

SYK models, strange metals, and black holes

University of Illinois, Urbana, December 5, 2016

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FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

Talk online: sachdev.physics.harvard.edu

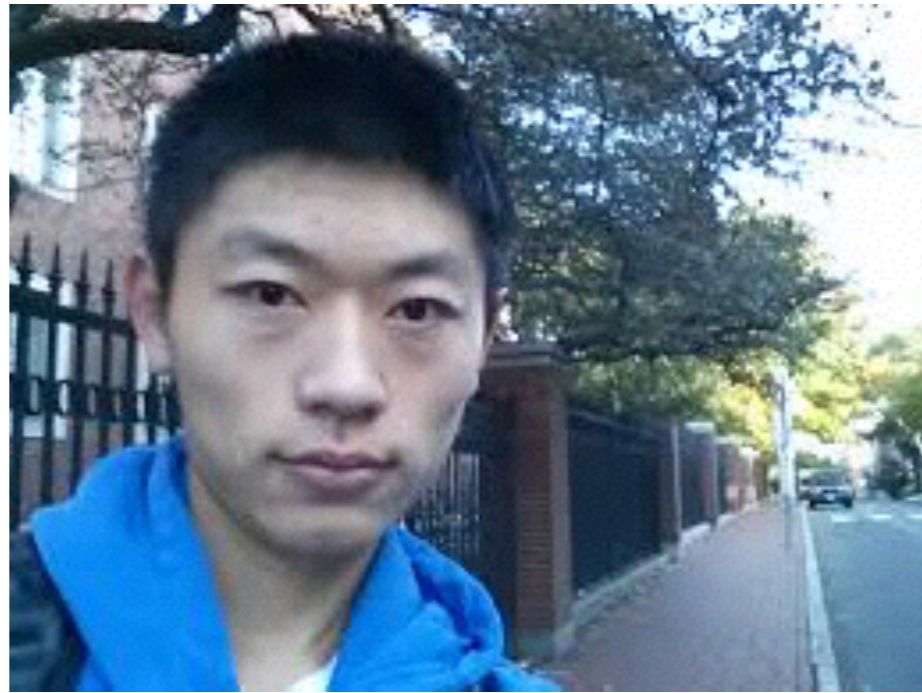
PHYSICS



HARVARD



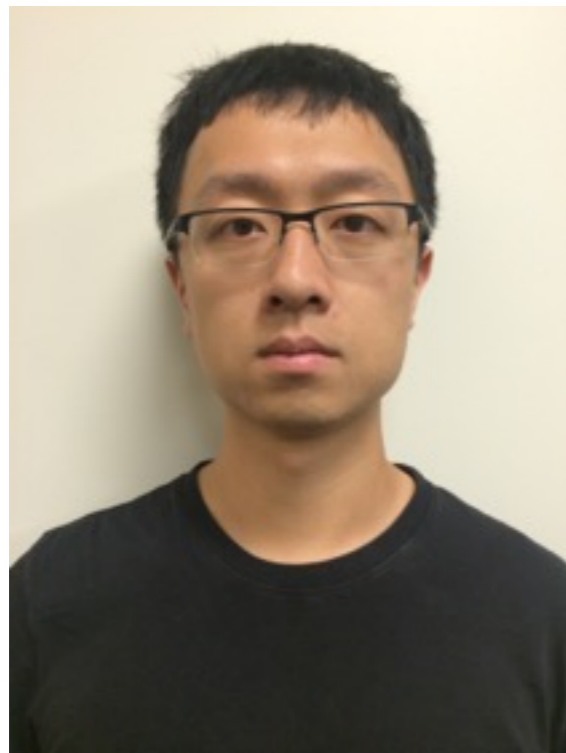
Aavishkar Patel, Harvard



Wenbo Fu, Harvard



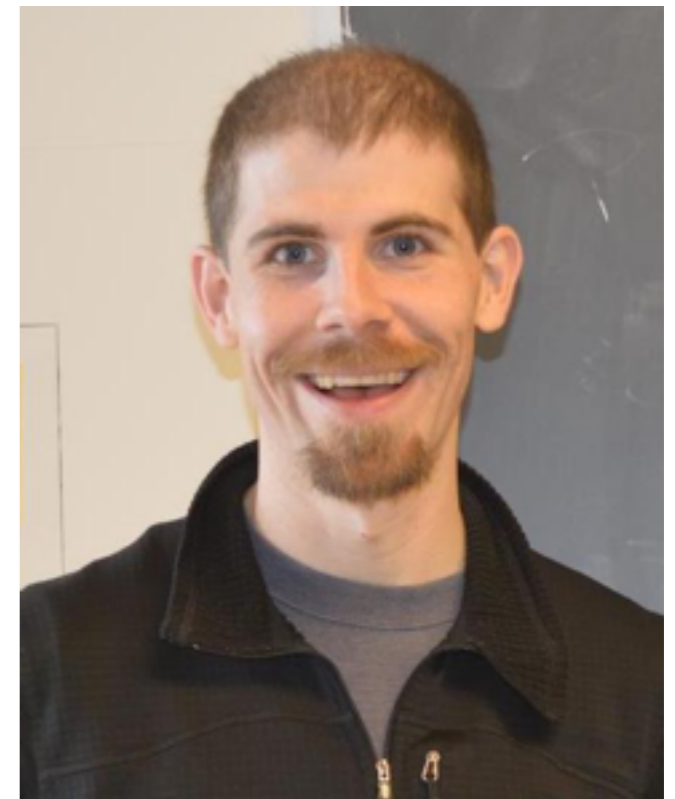
Antoine Georges, Paris



Yingfei Gu, Stanford



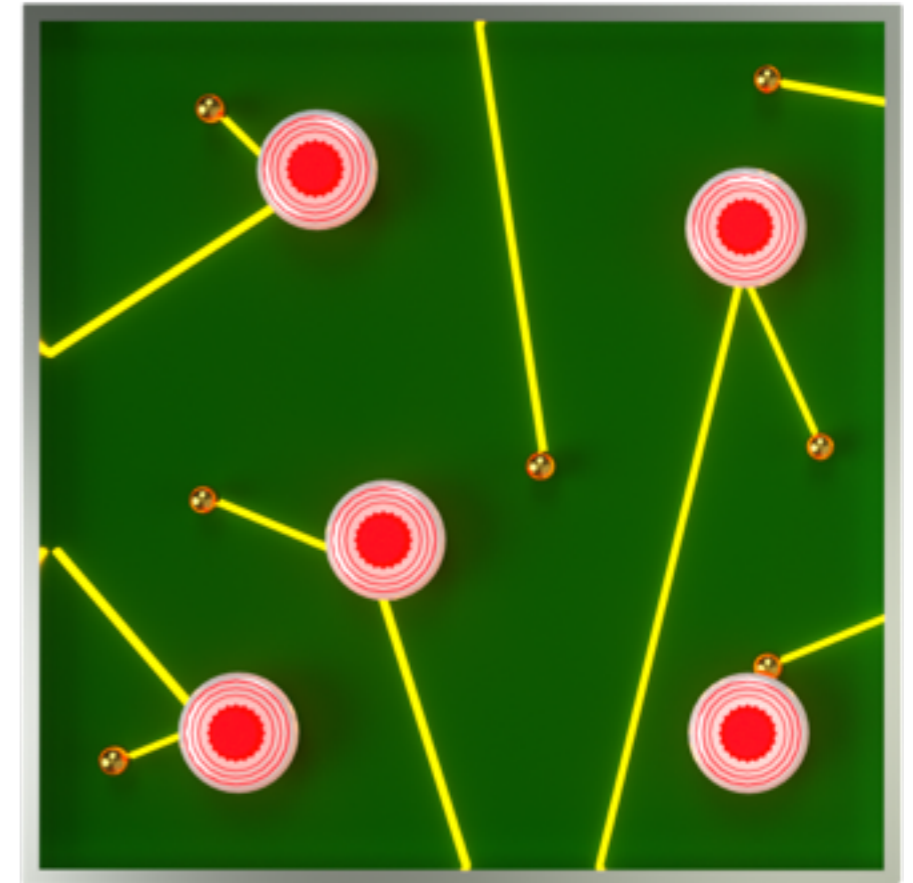
Richard Davison, Harvard



Kristan Jensen, SFSU

Quantum matter with quasiparticles:

- Landau quasi-particles & holes
- Phonon
- Magnon
- Roton
- Plasmon
- Polaron
- Exciton
- Laughlin quasiparticle
- Composite fermion
- Bogoliubovon
- Anderson-Higgs mode
- Massless Dirac Fermions
- Weyl fermions
-



Quantum matter with quasiparticles:

Most generally, a quasiparticle is an “additive” excitation:

Quasiparticles can be combined to yield additional excitations, with energy determined by the energies and densities of the constituents. Such a procedure yields all the low-lying excitations. Then we can apply the Boltzmann-Landau theory to make predictions for dynamics.

Quantum matter without quasiparticles:

No quasiparticle structure to excitations.

But how can we be sure that no
quasiparticles exist in a given system?
Perhaps there are some exotic quasiparticles
inaccessible to current experiments.....

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Consider how rapidly the system loses “phase coherence”, reaches local thermal equilibrium, or becomes “chaotic”

Local thermal equilibration or phase coherence time, τ_φ :

- There is an *lower bound* on τ_φ in all many-body quantum systems as $T \rightarrow 0$,

$$\tau_\varphi > C \frac{\hbar}{k_B T},$$

where C is a T -independent constant. Systems *without* quasiparticles have $\tau_\varphi \sim \hbar/(k_B T)$.

- In systems *with* quasiparticles, τ_φ is parametrically larger at low T ;
e.g. in Fermi liquids $\tau_\varphi \sim 1/T^2$,
and in gapped insulators $\tau_\varphi \sim e^{\Delta/(k_B T)}$ where Δ is the energy gap.

