

# Paramagnon fractionalization in the pseudogap, and implications for the cuprate phase diagram

Stanford University  
April 19, 2022

Subir Sachdev

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



INSTITUTE FOR  
ADVANCED STUDY





**Yahui Zhang**

arXiv: 2001.09159  
arXiv: 2103.05009



**Alexander  
Nikolaenko**

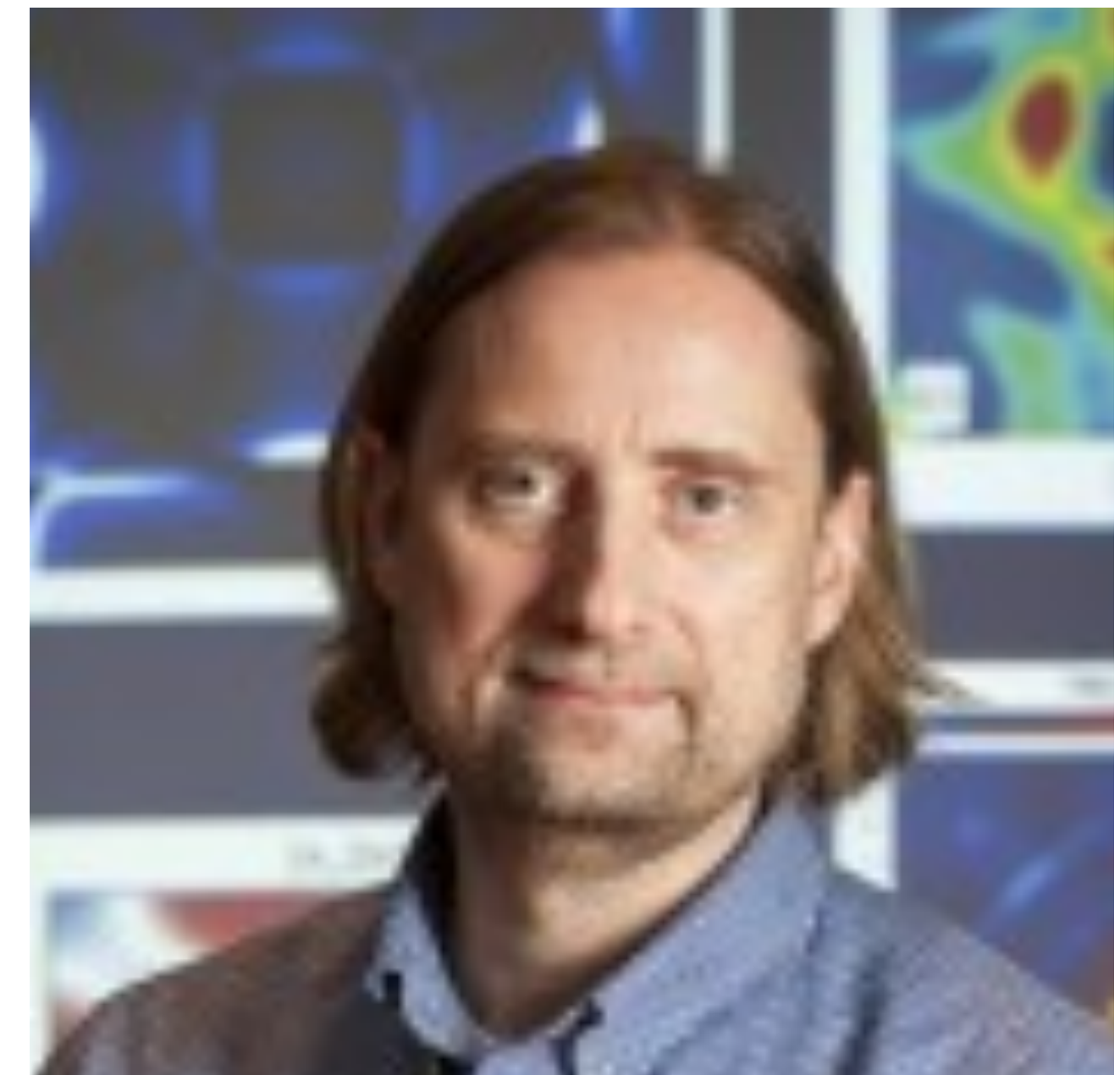
arXiv: 2006.01140  
arXiv: 2111.13703



**Maria  
Tikhanovskaya**



**Eric Mascot**



**Dirk Morr**

1. Luttinger relations - old and new

2. Paramagnon fractionalization in the single band

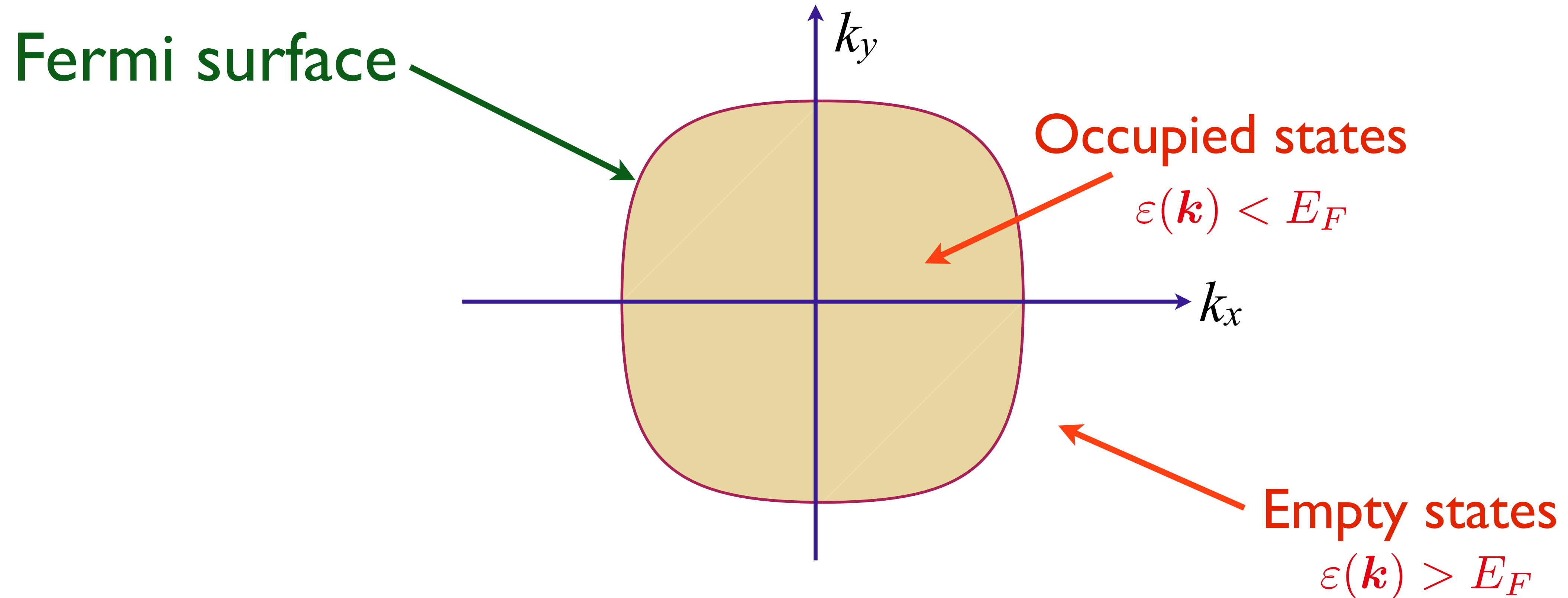
Hubbard model

3. Comparison with photoemission

4. Confinement transition in the random  $t$ - $J$  model

# Luttinger relation

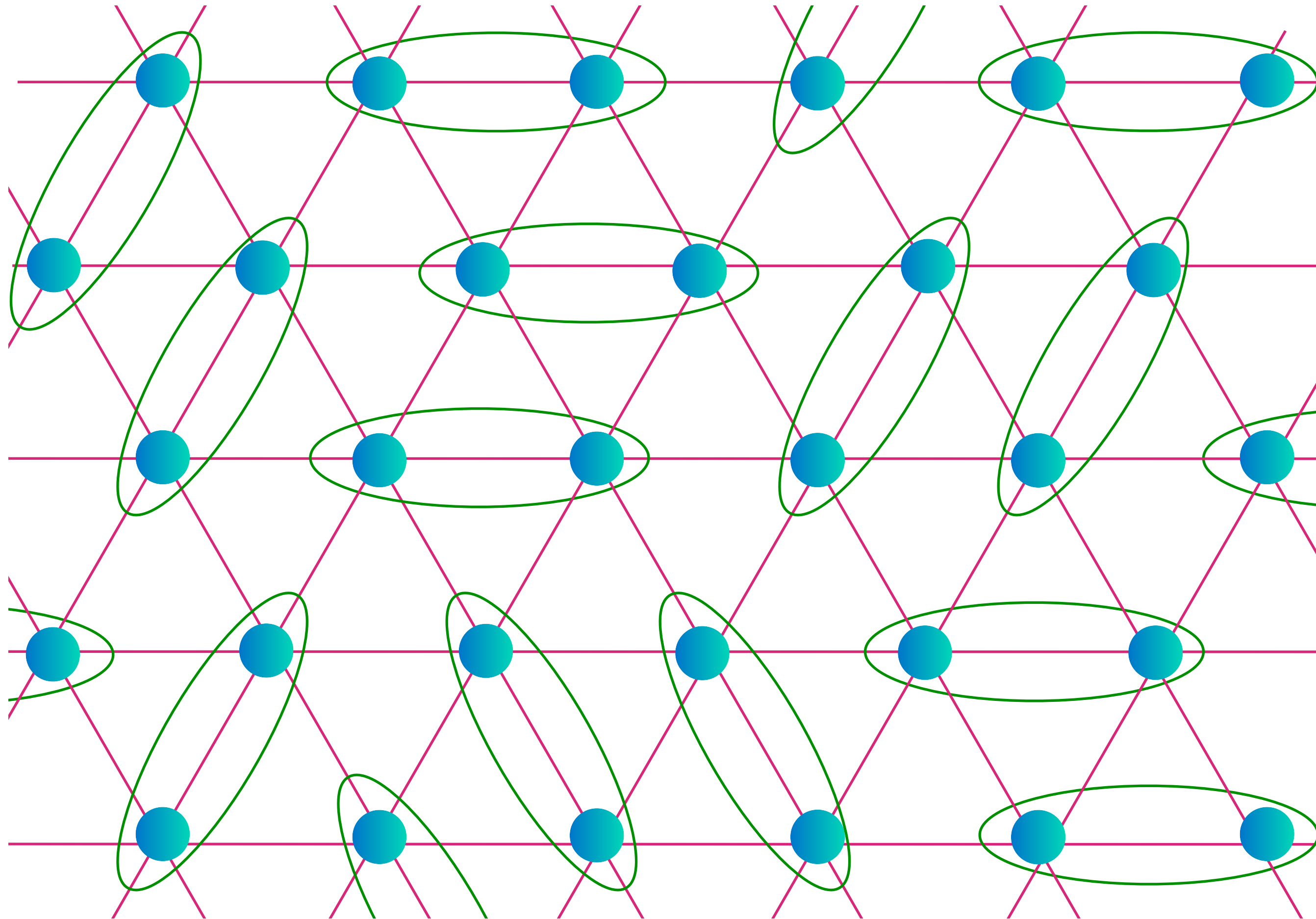
Electrons move with momentum  $\mathbf{k}$  through the lattice with dispersion  $\varepsilon(\mathbf{k})$



$$2 \times \frac{\text{Volume inside Fermi surface}}{(2\pi)^d} = \text{density of electrons (mod 2)}$$

# Mott insulator: Triangular lattice antiferromagnet

Resonating valence bond  
spin liquid



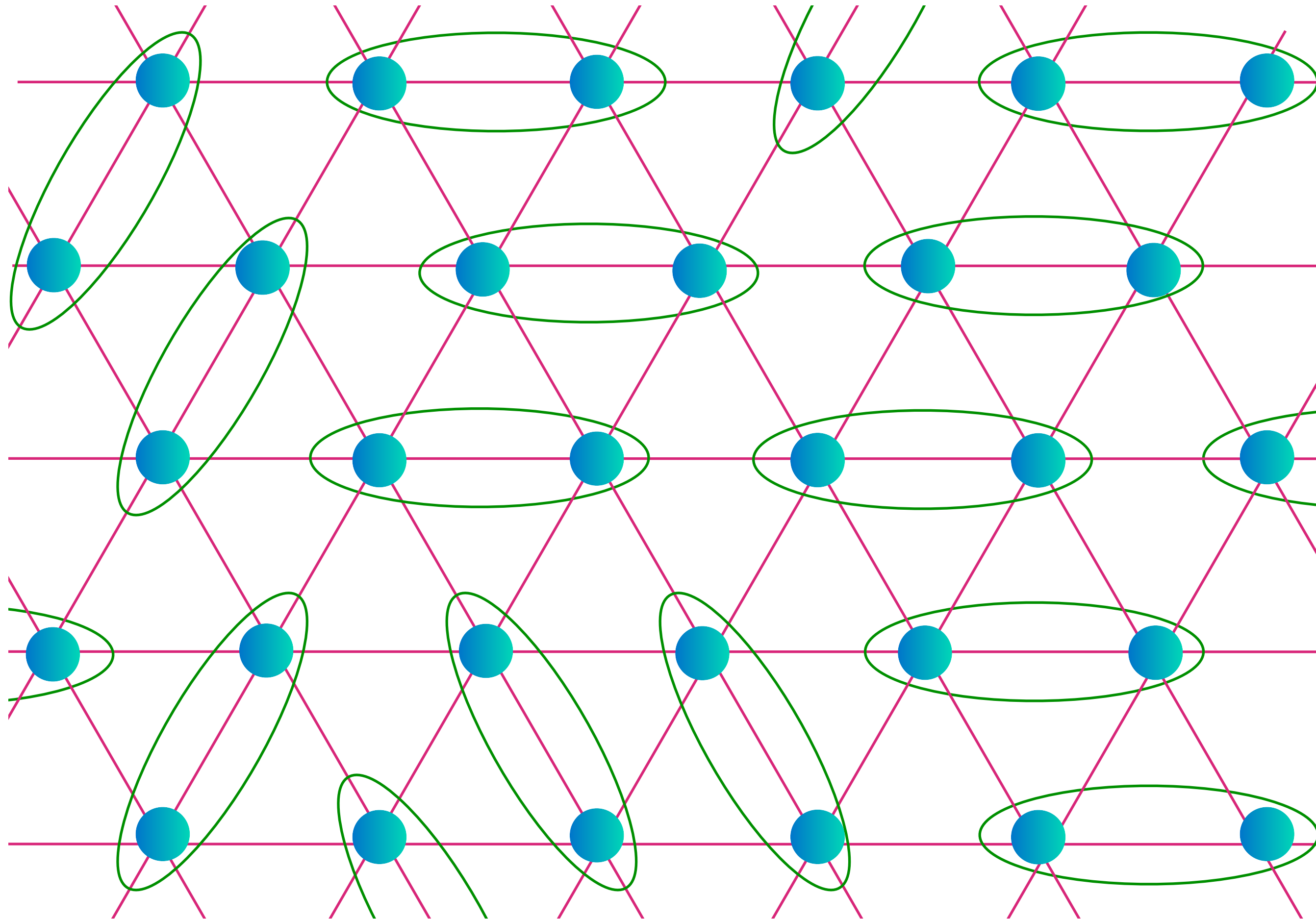
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \\ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$

$$|G\rangle = \sum_{\mathcal{D}} c_{\mathcal{D}} |\mathcal{D}\rangle$$

$\mathcal{D} \rightarrow$  dimer covering  
of lattice

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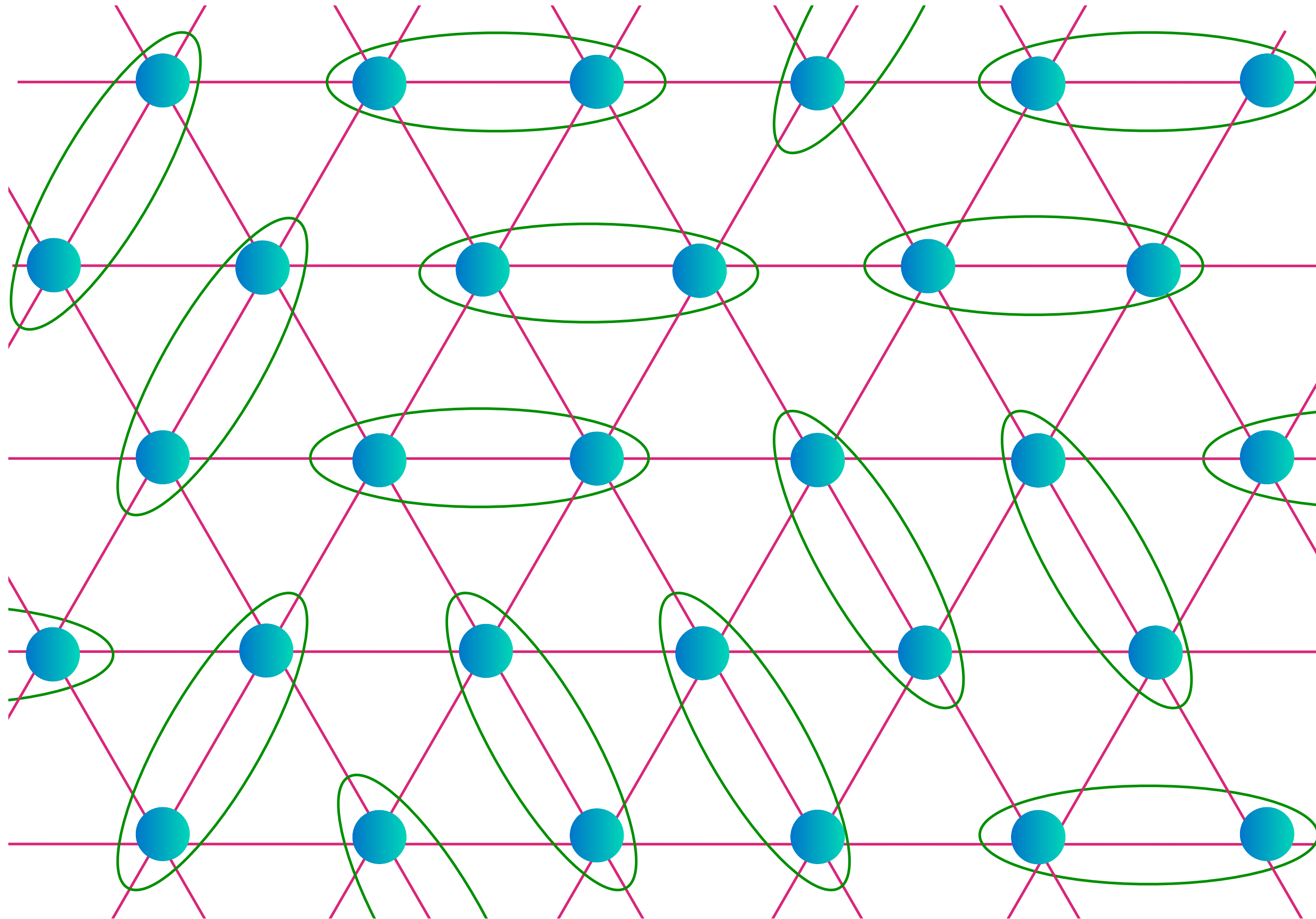
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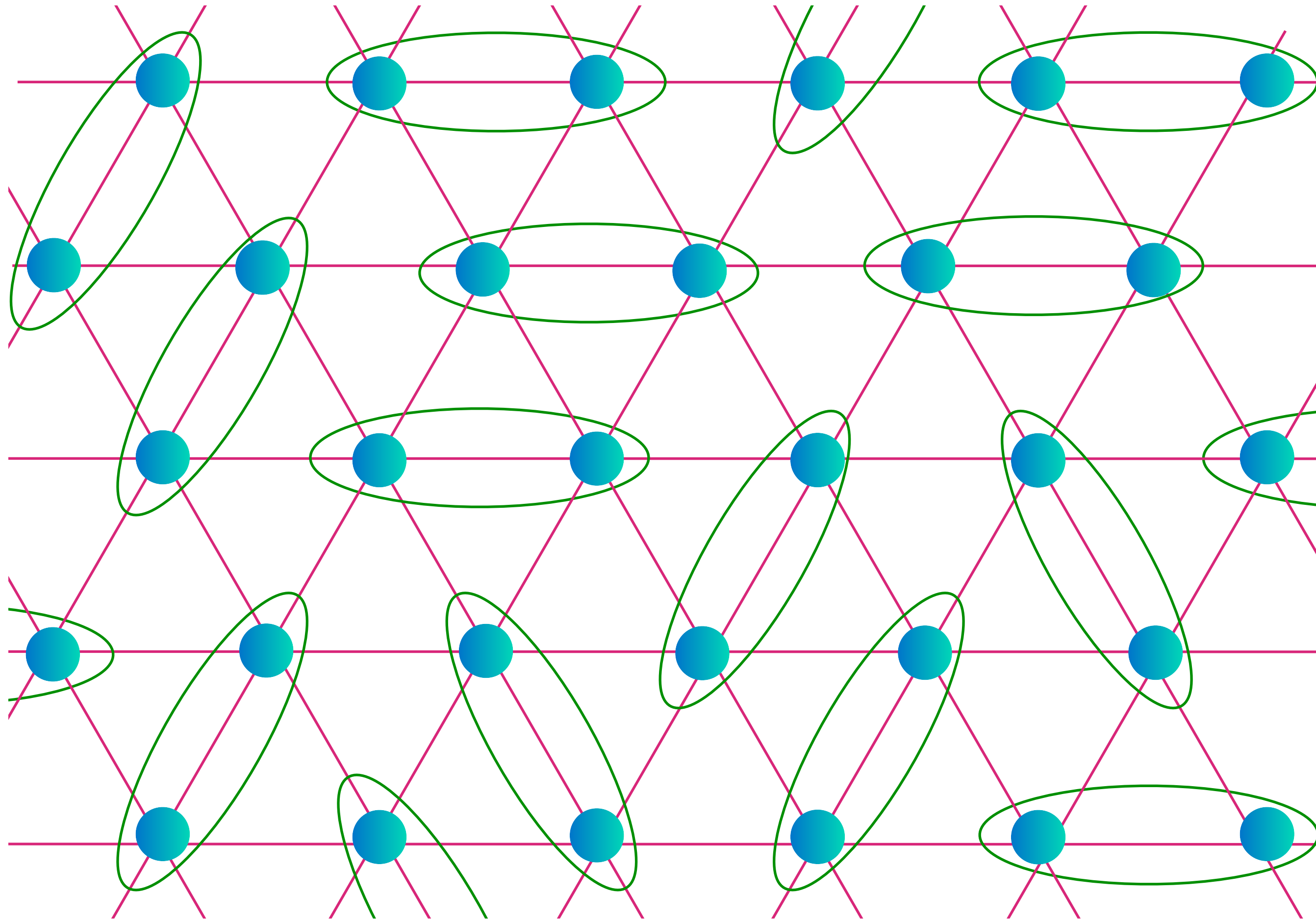
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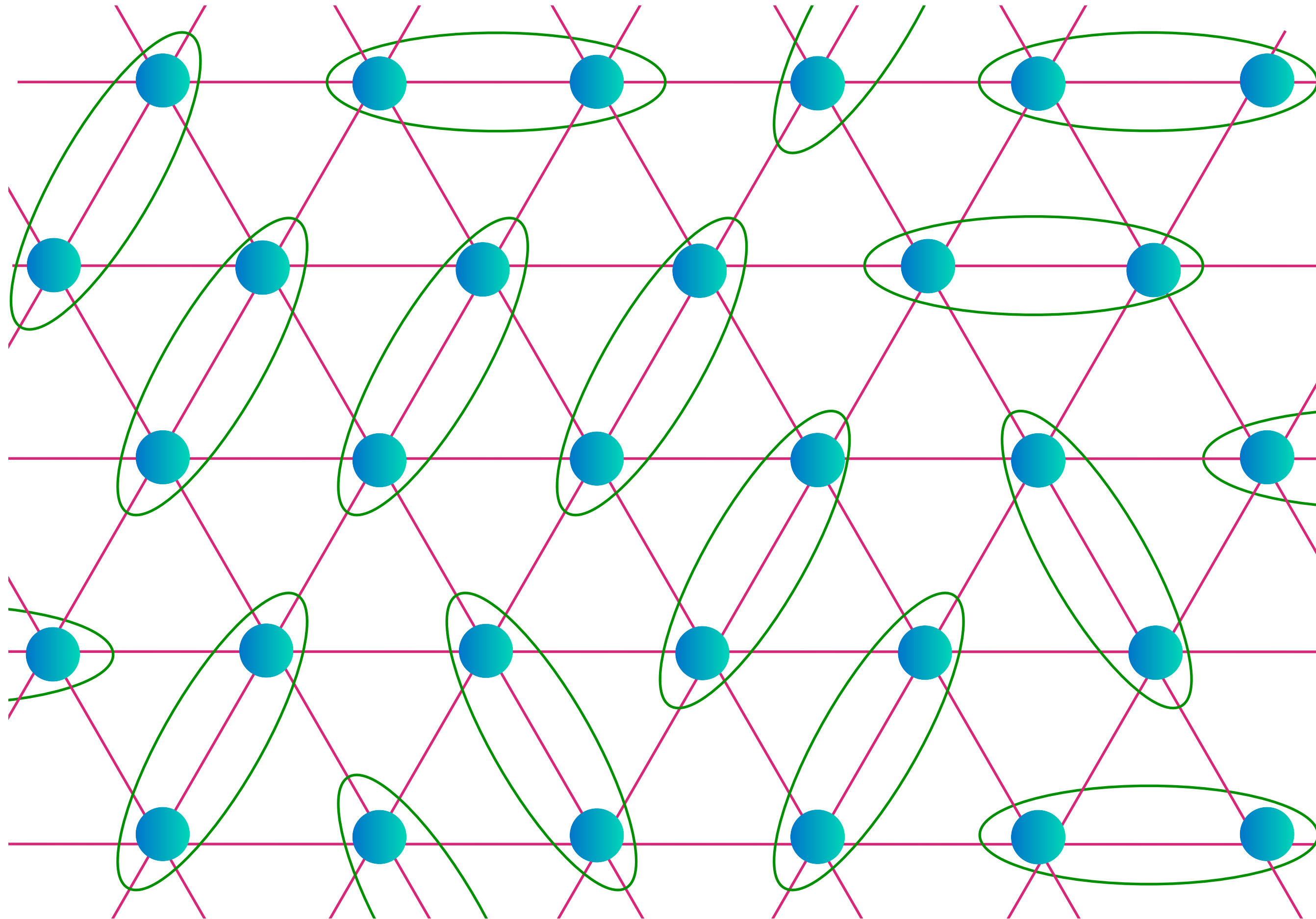
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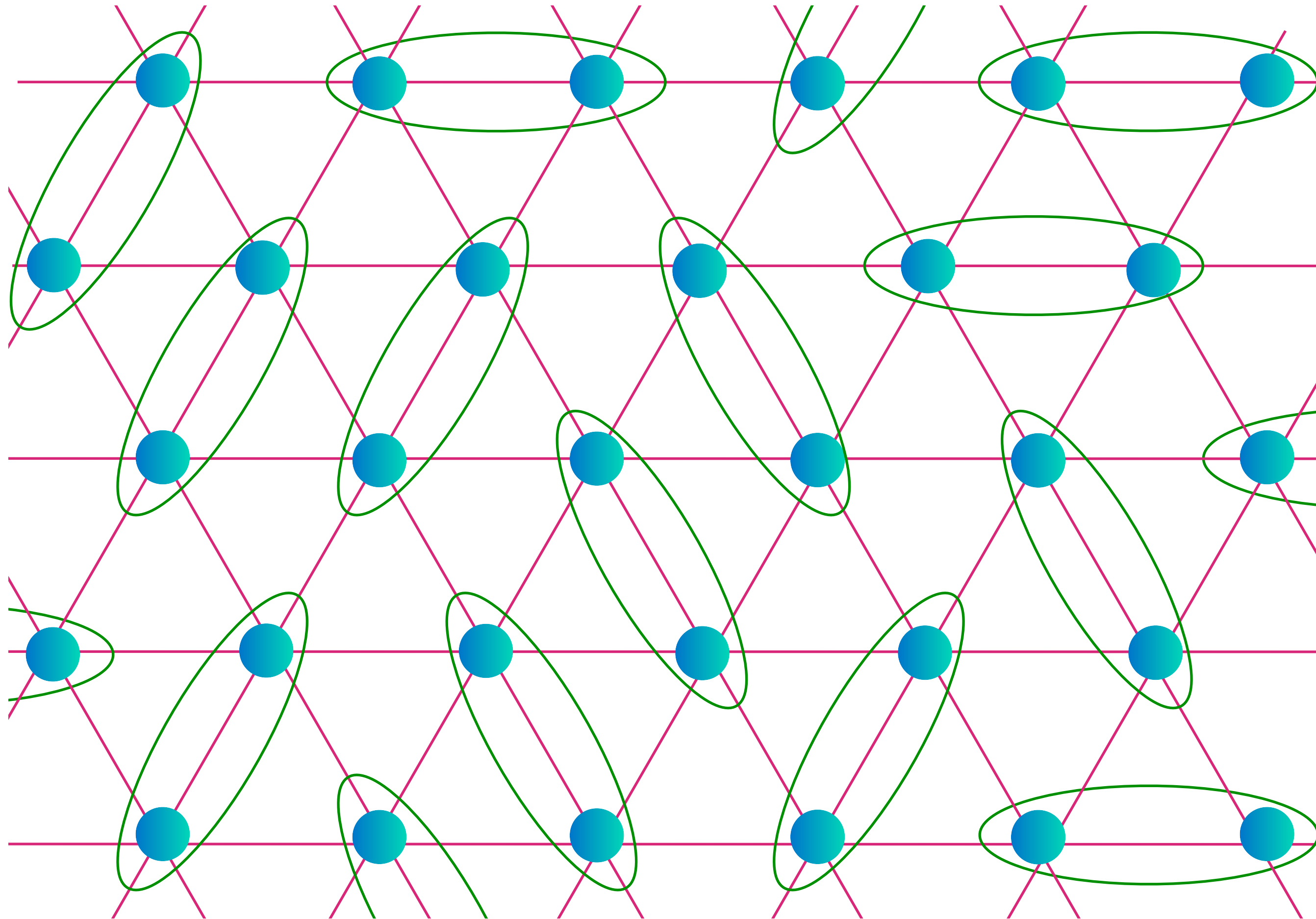
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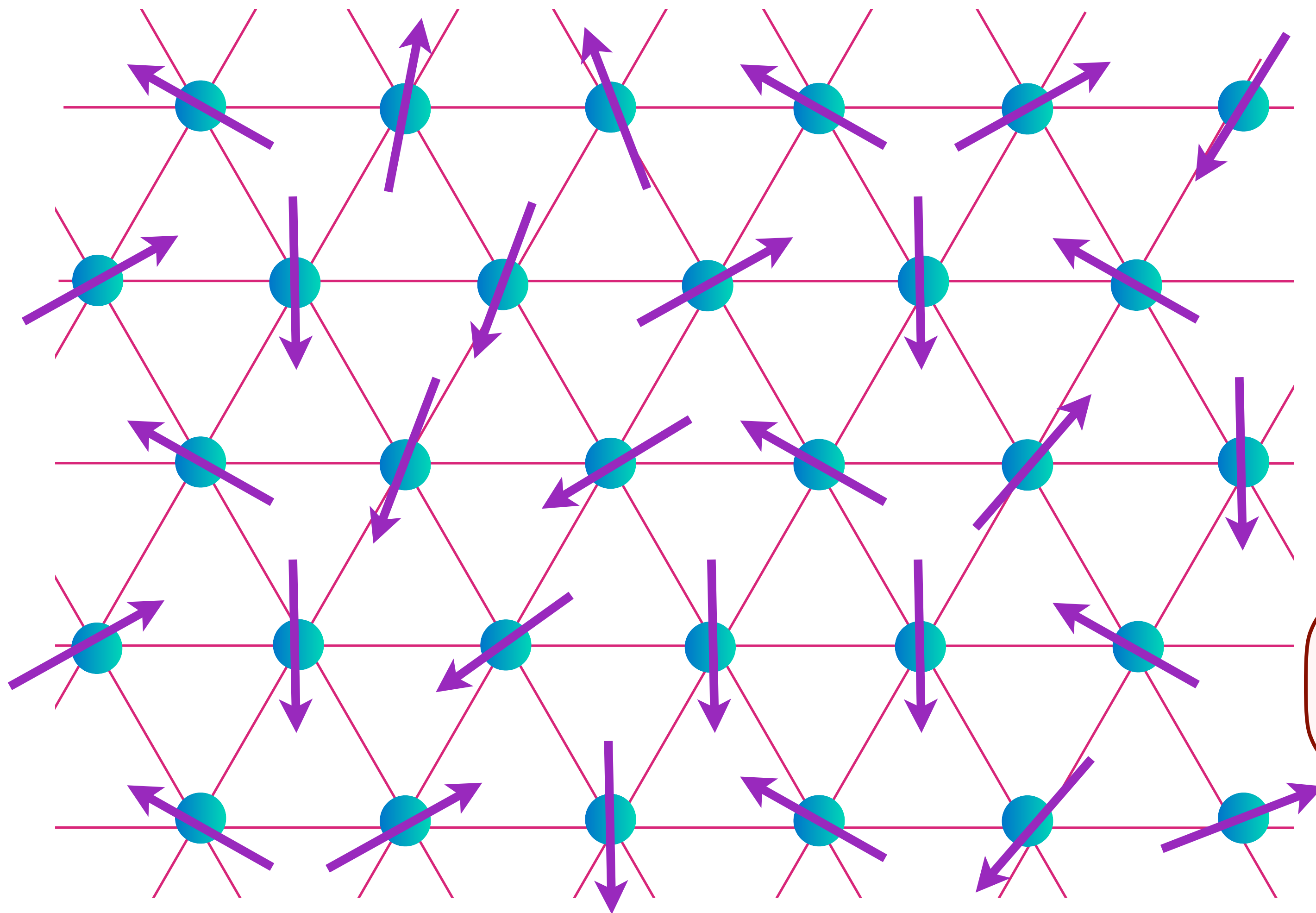
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$\mathcal{D} \rightarrow$  dimer covering  
of lattice

