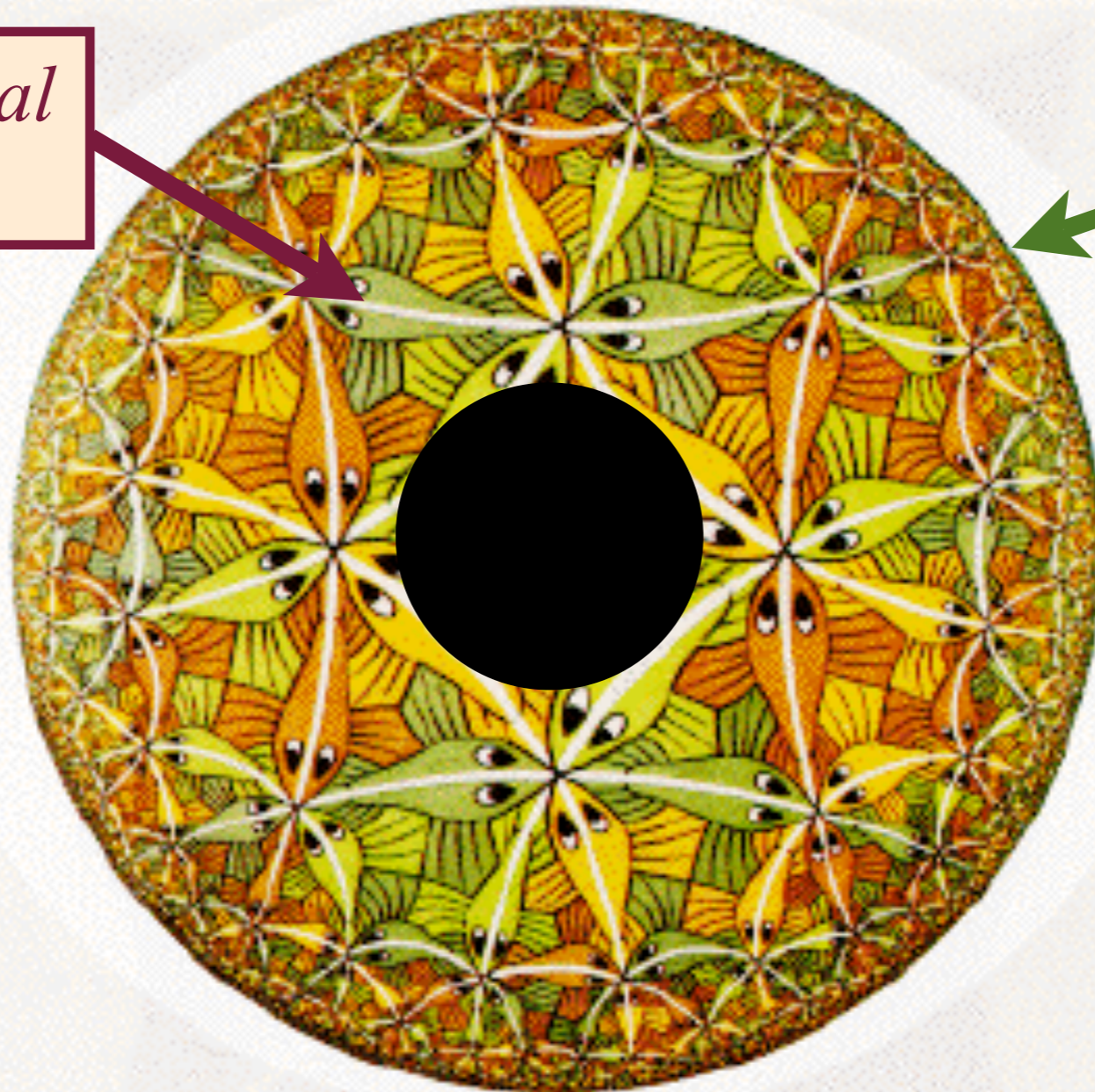
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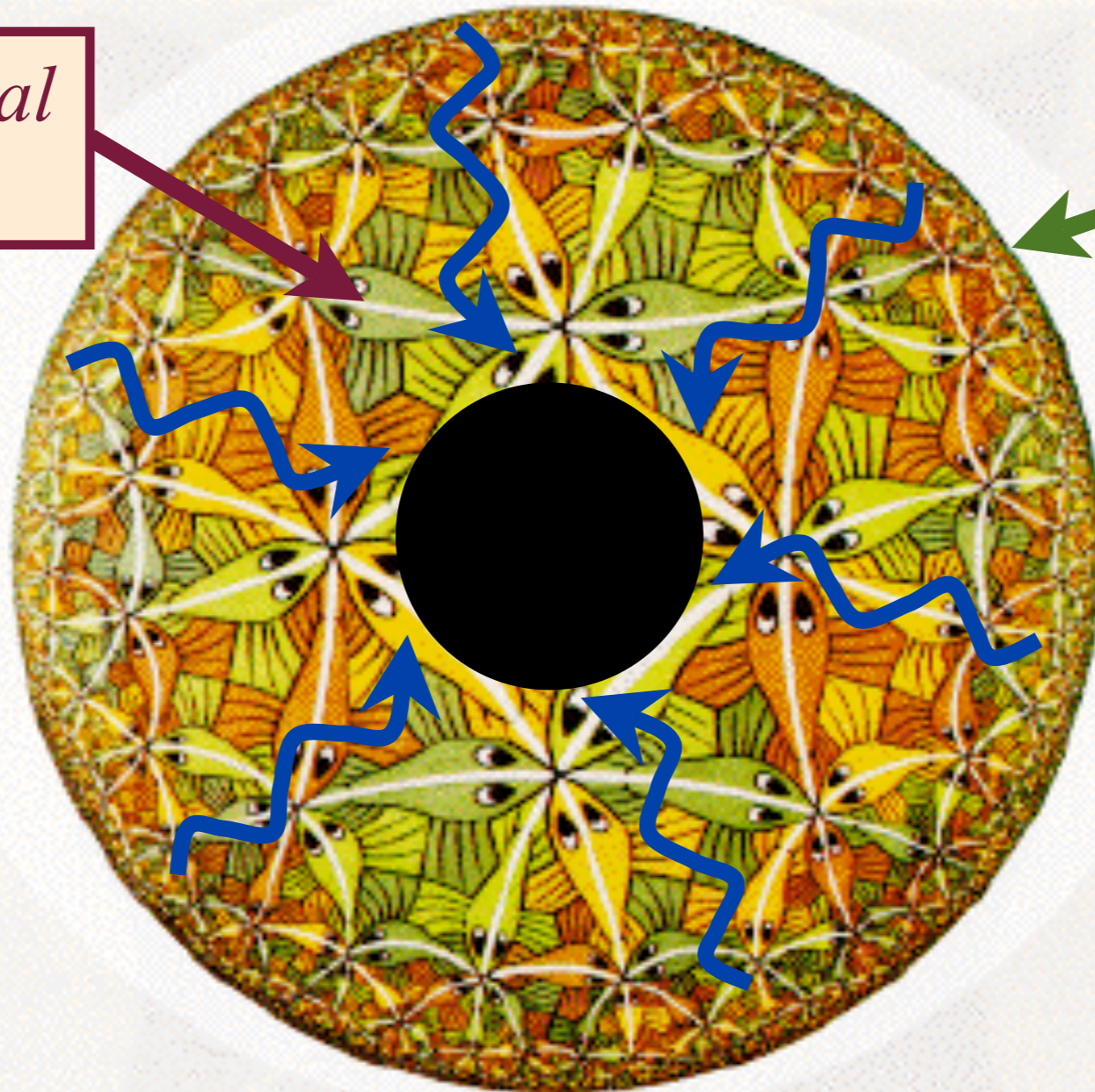
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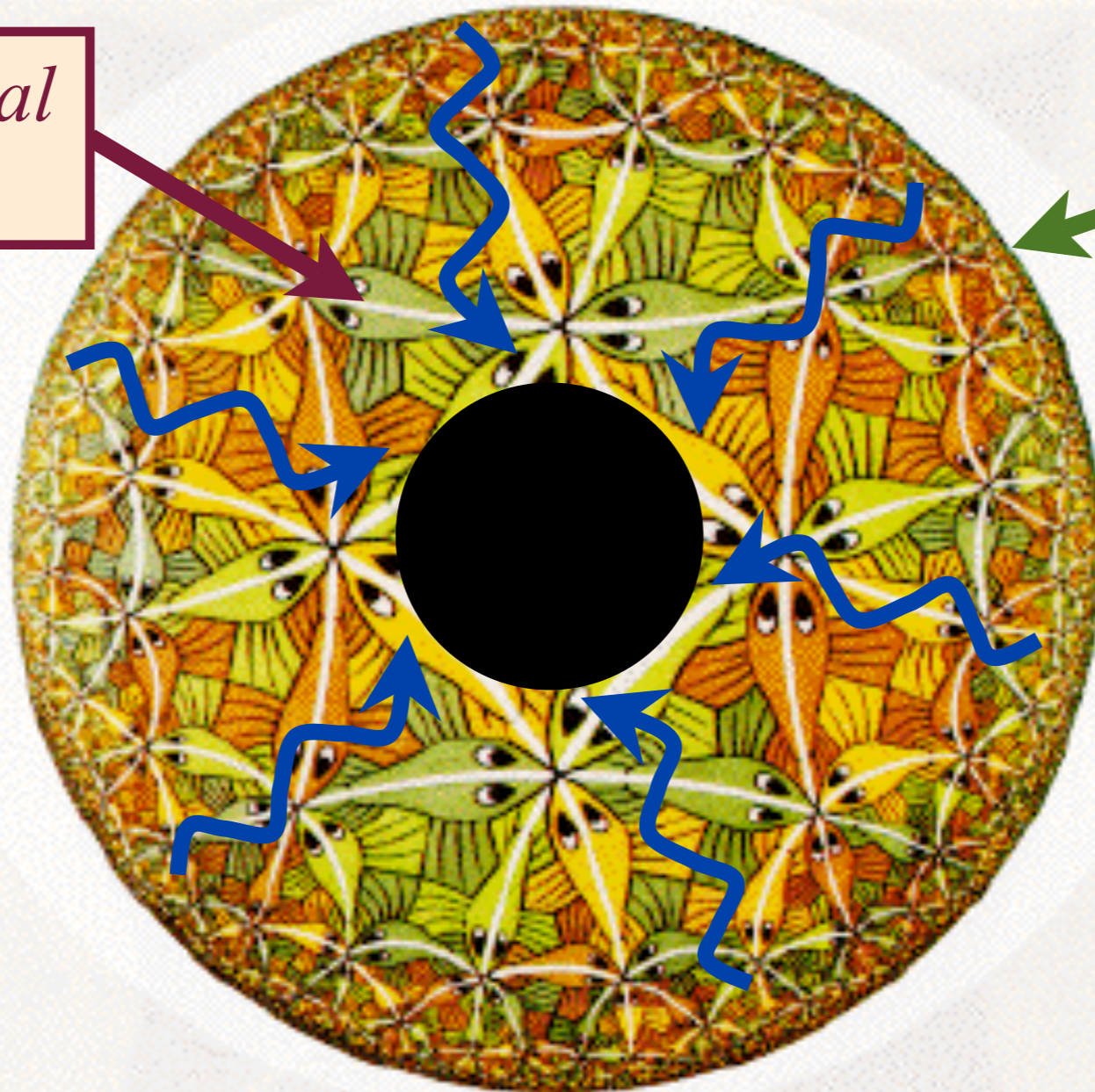
Quantum
critical
dynamics =
waves in
curved
space



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*3+1 dimensional
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Quantum
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2+1
dimensions