K. Damle and S. Sachdev, PRB 56, 8714 (1997)

S. Sachdev, *Quantum Phase Transitions*, Cambridge (1999)

A bound on quantum chaos:

- By analogy with classical chaos, we define τ_L as the LYAPUNOV TIME over which the wavefunction of a quantum system is scrambled by an initial perturbation. This scrambling can be measured by considering the magnitude-squared of the commutator of two observables, \hat{A} , \hat{B} a time t apart:

$$\left\langle \left| [\hat{A}(t), \hat{B}(0)] \right|^2 \right\rangle \sim e^{t/\tau_L}$$

This time obeys the rigorous lower bound

$$\tau_L \geq \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$$

A. I. Larkin and Y. N. Ovchinnikov, JETP **28**, 6 (1969)

J. Maldacena, S. H. Shenker and D. Stanford, arXiv:1503.01409

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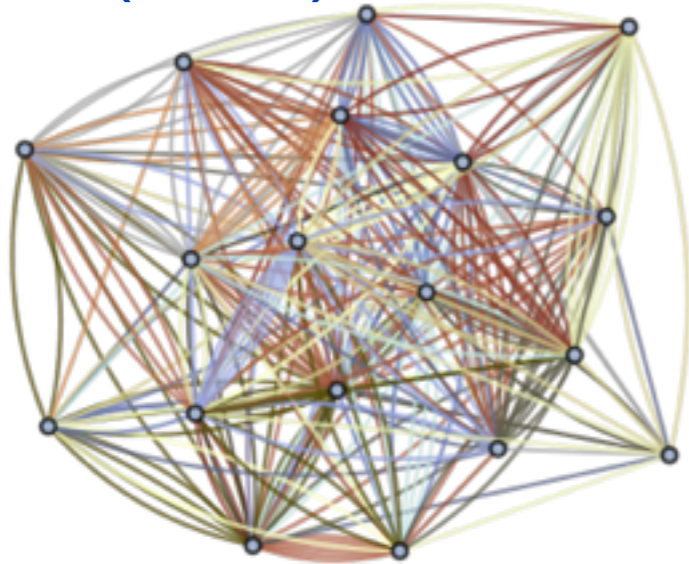
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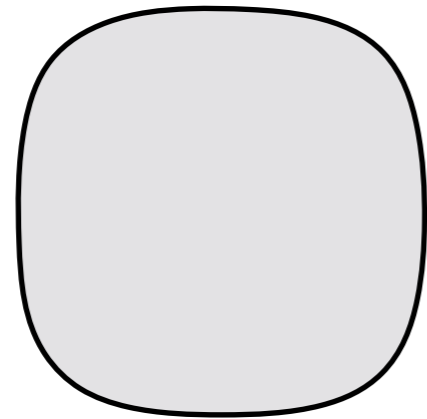
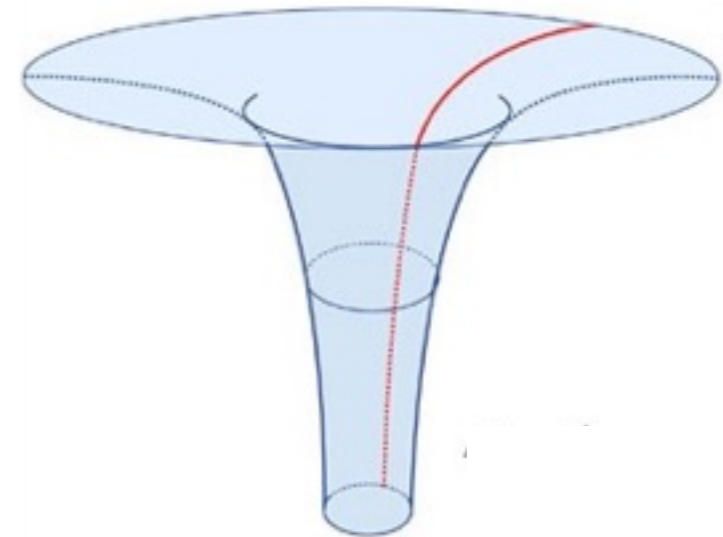
Quantum matter without quasiparticles
 \approx fastest possible many-body quantum chaos

Quantum matter without quasiparticles:

The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) models



Black holes with AdS₂ horizons

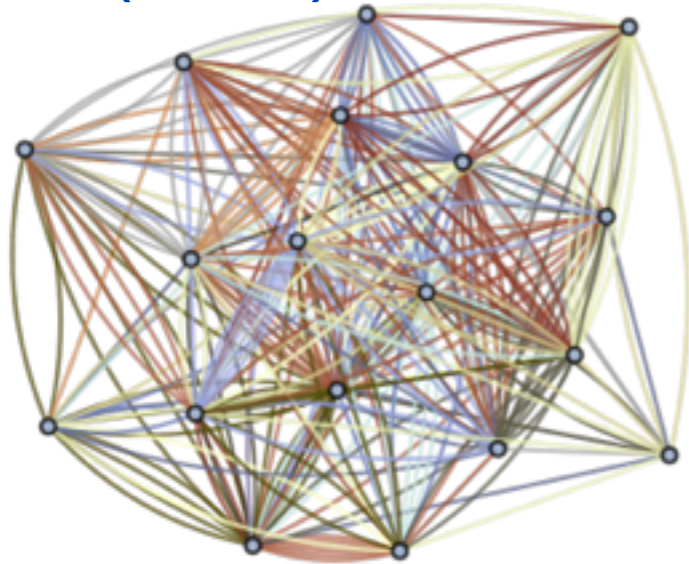


Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field

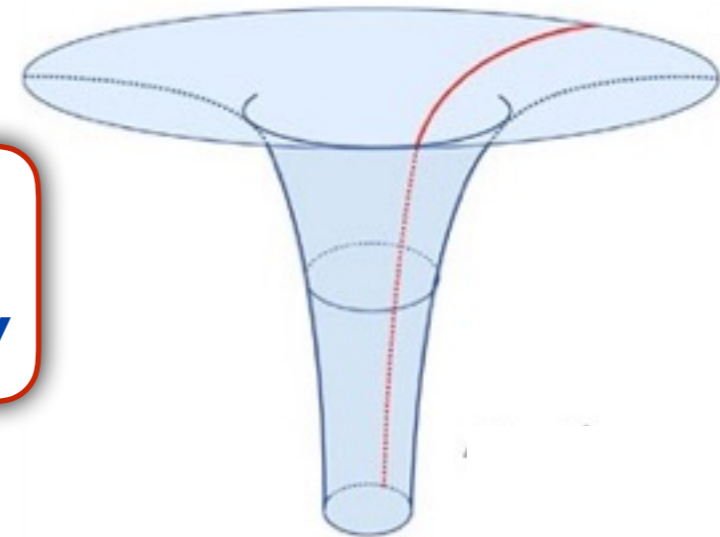
$$\mathcal{L}[\Psi, a] = \Psi^\dagger \left(\partial_\tau - ia_\tau - \frac{(\nabla - i\vec{a})^2}{2m} - \mu \right) \Psi + \frac{1}{2g^2} (\nabla \times \vec{a})^2$$

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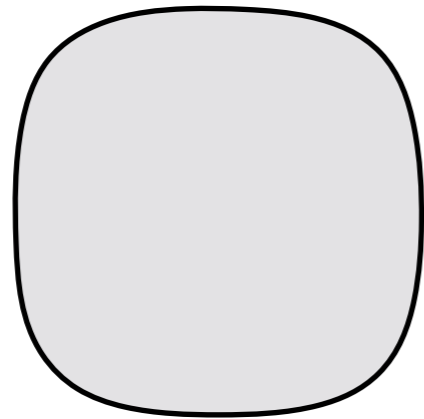
The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) models



Black holes with AdS₂ horizons



Same low energy theory

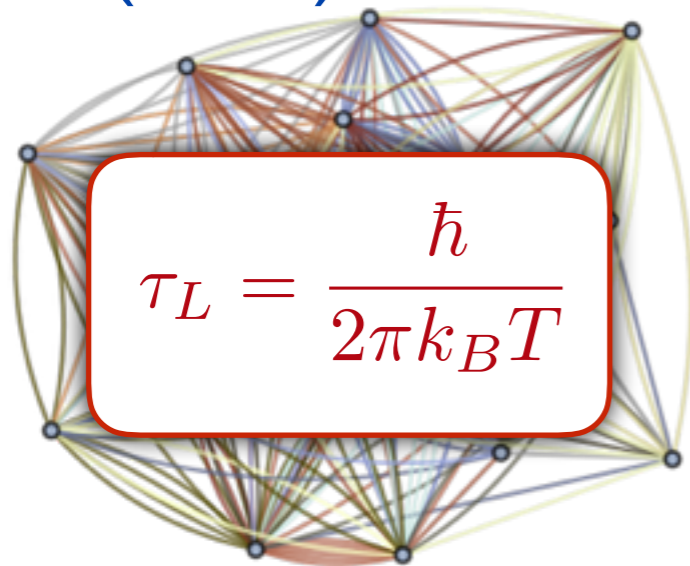


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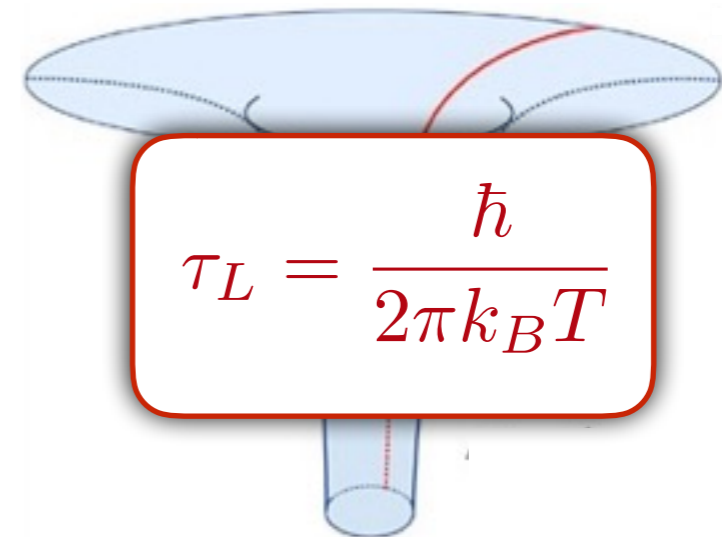
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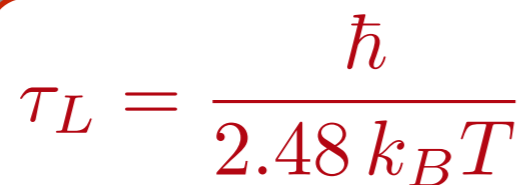


$$\tau_L = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi k_B T}$$

Black holes with AdS₂ horizons



$$\tau_L = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi k_B T}$$



A diagram illustrating a Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field. It shows a grey, semi-circular shape representing the Fermi surface. A red-bordered box is overlaid on the diagram, containing the equation for the Lyapunov time τ_L .