Density of the electrons  
per unit cell = 1,  
but no Fermi surface  
 $\Rightarrow$  Violation of  
Luttinger relation

# Kondo lattice



Kondo  
exchange  
 $J_K$

$c$  electrons

Density of the electrons  
per unit cell =  $1 + p$

$f$  electrons

# Kondo lattice: HFL phase

$c$  and  $f$  electrons

Kondo  
exchange  
 $J_K$

Density of the electrons  
per unit cell =  $1 + p$ ,  
Fermi surface size =  $1 + p$ .  
Luttinger volume “large” Fermi surface.

# Kondo lattice: HFL phase

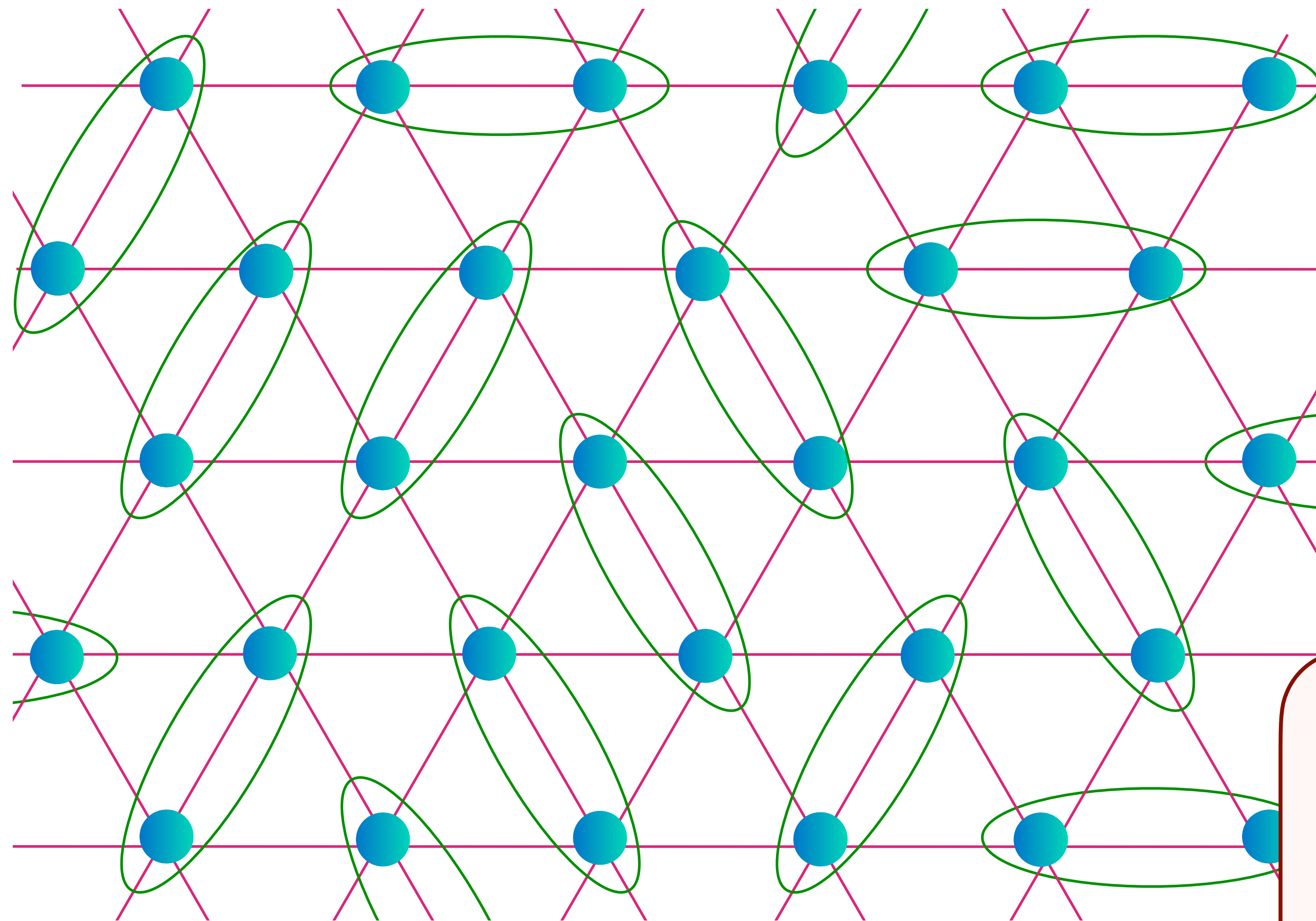
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Luttinger volume “large” Fermi surface.

$|\text{HFL}\rangle = [\text{Projection onto one } f \text{ per site}] \otimes |\text{Slater determinant of } (c, f)\rangle$

# Kondo lattice: FL\* phase



Kondo  
exchange

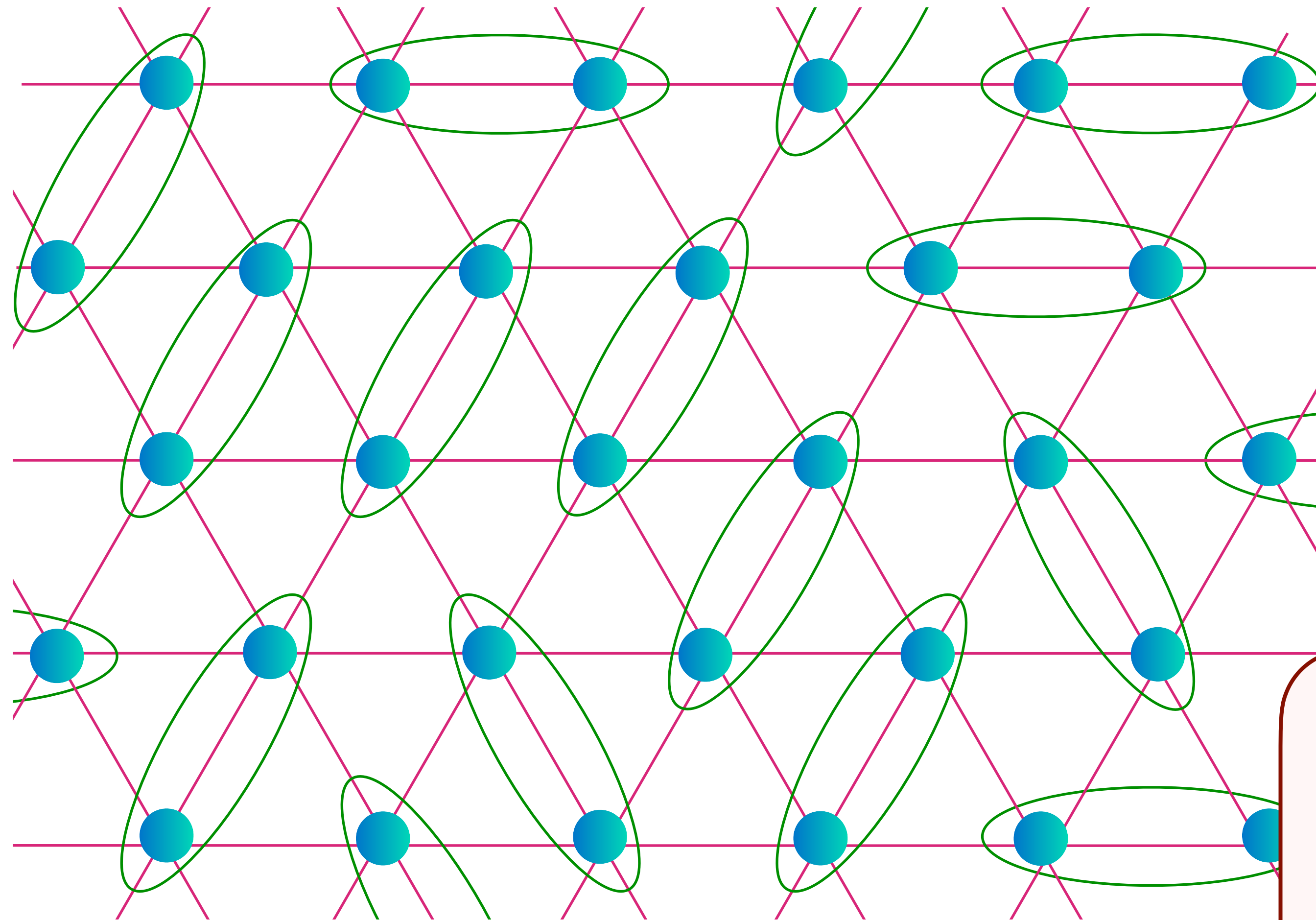
$J_K$

$c$  electrons

$f$  electrons

Density of the electrons  
per unit cell =  $1 + p$ ,  
Fermi surface size =  $p$   
Non-Luttinger volume “small” Fermi  
surface size is stable to all orders in  $J_K$ .

# Kondo lattice: FL\* phase



Kondo  
exchange

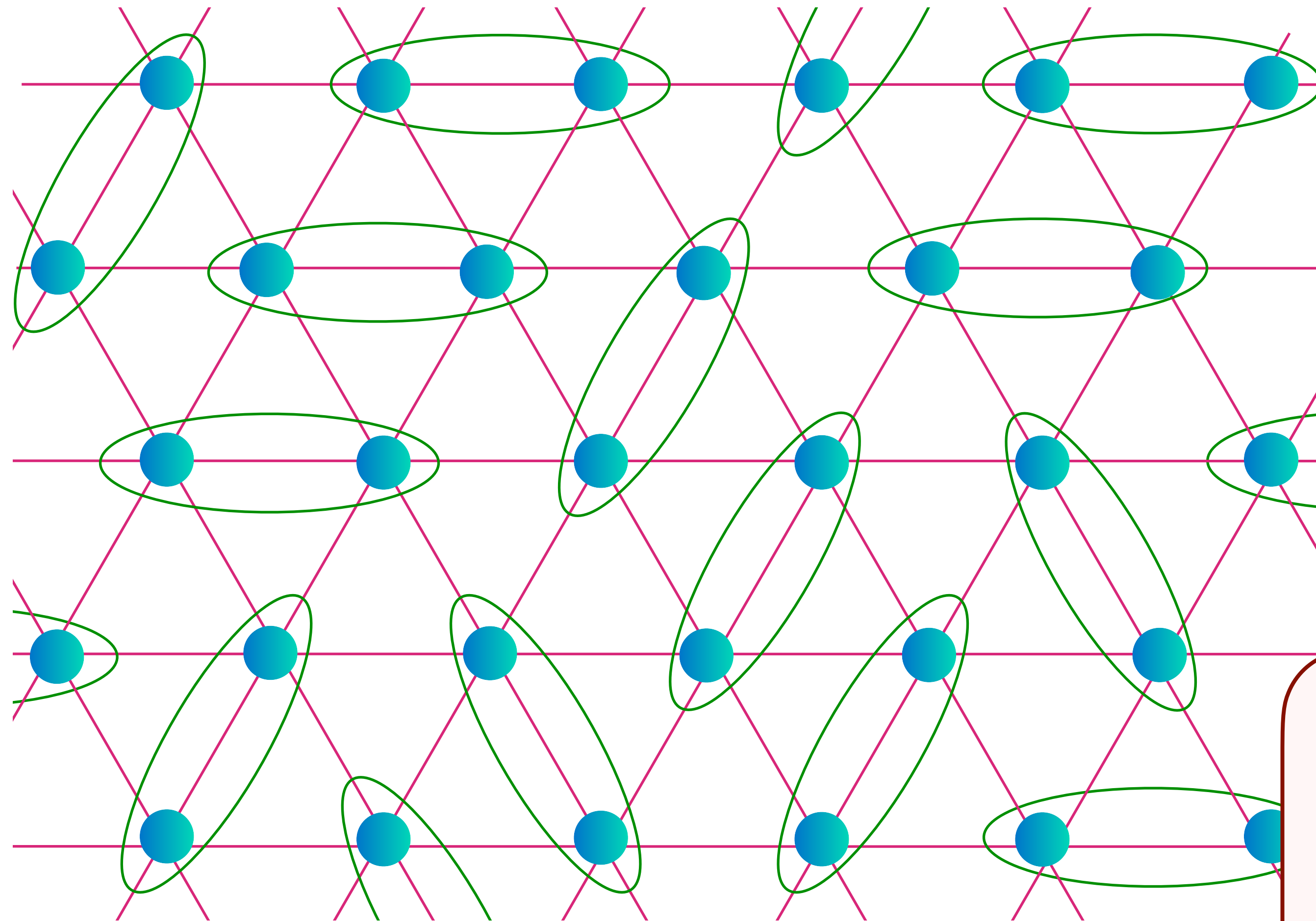
$J_K$

$c$  electrons

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Density of the electrons  
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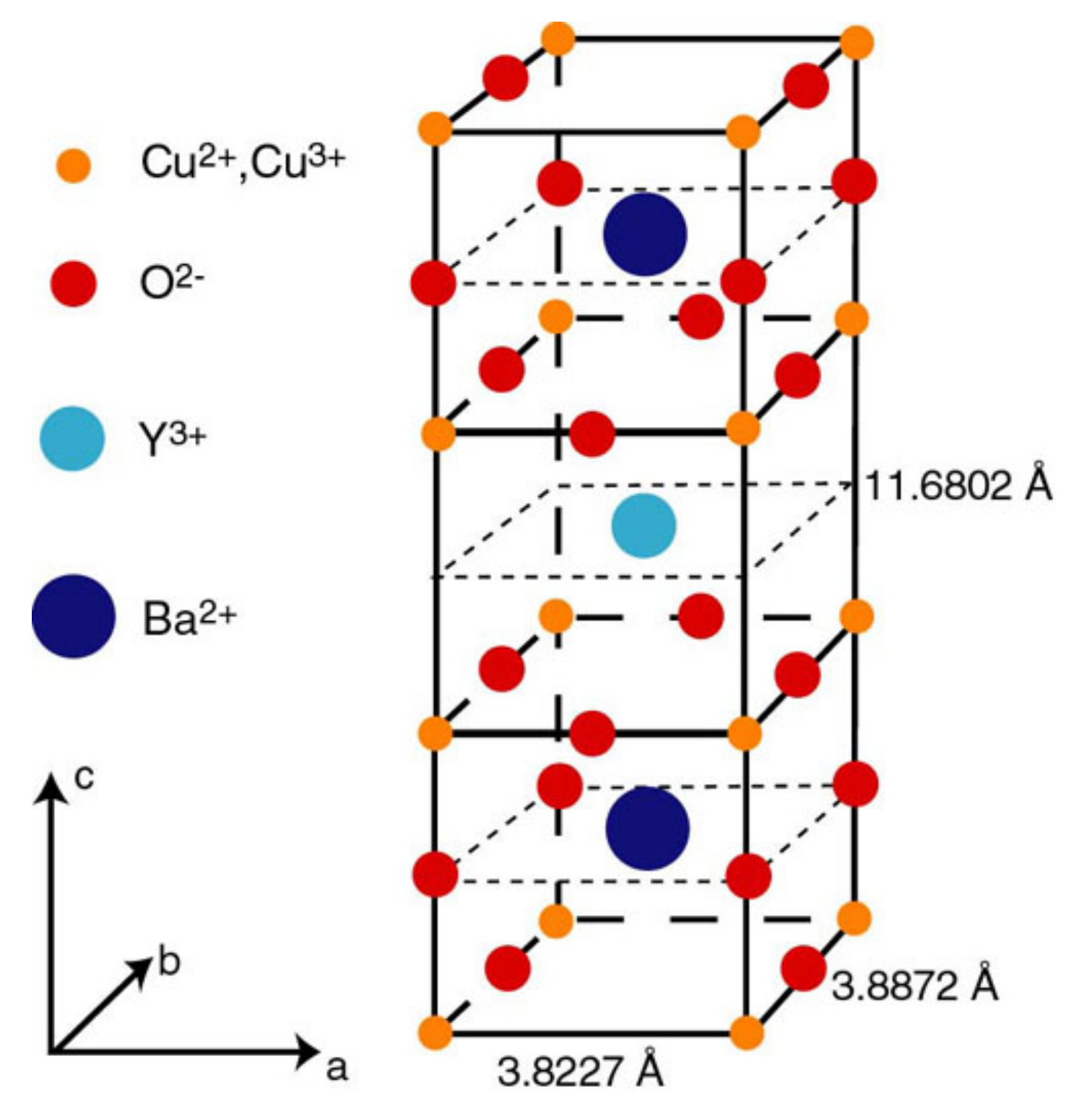
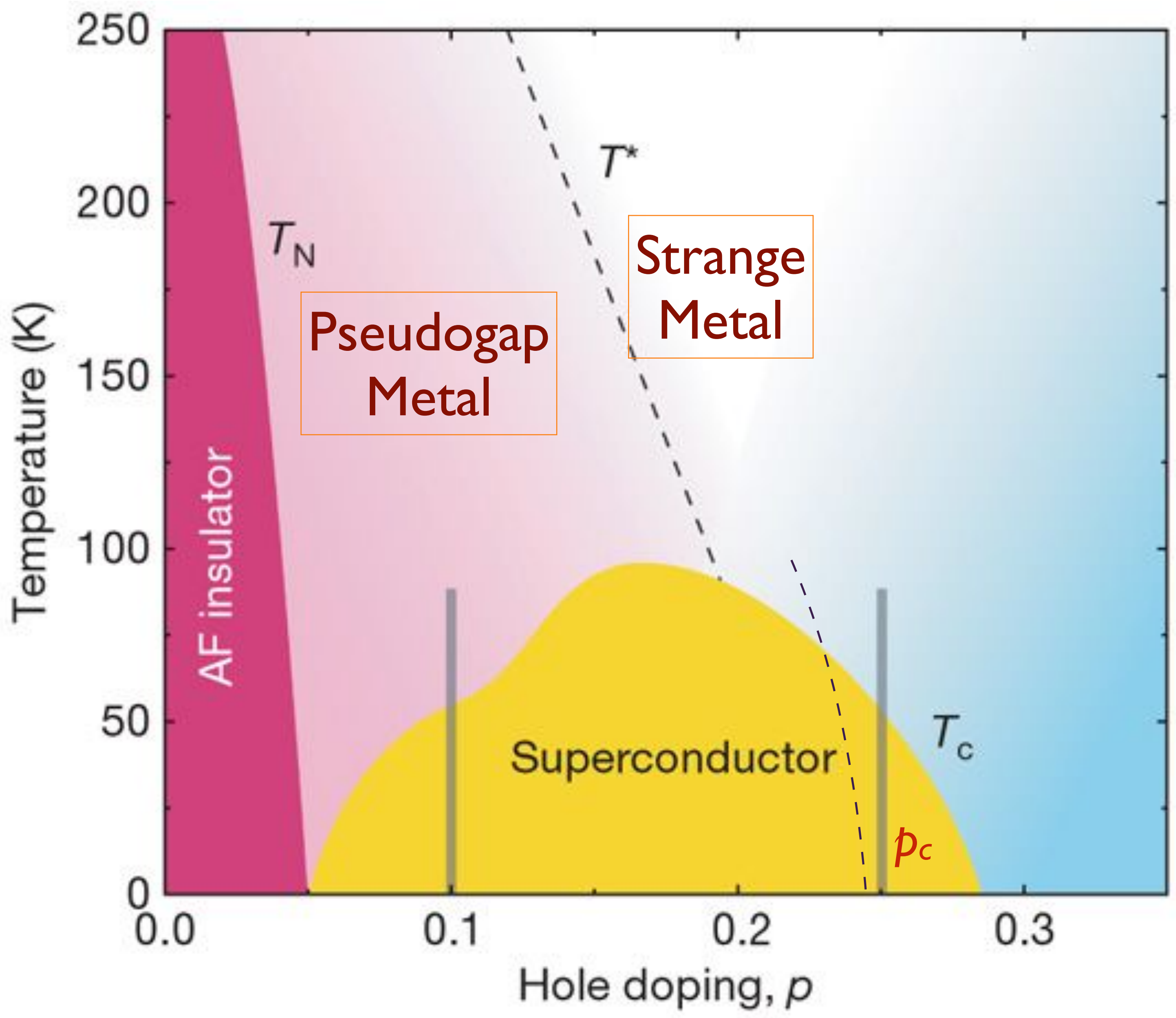
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2. Paramagnon fractionalization in the single band

