



# Quantum Criticality and Black Holes

Talk online: [sachdev.physics.harvard.edu](http://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)

# Three foci of modern physics

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Black holes

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Black holes

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

# Three foci of modern physics

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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  
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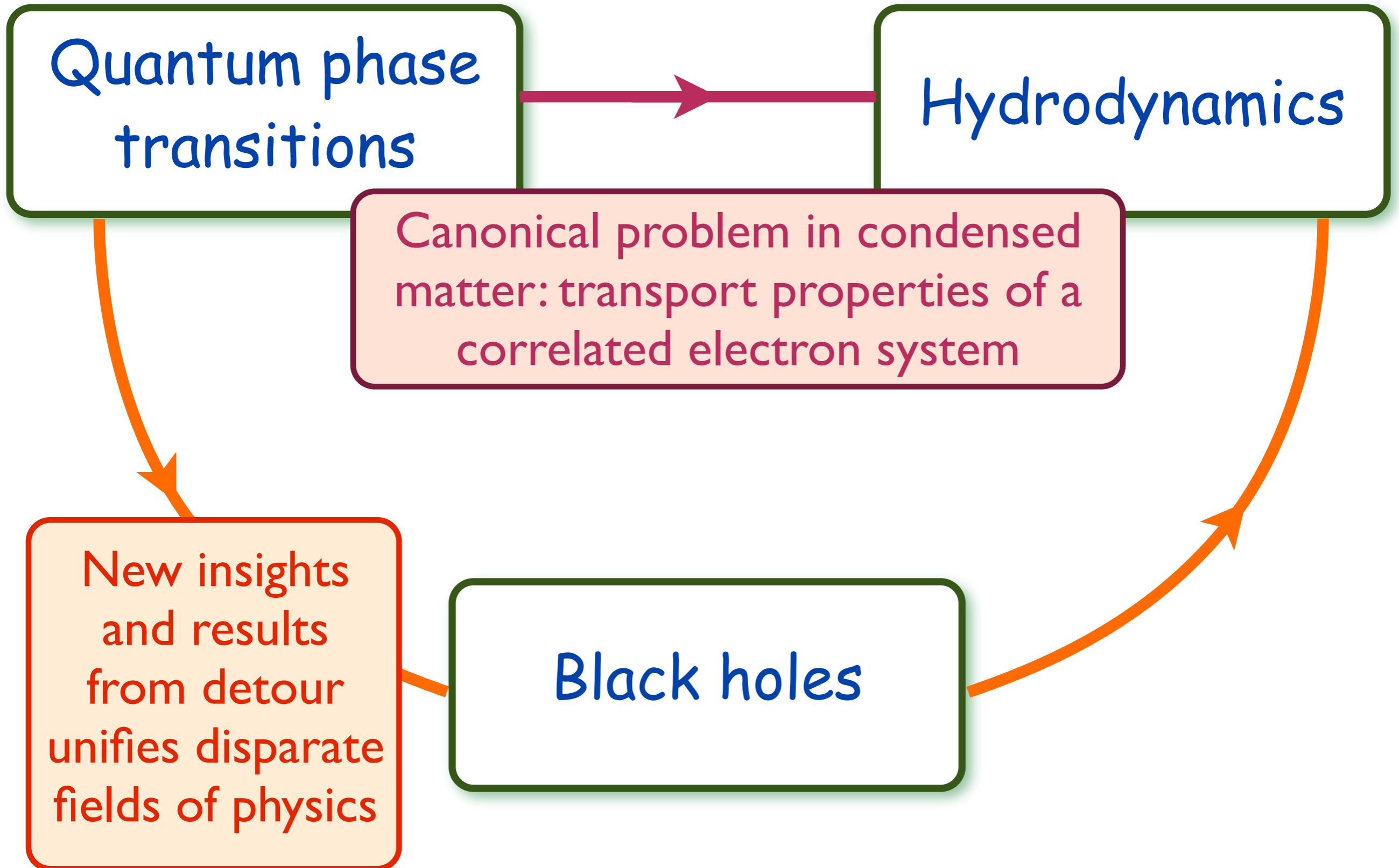
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New insights and results from detour unifies disparate fields of physics

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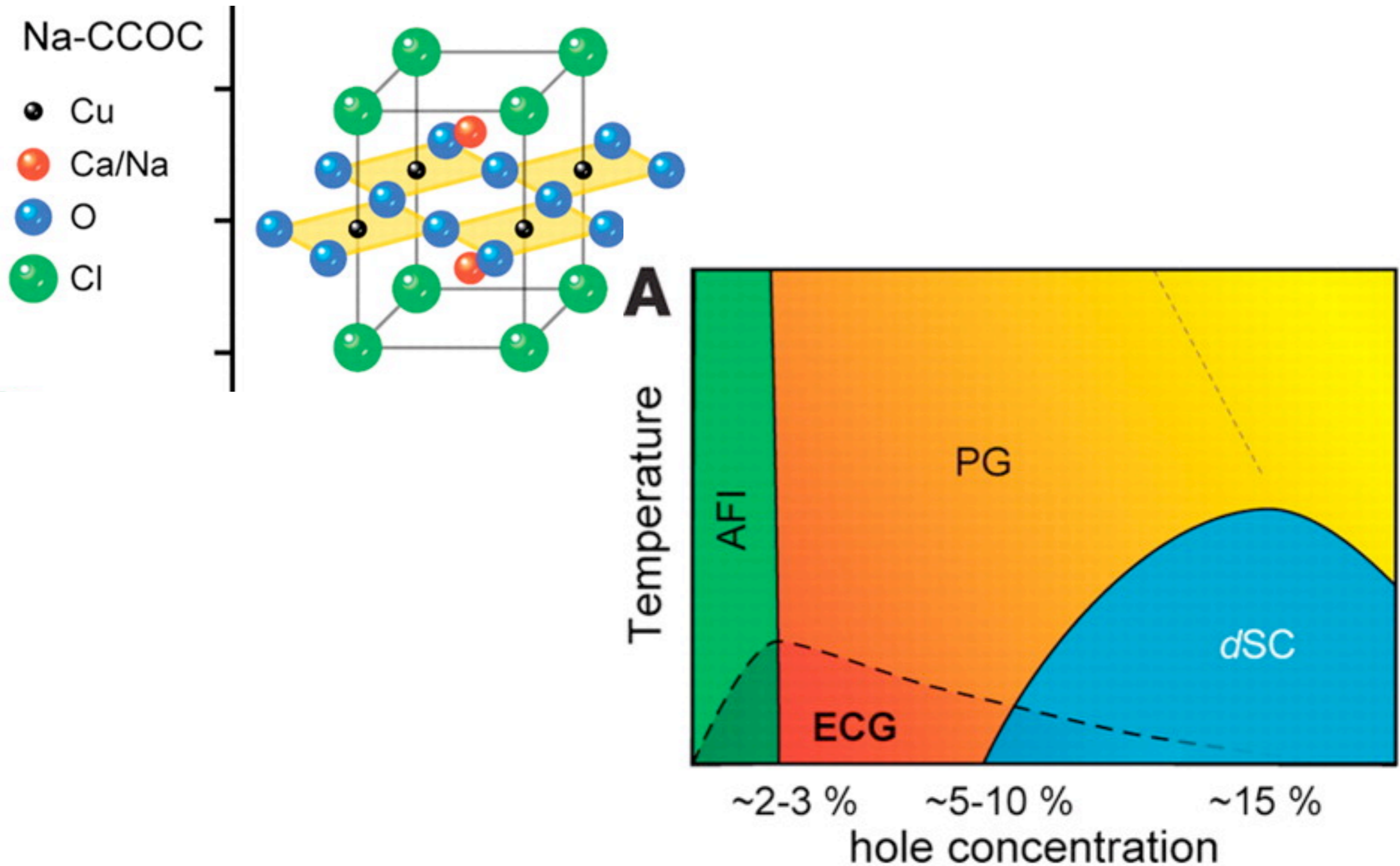
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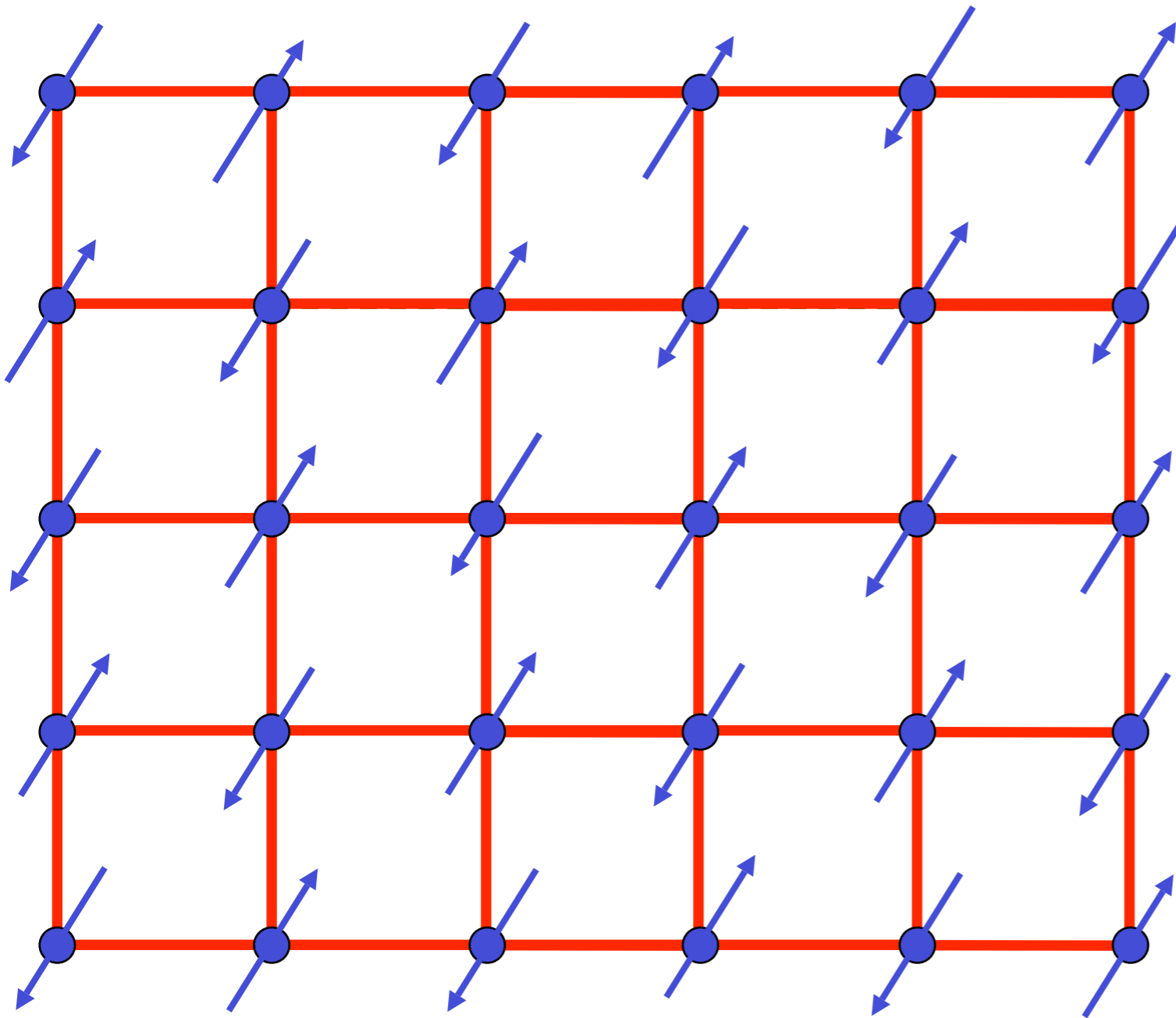
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# *The cuprate superconductors*



# Antiferromagnetic (Neel) order in the insulator

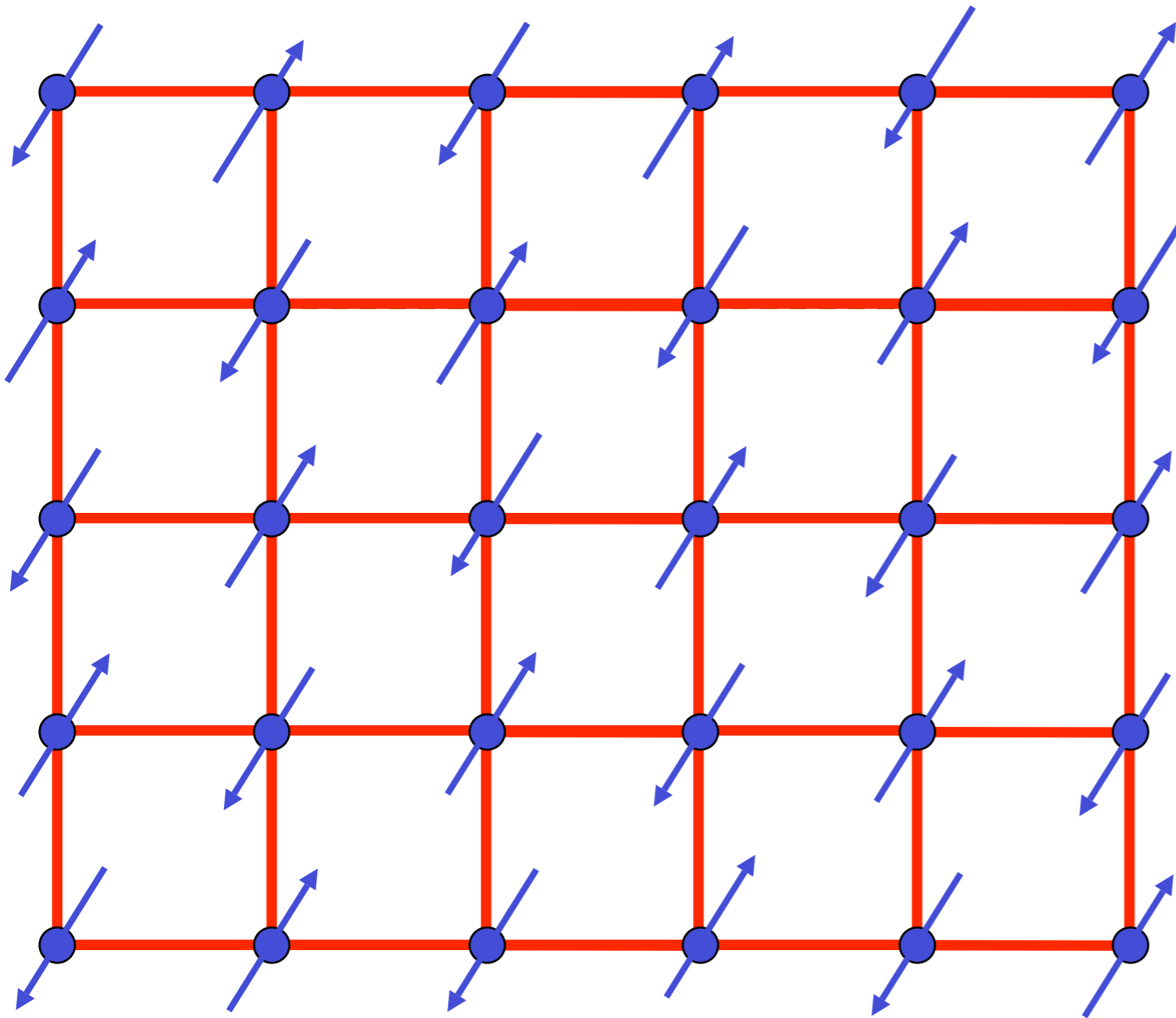


$$H = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

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

No entanglement of spins

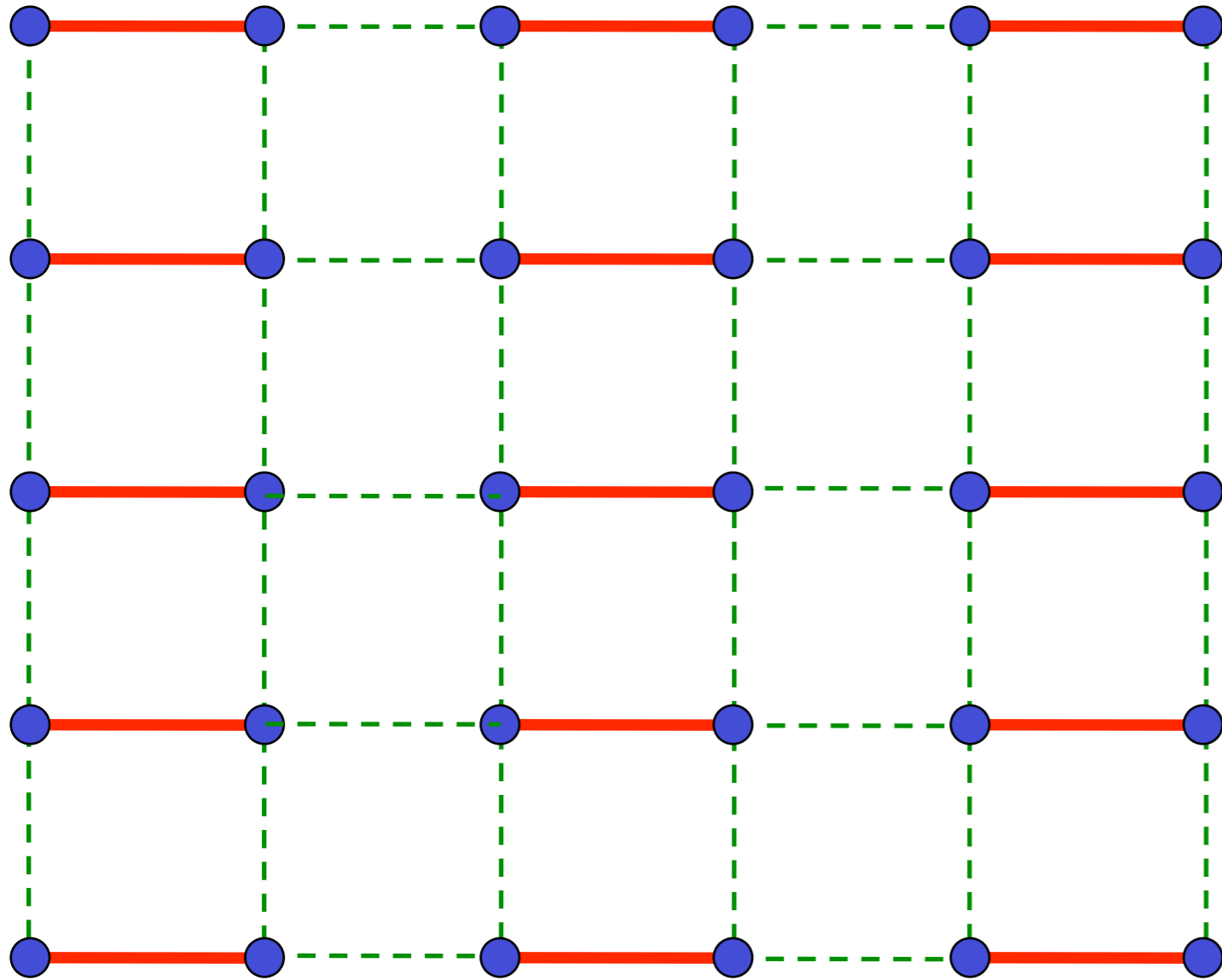
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Excitations: 2 spin waves (Goldstone modes)

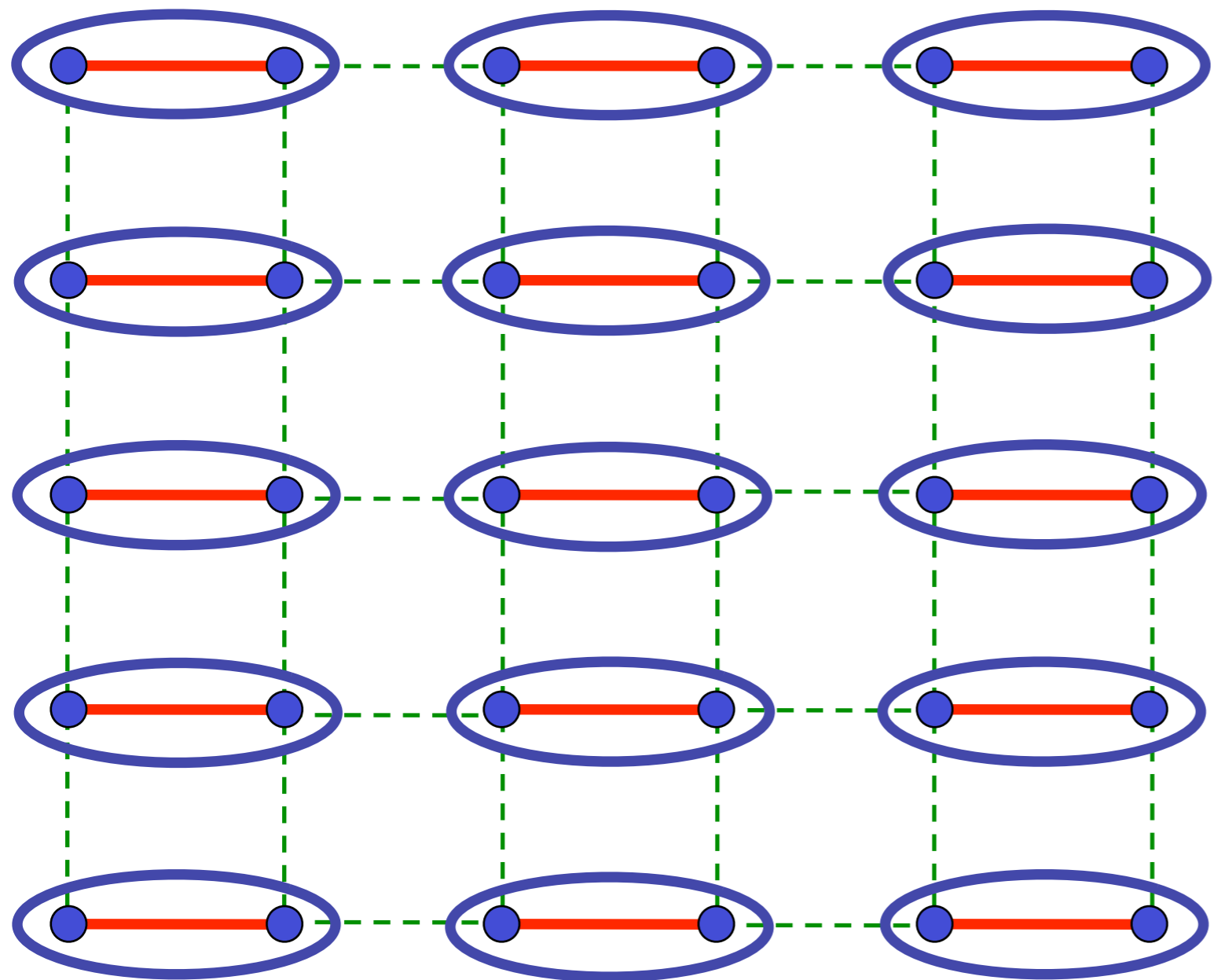


$$H = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

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



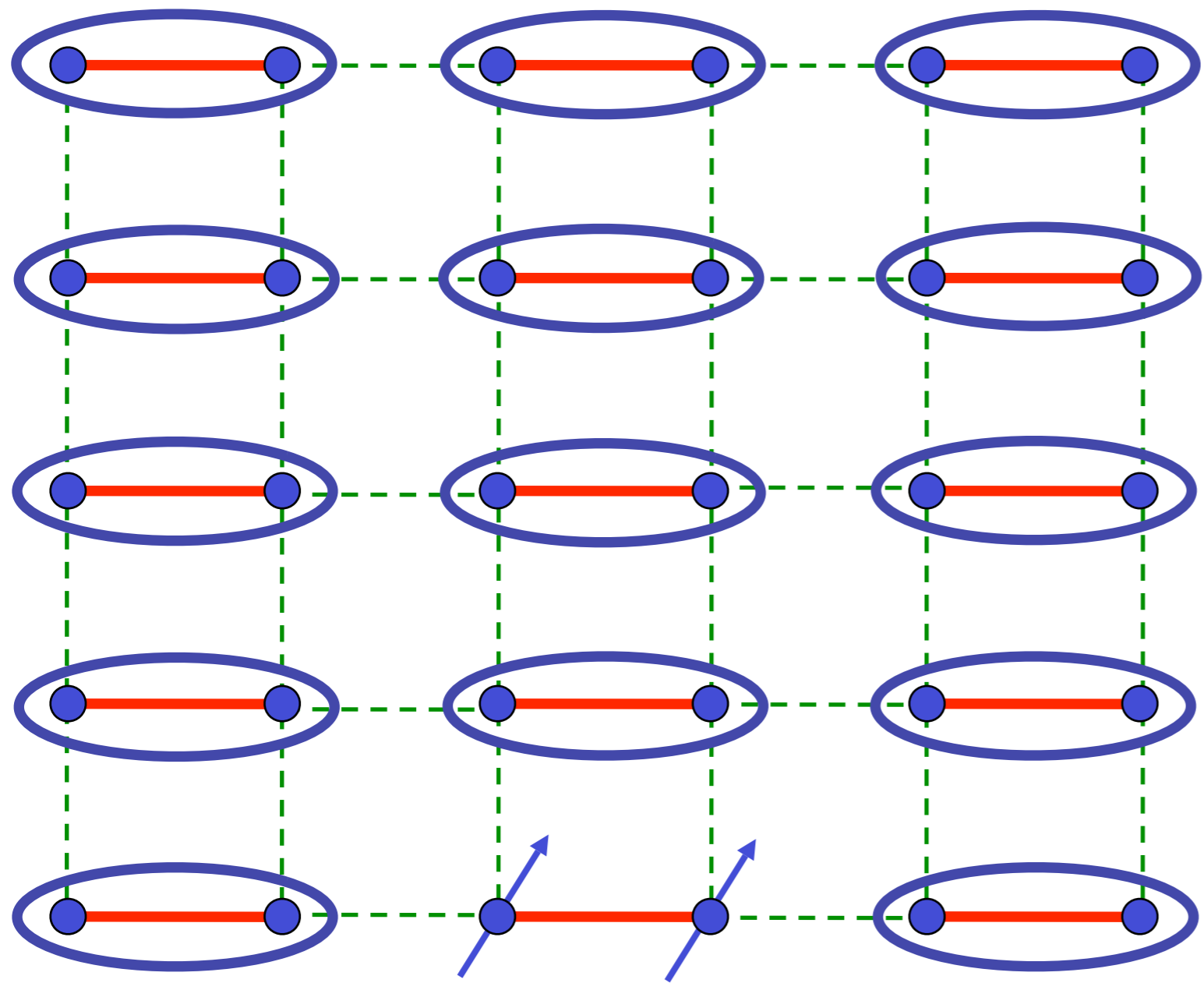
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$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$

Ground state is a product of pairs of entangled spins.



