

# Quantum criticality and high temperature superconductivity

University of Waterloo  
February 14, 2014

Subir Sachdev

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





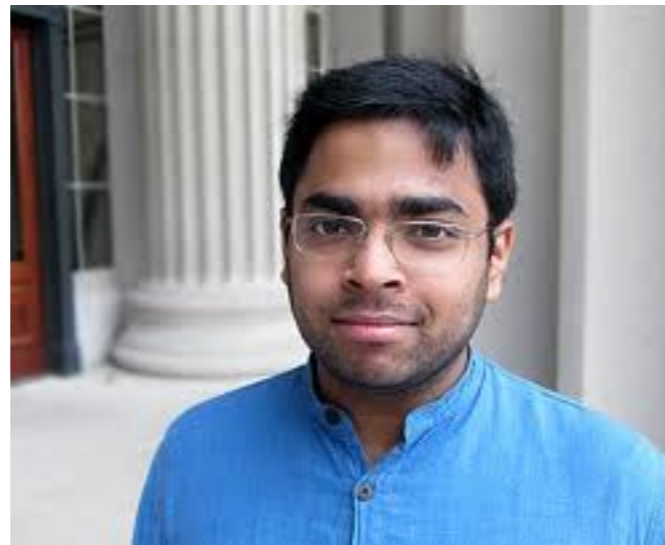
**William Witczak-Krempa**  
**Perimeter**



**Erik Sorensen**  
**McMaster**



**Sean Hartnoll**  
**Stanford**



**Raghu Mahajan**  
**Stanford**



**Matthias Punk**  
**Innsbruck**



Lauren  
Hayward



Roger Melko



David  
Hawthorn



Jay Deep Sau



Erez Berg



Max Metlitski



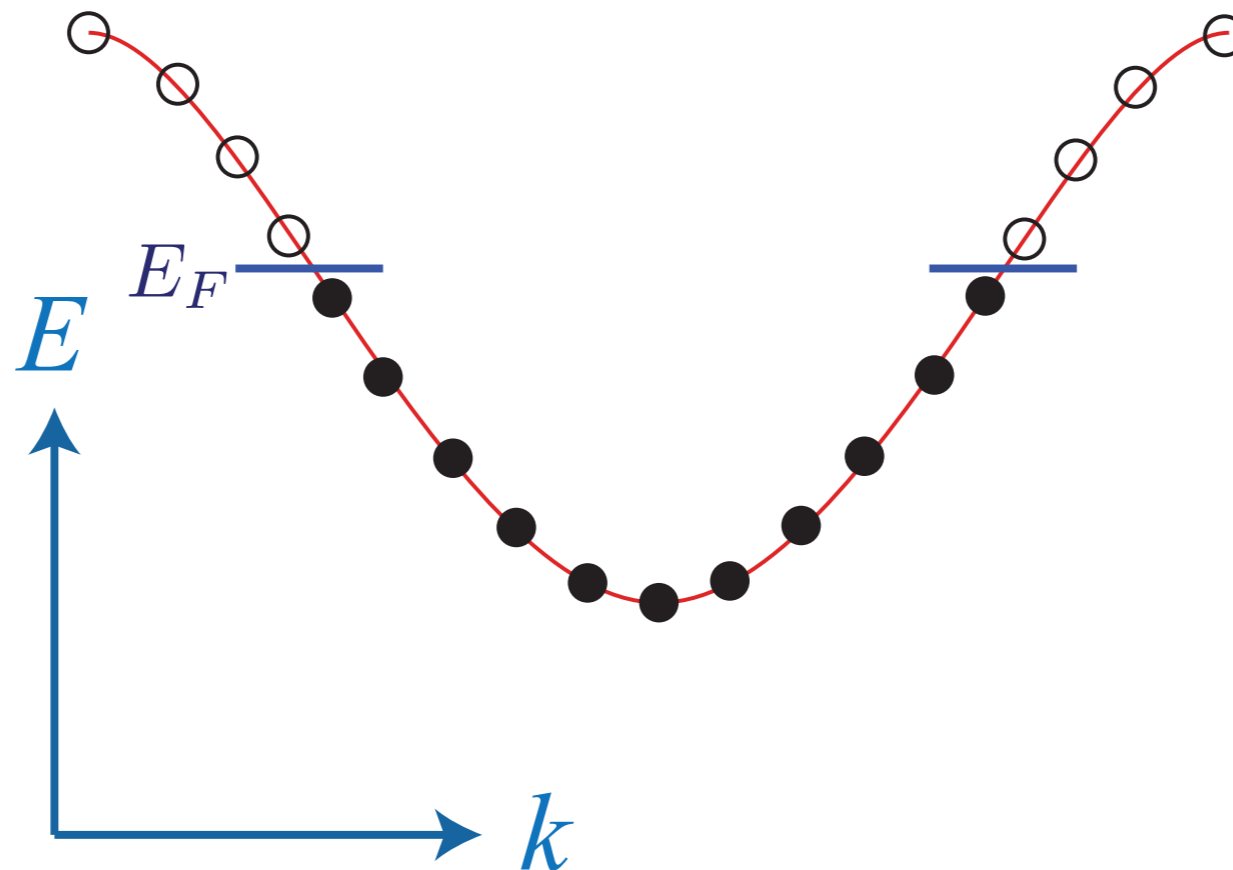
Rolando  
La Placa



# *Foundations of quantum many body theory:*

## *I. Ground states connected adiabatically to independent electron states*

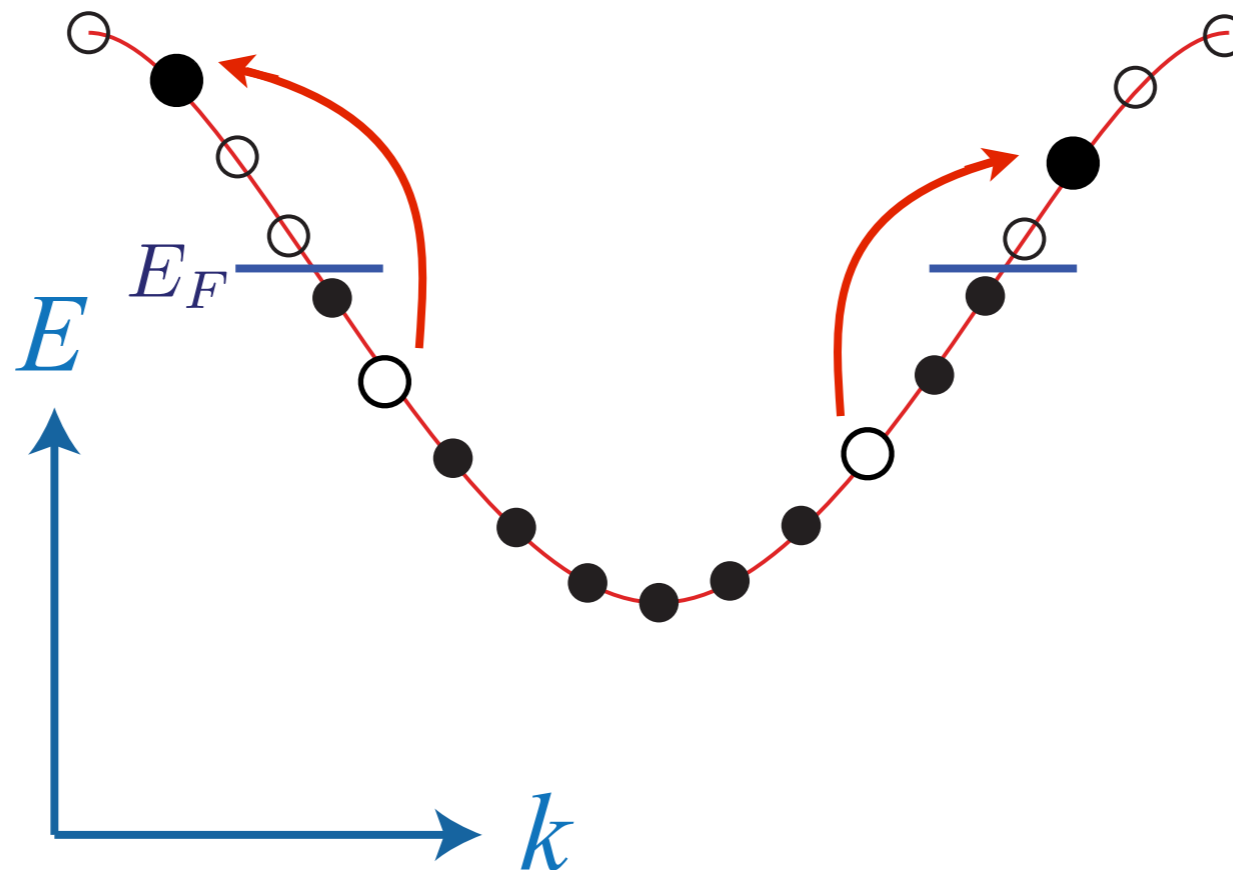
### Metals



# Foundations of quantum many body theory:

1. Ground states connected adiabatically to independent electron states
2. Quasiparticle structure of excited states

## Metals



## Modern phases of quantum matter:

1. *Ground states disconnected from independent electron states: many-particle entanglement*
2. *Quasiparticle structure of excited states*

## Famous examples:

The fractional quantum Hall effect of electrons in two dimensions (e.g. in graphene) in the presence of a strong magnetic field. The ground state is described by Laughlin's wavefunction, and the excitations are *quasiparticles* which carry fractional charge.

## Modern phases of quantum matter:

1. *Ground states disconnected from independent electron states: many-particle entanglement*
2. *Quasiparticle structure of excited states*

## Famous examples:

Electrons in one dimensional wires form the Luttinger liquid. The quanta of density oscillations (“phonons”) are a *quasiparticle* basis of the low-energy Hilbert space. Similar comments apply to magnetic insulators in one dimension.

*Modern phases of quantum matter:*

- 1. Ground states disconnected from independent electron states: many-particle entanglement*
- 2. No quasiparticles**

## Modern phases of quantum matter:

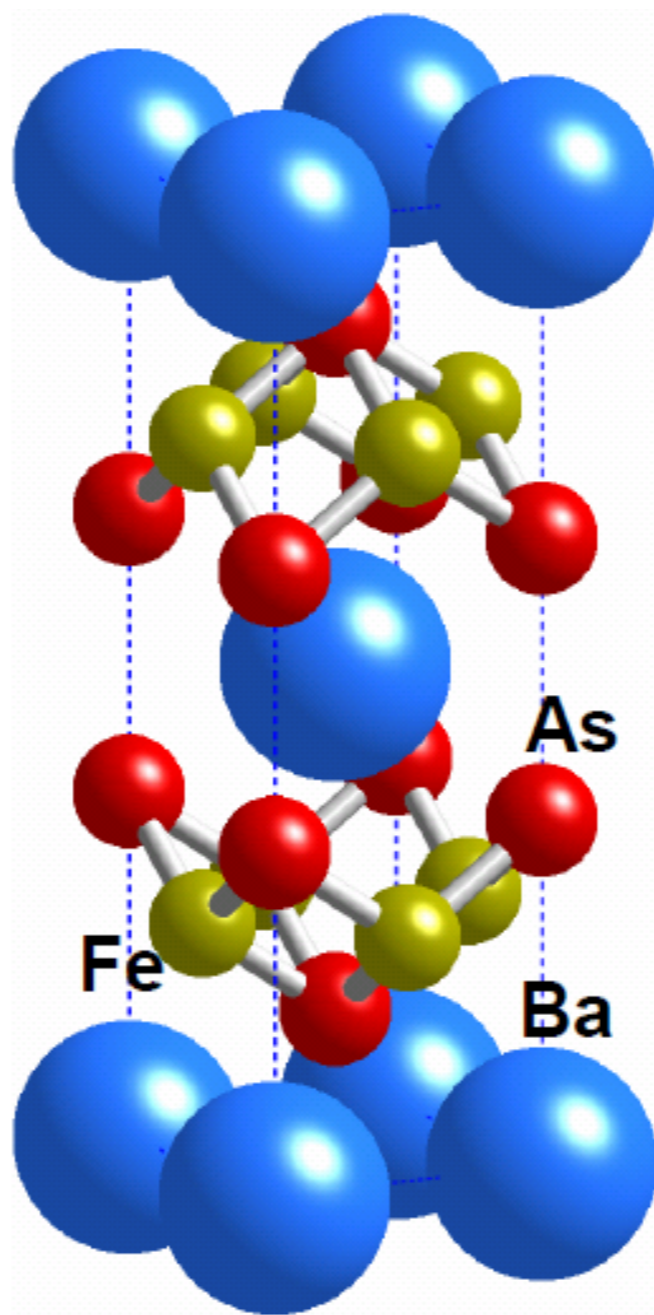
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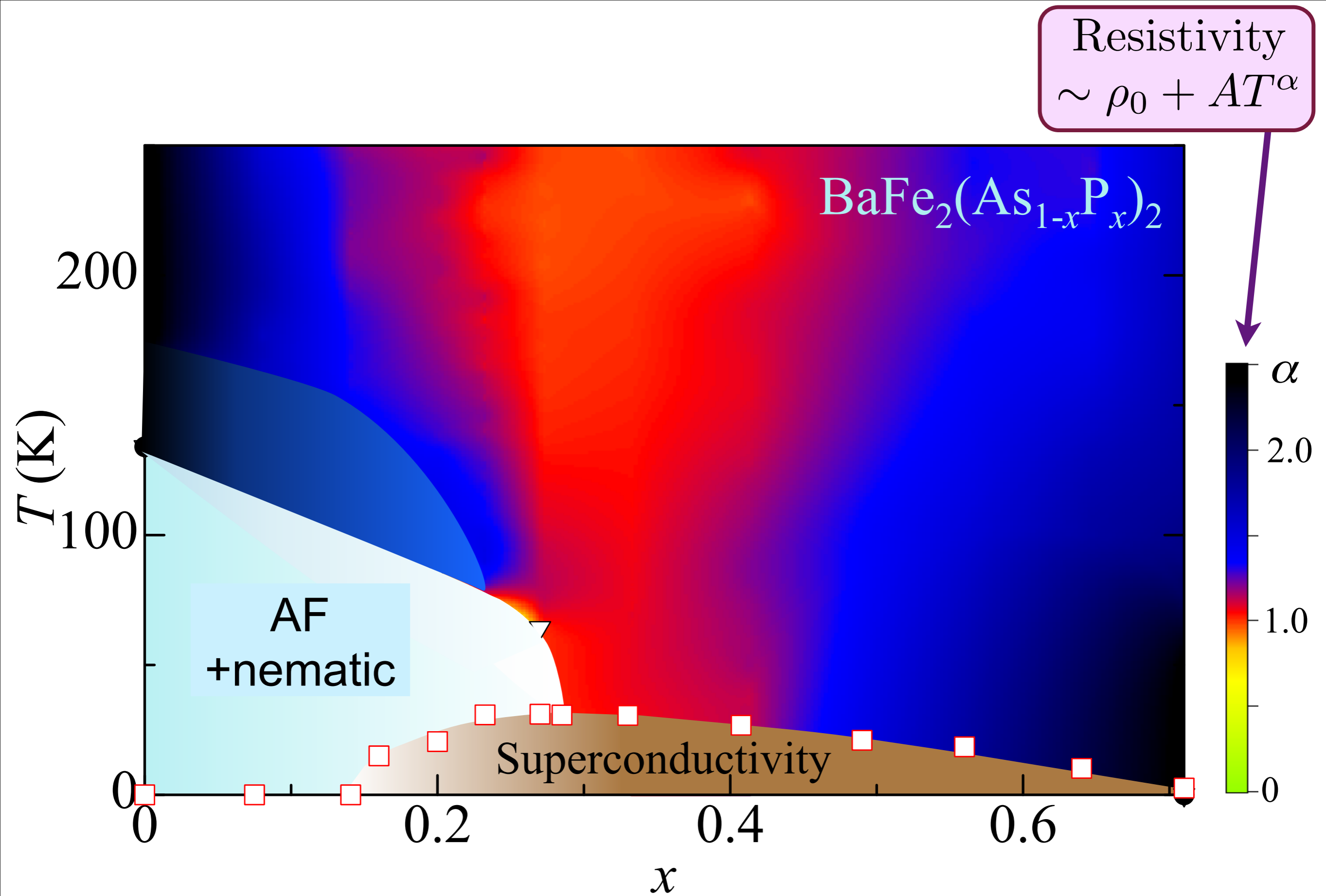
## Only 2 examples:

1. Conformal field theories in spatial dimension  $d > 1$
2. Quantum critical metals in dimension  $d=2$

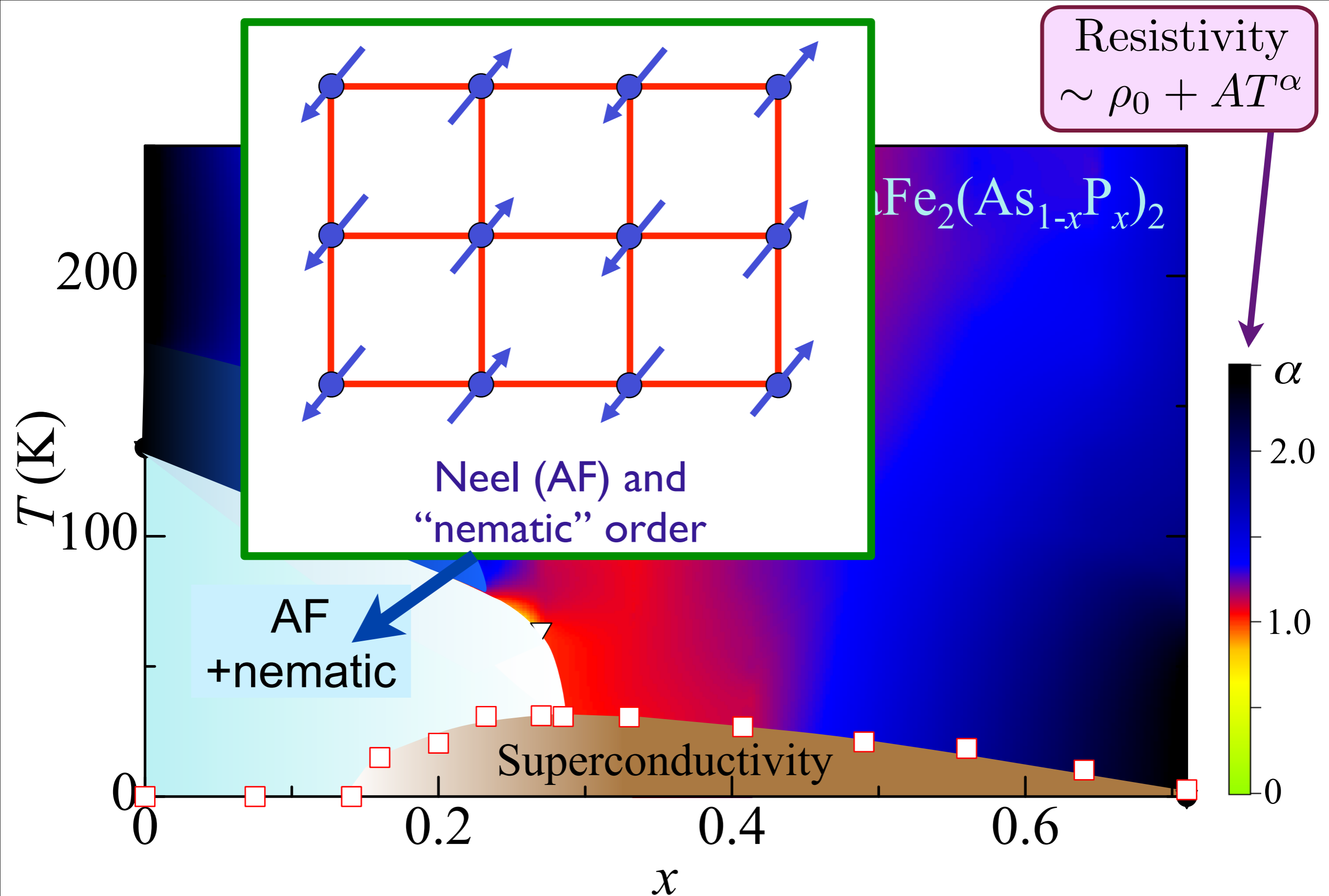
# Iron pnictides:

a new class of high temperature superconductors



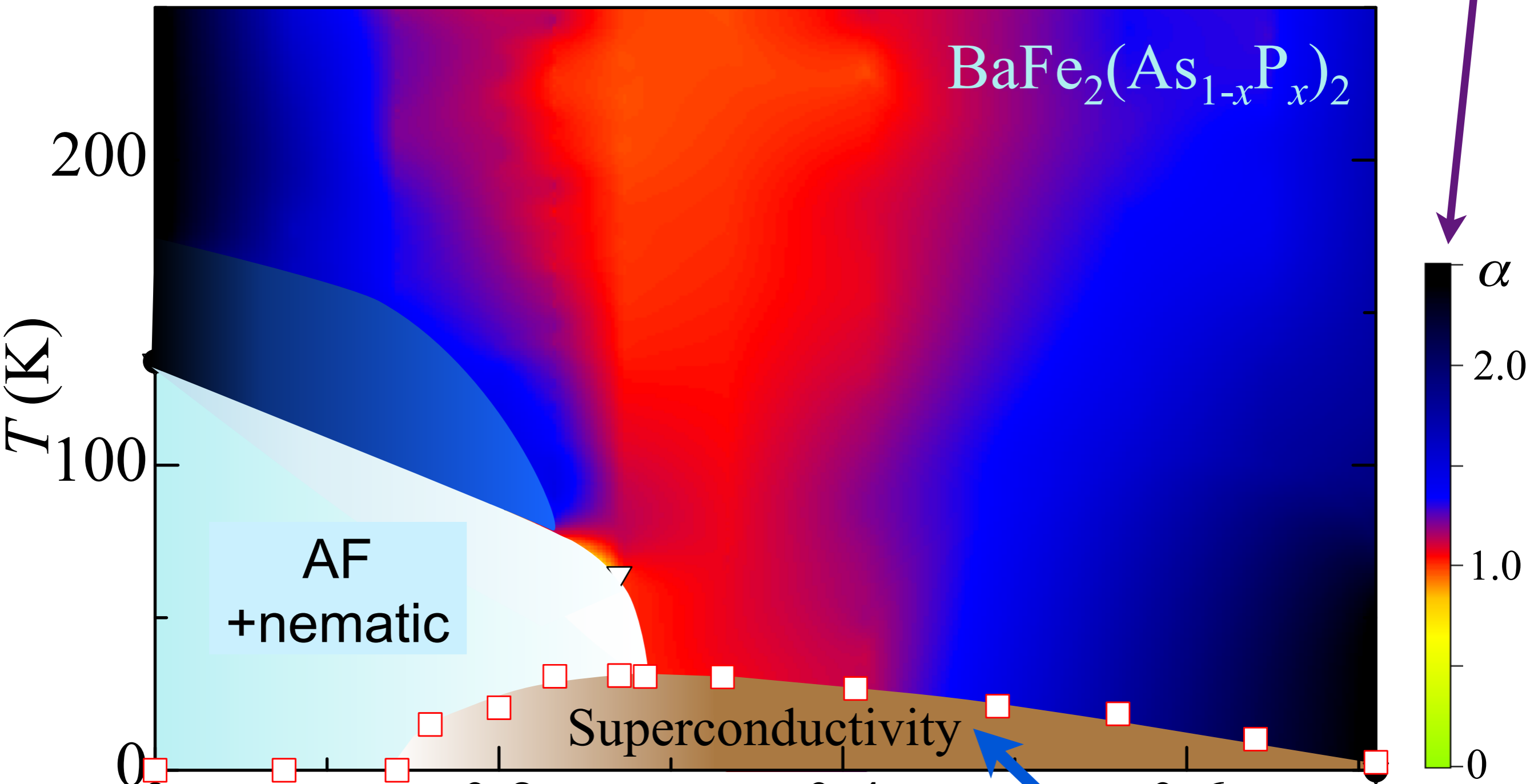


S. Kasahara, T. Shibauchi, K. Hashimoto, K. Ikada, S. Tonegawa, R. Okazaki, H. Shishido,  
H. Ikeda, H. Takeya, K. Hirata, T. Terashima, and Y. Matsuda,  
*Physical Review B* **81**, 184519 (2010)