Friction of
quantum
criticality =
waves
falling into
black hole

Three foci of modern physics

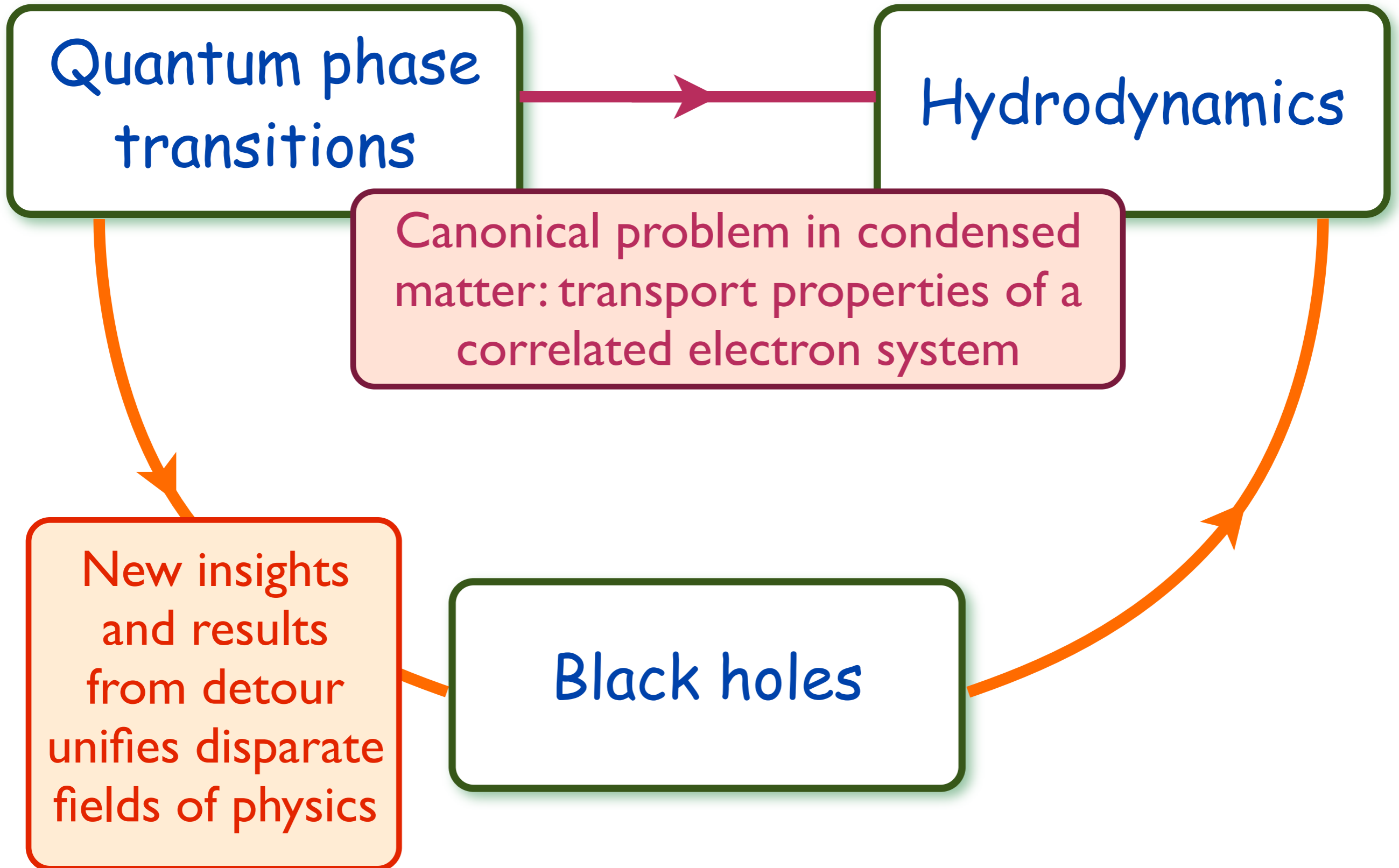
Quantum phase transitions

Hydrodynamics

Canonical problem in condensed matter: transport properties of a correlated electron system

New insights and results from detour unifies disparate fields of physics

Black holes



Three foci of modern physics

①

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Hydrodynamics of quantum critical systems

- I. Use quantum field theory + quantum transport equations + classical hydrodynamics
Uses physical model but strong-coupling makes explicit solution difficult

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Hydrodynamics of quantum critical systems

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2. Solve Einstein-Maxwell equations in the background of a black hole in AdS space
*Yields hydrodynamic relations which apply to general classes of quantum critical systems.
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Find perfect agreement between 1. and 2.
In some cases, results were obtained by 2. earlier !!

Applications:

1. Magneto-thermo-electric transport in graphene
and near the superconductor-insulator transition
Hydrodynamic cyclotron resonance
Nernst effect
2. Quark-gluon plasma
Low viscosity fluid
3. Fermi gas at unitarity
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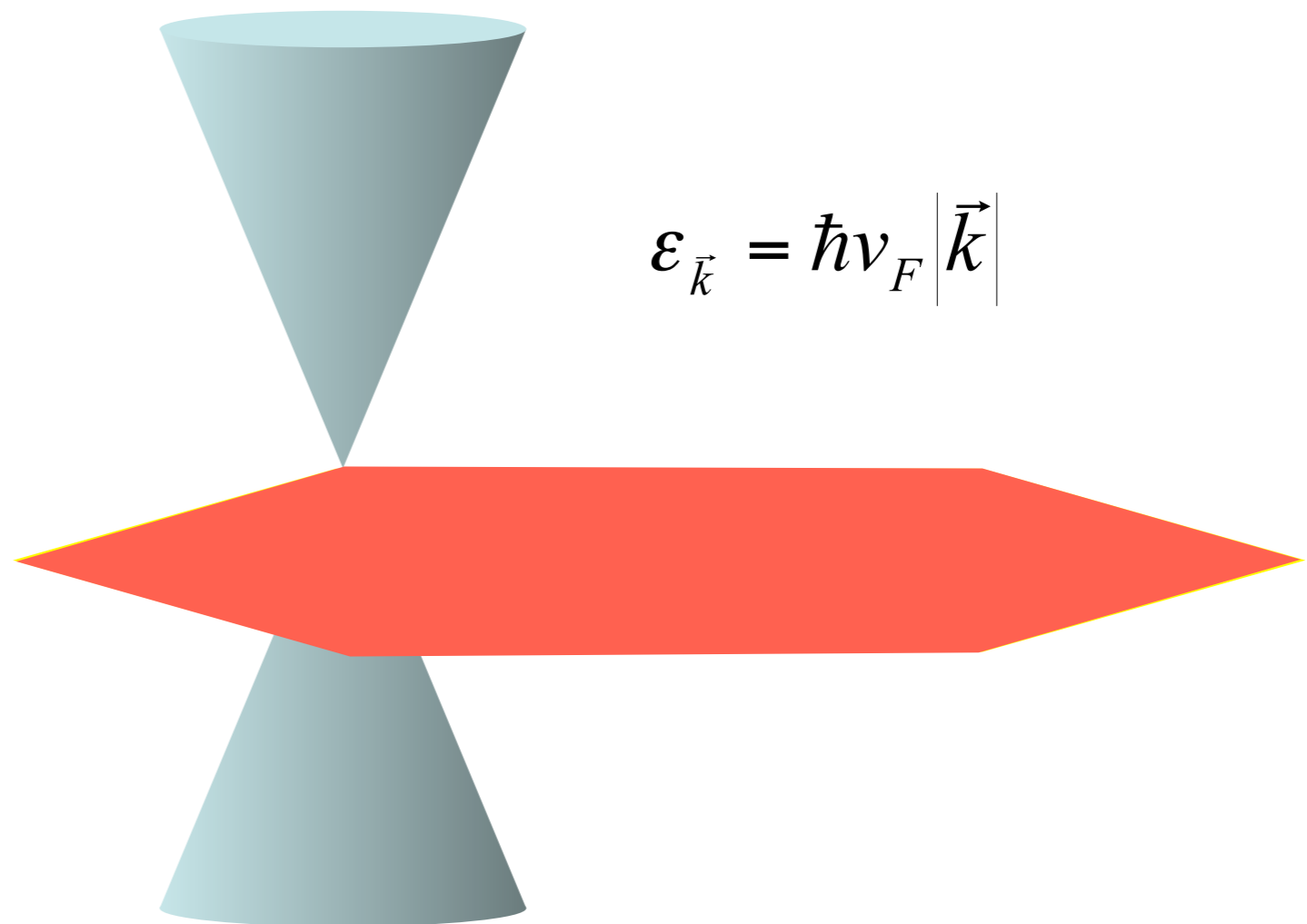
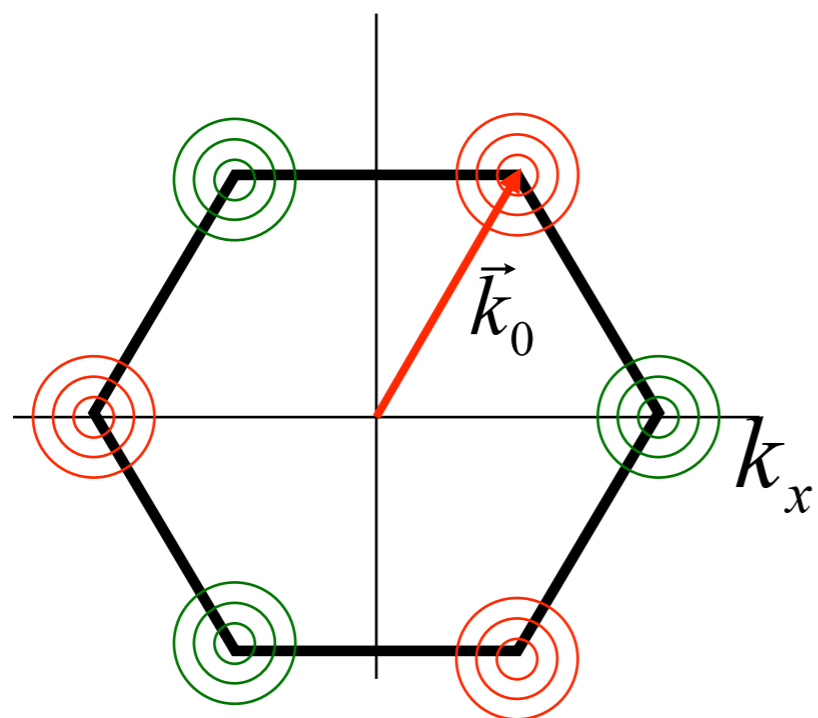
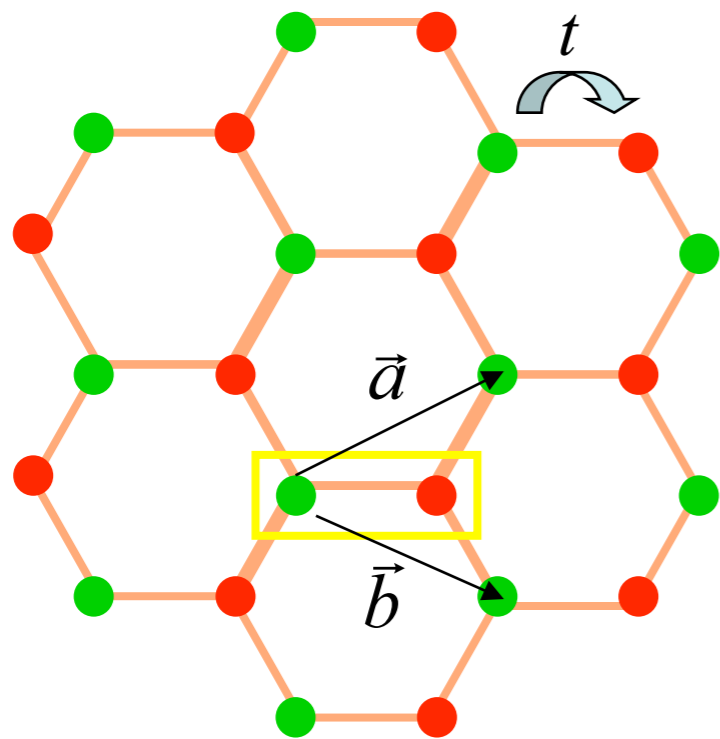
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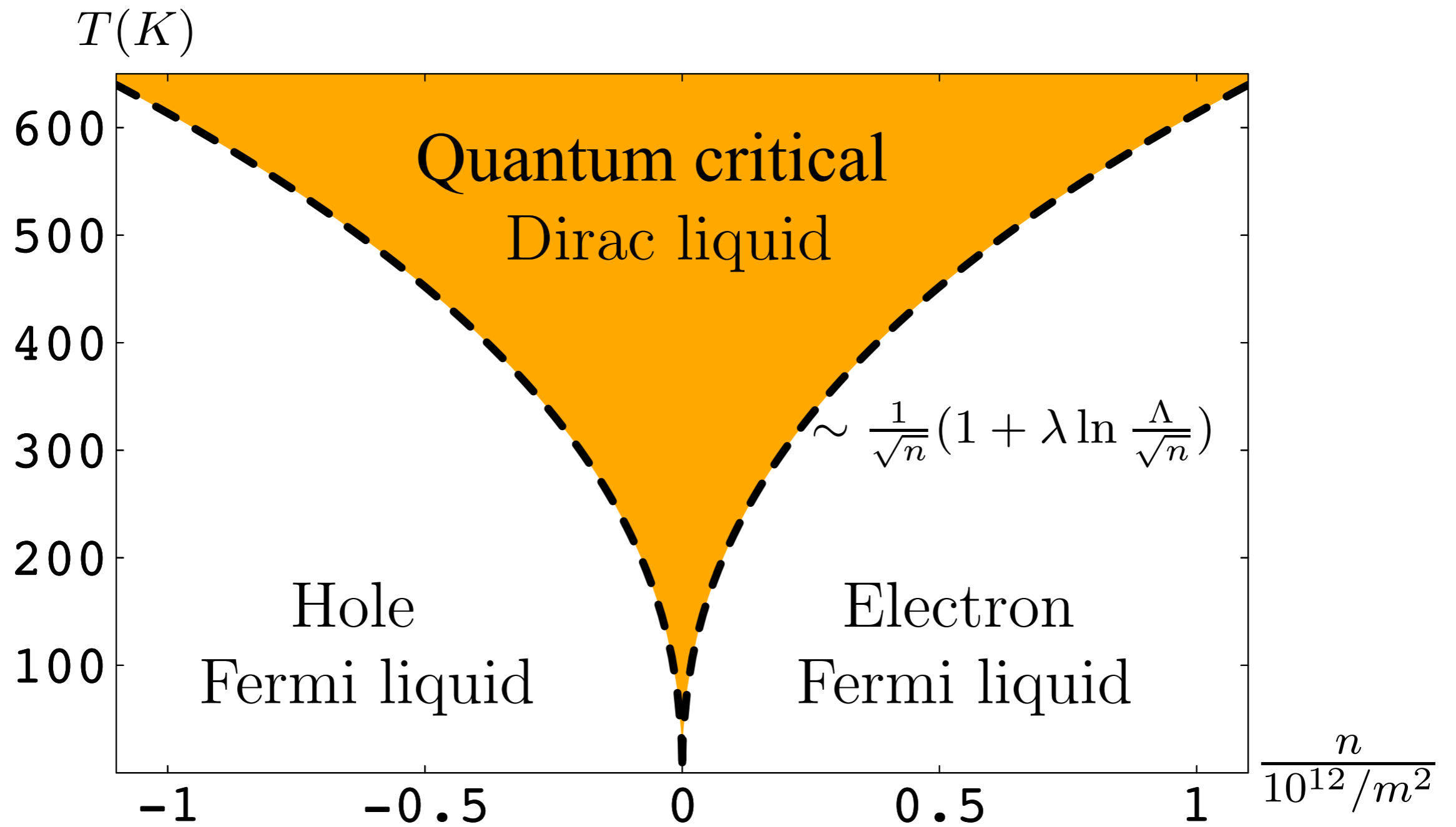
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Non-relativistic AdS/CFT