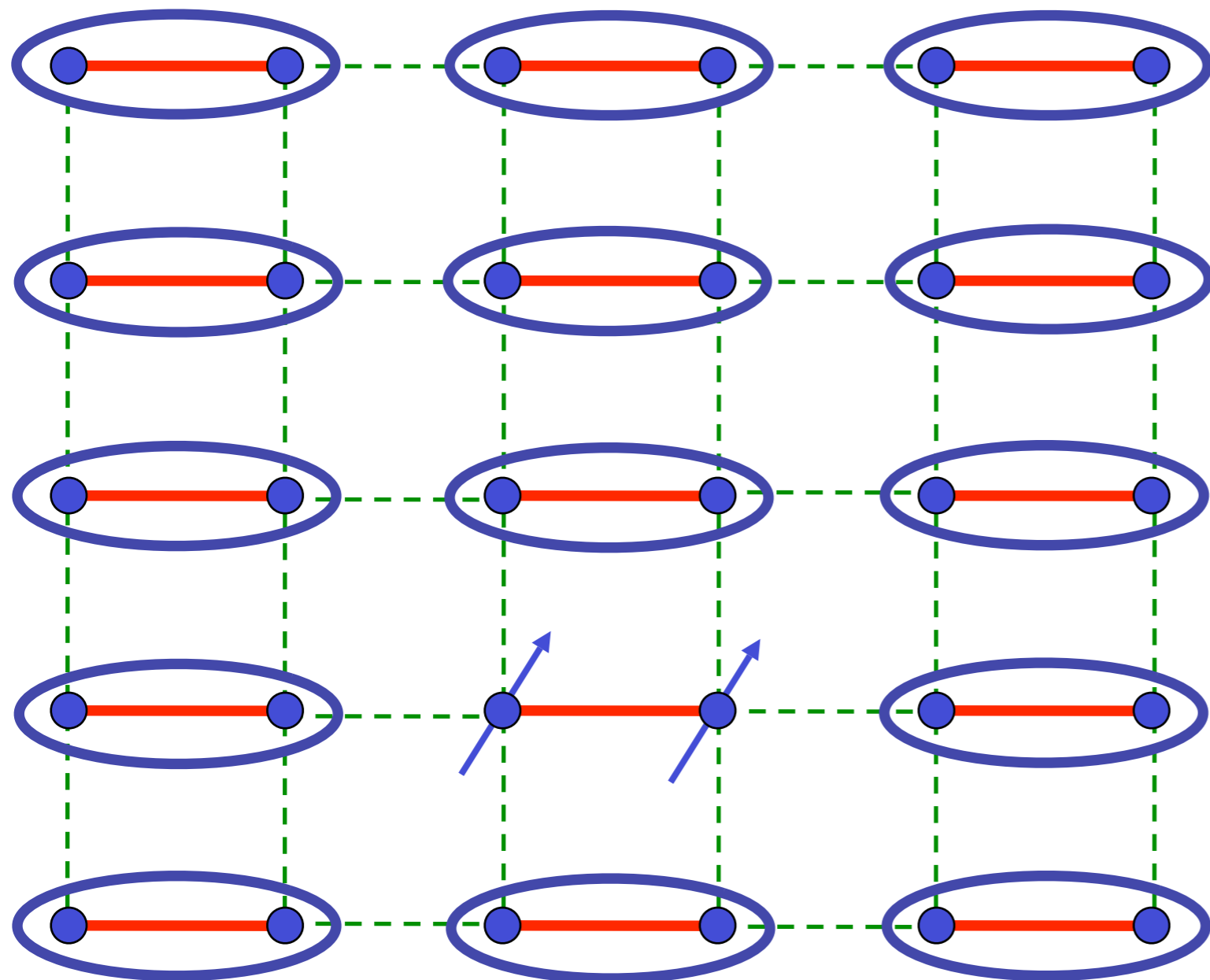
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Excitations: 3  $S=1$  triplons



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$J$

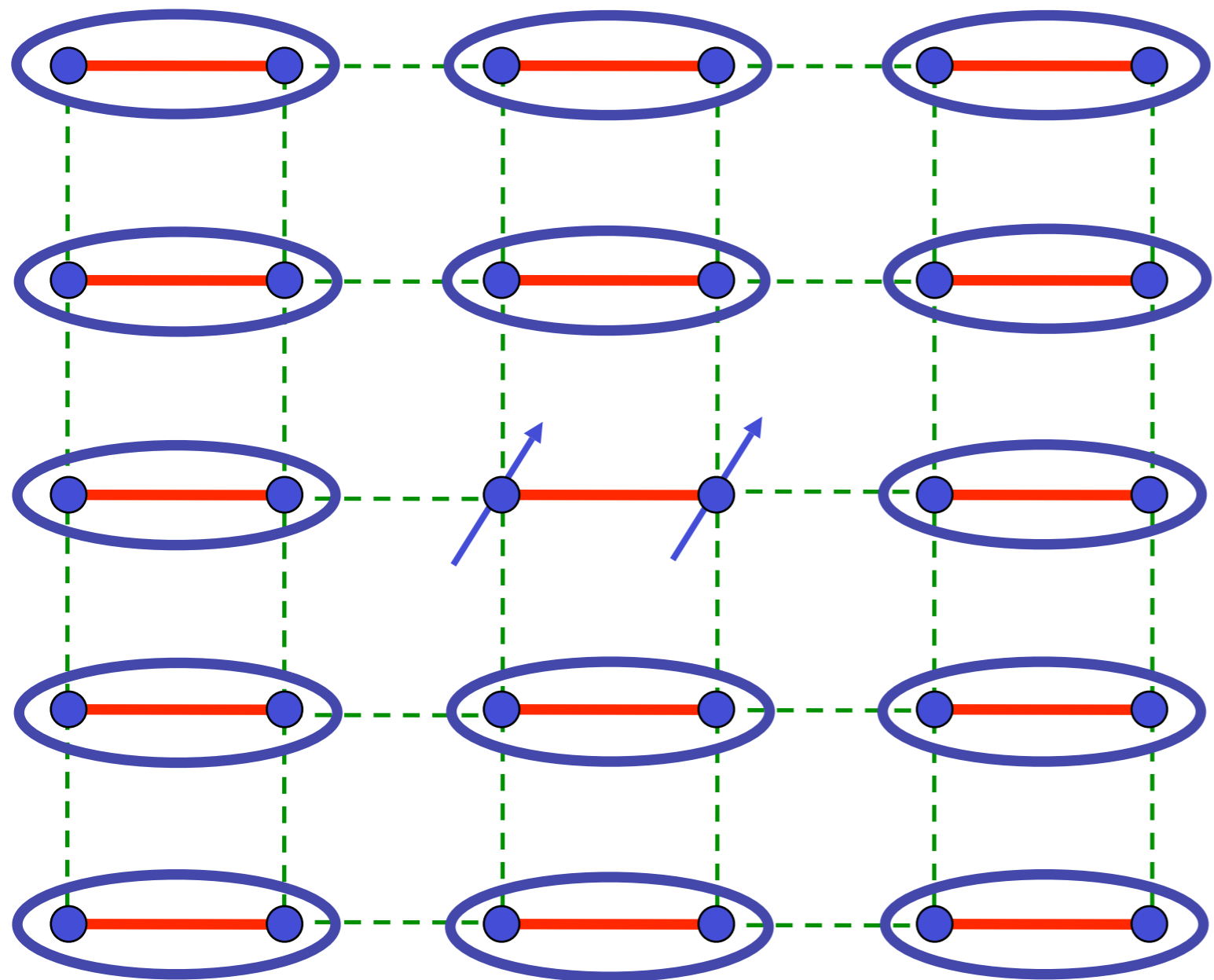


$J/\lambda$



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Excitations: 3  $S=1$  triplons



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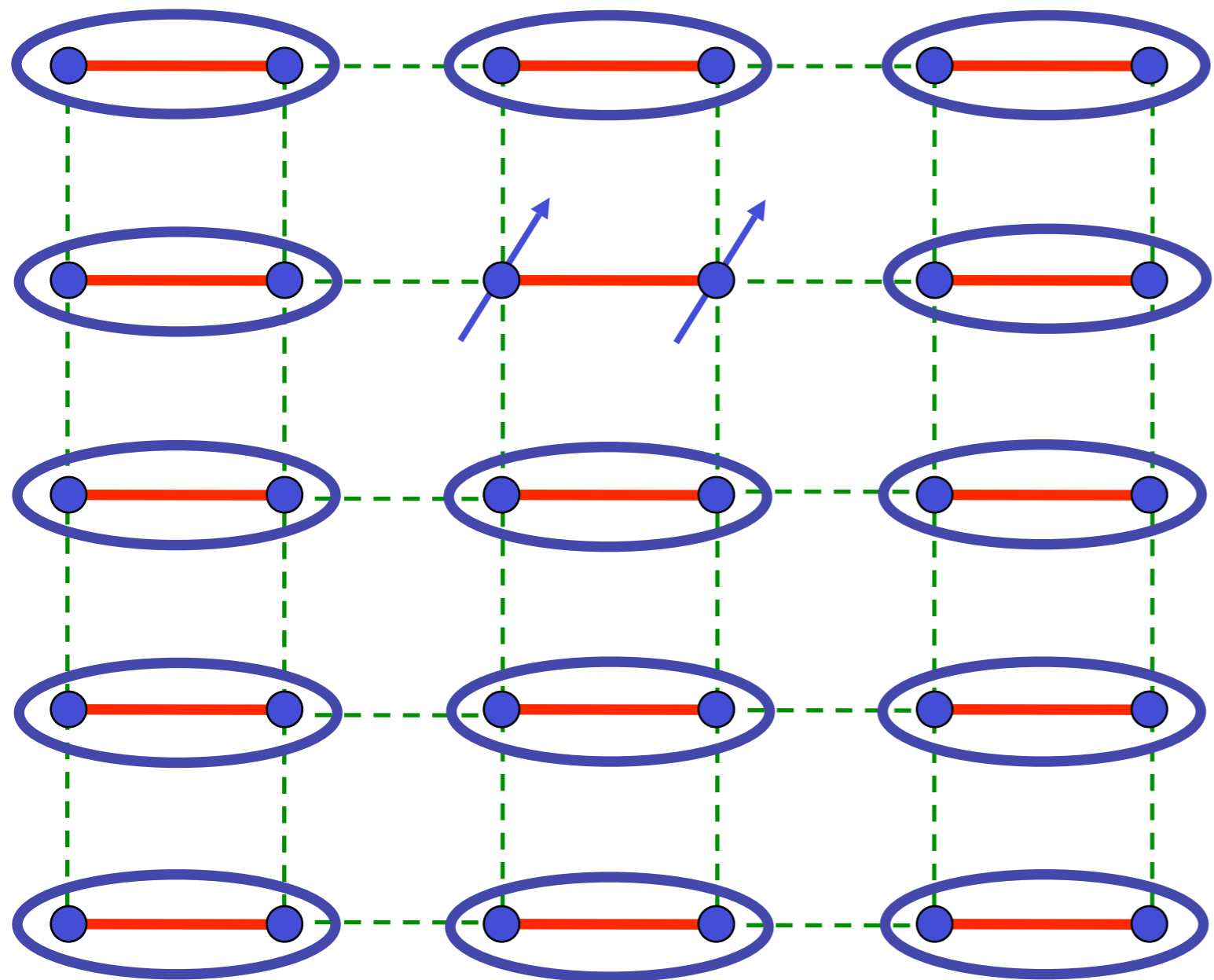


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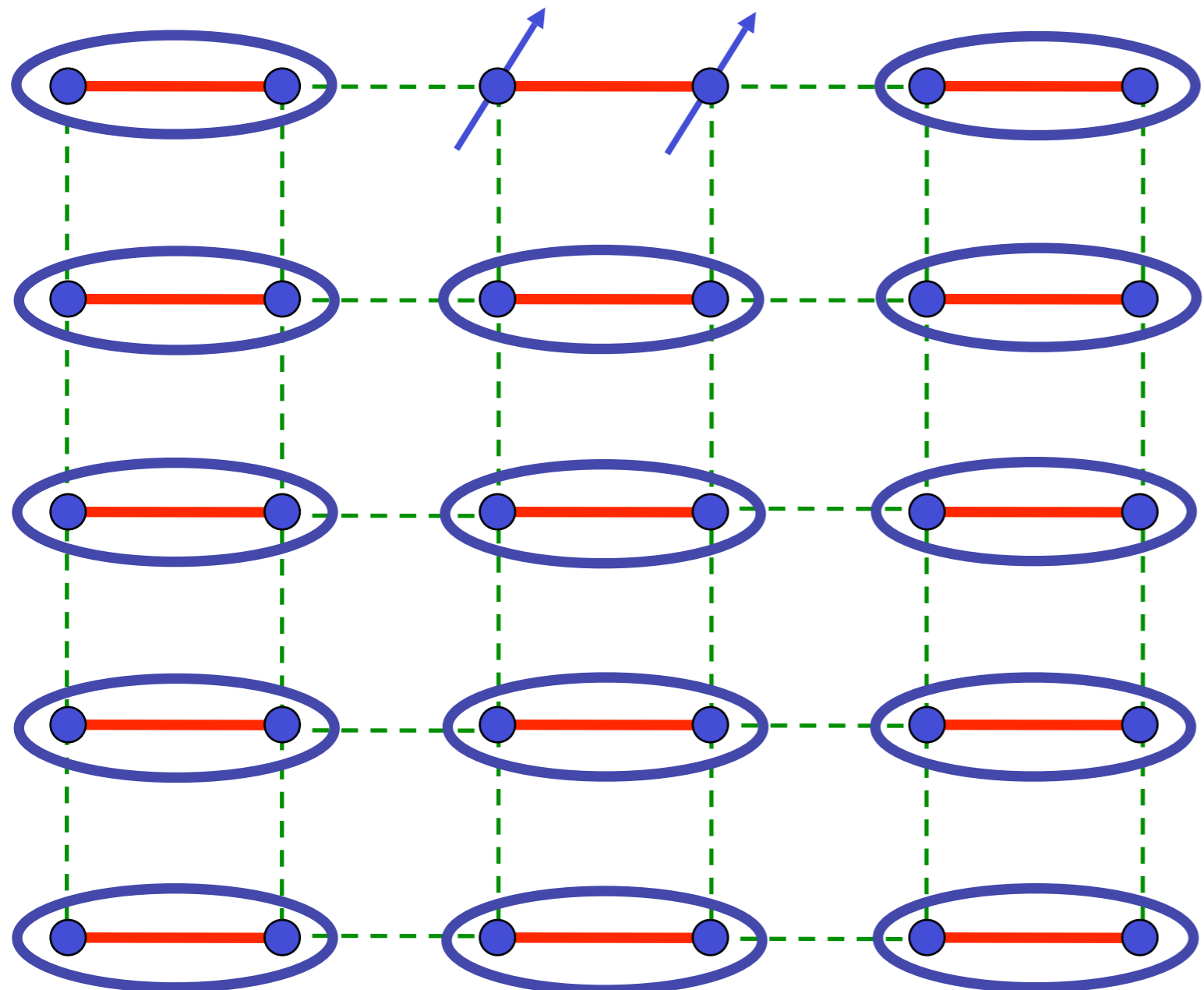


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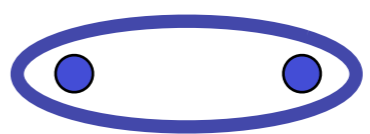
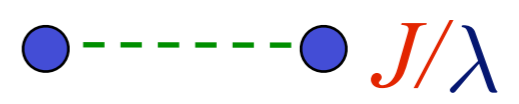
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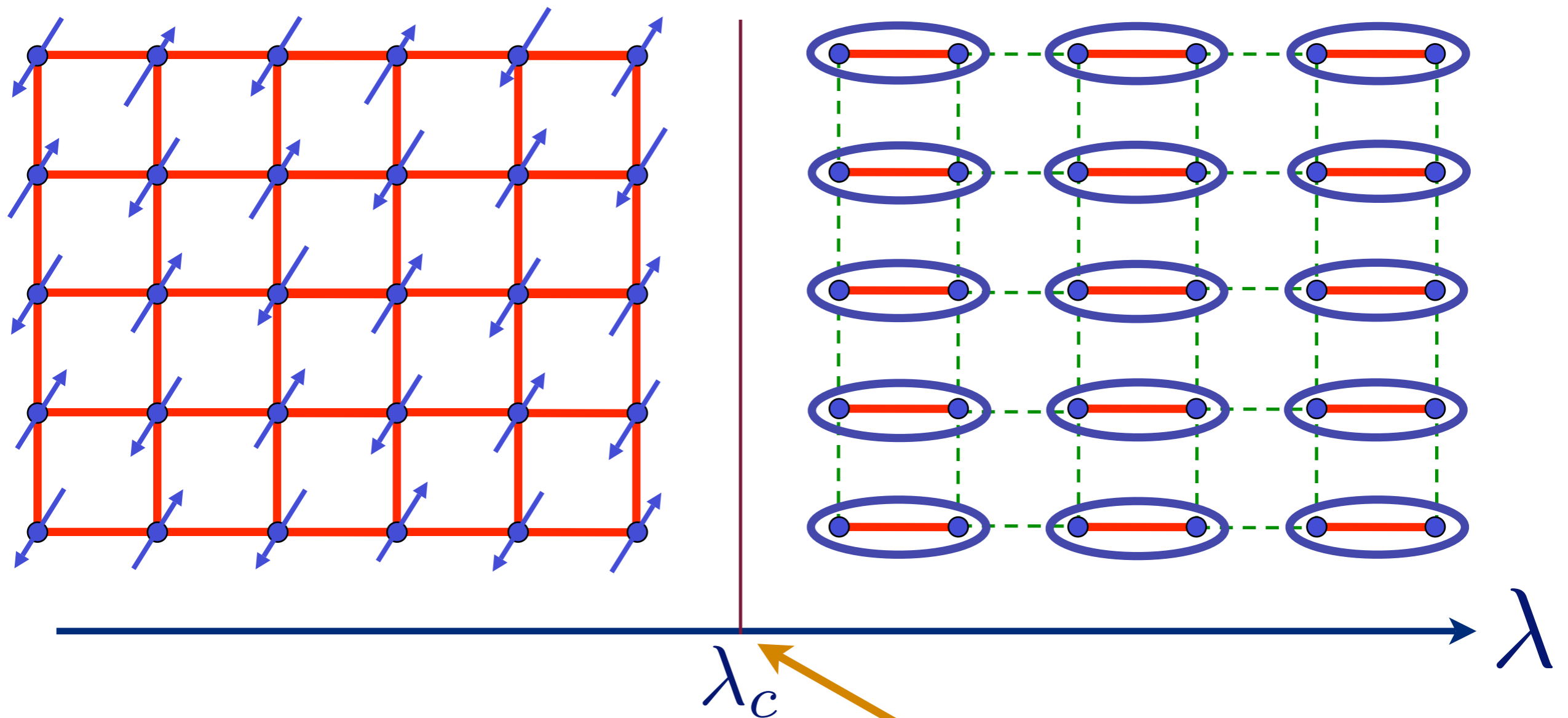
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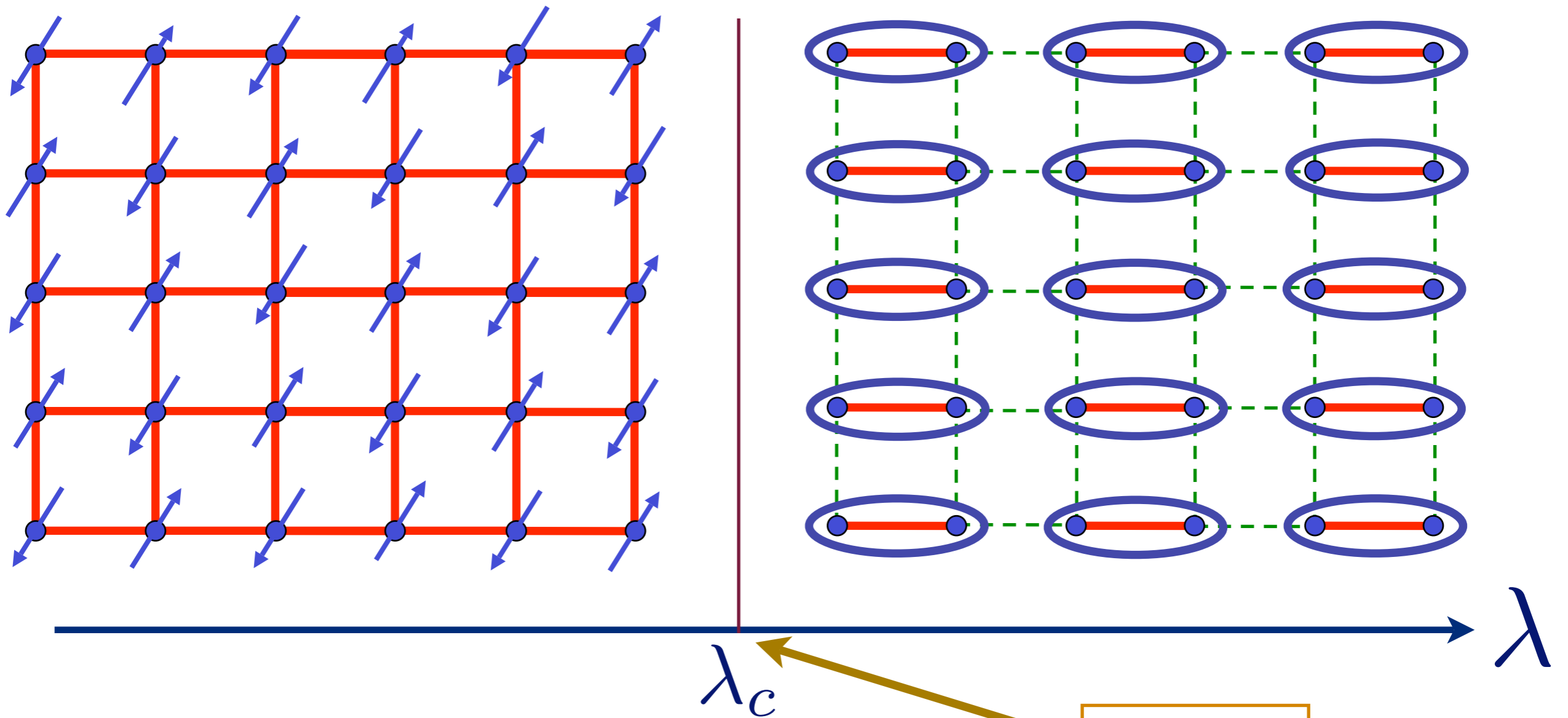
Excitations: 3  $S=1$  triplons

# Phase diagram as a function of the ratio of exchange interactions, $\lambda$



Quantum critical point with non-local entanglement in spin wavefunction

# Phase diagram as a function of the ratio of exchange interactions, $\lambda$

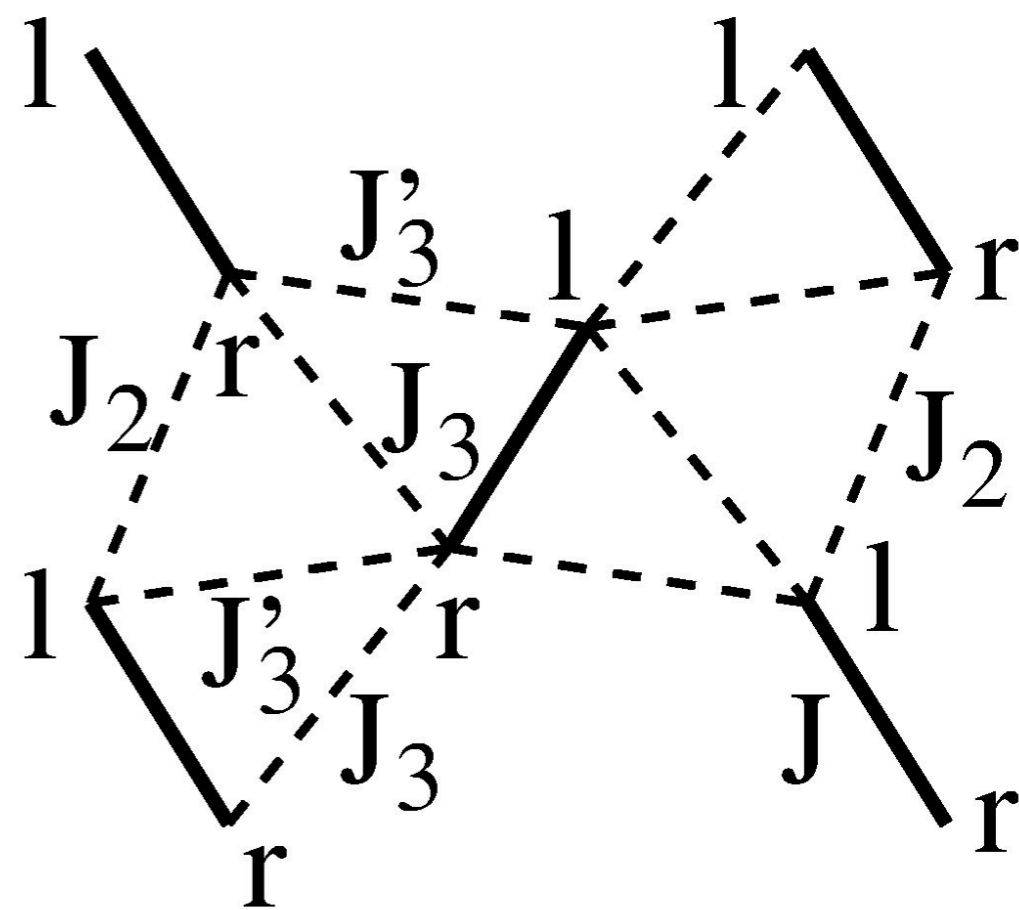
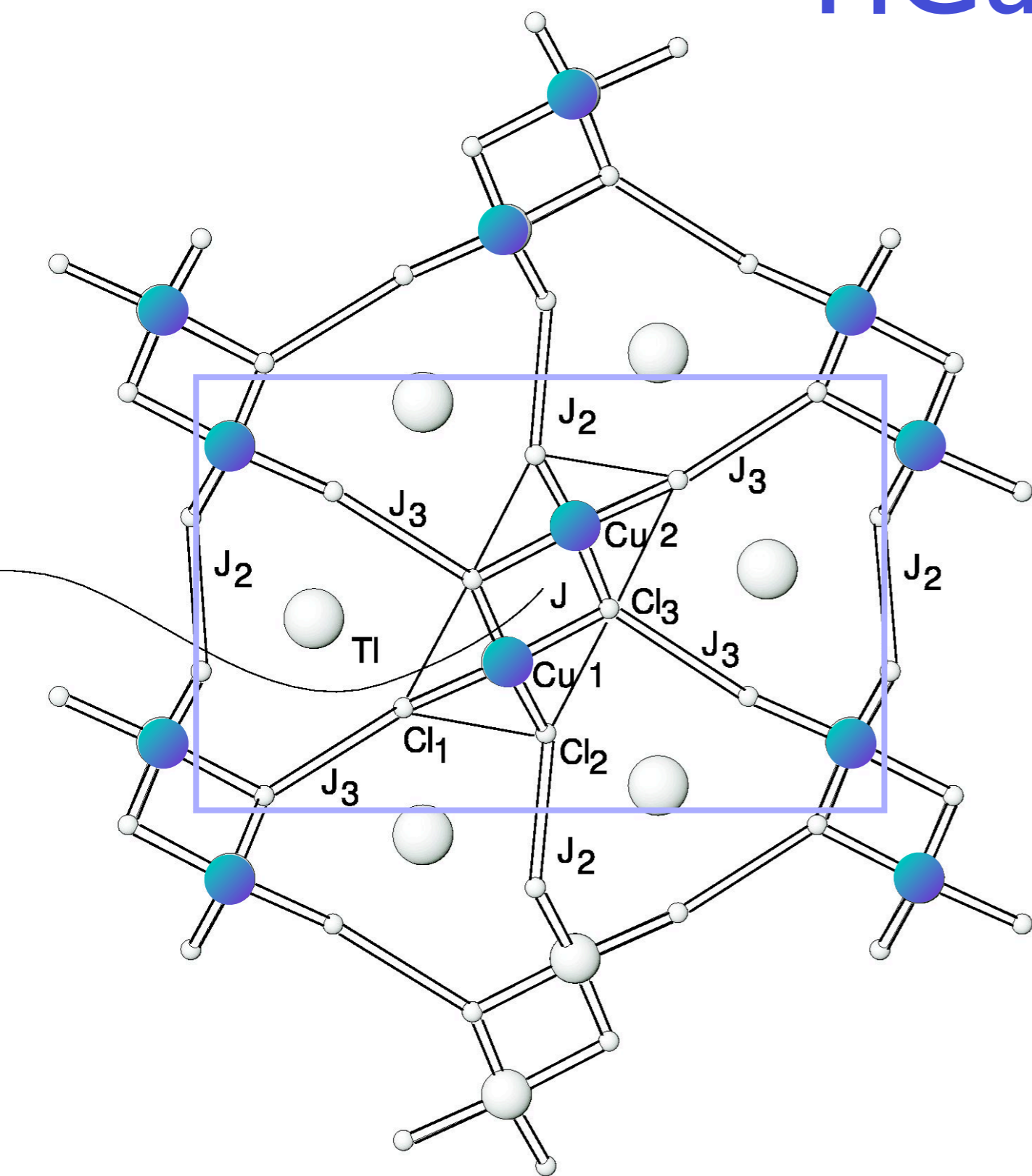