$$\tau_L = \frac{\hbar}{2.48 k_B T}$$

Fermi surface coupled
to a gauge field

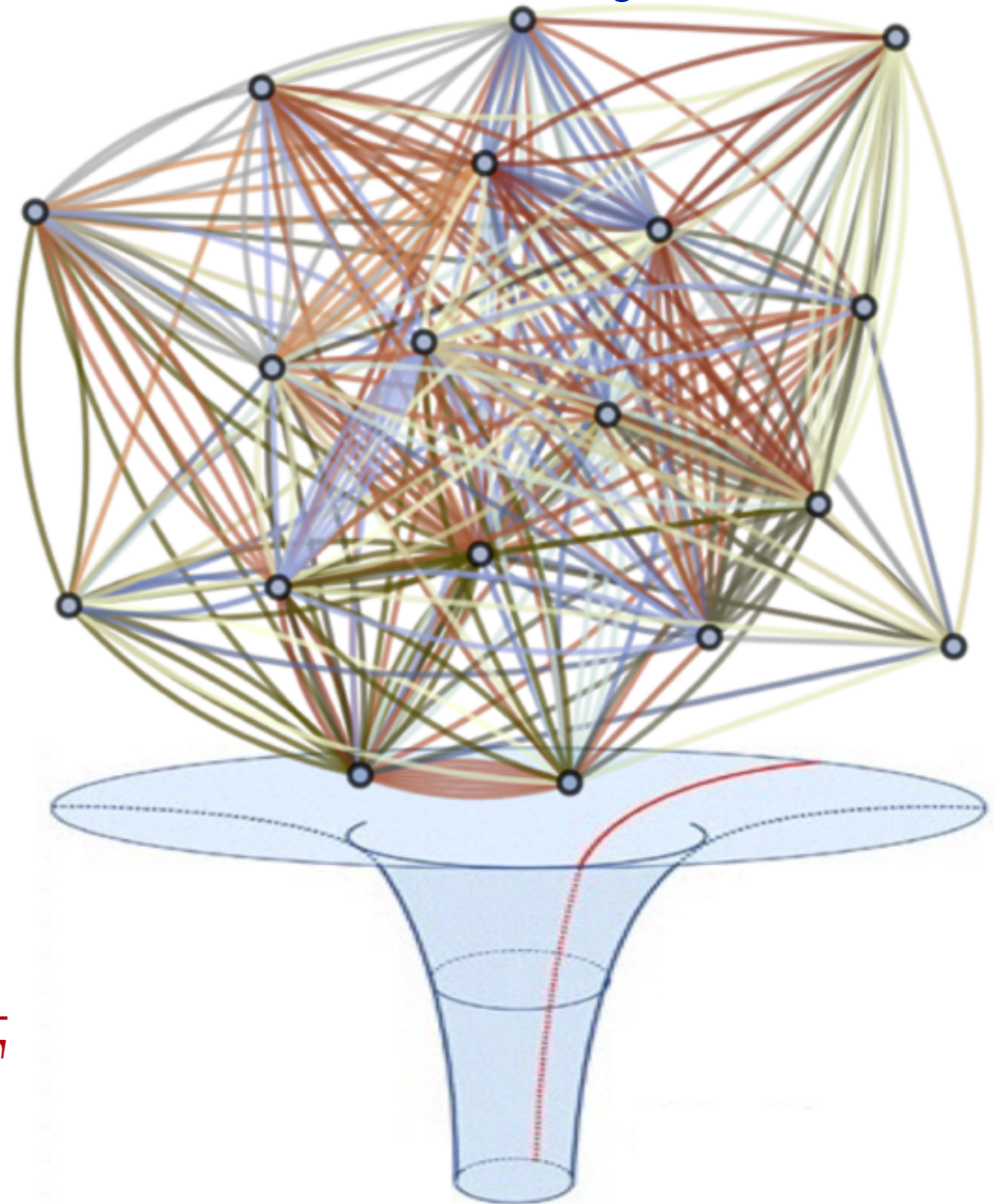
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τ_L : the Lyapunov time to reach quantum chaos

The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model:

- A theory of a strange metal
- Dual theory of gravity on AdS_2
- Fastest possible quantum chaos with $\tau_L = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi k_B T}$

Figure credit: L. Balents



Infinite-range model with quasiparticles

$$H = \frac{1}{(N)^{1/2}} \sum_{i,j=1}^N t_{ij} c_i^\dagger c_j + \dots$$

$$c_i c_j + c_j c_i = 0 \quad , \quad c_i c_j^\dagger + c_j^\dagger c_i = \delta_{ij}$$

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i = Q$$

t_{ij} are independent random variables with $\overline{t_{ij}} = 0$ and $\overline{|t_{ij}|^2} = t^2$

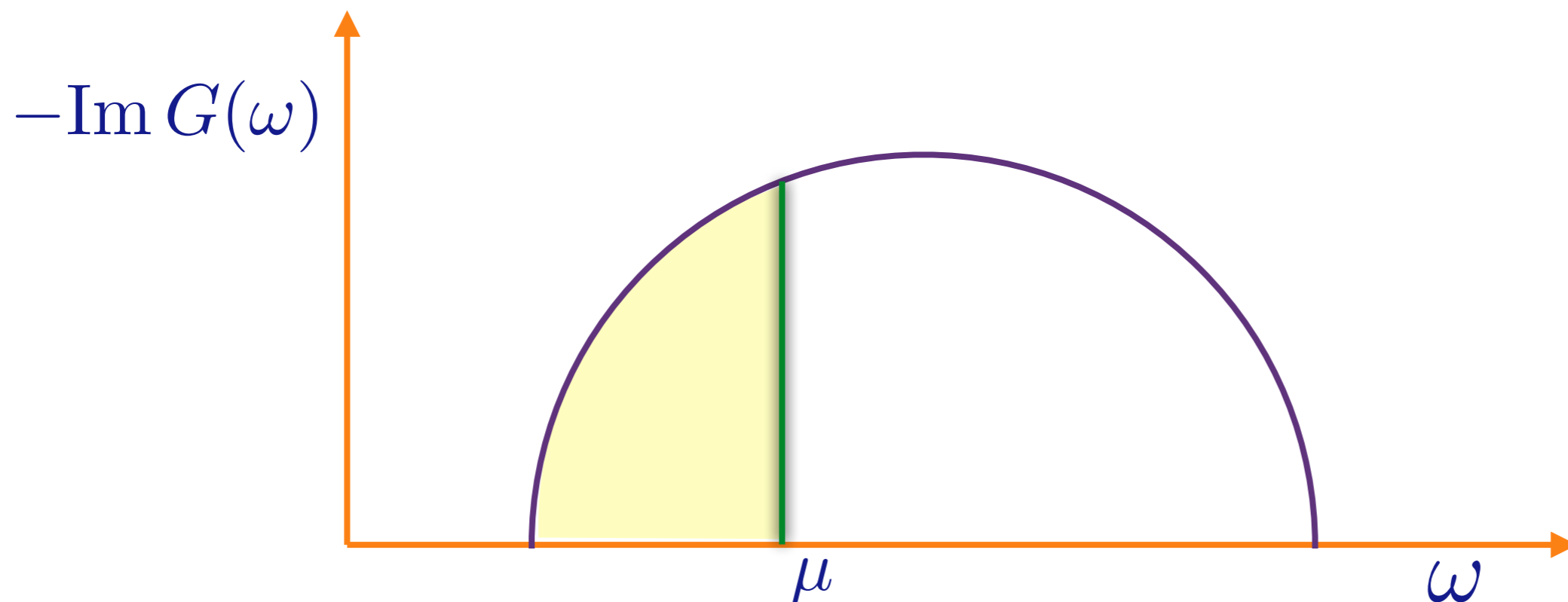
**Fermions occupying the eigenstates of a
 $N \times N$ random matrix**

Infinite-range model with quasiparticles

Feynman graph expansion in $t_{ij..}$, and graph-by-graph average, yields exact equations in the large N limit:

$$G(i\omega) = \frac{1}{i\omega + \mu - \Sigma(i\omega)} \quad , \quad \Sigma(\tau) = t^2 G(\tau)$$
$$G(\tau = 0^-) = Q.$$

$G(\omega)$ can be determined by solving a quadratic equation.



Infinite-range model with quasiparticles

Now add weak interactions

$$H = \frac{1}{(N)^{1/2}} \sum_{i,j=1}^N t_{ij} c_i^\dagger c_j + \frac{1}{(2N)^{3/2}} \sum_{i,j,k,l=1}^N J_{ij;kl} c_i^\dagger c_j^\dagger c_k c_l$$

$J_{ij;kl}$ are independent random variables with $\overline{J_{ij;kl}} = 0$ and $\overline{|J_{ij;kl}|^2} = J^2$. We compute the lifetime of a quasiparticle, τ_α , in an exact eigenstate $\psi_\alpha(i)$ of the free particle Hamiltonian with energy E_α . By Fermi's Golden rule, for E_α at the Fermi energy

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\tau_\alpha} &= \pi J^2 \rho_0^2 \int dE_\beta dE_\gamma dE_\delta f(E_\beta)(1 - f(E_\gamma))(1 - f(E_\delta))\delta(E_\alpha + E_\beta - E_\gamma - E_\delta) \\ &= \frac{\pi^3 J^2 \rho_0^2}{4} T^2 \end{aligned}$$

where ρ_0 is the density of states at the Fermi energy.