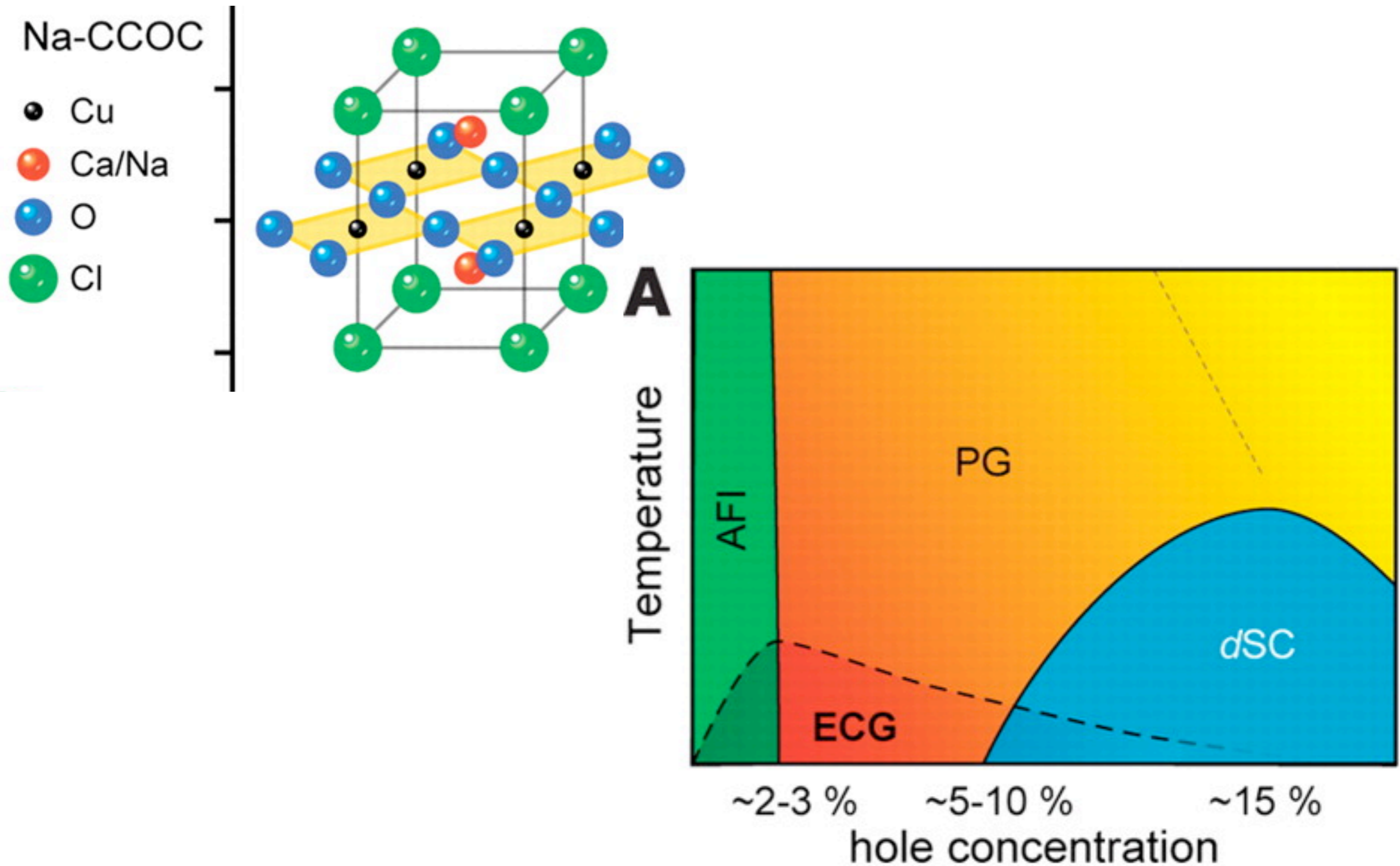
Graphene



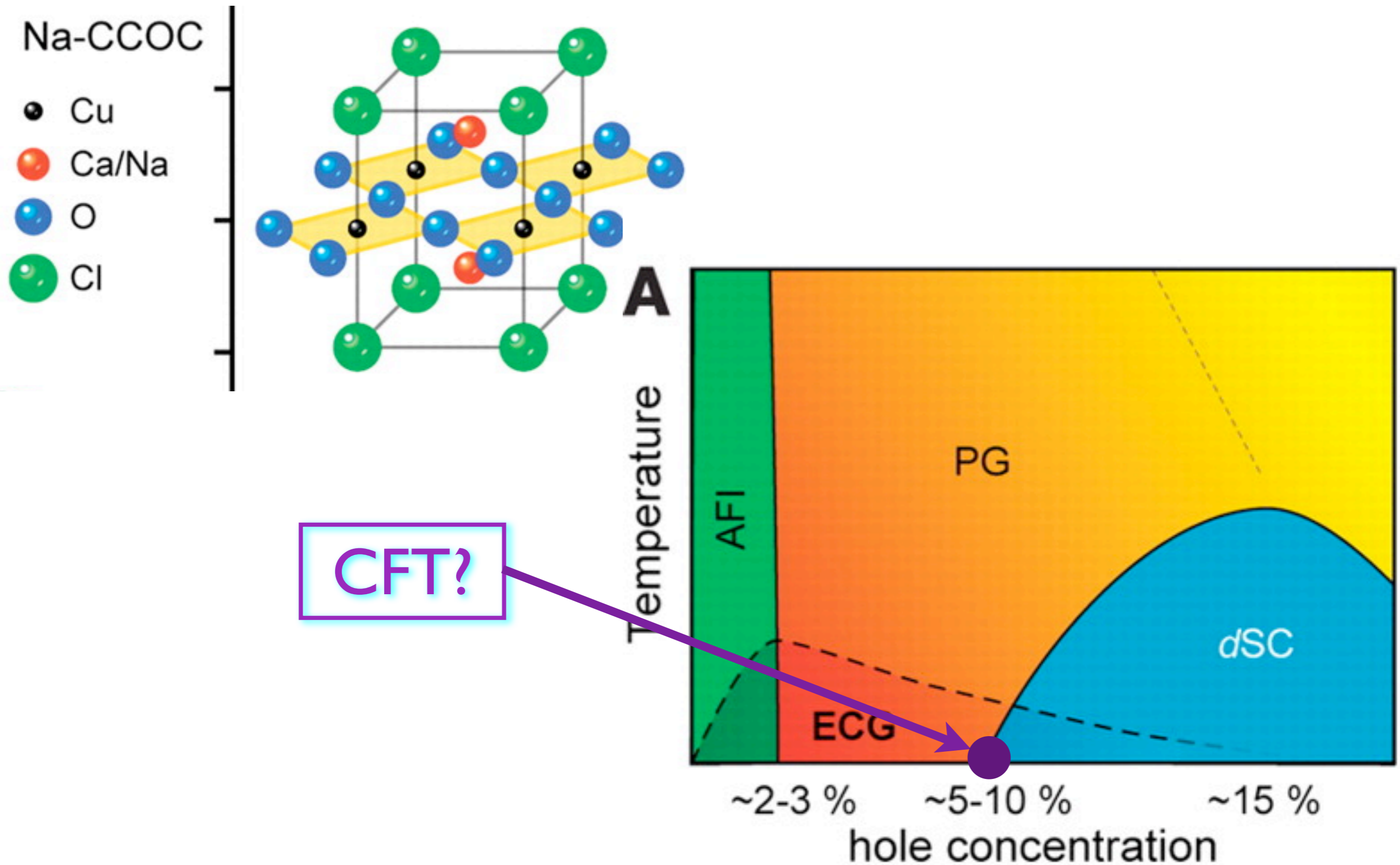
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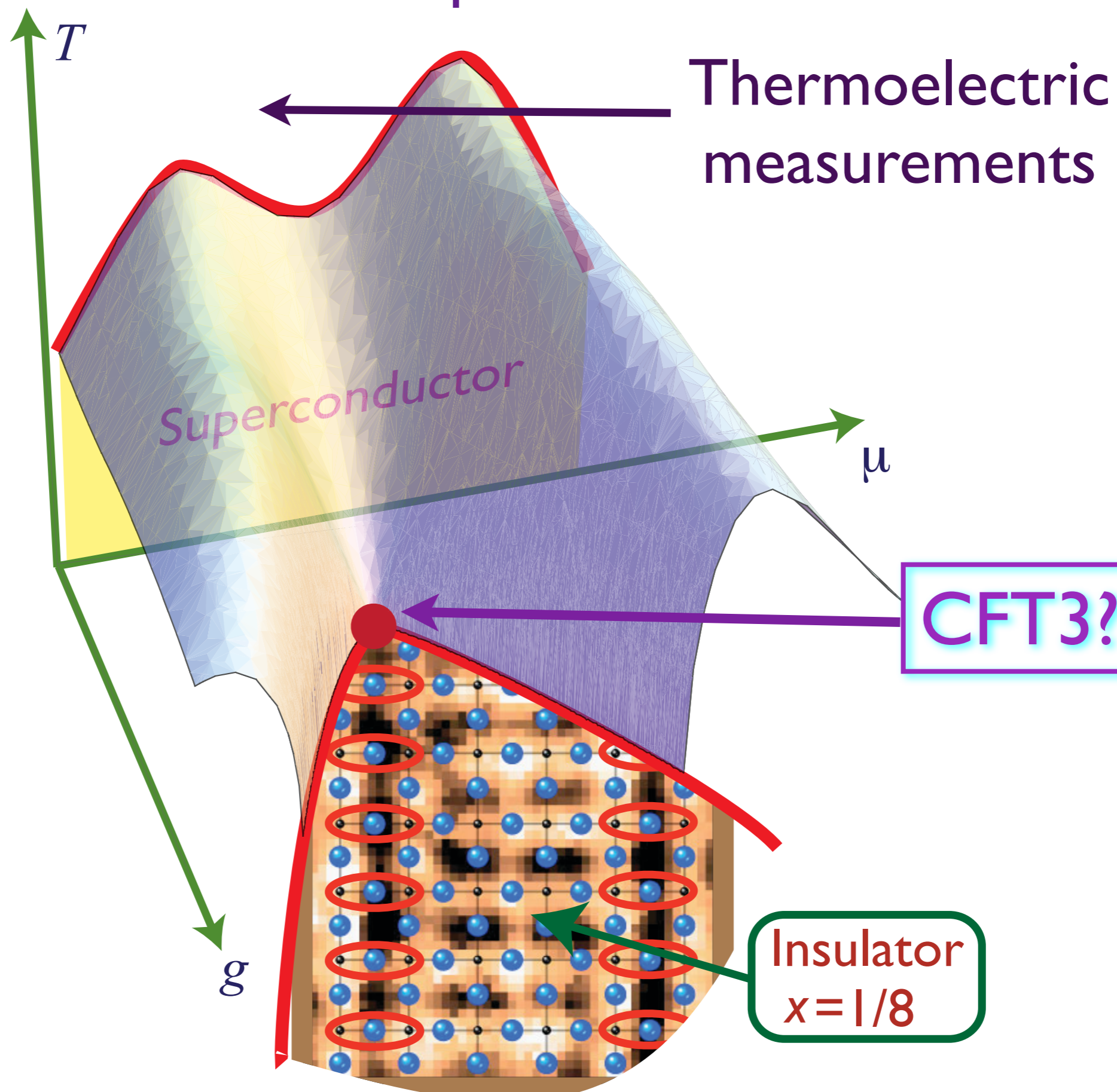
The cuprate superconductors



The cuprate superconductors



Cuprates



Hydrodynamic cyclotron resonance at a frequency

$$\omega_c = \frac{e^* B \rho v^2}{c(\varepsilon + P)}$$

and with width

$$\gamma = \sigma_Q \frac{B^2 v^2}{c^2(\varepsilon + P)}$$

where B = magnetic field, ρ = charge density away from density of CFT, ε = energy density, P = pressure, v = velocity of “light” in CFT, and $\sigma_Q e^2/h$ is the universal conductivity of the CFT.

“Wiedemann-Franz”-like relation for thermal conductivity, κ at $B = 0$