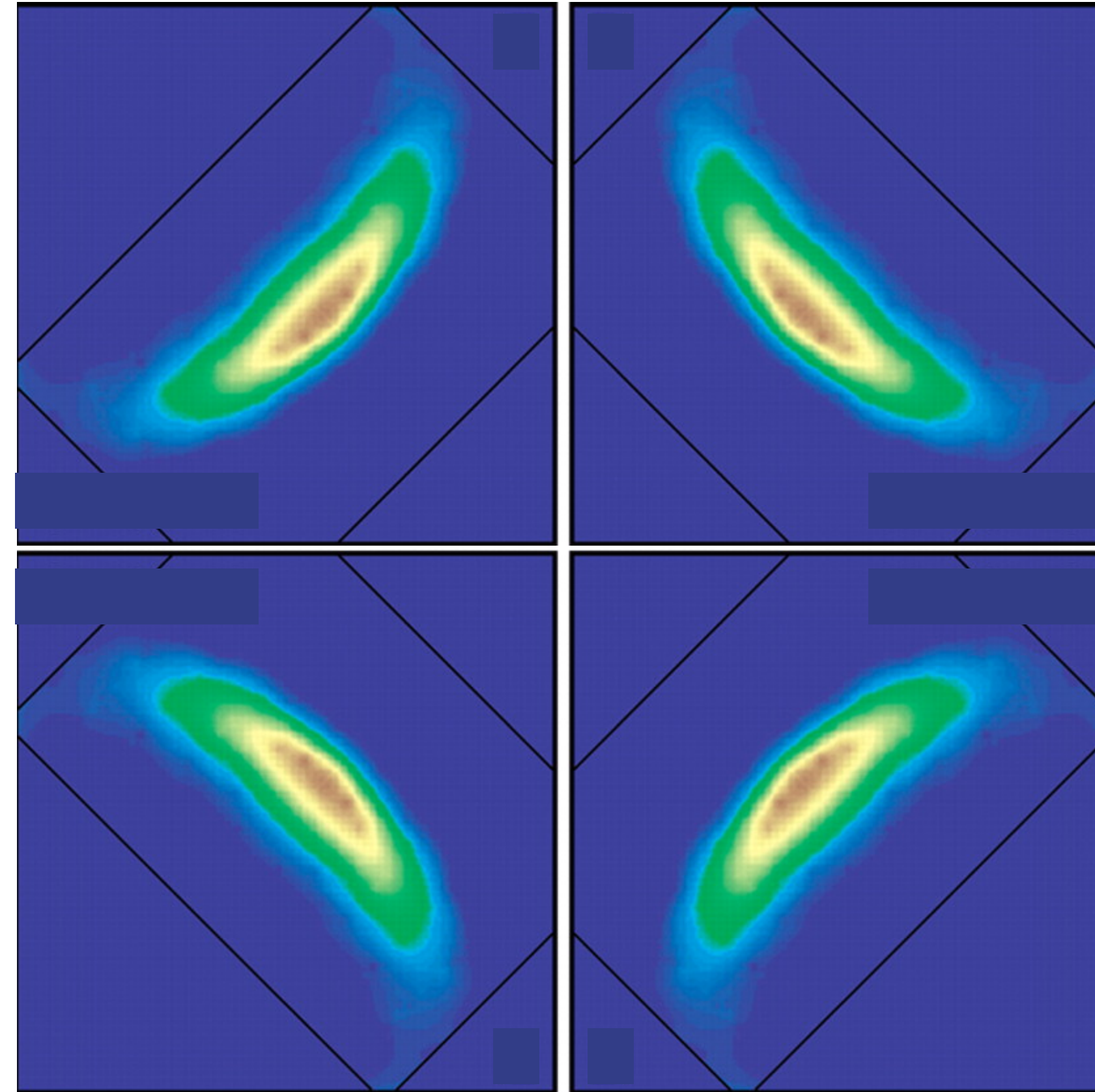
Hubbard model

3. Comparison with photoemission

4. Confinement transition in the random  $t$ - $J$  model



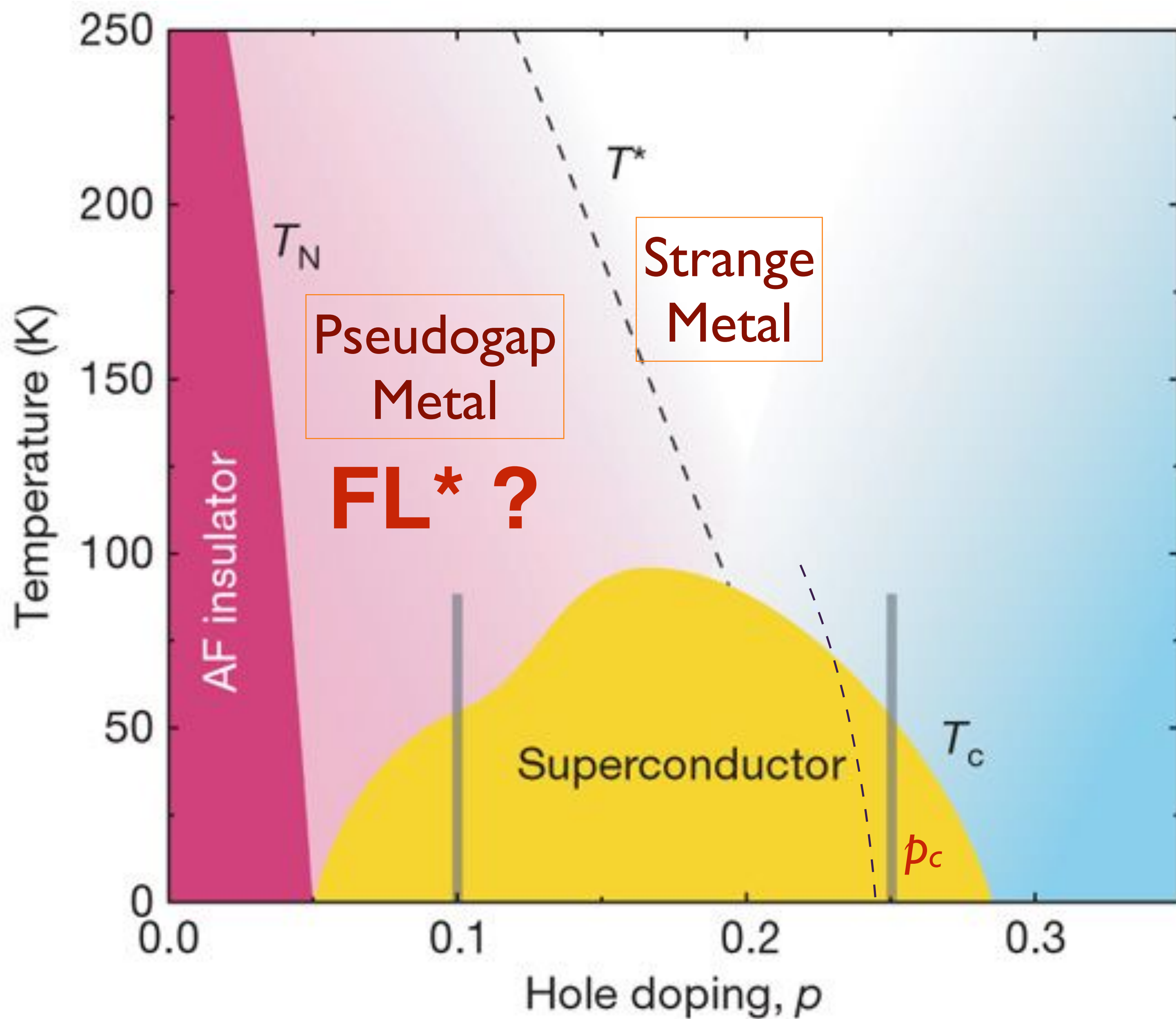
# Photoemission at small $p$



$\text{Ca}_{2-x}\text{Na}_x\text{CuO}_2\text{Cl}_2$   
at  $x = 0.10$

*“Fermi arcs”*

Kyle M. Shen, F. Ronning, D. H. Lu, F. Baumberger, N. J. C. Ingle, W. S. Lee, W. Meevasana, Y. Kohsaka, M. Azuma, M. Takano, H. Takagi, Z.-X. Shen, *Science* **307**, 901 (2005)



Can a FL\* state in a *single-band* Hubbard model describe the pseudogap metal over an intermediate temperature range, along with a crossover/transition to confinement at lower temperatures?

The pseudogap metal = FL\*

Main lesson from the Kondo lattice for Hubbard model

For  $t \gg J$ ,

do not fractionalize the mobile electron,  $c_{i\sigma} \neq f_{i\sigma} b_i^\dagger$  or  $f_i b_{i\sigma}^\dagger$ .

Fractionalize the paramagnon instead!

# Paramagnon theory of the Hubbard model

$$H = - \sum_{i < j} t_{ij} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} + U \sum_i \left( n_{i\uparrow} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( n_{i\downarrow} - \frac{1}{2} \right) - \mu \sum_i c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{i\sigma}$$

We use the operator equation (valid on each site  $i$ ):

$$U \left( n_\uparrow - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( n_\downarrow - \frac{1}{2} \right) = -\frac{2U}{3} \mathbf{S}^2 + \frac{U}{4}$$

Then we decouple the interaction via

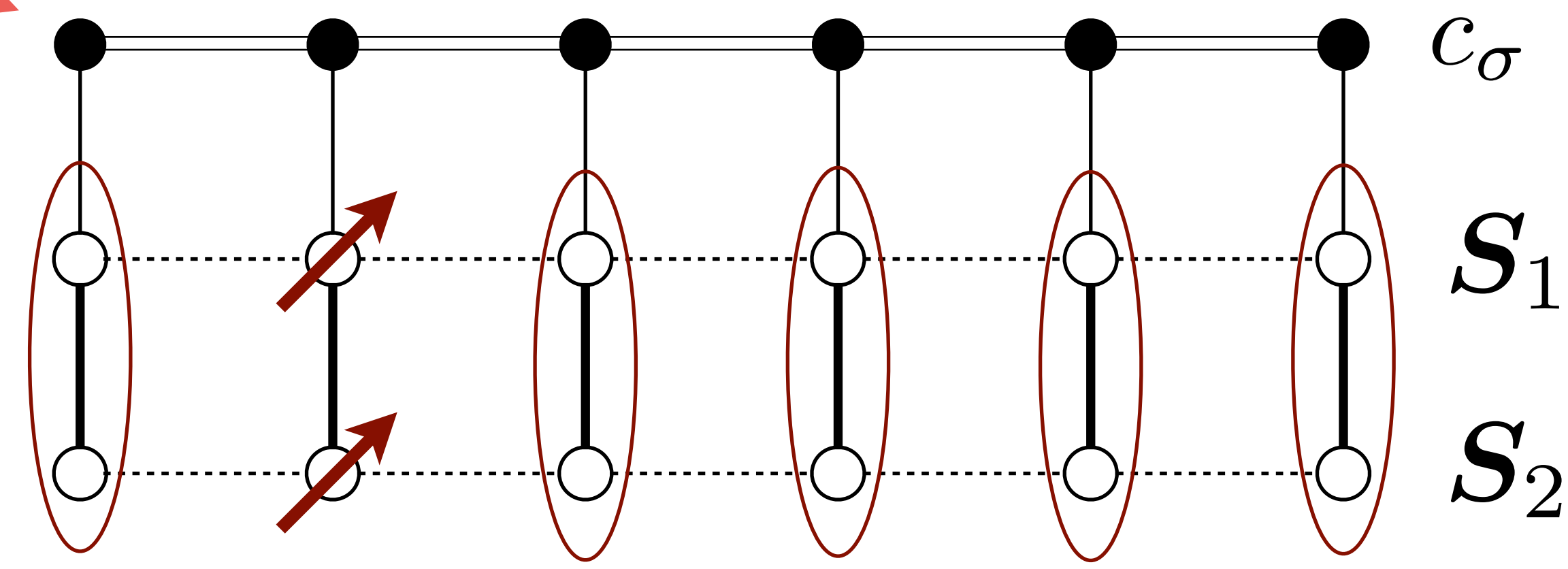
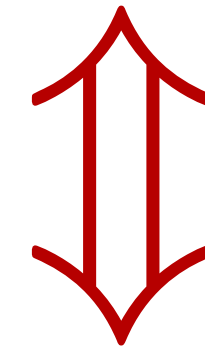
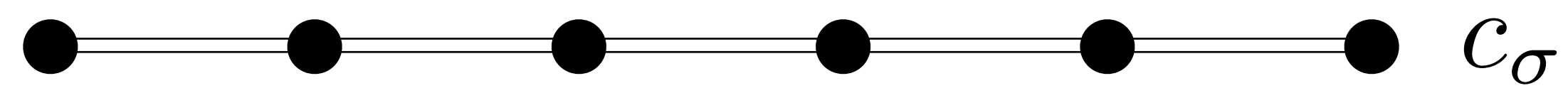
$$\exp \left( \frac{2U}{3} \sum_i \int d\tau \mathbf{S}_i^2 \right) = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi_i(\tau) \exp \left( - \sum_i \int d\tau \left[ \frac{3}{8U} \Phi_i^2 - \Phi_i \cdot c_{i\sigma}^\dagger \frac{\tau_{\sigma\sigma'}}{2} c_{i\sigma'} \right] \right)$$

This yields the ‘Scalapino-Pines-Chubukov-Schmalian...’ theory for a ‘paramagnon quantum rotor’  $\Phi_i$  coupled to otherwise free fermions  $c_{i\sigma}$ .

# Paramagnon theory of the Hubbard model

Free electrons of density  $1-p$

Hubbard model of density  $1-p$



Ancilla qubits

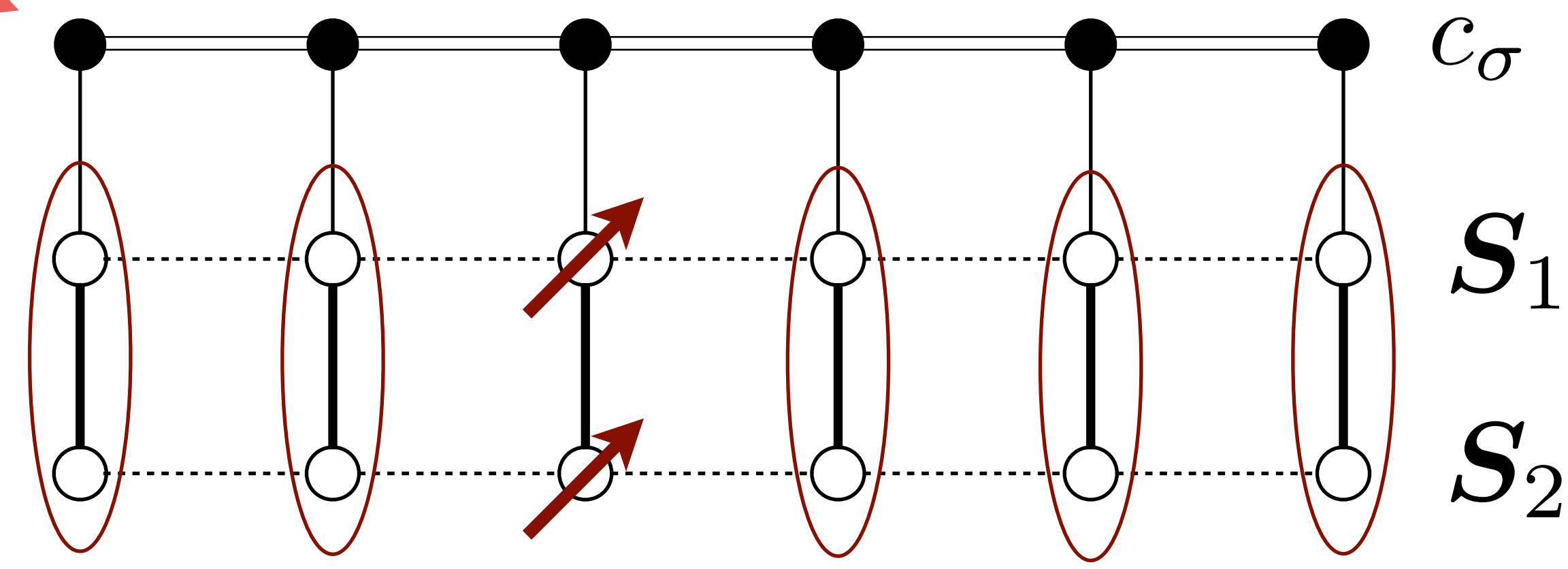
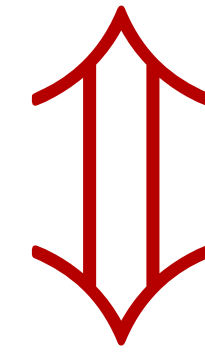
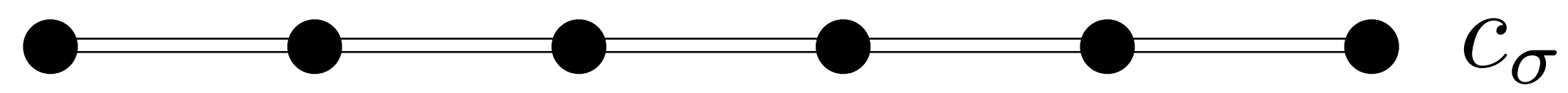
$\Phi$  paramagnon

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{paramagnon}} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} c_{\mathbf{p}\sigma}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} - \lambda \sum_i c_{i\sigma}^\dagger \frac{\tau_{\sigma\sigma'}}{2} c_{i\sigma'} \cdot \Phi_i + \dots$$

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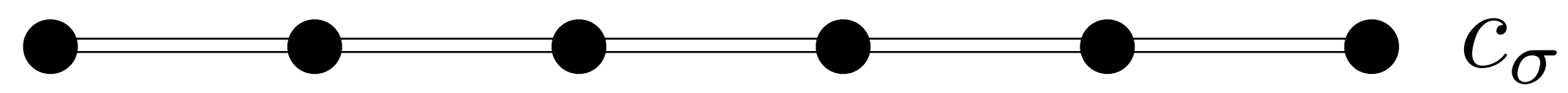
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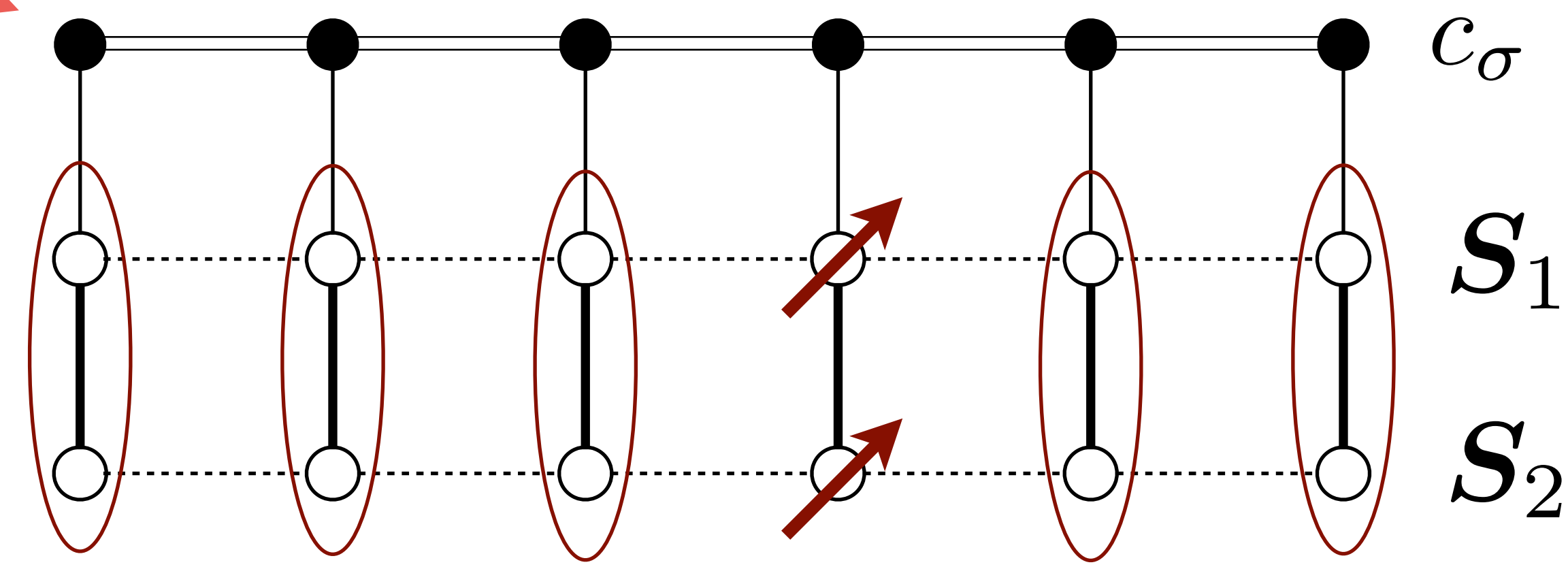
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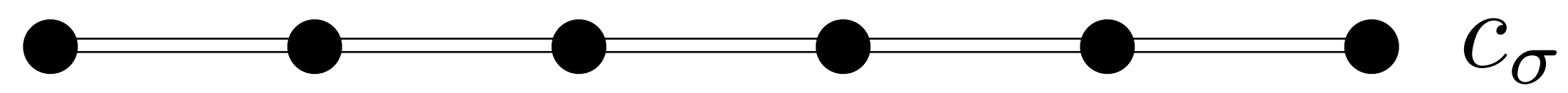
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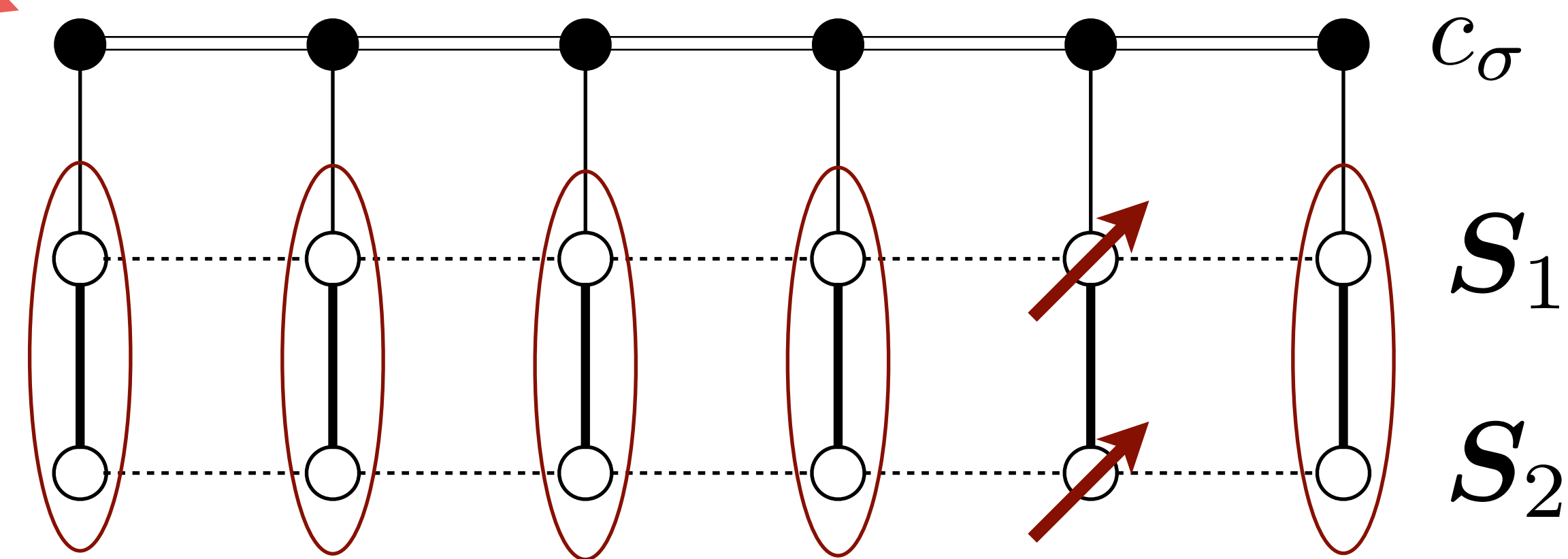
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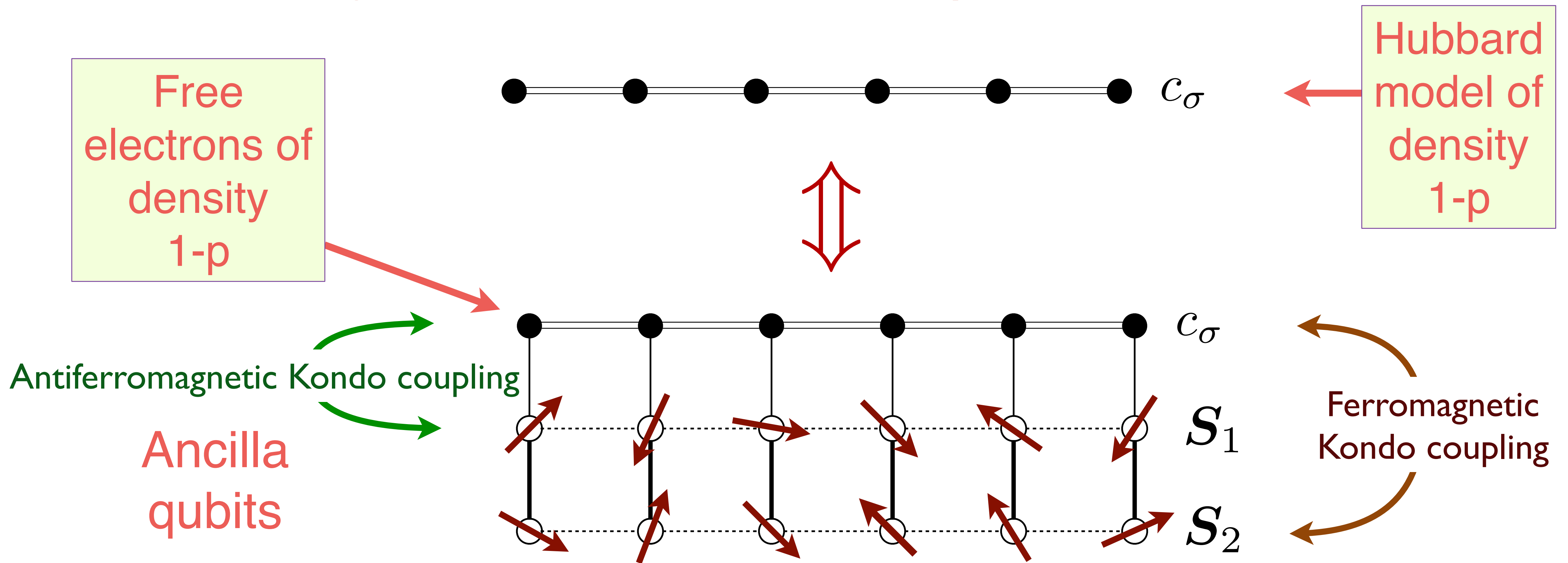
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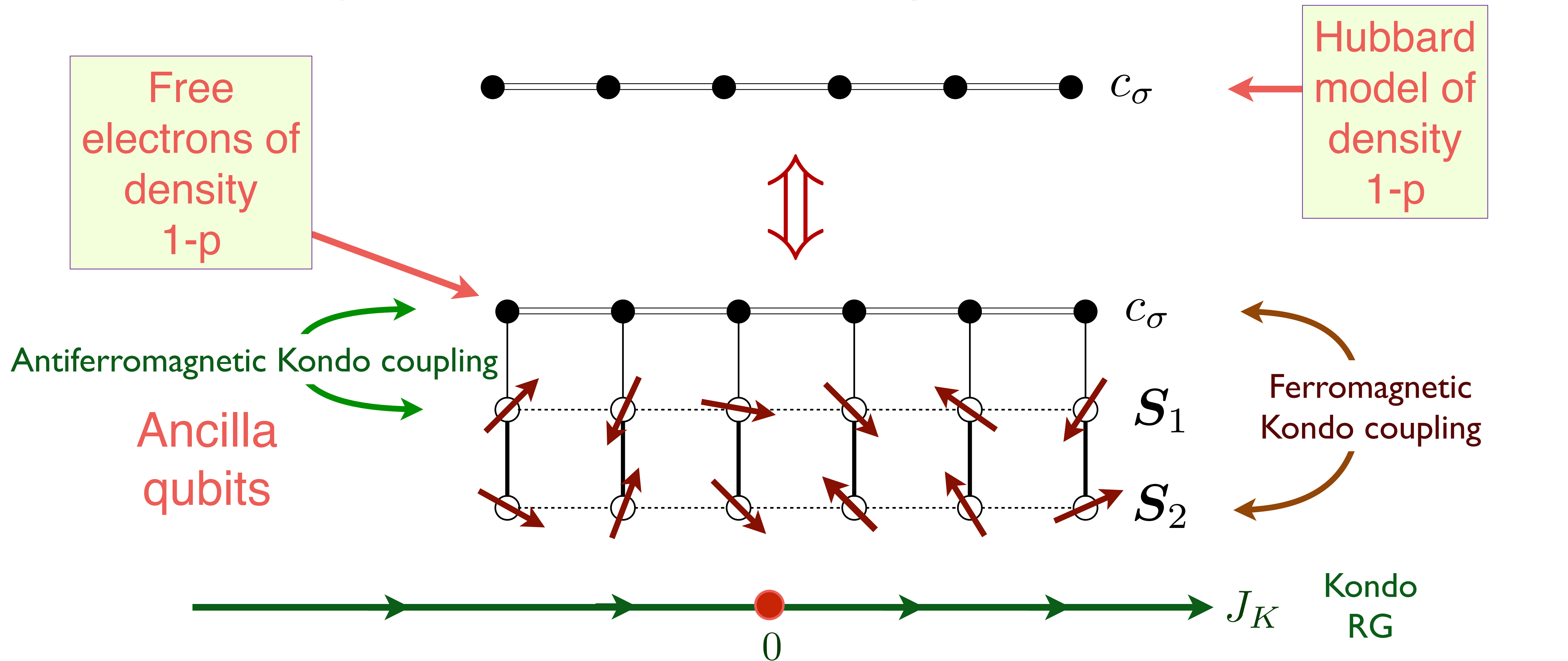
# Paramagnon fractionalization theory of the Hubbard model