O(3) order parameter  $\Phi = (-1)^i \mathbf{S}_i$

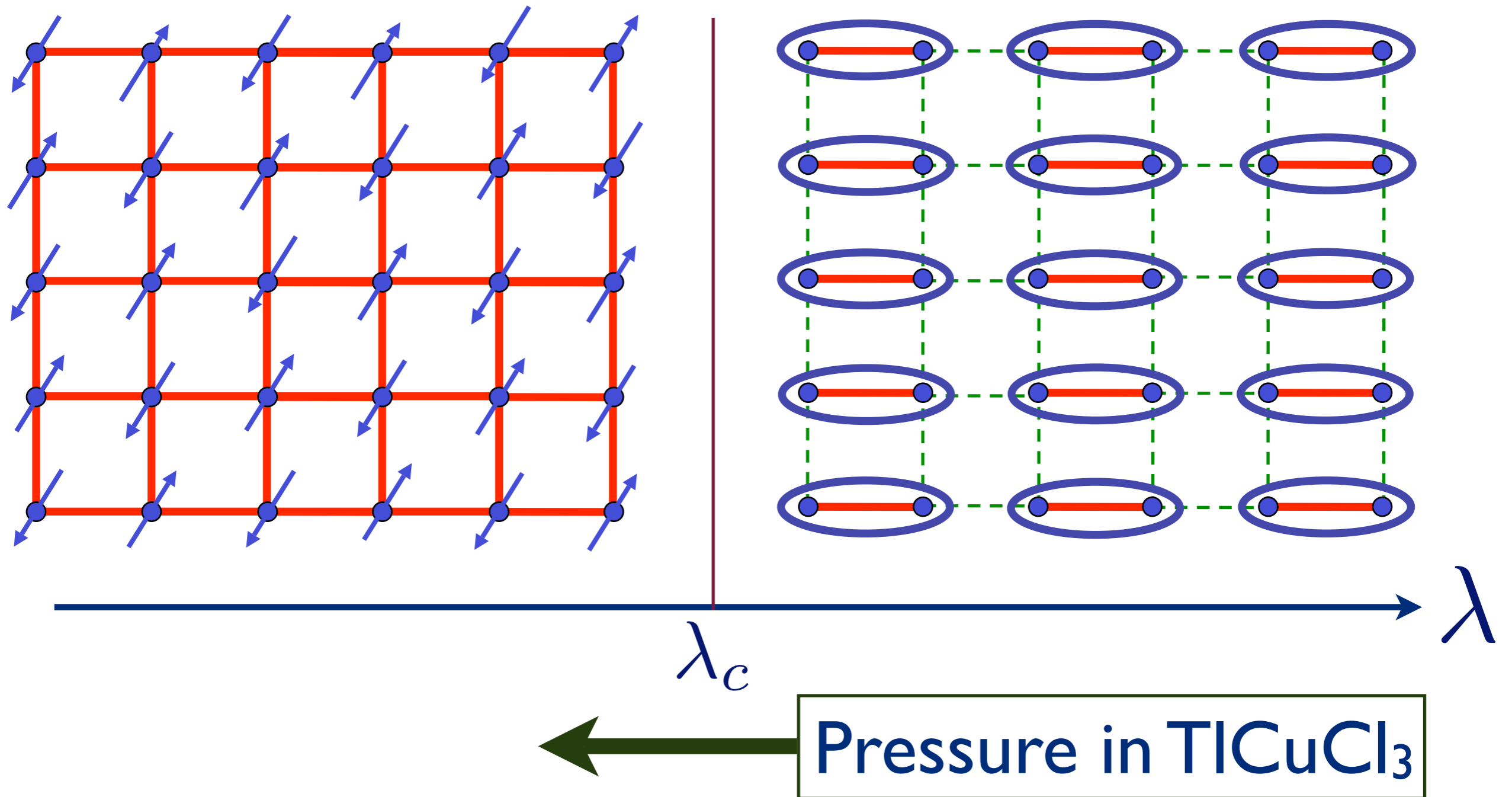
CFT3

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

# TlCuCl<sub>3</sub>



Phase diagram as a function of the ratio of exchange interactions,  $\lambda$



# TlCuCl<sub>3</sub> at ambient pressure

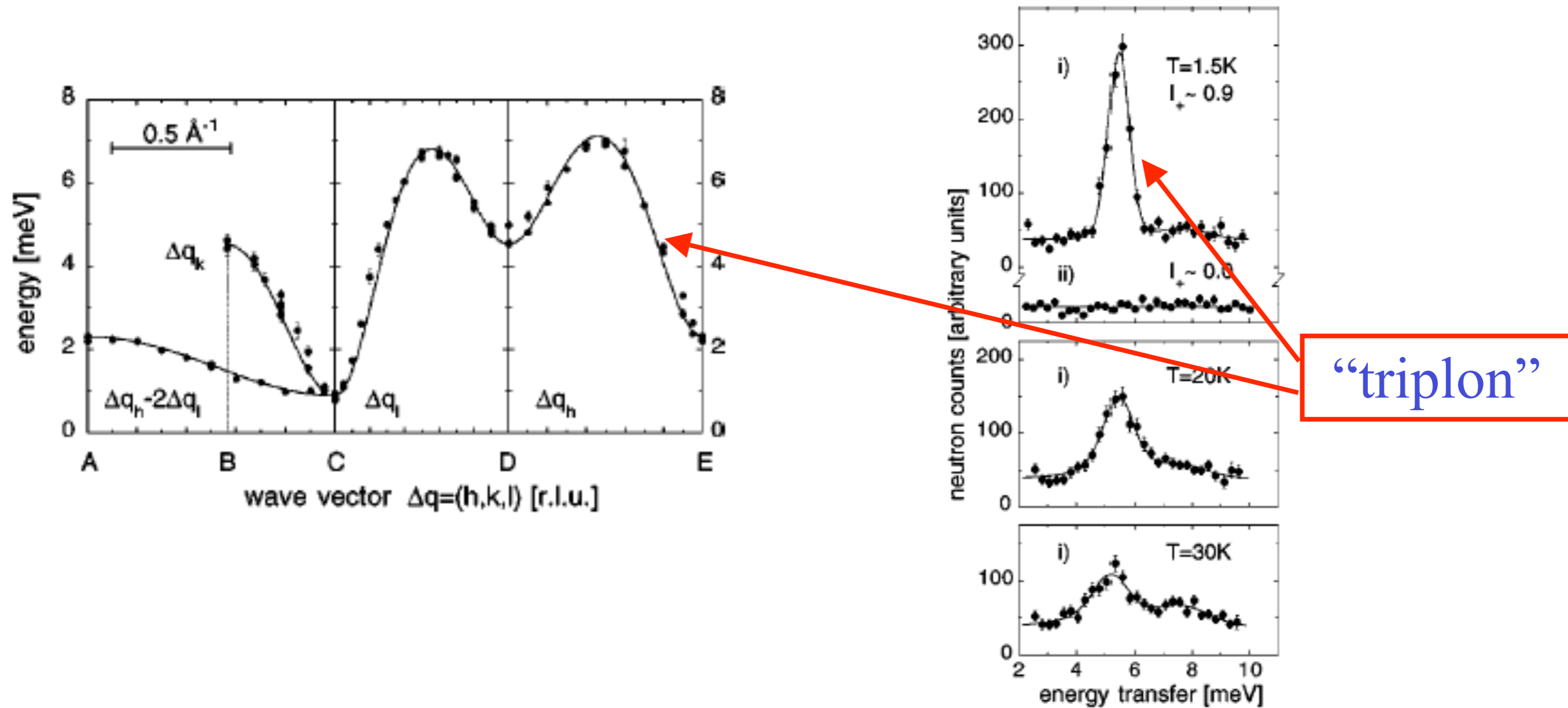
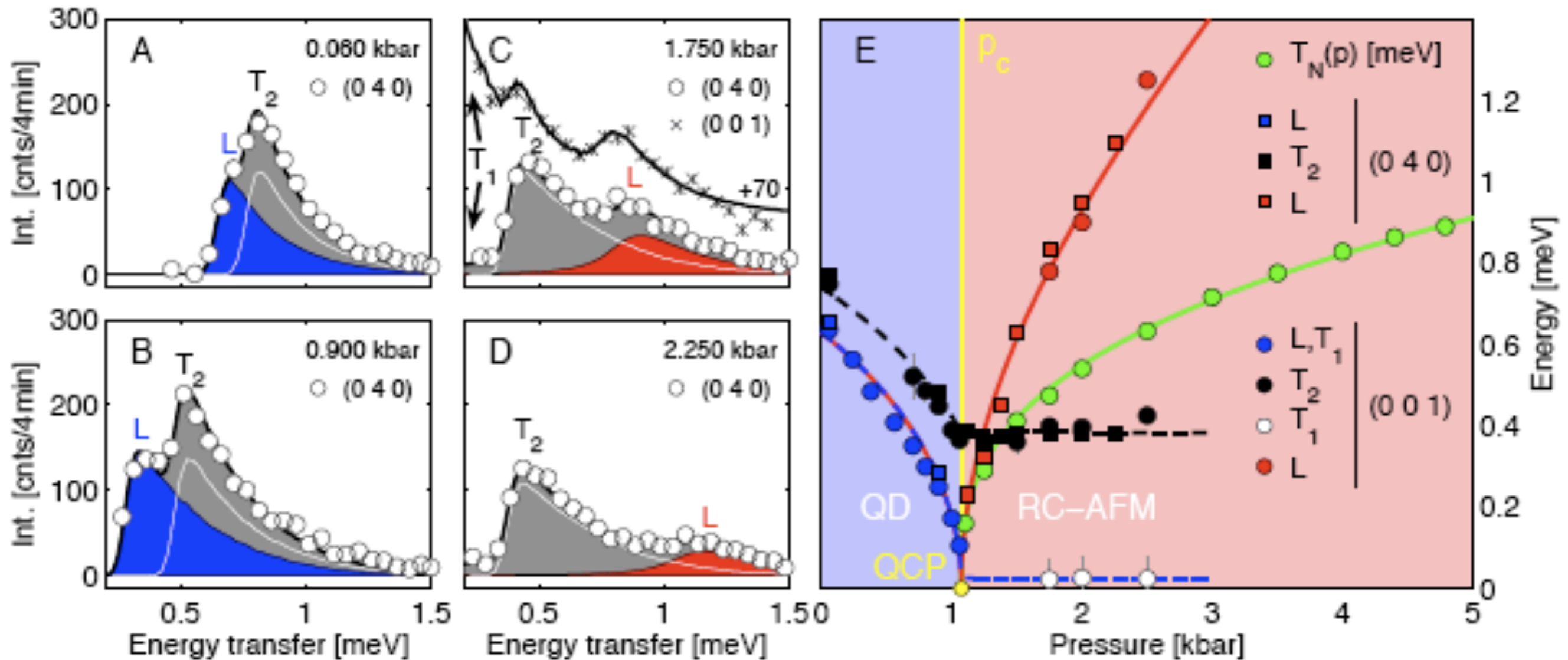


FIG. 1. Measured neutron profiles in the  $a^*c^*$  plane of TlCuCl<sub>3</sub> for  $i=(1.35,0,0)$ ,  $ii=(0,0,3.15)$  [r.l.u.]. The spectrum at  $T=1.5\text{K}$

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

# TiCuCl<sub>3</sub> with varying pressure



Observation of 3  $\rightarrow$  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)

# Three foci of modern physics

Quantum phase  
transitions

Hydrodynamics

Black holes

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Hydrodynamics

Canonical problem in condensed  
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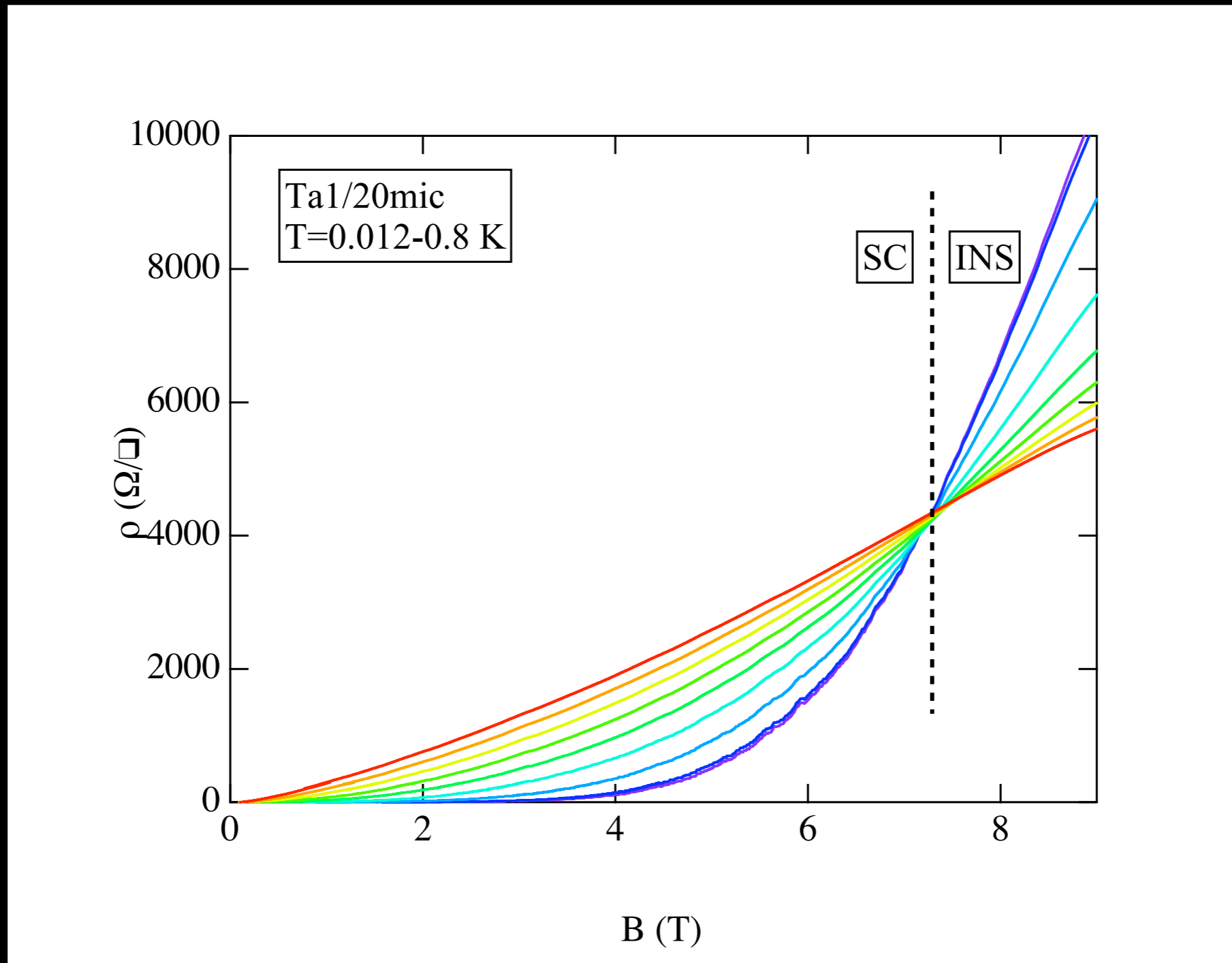
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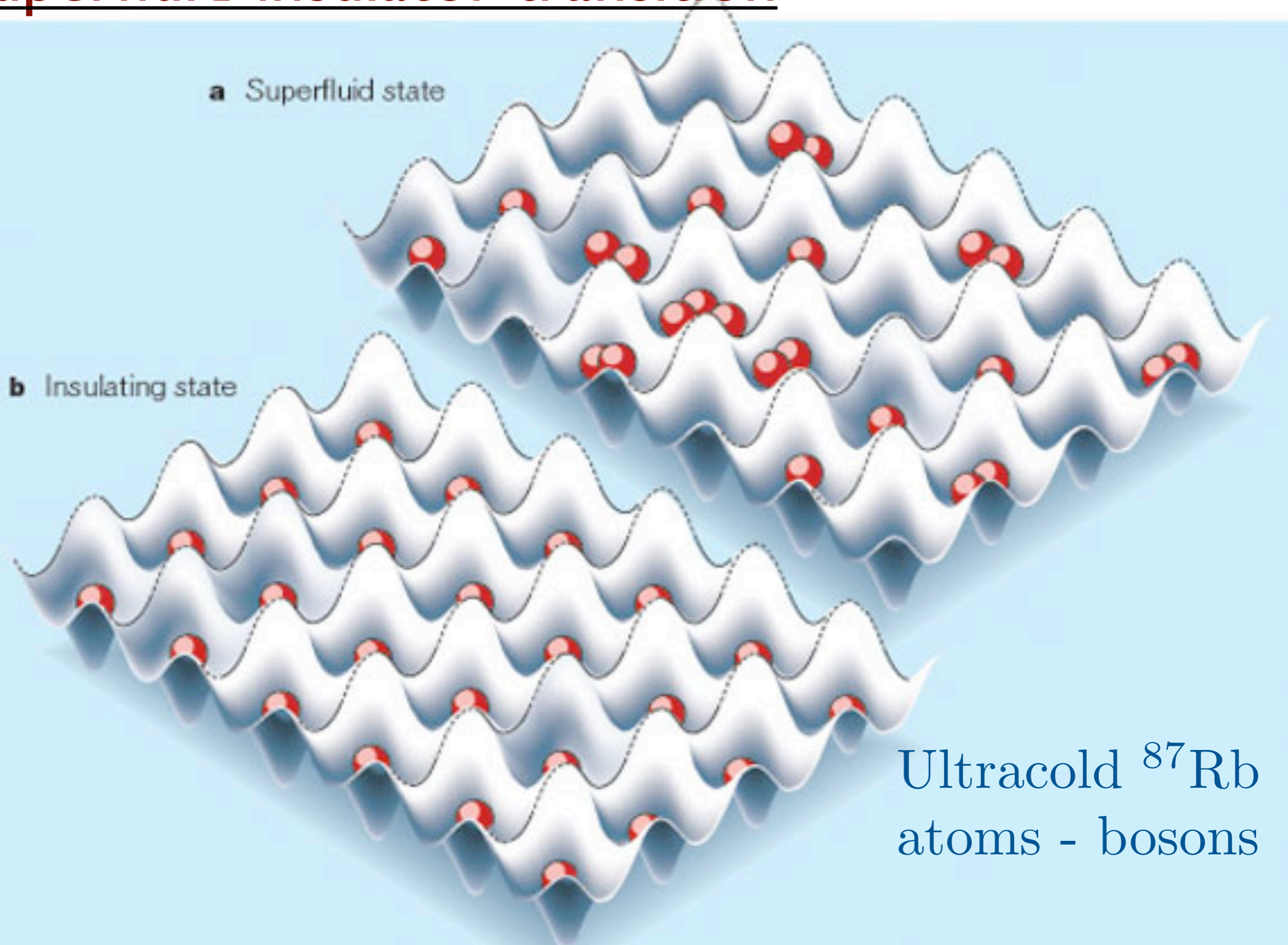
# Superfluid-insulator transition

## Indium Oxide films

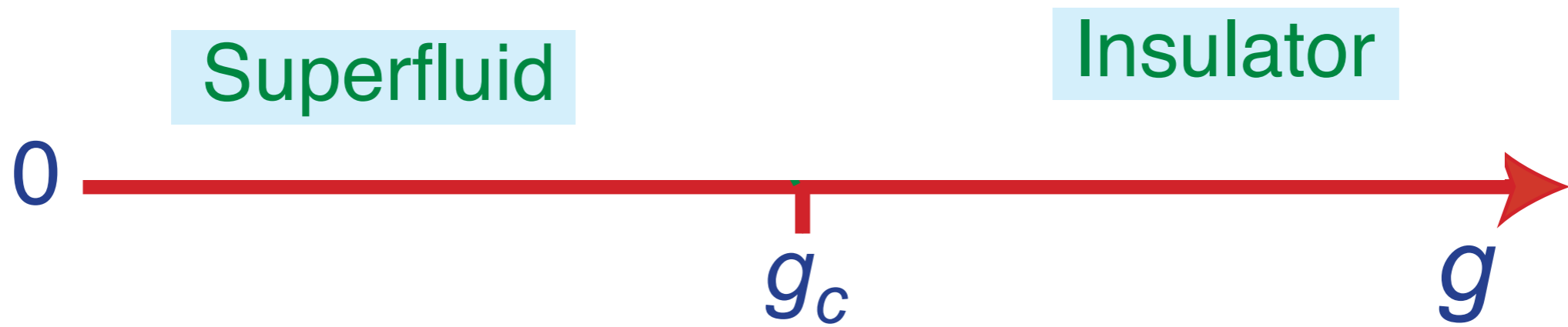


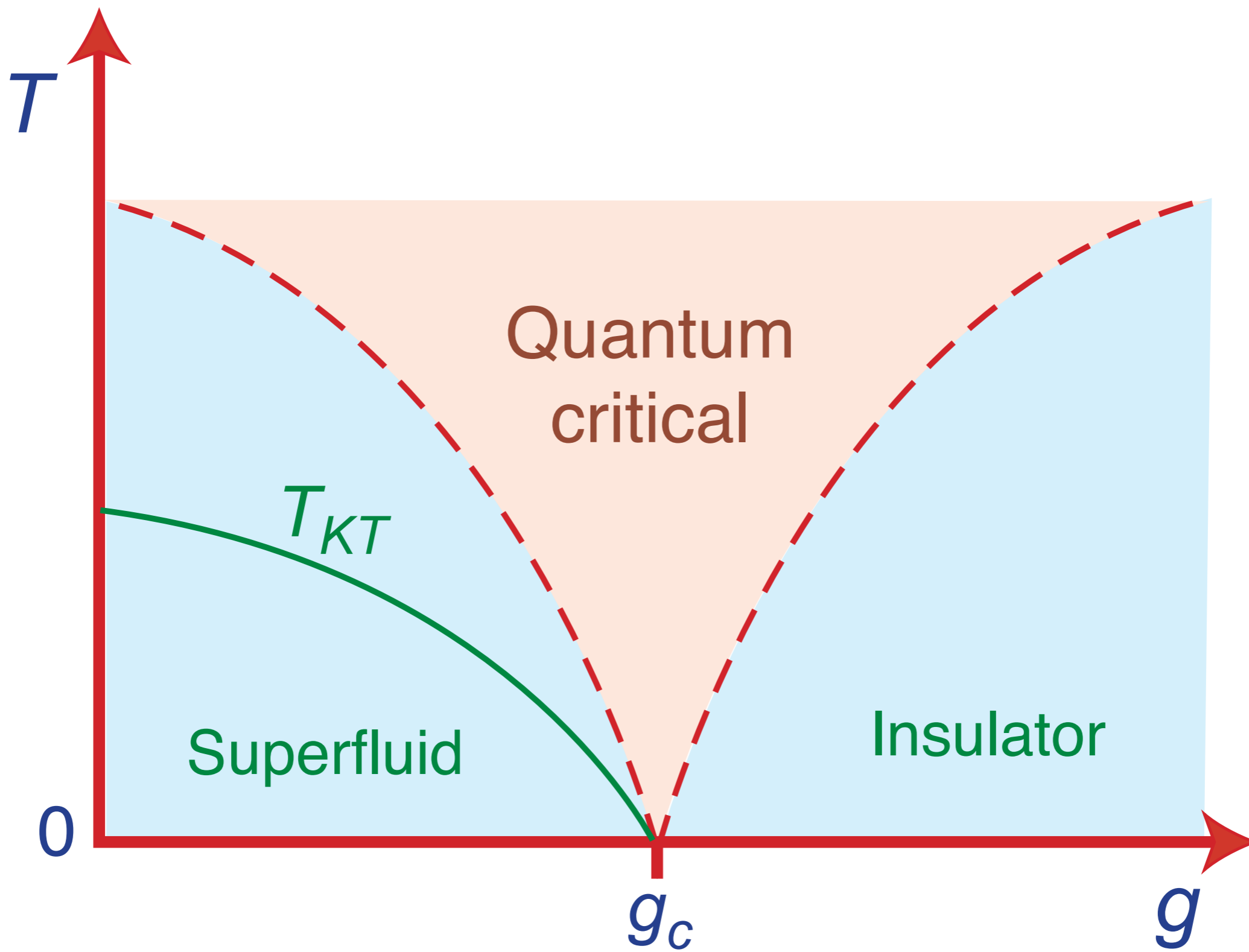
G. Sambandamurthy, A. Johansson, E. Peled, D. Shahar, P. G. Bjornsson, and K.A. Moler, *Europhys. Lett.* **75**, 611 (2006).