$$\kappa = \sigma_Q \left(\frac{k_B^2 T}{e^{*2}} \right) \left(\frac{\varepsilon + P}{k_B T \rho} \right)^2 .$$

At $B \neq 0$ and $\rho = 0$ we have a “Wiedemann-Franz” relation for “vortices”

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{\sigma_Q} k_B^2 T \left(\frac{v(\varepsilon + P)}{k_B T B} \right)^2 .$$

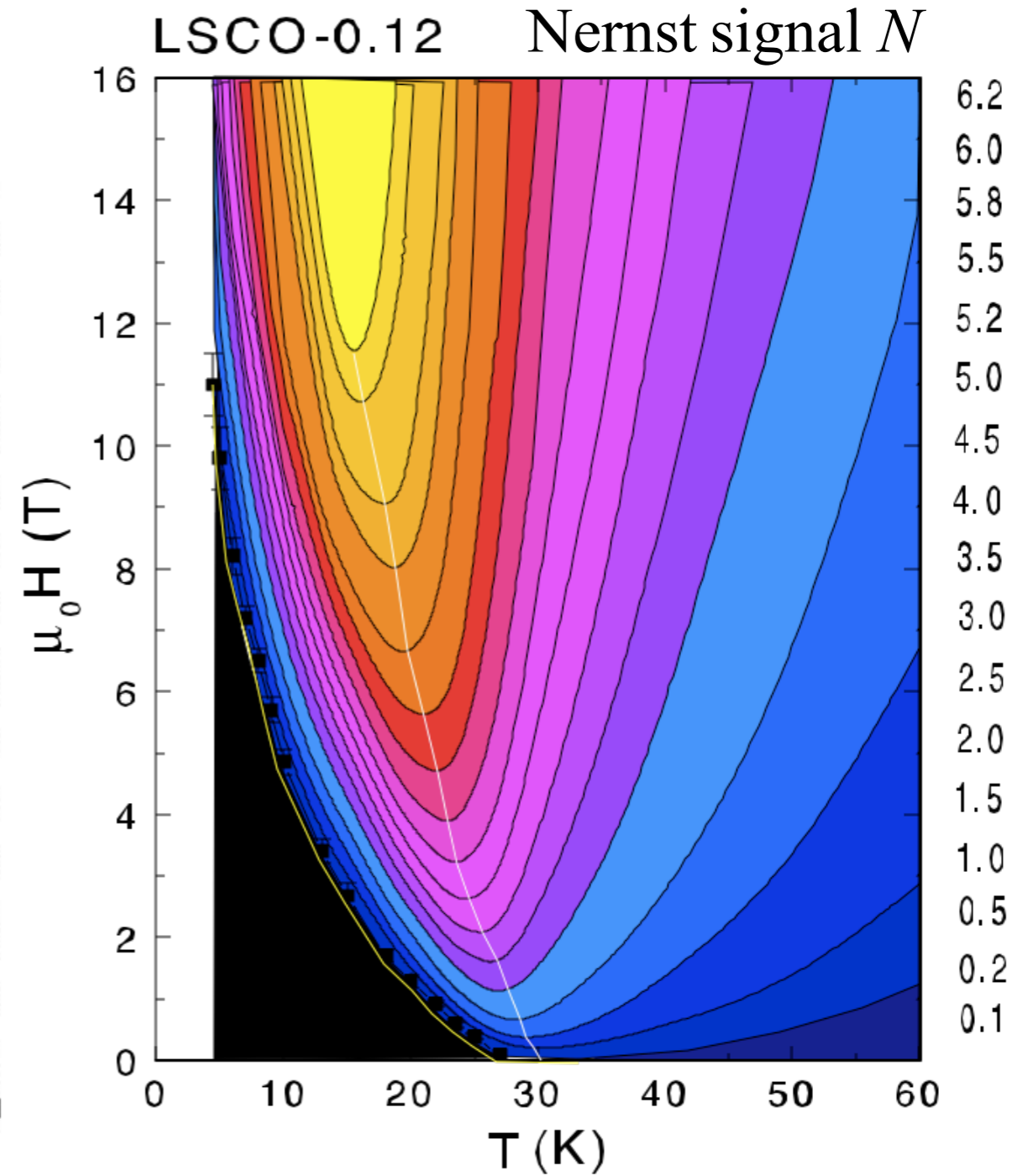
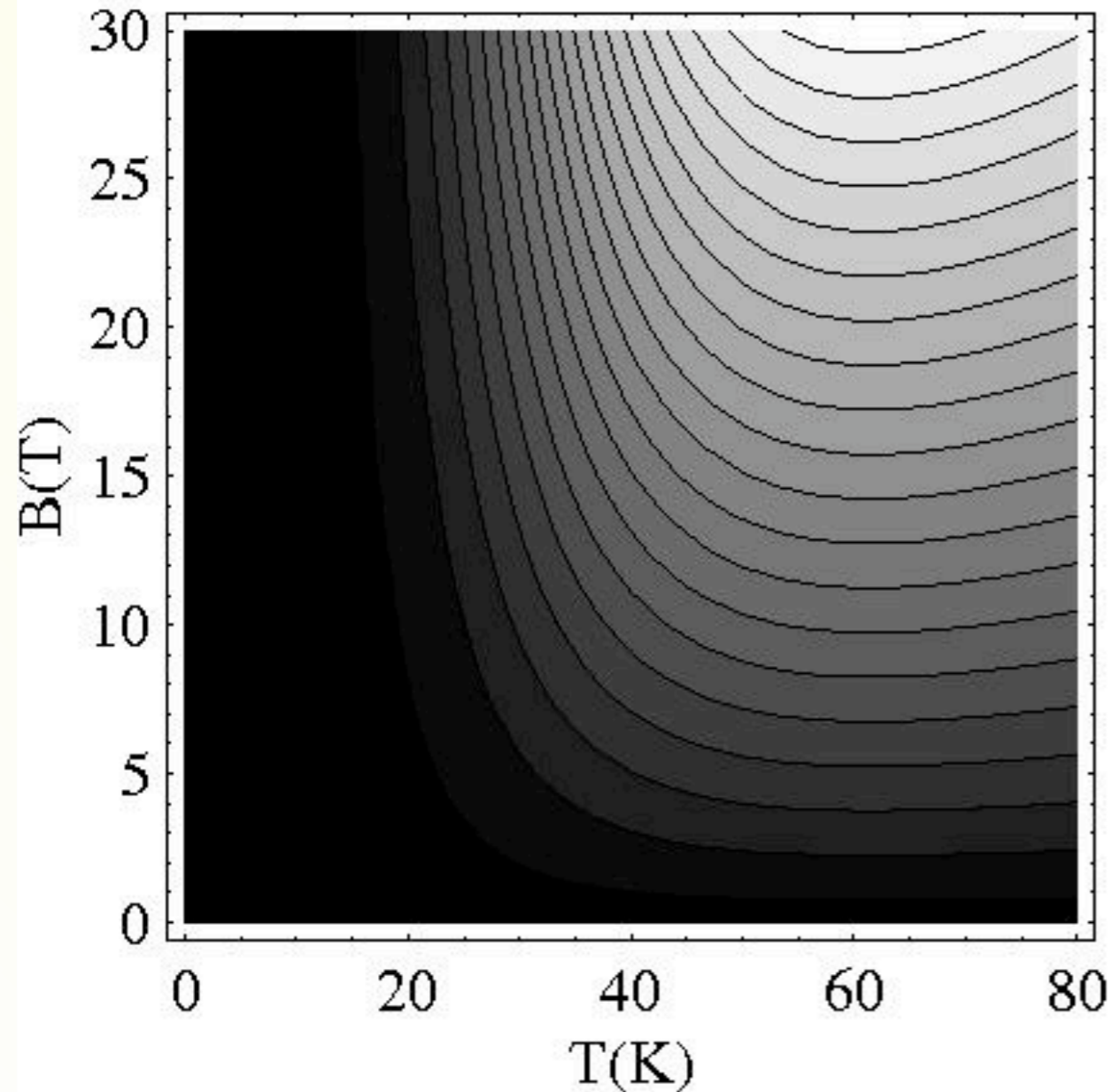
Nernst signal (transverse thermoelectric response)

$$e_N = \left(\frac{k_B}{e^*} \right) \left(\frac{\varepsilon + P}{k_B T \rho} \right) \left[\frac{\omega_c / \tau_{\text{imp}}}{(\omega_c^2 / \gamma + 1 / \tau_{\text{imp}})^2 + \omega_c^2} \right]$$

where τ_{imp} is the momentum relaxation time due to impurities or umklapp scattering.