$$\Phi_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (S_{2i} - S_{1i})$$

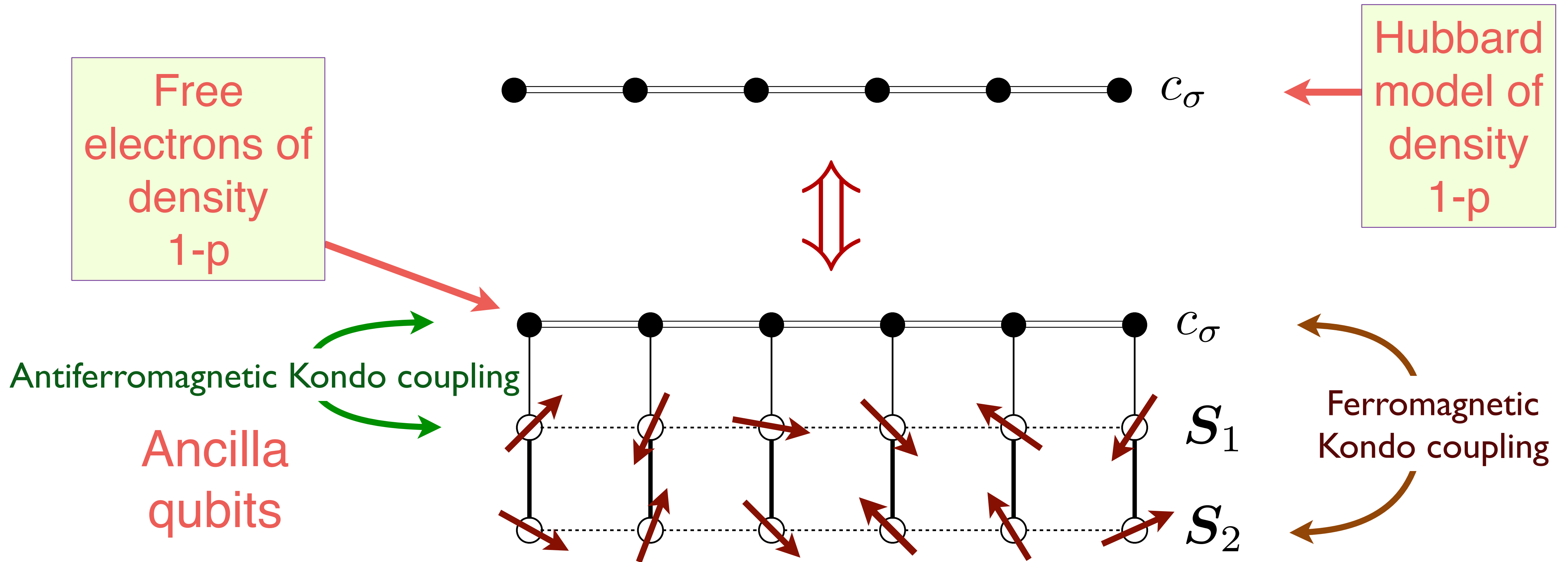
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# Paramagnon fractionalization theory of the Hubbard model



$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{paramagnon}} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \varepsilon_{\mathbf{p}} c_{\mathbf{p}\sigma}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{p}\sigma} + J_K \sum_i c_{i\sigma}^\dagger \frac{\tau_{\sigma\sigma'}}{2} c_{i\sigma'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{1i} + -\tilde{J}_K \sum_i c_{i\sigma}^\dagger \frac{\tau_{\sigma\sigma'}}{2} c_{i\sigma'} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{2i} + \dots$$

# Paramagnon fractionalization theory of the Hubbard model



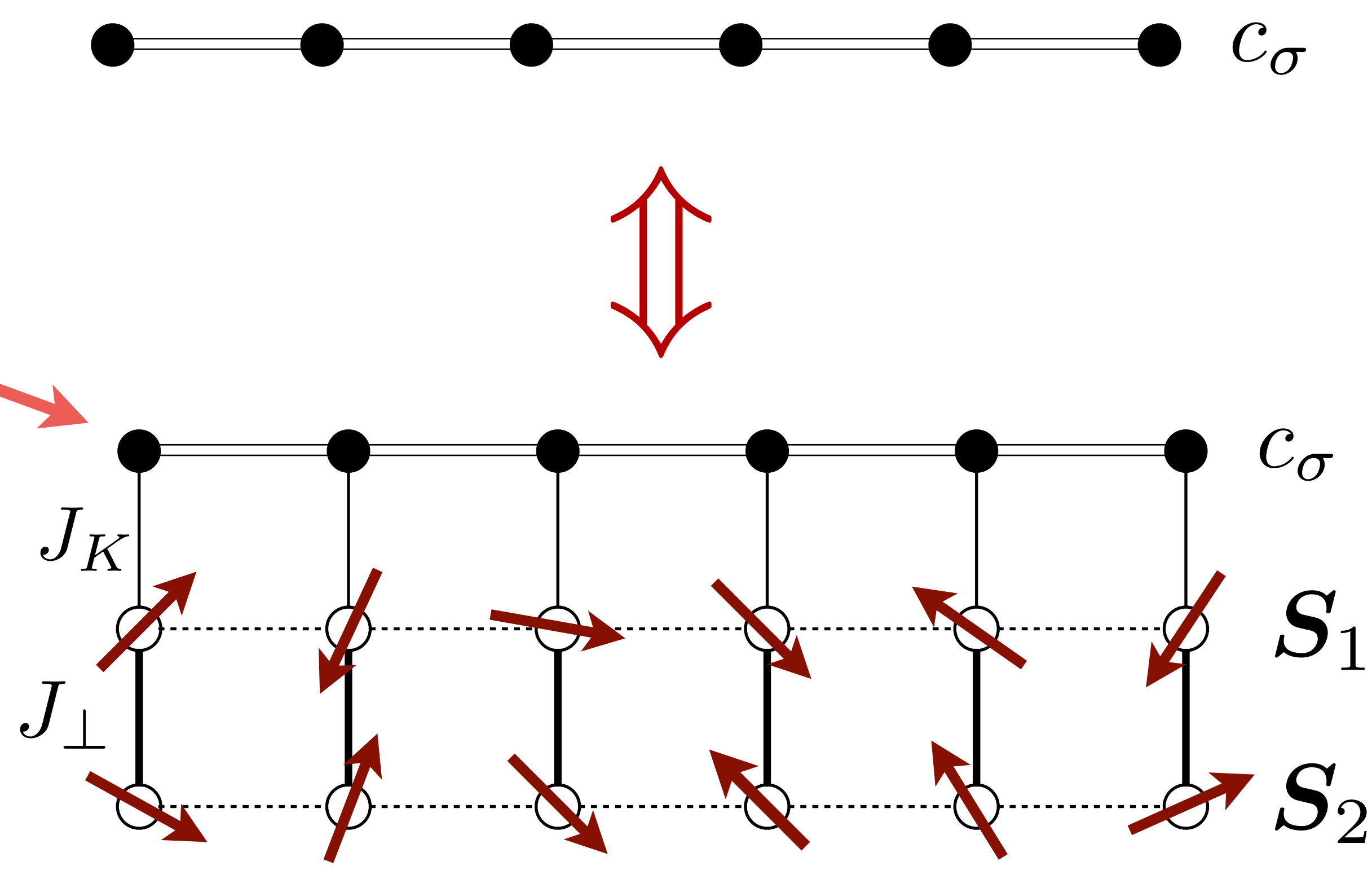
A FL\* state is realized when the antiferromagnetic Kondo coupling dominates, and the  $c_\sigma$  and  $S_1$  form a “large” Fermi surface of hole density  $(1 + p) + 1 = 2 + p = p \text{ mod } 2!$

The  $S_2$  must form a decoupled spin liquid which does not break translational symmetry, to obtain a metal with a non-Luttinger volume Fermi surface.

# Paramagnon fractionalization theory of the Hubbard model

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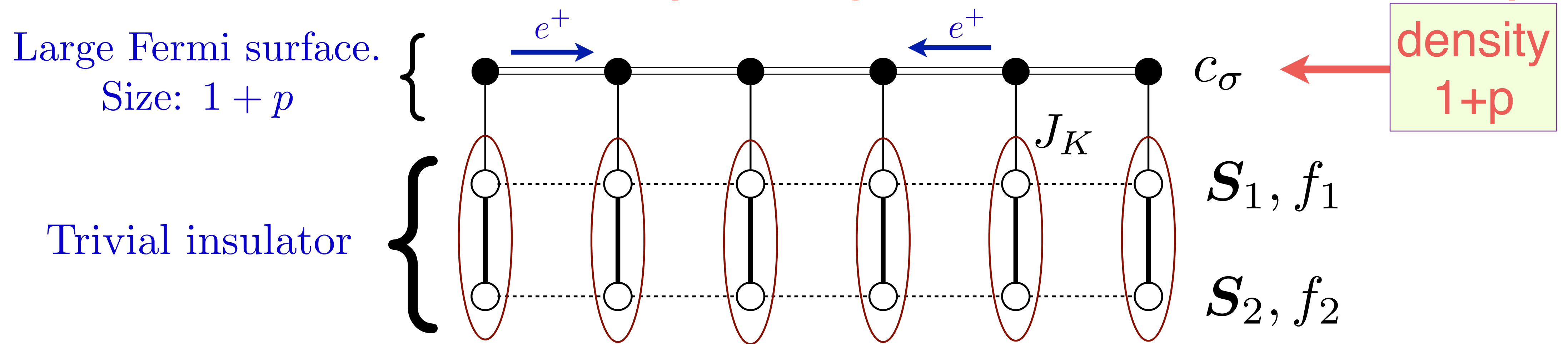
Hubbard model of density  $1-p$



Ancilla qubits

Related by a Schrieffer-Wolff canonical transformation with  $U = \frac{3J_K^2}{8J_\perp} + \frac{3J_K^3}{16J_\perp} + \dots$

# Trial wavefunctions in the paramagnon fractionalization theory

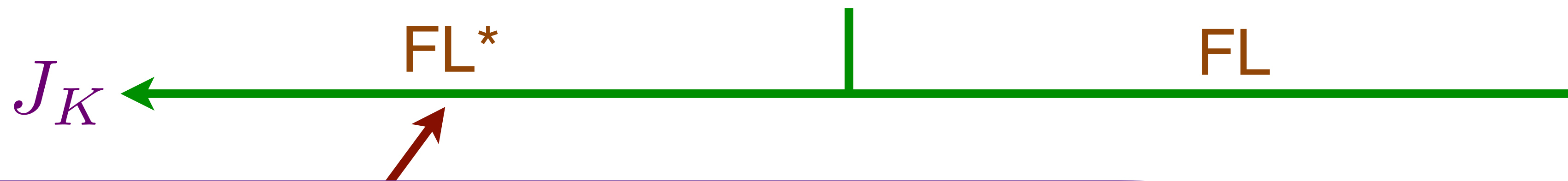
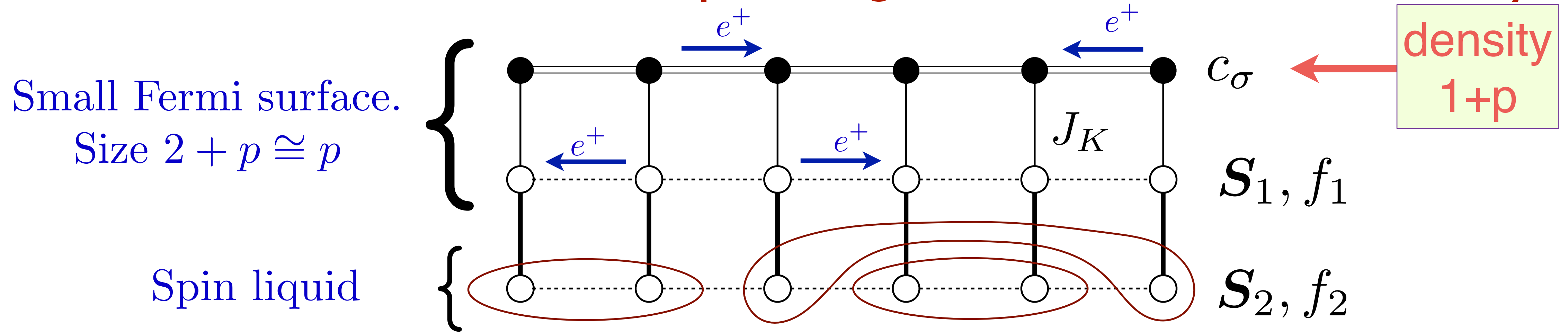


Large Fermi surface of size  $1 + p$

$|\text{FL}\rangle = |\text{Rung singlets of } f_1, f_2\rangle$

$\otimes |\text{Slater determinant of } c\rangle$

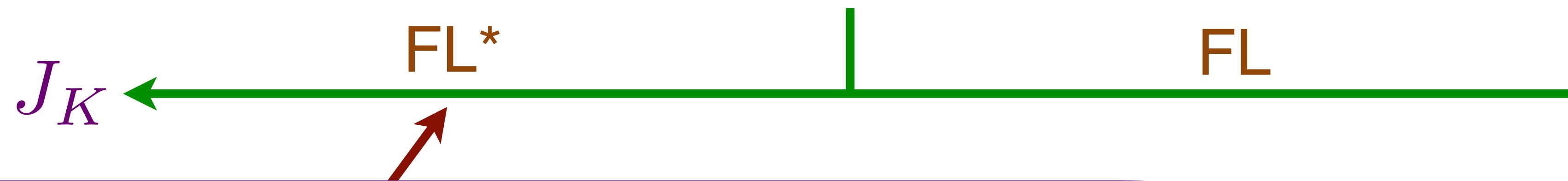
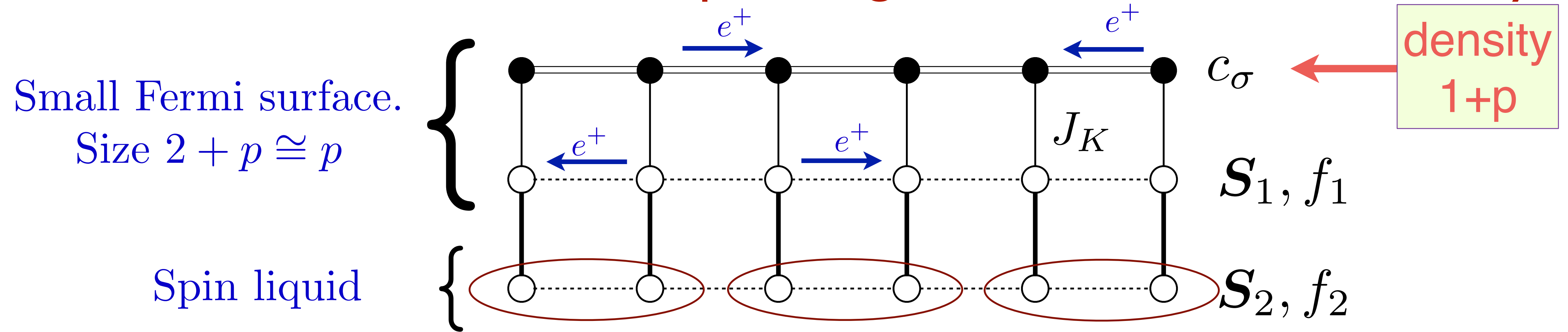
# Trial wavefunctions in the paramagnon fractionalization theory



Small Fermi surface of size  $p$

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\text{FL}^*\rangle = & [\text{Projection onto rung singlets of } f_1, f_2] \\
 & \bowtie |\text{Slater determinant of } (c, f_1)\rangle \\
 & \otimes |\text{Slater determinant of } f_2\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