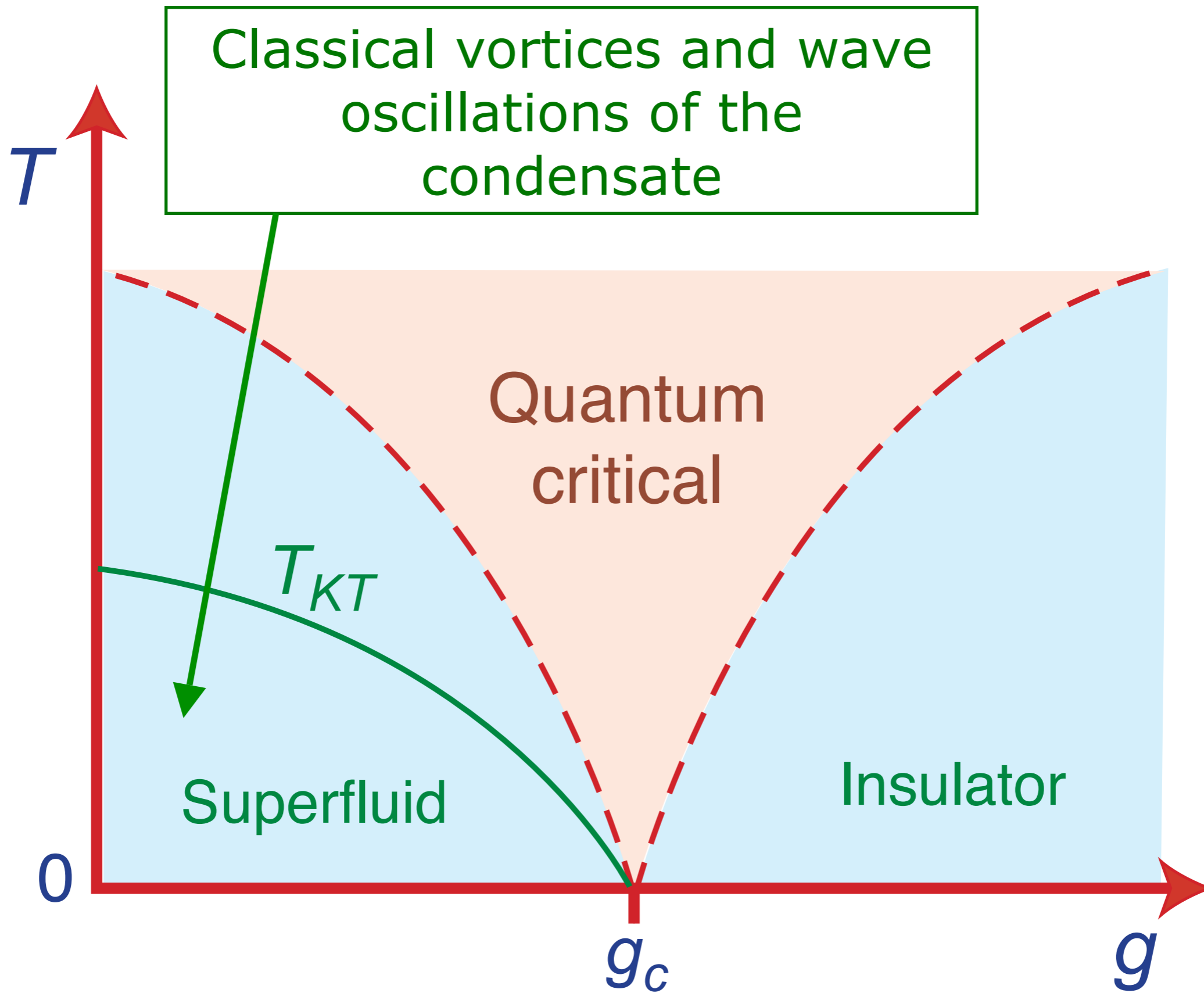
# Superfluid-insulator transition



Ultracold  $^{87}\text{Rb}$   
atoms - bosons

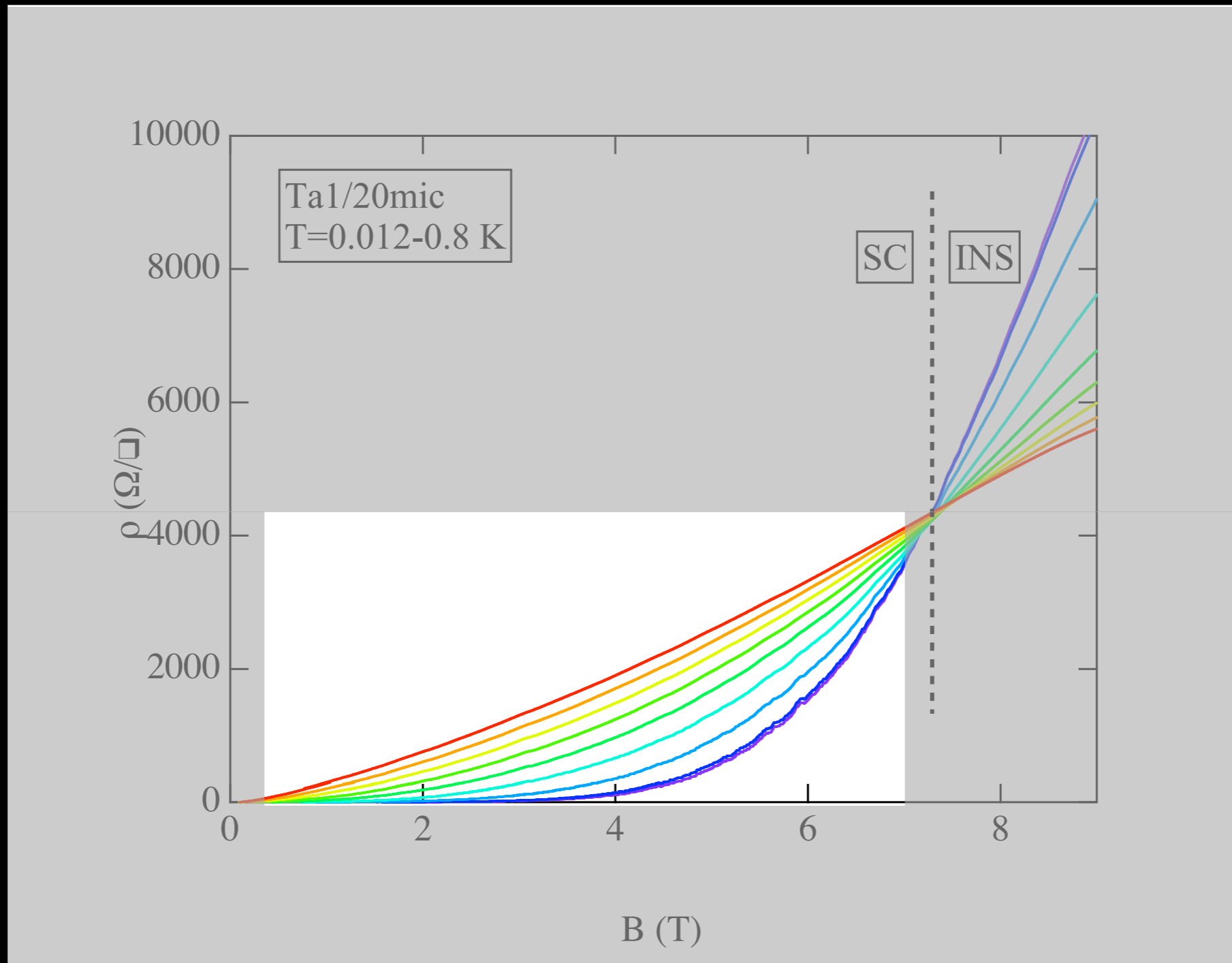




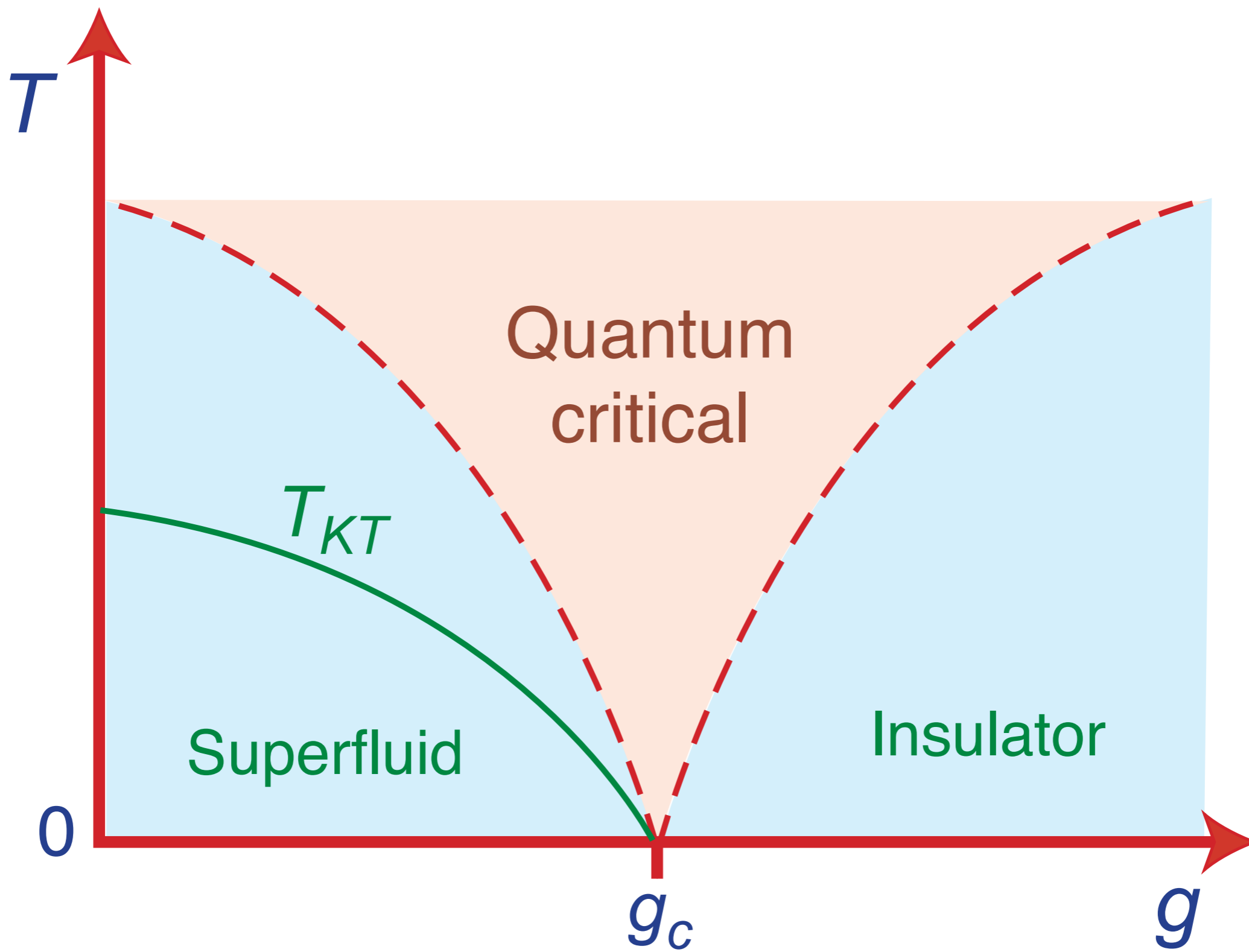


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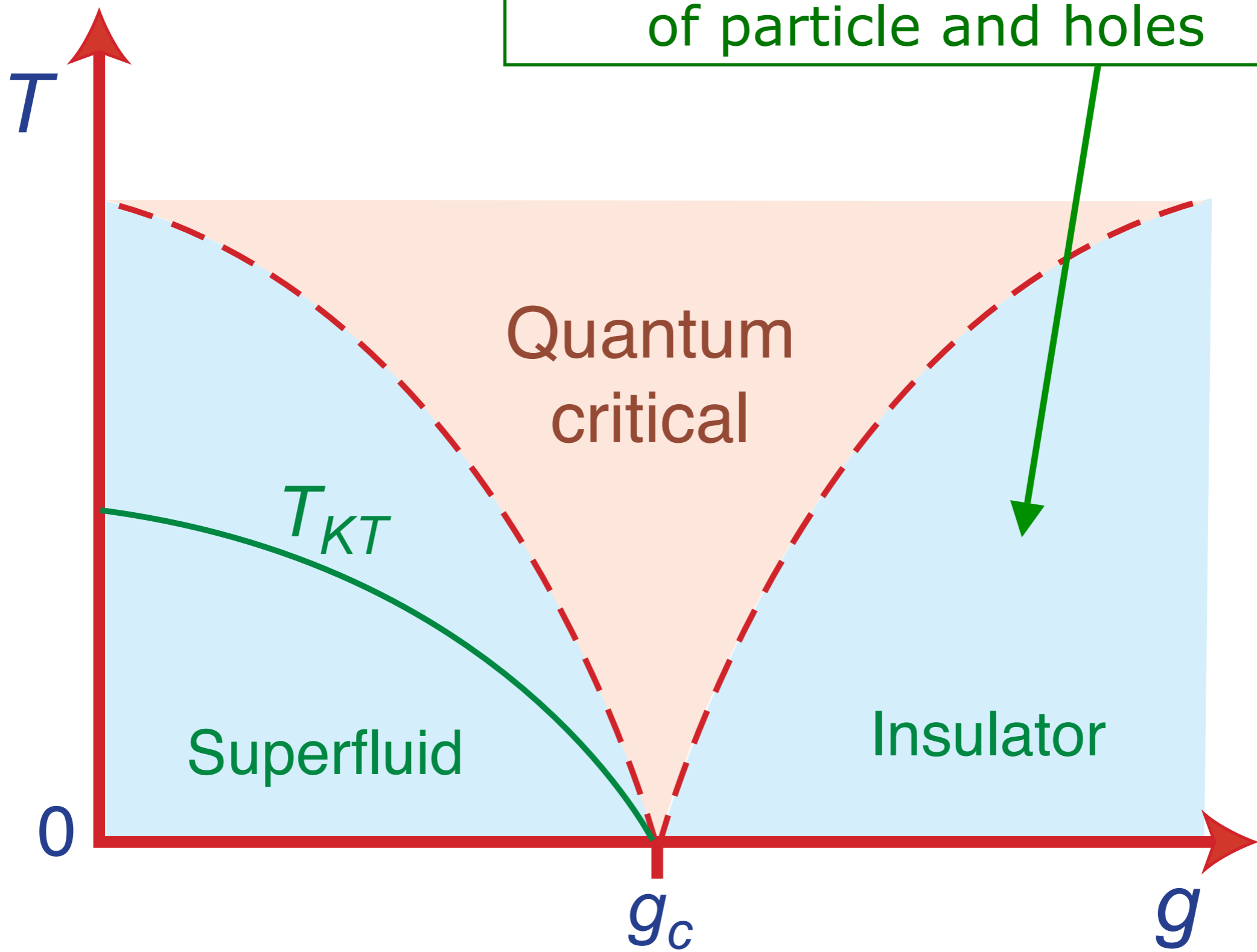
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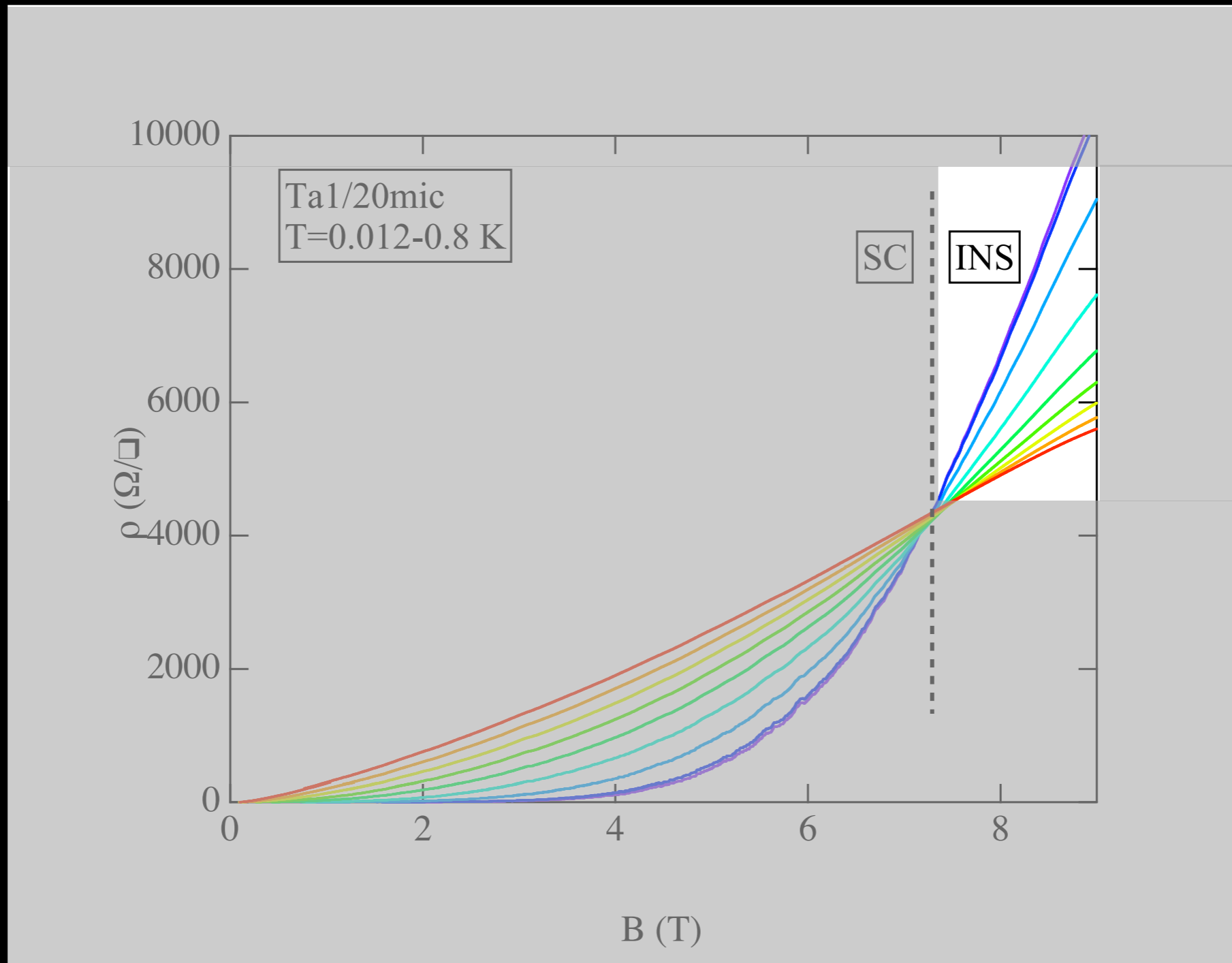


Dilute Boltzmann/Landau gas  
of particle and holes

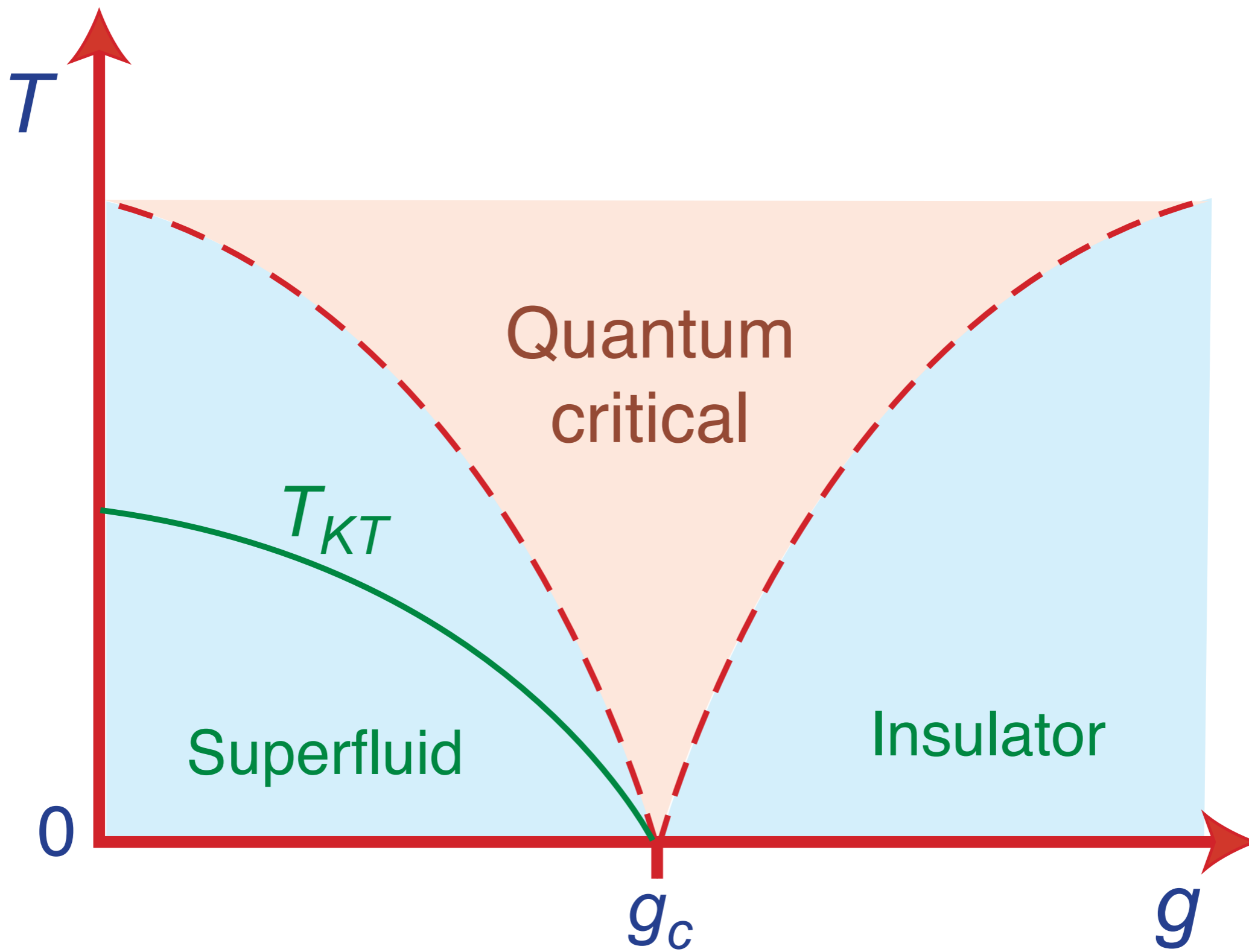


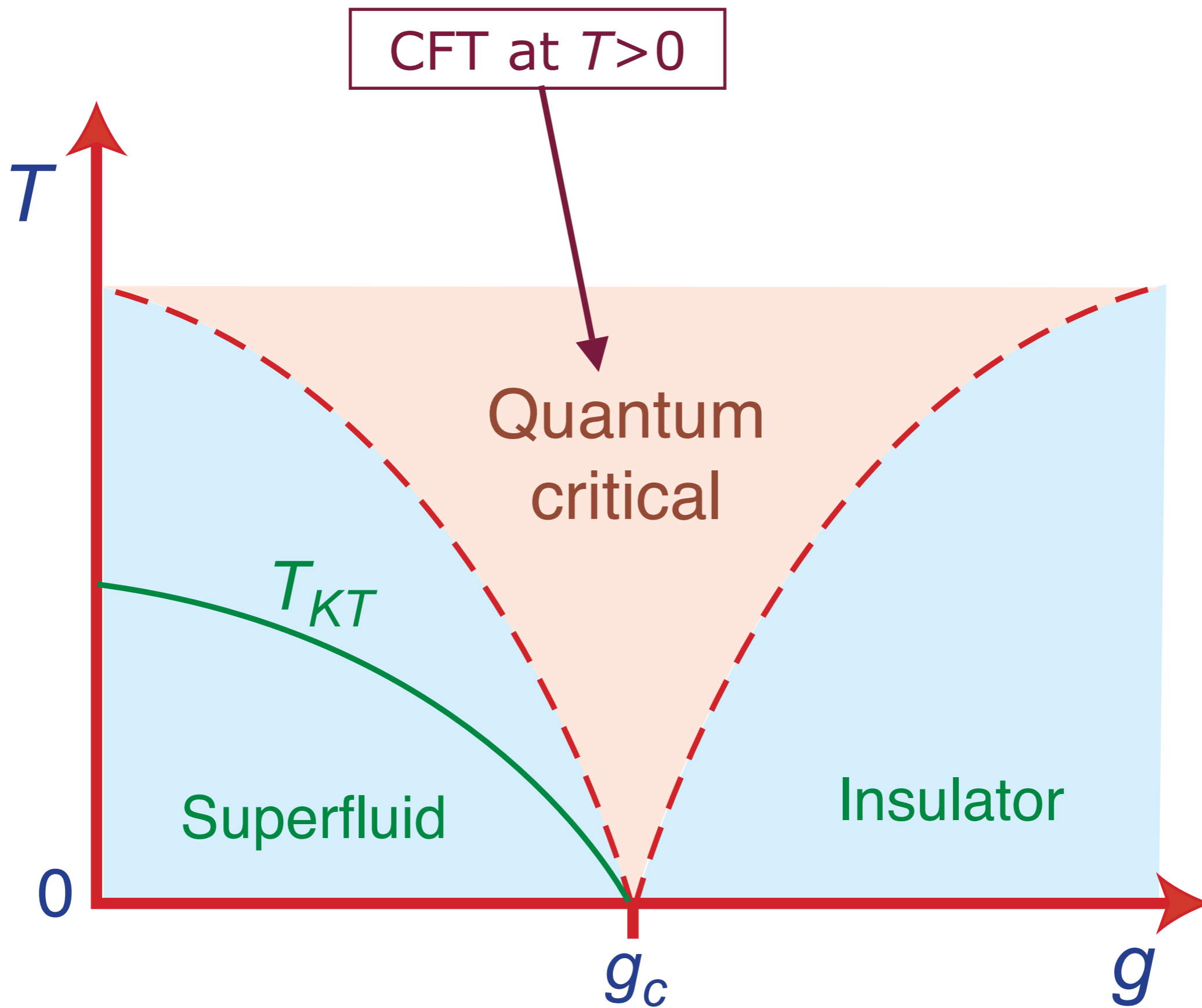
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# Quantum critical transport

Quantum “*perfect fluid*”  
with shortest possible  
relaxation time,  $\tau_R$

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

# 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

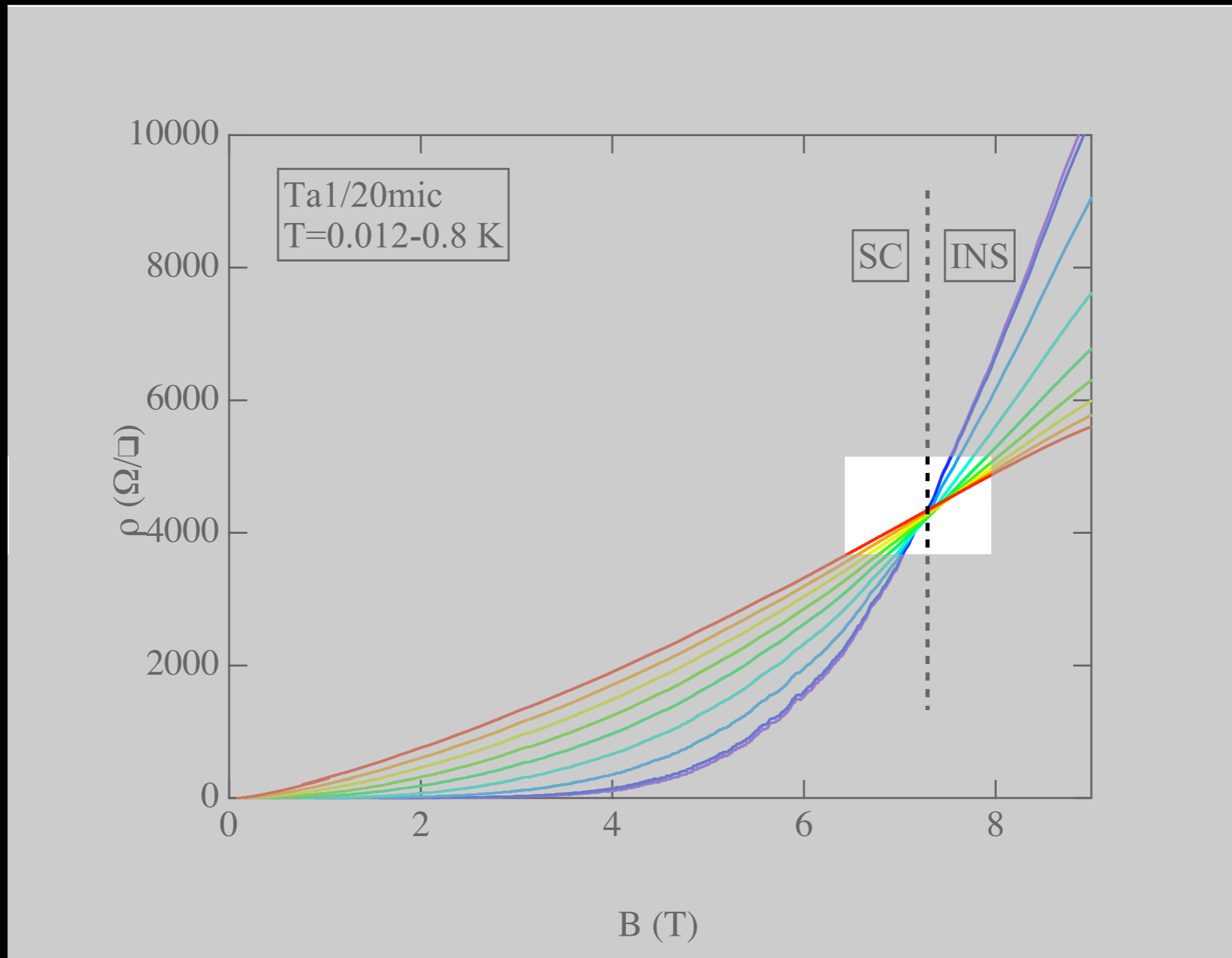
Transport co-efficients not determined  
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## Momentum transport