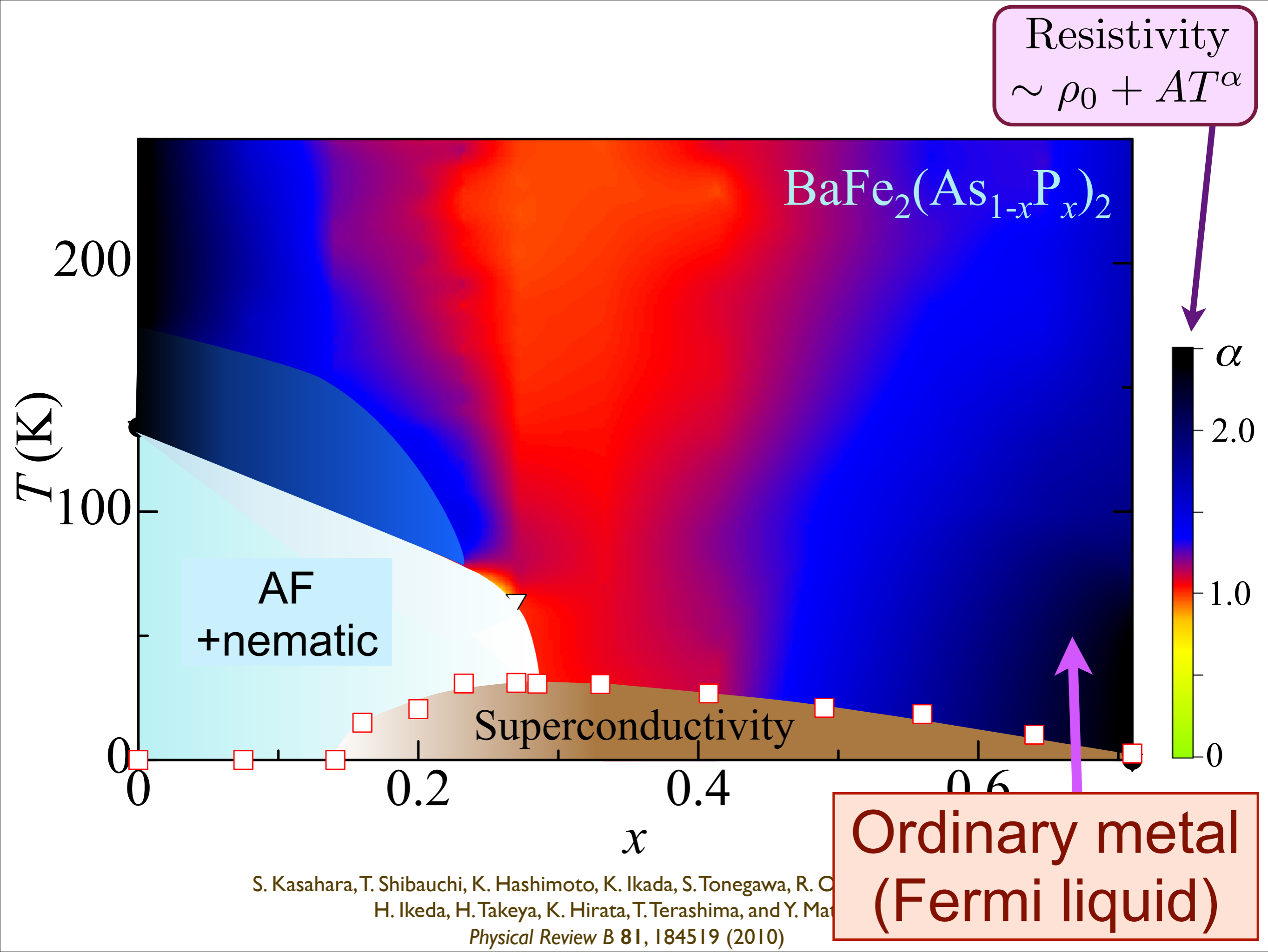
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Resistivity  
 $\sim \rho_0 + AT^\alpha$

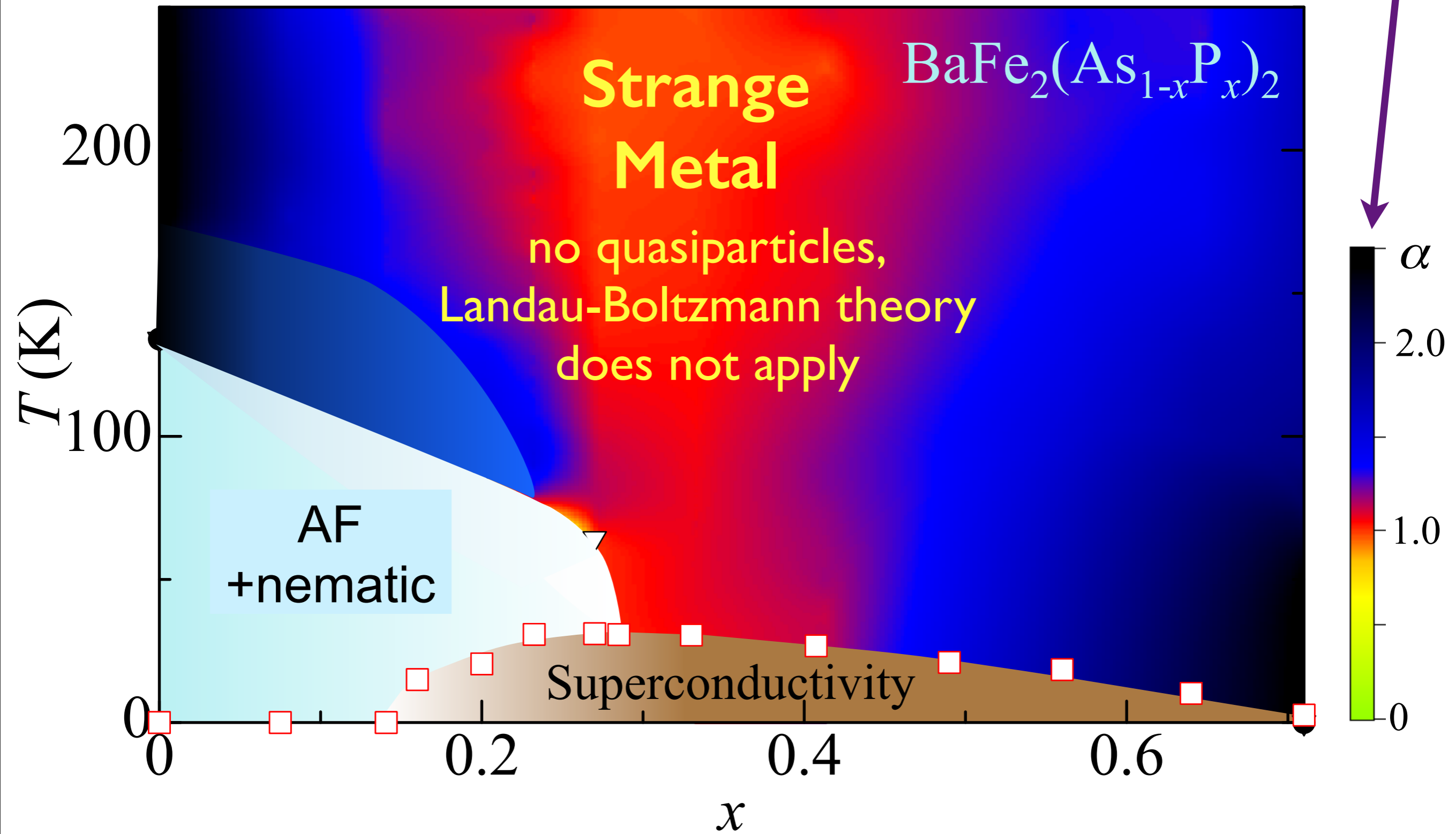


Superconductor  
Bose condensate of pairs of electrons

S. Kasahara, T. Shiba  
H. Ike



Resistivity  
 $\sim \rho_0 + AT^\alpha$



S. Kasahara, T. Shibauchi, K. Hashimoto, K. Ikada, S. Tonegawa, R. Okazaki, H. Shishido, H. Ikeda, H. Takeya, K. Hirata, T. Terashima, and Y. Matsuda, *Physical Review B* **81**, 184519 (2010)

# Outline

## 1. The simplest model without quasiparticles

### *A. Superfluid-insulator transition*

*of ultracold bosonic atoms in an optical lattice*

### *B. Conformal field theories in $2+1$ dimensions, the AdS/CFT correspondence, and transport without quasiparticles.*

## 2. Metals without quasiparticles

### *A. The onset of antiferromagnetism in a metal*

### *B. Non-quasiparticle transport at the Ising-nematic quantum critical point*

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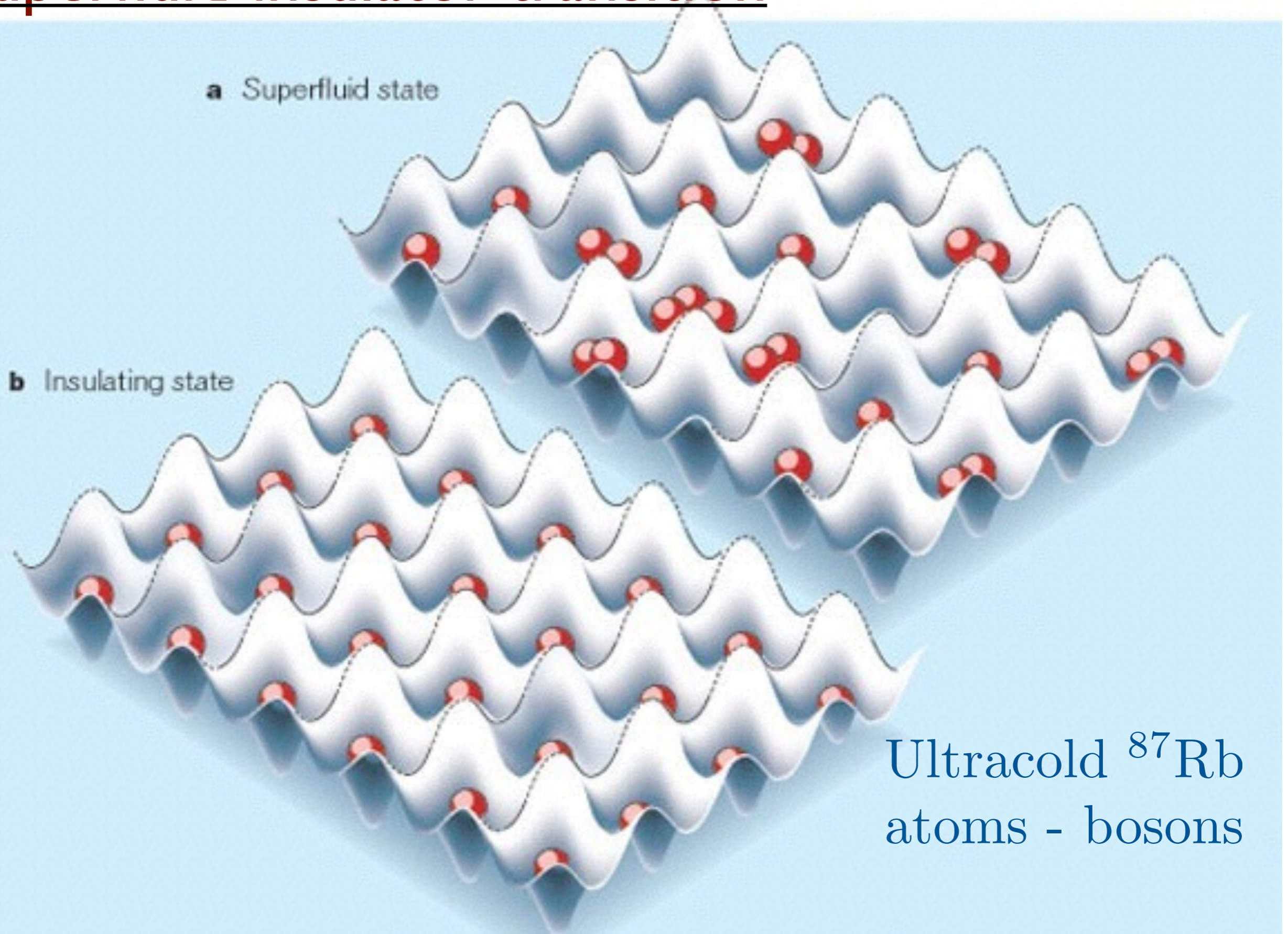
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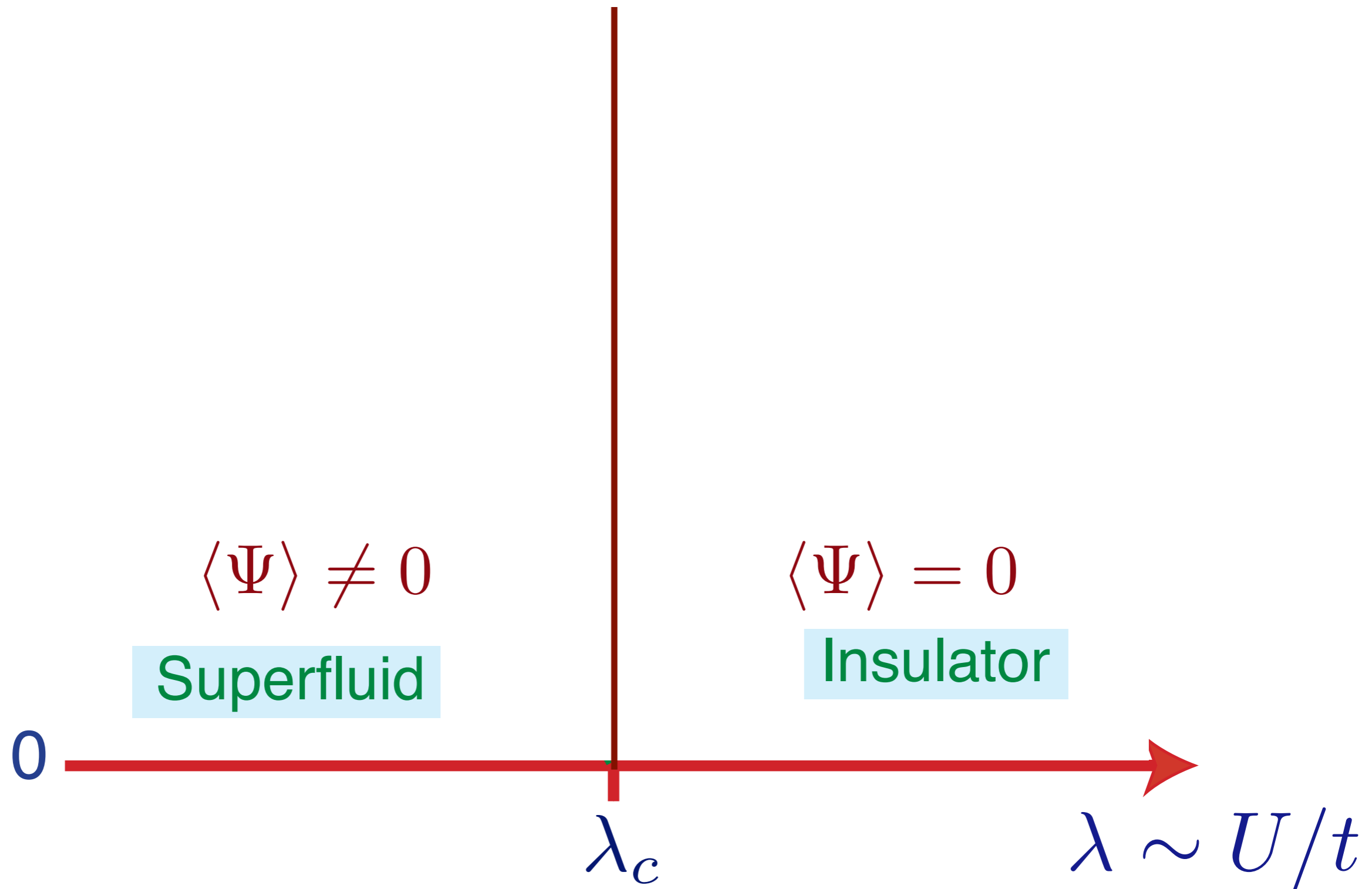
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# Superfluid-insulator transition

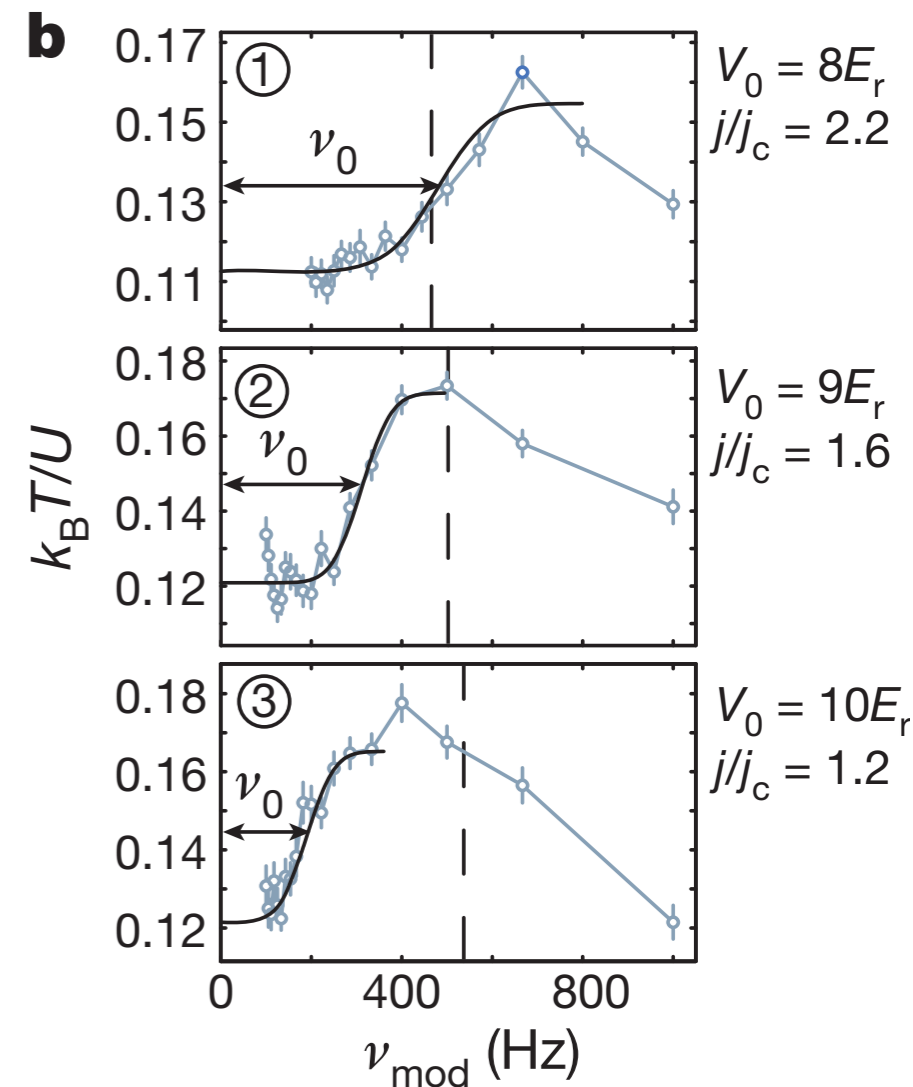
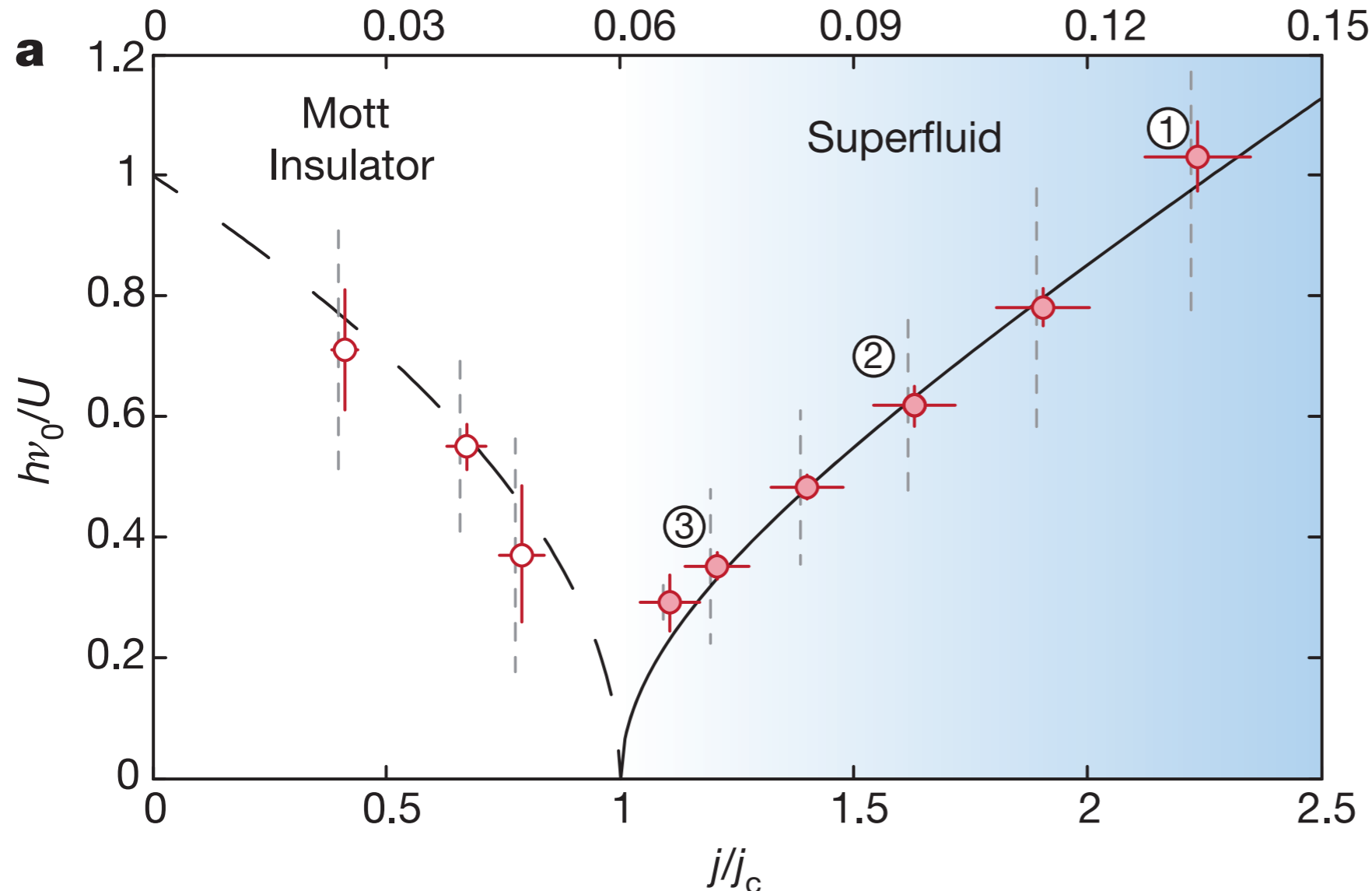
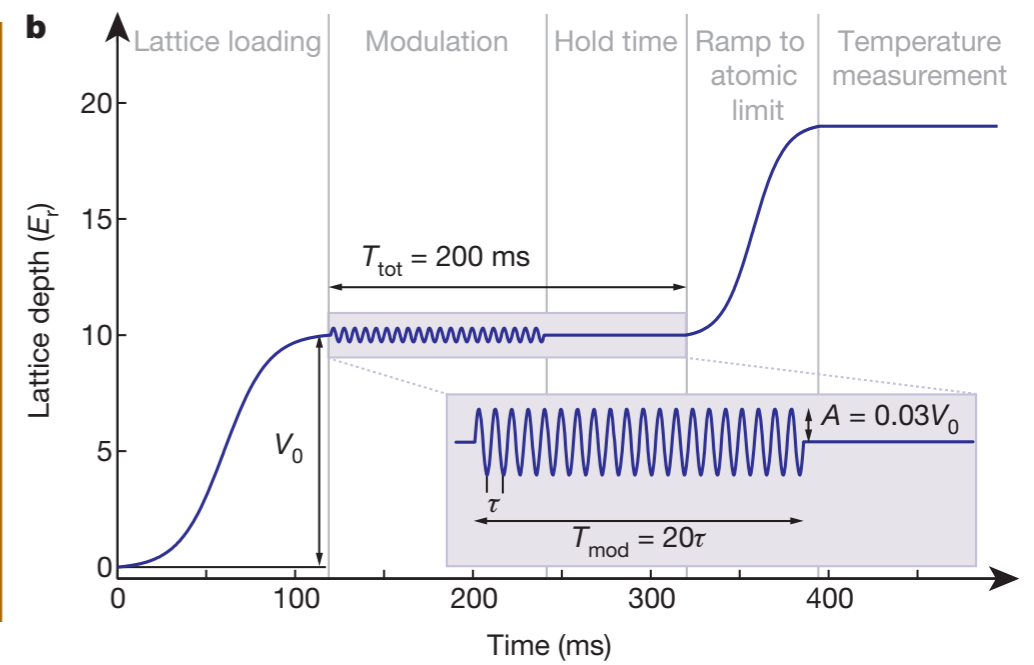


Ultracold  $^{87}\text{Rb}$   
atoms - bosons

$\Psi \rightarrow$  a complex field representing the Bose-Einstein condensate of the superfluid



Response to modulation of lattice depth:  
**Observation of quasiparticle excitations** across the superfluid-insulator transition of ultracold atoms in a 2-dimensional optical lattice

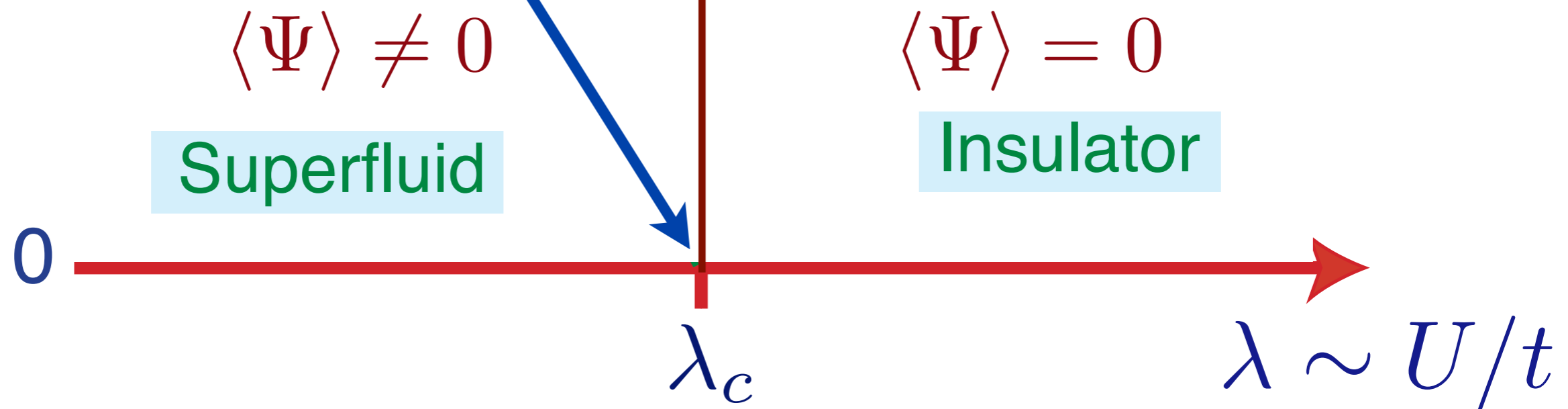


Manuel Endres, Takeshi Fukuhara, David Pekker, Marc Cheneau, Peter Schaub, Christian Gross, Eugene Demler, Stefan Kuhr, and Immanuel Bloch, *Nature* **487**, 454 (2012).