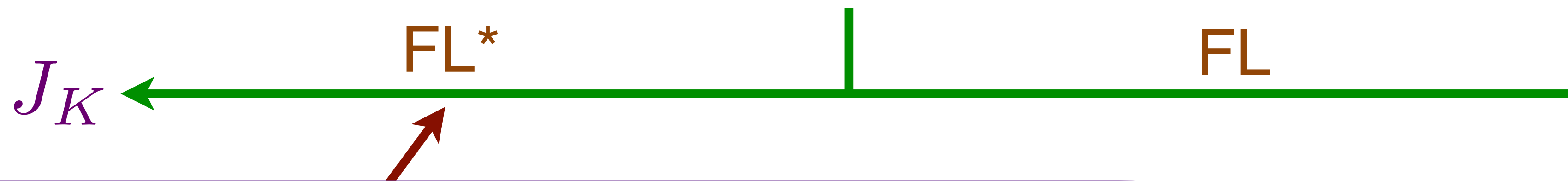
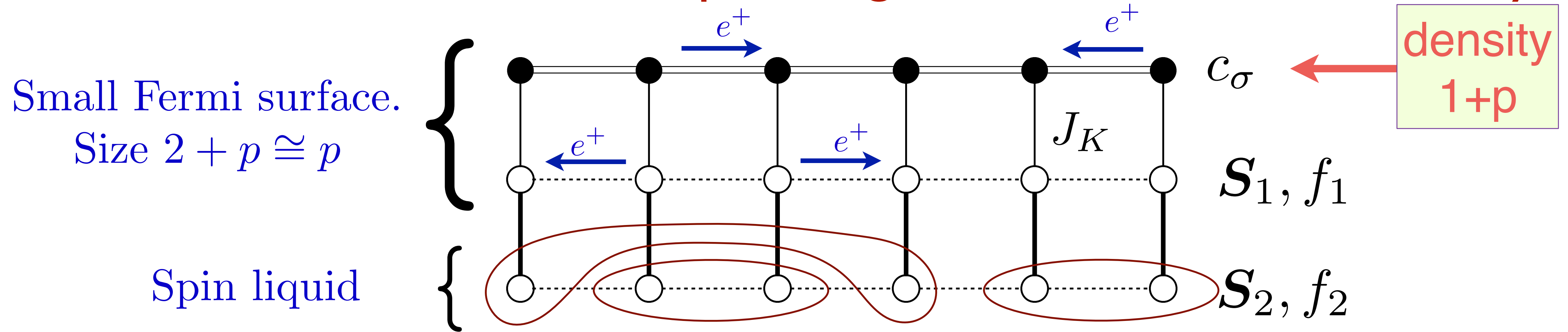
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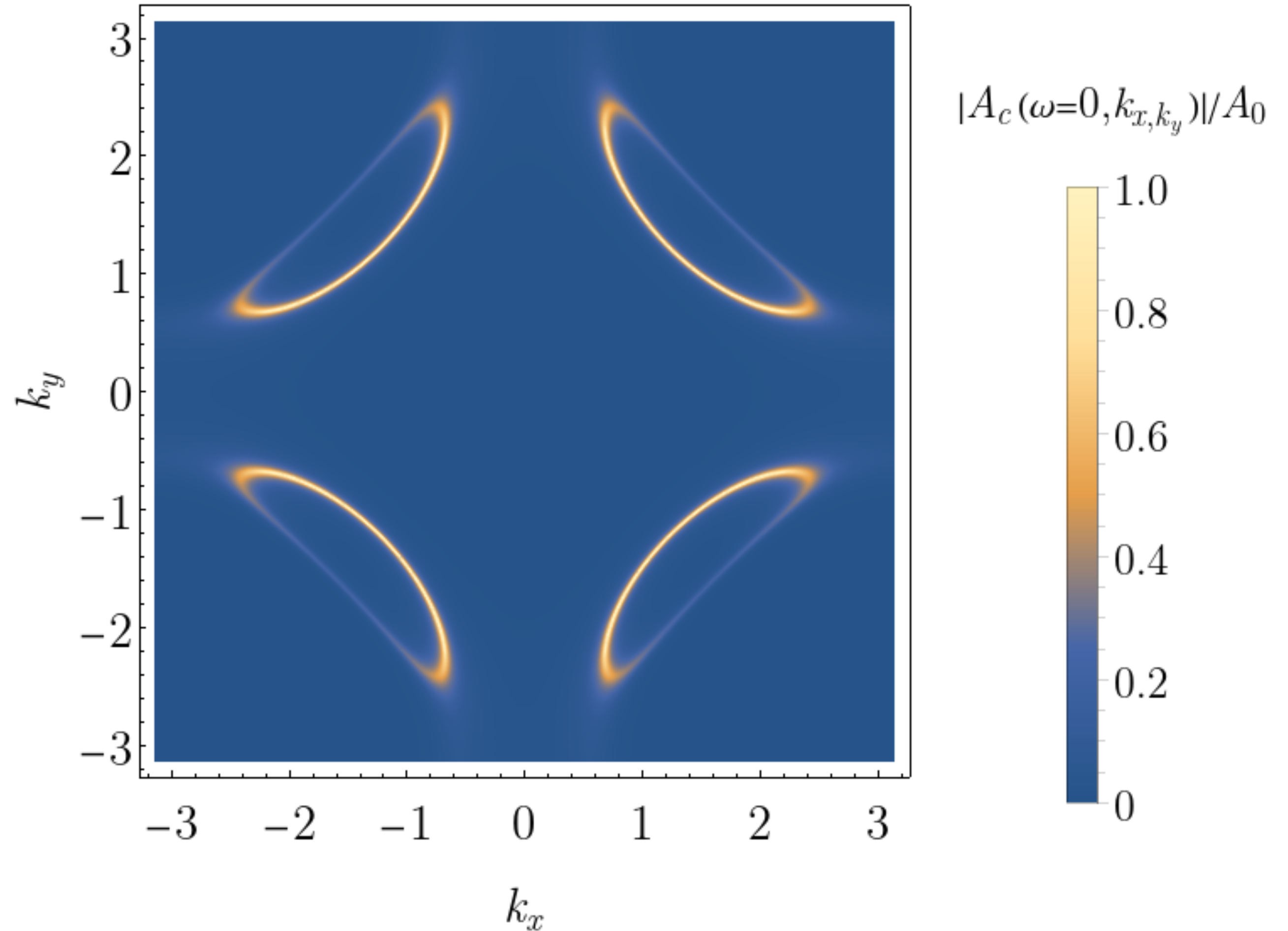
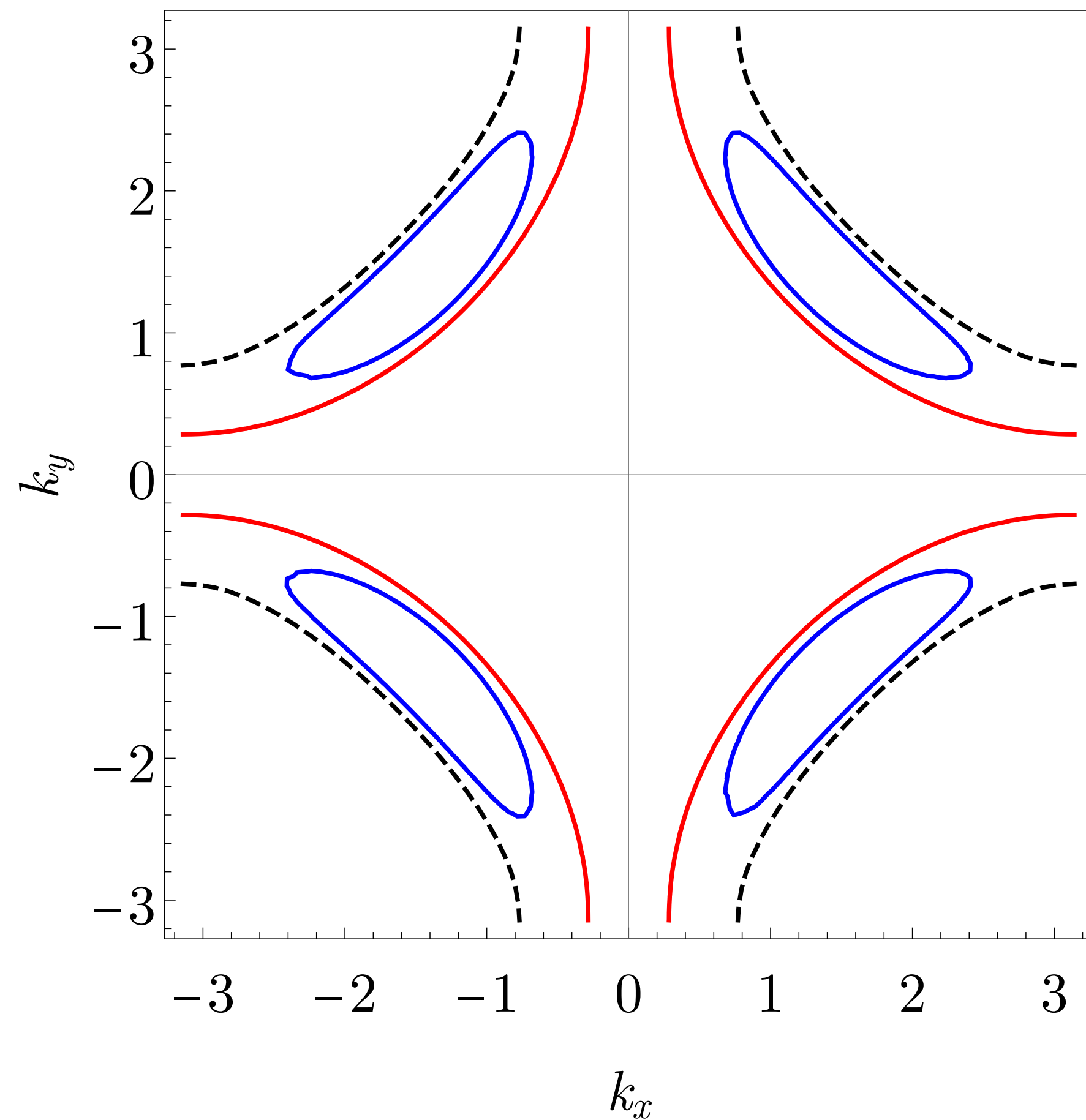
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# FL\* in a **one-band** model

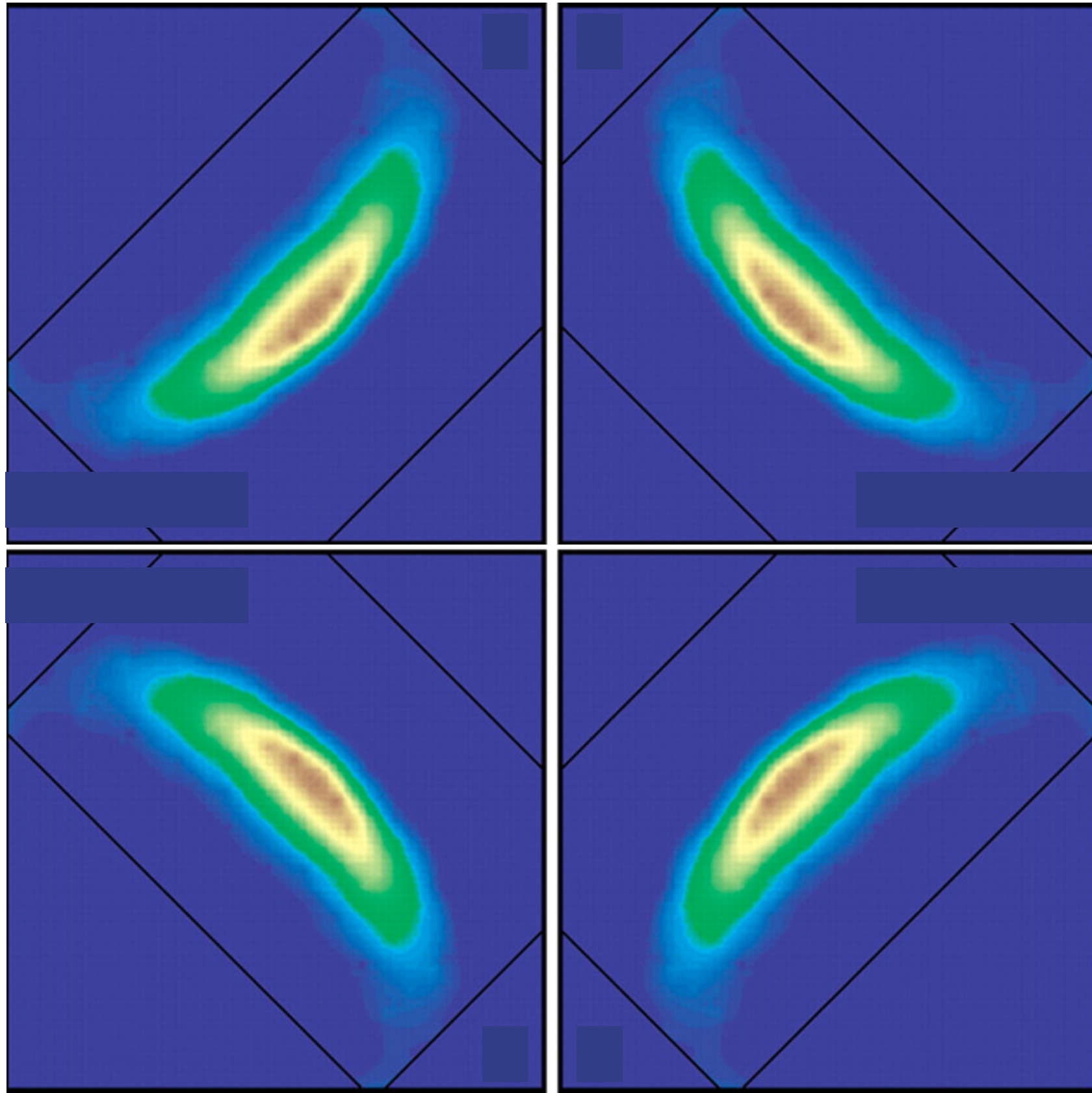
# “Fermi arc” spectral functions



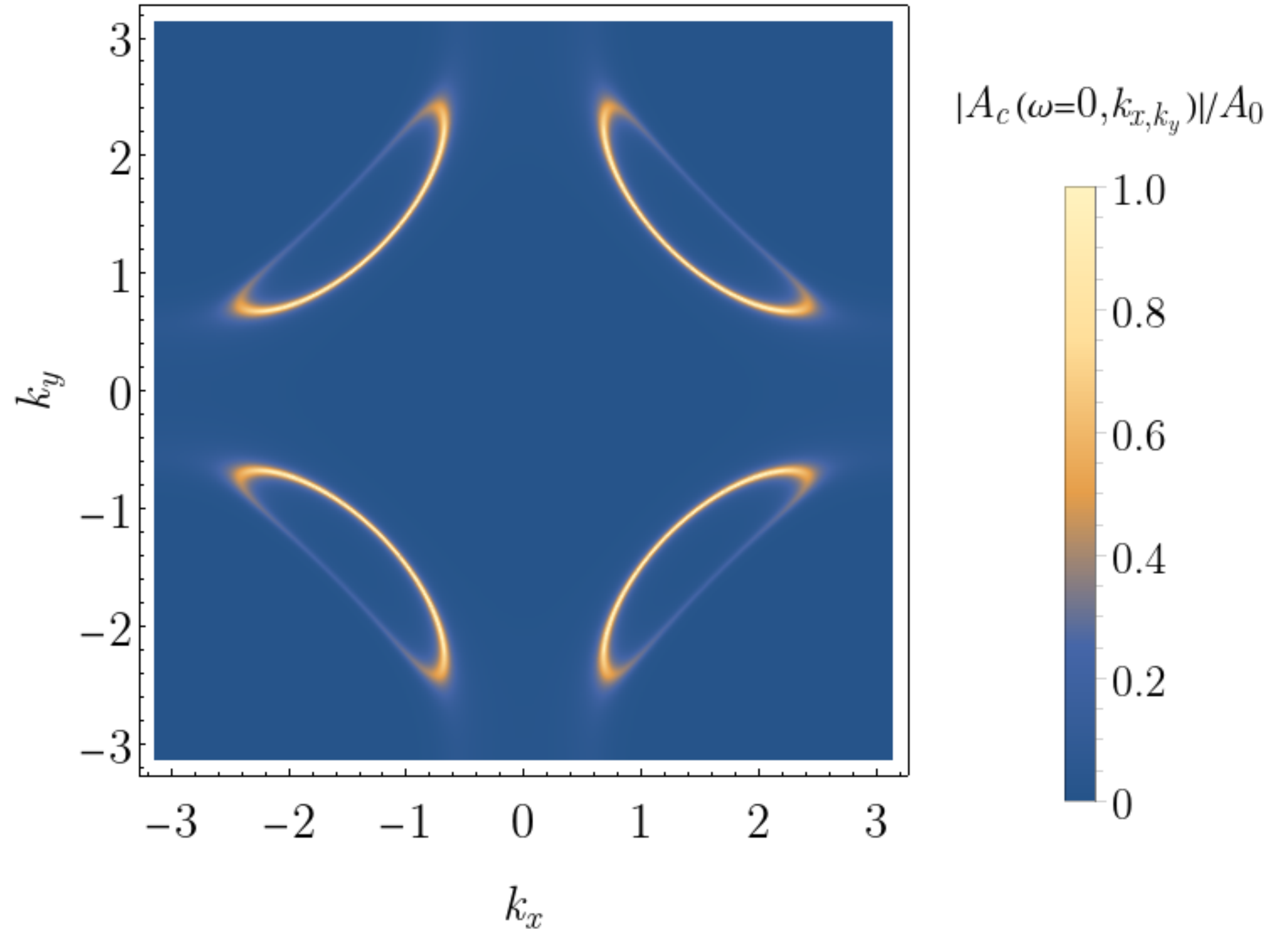
**FL\*** Hamiltonian:  $[(\text{SU}(2)_1 \times \text{SU}(2)_S)/\mathbb{Z}_2] \times \text{U}(1)_{\text{em}}$  is broken to  $\text{U}(1)_{\text{diag}}$  by Higgs condensate  $\Phi$ :

$$H = - \sum_{i,j} t_{ij} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} + \sum_{i,j} t_{1,ij} f_{1i\sigma}^\dagger f_{1j\sigma} + \sum_i \Phi (c_{i\sigma}^\dagger f_{1i\sigma} + f_{1i\sigma}^\dagger c_{i\sigma})$$

# Photoemission at small $p$



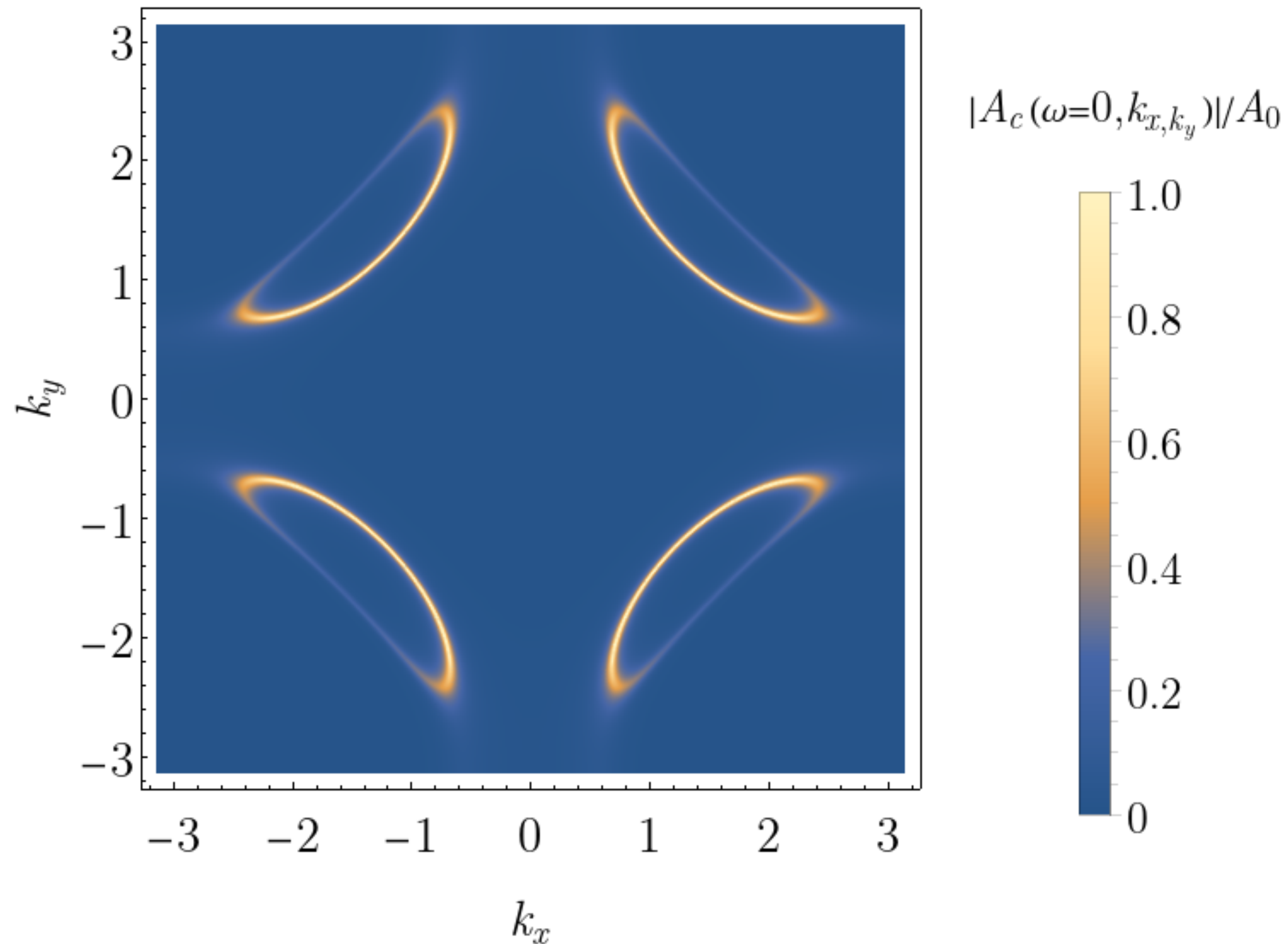
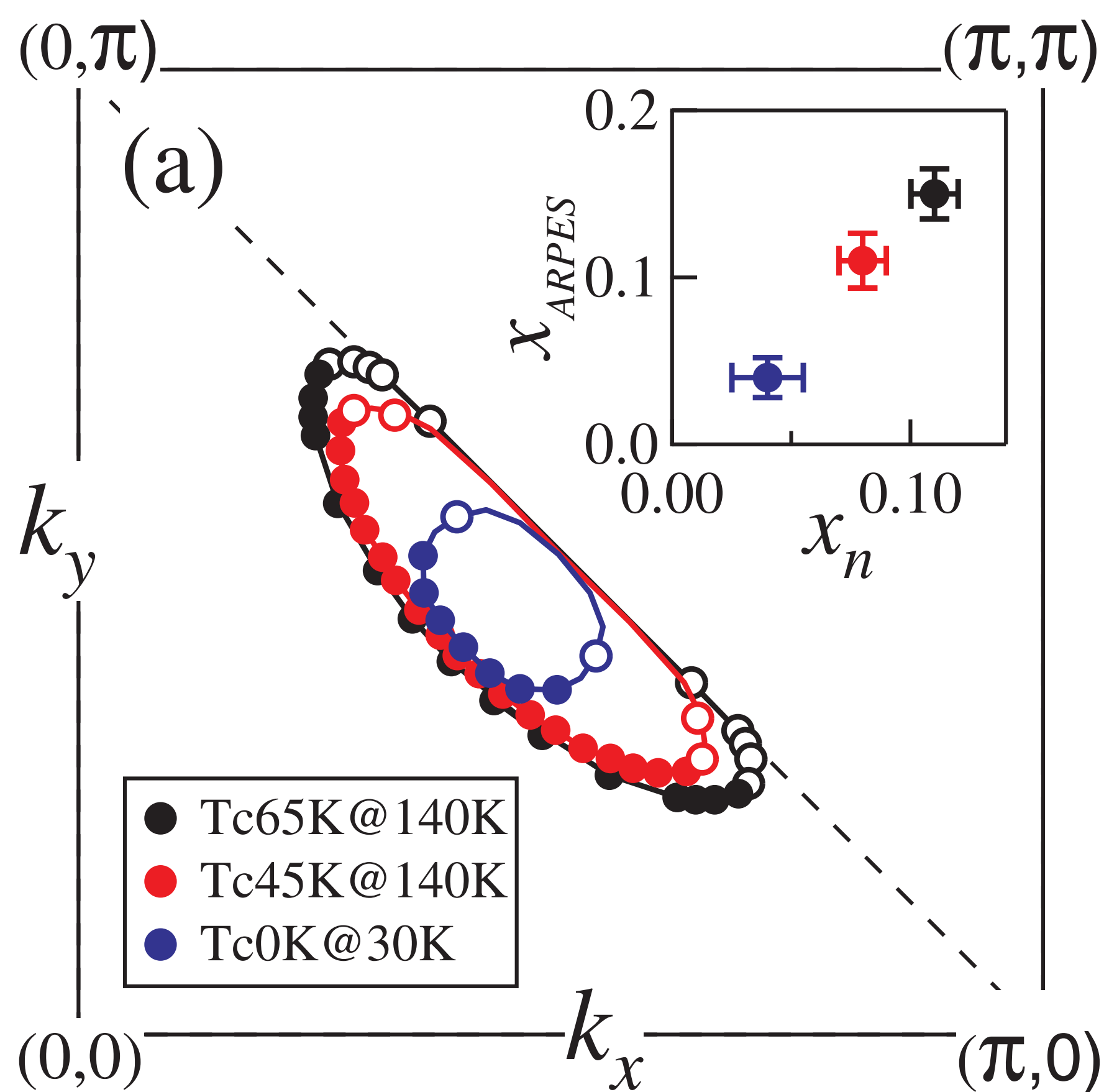
$\text{Ca}_{2-x}\text{Na}_x\text{CuO}_2\text{Cl}_2$   
at  $x = 0.10$



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Kyle M. Shen, F. Ronning, D. H. Lu, F. Baumberger, N. J. C. Ingle, W. S. Lee, W. Meevasana, Y. Kohsaka, M. Azuma, M. Takano, H. Takagi, Z.-X. Shen, *Science* **307**, 901 (2005)

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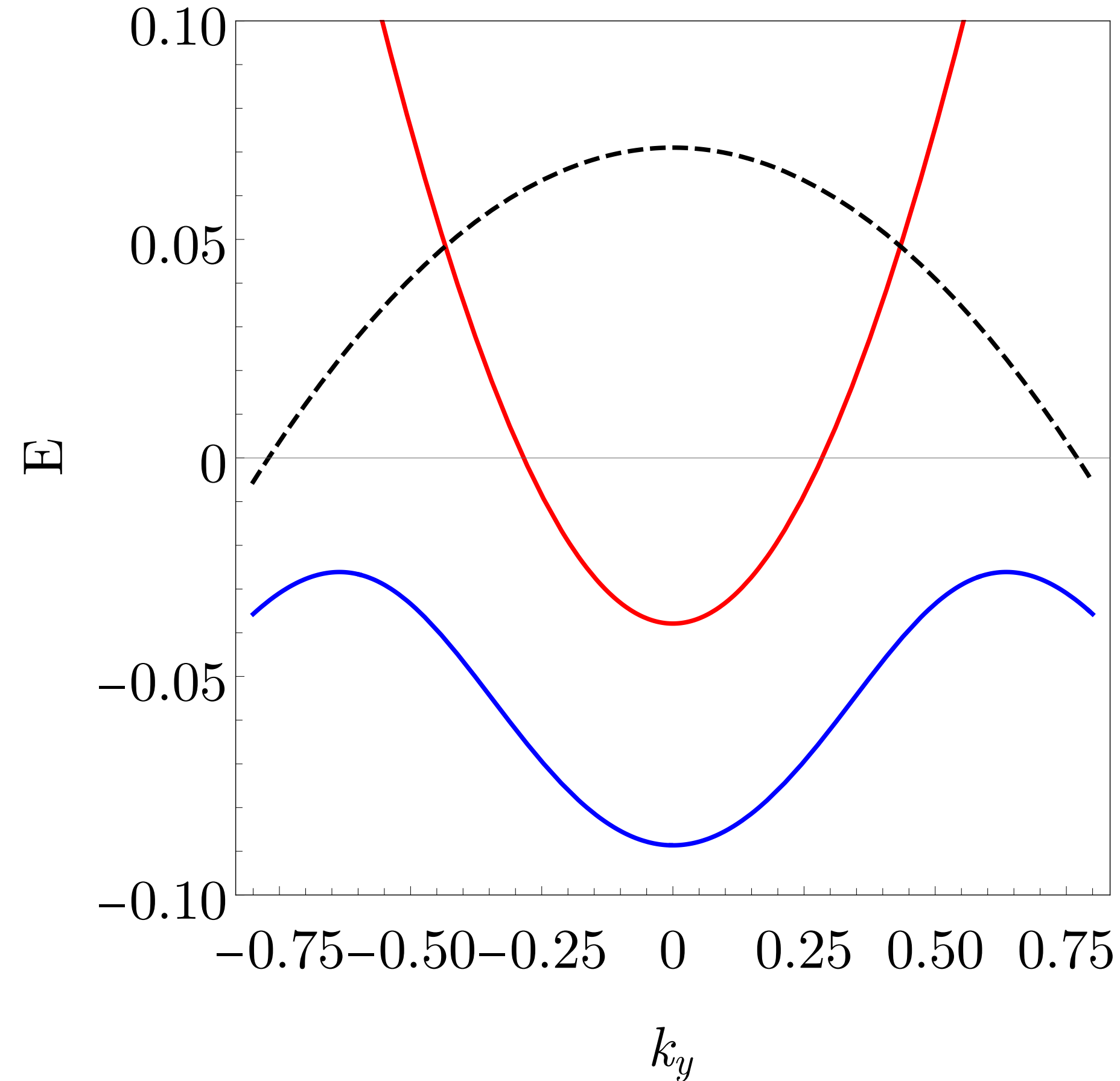


“Fermi pockets”

Reconstructed Fermi Surface of Underdoped  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$  Cuprate Superconductors, H.-B. Yang, J. D. Rameau, Z.-H. Pan, G. D. Gu, P. D. Johnson, H. Claus, D. G. Hinks, and T. E. Kidd, PRL **107**, 047003 (2011).