LSCO Experiments

Theory for N



Y. Wang, L. Li, and N. P. Ong, Phys. Rev. B 73, 024510 (2006).

B and T dependencies are in semi-quantitative agreement with observations on cuprates, with reasonable values for only 2 adjustable parameters, τ_{imp} and ν .

Specific quantitative predictions for THz experiments on graphene at room temperature.

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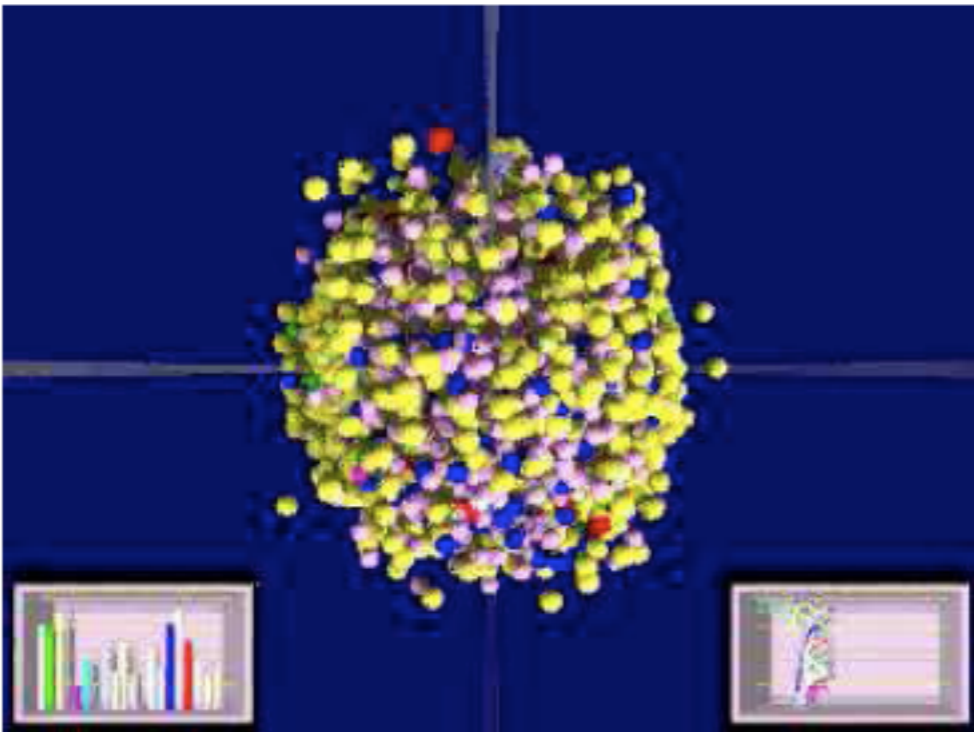
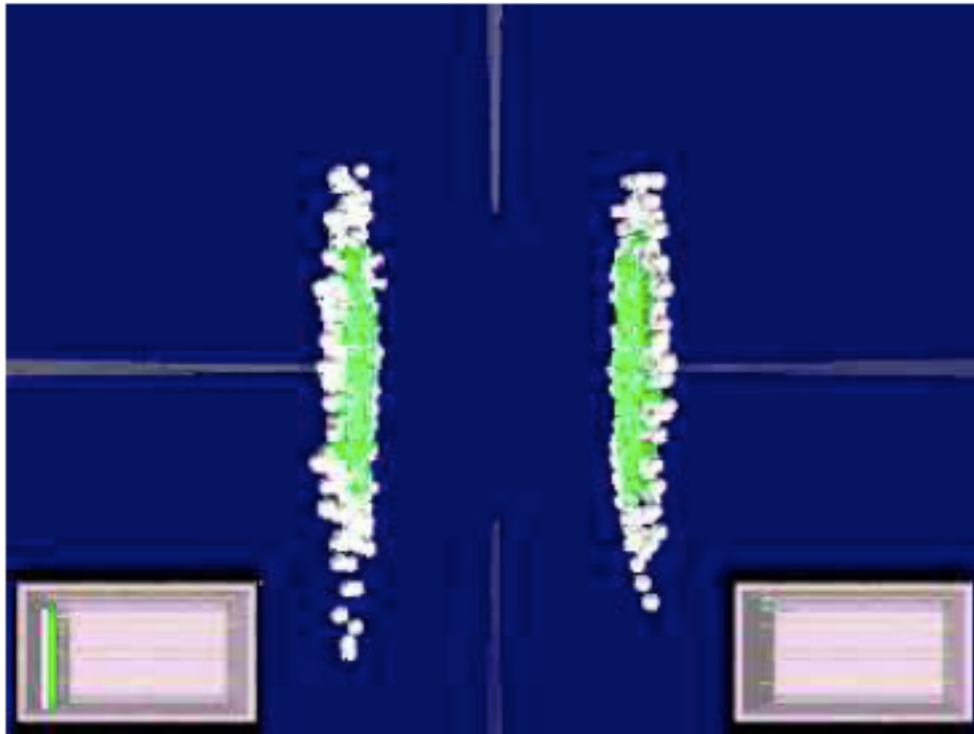
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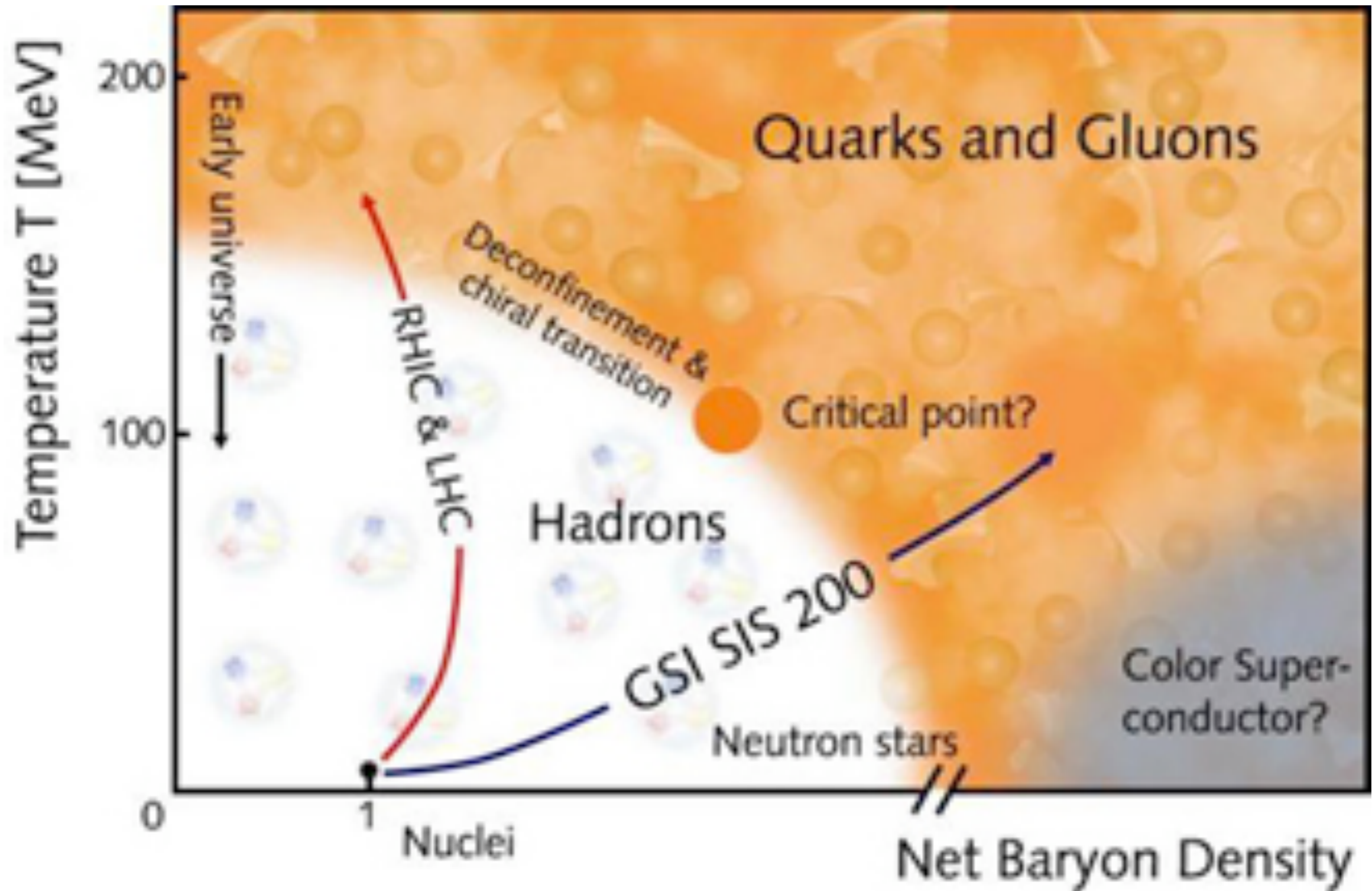
Non-relativistic AdS/CFT