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^2r dt [|\partial_t \Psi|^2 - c^2 |\nabla_r \Psi|^2 - V(\Psi)]$$

$$V(\Psi) = (\lambda - \lambda_c) |\Psi|^2 + u (|\Psi|^2)^2$$

Quantum state with  
complex, many-body,  
“long-range” quantum entanglement



## Characteristics of quantum critical point

- Long-range entanglement

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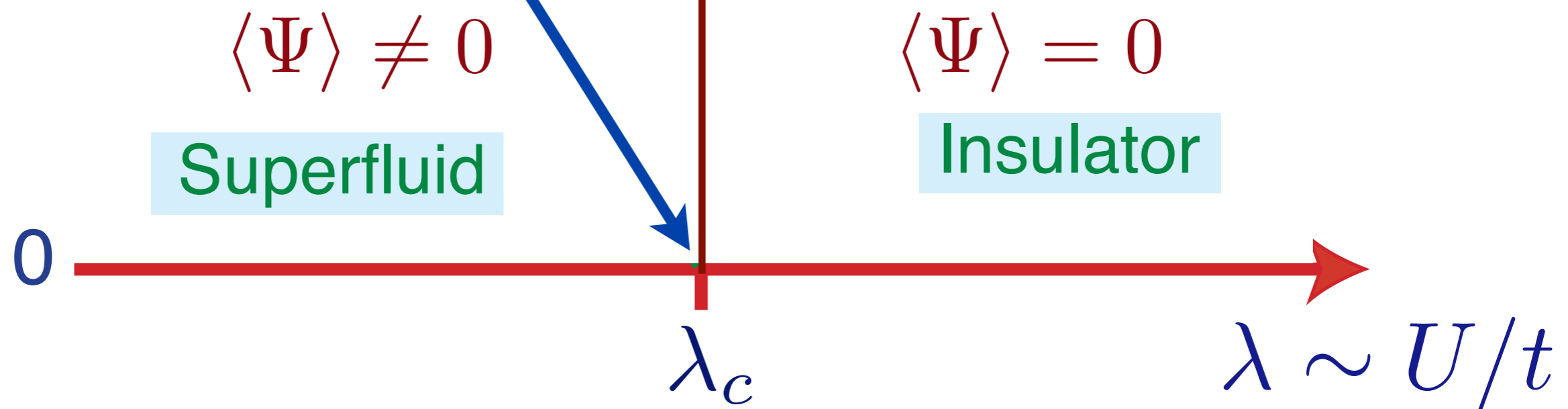
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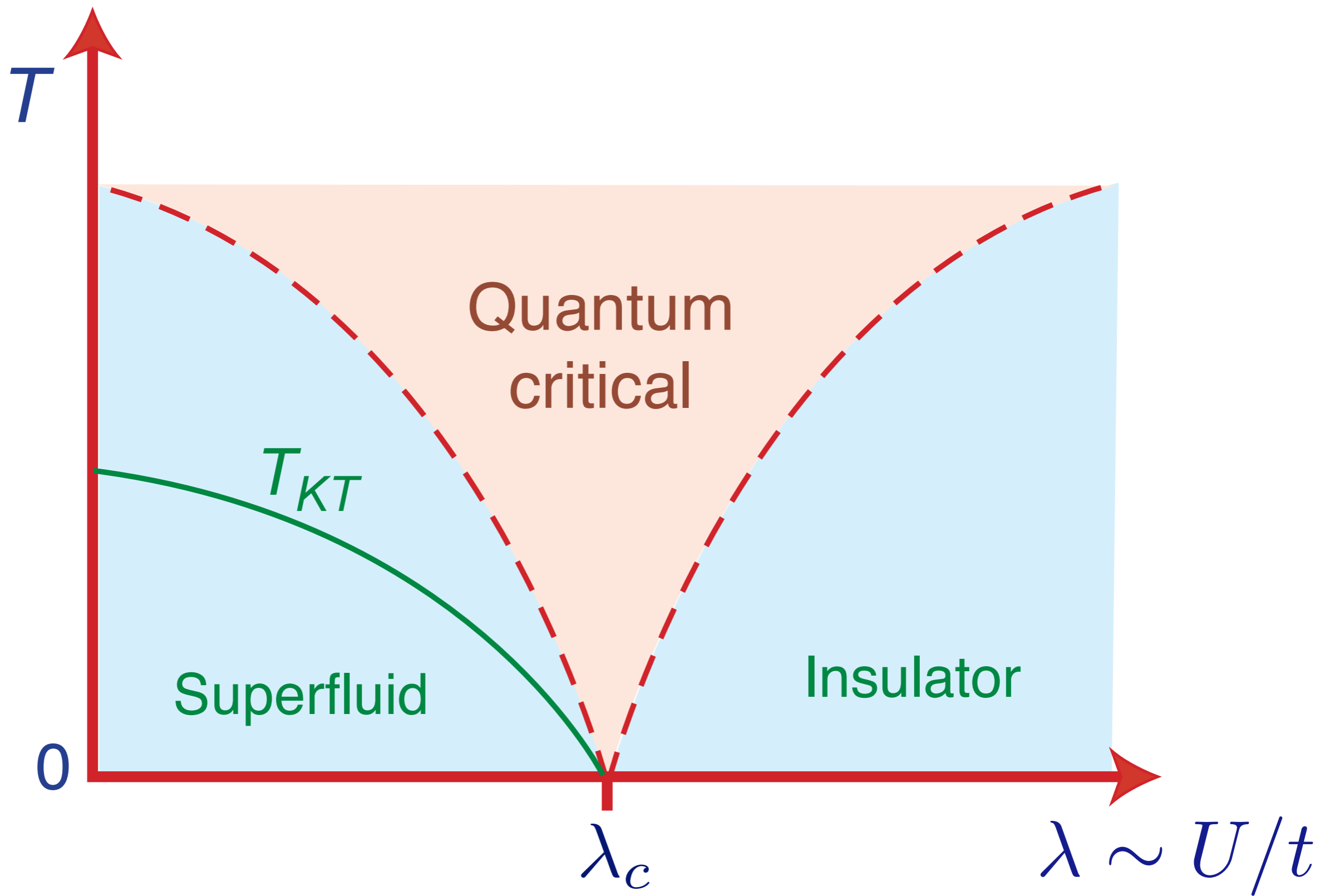
- Long-range entanglement
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- The low energy excitations are described by a theory which has the same structure as Einstein's theory of special relativity, but with the sound velocity playing the role of the velocity of light.
- The theory of the critical point is strongly-coupled because the quartic-coupling  $u$  flows to a renormalization group fixed point (the Wilson-Fisher fixed point). This fixed point has an even larger symmetry corresponding to conformal transformations of spacetime: we refer to such a theory as a **CFT<sub>3</sub>**

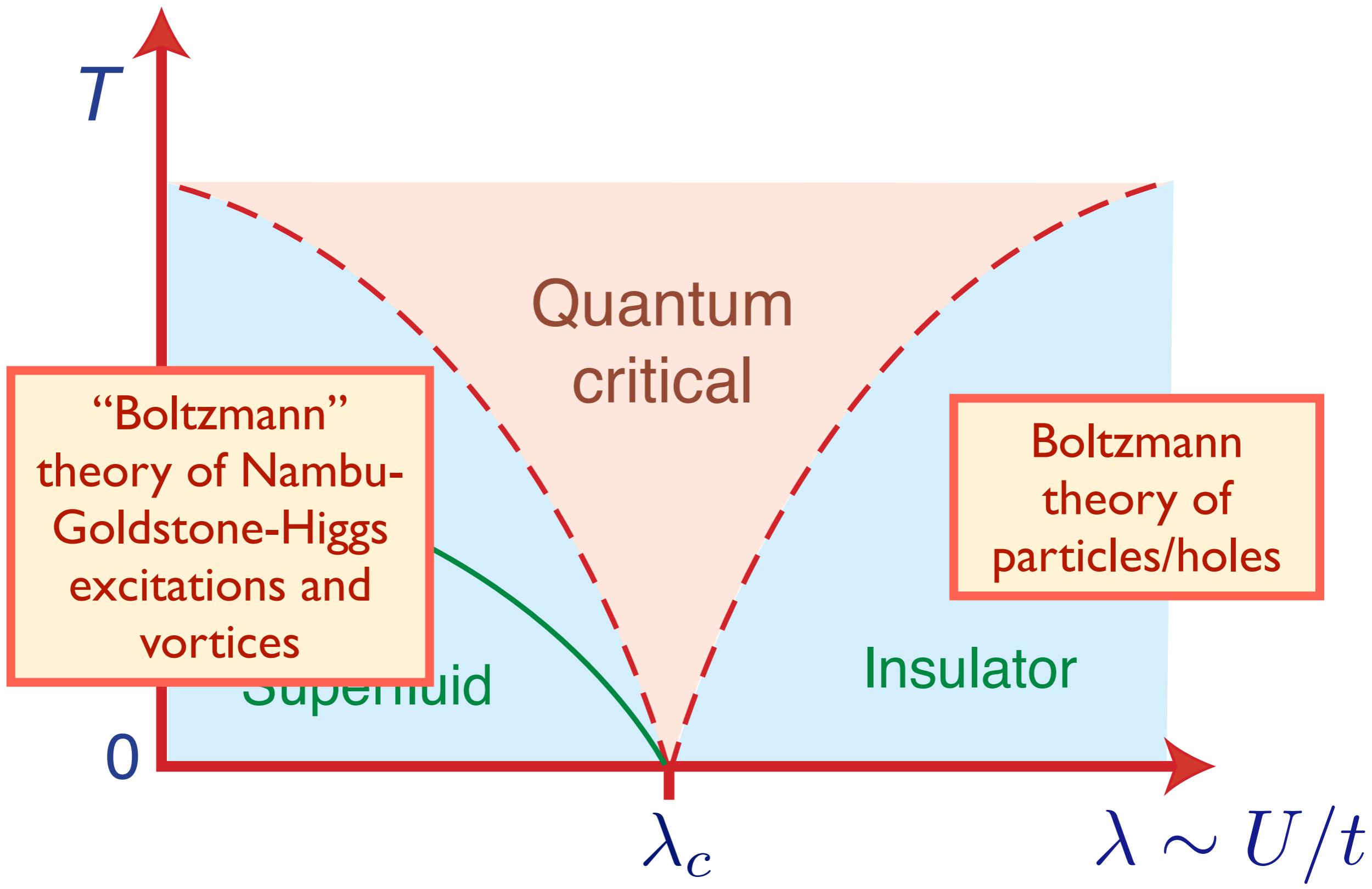
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A conformal field theory  
in 2+1 spacetime dimensions:  
a CFT3