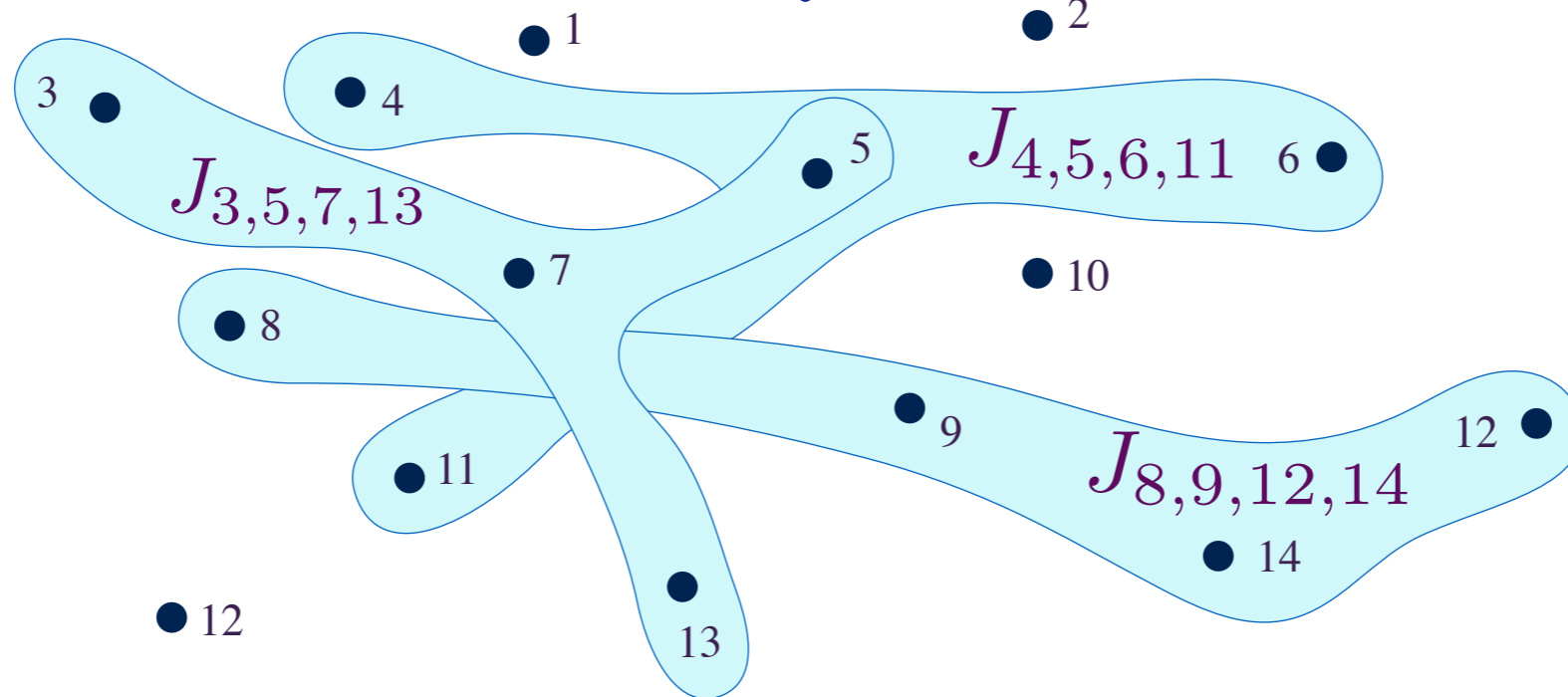
Fermi liquid state: Two-body interactions lead to a scattering time of quasiparticle excitations from in (random) single-particle eigenstates which diverges as $\sim T^{-2}$ at the Fermi level.

SYK model

$$H = \frac{1}{(2N)^{3/2}} \sum_{i,j,k,\ell=1}^N J_{ij;kl} c_i^\dagger c_j^\dagger c_k c_\ell - \mu \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i$$

$$c_i c_j + c_j c_i = 0 \quad , \quad c_i c_j^\dagger + c_j^\dagger c_i = \delta_{ij}$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i$$



$J_{ij;kl}$ are independent random variables with $\overline{J_{ij;kl}} = 0$ and $\overline{|J_{ij;kl}|^2} = J^2$
 $N \rightarrow \infty$ yields critical strange metal.

S. Sachdev and J. Ye, PRL **70**, 3339 (1993)

A. Kitaev, unpublished; S. Sachdev, PRX **5**, 041025 (2015)

SYK model

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$$G(i\omega) = \frac{1}{i\omega + \mu - \Sigma(i\omega)} \quad , \quad \Sigma(\tau) = -J^2 G^2(\tau) G(-\tau)$$
$$G(\tau = 0^-) = Q.$$

Low frequency analysis shows that the solutions must be gapless and obey

$$\Sigma(z) = \mu - \frac{1}{A} \sqrt{z} + \dots \quad , \quad G(z) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{z}}$$

for some complex A . The ground state is a non-Fermi liquid, with a continuously variable density Q .

SYK and AdS₂

- Non-zero GPS entropy as $T \rightarrow 0$, $S(T \rightarrow 0) = NS_0 + \dots$
Not a ground state degeneracy: due to an exponentially small (in N) many-body level spacing at all energies down to the ground state energy.



A. Georges, O. Parcollet, and S. Sachdev, PRB 63, 134406 (2001)

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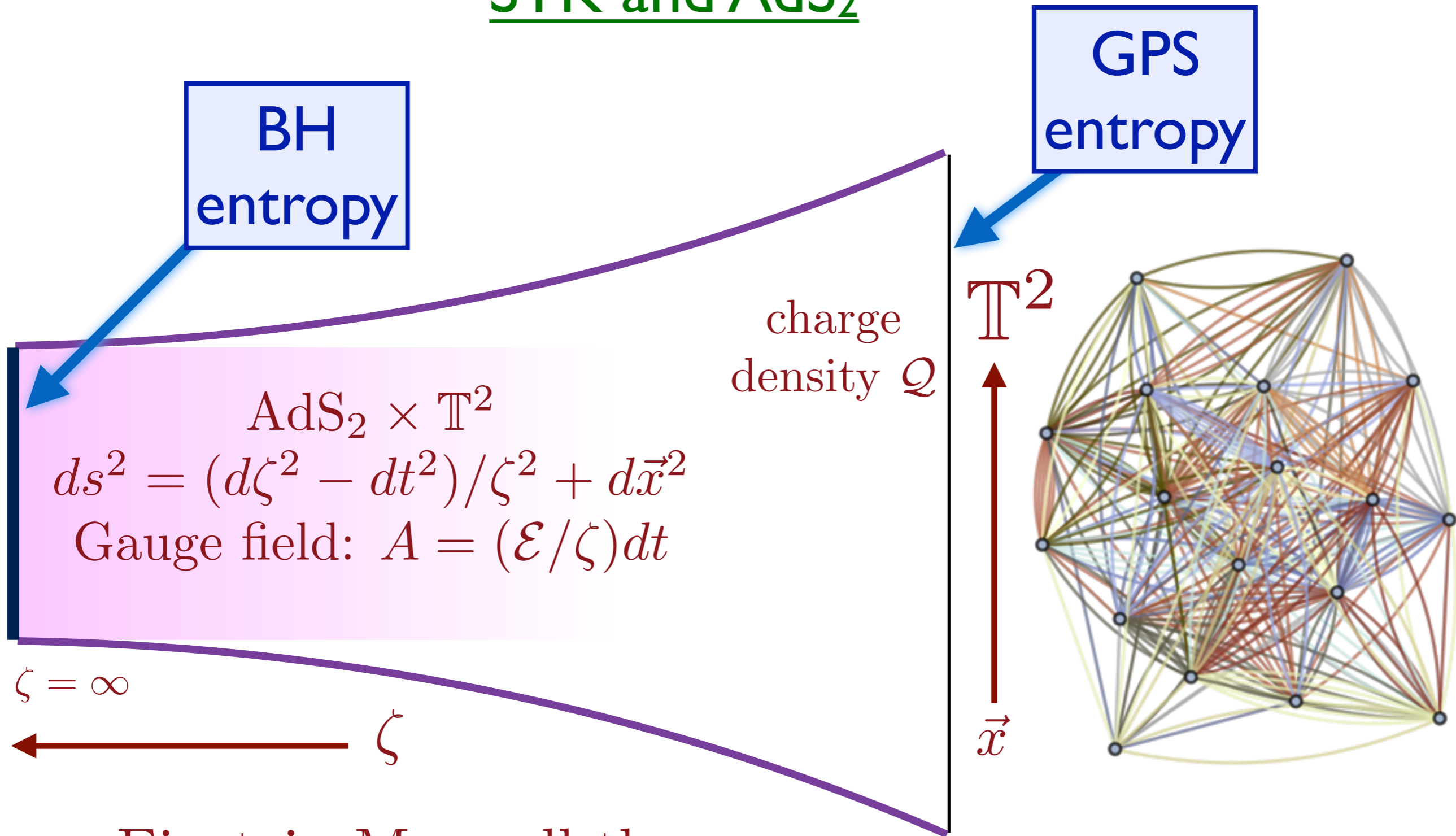


A. Georges, O. Parcollet, and S. Sachdev, PRB **63**, 134406 (2001)

- The correlators and thermodynamics of SYK match those of quantum matter holographically dual to AdS₂ black hole horizons (as computed by T. Faulkner, H. Liu, J. McGreevy, and D. Vegh, PRD **83**, 125002 (2011)). SYK models are “are states of matter at non-zero density realizing the near-horizon, AdS₂ × R² physics of Reissner-Nördstrom black holes”. The Bekenstein-Hawking entropy is NS_0 (**GPS = BH**).

S. Sachdev, PRL **105**, 151602 (2010)

SYK and AdS₂



Einstein-Maxwell theory
+ cosmological constant

S. Sachdev, PRL 105, 151602 (2010)

Mapping to SYK applies when temperature $\ll 1/(\text{size of } \mathbb{T}^2)$

SYK and AdS₂

$$G(i\omega) = \frac{1}{i\omega + \mu - \Sigma(i\omega)} \quad , \quad \Sigma(\tau) = -J^2 G^2(\tau) G(-\tau)$$
$$\Sigma(z) = \mu - \frac{1}{A} \sqrt{z} + \dots \quad , \quad G(z) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{z}}$$

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At frequencies $\ll J$, the $i\omega + \mu$ can be dropped, and without it equations are invariant under the reparametrization and gauge transformations

$$\tau = f(\sigma)$$

$$G(\tau_1, \tau_2) = [f'(\sigma_1) f'(\sigma_2)]^{-1/4} \frac{g(\sigma_1)}{g(\sigma_2)} G(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$$

$$\Sigma(\tau_1, \tau_2) = [f'(\sigma_1) f'(\sigma_2)]^{-3/4} \frac{g(\sigma_1)}{g(\sigma_2)} \Sigma(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$$

where $f(\sigma)$ and $g(\sigma)$ are arbitrary functions.

SYK and AdS₂

Let us write the large N saddle point solutions of S as

$$\begin{aligned} G_s(\tau_1 - \tau_2) &\sim (\tau_1 - \tau_2)^{-1/2} \\ \Sigma_s(\tau_1 - \tau_2) &\sim (\tau_1 - \tau_2)^{-3/2}. \end{aligned}$$

These are not invariant under the reparametrization symmetry but are invariant only under a $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ subgroup under which

$$f(\tau) = \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}, \quad ad - bc = 1.$$

So the (approximate) reparametrization symmetry is spontaneously broken.