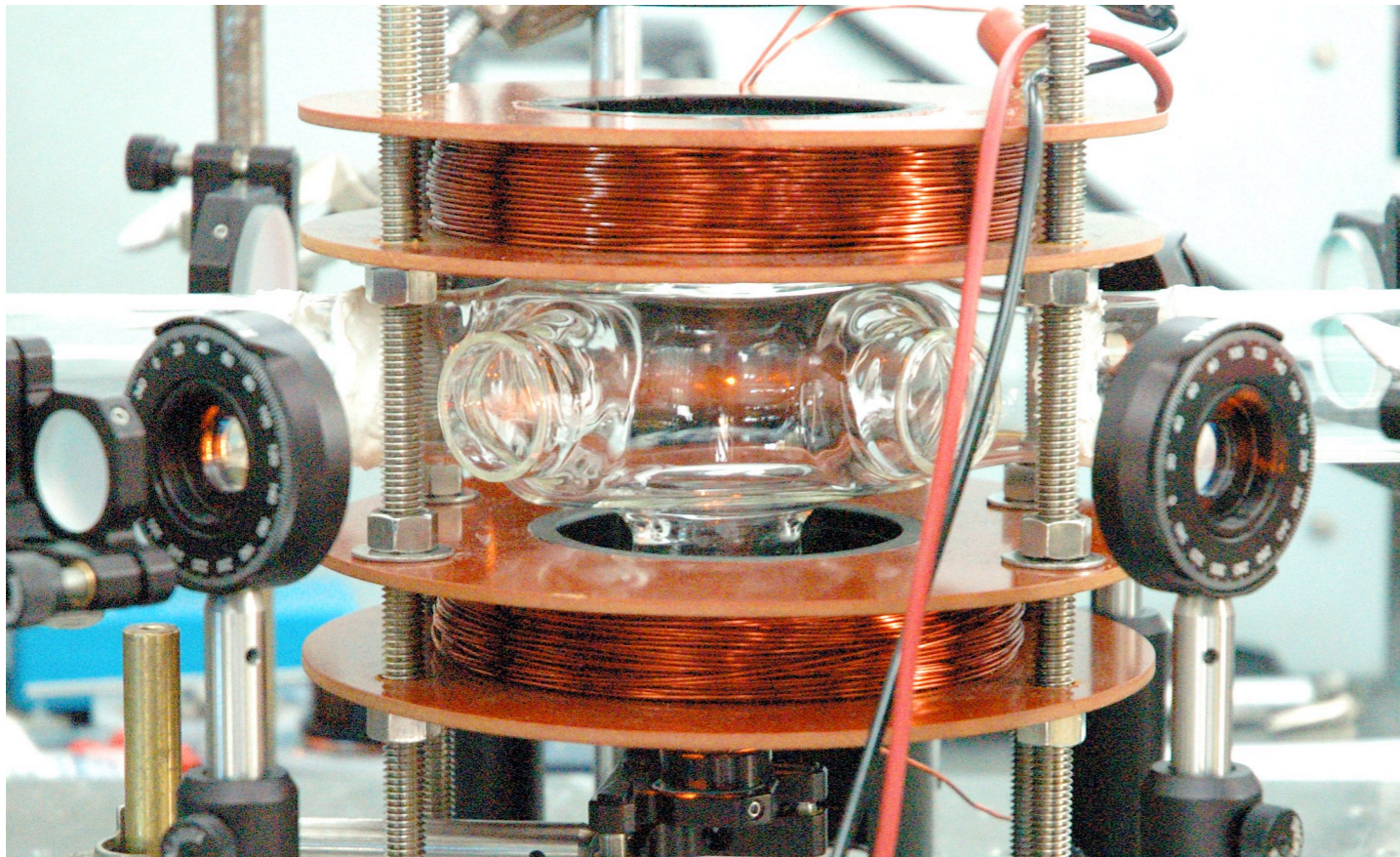
Au+Au collisions at RHIC



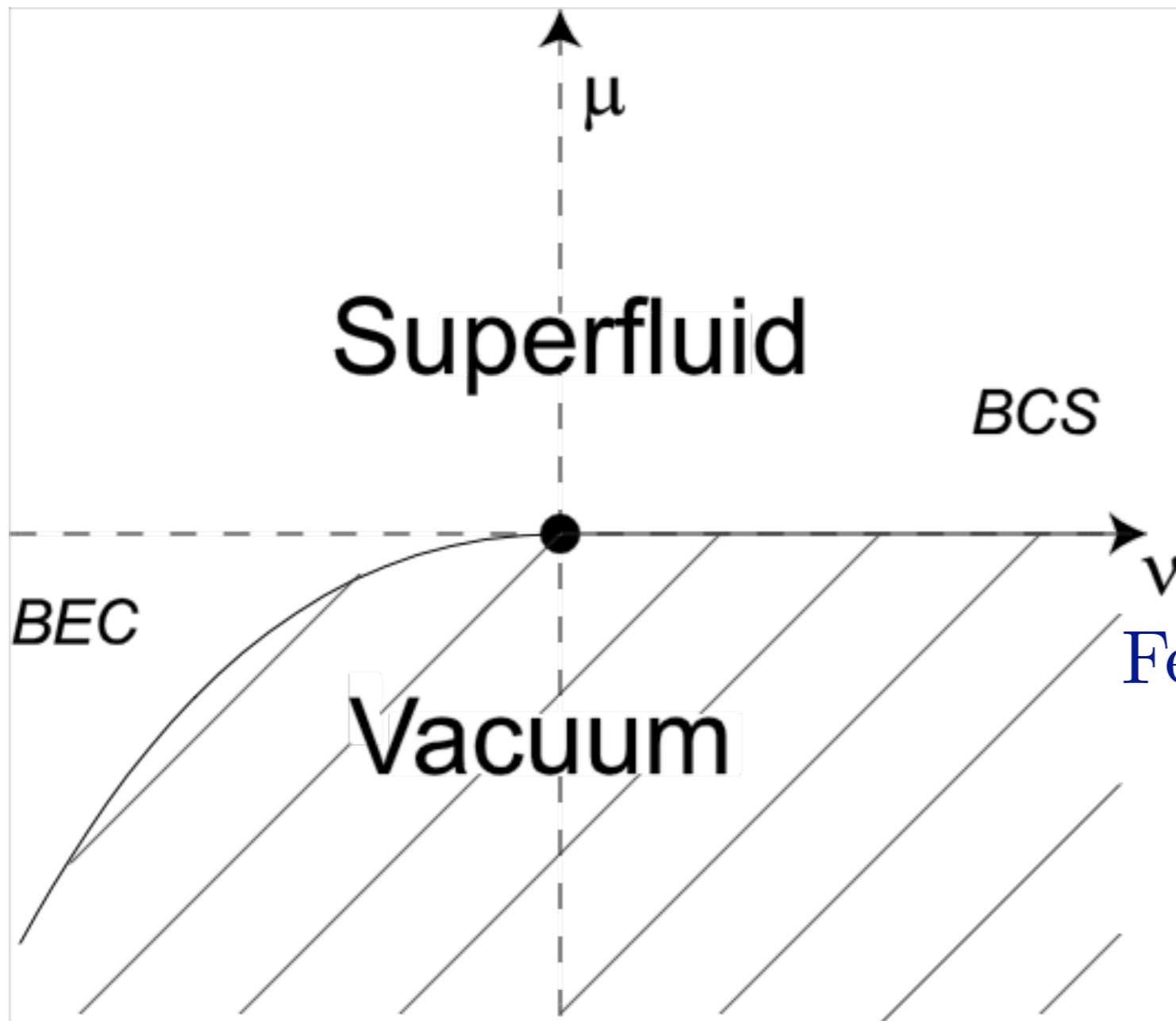
Quark-gluon plasma can be described as “quantum critical QCD”