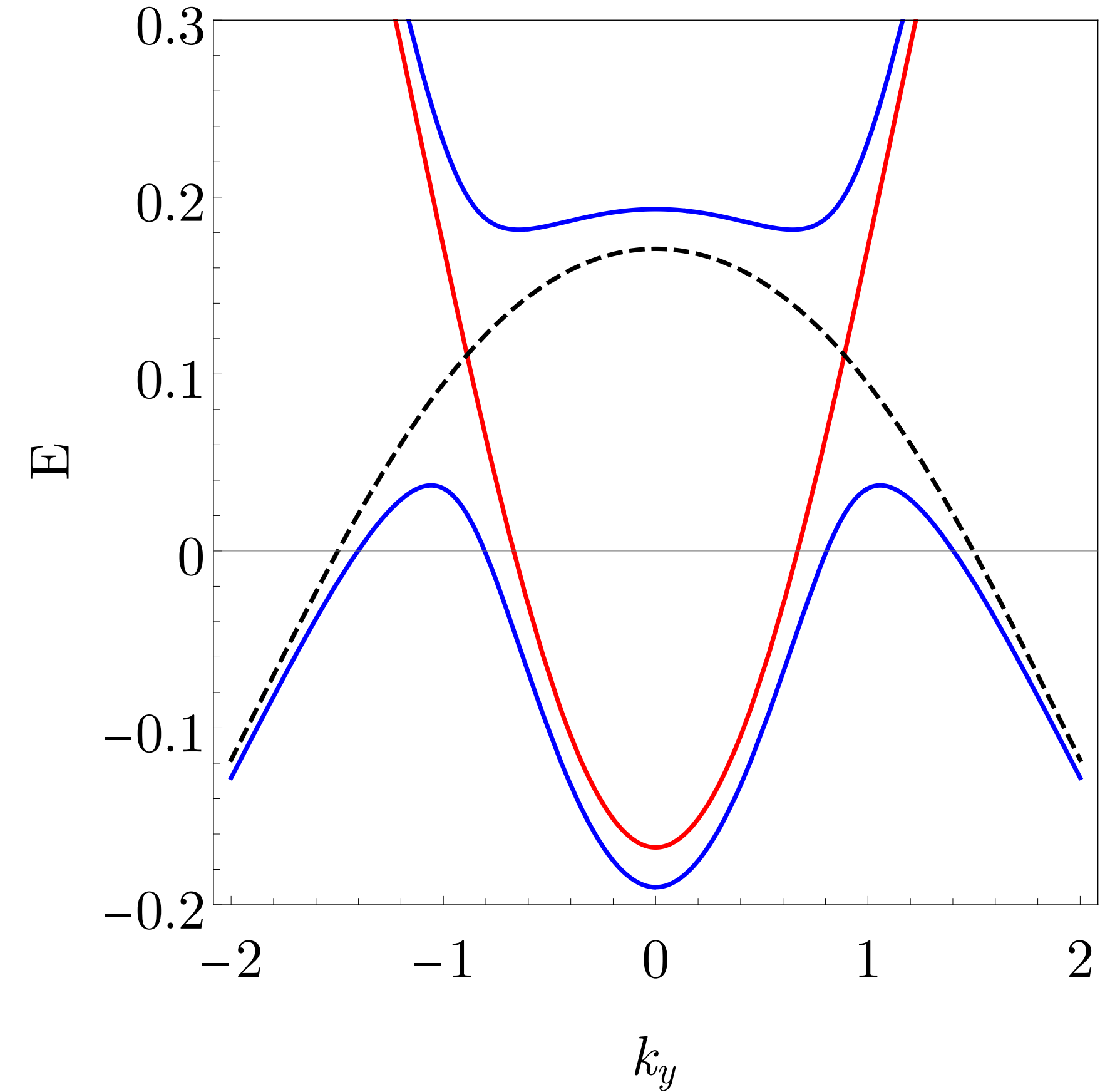
# FL\* in a **one-band** model

Anti-node:  $k_x = \pi$



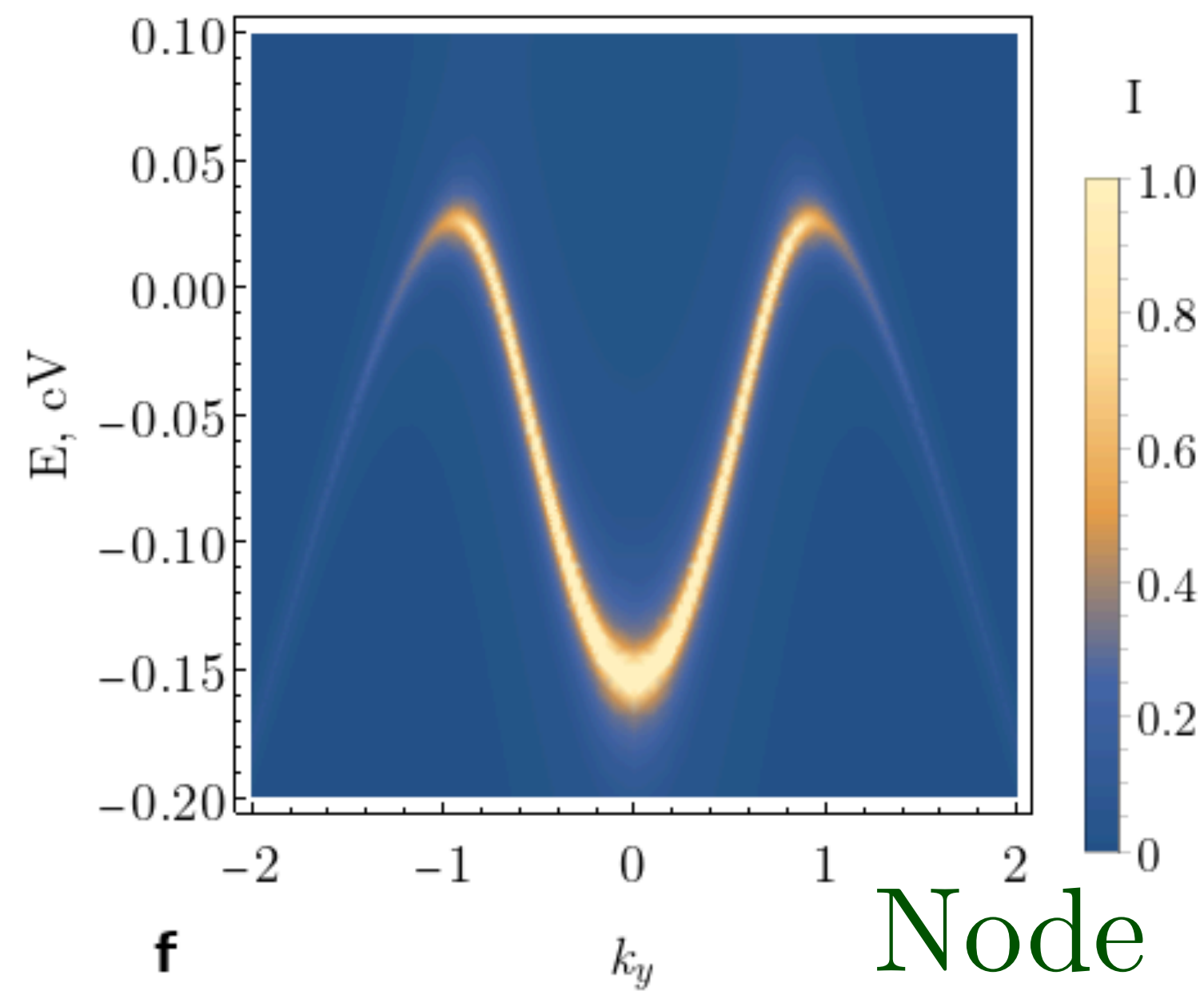
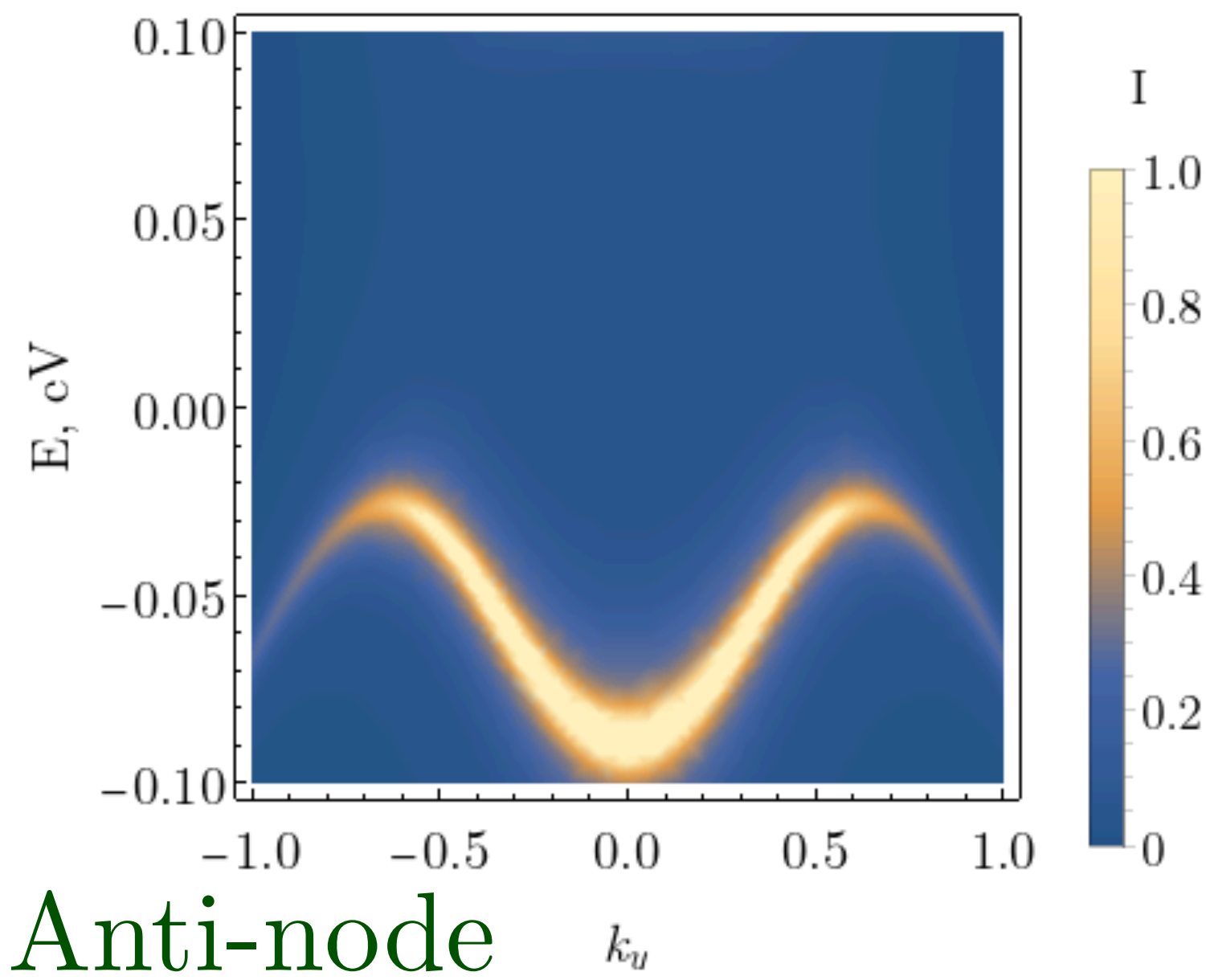
# Electronic dispersion

Node:  $k_x = 2$

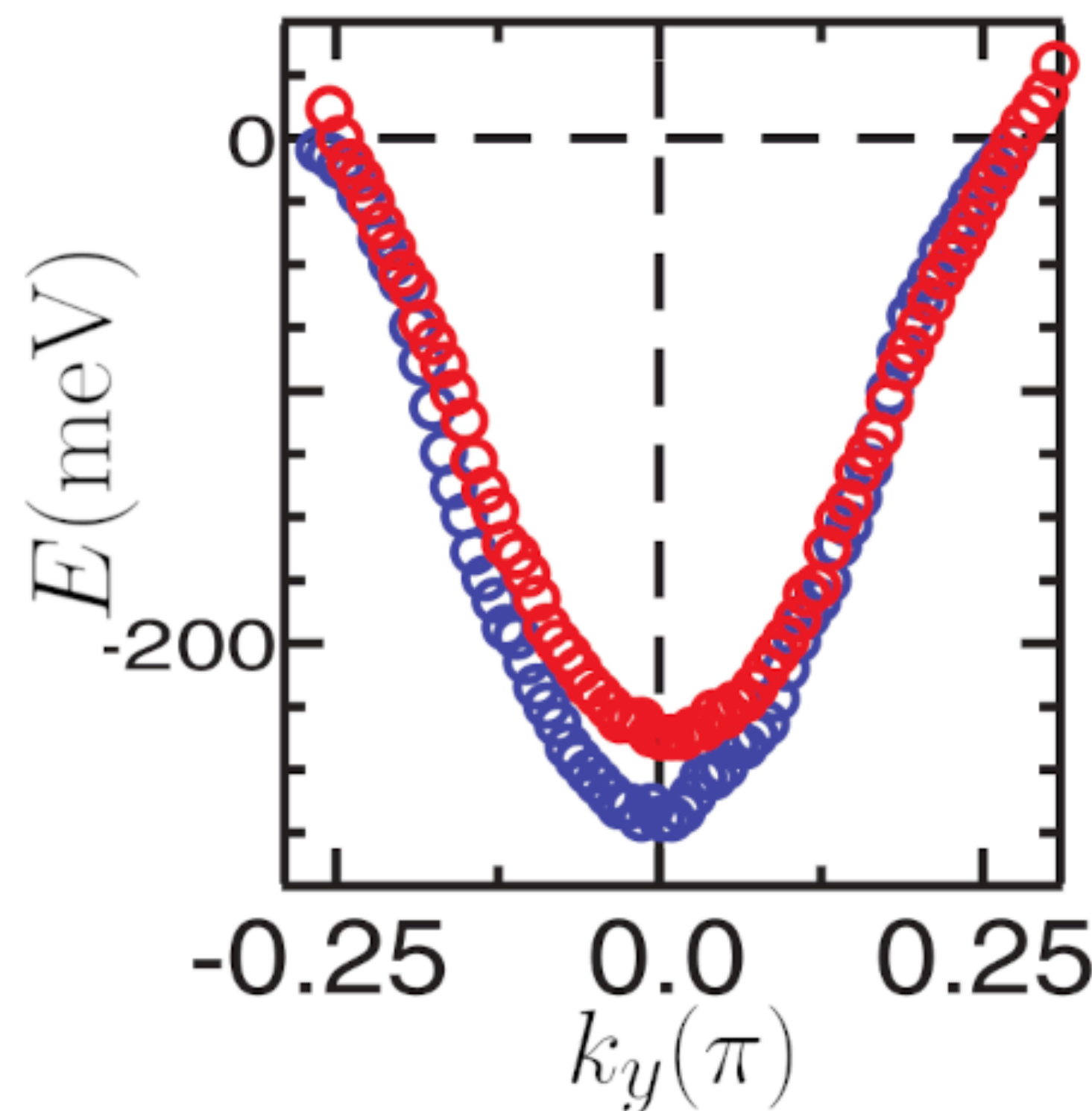
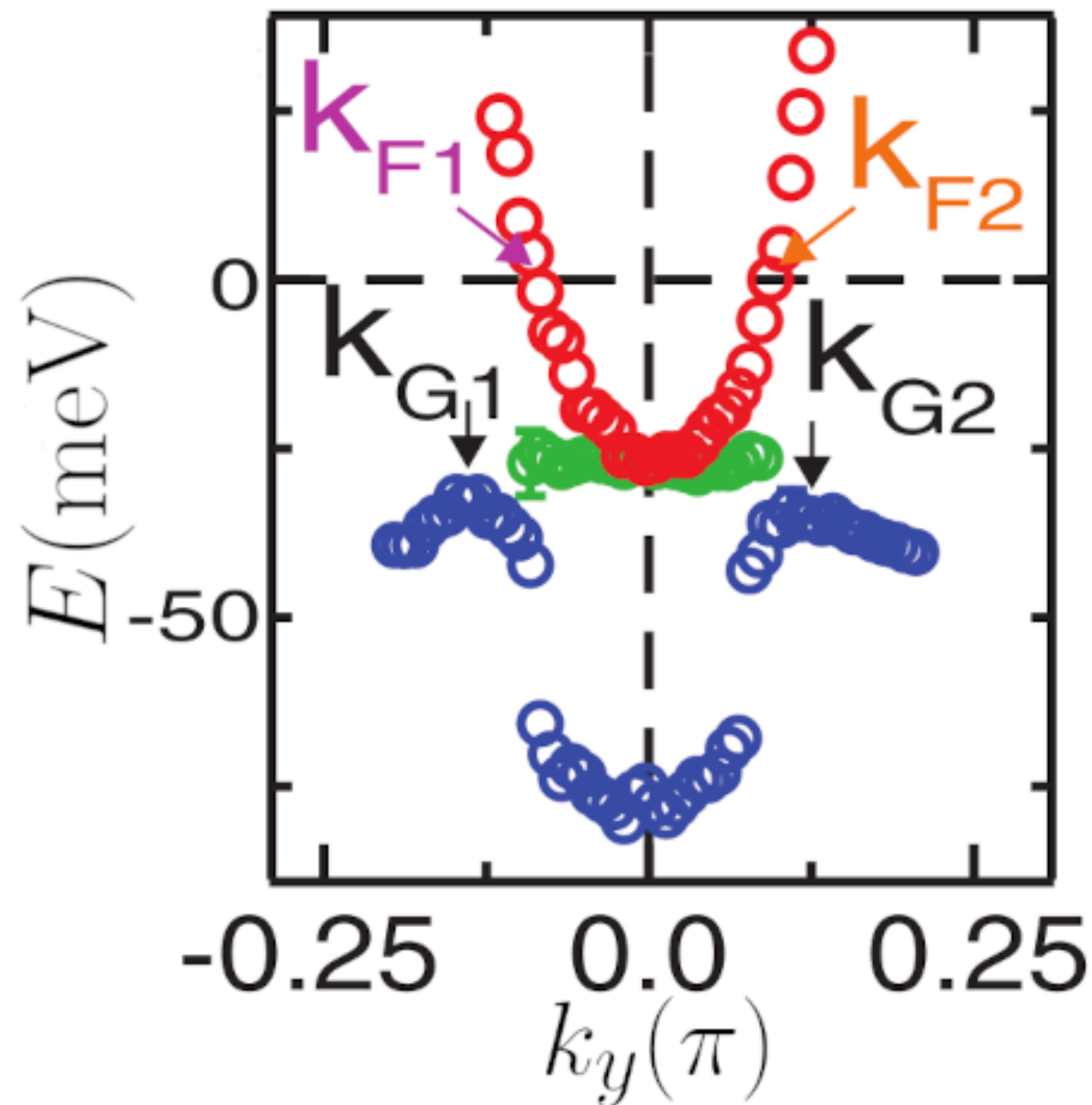


**FL\*** Hamiltonian:  $[(\text{SU}(2)_1 \times \text{SU}(2)_S) / \mathbb{Z}_2] \times \text{U}(1)_{\text{em}}$  is broken to  $\text{U}(1)_{\text{diag}}$  by Higgs condensate  $\Phi$ :

$$H = - \sum_{i,j} t_{ij} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} + \sum_{i,j} t_{1,ij} f_{1i\sigma}^\dagger f_{1j\sigma} + \sum_i \Phi (c_{i\sigma}^\dagger f_{1i\sigma} + f_{1i\sigma}^\dagger c_{i\sigma})$$