SYK and AdS₂

Connections of SYK to gravity and AdS₂ horizons

- Reparameterization and gauge invariance are the ‘symmetries’ of the Einstein-Maxwell theory of gravity and electromagnetism
- $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ is the isometry group of AdS₂.

SYK and AdS₂

Reparametrization and phase zero modes

Expand about the saddle point by writing

$$G(\tau_1, \tau_2) = [f'(\tau_1)f'(\tau_2)]^{1/4} G_s(f(\tau_1) - f(\tau_2)) e^{i\phi(\tau_1) - i\phi(\tau_2)}$$

(and similarly for Σ) and obtain an effective action for $f(\tau)$. This action must vanish for $f(\tau) \in \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$. The action for $\phi(\tau)$ and $f(\tau) = \frac{1}{\pi T} \tan(\pi T(\tau + \epsilon(\tau)))$ fluctuations is

$$S_{\phi, f} = \frac{K}{2} \int_0^{1/T} d\tau (\partial_\tau \phi + i(2\pi \mathcal{E} T) \partial_\tau \epsilon)^2 - \frac{\gamma}{4\pi^2} \int_0^{1/T} d\tau \{f, \tau\},$$

where $\{f, \tau\}$ is the Schwarzian:

$$\{f, \tau\} \equiv \frac{f'''}{f'} - \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{f''}{f'} \right)^2.$$

SYK and AdS₂

Reparametrization and phase zero modes

- The same effective action $S_{\phi,f}$ is also obtained from theories of gravity on AdS₂, after integrating out “bulk” modes for an effective theory on the boundary.
- The couplings, K , γ , \mathcal{E} are all related to thermodynamic derivatives. The same relationship is obtained in the SYK and gravity theories.

Coupled SYK models

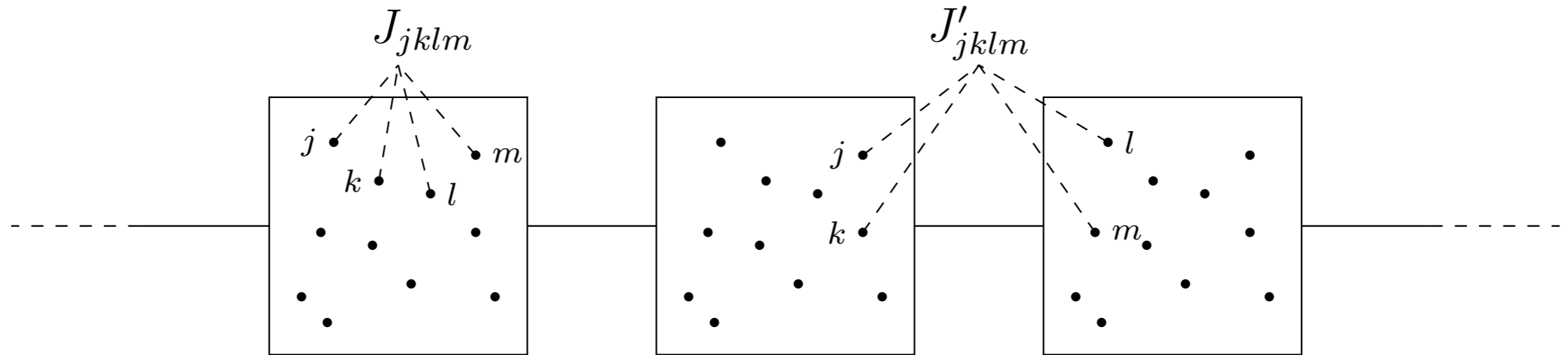


Figure 1: A chain of coupled SYK sites: each site contains $N \gg 1$ fermion with SYK interaction. The coupling between nearest neighbor sites are four fermion interaction with two from each site.

Yingfei Gu, Xiao-Liang Qi, and D. Stanford, arXiv:1609.07832
R. Davison, Wenbo Fu, A. Georges, Yingfei Gu, K. Jensen, S. Sachdev, arXiv:1612.00849

Coupled SYK models

The response functions of the density, Q , and the energy, E exhibit diffusion

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle Q; Q \rangle_{k,\omega} & \langle E - \mu Q; Q \rangle_{k,\omega} / T \\ \langle E - \mu Q; Q \rangle_{k,\omega} & \langle E - \mu Q; E - \mu Q \rangle_{k,\omega} / T \end{pmatrix} = [i\omega(-i\omega + Dk^2)^{-1} + 1] \chi_s$$

where the diffusivities are related to the thermoelectric conductivities by the Einstein relations

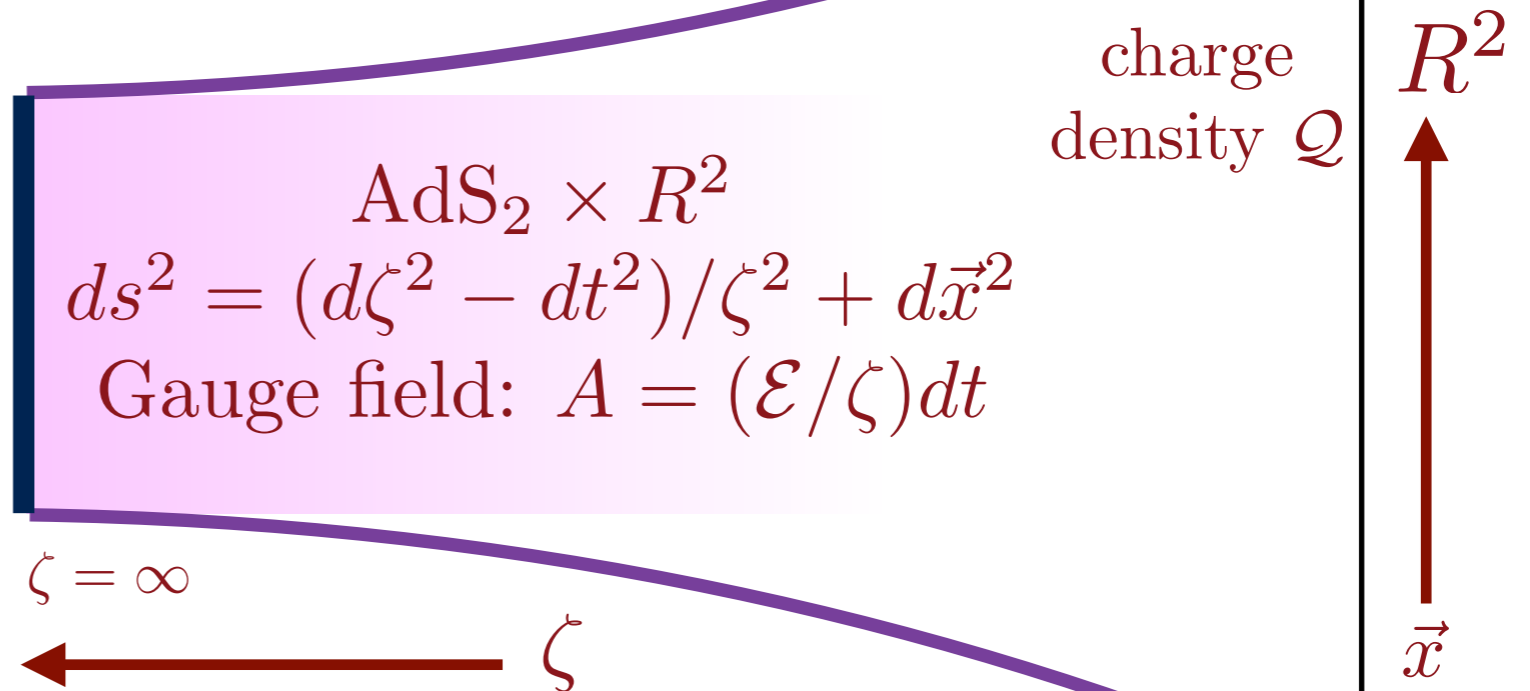
$$D = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma & \alpha \\ \alpha T & \bar{\kappa} \end{pmatrix} \chi_s^{-1}.$$

The Seebeck co-efficient (thermopower), α/σ , is given exactly by a thermodynamic derivative

$$\frac{\alpha}{\sigma} = \frac{\partial S_0}{\partial Q}$$

The coupled SYK models realize a disordered metal
with no quasiparticle excitations.
(a “strange metal”)

Holography: Einstein-Maxwell-axion theory



$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\hat{g}} \left(\hat{\mathcal{R}} + 6/L^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 (\partial \hat{\varphi}_i)^2 - \frac{1}{4} \hat{F}_{\mu\nu} \hat{F}^{\mu\nu} \right),$$

- For $\hat{\varphi}_i = 0$, we obtain the Reissner-Nördstrom-AdS charged black hole, with a near-horizon $\text{AdS}_2 \times R^2$ near-horizon geometry.
- For $\hat{\varphi}_i = kx_i$, we obtain a similar solution but with momentum dissipation (a bulk massive graviton). This yields the same diffusive metal correlators as the coupled SYK models, and the same value of the Seebeck co-efficient.

Y. Bardoux, M. M. Caldarelli, and C. Charmousis, JHEP 05 (2012) 054; D.Vegh, arXiv:1301.0537;
 R.A. Davison, PRD 88 (2013) 086003; M. Blake and D.Tong, PRD 88 (2013), 106004;
 T.Andrade and B.Withers, JHEP 05 (2014) 101; M. Blake, PRL 117, 091601 (2016);
 R. Davison, Wenbo Fu, Yingfei Gu, A. Georges, K. Jensen, S. Sachdev, arXiv:1612.00849

Quantum chaos:

- In both the SYK and holographic models, the growth of chaos is characterized by

$$\left\langle |\{c(x, t), c(0, 0)\}|^2 \right\rangle \sim \exp \left(\frac{1}{\tau_L} \left(t - \frac{|x|}{v_B} \right) \right)$$

where the Lyapunov time saturates the lower bound $\hbar/(2\pi k_B T)$ and the BUTTERFLY VELOCITY $v_B \sim T^{1/2}$.

- The thermal diffusivity, D_E is given exactly by

$$D_E = v_B^2 \tau_L.$$

There is no universal relationship between the charge diffusivity, D_c , and v_B .