Phases of nuclear matter

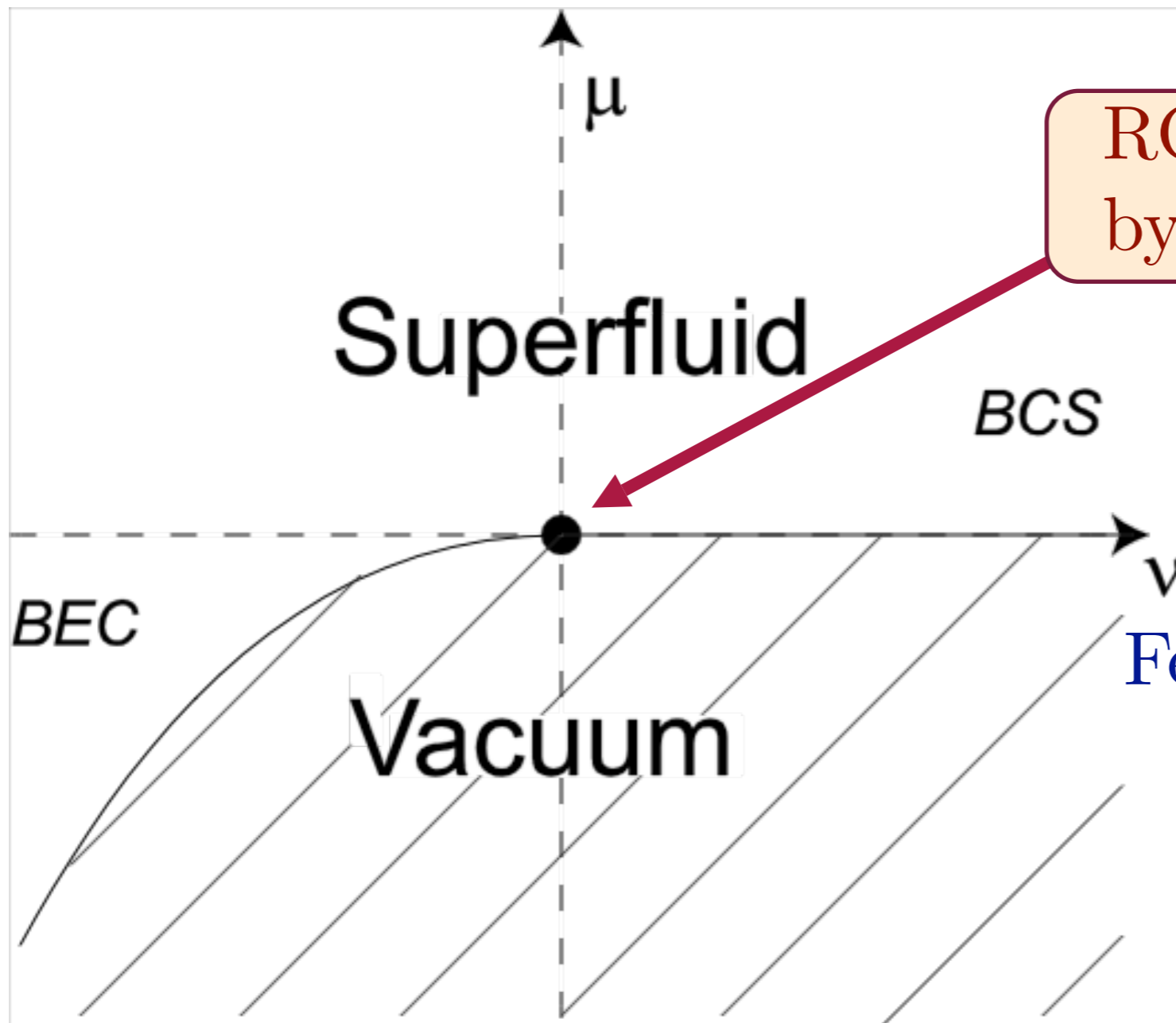




**$S=1/2$ Fermi gas
at a Feshbach
resonance**

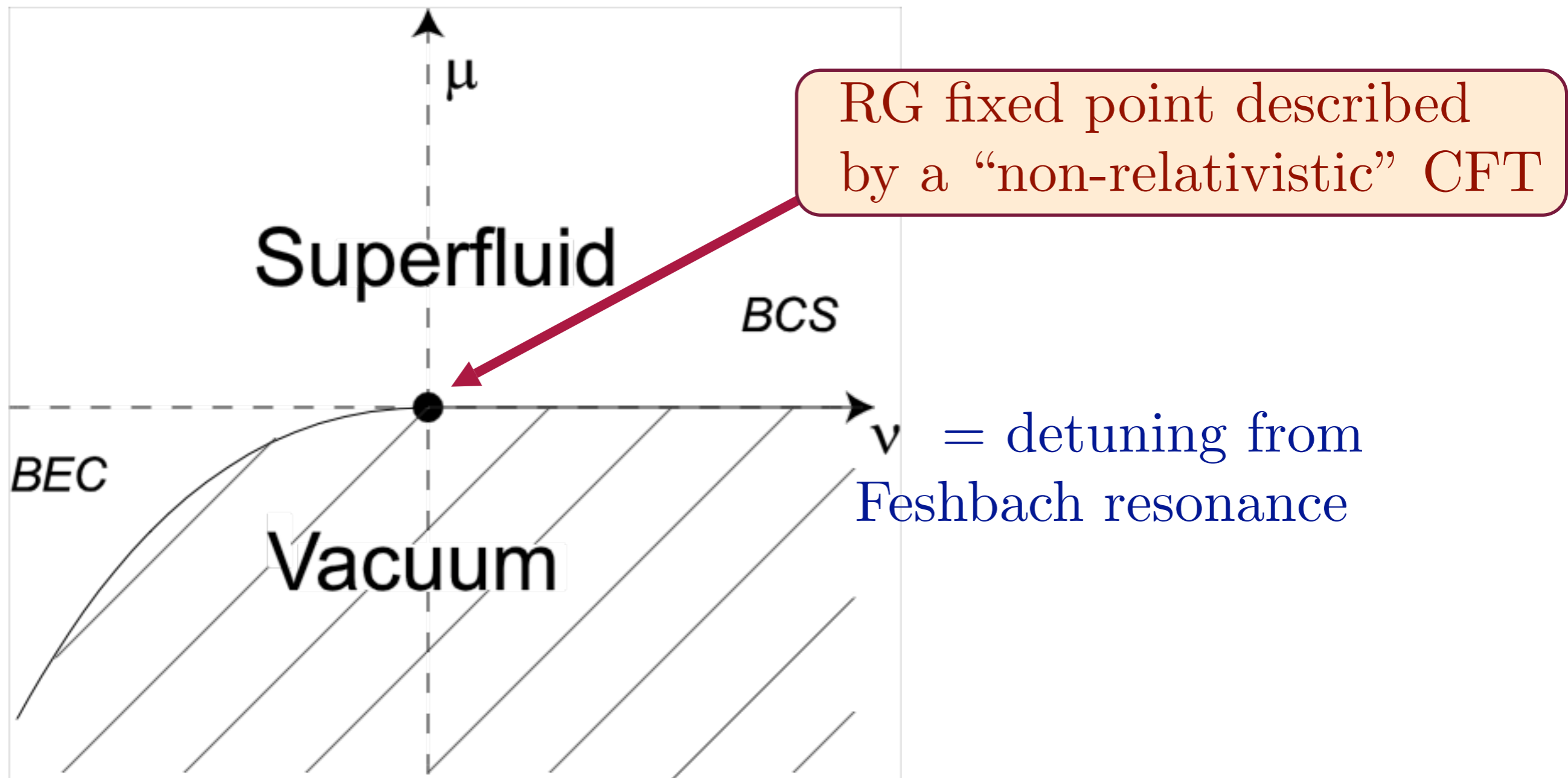


ν = detuning from
Feshbach resonance



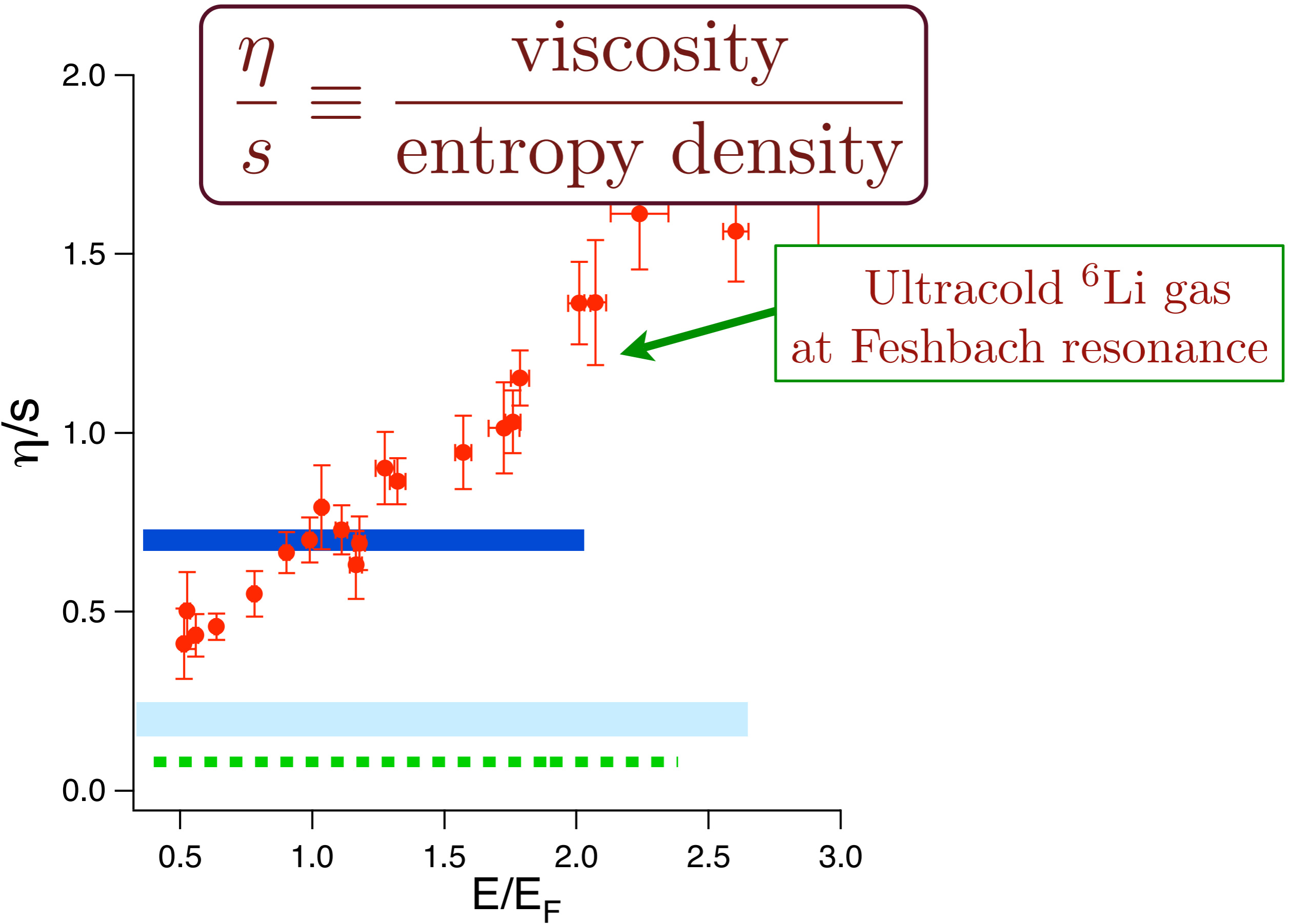
RG fixed point described by a “non-relativistic” CFT

ν = detuning from Feshbach resonance



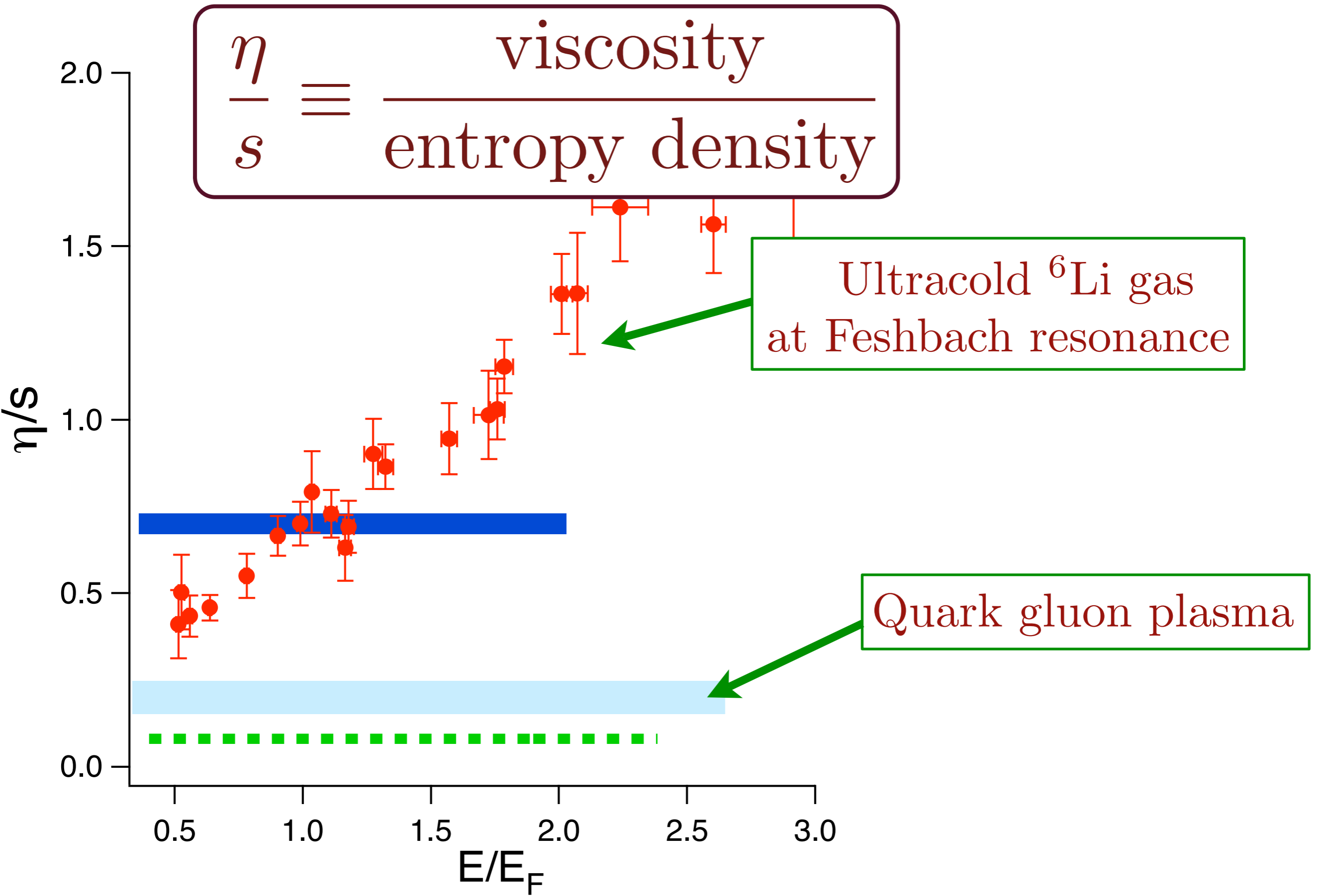
CFT is dual to quantum gravity models on AdS space. Explicit solutions of such gravity models with supersymmetry have been obtained

P. Nikolic and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. A* **75**, 033608 (2007); D. T. Son, arXiv:0804.3972; K. Balasubramanian and J. McGreevy, arXiv:0804.4053; W. D. Goldberger, arXiv:0806.2867; J. L. F. Barbón and C. A. Fuertes, arXiv:0806.3244; J. Maldacena, D. Martelli, and Y. Tachikawa, arXiv:0807.1100; A. Adams, K. Balasubramanian, and J. McGreevy, arXiv:0807.1111.