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

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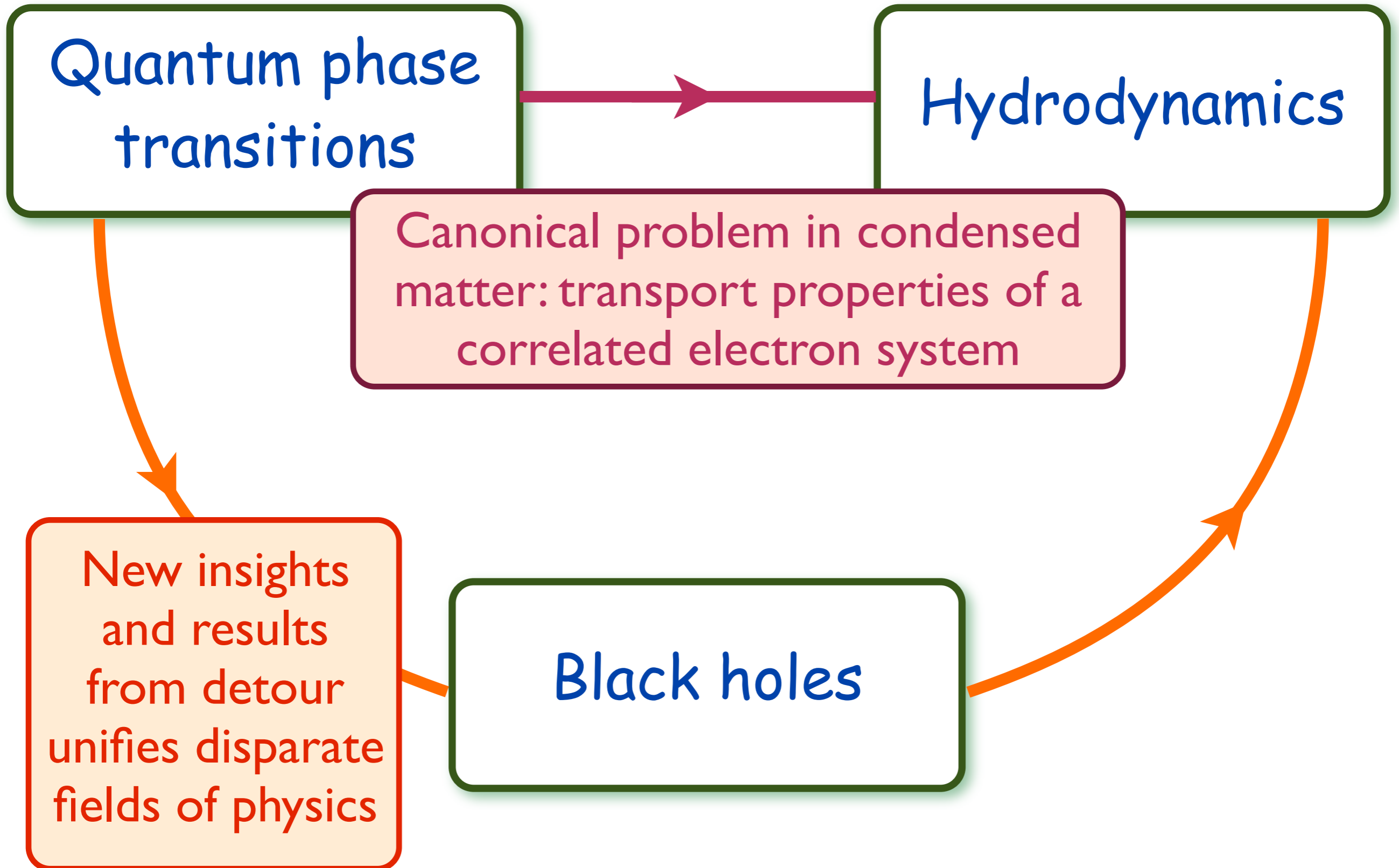
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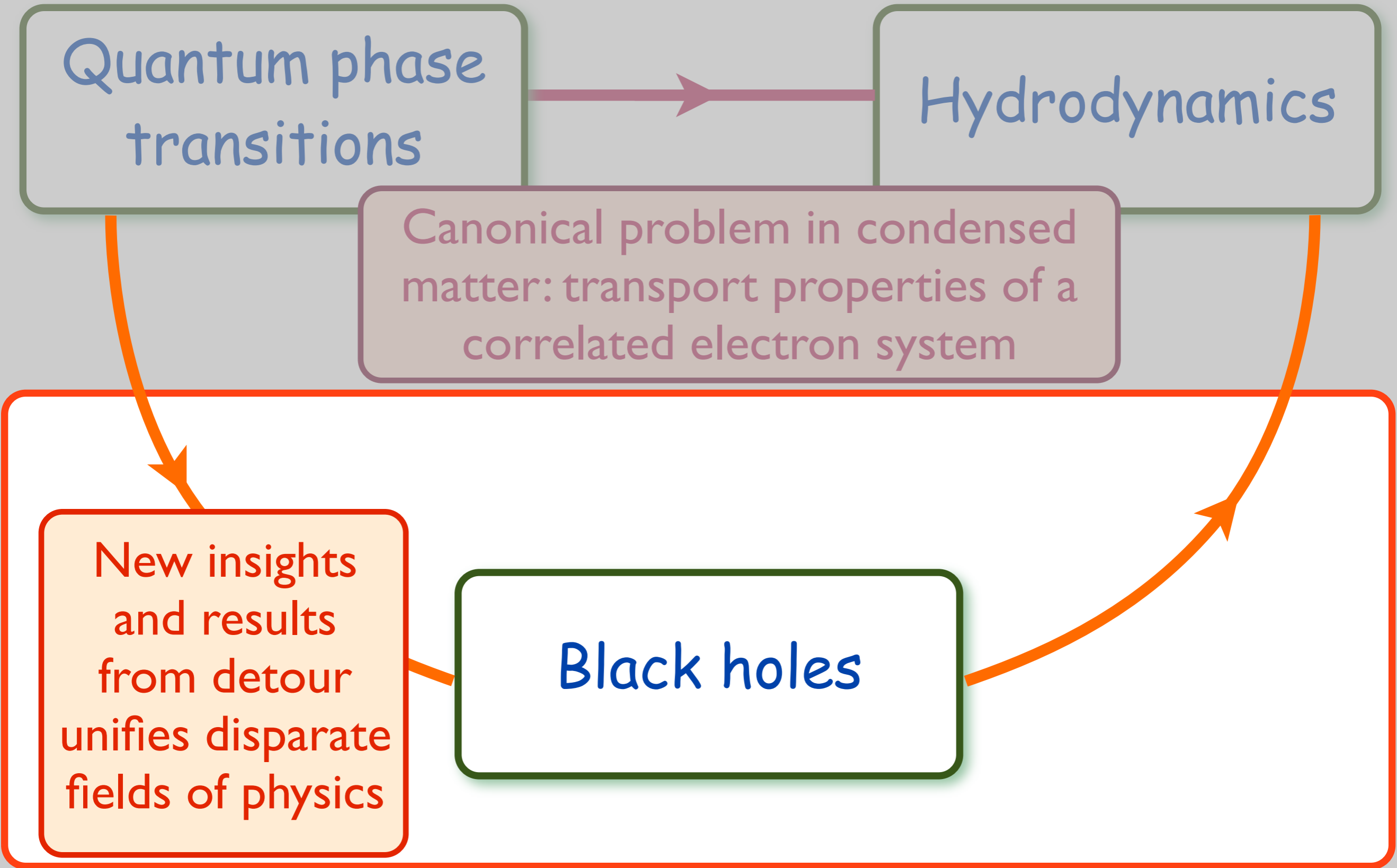
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# Black Holes

Objects so massive that light is gravitationally bound to them.

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Objects so massive that light is gravitationally bound to them.

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

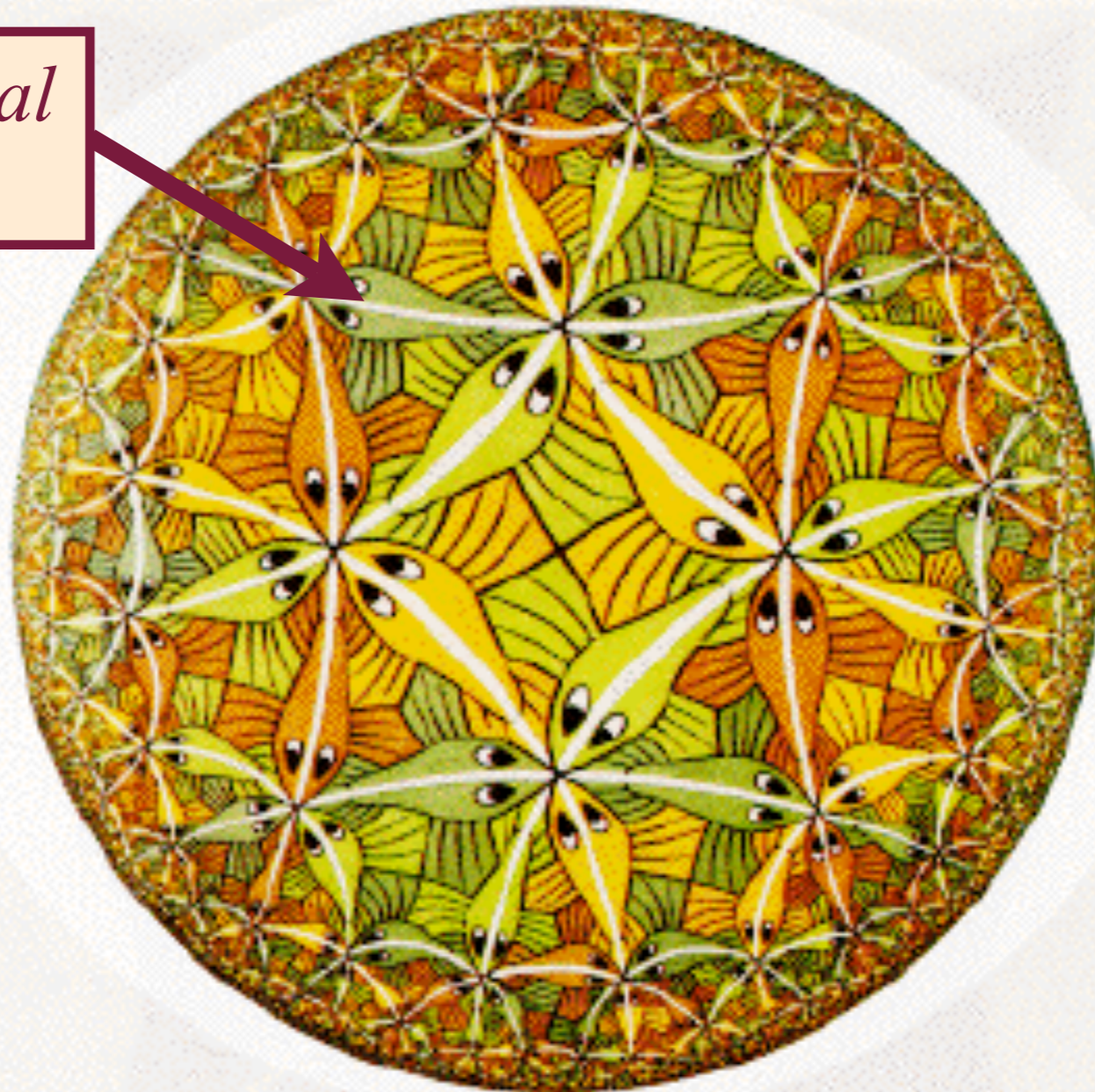
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Horizon temperature:  $4\pi k_B T = \frac{\hbar^2}{2M\ell_P^2}$

# 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

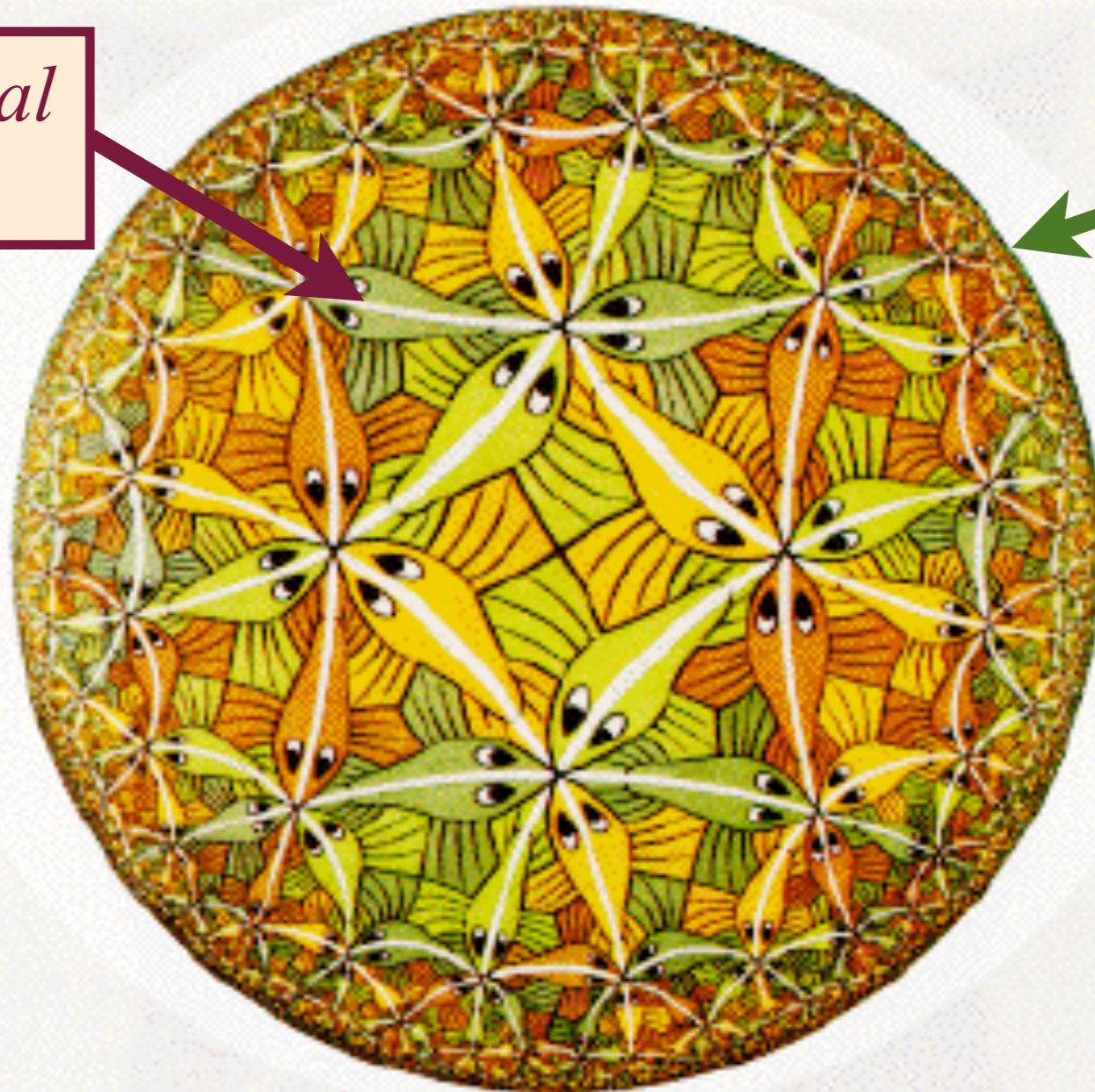
*3+1 dimensional  
AdS space*



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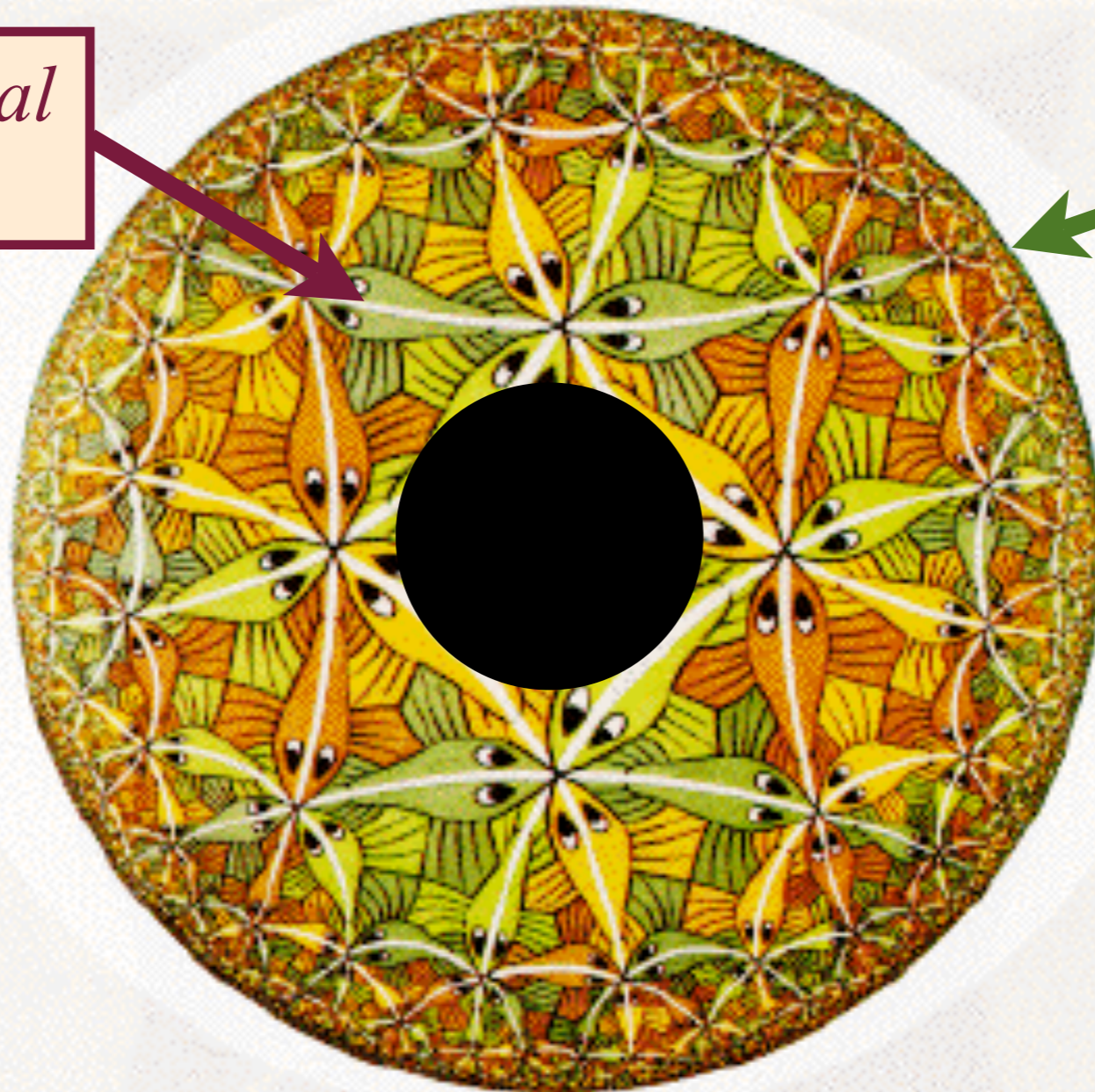


A 2+1  
dimensional  
system at its  
quantum  
critical point

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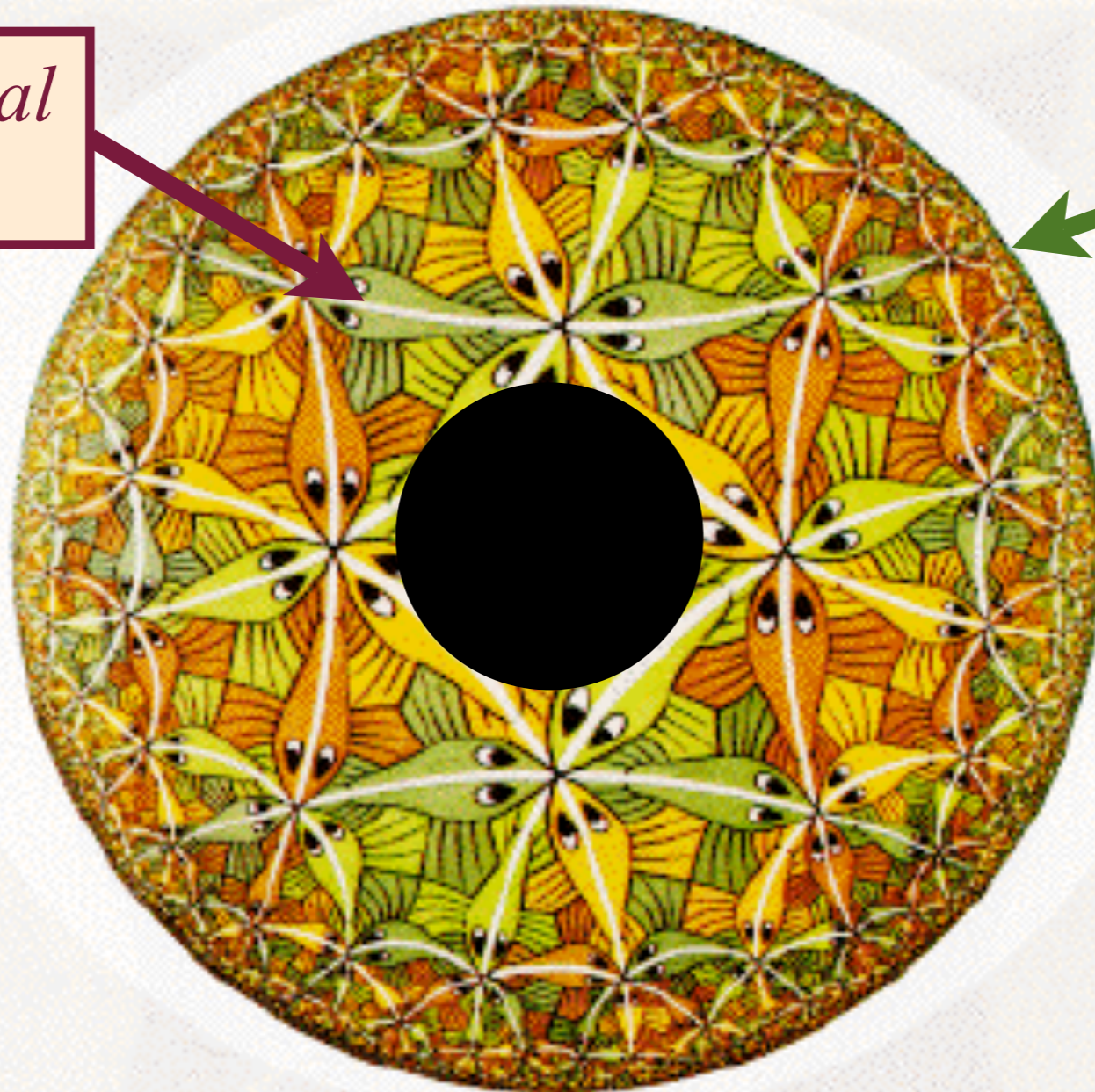
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Quantum  
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Black hole  
temperature  
=  
temperature  
of quantum  
criticality