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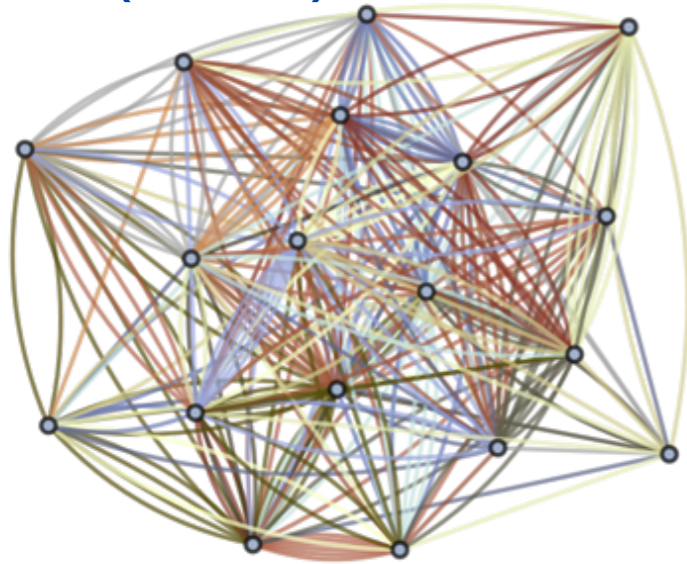
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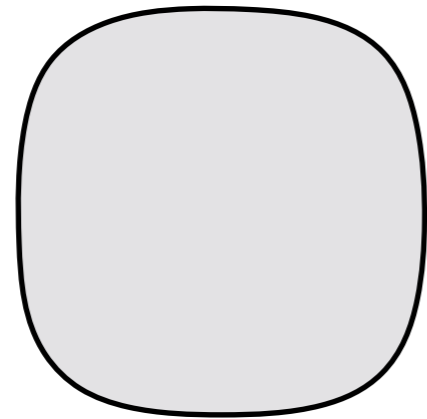
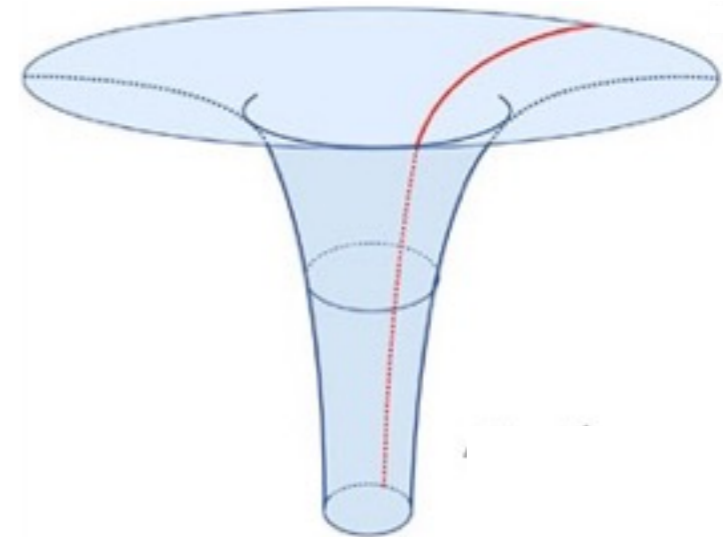
- Quantum chaos is intimately linked to the loss of phase coherence from electron-electron interactions. As the time derivative of the local phase is determined by the local energy, phase fluctuations and chaos are linked to interaction-induced energy fluctuations, and hence thermal diffusivity.

Quantum matter without quasiparticles:

The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) models



Black holes with AdS₂ horizons

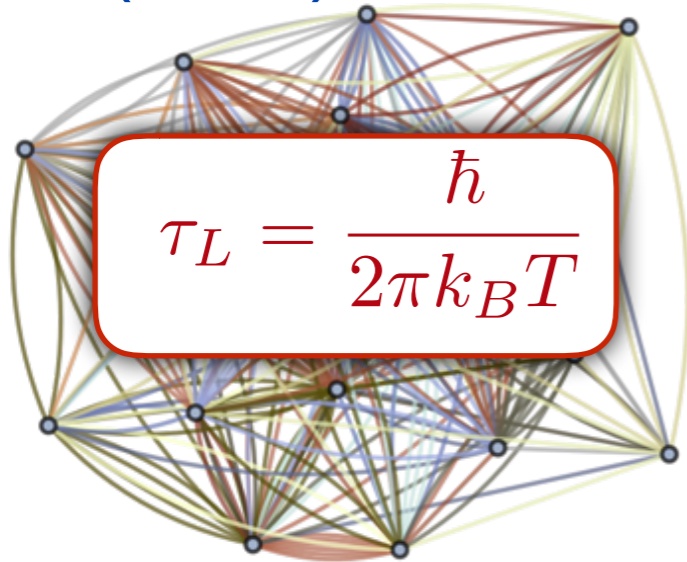


Fermi surface coupled
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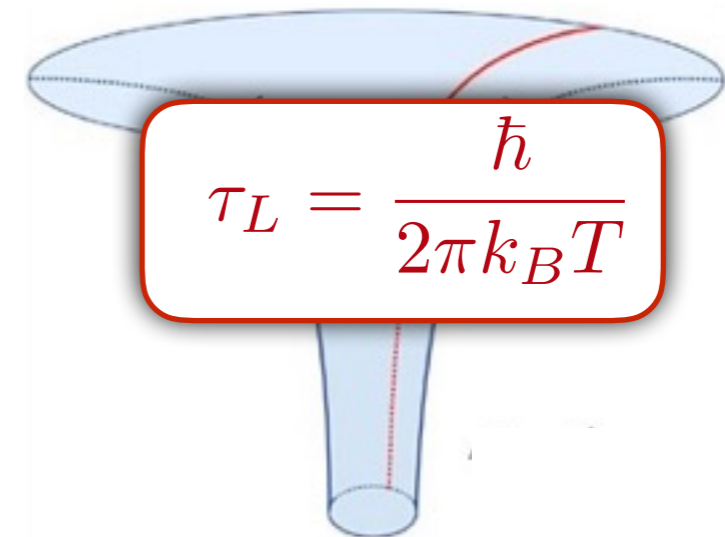
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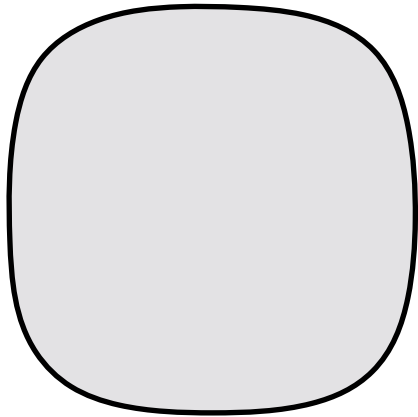
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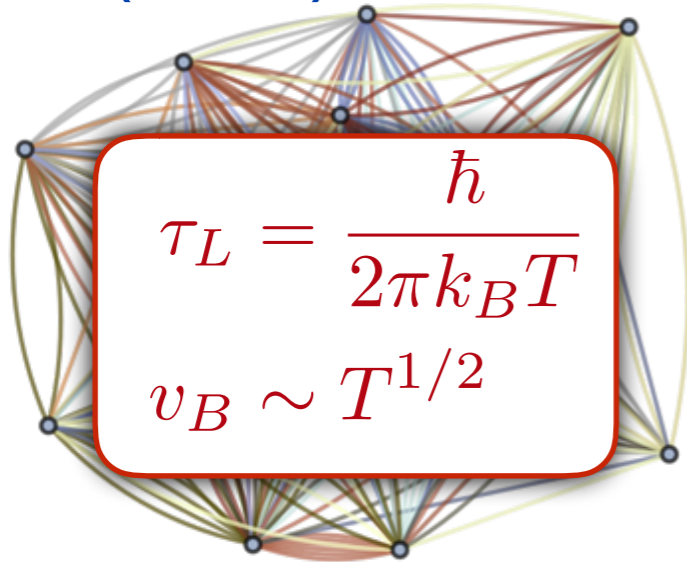
A diagram of a Fermi surface, shown as a gray rounded rectangle.

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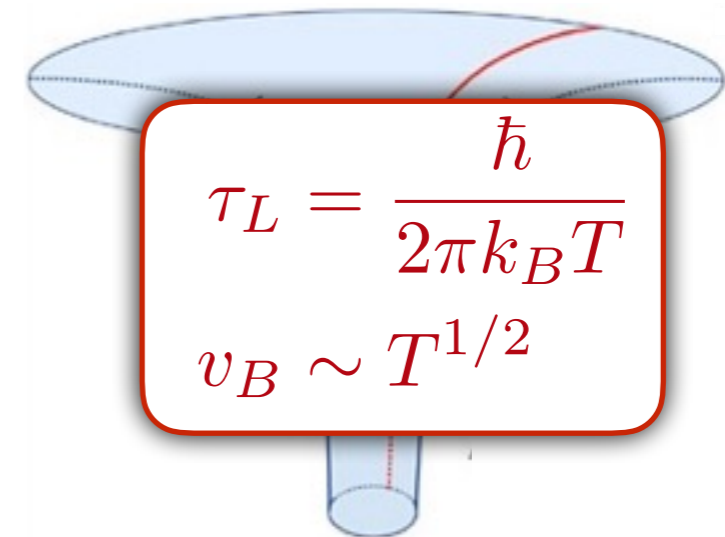
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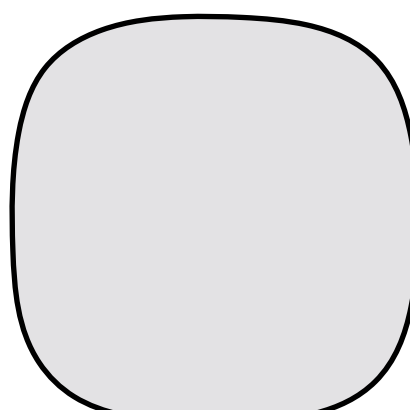
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Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field



A diagram of a Fermi surface, showing a gray rounded rectangle.