“Boltzmann”  
theory of Nambu-  
Goldstone-Higgs  
excitations and  
vortices

Boltzmann  
theory of  
particles/holes

Quantum  
critical

Superfluid

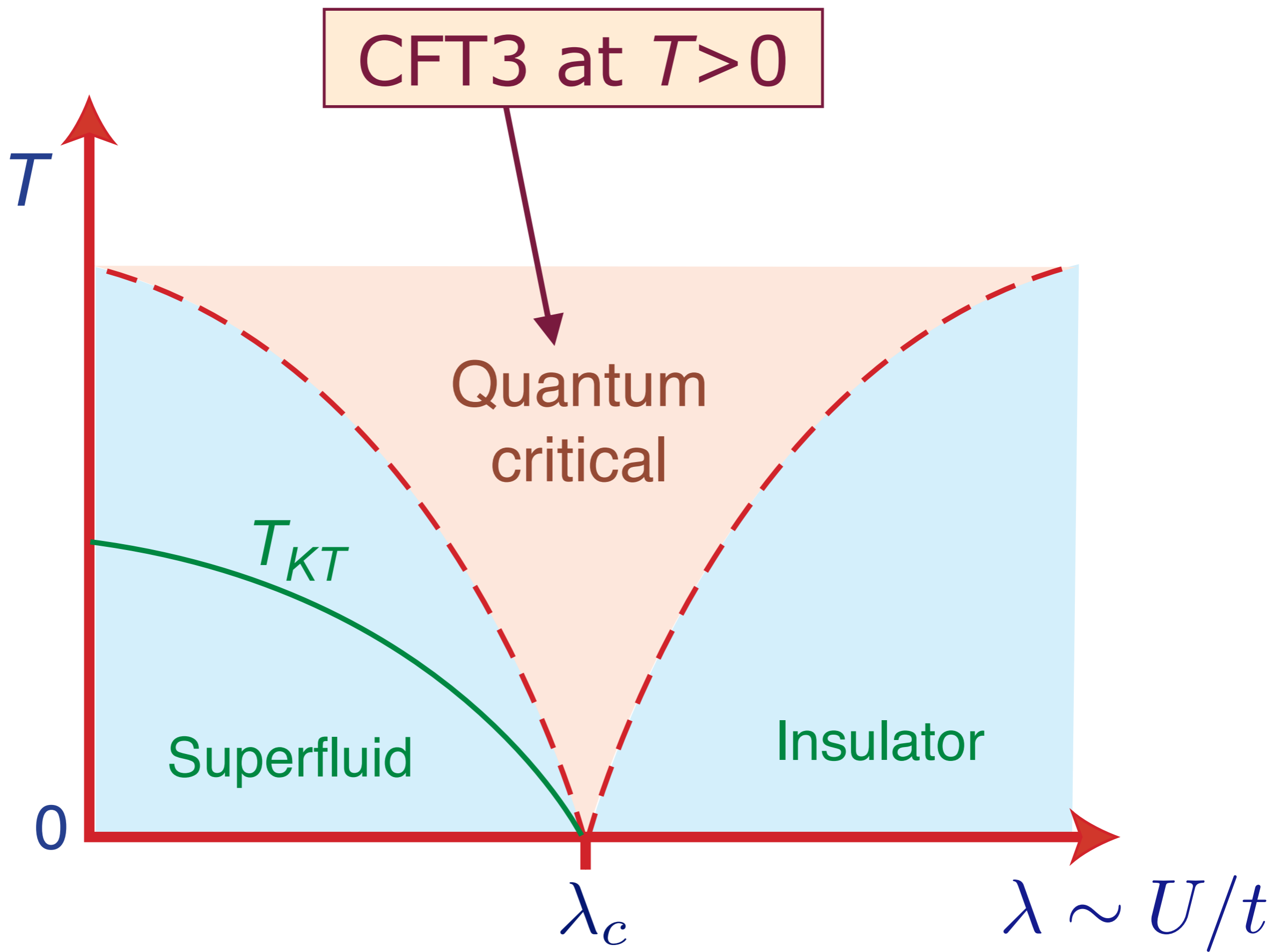
Insulator

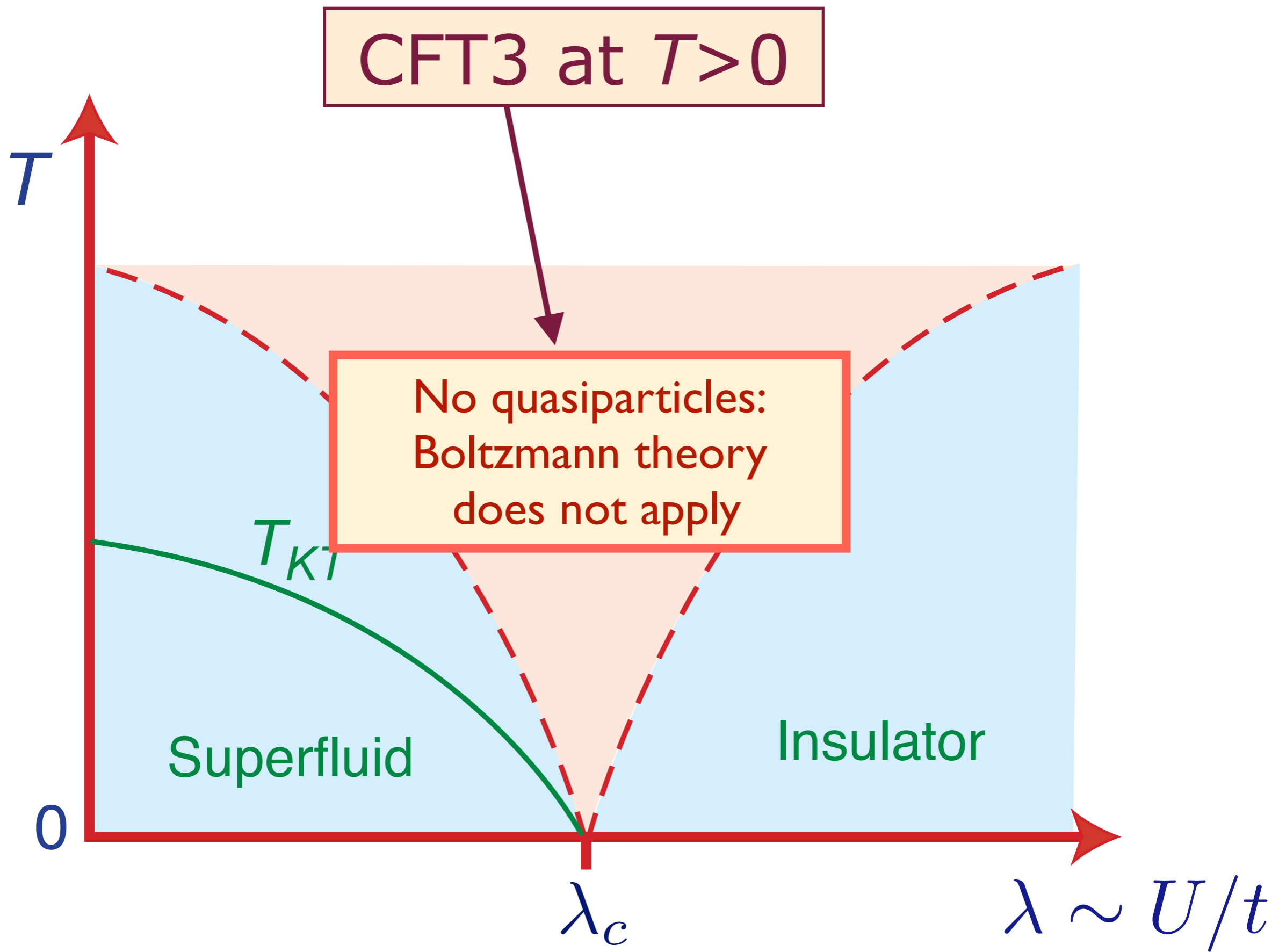
$T$

0

$\lambda_c$

$\lambda \sim U/t$





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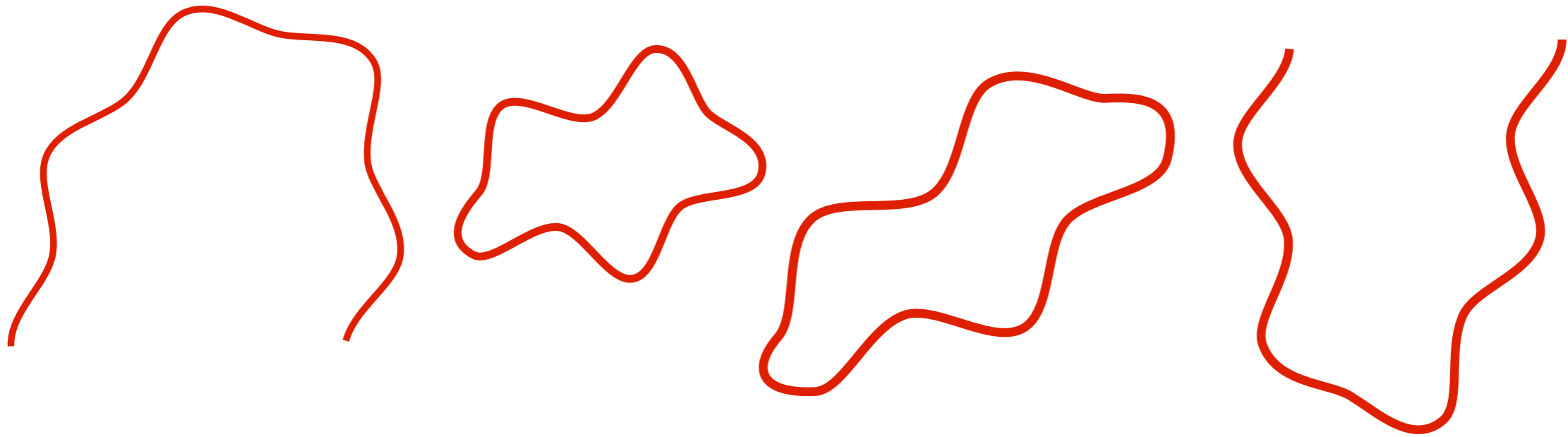
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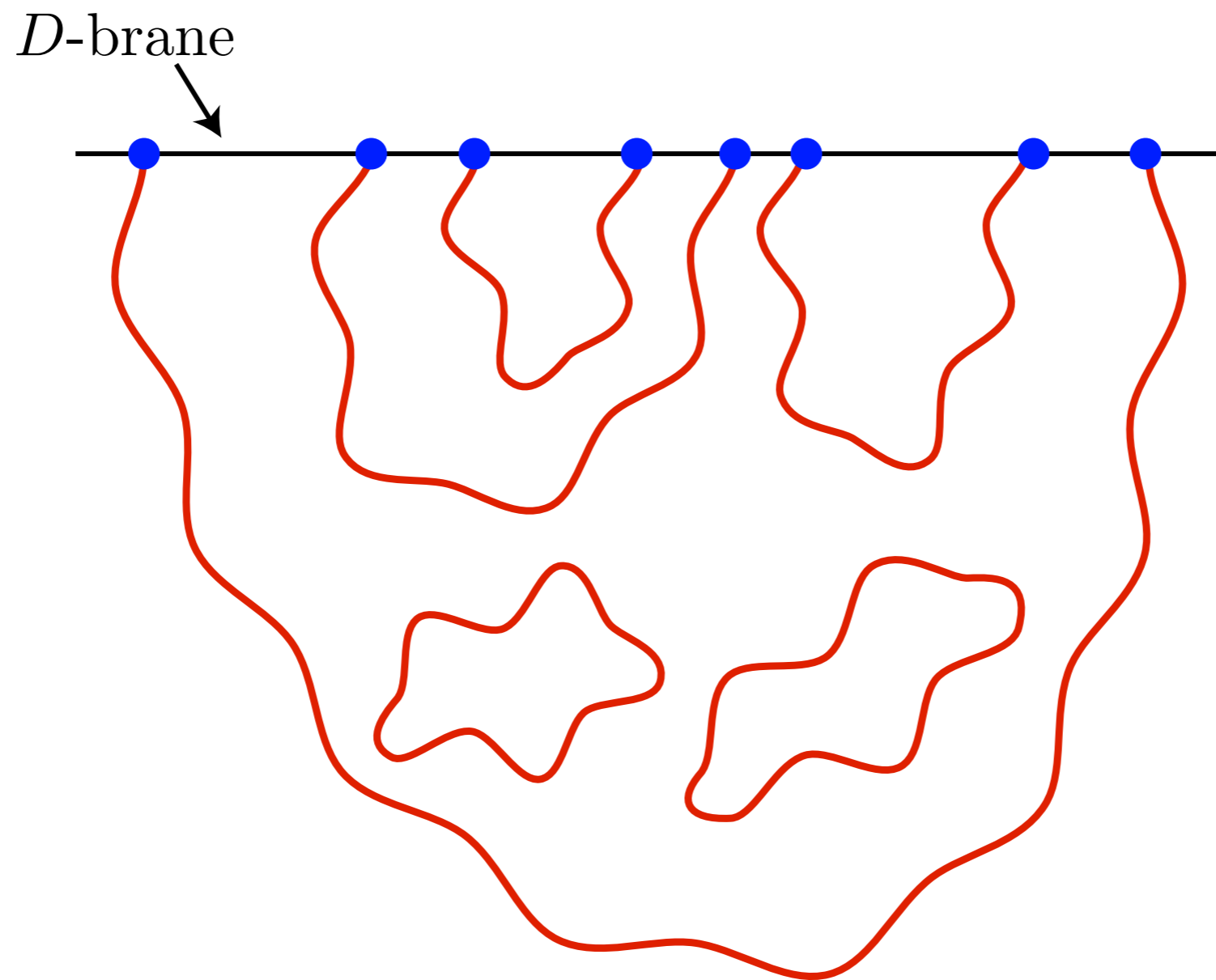
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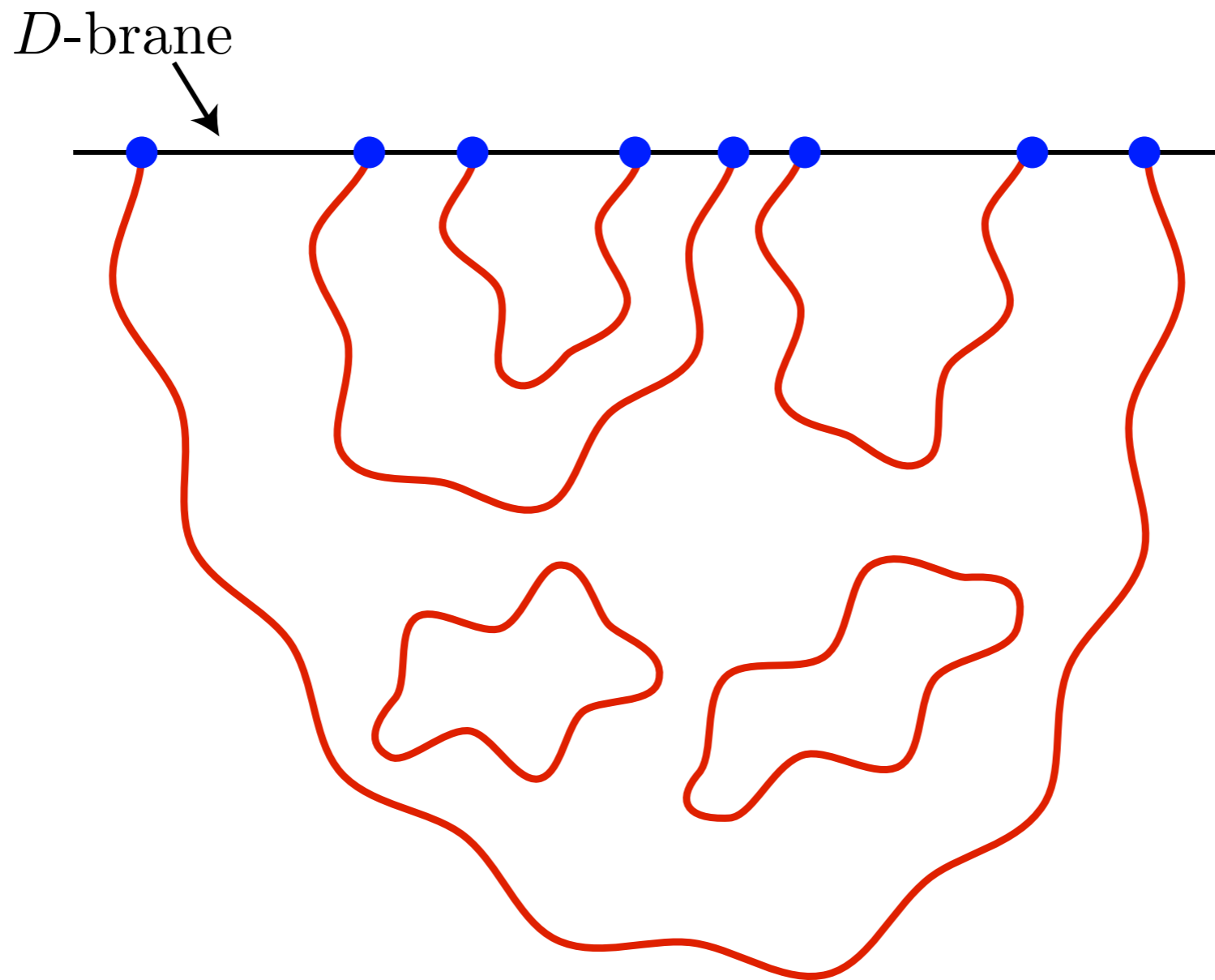
## String theory



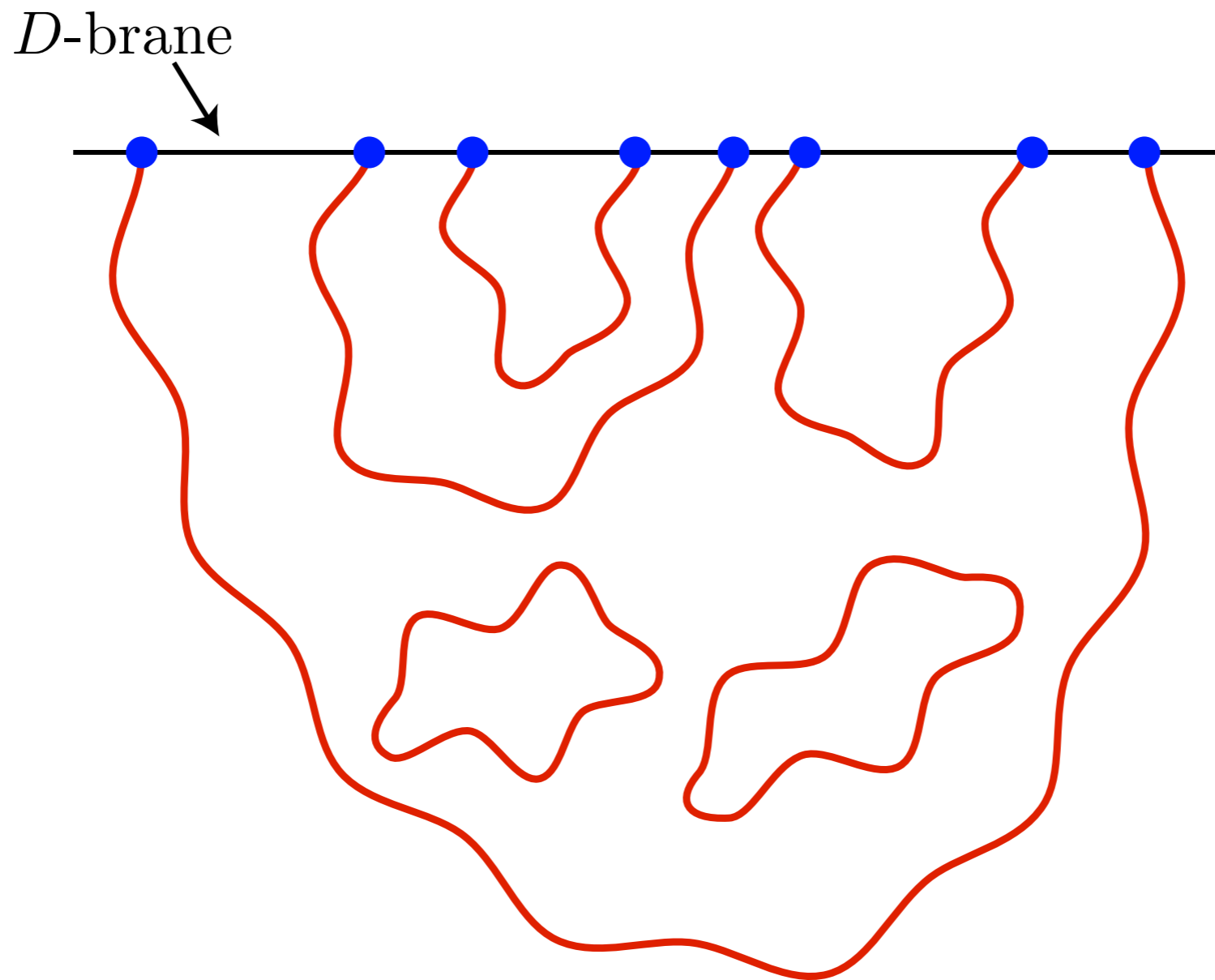
- Allows unification of the standard model of particle physics with gravity.
- Low-lying string modes correspond to gauge fields, gravitons, quarks ...



- A  $D$ -brane is a  $d$ -dimensional surface on which strings can end.



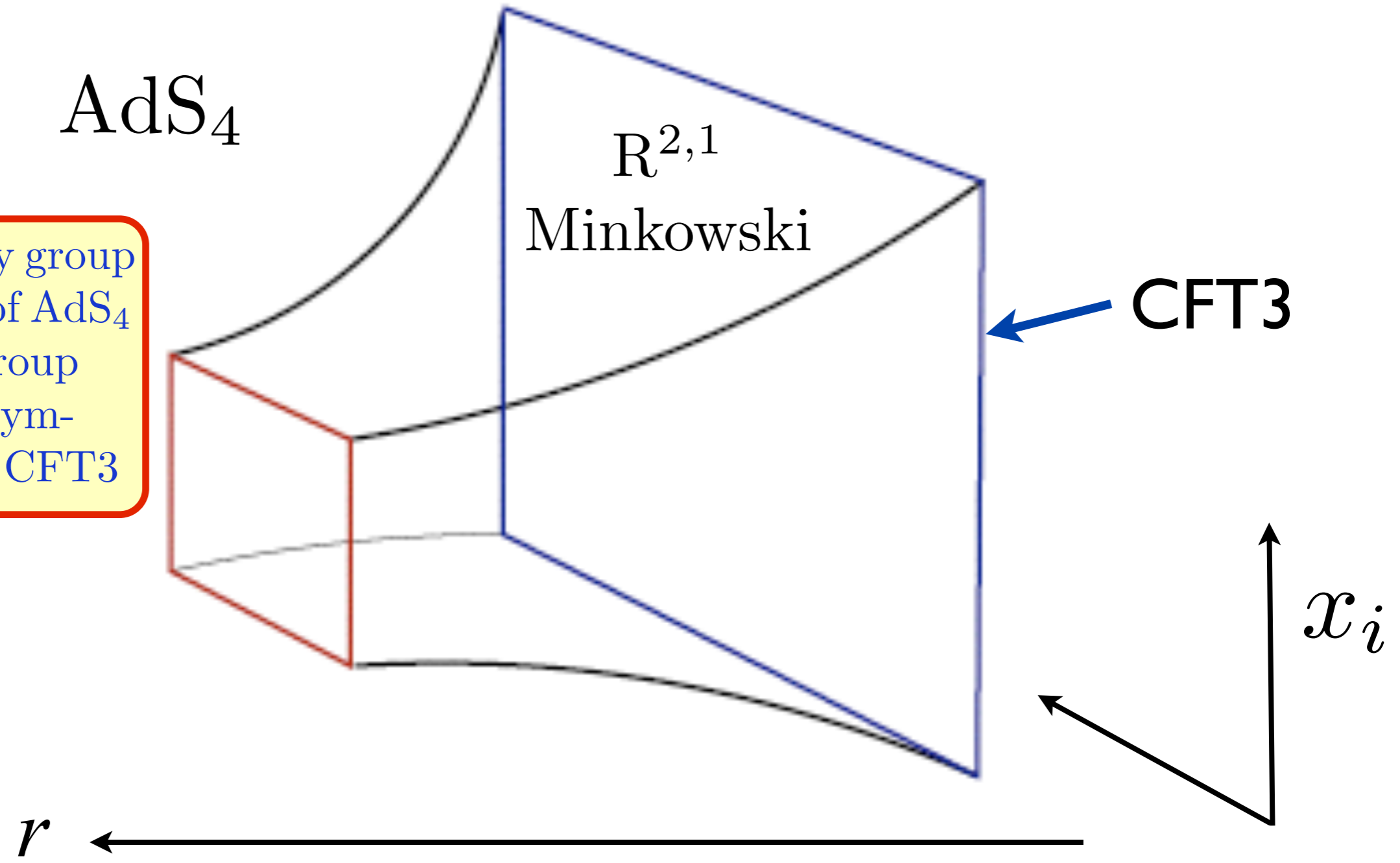
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- In  $d = 2$ , we obtain strongly-interacting **CFT3s**. These are “dual” to string theory on anti-de Sitter space: **AdS4**.

# AdS/CFT correspondence at zero temperature

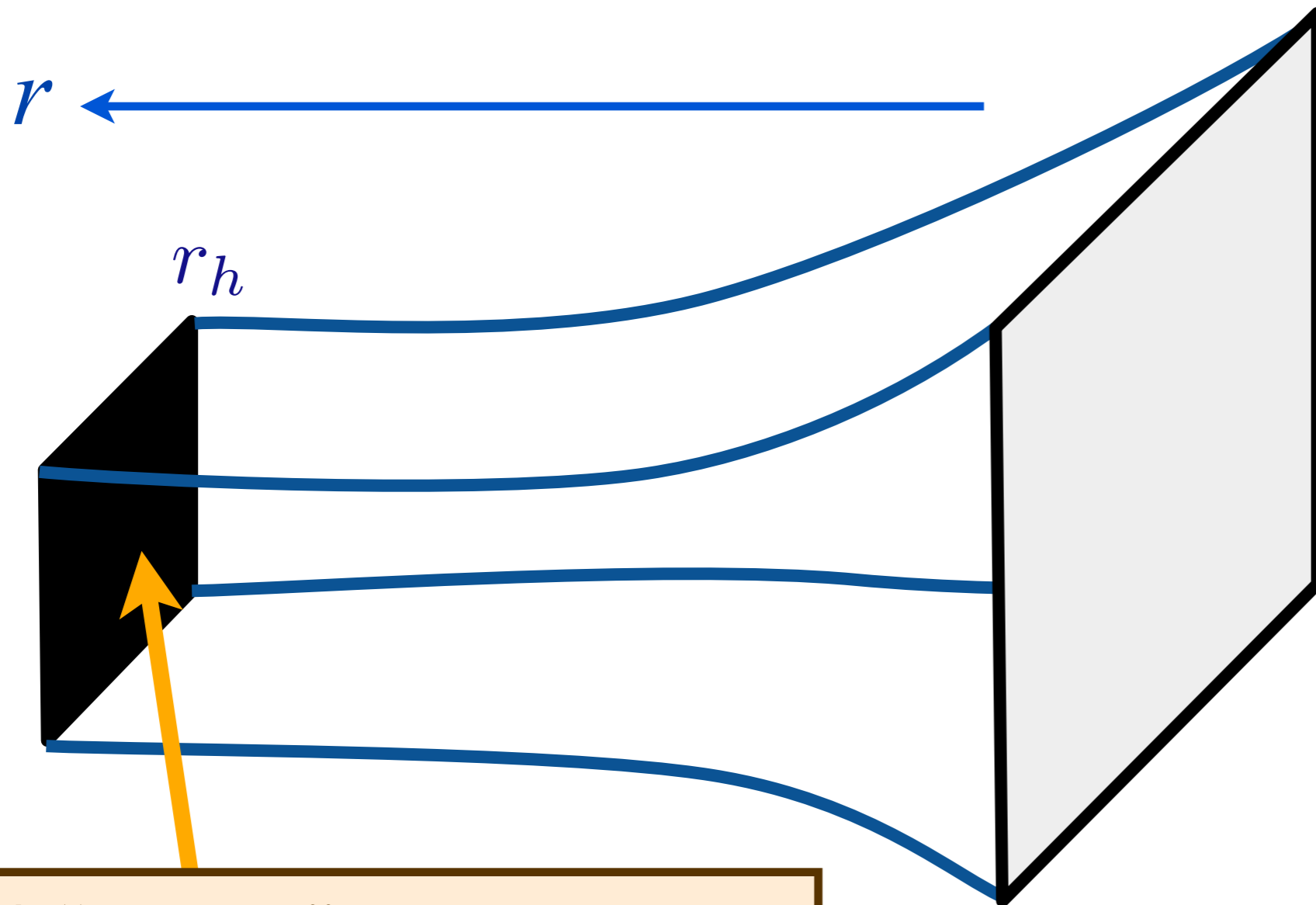
The symmetry group of isometries of  $AdS_4$  maps to the group of conformal symmetries of the CFT3



This emergent spacetime is a solution of Einstein gravity with a negative cosmological constant

$$\mathcal{S}_E = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \left( R + \frac{6}{L^2} \right) \right]$$

# Gauge-gravity duality at non-zero temperatures

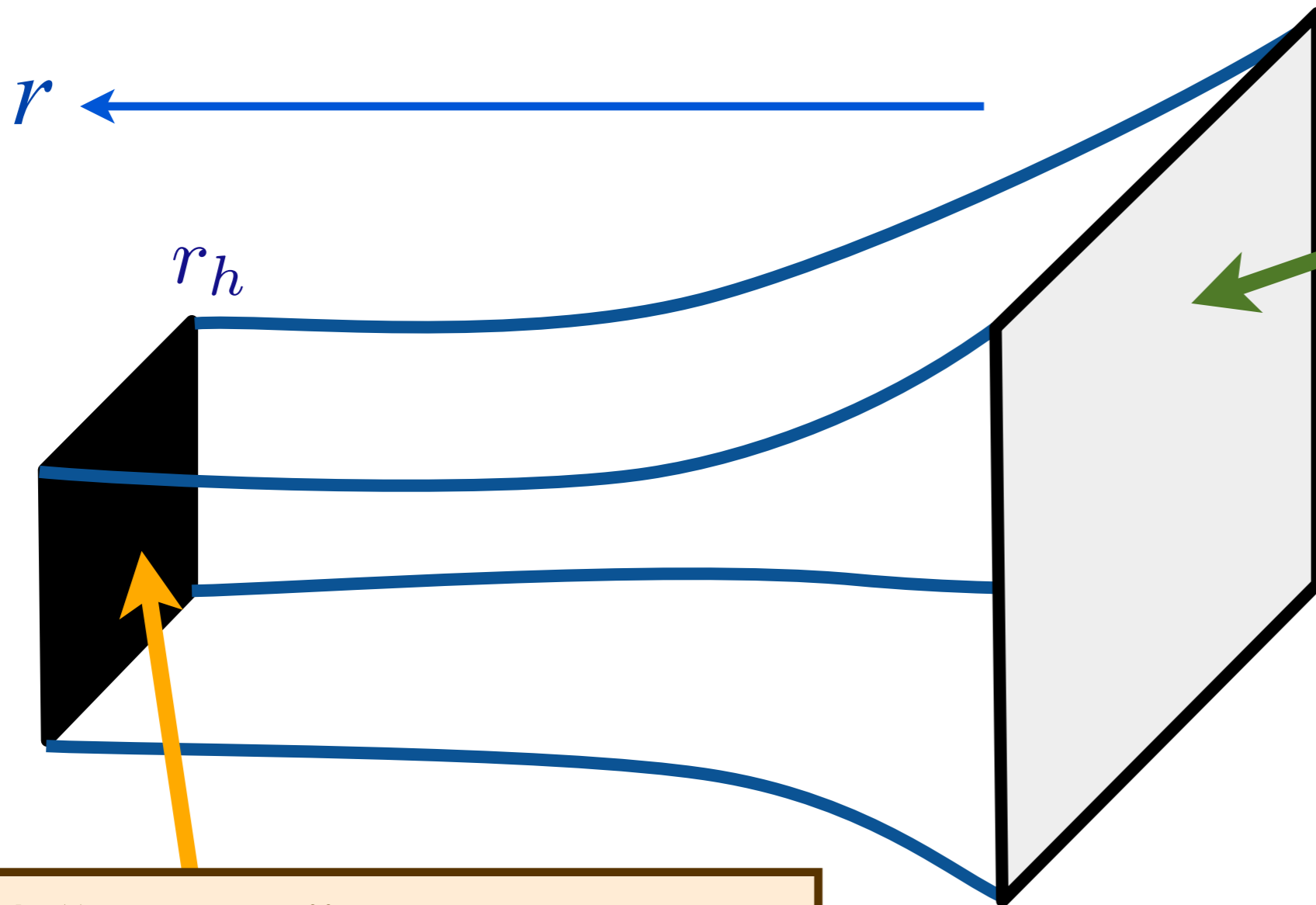


There is a family of solutions of Einstein's equations which are  $\text{AdS}_4$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , but which have horizons at  $r = r_h$ .

A "horizon", similar to the surface of a black hole !

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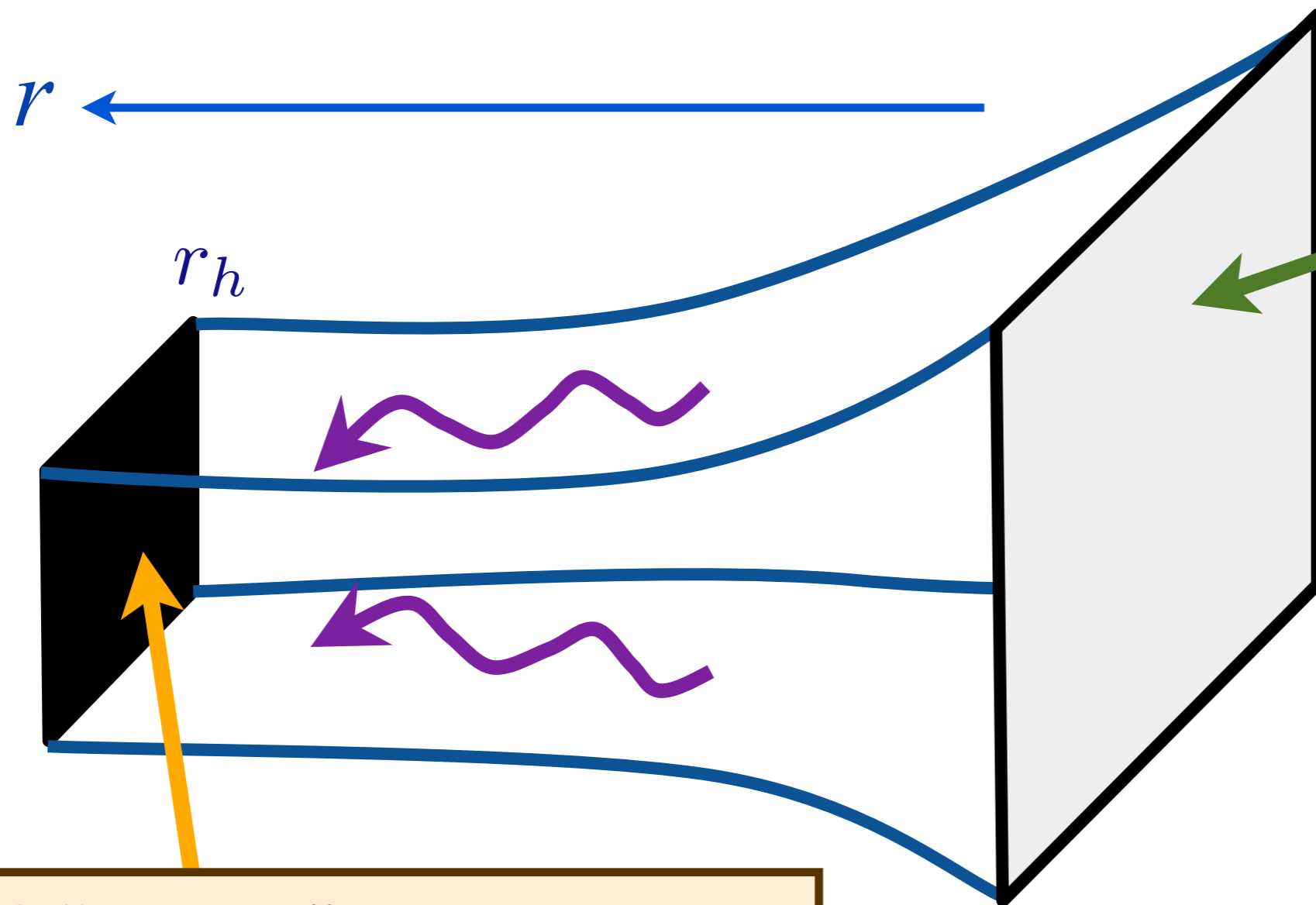


A CFT3 at a temperature  $T \sim 1/r_h$  equal to the Hawking temperature of the horizon.