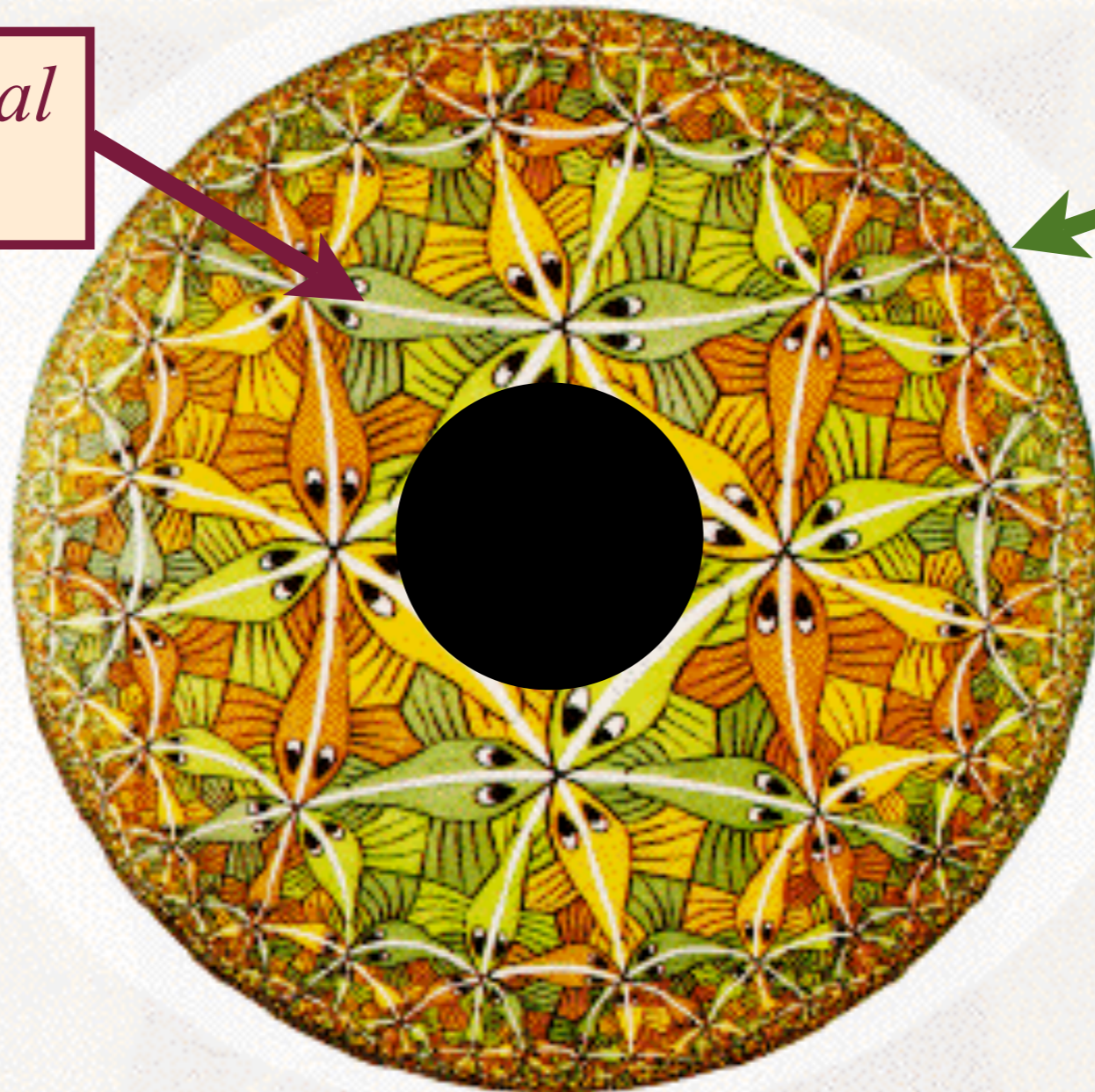
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Black hole  
entropy =  
entropy of  
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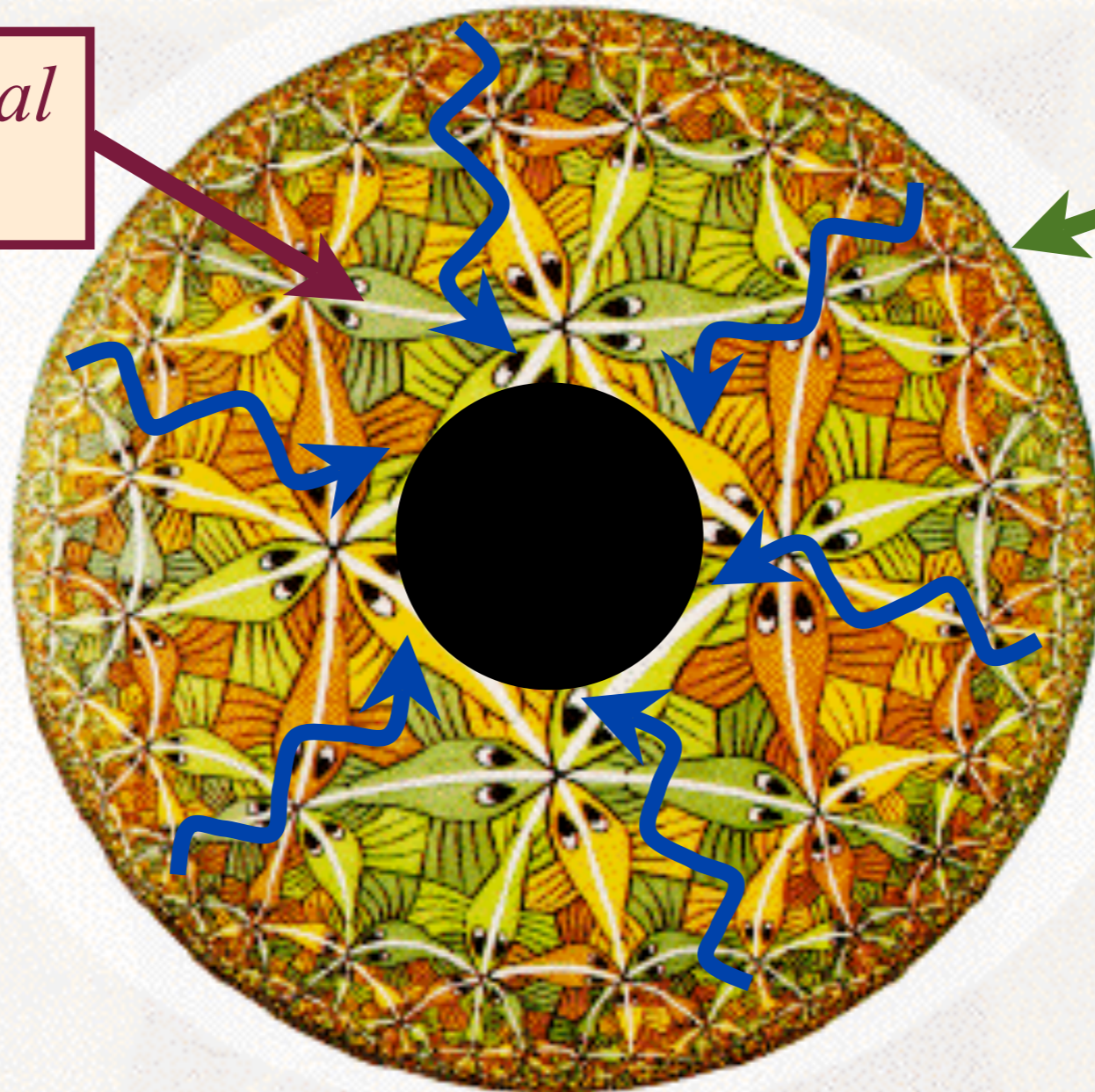
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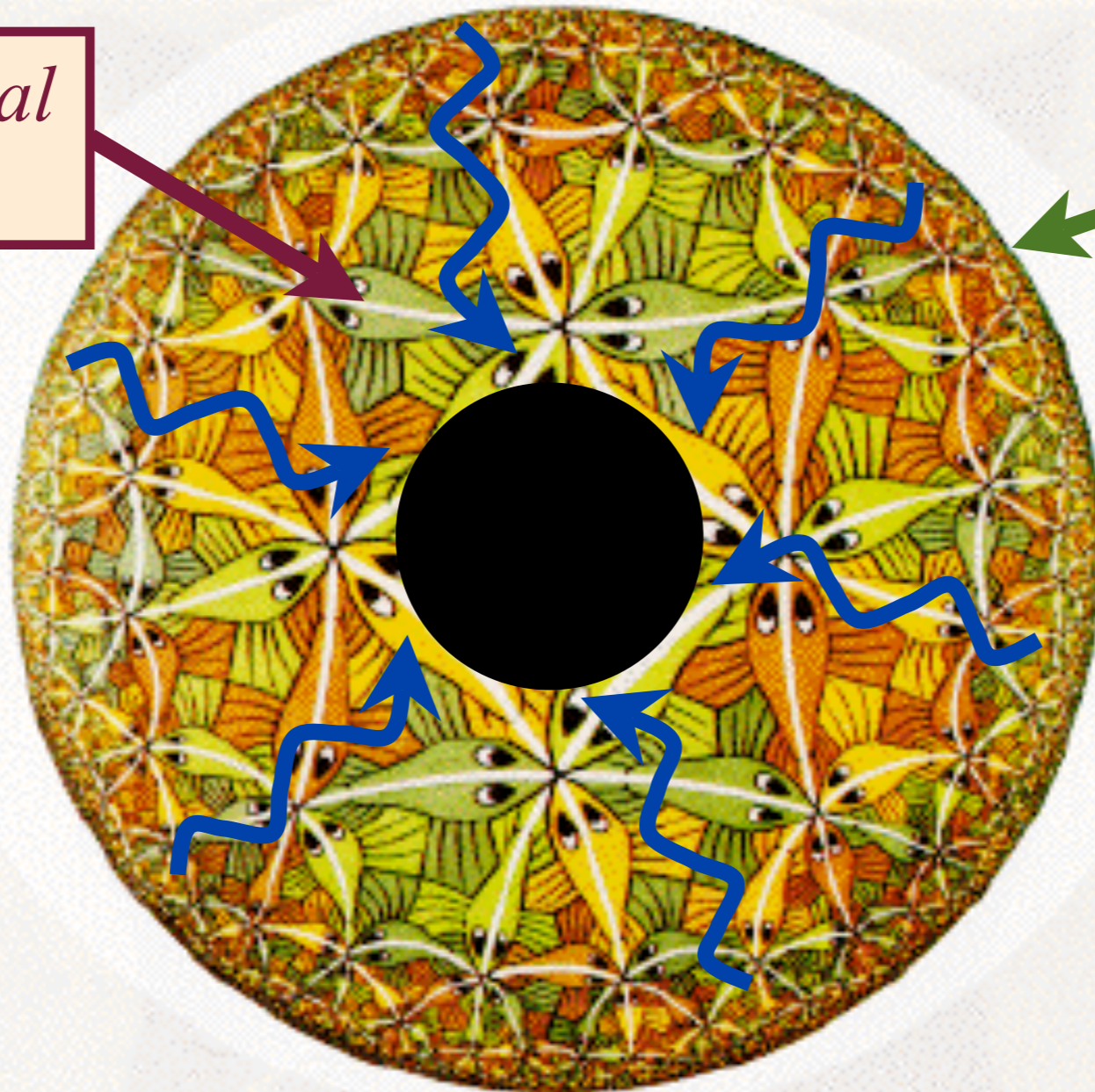
Quantum  
critical  
dynamics =  
waves in  
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*3+1 dimensional  
AdS space*



Quantum  
criticality in  
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

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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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②

# Hydrodynamics of quantum critical systems

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*Uses physical model but strong-coupling makes explicit solution difficult*

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.  
First exact numerical results for transport co-efficients (for supersymmetric systems).*

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First exact numerical results for transport co-efficients (for supersymmetric systems).*

Find perfect agreement between 1. and 2.  
In some cases, results were obtained by 2. earlier !!

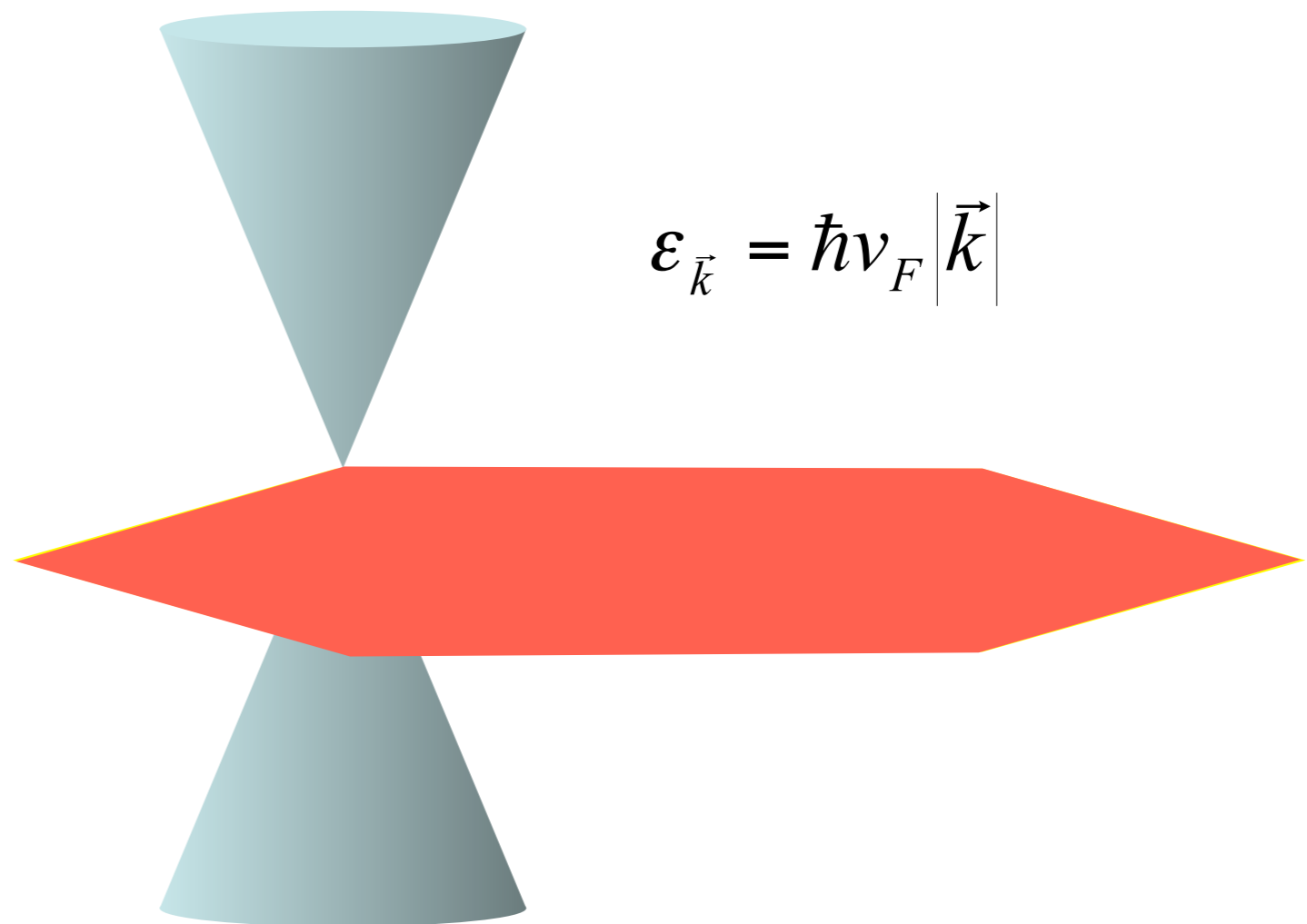
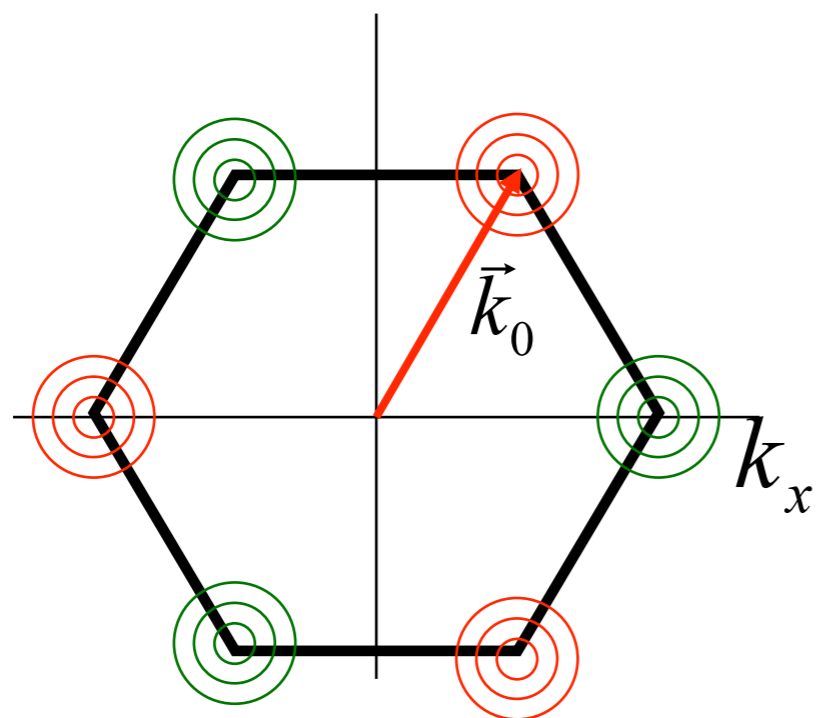
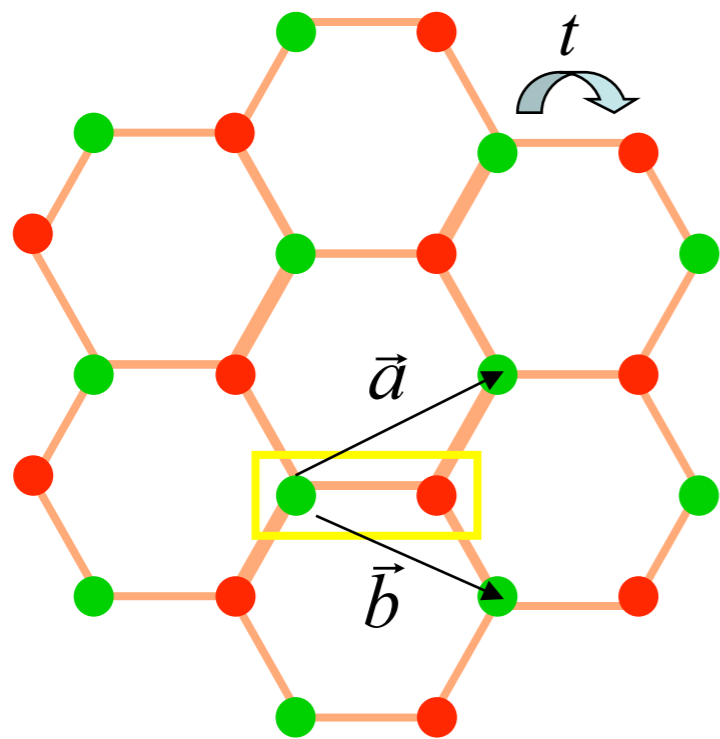
# Applications:

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  
*Non-relativistic AdS/CFT*

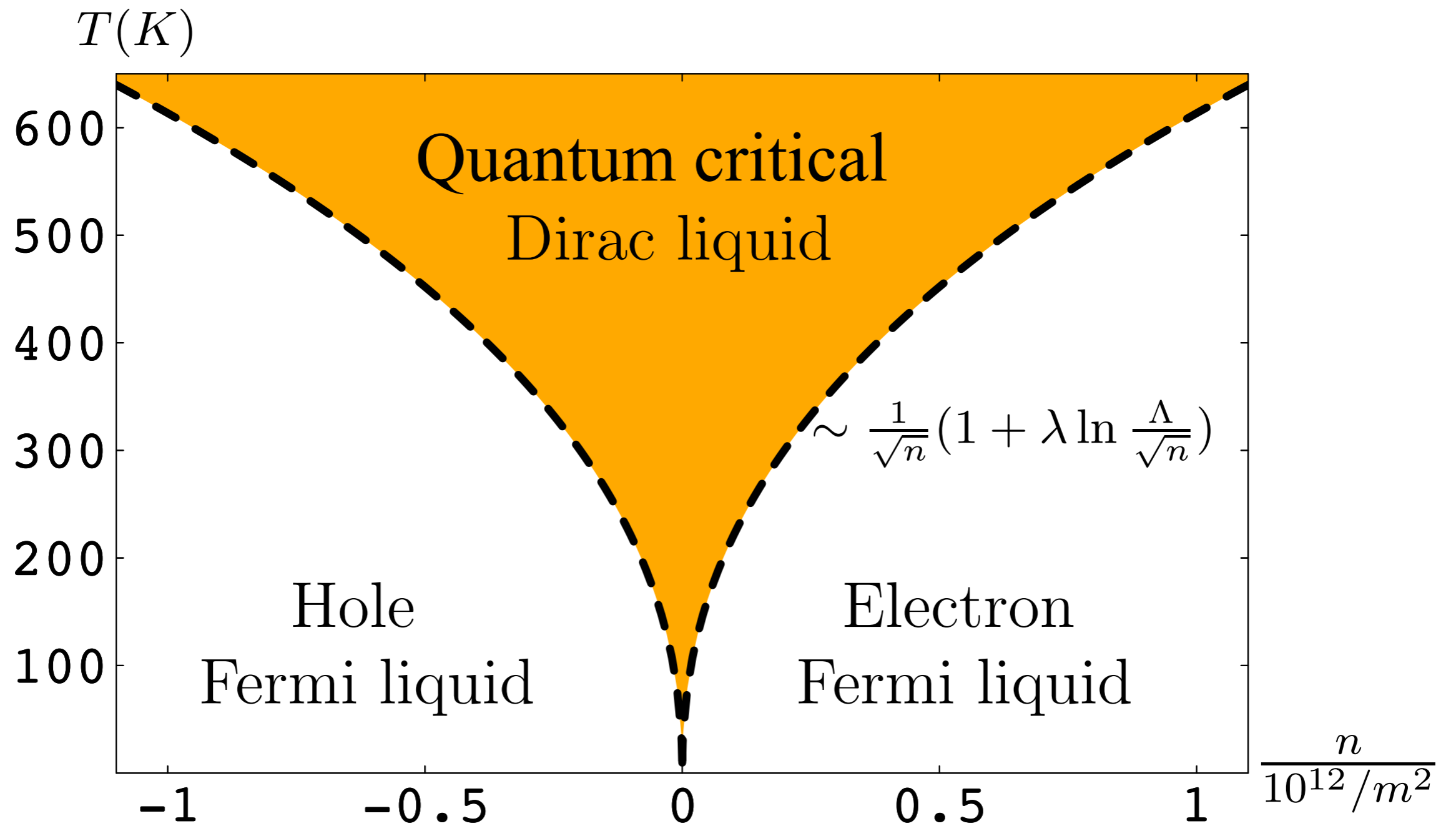
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*Low viscosity fluid*
3. Fermi gas at unitarity  
*Non-relativistic AdS/CFT*

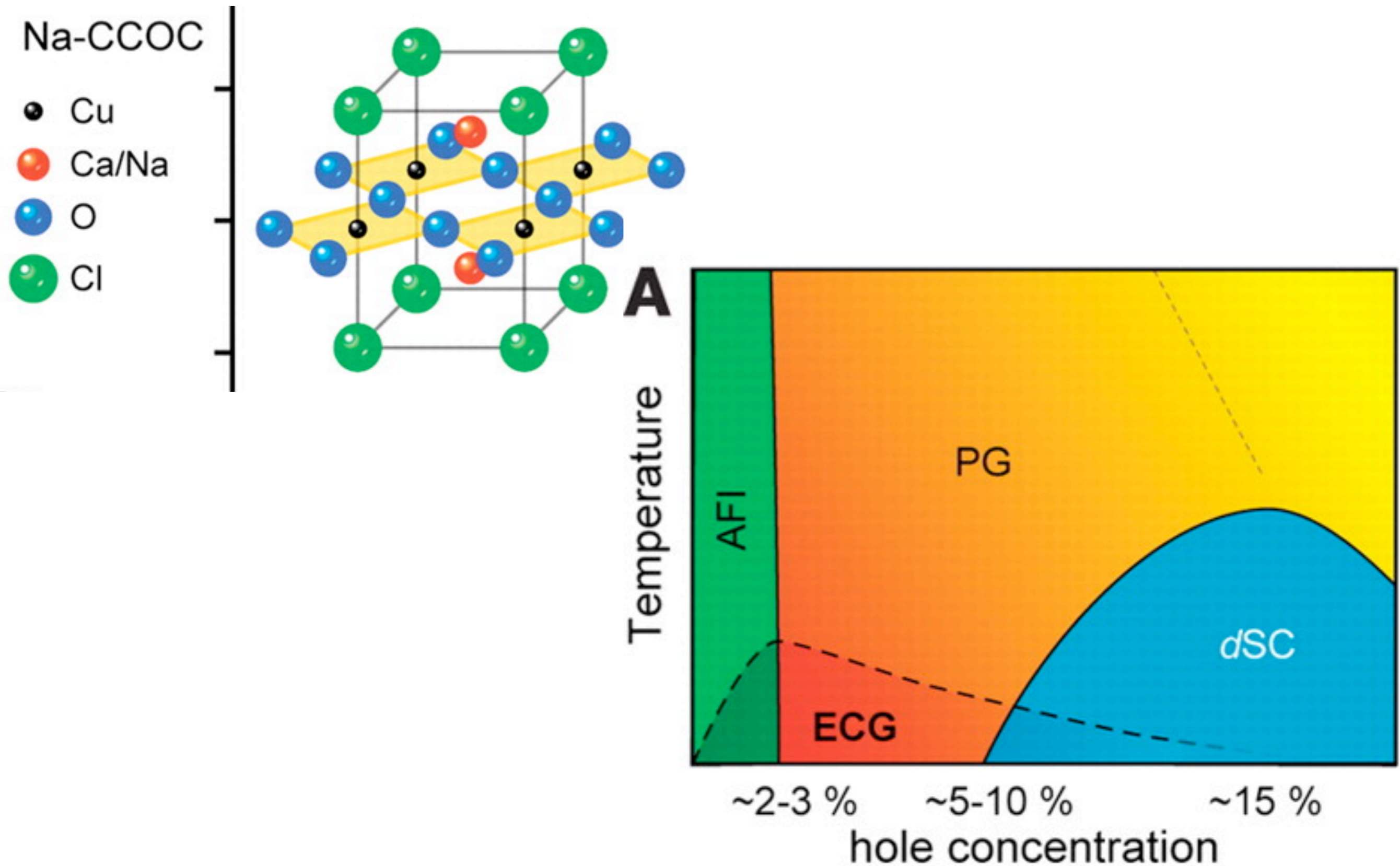
# Graphene



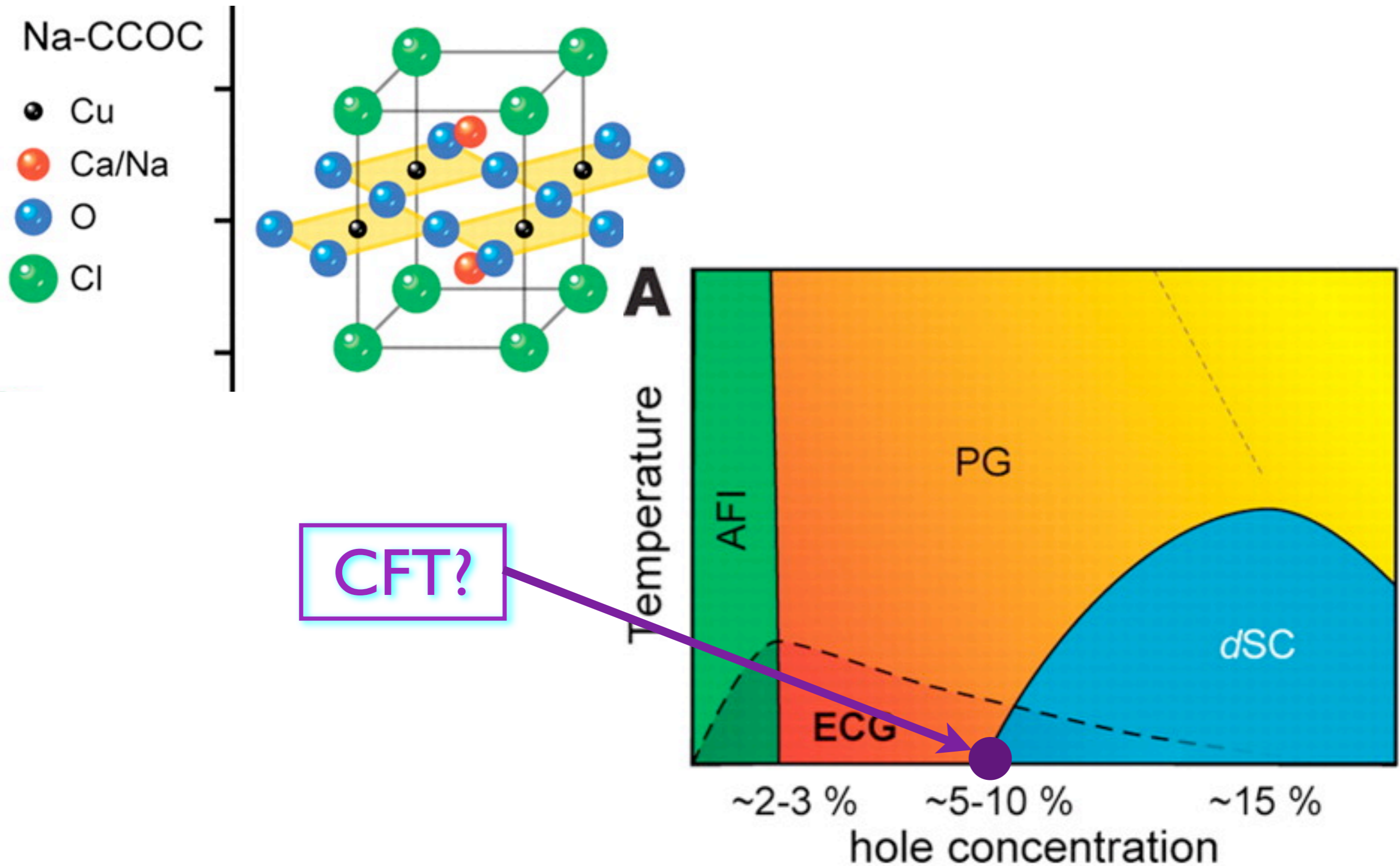
# Graphene



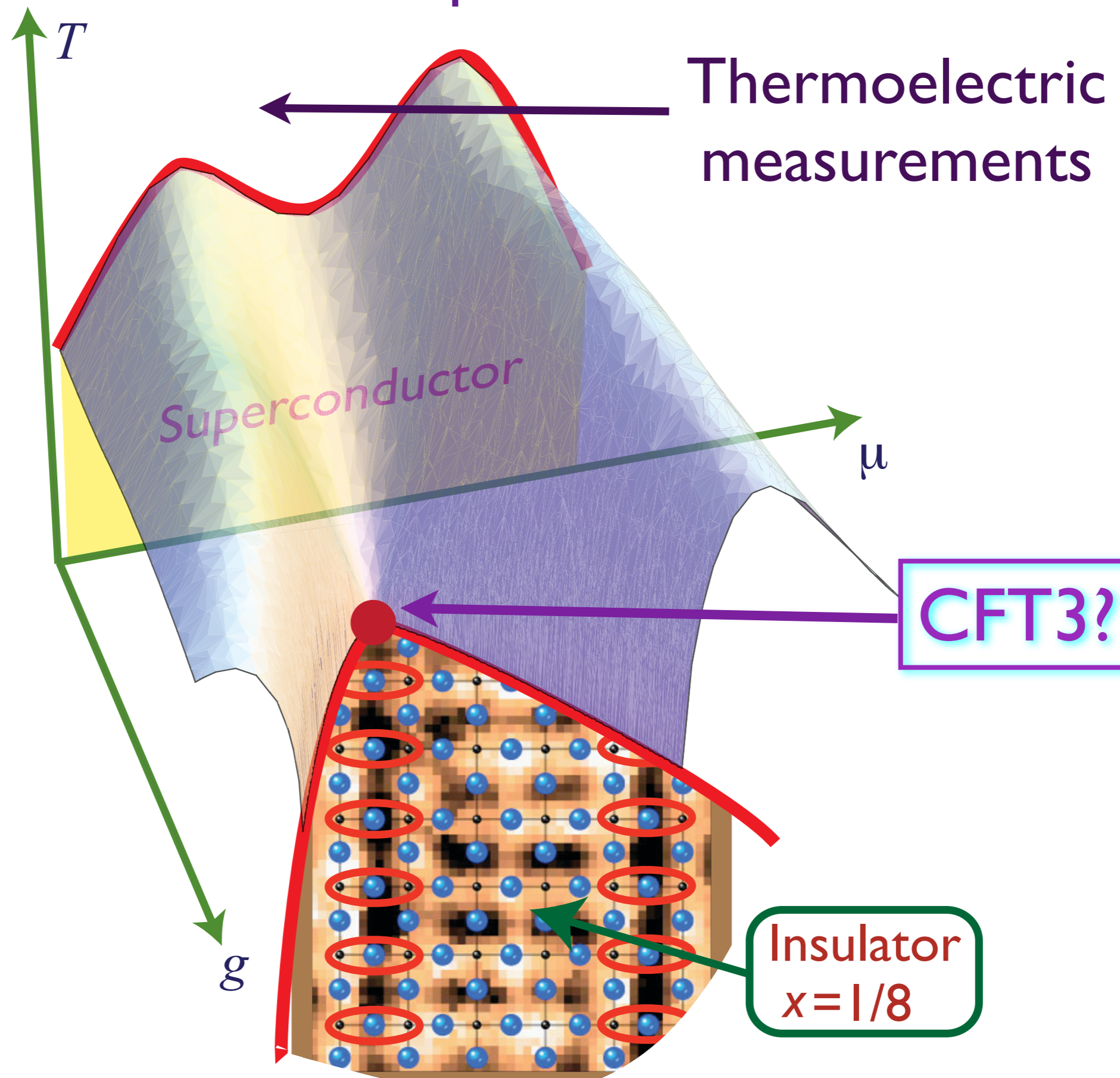
# *The cuprate superconductors*



# 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,  $\rho$  = charge density away from density of CFT,  $\varepsilon$  = 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,  $\kappa$  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”