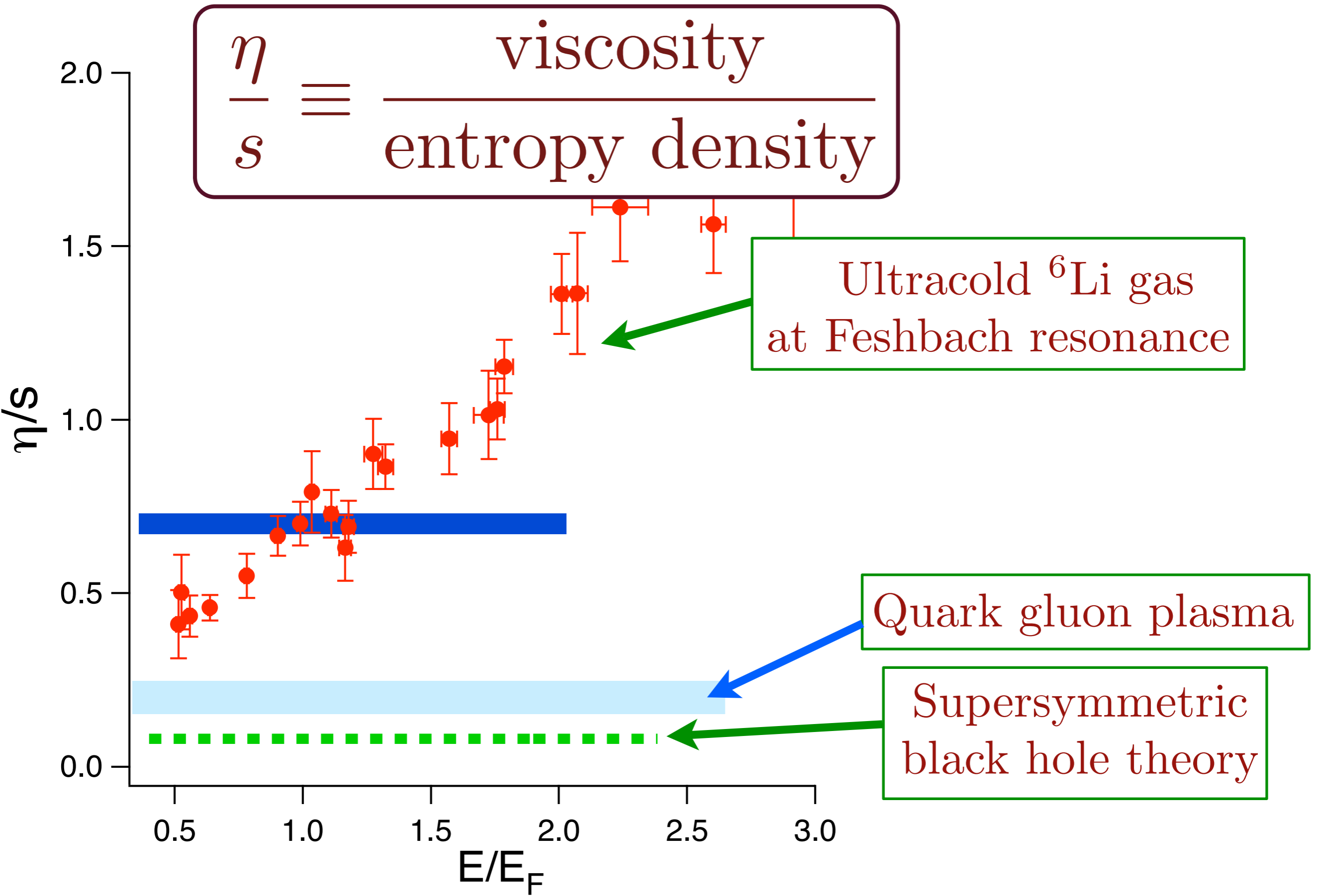
T. Schafer, *Phys. Rev.A* **76**, 063618 (2007).

A. Turlapov, J. Kinast, B. Clancy, Le Luo, J. Joseph, J. E. Thomas, *J. Low Temp. Physics* **150**, 567 (2008)



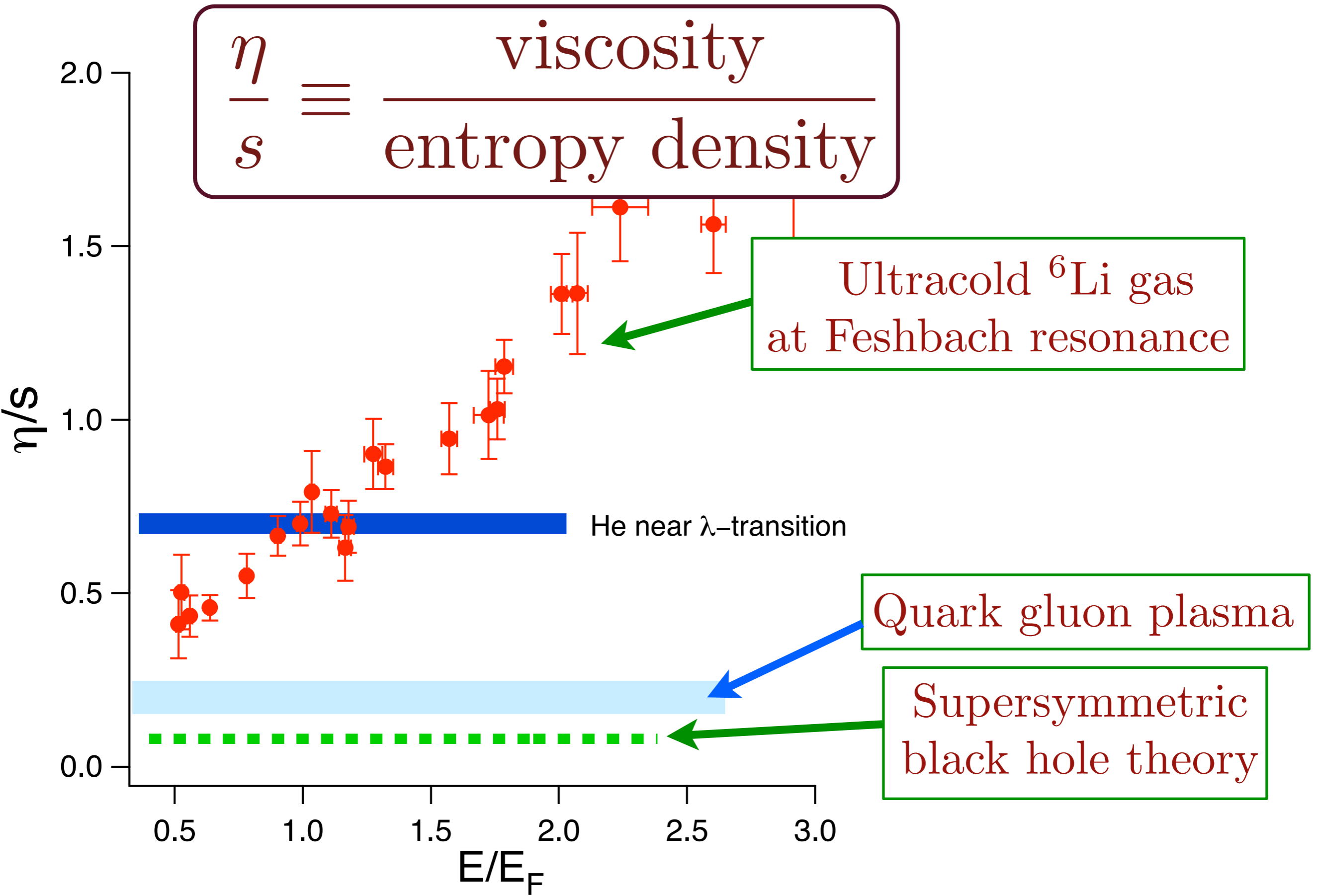
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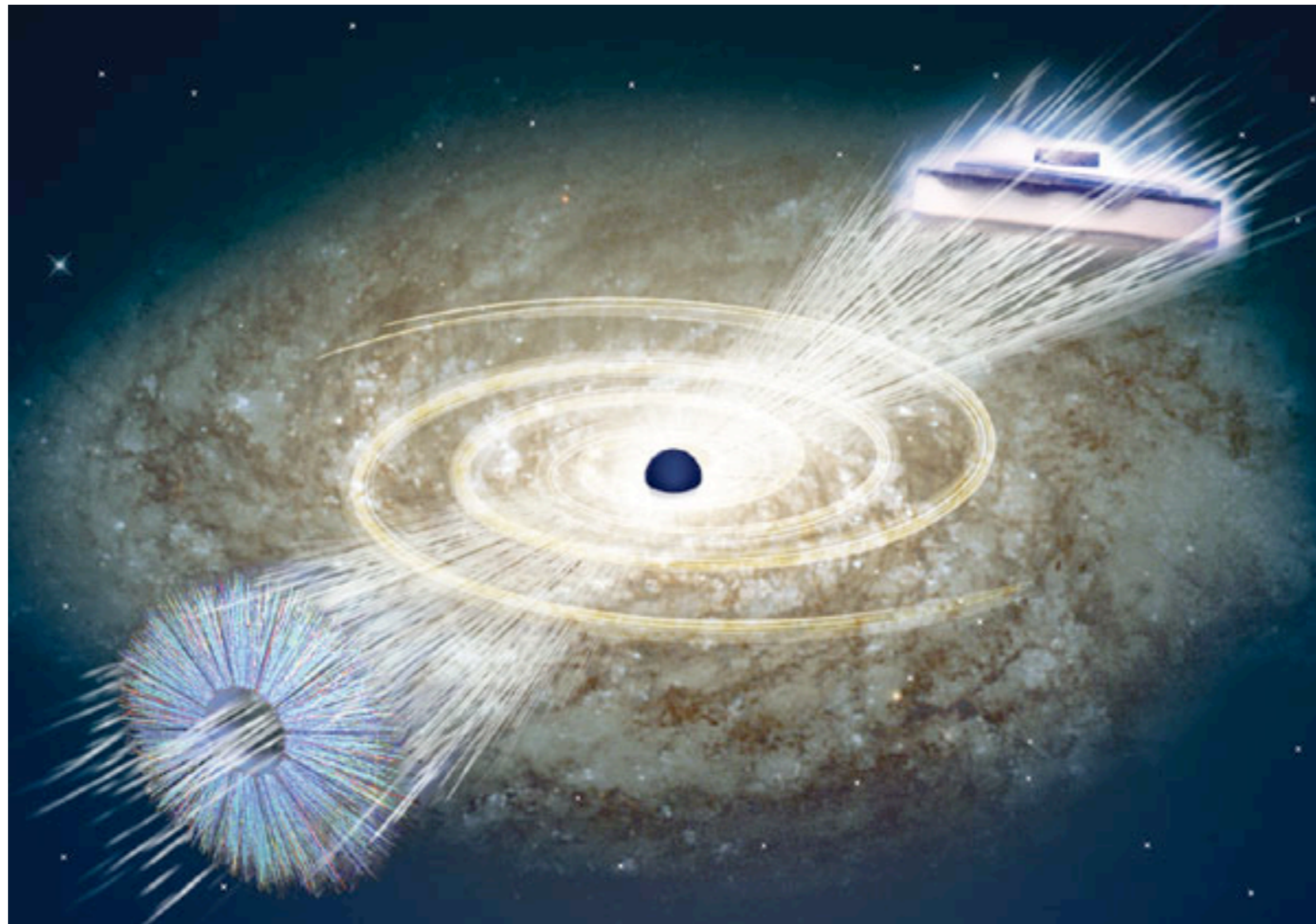
A. Turlapov, J. Kinast, B. Clancy, Le Luo, J. Joseph, J. E. Thomas, *J. Low Temp. Physics* **150**, 567 (2008)

A black hole full of answers

Jan Zaanen

A facet of string theory, the currently favoured route to a 'theory of everything', might help to explain some properties of exotic matter phases — such as some peculiarities of high-temperature superconductors.

NATURE|Vol 448|30 August 2007



Conclusions

- Theory for transport near quantum phase transitions in superfluids and antiferromagnets
- Exact solutions via black hole mapping have yielded first exact results for transport co-efficients in interacting many-body systems, and were valuable in determining general structure of hydrodynamics.
- Theory of Nernst effect near the superfluid-insulator transition, and connection to cuprates.
- Quantum-critical magnetotransport in graphene.