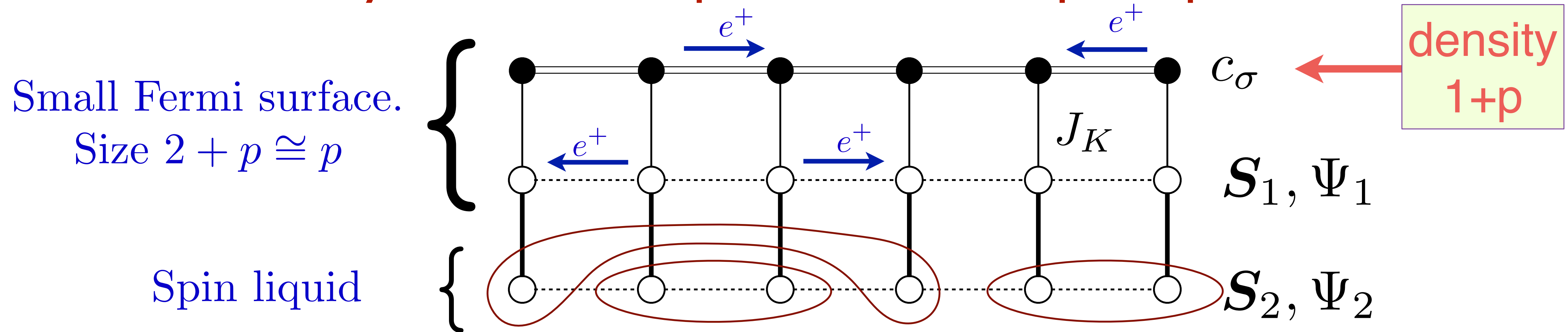
FL\* in a  
one-band model



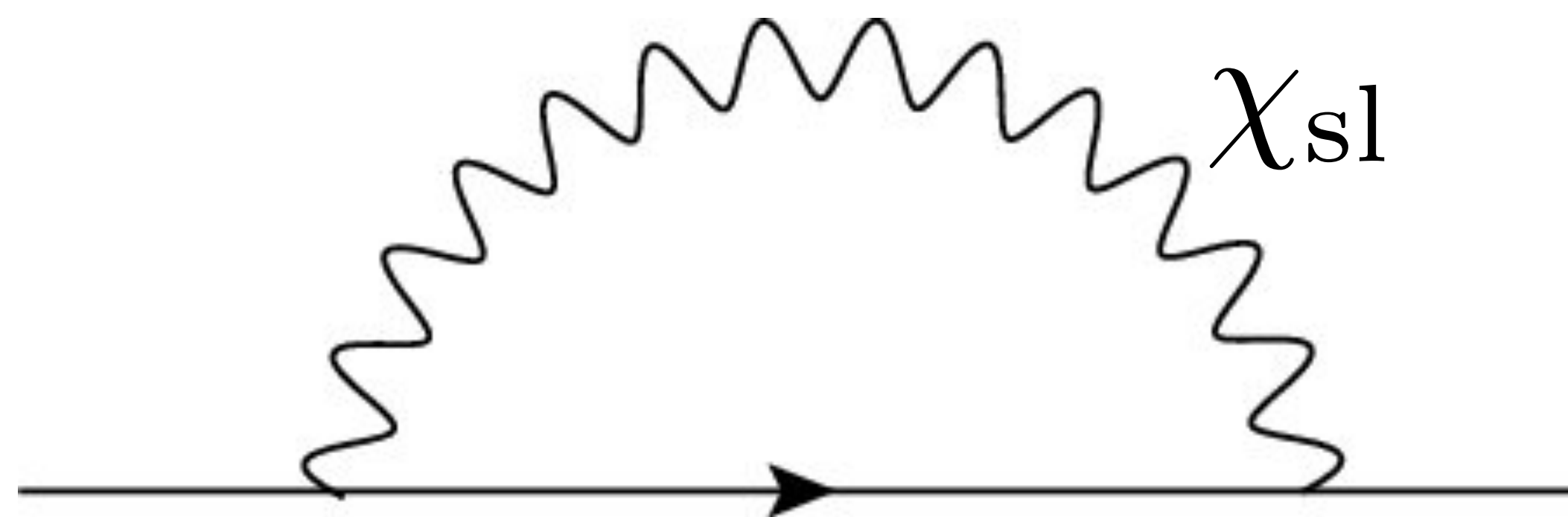
ARPES on Bi2201

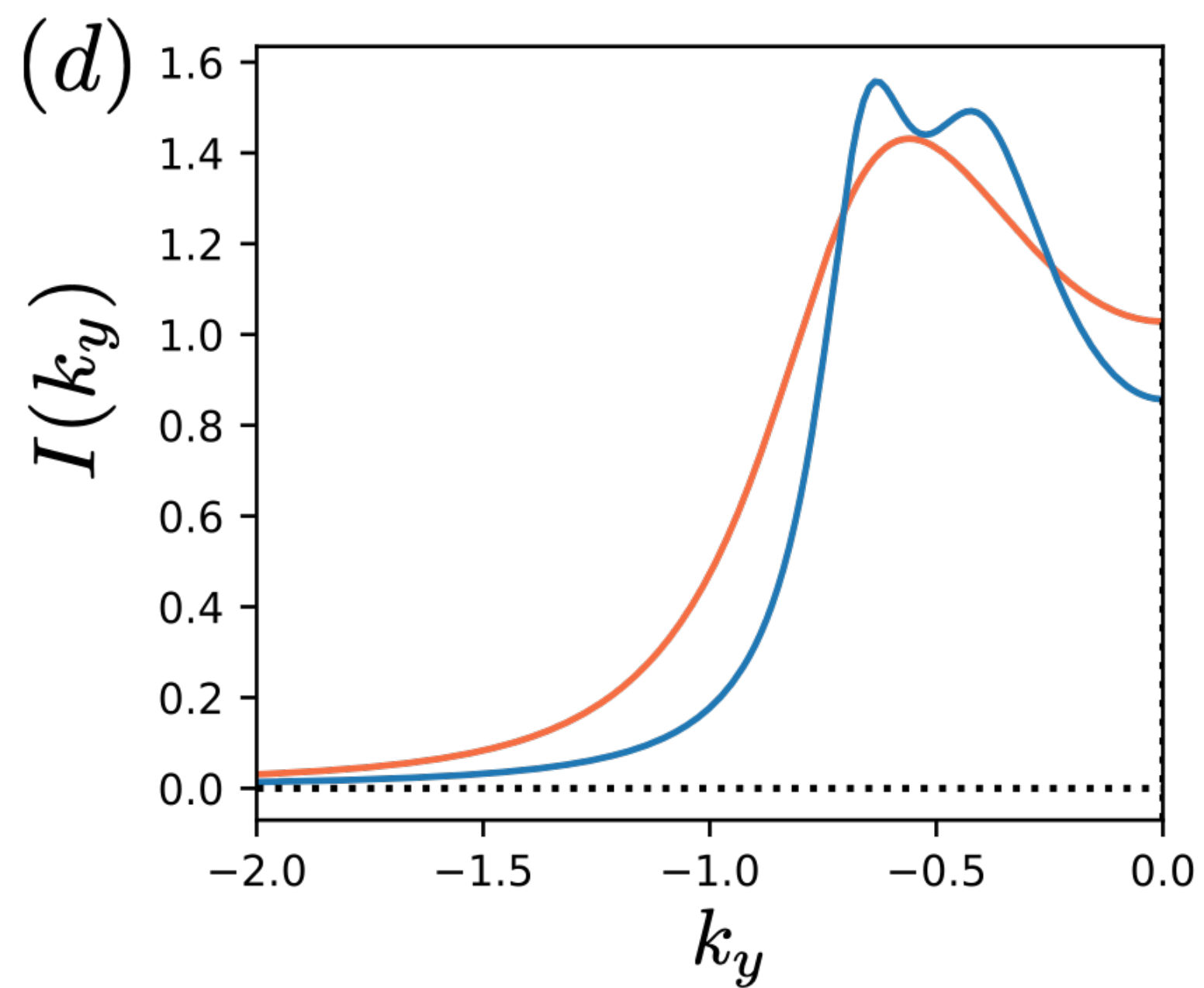
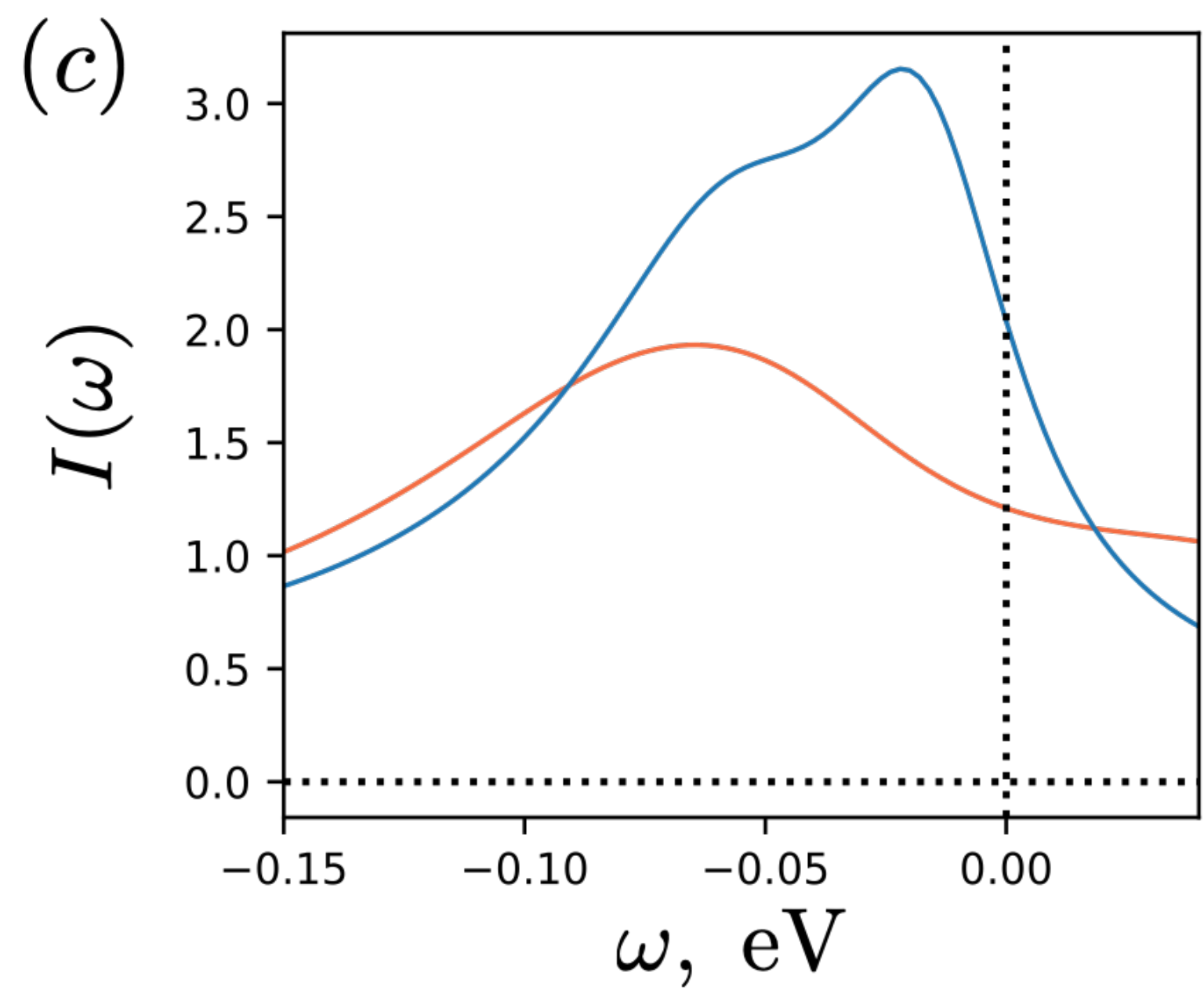
R.-H. He, M. Hashimoto, H. Karapetyan, J. D. Koralek, J. P. Hinton, J. P. Testaud, V. Nathan, Y. Yoshida, H. Yao, K. Tanaka, W. Meevasana, R. G. Moore, D. H. Lu, S. K. Mo, M. Ishikado, H. Eisaki, Z. Hussain, T. P. Devereaux, S. A. Kivelson, J. Orenstein, A. Kapitulnik, and Z.-X. Shen, *Science* **331**, 1579 (2011)

# Dynamic consequences of the spin liquid



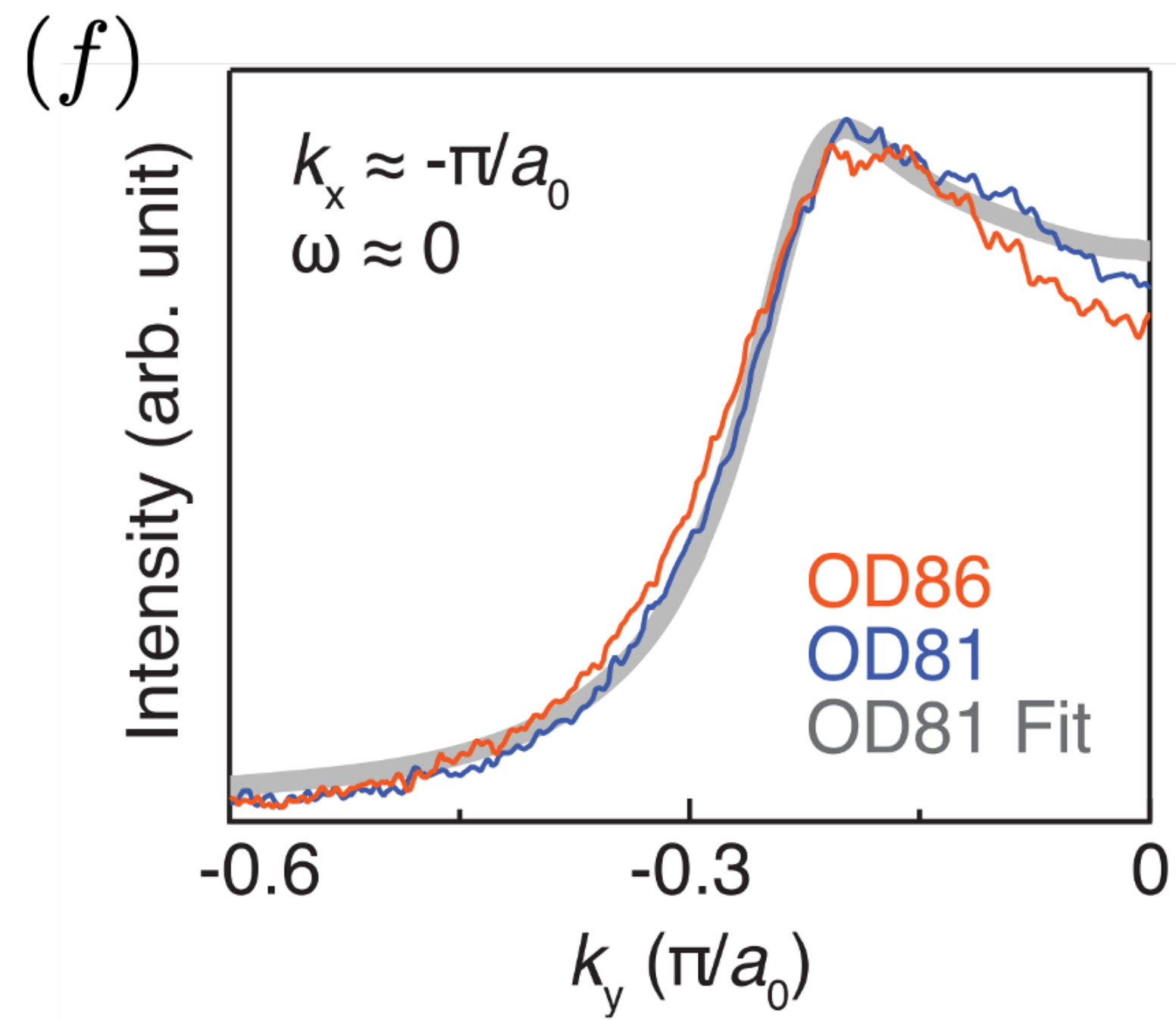
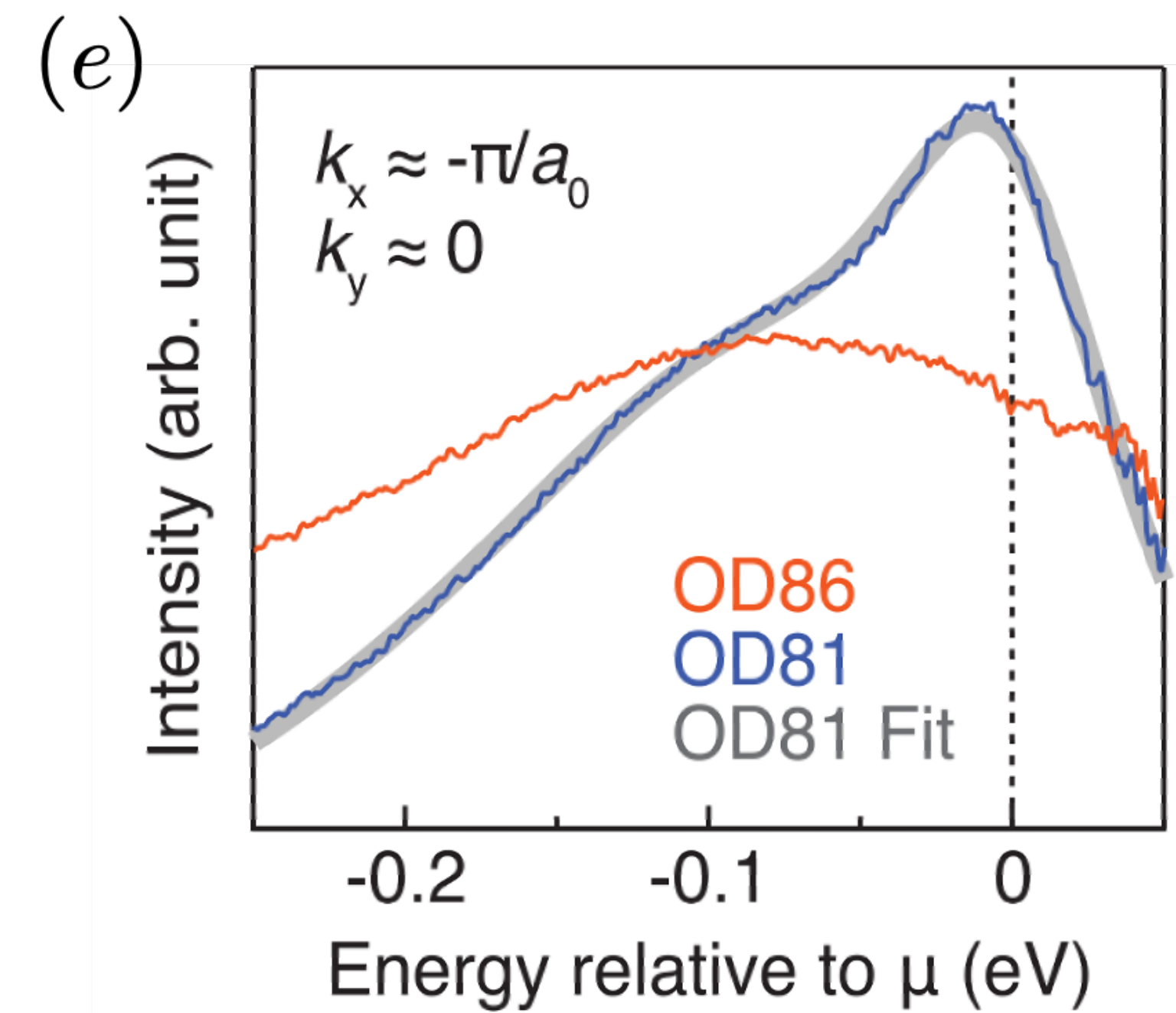
The only singular gauge fluctuations are those in the spin liquid of the  $\Psi_2$ . We can compute their influence on the electronic spectrum perturbatively in the exchange couplings in terms of the dynamic spin susceptibility  $\chi_{sl}$ .





Antinodal EDC and MDC

(c,d) Theory with SYK spin liquid in  $\Psi_2$  layer. Similar EDC obtained by gapless  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  spin liquid



(e,f) Experiments on Bi2212 by S.-D. Chen, M. Hashimoto, Y. He, D. Song, K.-J. Xu, J.-F. He, T. P. Devereaux, H. Eisaki, D.-H. Lu, J. Zaanen, and Z.-X. Shen, *Science* **366**, 1099 (2019).

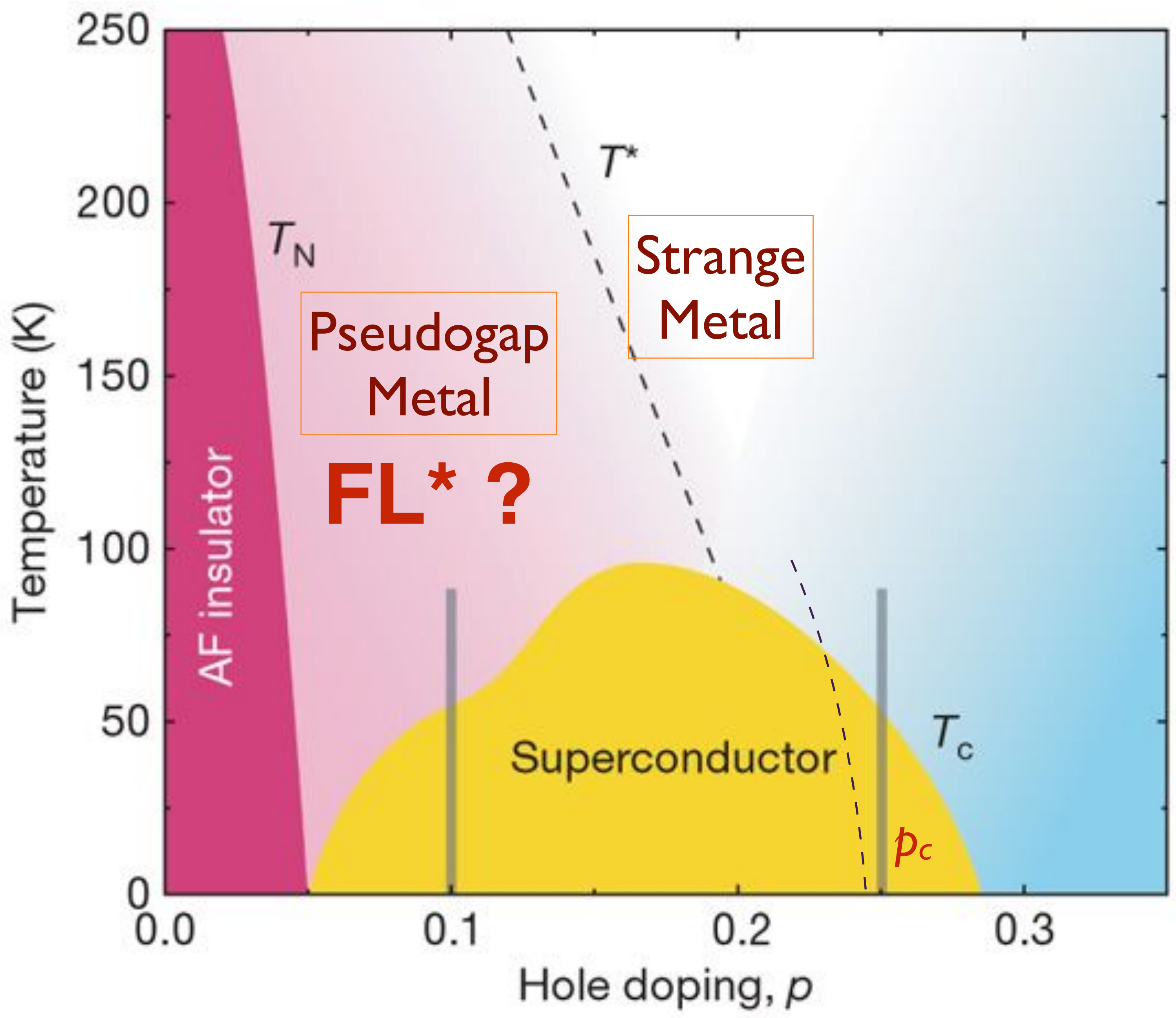
1. Luttinger relations - old and new

2. Paramagnon fractionalization in the single band

Hubbard model

3. Comparison with photoemission

4. Confinement transition in the random  $t$ - $J$  model



Can a FL\* state in a *single-band* Hubbard model describe the pseudogap metal over an intermediate temperature range, along with a crossover/transition to confinement at lower temperatures?

Quantum generalization of the Sherrington-Kirkpatrick model to  $S = 1/2$  spins with SU(2) symmetry

$$H = \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

$$[S_{i\mu}, S_{j\nu}] = i\delta_{ij}\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} S_{i\lambda} \quad , \quad \mathbf{S}_i^2 = 3/4$$

$$\overline{J_{ij}} = 0, \quad \overline{J_{ij}^2} = J^2, \quad \text{Different } J_{ij} \text{ uncorrelated.}$$

Two possible ground states

I. Gapless spin liquid

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \langle \mathbf{S}_i(\tau) \cdot \mathbf{S}_i(0) \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|\tau|^a}$$

Ground state of the SU( $M \rightarrow \infty$ ) model with  $a = 1$  (Sachdev, Ye 1993).

II. Spin glass order

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \langle \mathbf{S}_i(\tau) \cdot \mathbf{S}_i(0) \rangle = q_{EA} > 0$$

where  $q_{EA}$  is the spin glass order parameter.

# Random $J$ model (insulator): $SU(M)$ symmetry

Express the spin operator in terms of fermionic spinons  $\vec{S} = (1/2)f_\alpha^\dagger \vec{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_\beta$ , and let  $\alpha = 1 \dots M$ . The fermions obey the constraint

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^M f_\alpha^\dagger f_\alpha = \frac{M}{2}$$

In the large  $M$  limit we obtain the SYK equations for the spinon Green's function  $G$  and self energy  $\Sigma$ ; similar results apply for bosonic spinons.

$$G(i\omega) = \frac{1}{i\omega - \Sigma(i\omega)} \quad , \quad \Sigma(\tau) = -J^2 G^2(\tau) G(-\tau)$$

The solution is

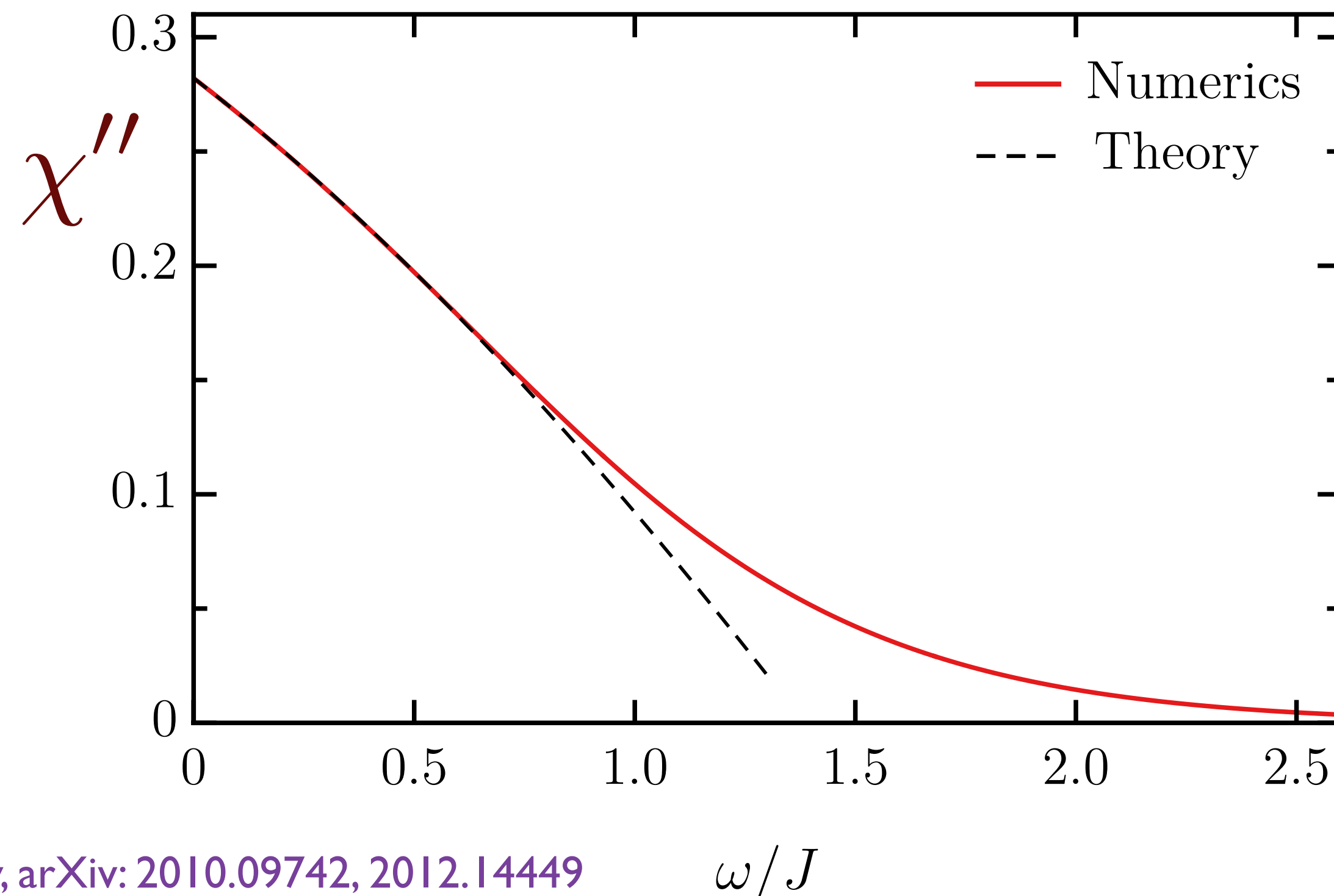
$$G(\tau) \sim \frac{\text{sgn}(\tau)}{\sqrt{|\tau|}} \quad , \quad \langle \vec{S}(\tau) \cdot \vec{S}(0) \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|\tau|}$$

# Dynamic spin susceptibility of the spin liquid at $M = \infty$

$$Q(\tau) = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{\pi} \chi''(\omega) e^{-\omega\tau}$$

$$\chi''(\omega) \sim \text{sgn}(\omega) \left[ 1 - \mathcal{C}\gamma|\omega| - \frac{7}{16}(\mathcal{C}\gamma)^2|\omega|^2 - \mathcal{C}'|\omega|^{2.77354\dots} + \frac{37}{48}(\mathcal{C}\gamma)^3|\omega|^3 - \dots \right]$$

Numerical solution of SYK equations (SY, PRL 1993), compared with conformal perturbation theory.  $\mathcal{C}$  is a known number, and  $\gamma$  is the co-efficient of the action for the ‘boundary graviton’ in holographic dual.