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

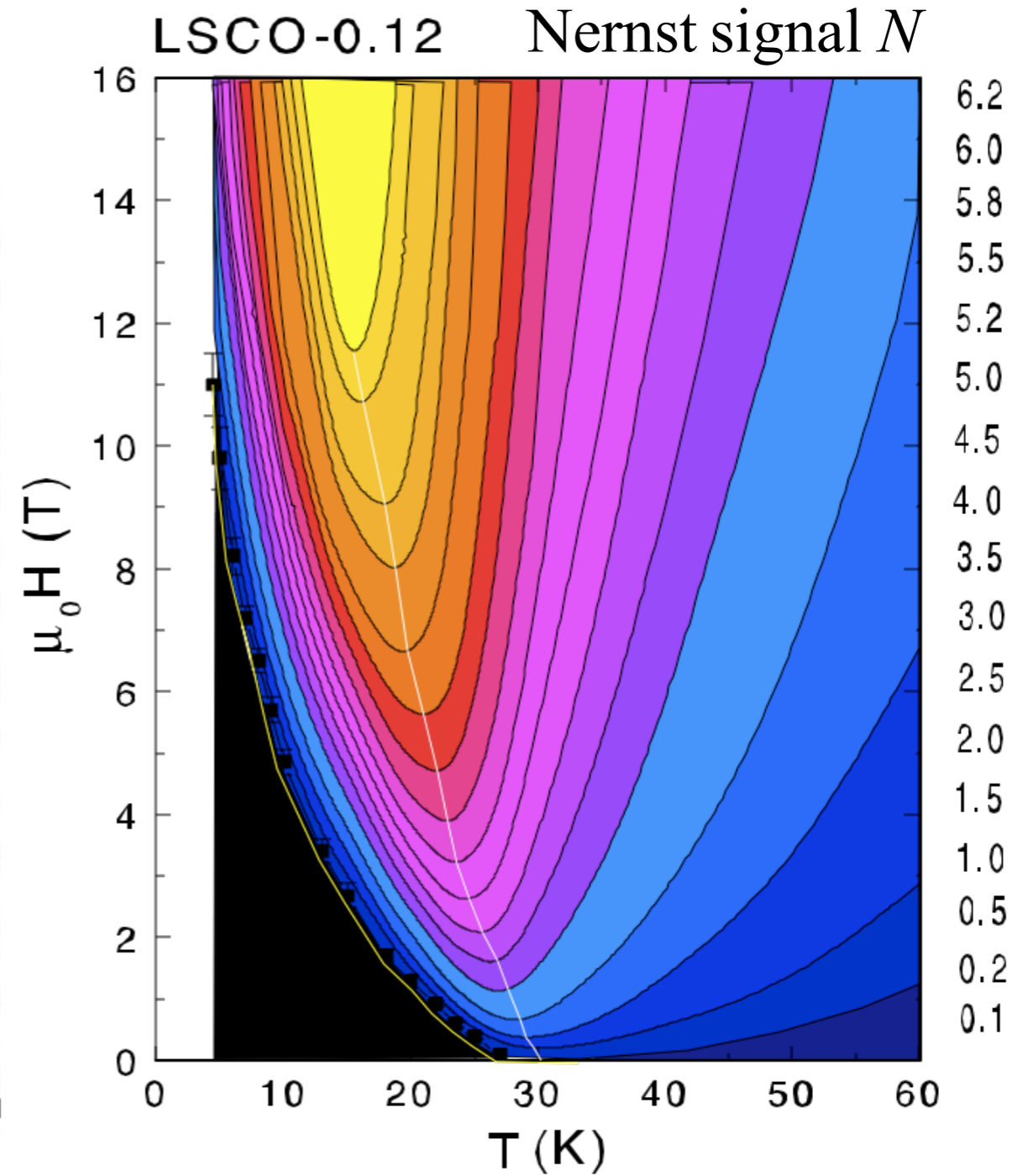
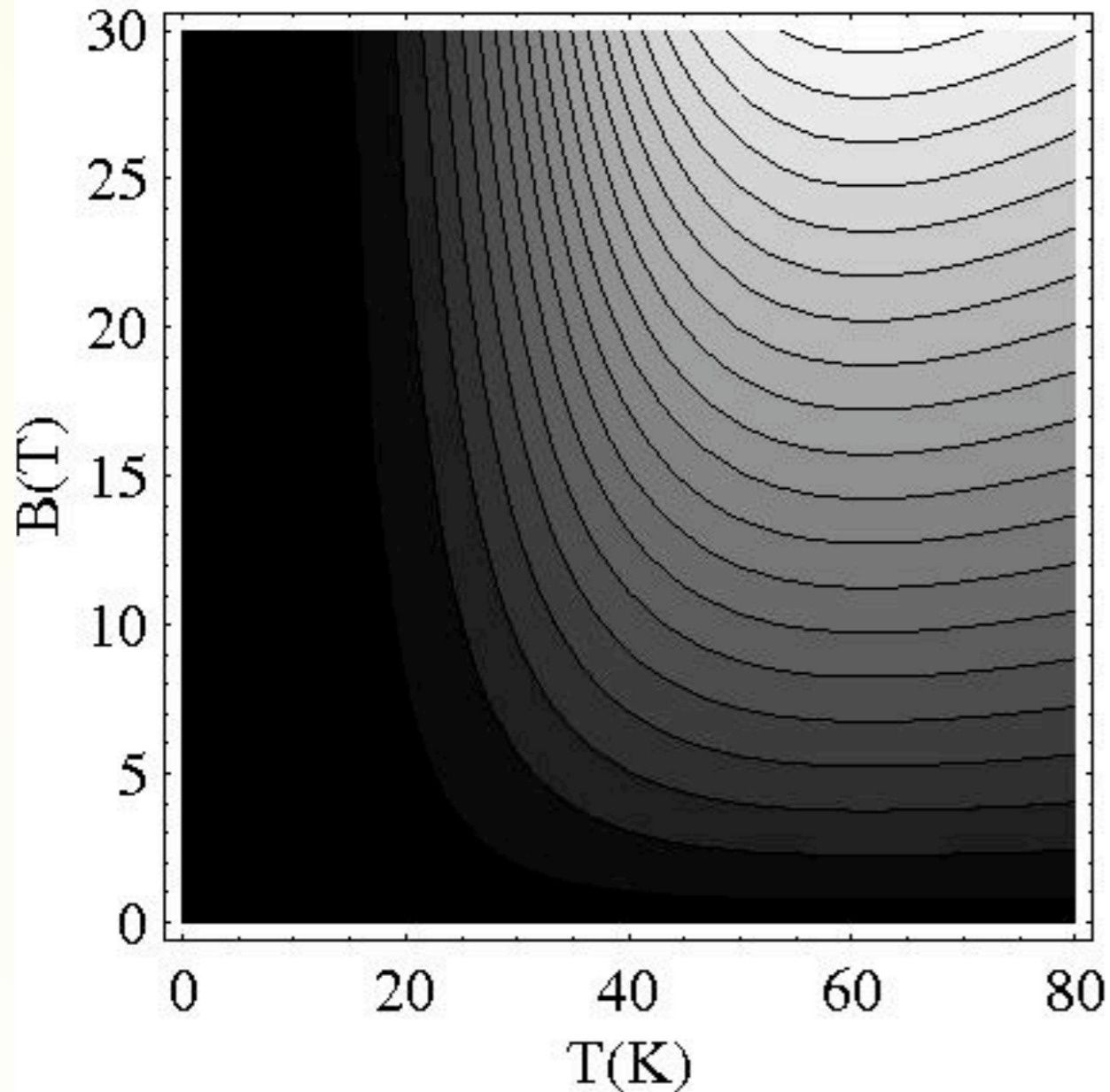
Nernst signal (transverse thermoelectric response)

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

where  $\tau_{\text{imp}}$  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,  $\tau_{\text{imp}}$  and  $\nu$ .

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

# 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  
*Non-relativistic AdS/CFT*

# Applications:

1. Magneto-thermo-electric transport in graphene and near the superconductor-insulator transition

*Hydrodynamic cyclotron resonance*

*Nernst effect*

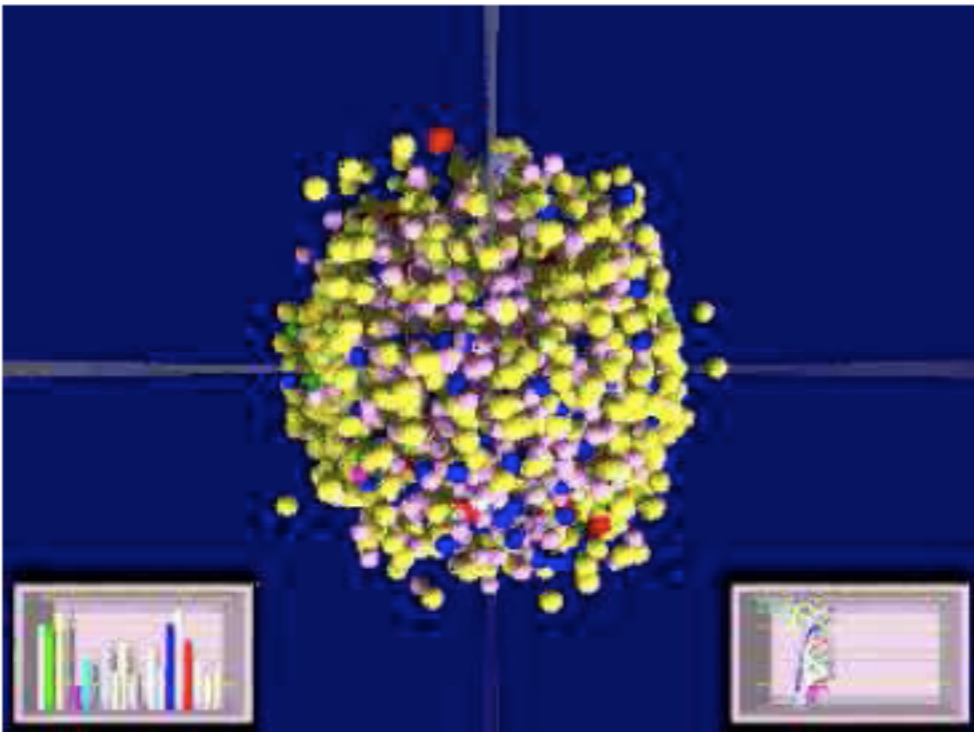
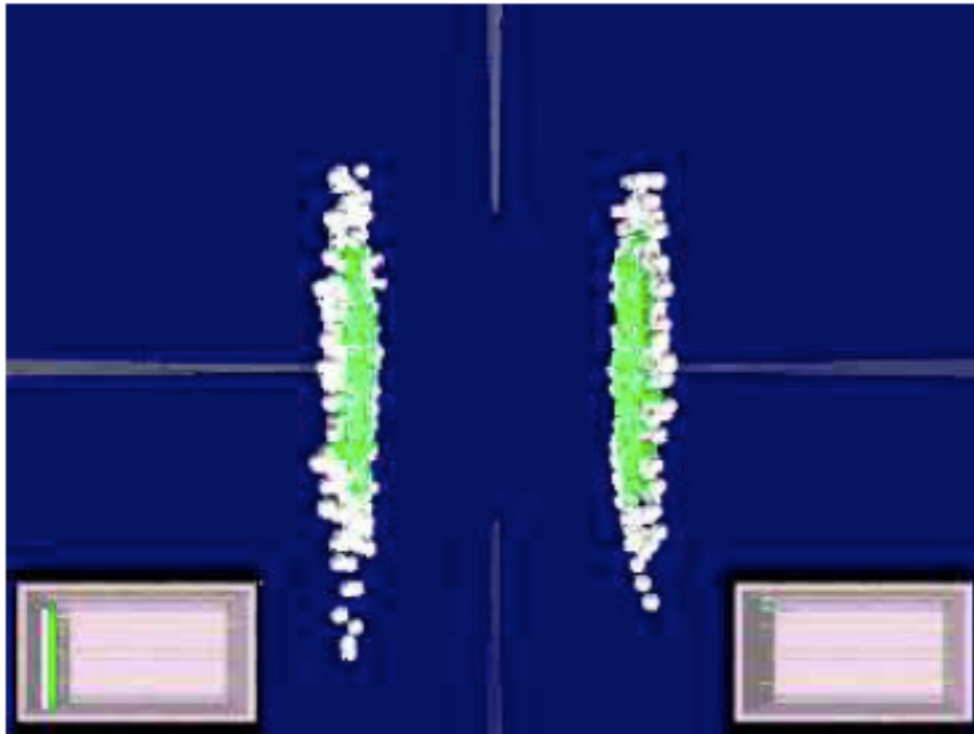
2. Quark-gluon plasma

*Low viscosity fluid*

3. Fermi gas at unitarity

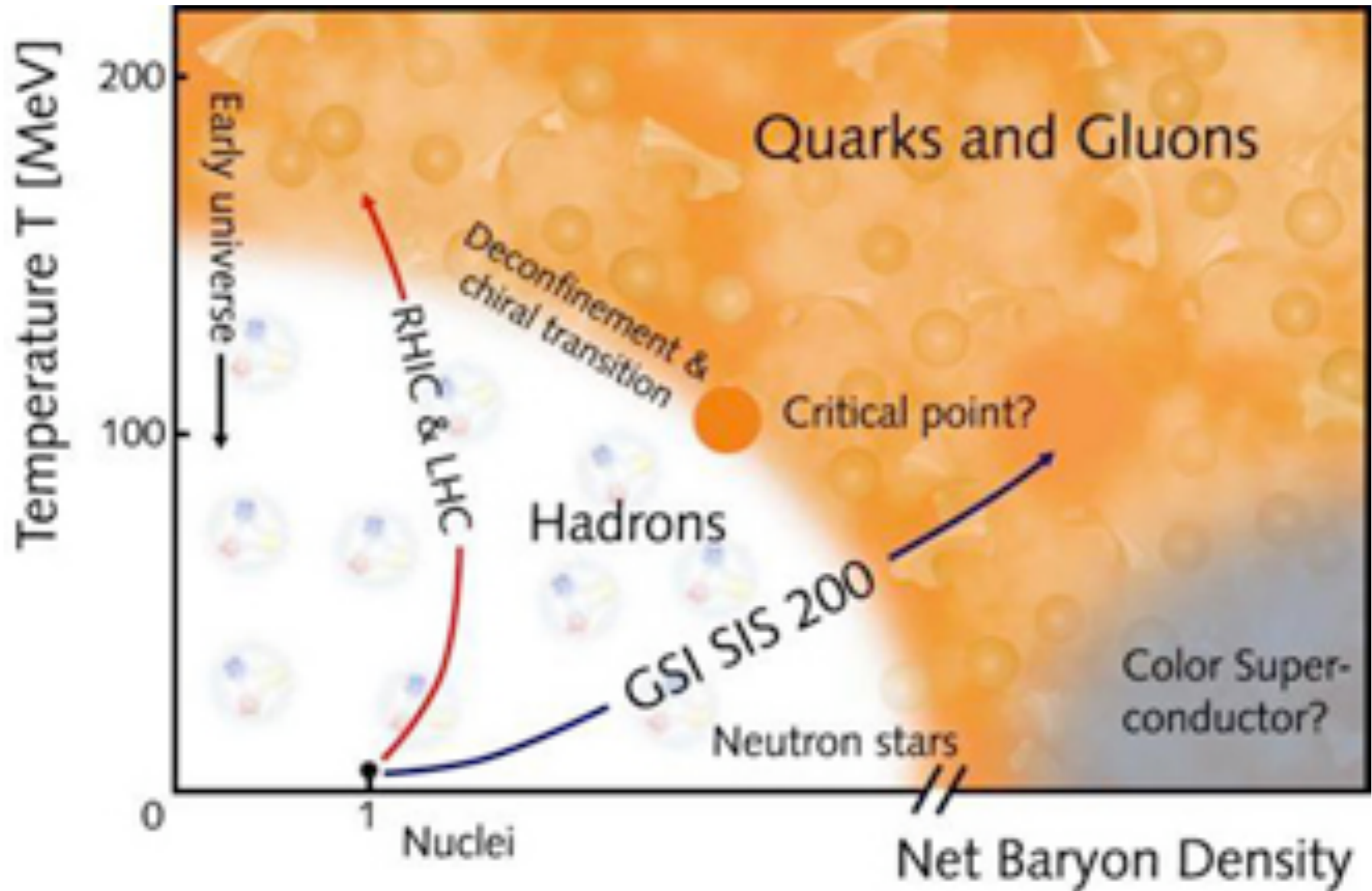
*Non-relativistic AdS/CFT*

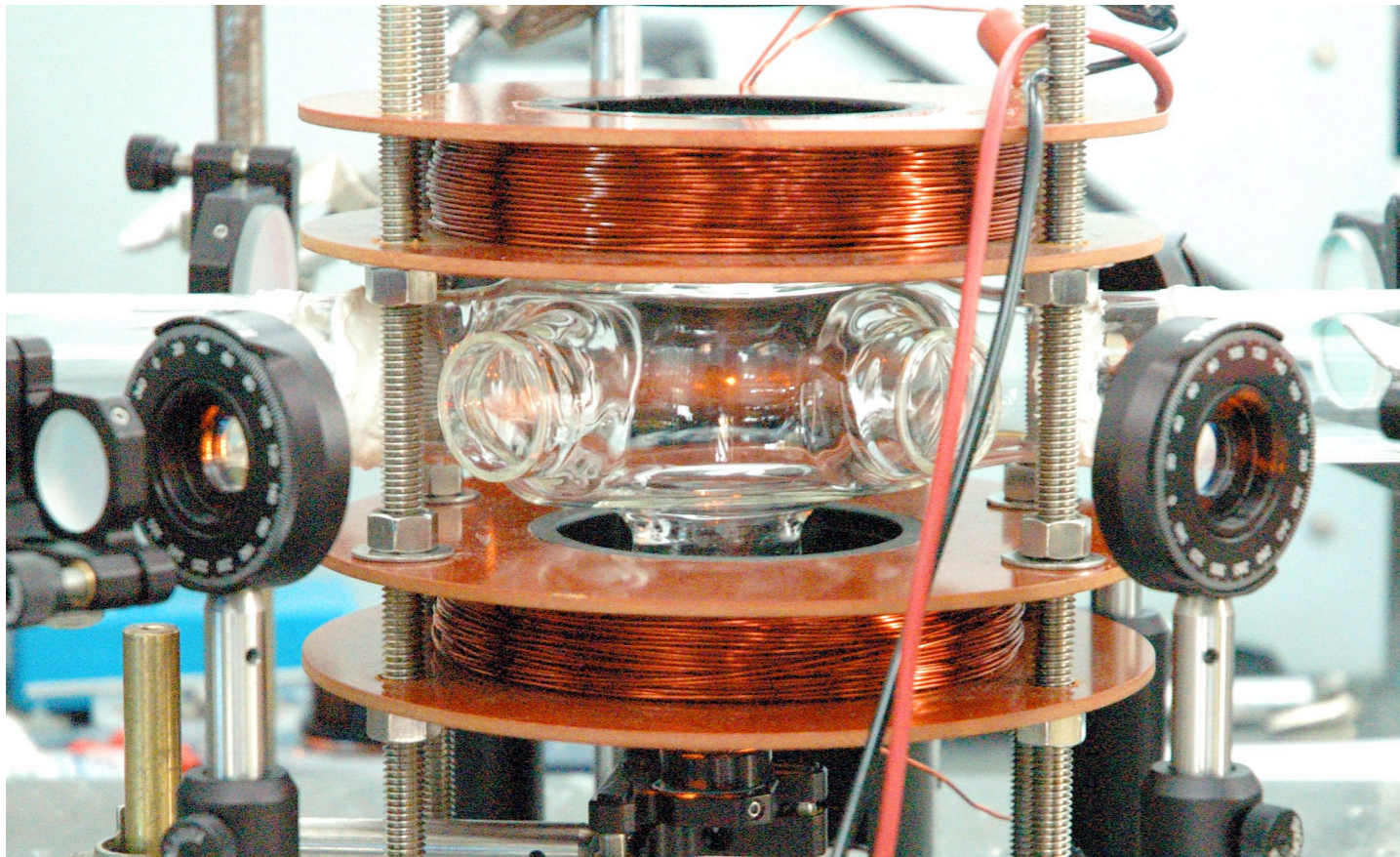
# Au+Au collisions at RHIC



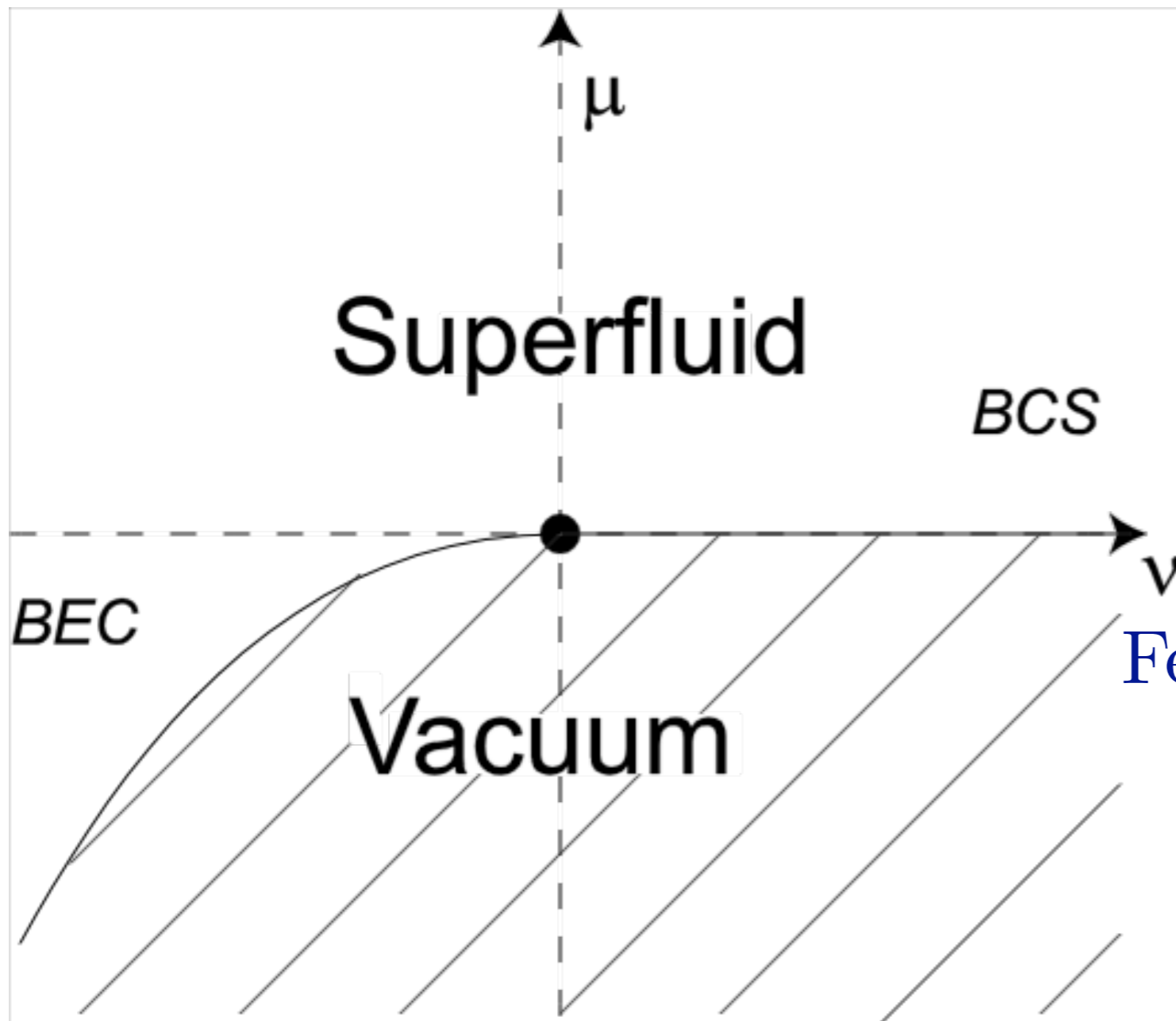
Quark-gluon plasma can be described as “quantum critical QCD”