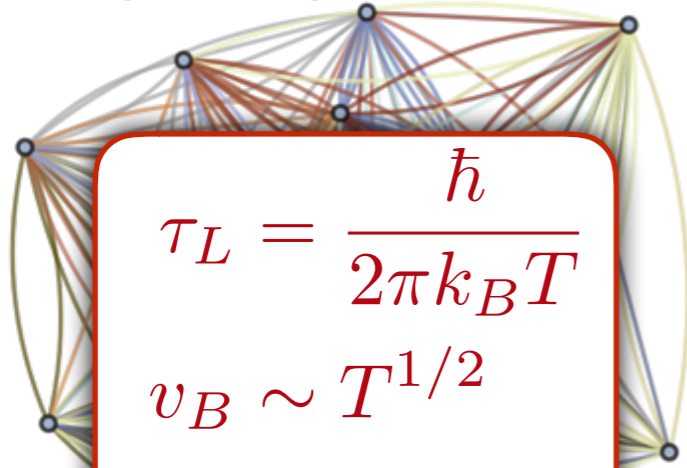
$$\mathcal{L}[\Psi, a] = \Psi^\dagger \left(\partial_\tau - ia_\tau - \frac{(\nabla - i\vec{a})^2}{2m} - \mu \right) \Psi + \frac{1}{2g^2} (\nabla \times \vec{a})^2$$

τ_L : the Lyapunov time to reach quantum chaos

v_B : the “butterfly velocity” for the spatial propagation of chaos

Quantum matter without quasiparticles:

The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) models

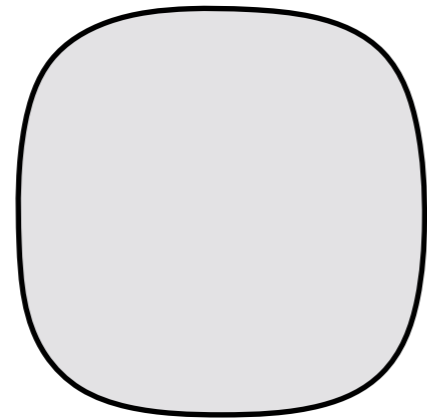


$$\tau_L = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi k_B T}$$
$$v_B \sim T^{1/2}$$
$$D_E = v_B^2 \tau_L$$

Black holes with AdS₂ horizons



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Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field

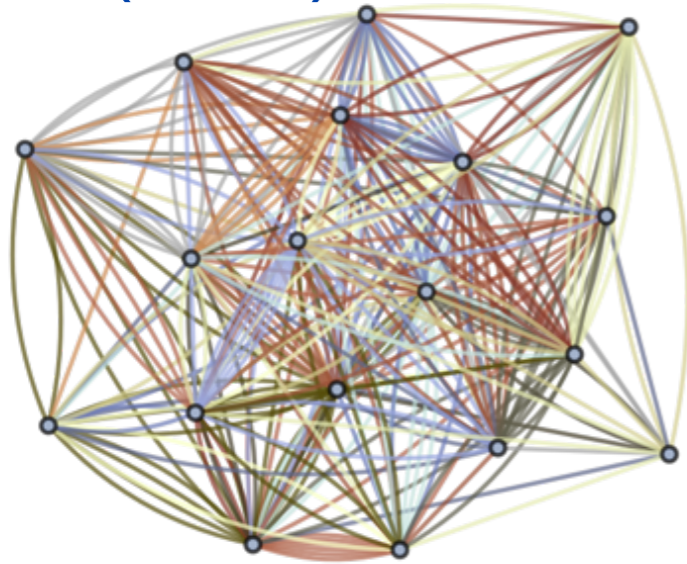
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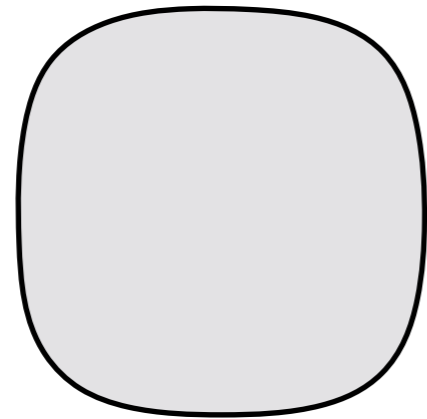
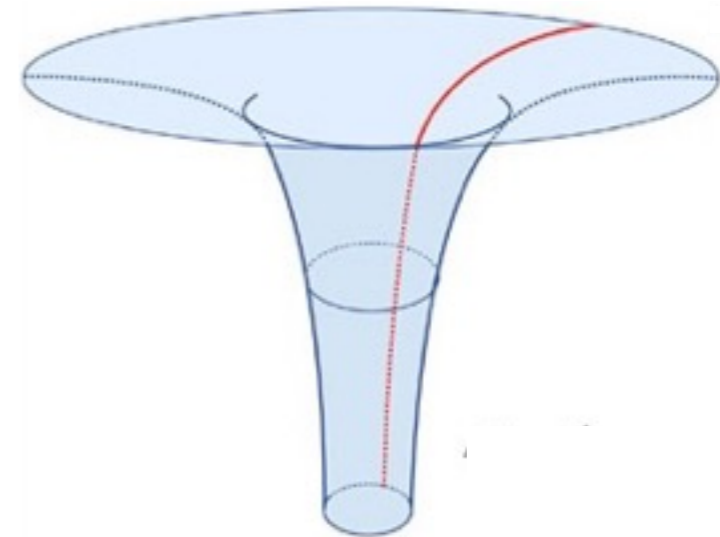
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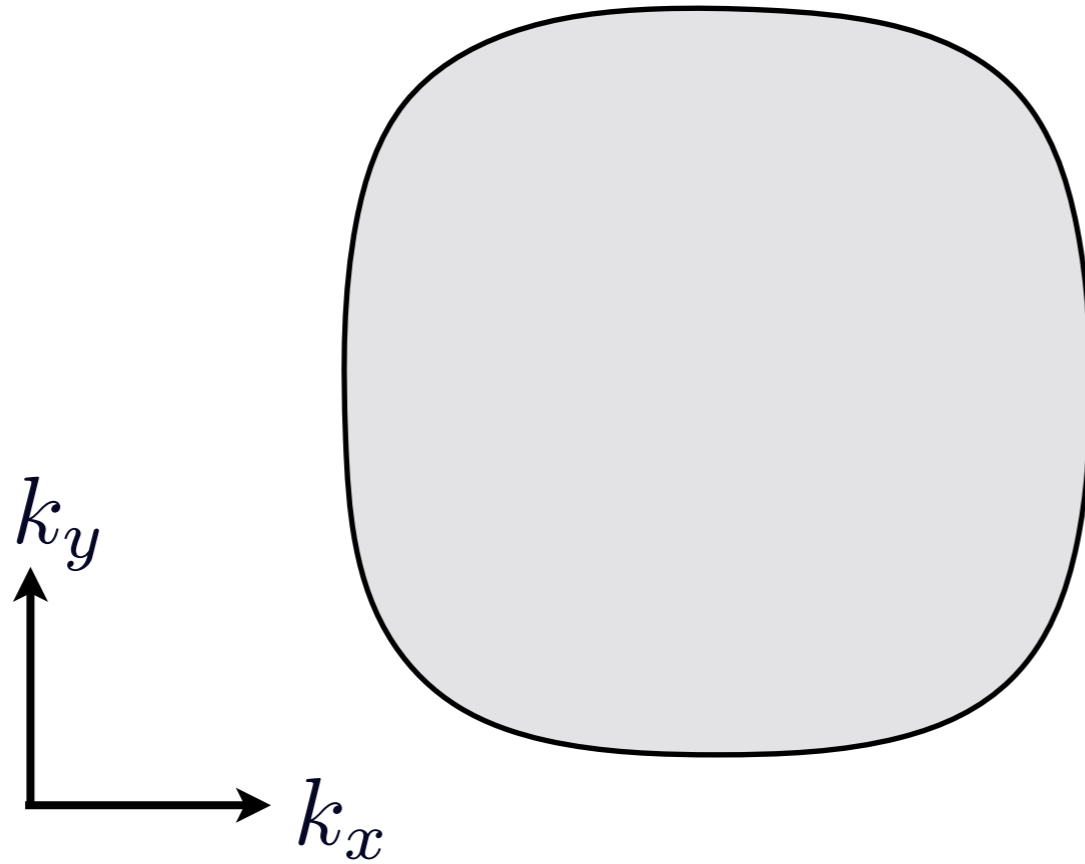
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Fermi surface coupled
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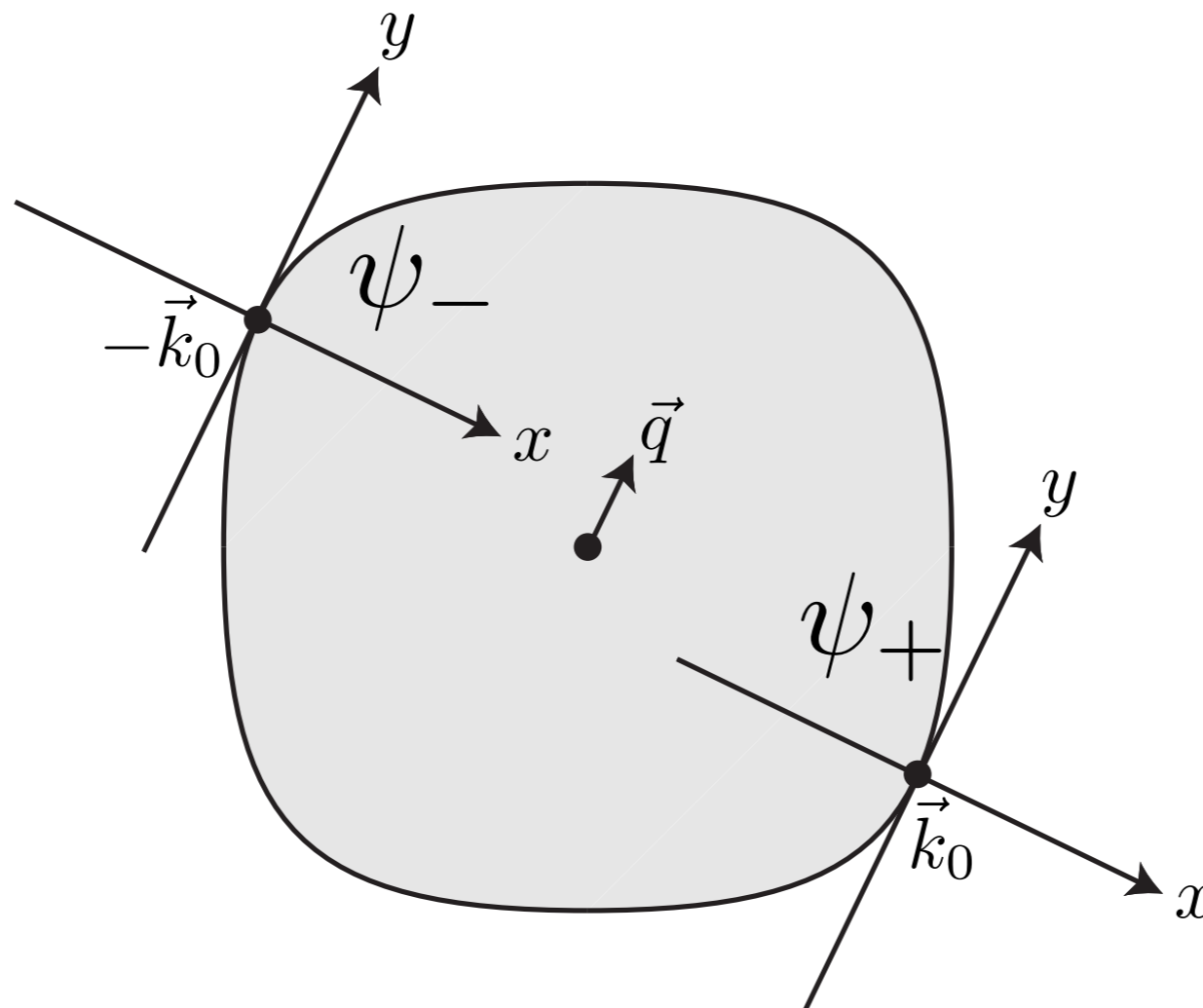
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Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field