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A “horizon”, similar to the surface of a black hole !

Dissipation and friction in the CFT3 = waves falling past the horizon

# Traditional CMT

- Identify quasiparticles and their dispersions
- Compute scattering matrix elements of quasiparticles (or of collective modes)
- These parameters are input into a quantum Boltzmann equation
- Deduce dissipative and dynamic properties at non-zero temperatures

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- Solve Einstein-Maxwell equations. Dynamics of quasi-normal modes of black branes.

# AdS<sub>4</sub> theory of quantum criticality

Most general effective holographic theory for linear charge transport with 4 spatial derivatives:

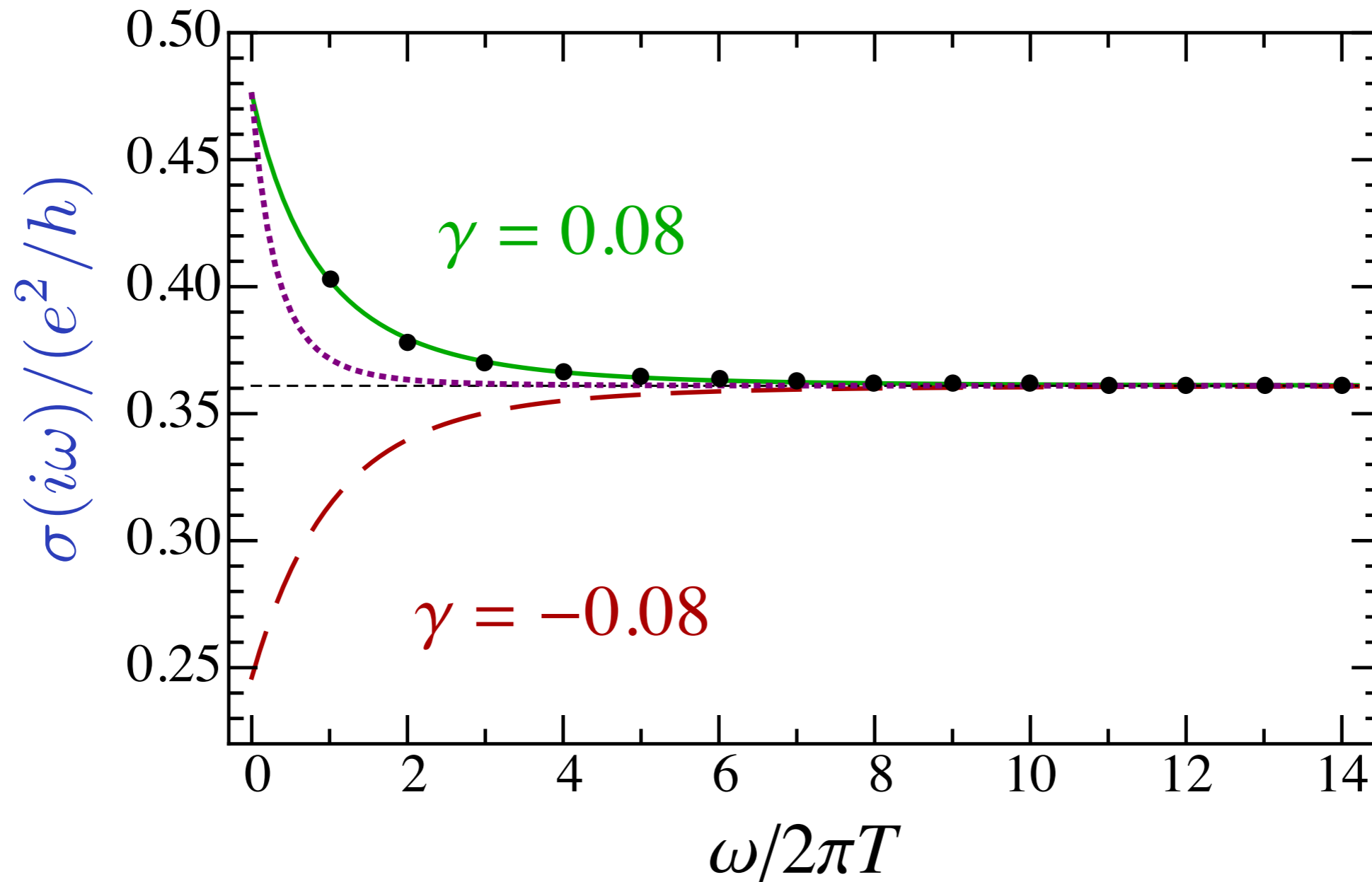
$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{bulk}} = \frac{1}{g_M^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left[ \frac{1}{4} F_{ab} F^{ab} + \gamma L^2 C_{abcd} F^{ab} F^{cd} \right] + \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left[ -\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \left( R + \frac{6}{L^2} \right) \right],$$

This action is characterized by 3 dimensionless parameters, which can be linked to data of the CFT (OPE coefficients): 2-point correlators of the conserved current  $J_\mu$  and the stress energy tensor  $T_{\mu\nu}$ , and a 3-point  $T, J, J$  correlator. Constraints from both the CFT and the gravitational theory bound  $|\gamma| \leq 1/12 = 0.0833..$

R. C. Myers, S. Sachdev, and A. Singh, *Phys. Rev. D* **83**, 066017 (2011)

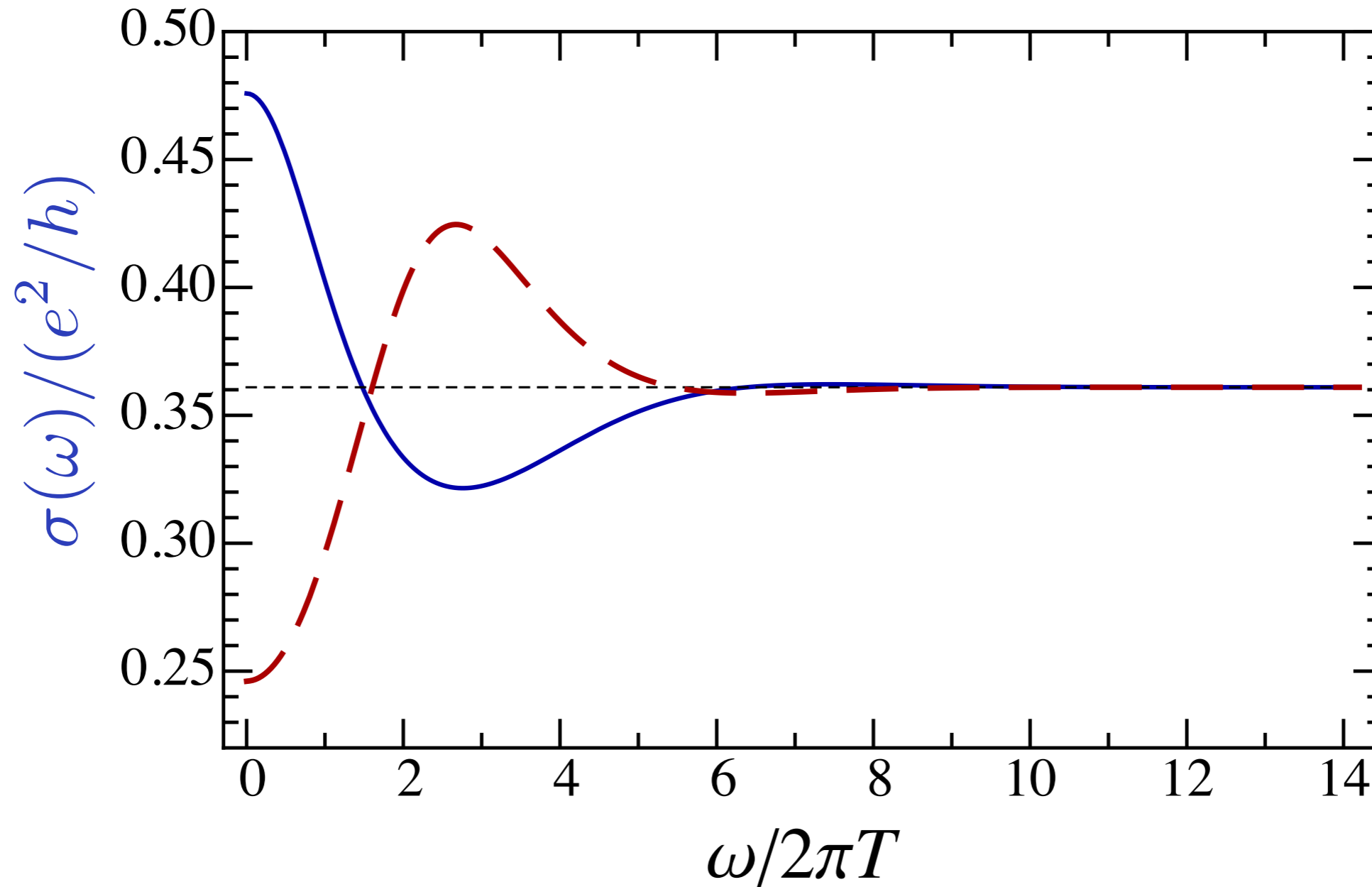
D. Chowdhury, S. Raju, S. Sachdev, A. Singh, and P. Strack, *Phys. Rev. B* **87**, 085138 (2013)

# Holography+quantum Monte Carlo



The holographic theory provides an excellent fit to imaginary-time quantum Monte Carlo on the boson Hubbard model with  $\gamma = 0.08$ , and we combine these methods to obtain absolute predictions for the frequency-dependent conductivity.

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W. Witczak-Krempa, E. Sorensen, and S. Sachdev, arXiv:1309.2941  
See also K. Chen, L. Liu, Y. Deng, L. Pollet, and N. Prokof'ev, arXiv:1309.5635

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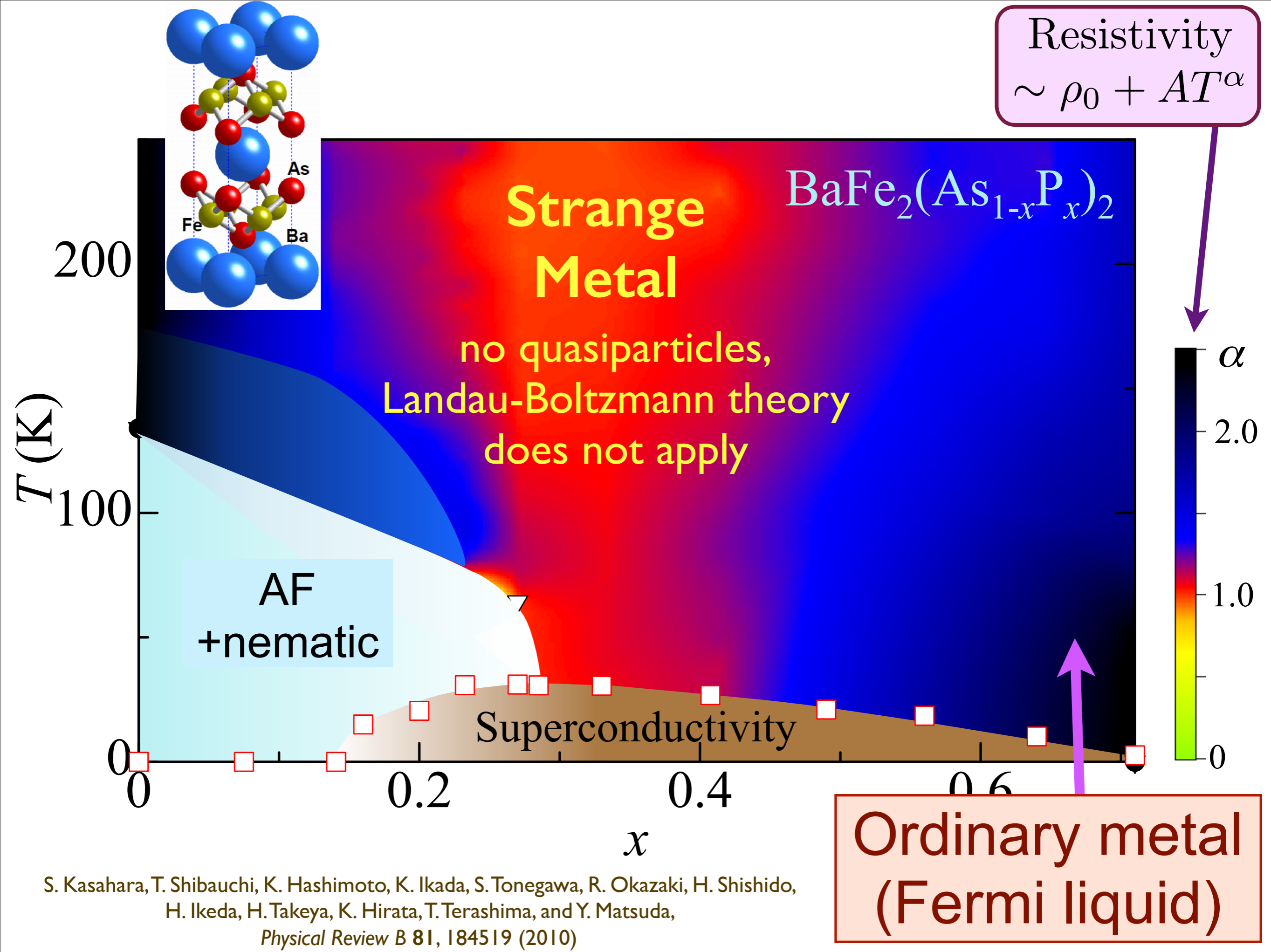
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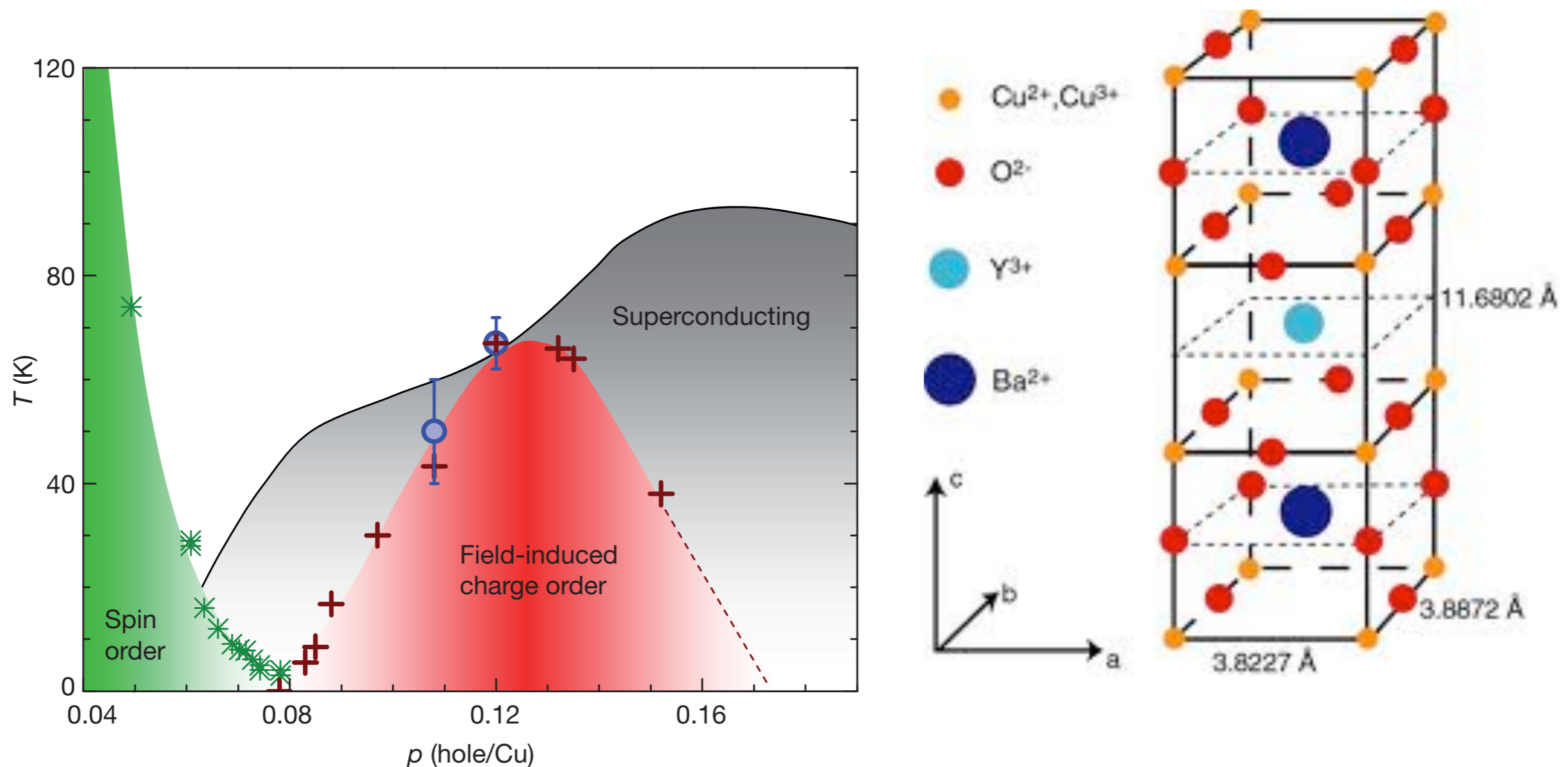
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# Magnetic-field-induced charge-stripe order in the high-temperature superconductor $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_y$

Tao Wu<sup>1</sup>, Hadrien Mayaffre<sup>1</sup>, Steffen Krämer<sup>1</sup>, Mladen Horvatić<sup>1</sup>, Claude Berthier<sup>1</sup>, W. N. Hardy<sup>2,3</sup>, Ruixing Liang<sup>2,3</sup>, D. A. Bonn<sup>2,3</sup> & Marc-Henri Julien<sup>1</sup>

8 SEPTEMBER 2011 | VOL 477 | NATURE | 191



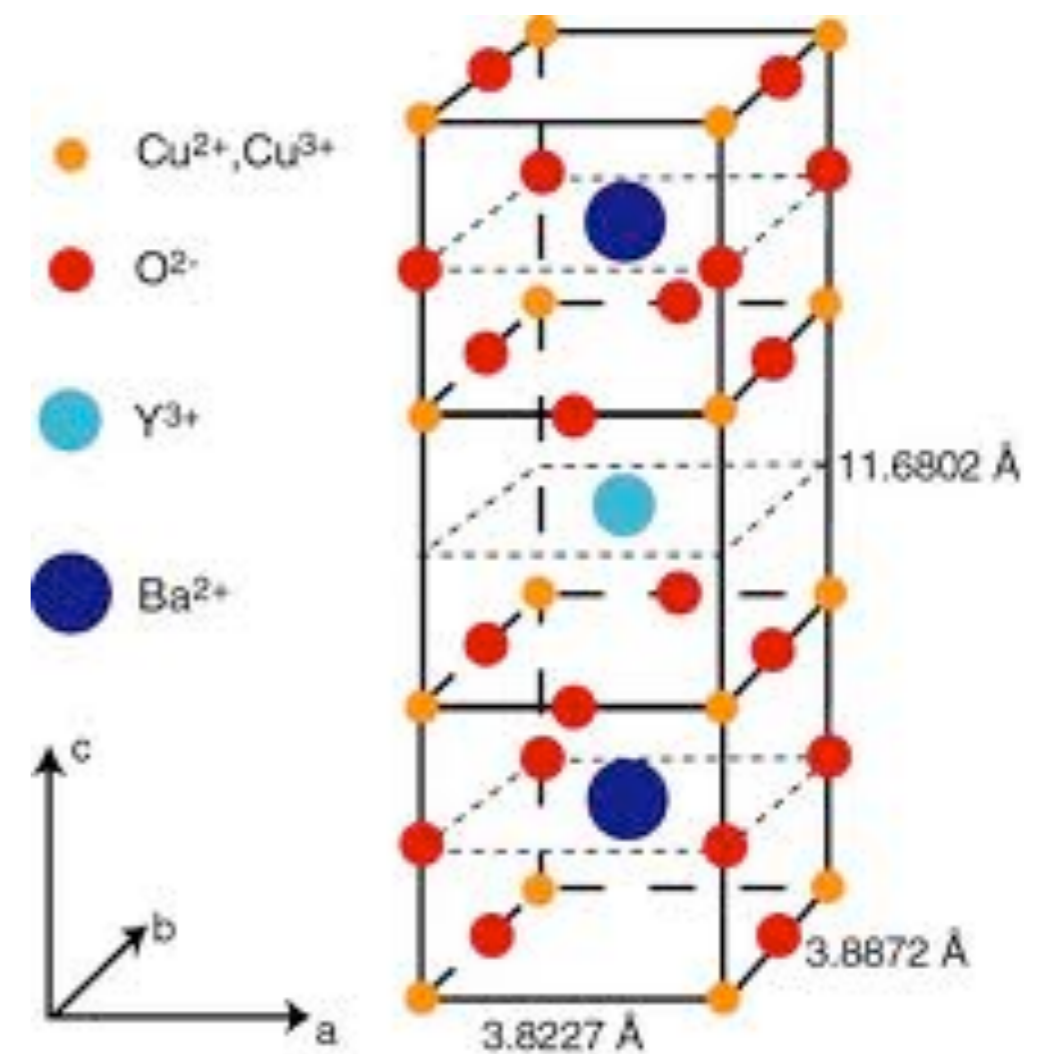
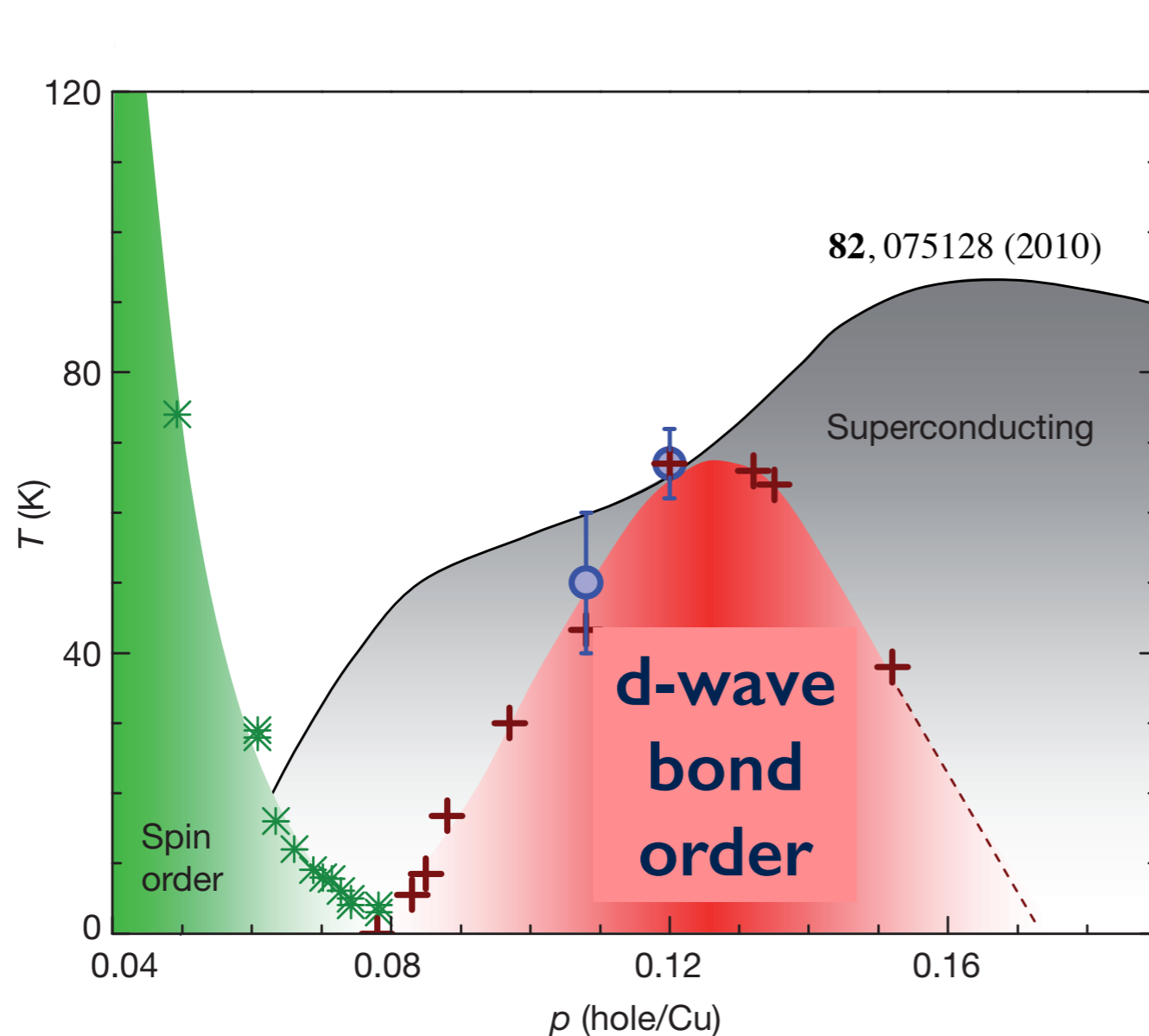
M.Vojta and S. Sachdev, Physical Review Letters **83**, 3916 (1999)