# Phases of nuclear matter

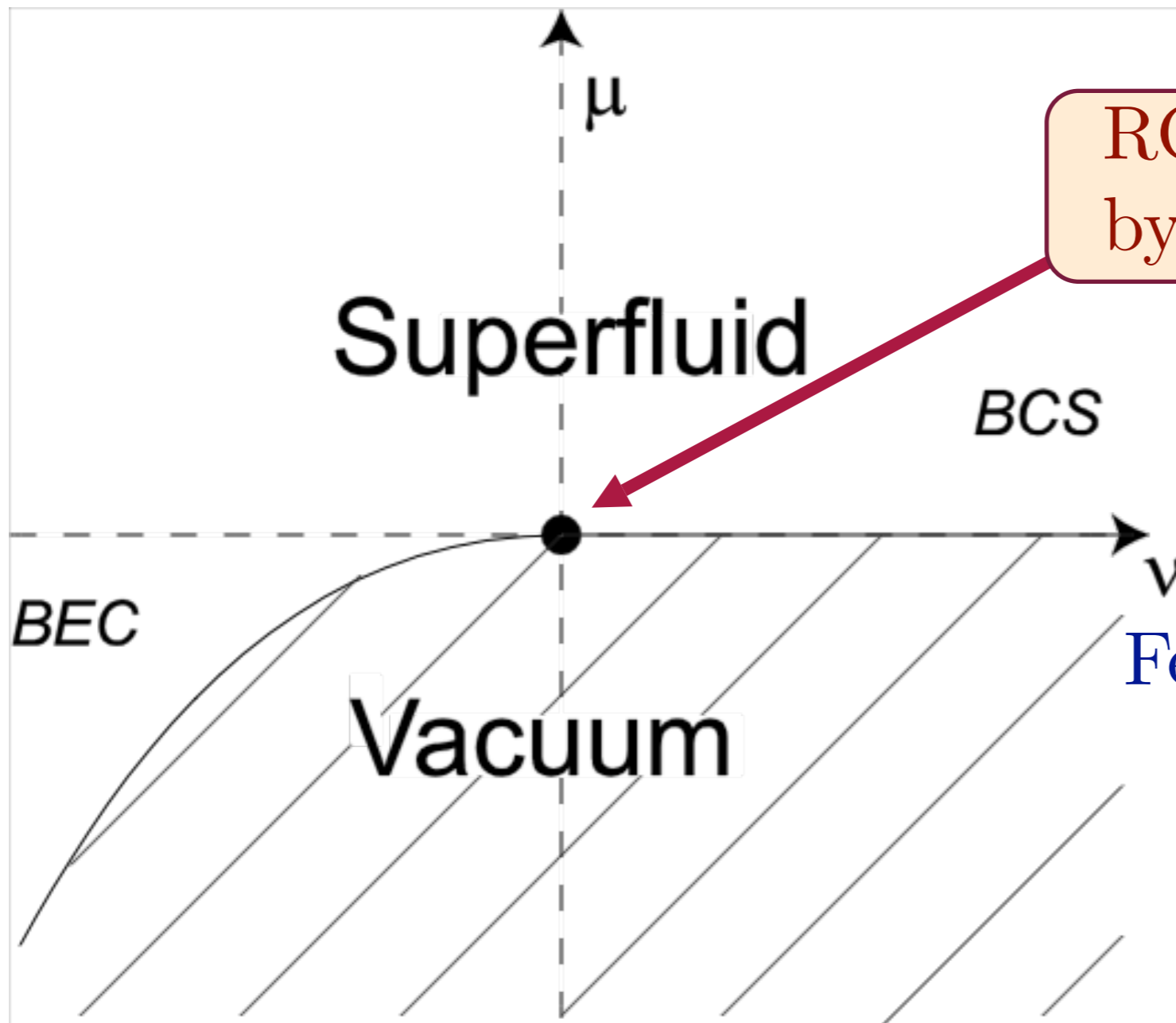




**$S=1/2$  Fermi gas  
at a Feshbach  
resonance**

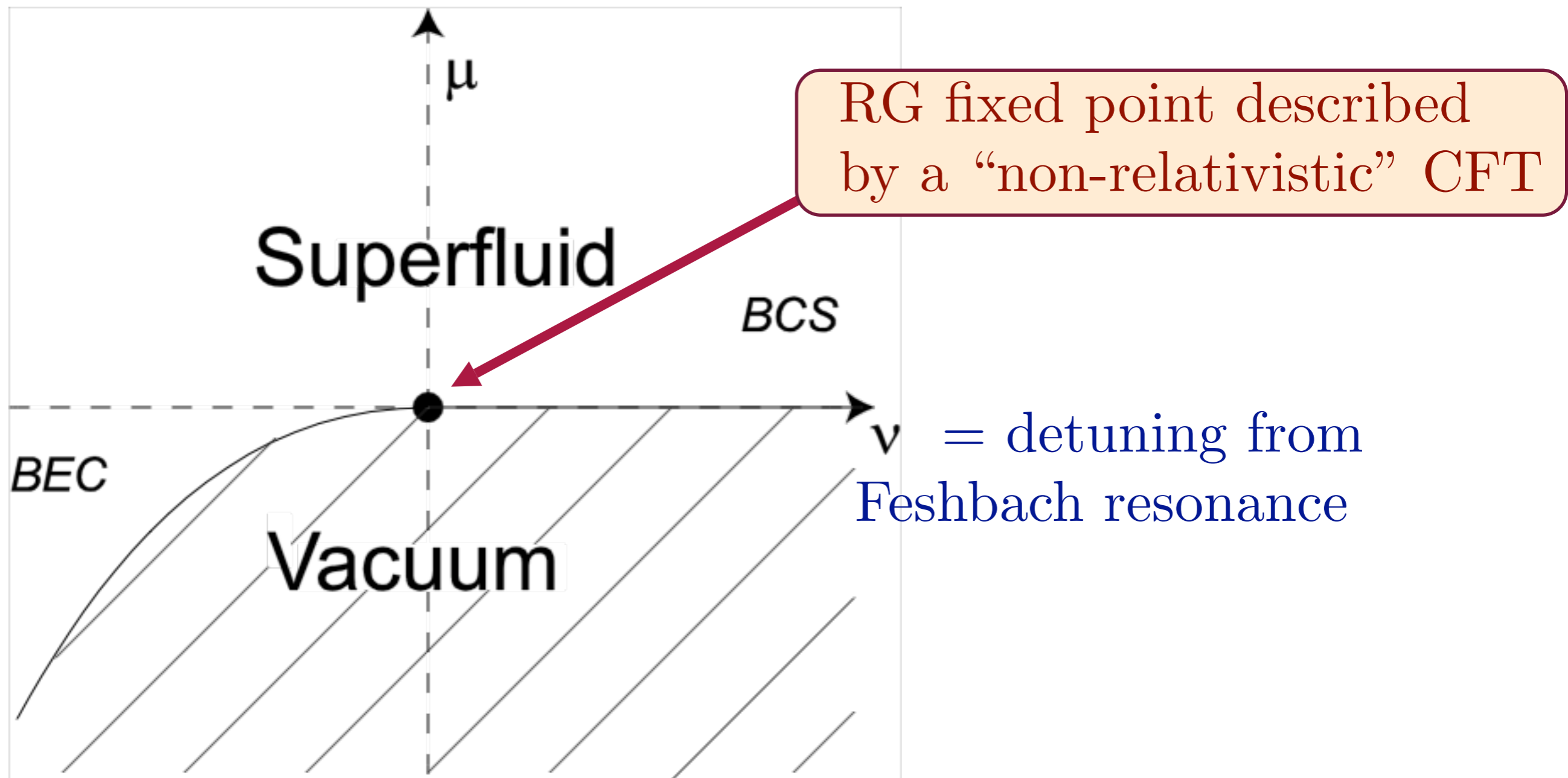


$\nu$  = detuning from  
Feshbach resonance



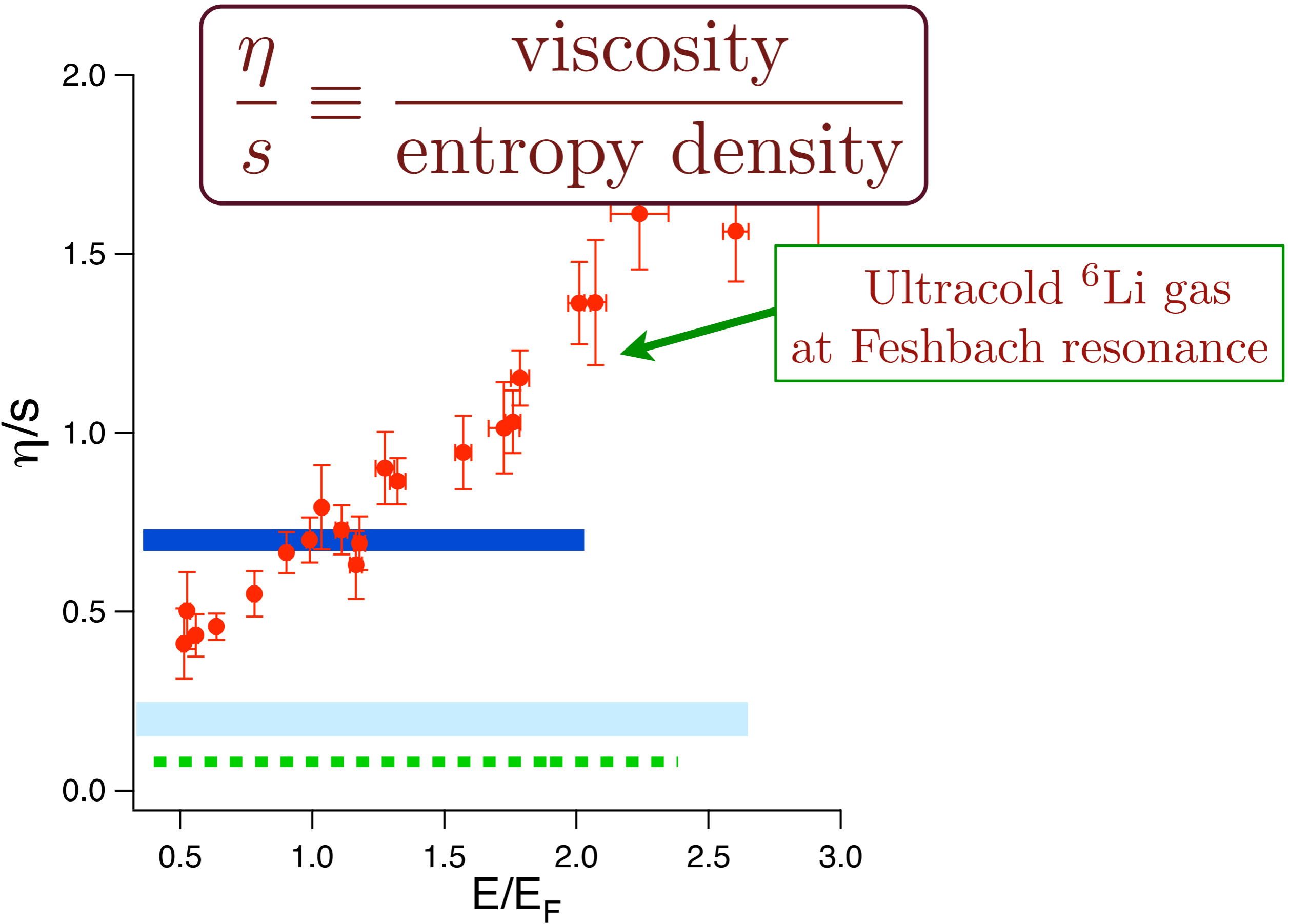
RG fixed point described by a “non-relativistic” CFT

$\nu$  = detuning from Feshbach resonance



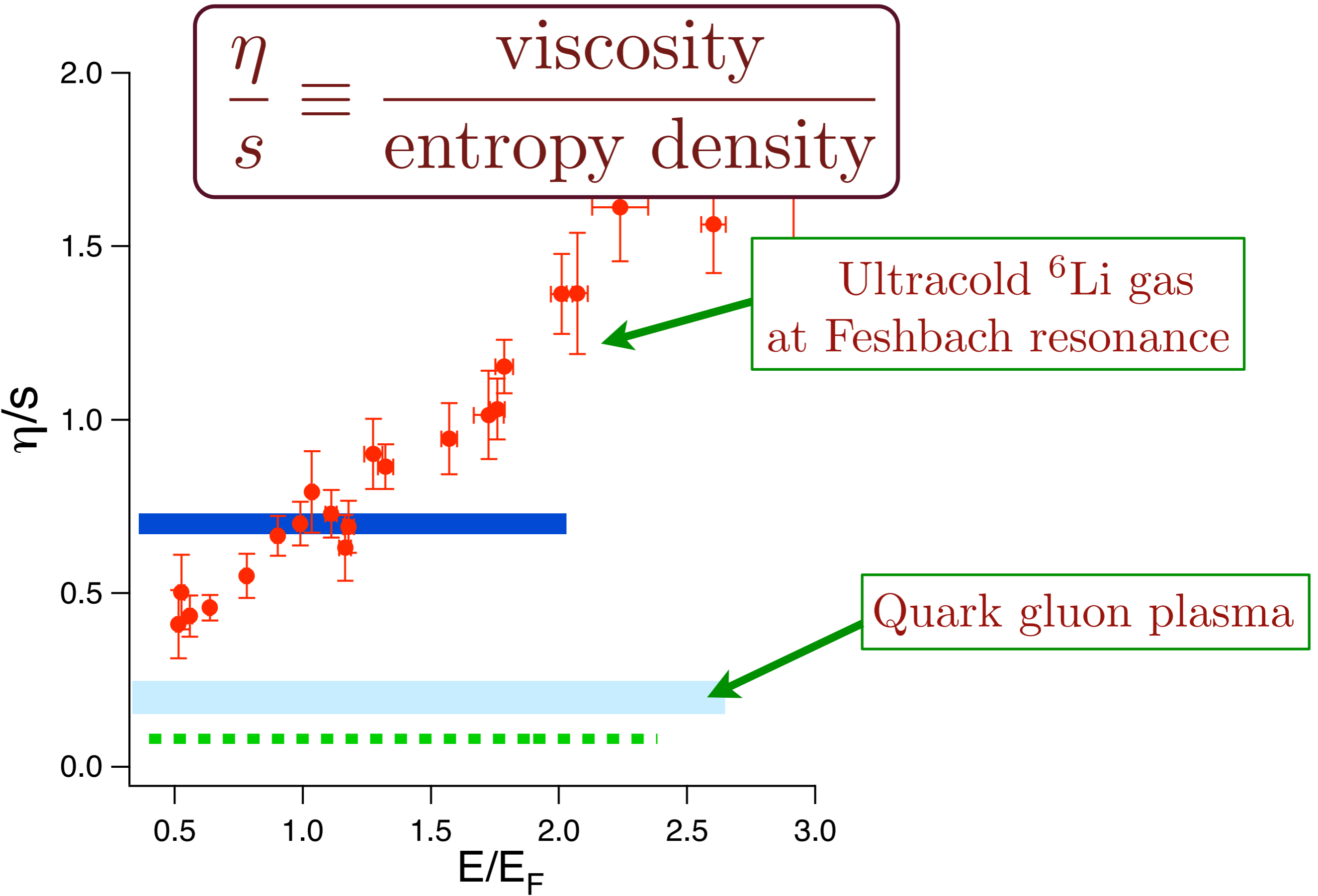
CFT is dual to quantum gravity models on AdS space. Explicit solutions of such gravity models with supersymmetry have been obtained

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.



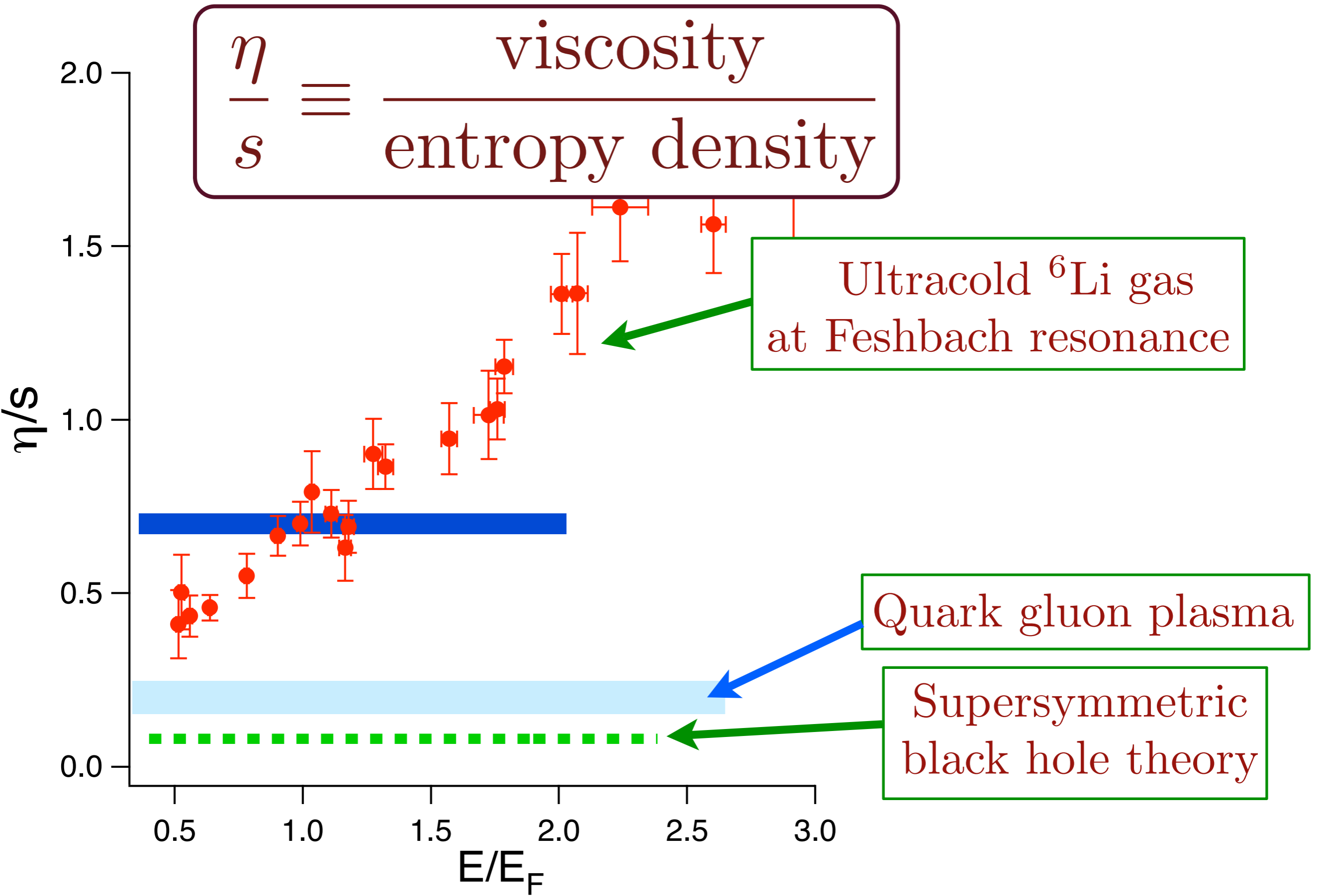
T. Schafer, *Phys. Rev.A* **76**, 063618 (2007).

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



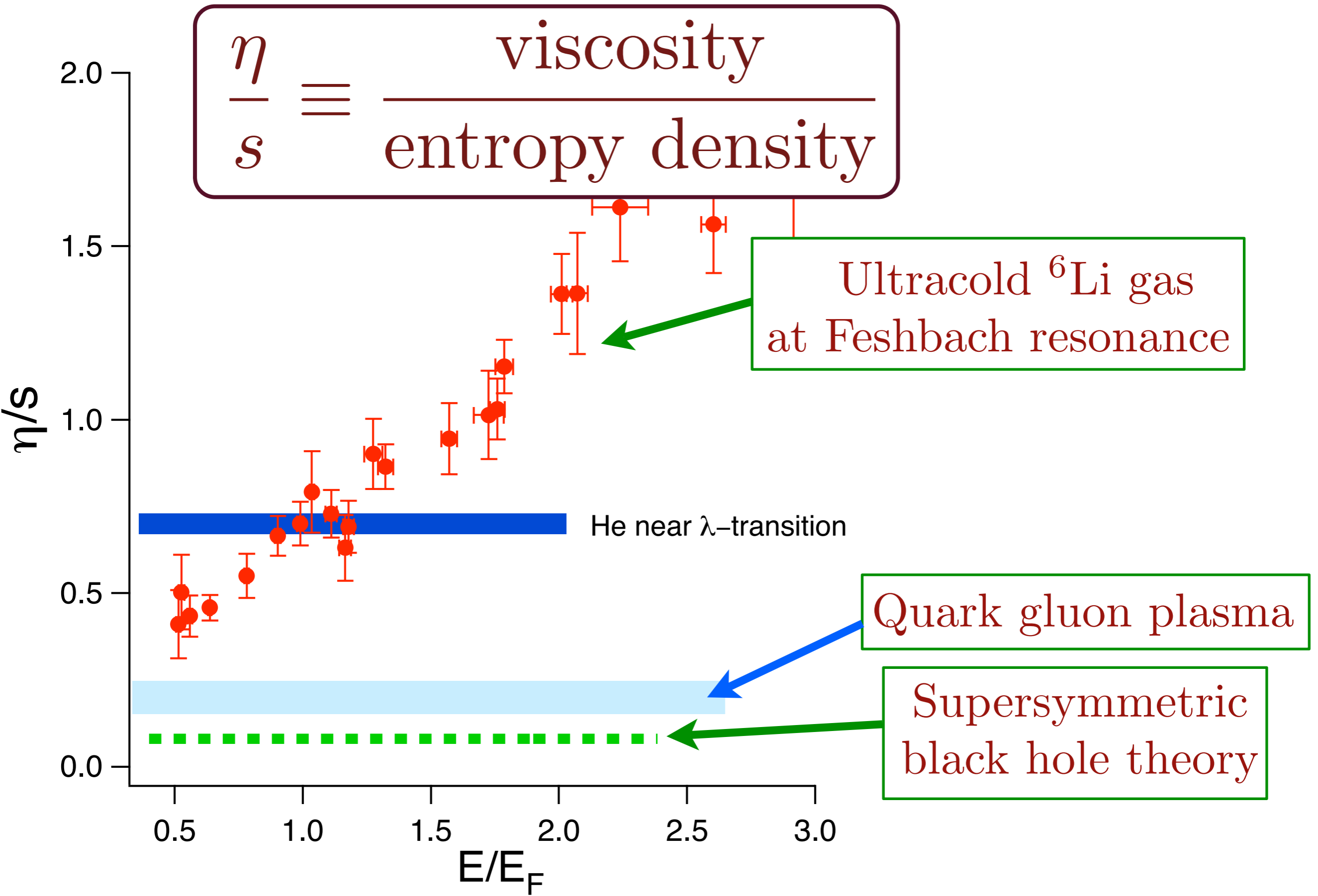
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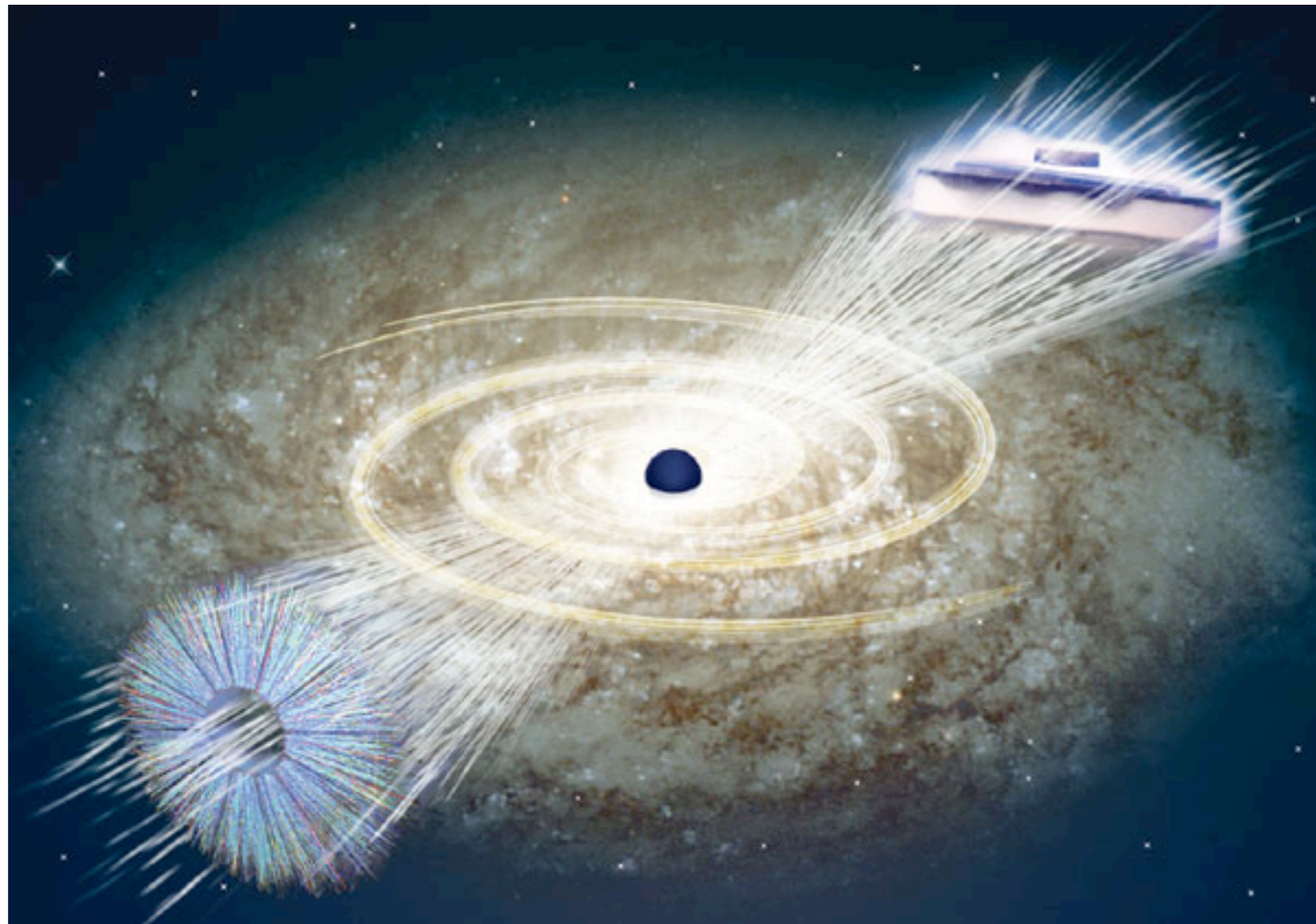
A. Turlapov, J. Kinast, B. Clancy, Le Luo, J. Joseph, J. E. Thomas, *J. Low Temp. Physics* **150**, 567 (2008)

# 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.