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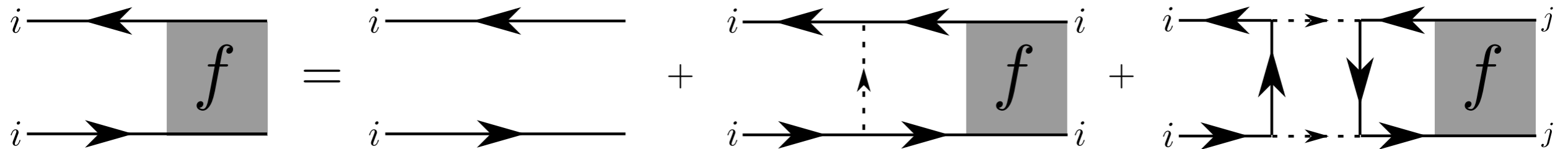
Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[\psi_{\pm}, a] = & \psi_+^\dagger (\partial_\tau - i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_+ + \psi_-^\dagger (\partial_\tau + i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_- \\ & - a \left(\psi_+^\dagger \psi_+ - \psi_-^\dagger \psi_- \right) + \frac{1}{2g^2} (\partial_y a)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field

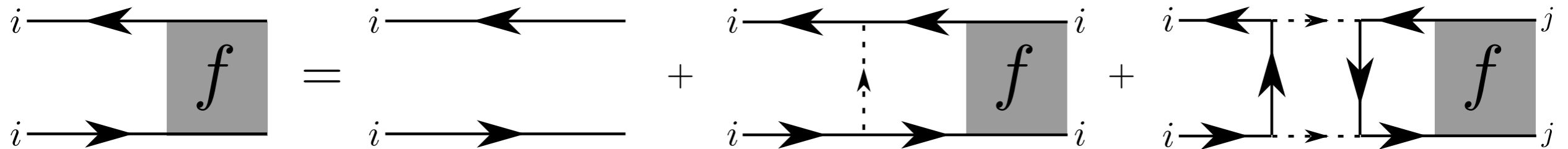
Compute out-of-time-order correlator to
diagnose quantum chaos



$$f(t) = \frac{1}{N^2} \theta(t) \sum_{i,j=1}^N \int d^2x \operatorname{Tr} \left[e^{-\beta H/2} \{ \psi_i(x, t), \psi_j^\dagger(0) \} \right. \\ \left. \times e^{-\beta H/2} \{ \psi_i(x, t), \psi_j^\dagger(0) \}^\dagger \right] \\ \sim \exp\left((t - x/v_B)/\tau_L \right)$$

Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field

Compute out-of-time-order correlator to diagnose quantum chaos



Strongly-coupled theory with no quasiparticles and fast scrambling:

$$\tau_L \approx \frac{\hbar}{2.48 k_B T}$$

$$v_B \approx 4.1 \frac{N T^{1/3}}{e^{4/3}} \frac{v_F^{5/3}}{\gamma^{1/3}}$$

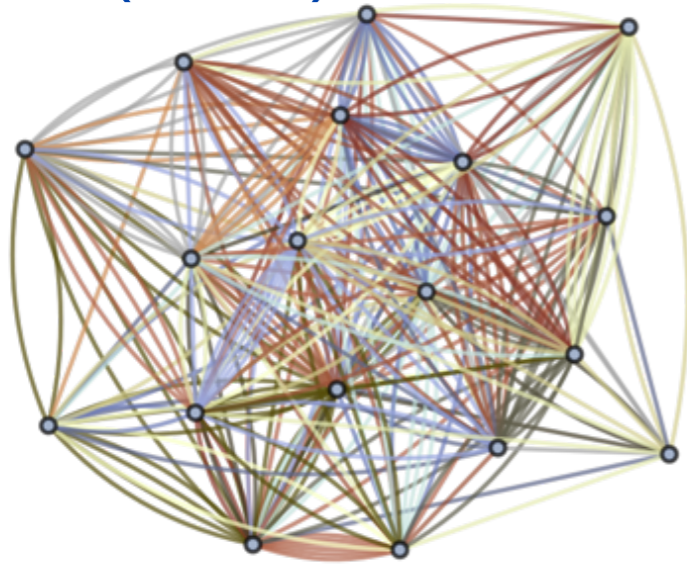
$$D_E \approx 0.42 v_B^2 \tau_L$$



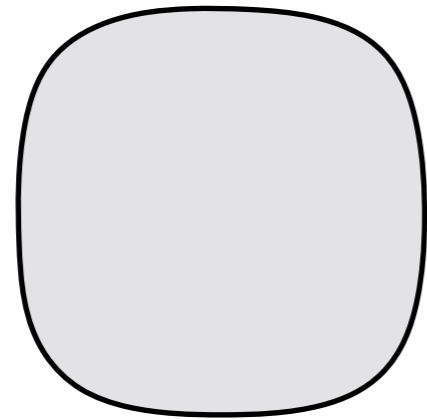
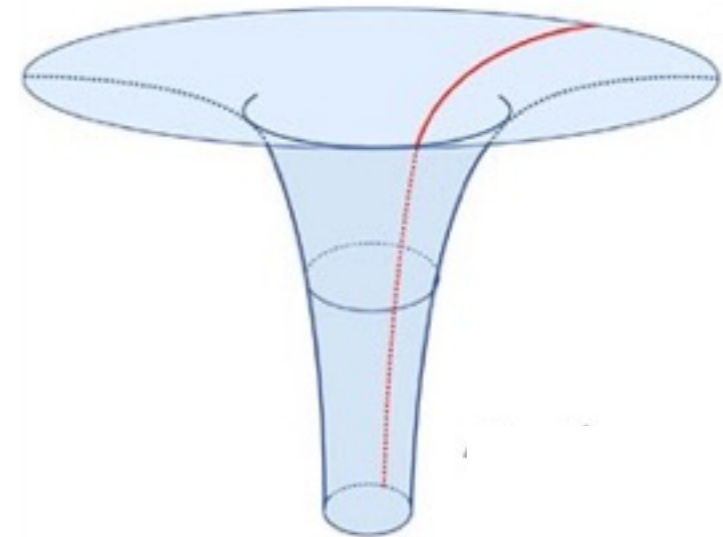
N is the number of fermion flavors, v_F is the Fermi velocity, γ is the Fermi surface curvature, e is the gauge coupling constant.

Quantum matter without quasiparticles:

The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) models



Black holes with AdS₂ horizons

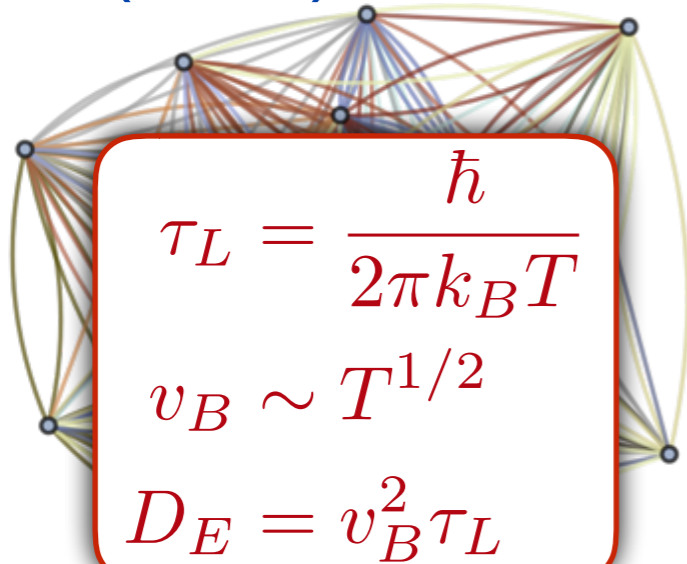


Fermi surface coupled
to a gauge field

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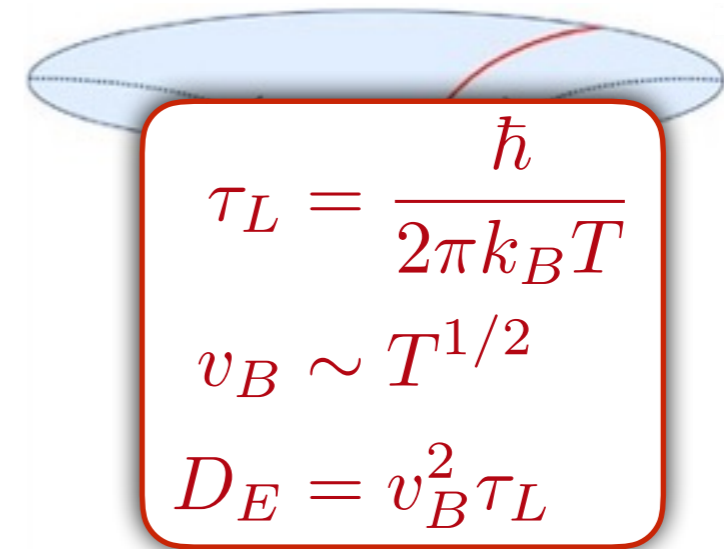


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$\mathcal{L}[\Psi$

Fermi surface coupled
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