M.Vojta and O. Rosch, Physical Review B **77**, 094504 (2008)

M. Metlitski and S. Sachdev, Physical Review B **82**, 075128 (2010)

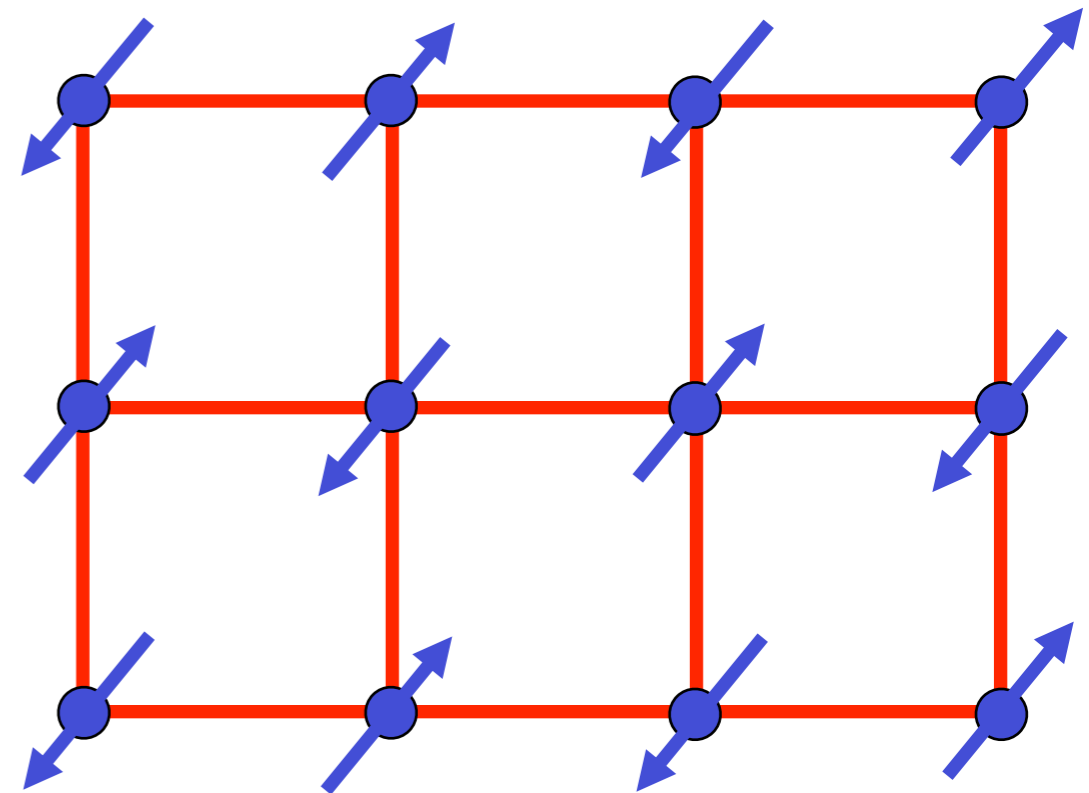
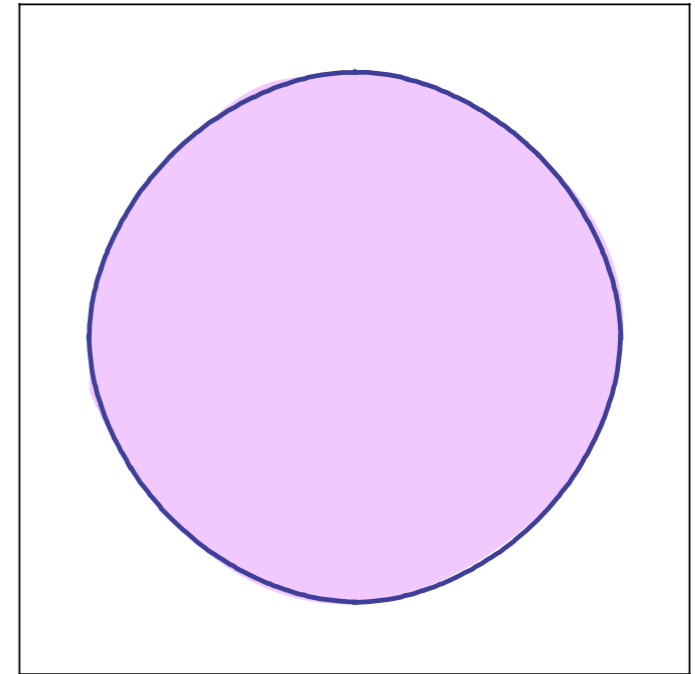
S. Sachdev and R. La Placa, Physical Review Letters **111**, 027202 (2013)

A.Allais, J. Bauer, and S. Sachdev, to appear



# Fermi surface+antiferromagnetism

Metal with “large”  
Fermi surface

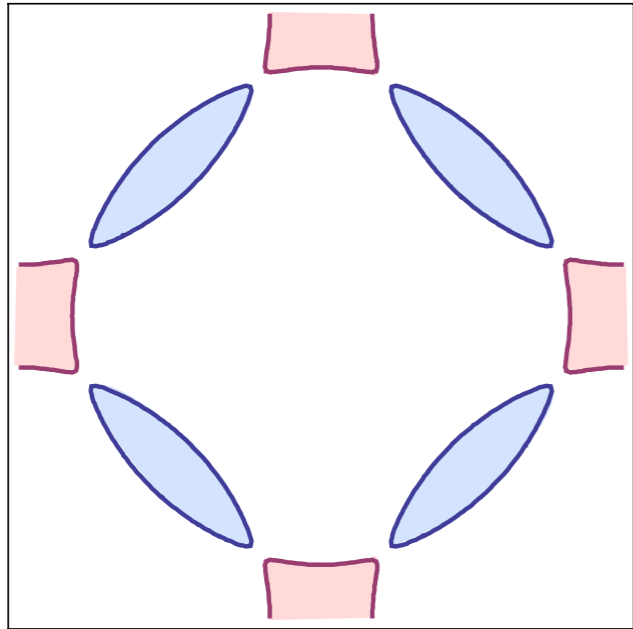


The electron spin polarization obeys

$$\langle \vec{S}(\mathbf{r}, \tau) \rangle = \vec{\varphi}(\mathbf{r}, \tau) e^{i\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$$

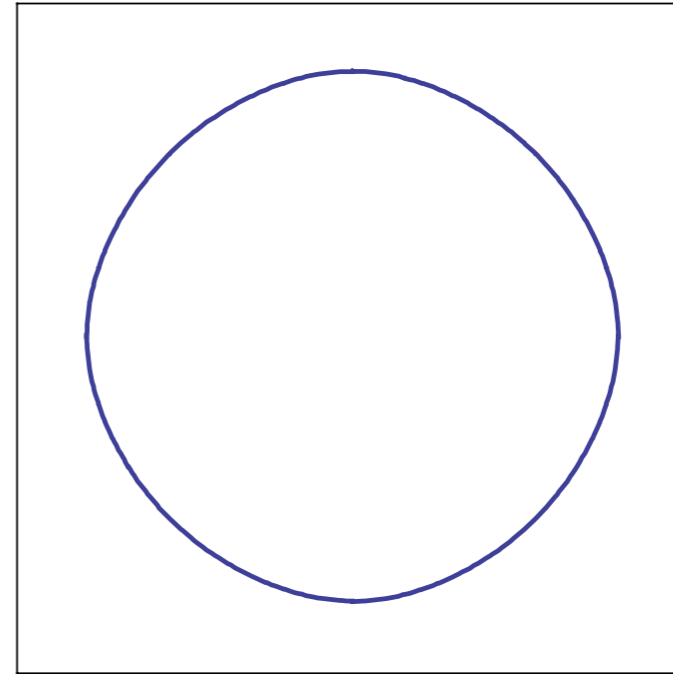
where  $\mathbf{K}$  is the ordering wavevector.

# Quantum phase transition with onset of antiferromagnetism in a metal



$$\langle \vec{\varphi} \rangle \neq 0$$

Metal with electron  
and hole pockets

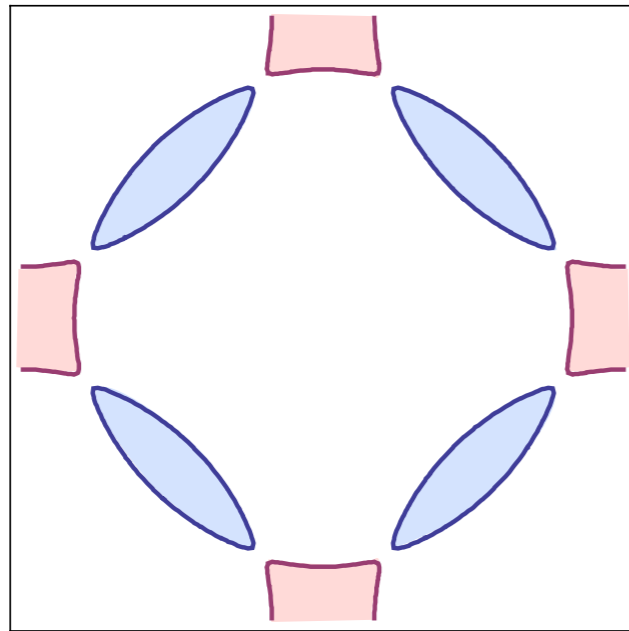


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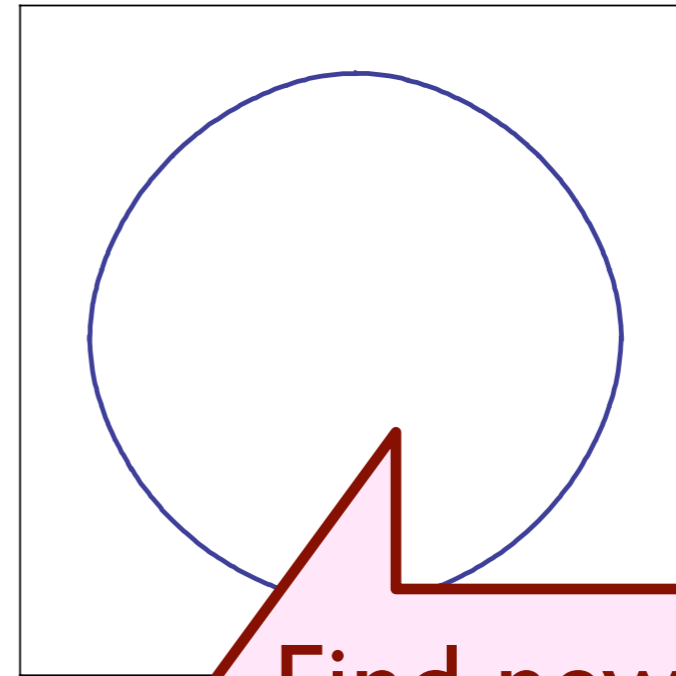


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Metal with "large"  
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Find new instabilities  
upon approaching  
critical point

$r$

# New physics in metals with antiferromagnetic correlation

- Weak-coupling instability to  $d$ -wave superconductivity,  $\Psi$ .

V. J. Emery, *J. Phys. (Paris) Colloq.* **44**, C3-977 (1983)

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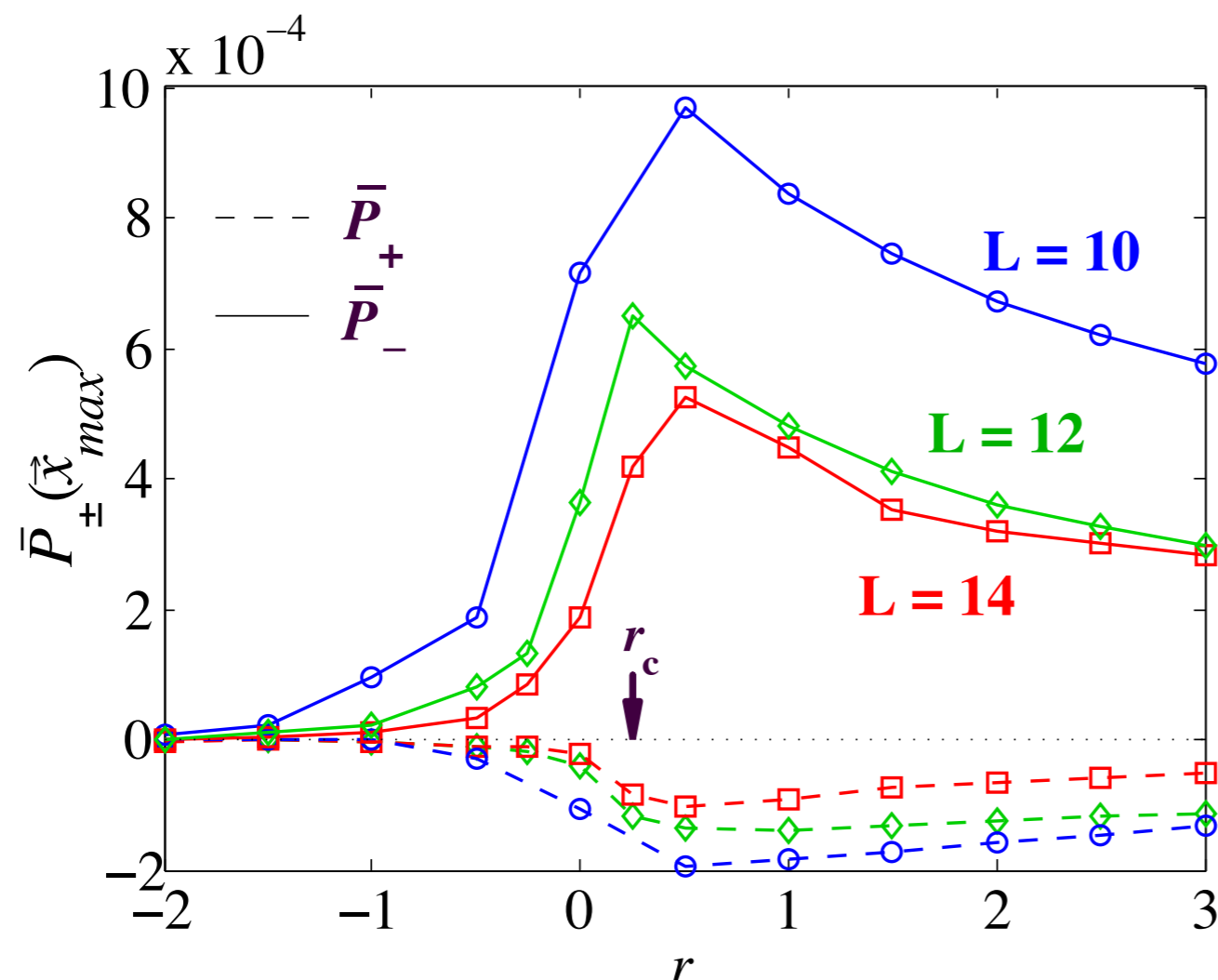
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# New physics in metals with antiferromagnetic correlation

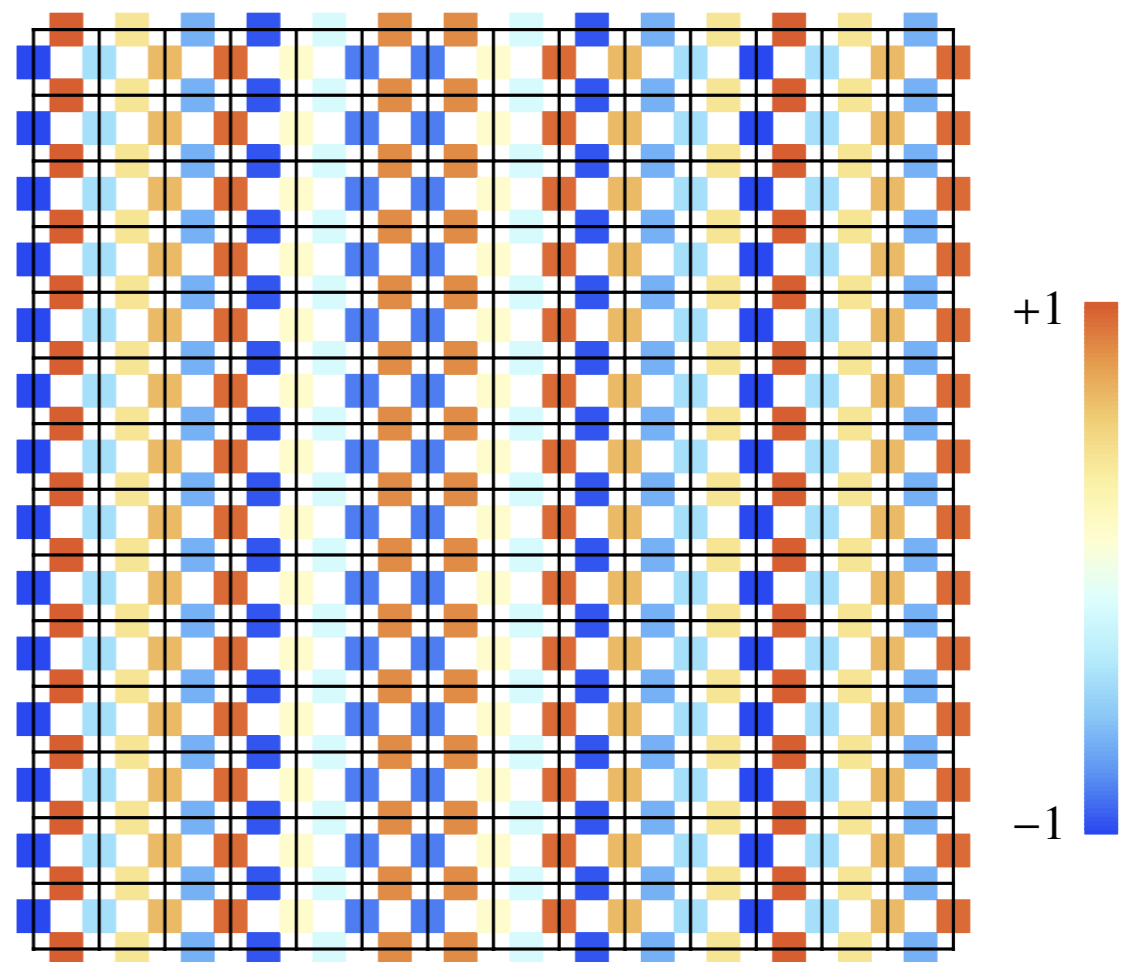
- Weak-coupling instability to  $d$ -wave superconductivity,  $\Psi$ .
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E. Berg, M. Metlitski, and S. Sachdev,  
*Science* **338**, 1606 (2012).

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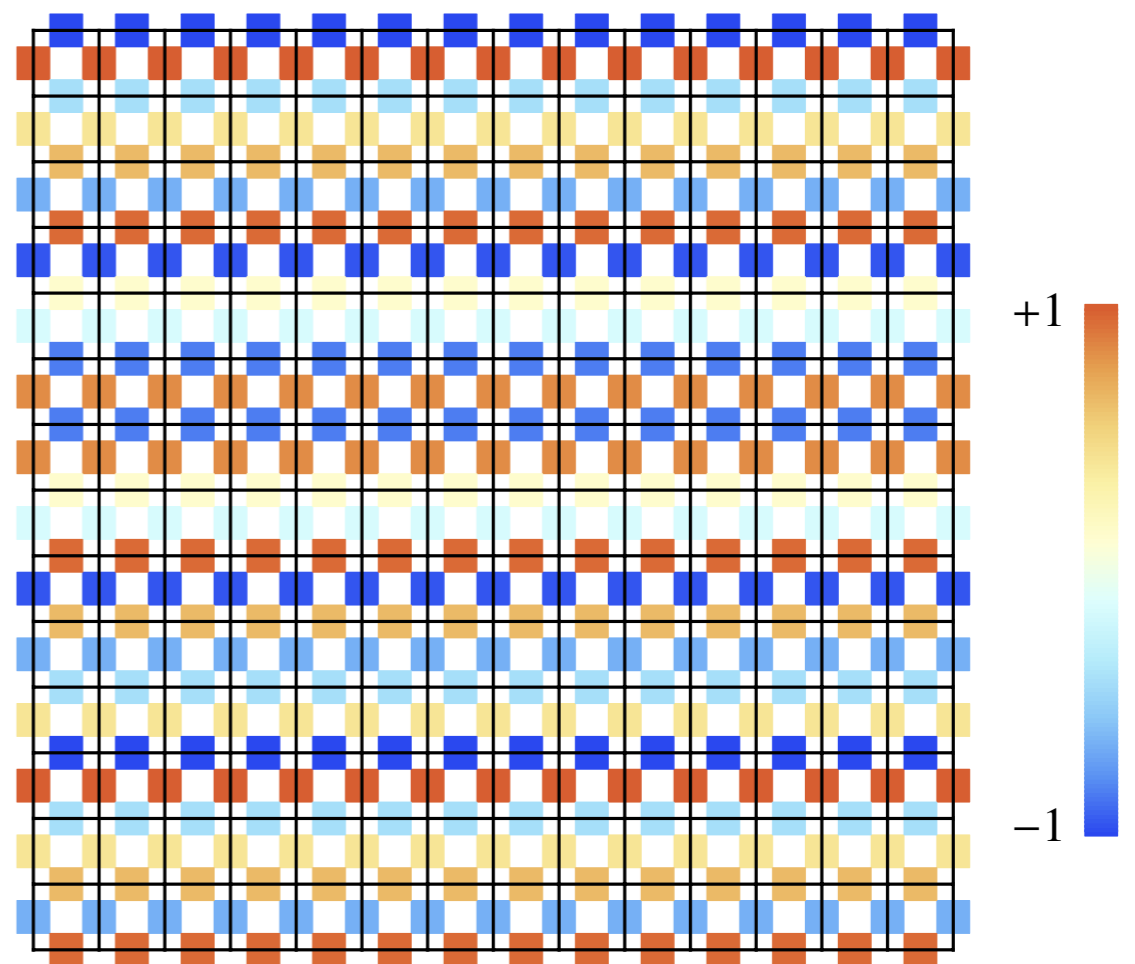
M. Metlitski and S. Sachdev, Physical Review B **82**, 075128 (2010)

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A.Allais, J. Bauer, and S. Sachdev, to appear

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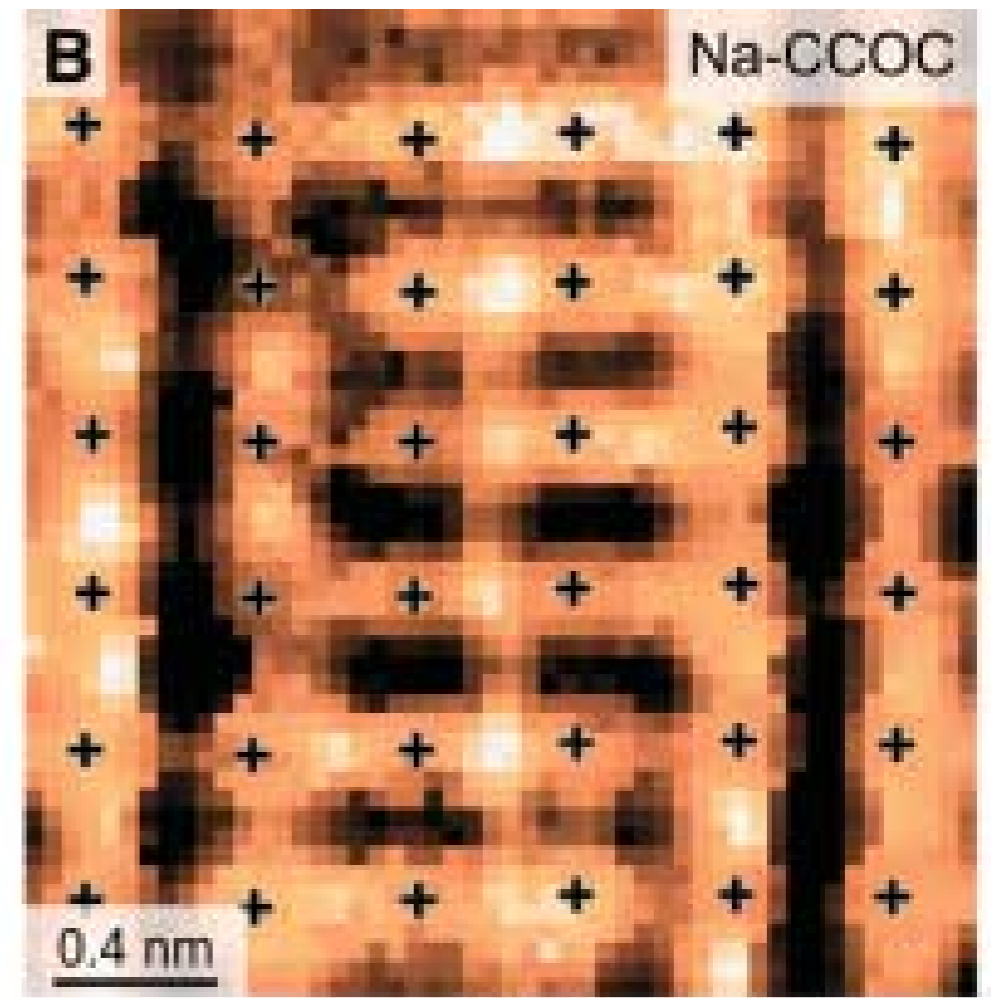
S. Sachdev and R. La Placa, Physical Review Letters **111**, 027202 (2013)

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# An Intrinsic Bond-Centered Electronic Glass with Unidirectional Domains in Underdoped Cuprates

Y. Kohsaka,<sup>1</sup> C. Taylor,<sup>1</sup> K. Fujita,<sup>1,2</sup> A. Schmidt,<sup>1</sup> C. Lupien,<sup>3</sup> T. Hanaguri,<sup>4</sup> M. Azuma,<sup>5</sup> M. Takano,<sup>5</sup> H. Eisaki,<sup>6</sup> H. Takagi,<sup>2,4</sup> S. Uchida,<sup>2,7</sup> J. C. Davis<sup>1,8\*</sup>

9 MARCH 2007 VOL 315 SCIENCE



Phys. Rev. Lett. **109**, 167001 (2012).