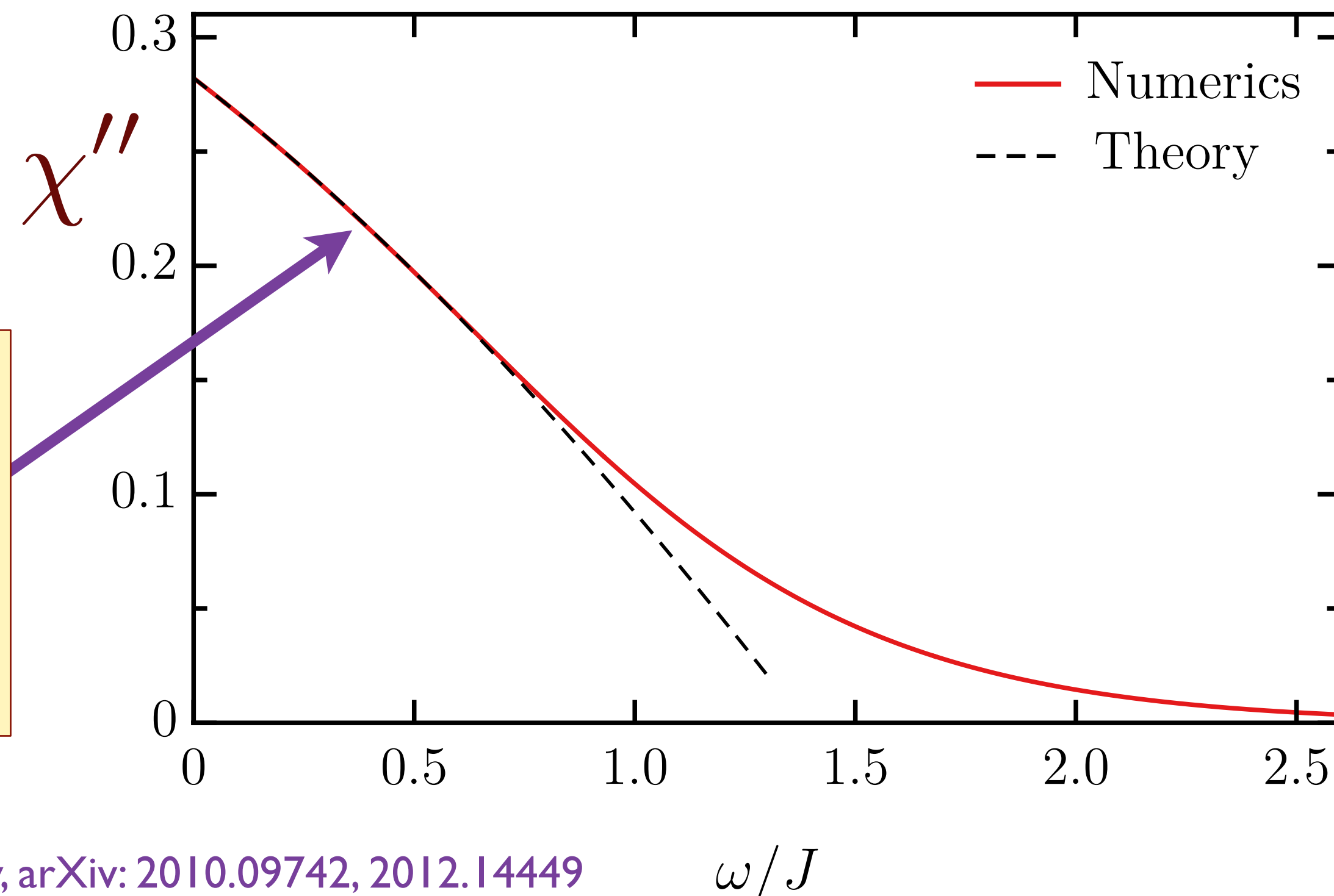


# Dynamic spin susceptibility of the spin liquid at $M = \infty$

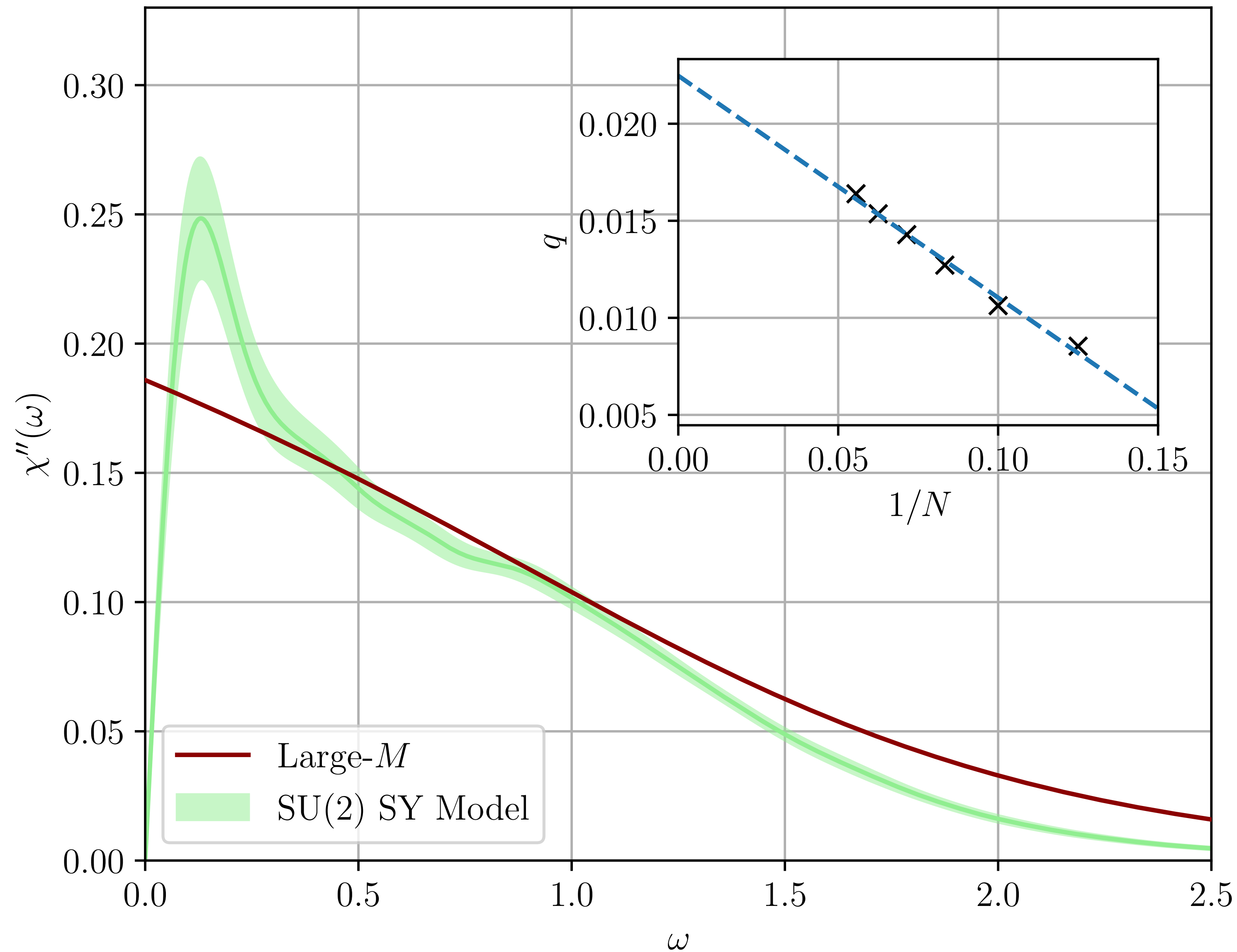
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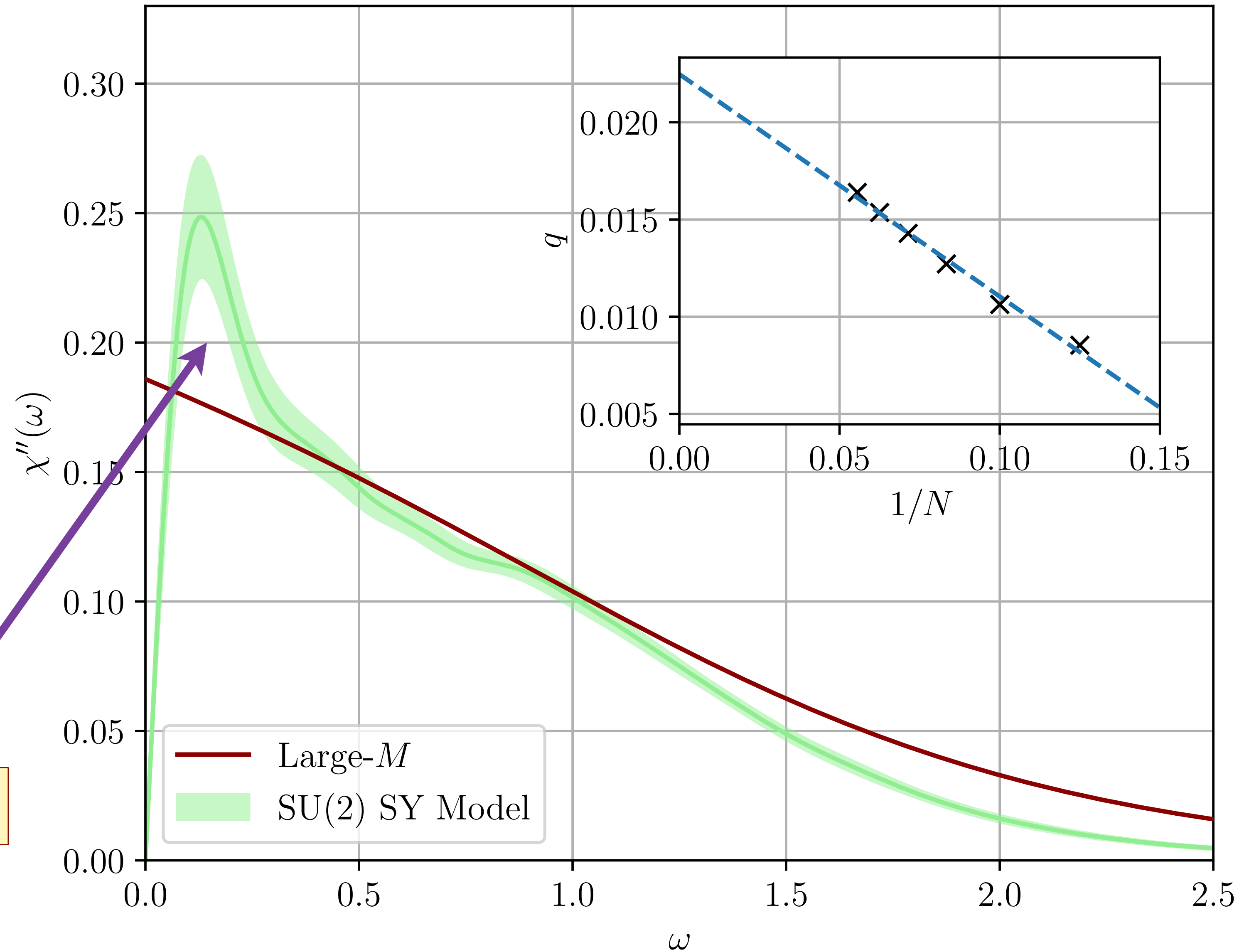


# Exact diagonalization of clusters of SU(2) spins



H. Shackleton, A. Wietek, A. Georges, and S. Sachdev, PRL **126**, 136602 (2021)

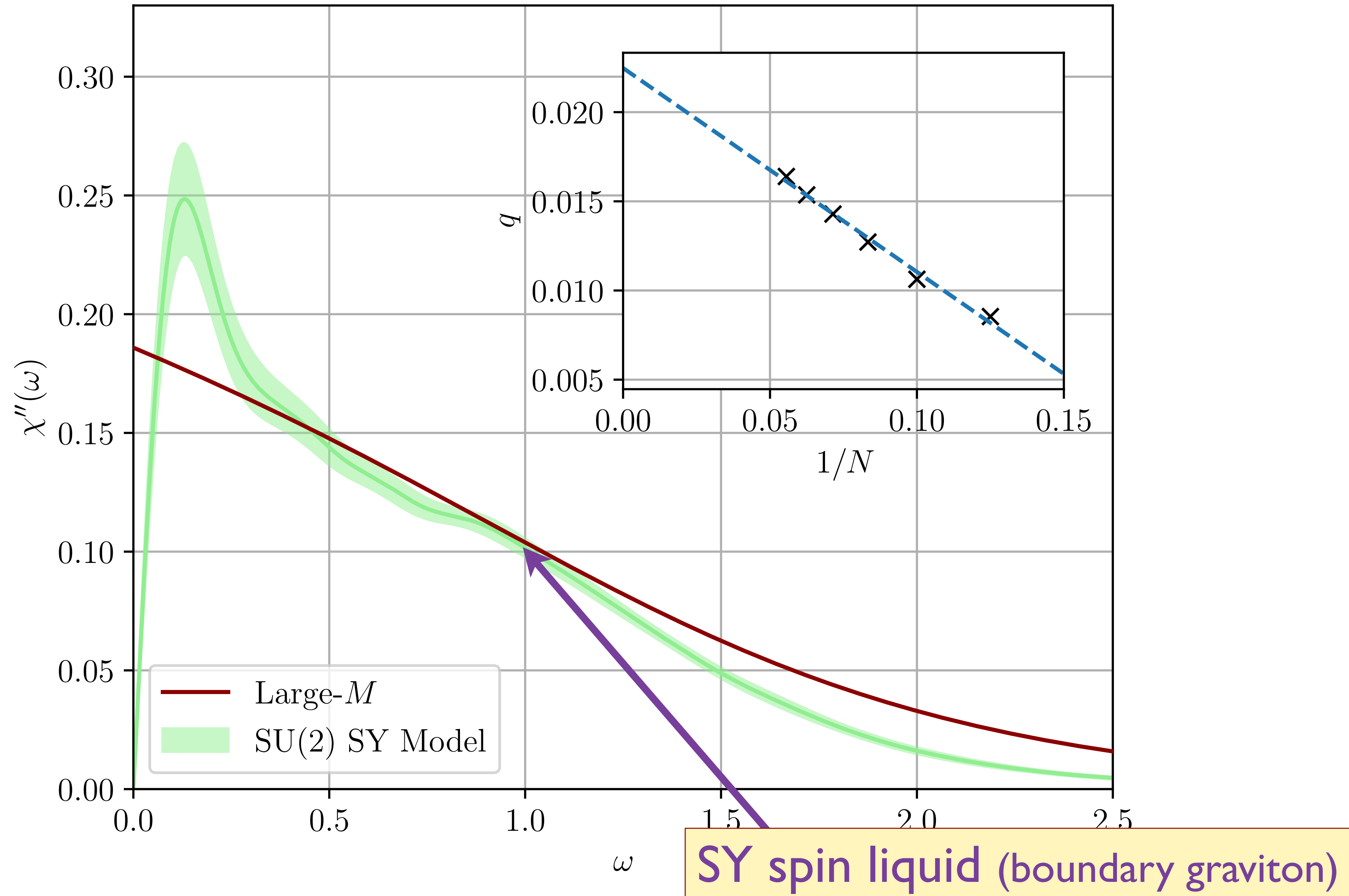
# Exact diagonalization of clusters of SU(2) spins



Spin glass



# Exact diagonalization of clusters of SU(2) spins



# Random $J$ model (insulator): $SU(M)$ symmetry

$$T_{\text{sg}} \sim J \exp\left(-\sqrt{M\pi}\right), \quad e^{-\sqrt{2\pi}} = 0.0815\dots$$

$$\chi''(\omega) = \frac{\pi\omega}{T} q_{EA} \delta(\omega) + \frac{1}{J} \Phi_{\chi}\left(\frac{\omega}{Jq_{EA}}\right) + \dots, \quad T \rightarrow 0$$

SYK spin liquid  
 $q_{EA} = 0$

$T_{\text{sg}}$

Spin glass order  
 $q_{EA} \neq 0$

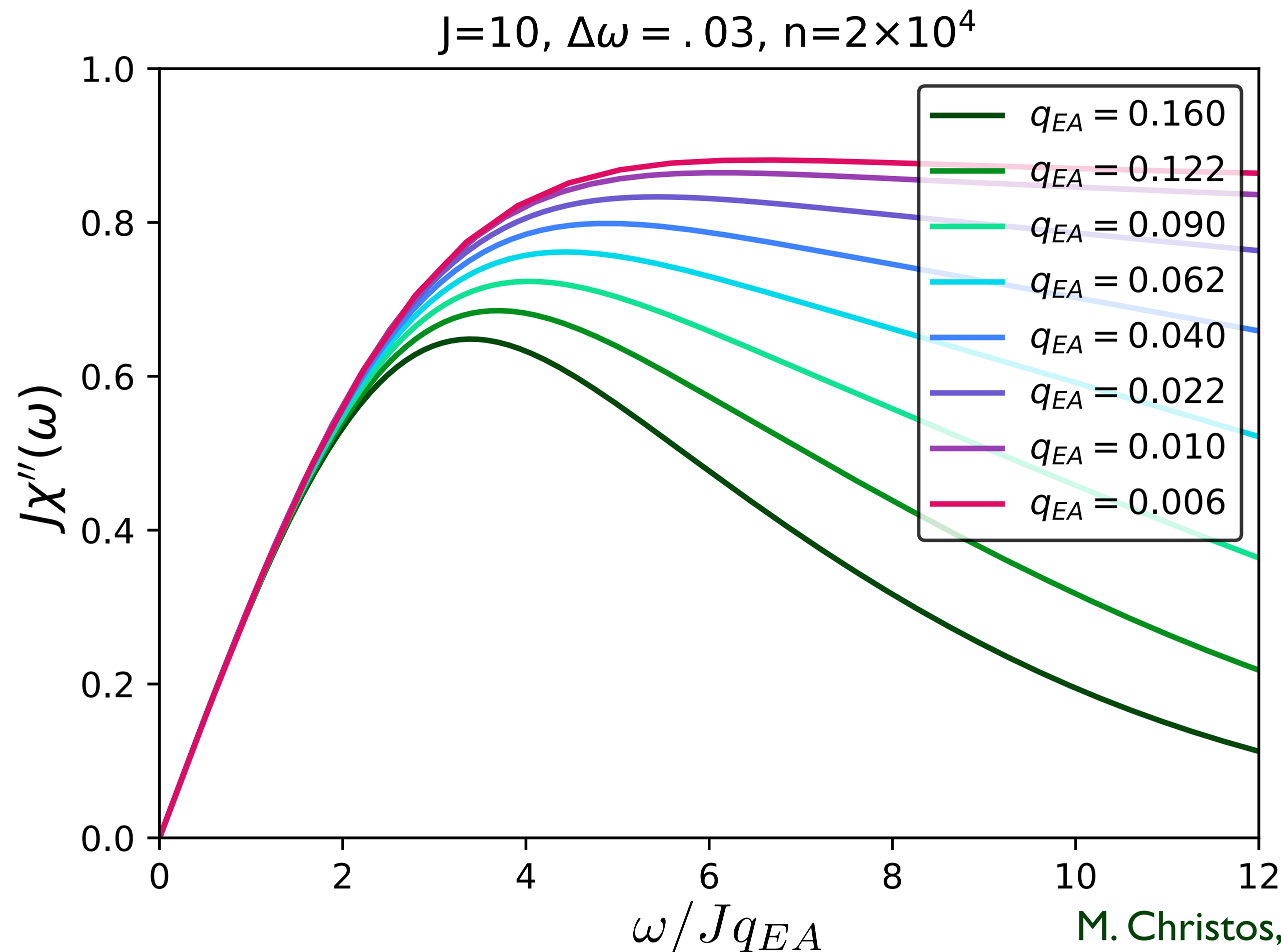


$\omega/Jq_{EA}$

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SYK spin liquid  
 $q_{EA} = 0$

$T_{\text{sg}}$

Spin glass order  
 $q_{EA} \neq 0$



# Dope the quantum Sherrington-Kirkpatrick model with mobile electrons

$$H = \sum_{i < j} \left[ -t_{ij} c_{i\alpha}^\dagger c_{j\alpha} + \text{H.c.} + J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j \right]$$

$$\mathbf{S}_i = \frac{1}{2} c_{i\alpha}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} c_{i\beta}$$

$$[c_{i\alpha}, c_{j\beta}^\dagger]_+ = \delta_{ij} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \quad , \quad \sum_{\alpha} c_{i\alpha}^\dagger c_{i\alpha} \leq 1$$

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i\alpha} c_{i\alpha}^\dagger c_{i\alpha} = 1 - p$$

$$\overline{J_{ij}} = 0, \quad \overline{J_{ij}^2} = J^2, \quad \text{Different } J_{ij} \text{ uncorrelated.}$$

$$\overline{t_{ij}} = 0, \quad \overline{t_{ij}^2} = t^2, \quad \text{Different } t_{ij} \text{ uncorrelated.}$$

# Random $t$ - $J$ model: $SU(M)$ symmetry

Each site has 3 states which we map to the space of a boson  $b$  (the holon) and a fermion  $f_\alpha$  (the spinon):

$$\begin{aligned} |0\rangle &\Rightarrow b^\dagger |v\rangle & , & & c_\alpha^\dagger |0\rangle &\Rightarrow f_\alpha^\dagger |v\rangle \\ c_\alpha &= f_\alpha b^\dagger & , & & f_\alpha^\dagger f_\alpha + b^\dagger b &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

To obtain a large  $M$  limit, let  $\alpha = 1 \dots M$ , endow the boson with an ‘orbital’ index  $a = 1 \dots M'$  and send  $M \rightarrow \infty$  at fixed  $k = M'/M$ . Then

$$c_{a\alpha} = f_\alpha b_a^\dagger \quad , \quad f_\alpha^\dagger f_\alpha + b_a^\dagger b_a = \frac{M}{2}$$



# Random $t$ - $J$ model: $SU(M)$ symmetry

Assuming the bosons are not condensed, we obtain SYK-like equations for the boson and fermion Green's functions:

$$G_b(i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n + \mu_b - \Sigma_b(i\omega_n)}$$

$$\Sigma_b(\tau) = -t^2 G_f(\tau) G_f(-\tau) G_b(\tau)$$

$$G_f(i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n + \mu_f - \Sigma_f(i\omega_n)}$$

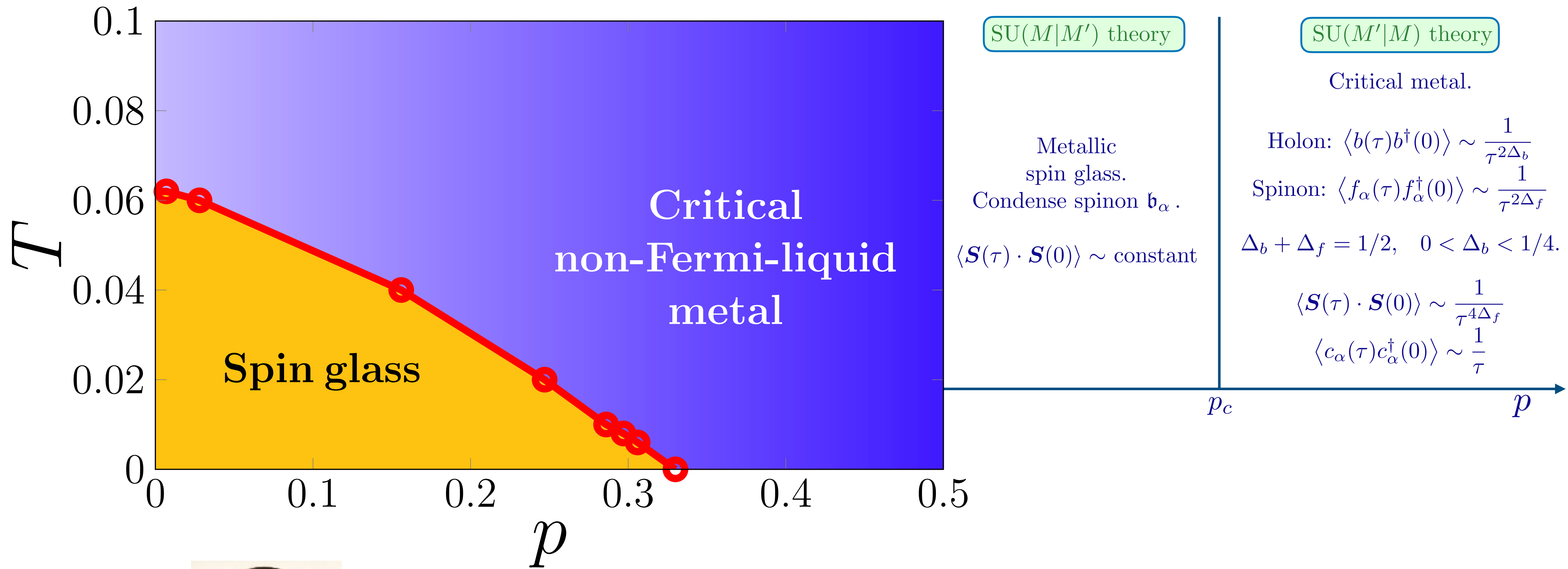
$$\Sigma_f(\tau) = -J^2 G_f^2(\tau) G_f(-\tau) + k t^2 G_f(\tau) G_b(\tau) G_b(-\tau)$$

Here  $\mu_f$  and  $\mu_b$  are chemical potentials chosen to satisfy

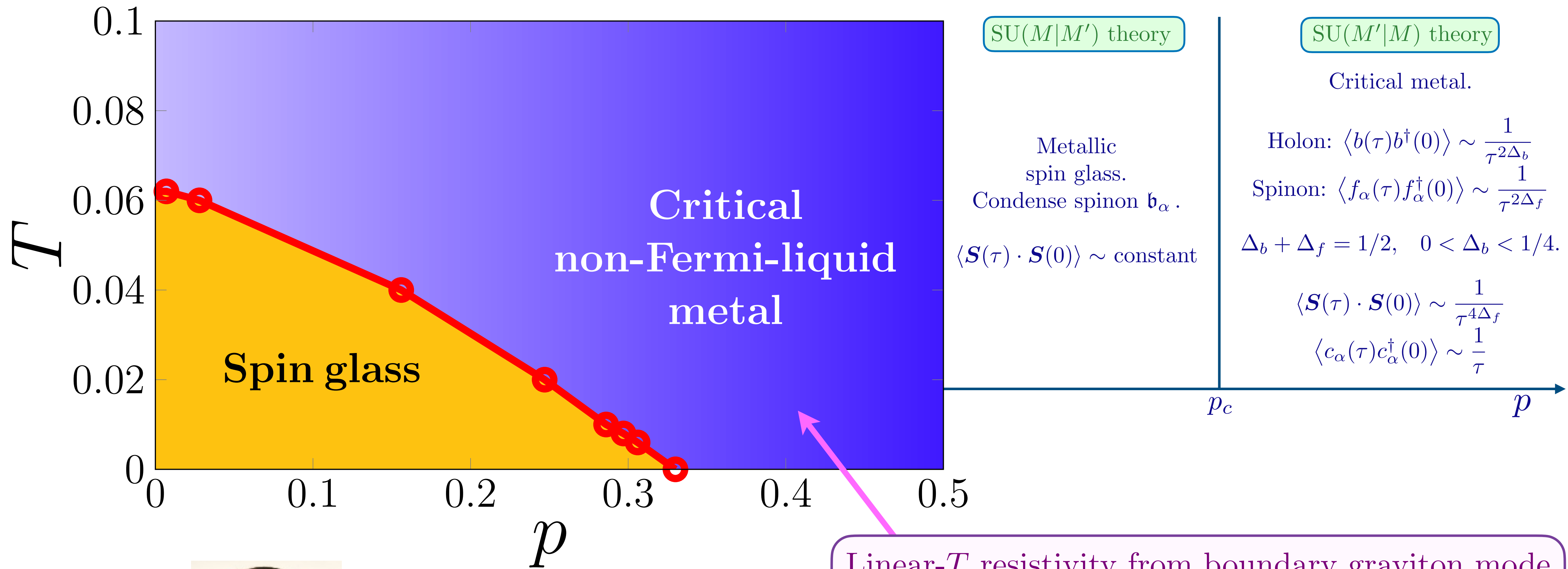
$$\langle f^\dagger f \rangle = \frac{1}{2} - kp \quad , \quad \langle b^\dagger b \rangle = p .$$



# Random $t$ - $j$ model: $SU(M)$ symmetry



# Random $t$ - $j$ model: $SU(M)$ symmetry



Linear- $T$  resistivity from boundary graviton mode  
Haoyu Guo, Yingfei Gu, and S.S.,  
Annals of Physics **418**, 168202 (2020)



# Summary

- Ancilla theory of FL\* for the pseudogap metal of the cuprates: Don't fractionalize the mobile electron, but fractionalize the 'paramagnon rotor' into 'ancilla qubits'. Predicts electronic spectra in good agreement with observations in *both* nodal and anti-nodal regions.

# Summary

- Ancilla theory of FL\* for the pseudogap metal of the cuprates: Don't fractionalize the mobile electron, but fractionalize the 'paramagnon rotor' into 'ancilla qubits'. Predicts electronic spectra in good agreement with observations in *both* nodal and anti-nodal regions.
- Theory of spin liquid to confinement transition in the random  $t$ - $J$  model: Spin glass order at small  $p$ , and a critical non-Fermi liquid metal at larger  $p$ .