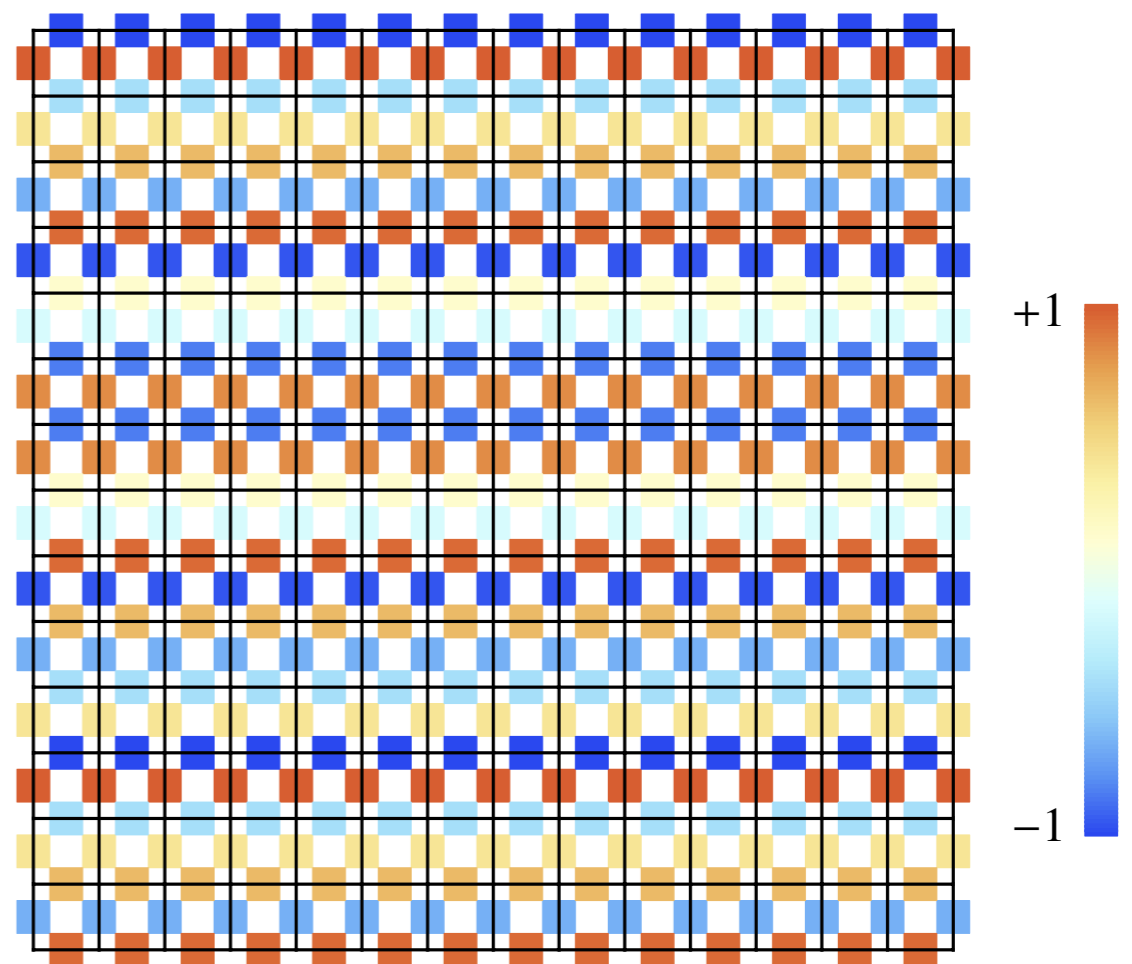
## Distinct Charge Orders in the Planes and Chains of Ortho-III-Ordered $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6+\delta}$ Superconductors Identified by Resonant Elastic X-ray Scattering

A. J. Achkar,<sup>1</sup> R. Sutarto,<sup>2,3</sup> X. Mao,<sup>1</sup> F. He,<sup>3</sup> A. Frano,<sup>4,5</sup> S. Blanco-Canosa,<sup>4</sup> M. Le Tacon,<sup>4</sup> G. Ghiringhelli,<sup>6</sup> L. Braicovich,<sup>6</sup> M. Minola,<sup>6</sup> M. Moretti Sala,<sup>7</sup> C. Mazzoli,<sup>6</sup> Ruixing Liang,<sup>2</sup> D. A. Bonn,<sup>2</sup> W. N. Hardy,<sup>2</sup> B. Keimer,<sup>4</sup> G. A. Sawatzky,<sup>2</sup> and D. G. Hawthorn<sup>1,\*</sup>

In such a case, the energy shifts may in fact be a signature of a novel electronic state, such as a valence bond solid

# New physics in metals with antiferromagnetic correlation

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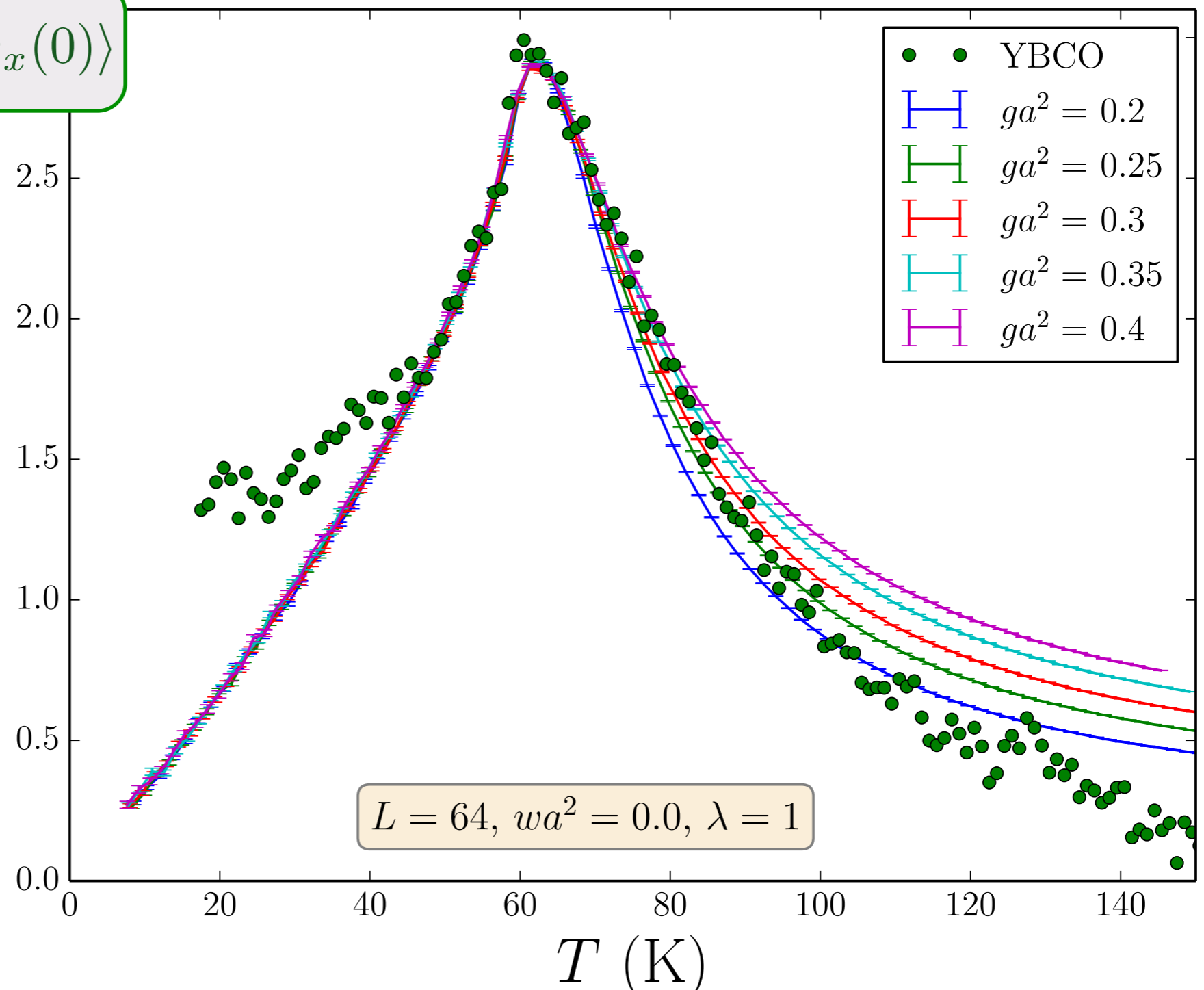
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- X-ray scattering in underdoped YBCO is described by angular thermal fluctuations of a 6-component order parameter,  $\Psi, \Phi_x, \Phi_y$ .

# Comparison of Monte Carlo with experiments

$$S_{\Phi_x} = \int d^2r \langle \Phi_x(\mathbf{r}) \Phi_x(0) \rangle$$

Charge order  
structure  
factor  $S_{\Phi_x}$



For  $ga^2 = 0.30$  and  $wa^2 = 0.0$  we have  $\rho_s = 160\text{K}$ .  
The height was also rescaled to make the peak heights match.

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- X-ray scattering in underdoped YBCO is described by angular thermal fluctuations of a 6-component order parameter,  $\Psi, \Phi_x, \Phi_y$ .
- Possible quantum critical point at optimal doping involving onset of Ising-nematic order  $\phi = |\Phi_x|^2 - |\Phi_y|^2$

# Outline

## 1. The simplest model without quasiparticles

### *A. Superfluid-insulator transition*

*of ultracold bosonic atoms in an optical lattice*

### *B. Conformal field theories in $2+1$ dimensions, the AdS/CFT correspondence, and transport without quasiparticles.*

## 2. Metals without quasiparticles

### *A. The onset of antiferromagnetism in a metal*

### *B. Non-quasiparticle transport at the Ising-nematic quantum critical point*

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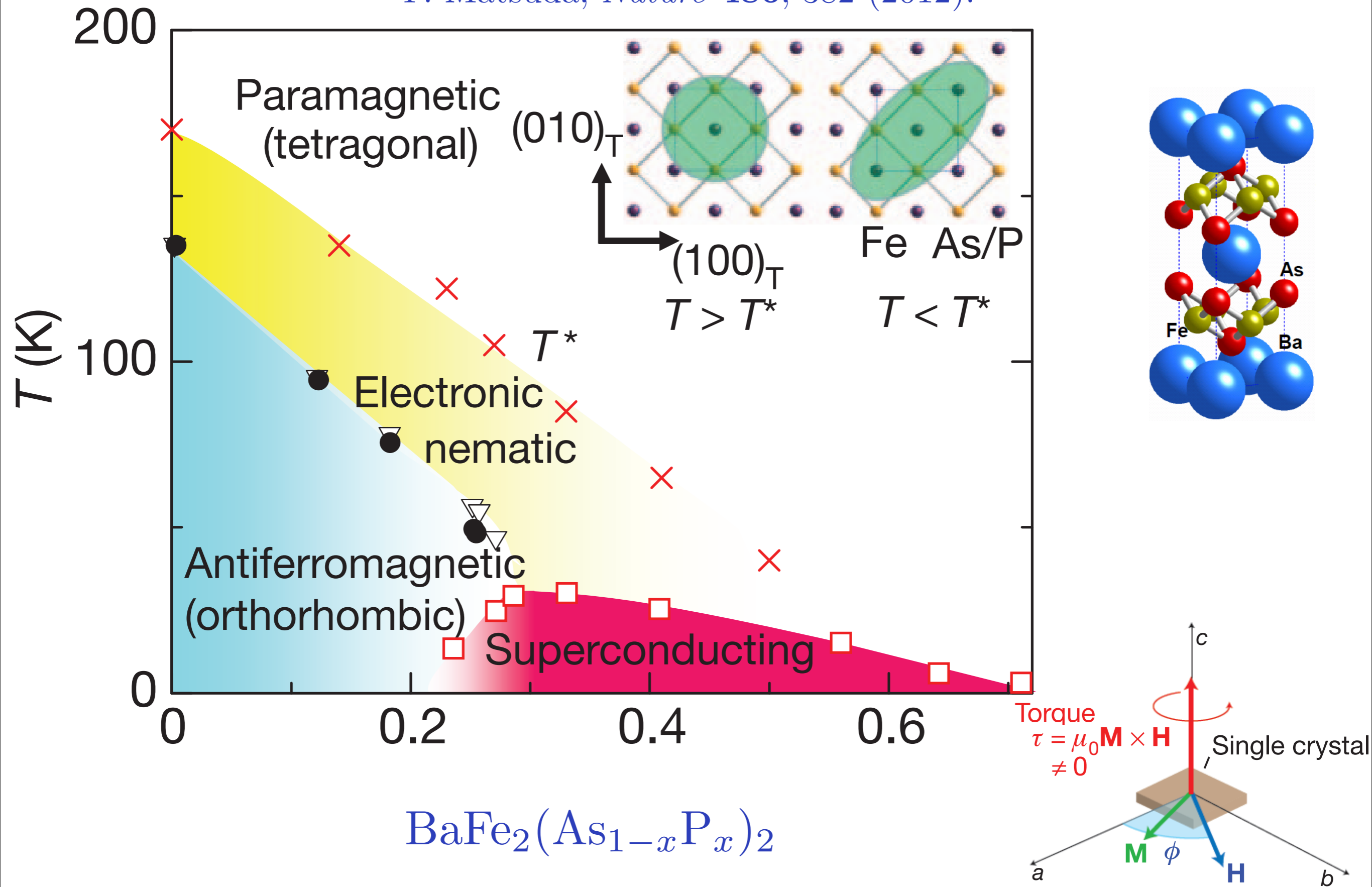
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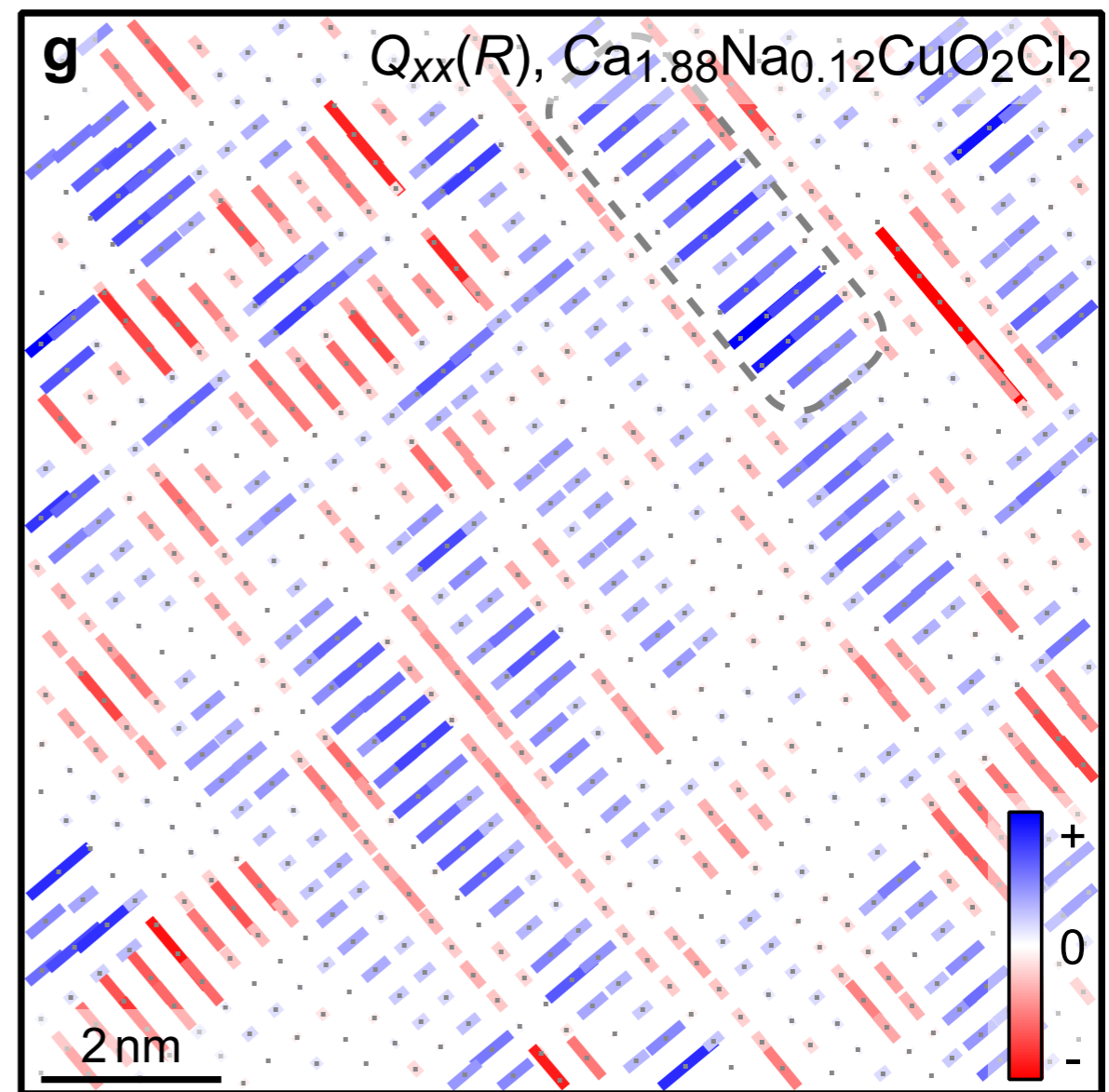
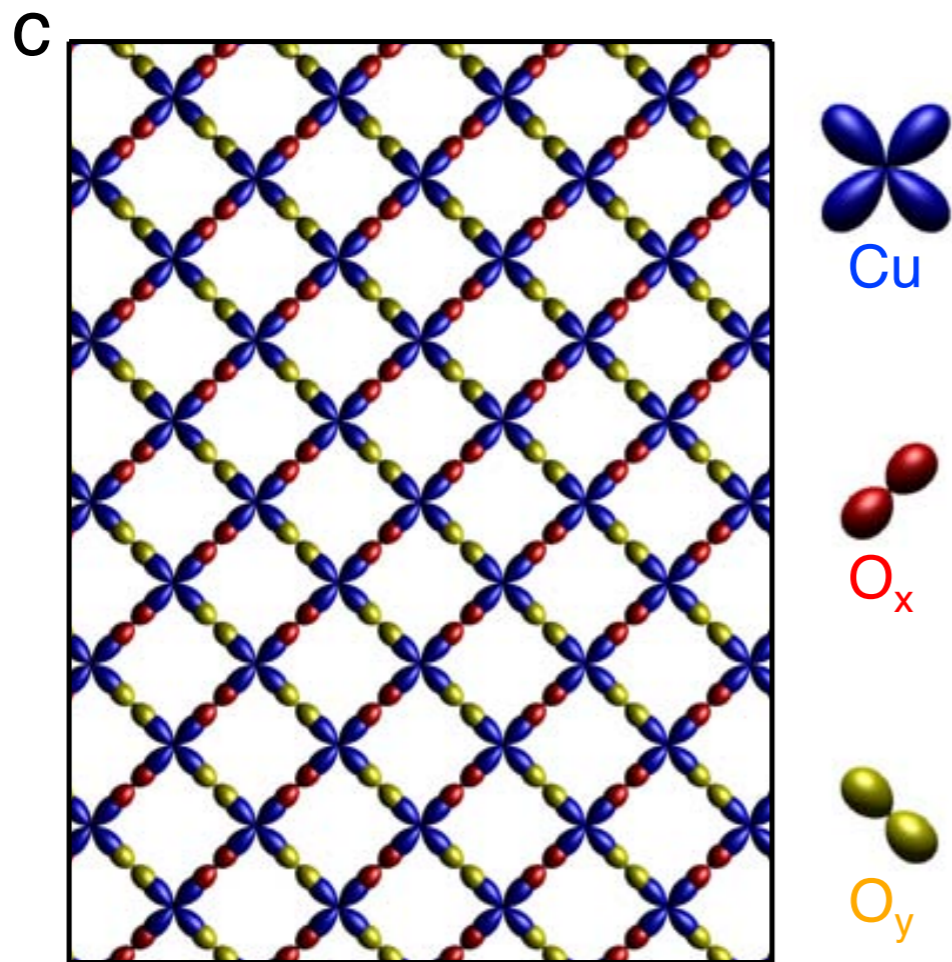
*B. Non-quasiparticle transport at the Ising-nematic quantum critical point*

S. Kasahara, H.J. Shi, K. Hashimoto, S. Tonegawa, Y. Mizukami, T. Shibauchi, K. Sugimoto, T. Fukuda, T. Terashima, A.H. Nevidomskyy, and Y. Matsuda, *Nature* **486**, 382 (2012).



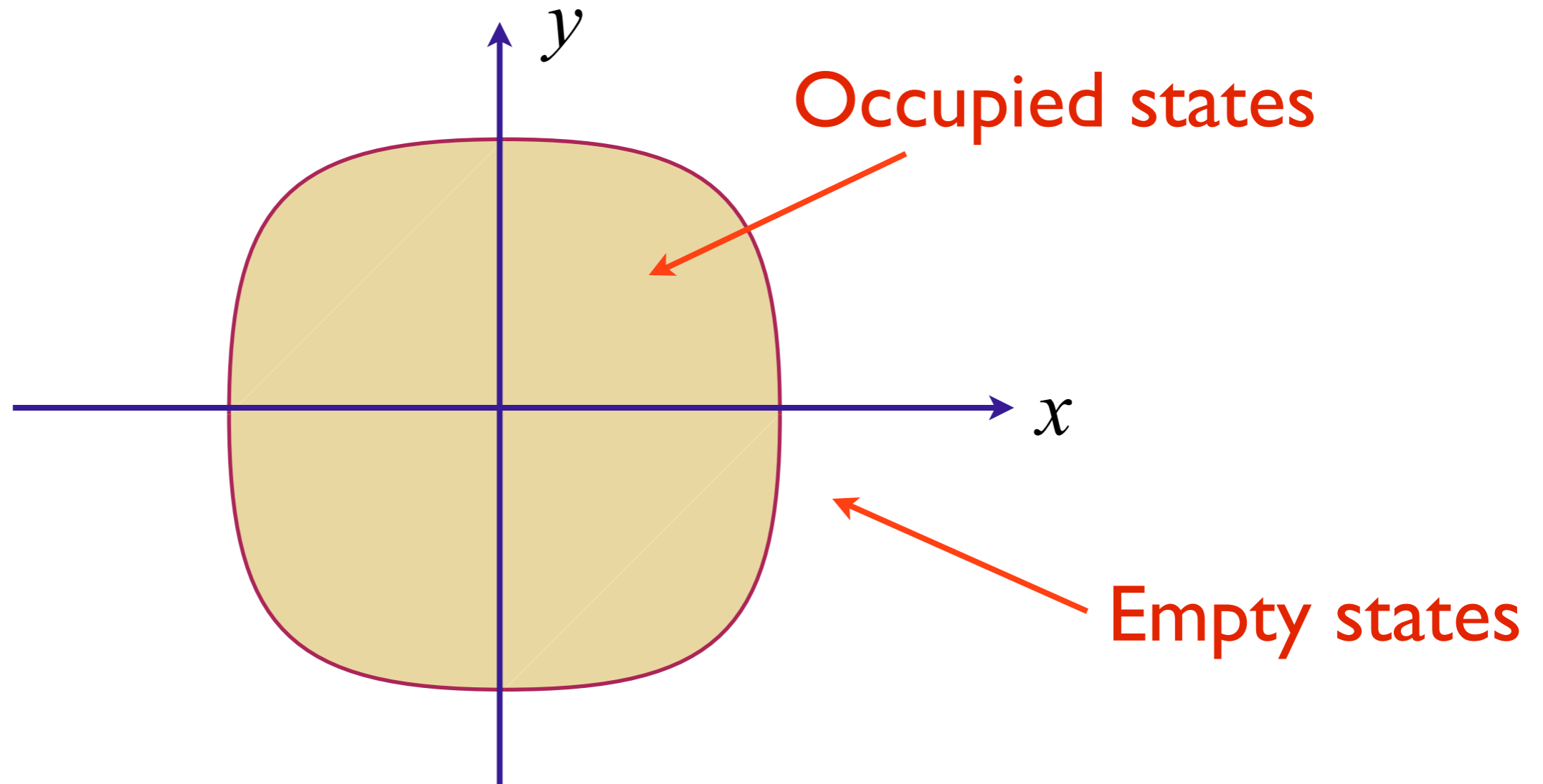
# Visualization of the emergence of the pseudogap state and the evolution to superconductivity in a lightly hole-doped Mott insulator

Y. Kohsaka, T. Hanaguri, M. Azuma, M. Takano, J. C. Davis, and H. Takagi  
*Nature Physics*, 8, 534 (2012).



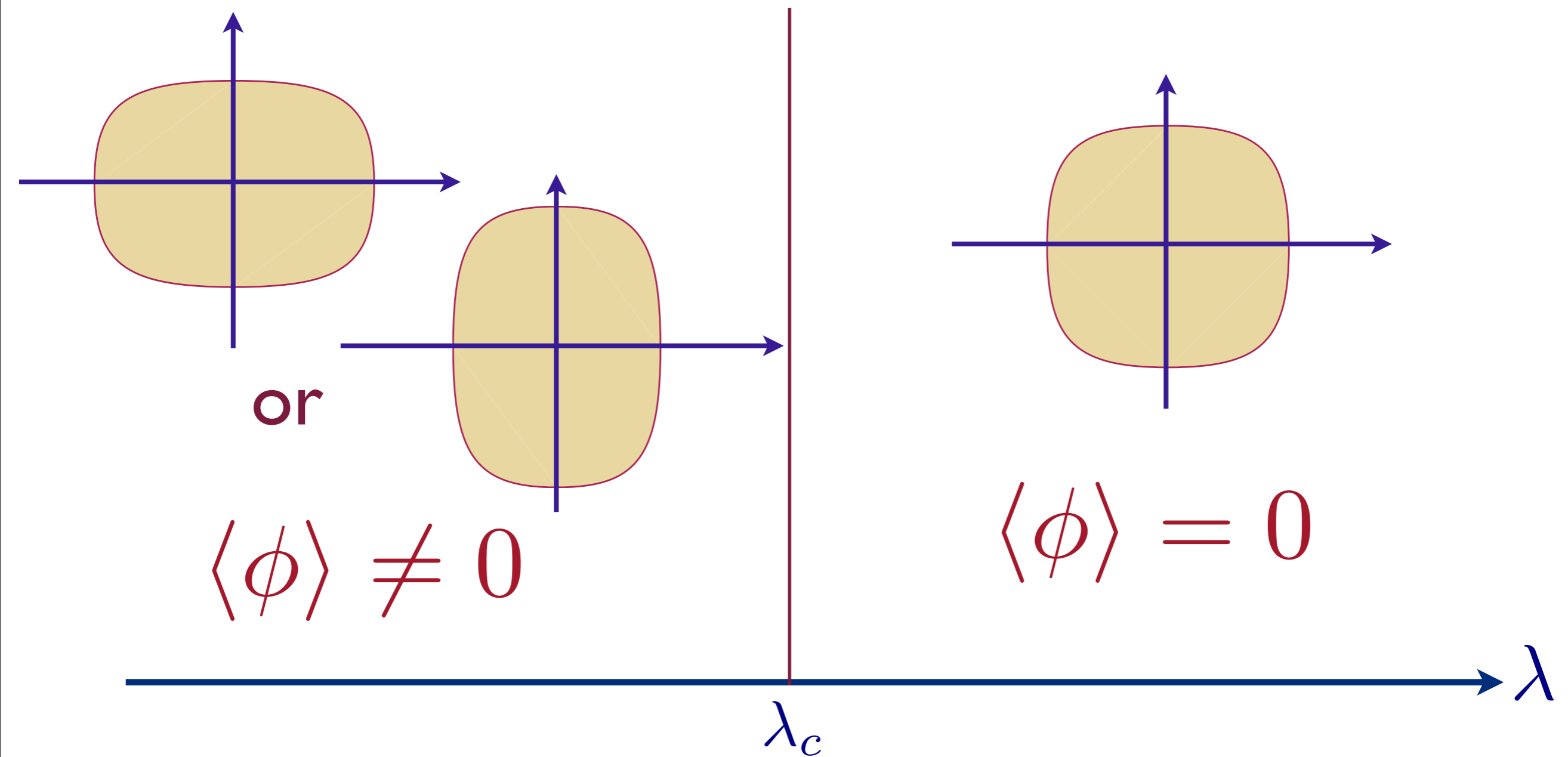
Evidence for “nematic” order (*i.e.* breaking of  $90^\circ$  rotation symmetry) in  $\text{Ca}_{1.88}\text{Na}_{0.12}\text{CuO}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

# Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



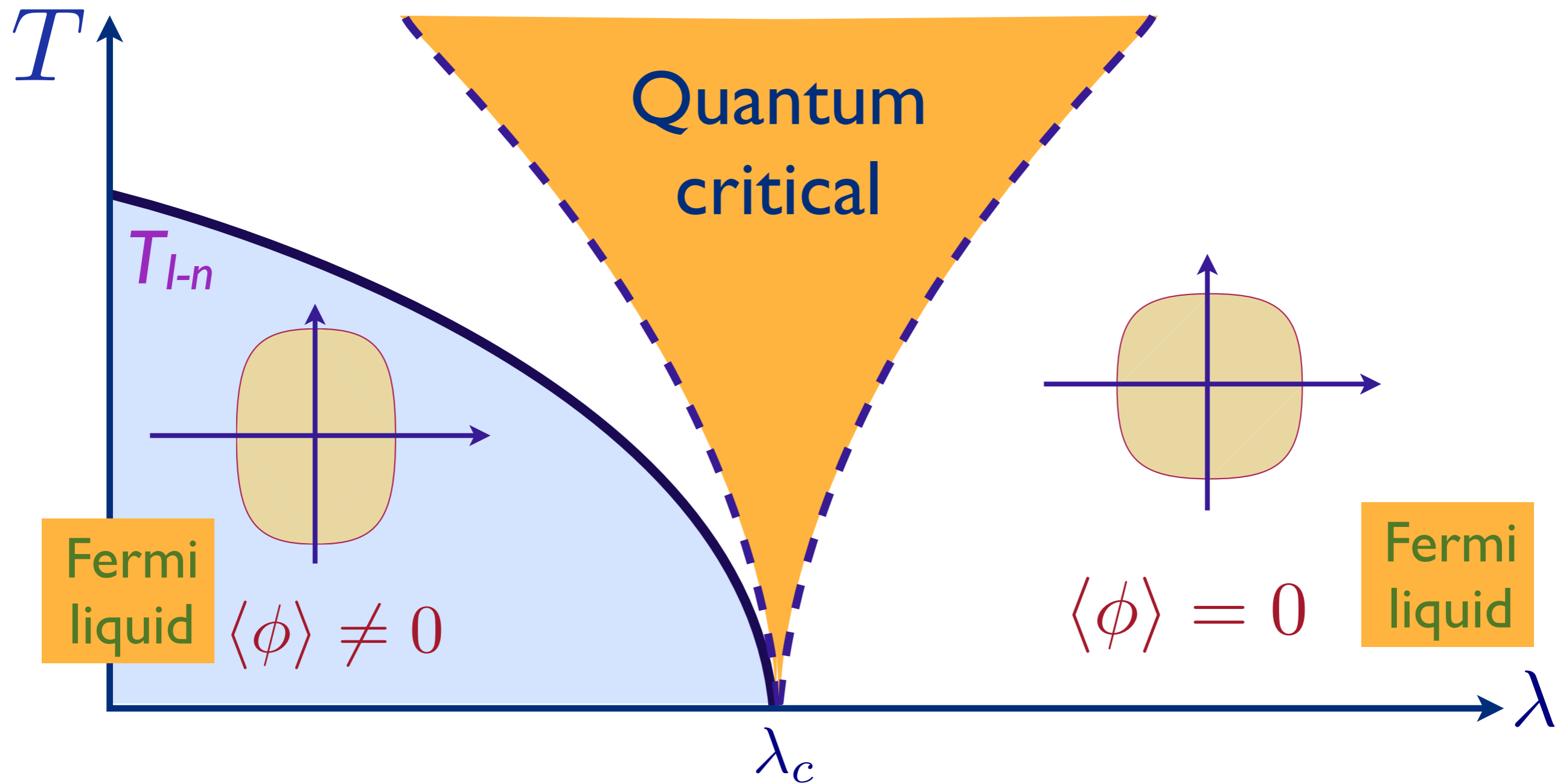
A metal with a Fermi surface  
with full square lattice symmetry

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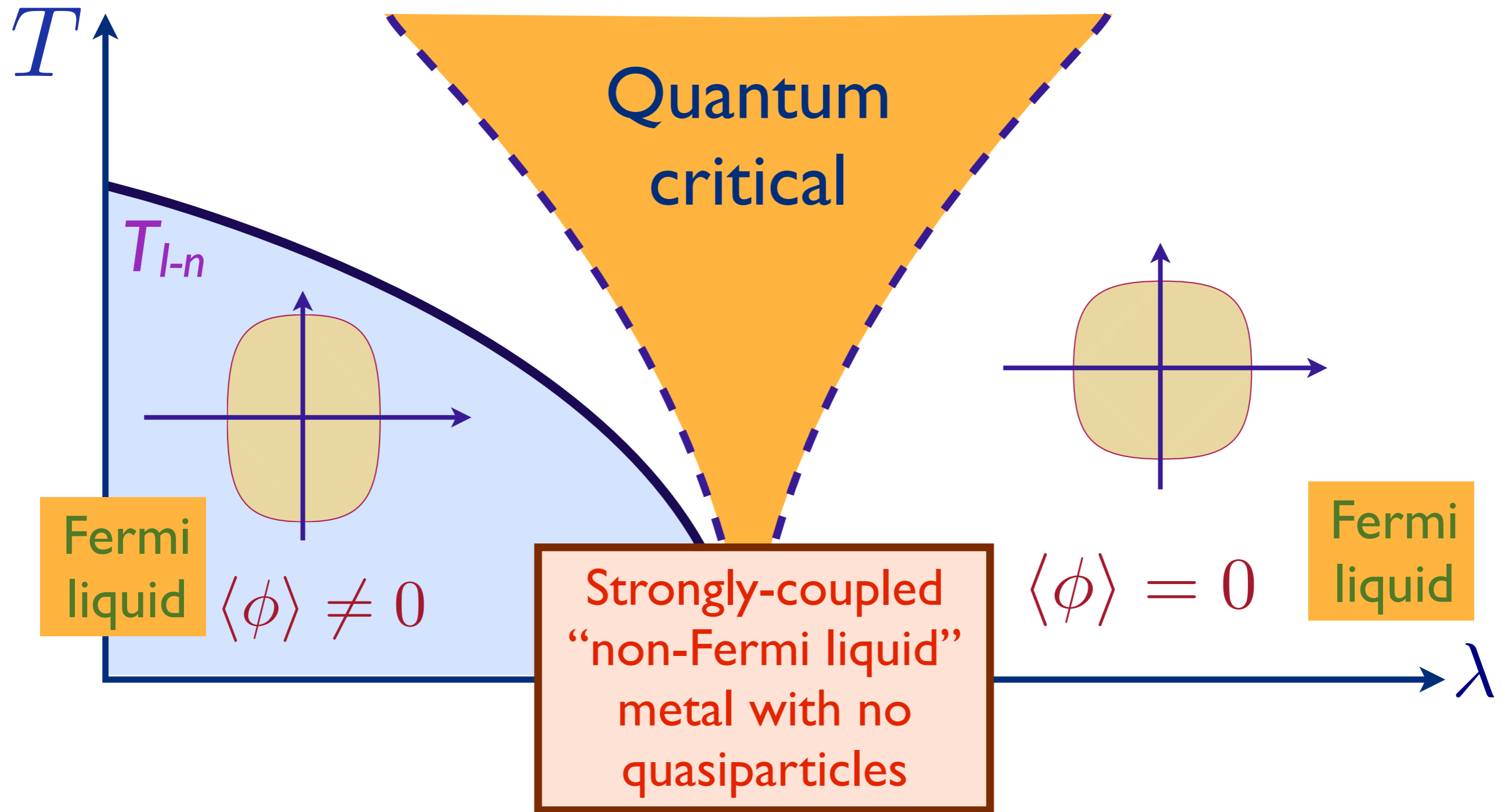
Pomeranchuk instability as a function of coupling  $\lambda$

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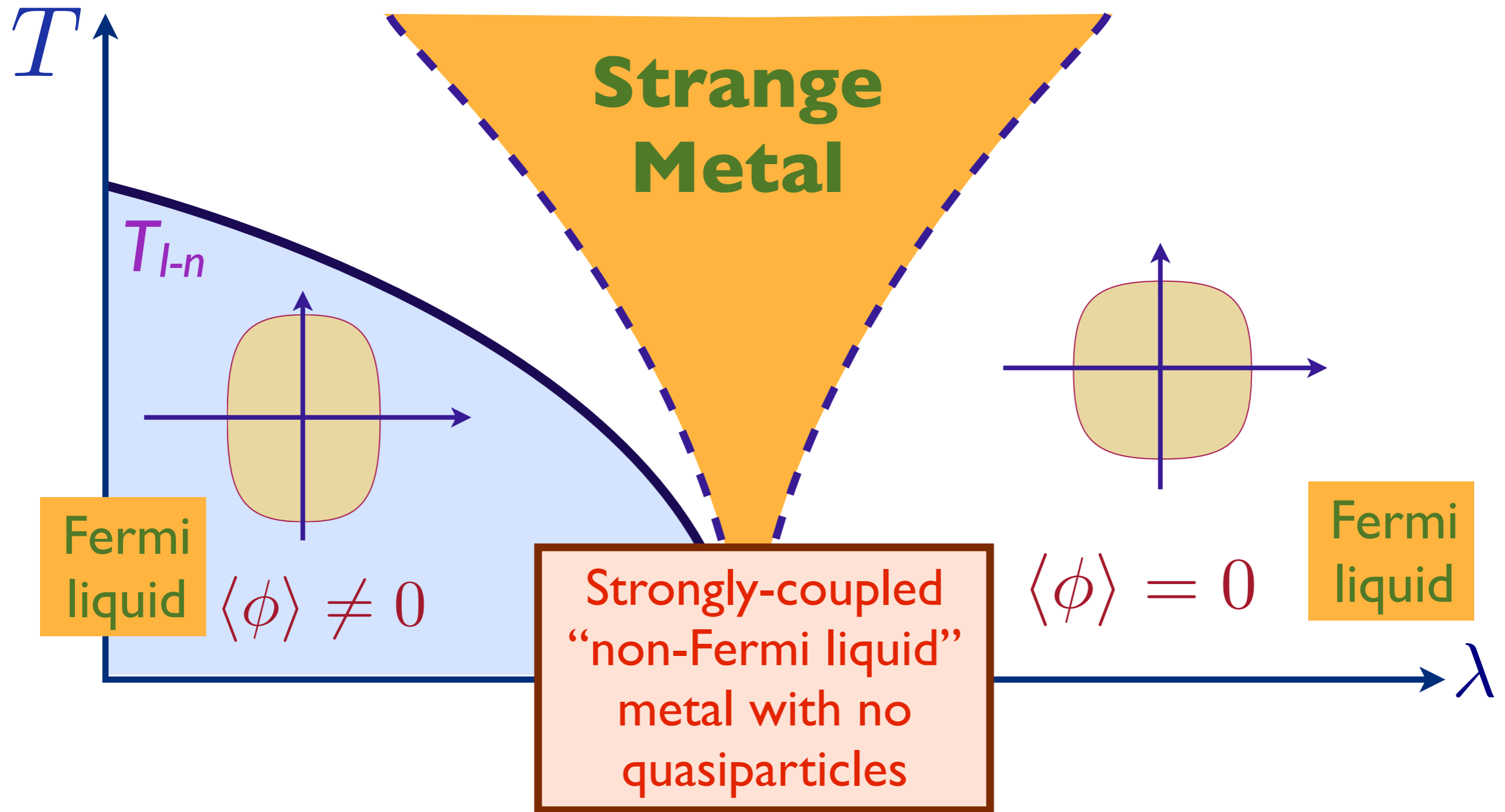
Phase diagram as a function of  $T$  and  $\lambda$

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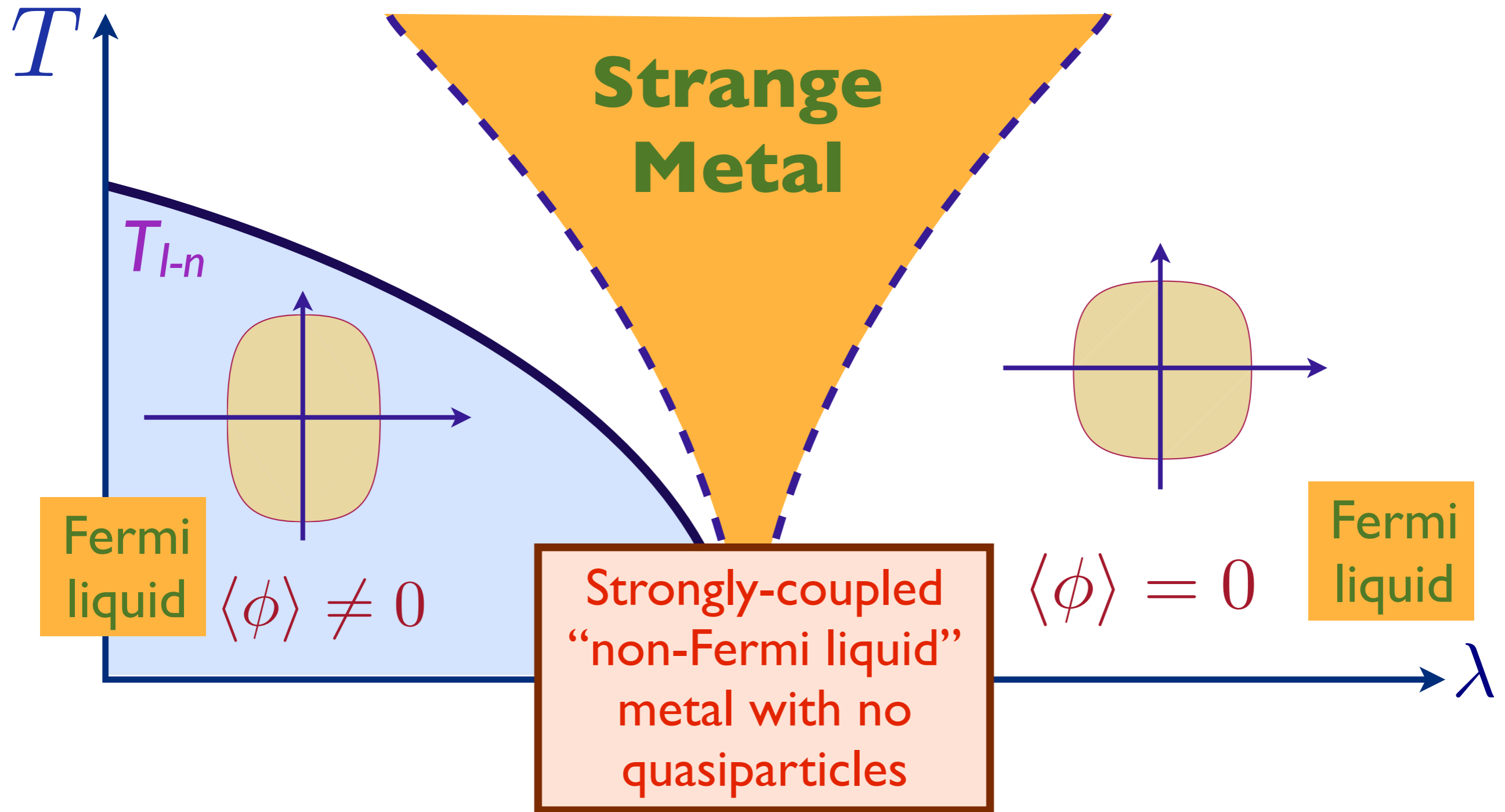
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Phase diagram as a function of  $T$  and  $\lambda$

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Common theoretical belief from an analysis of scattering of charged electronic quasiparticles off bosonic  $\phi$  fluctuations:  
resistivity of strange metal  $\rho(T) \sim T^{4/3}$ .

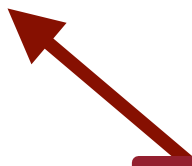
# Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal

The “standard model”:

$$\mathcal{S}_\phi = \int d^2r d\tau [(\partial_\tau \phi)^2 + c^2 (\nabla \phi)^2 + (\lambda - \lambda_c) \phi^2 + u \phi^4]$$

$$\mathcal{S}_c = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_f} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \int d\tau c_{\mathbf{k}\alpha}^\dagger (\partial_\tau + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}}) c_{\mathbf{k}\alpha}$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\phi c} = -g \int d\tau \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_f} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}} \phi_{\mathbf{q}} (\cos k_x - \cos k_x)$$



Field theory of  
bosonic order  
parameter

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Electrons with a  
Fermi surface:  $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} =$   
 $-2t(\cos k_x + \cos k_y) - \mu \dots$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\phi c} = -g \int d\tau \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_f} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}} \phi_{\mathbf{q}} (\cos k_x - \cos k_y) c_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2, \alpha}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}/2, \alpha}$$

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“Yukawa”  
coupling  
between bosons  
and fermions

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This continuum theory has a conserved momentum  $\mathbf{P}$ , and  $\chi_{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{P}} \neq 0$ , and so the resistivity  $\rho(T) = 0$ .

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The resistivity of the strange metal is *not* determined by the scattering rate of charged excitations near the Fermi surface, but by the dominant rate of momentum loss by *any* excitation, whether neutral or charged, or fermionic or bosonic

# Resistivity of strange metal

In the presence of weak disorder of quenched Gaussian random fields

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{dis}} = \int d^2r d\tau [V(\mathbf{r}) c^\dagger c + h(\mathbf{r}) \phi] ,$$

$$\overline{V(\mathbf{r})} = 0 \quad ; \quad \overline{V(\mathbf{r})V(\mathbf{r}')} = V_0^2 \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') ,$$

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we obtain the resistivity for current along angle  $\vartheta$

$$\rho(T) = \frac{1}{\chi_{\mathbf{J},\mathbf{P}}^2} \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} k^2 \cos^2(\theta_{\mathbf{k}} - \vartheta) \left( V_0^2 \frac{\text{Im} \Pi_{c^\dagger c}^R(\omega, \mathbf{k})}{\omega} + h_0^2 \frac{\text{Im} D_\phi^R(\omega, \mathbf{k})}{\omega} \right)$$

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Fermi surface term: Obtain  $T$ -dependent corrections to residual resistivity similar to earlier work

G. Zala, B. N. Narozhny, and I. L. Aleiner, Phys. Rev. B **64**, 214204 (2001)

I. Paul, C. Pépin, B. N. Narozhny, and D. L. Maslov, Phys. Rev. Lett. **95**, 017206 (2005).

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Bosonic term: Dominant contribution:

$$\rho(T) \sim T^{(d-z+\eta)/z}$$

Crosses over from the “relativistic” form ( $z = 1, \eta \approx 0$ ) with  $\rho(T) \sim T$  at higher  $T$ ,

to the “Landau-damped” form ( $z = 3, \eta = 0$ ) with  $\rho(T) \sim (T \ln(1/T))^{-1/2}$  at lower  $T$  (subtle corrections to scaling specific to this field theory).

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Also obtained in holographic theory of a generalized compressible quantum state (A. Lucas, S. Sachdev, and K. Schalm, [arXiv:1401.7933](https://arxiv.org/abs/1401.7933)).

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- Exciting recent progress on the description of transport in metallic states without quasiparticles, via field theory and holography.