

Universal theory of strange metals from spatially random interactions

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Complexity and Topology in Quantum Matter
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Subir Sachdev

Talk online: sachdev.physics.harvard.edu

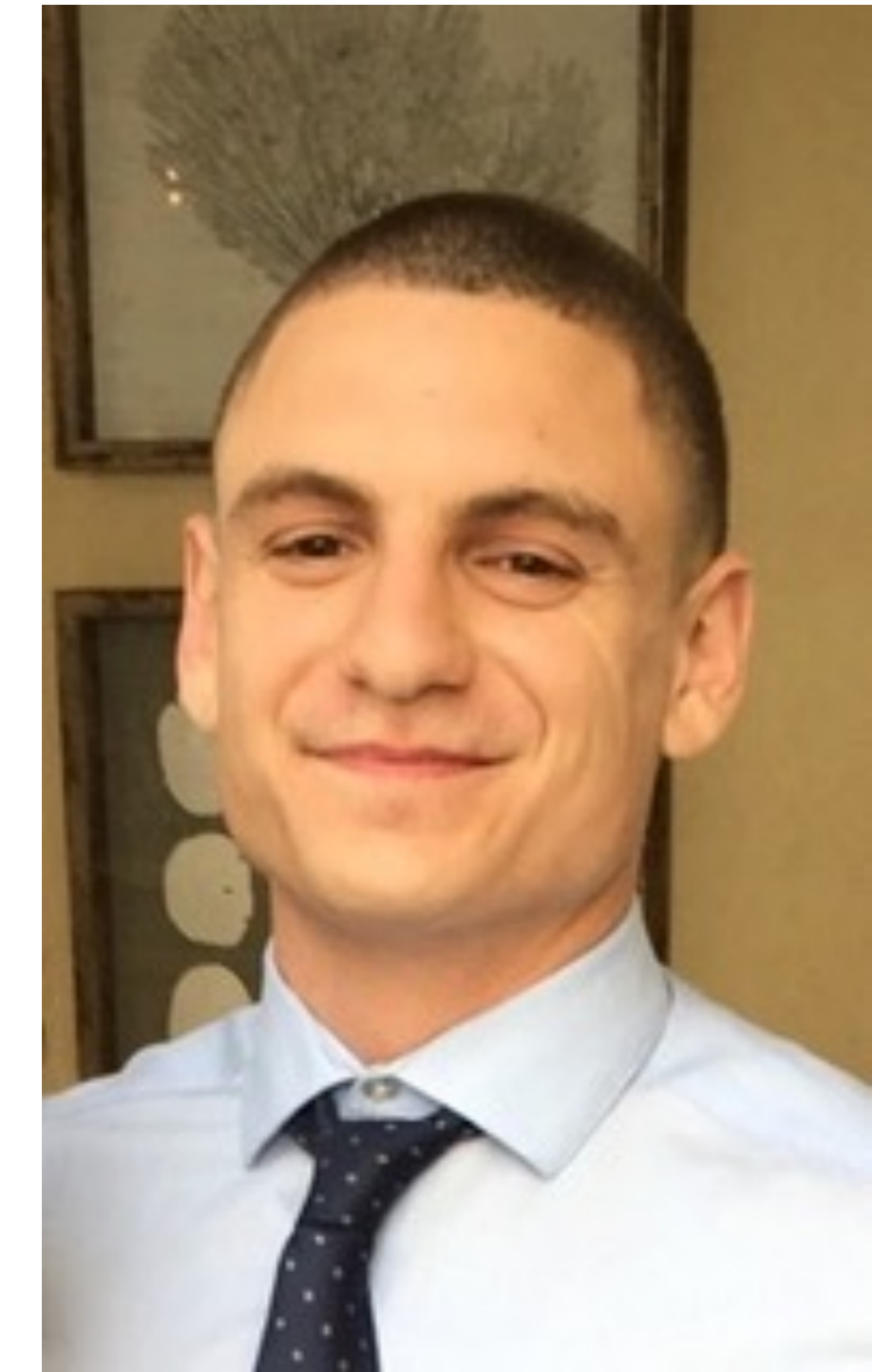




Aavishkar Patel
Flatiron Institute, NYC



Haoyu Guo
Harvard



Ilya Esterlis
Harvard → Wisconsin

arXiv: 2103.08615, 2203.04990, 2207.08841

Fermi liquids and their cousins: (defined by single-particle properties)

- **Fermi liquids:** Fermionic quasiparticles with a lifetime obeying $1/\tau(\varepsilon) \ll |\varepsilon|$ and a density of states $N(\varepsilon) \sim \text{constant}$ as $|\varepsilon| \rightarrow 0$.

Fermi liquids and their cousins: (defined by single-particle properties)

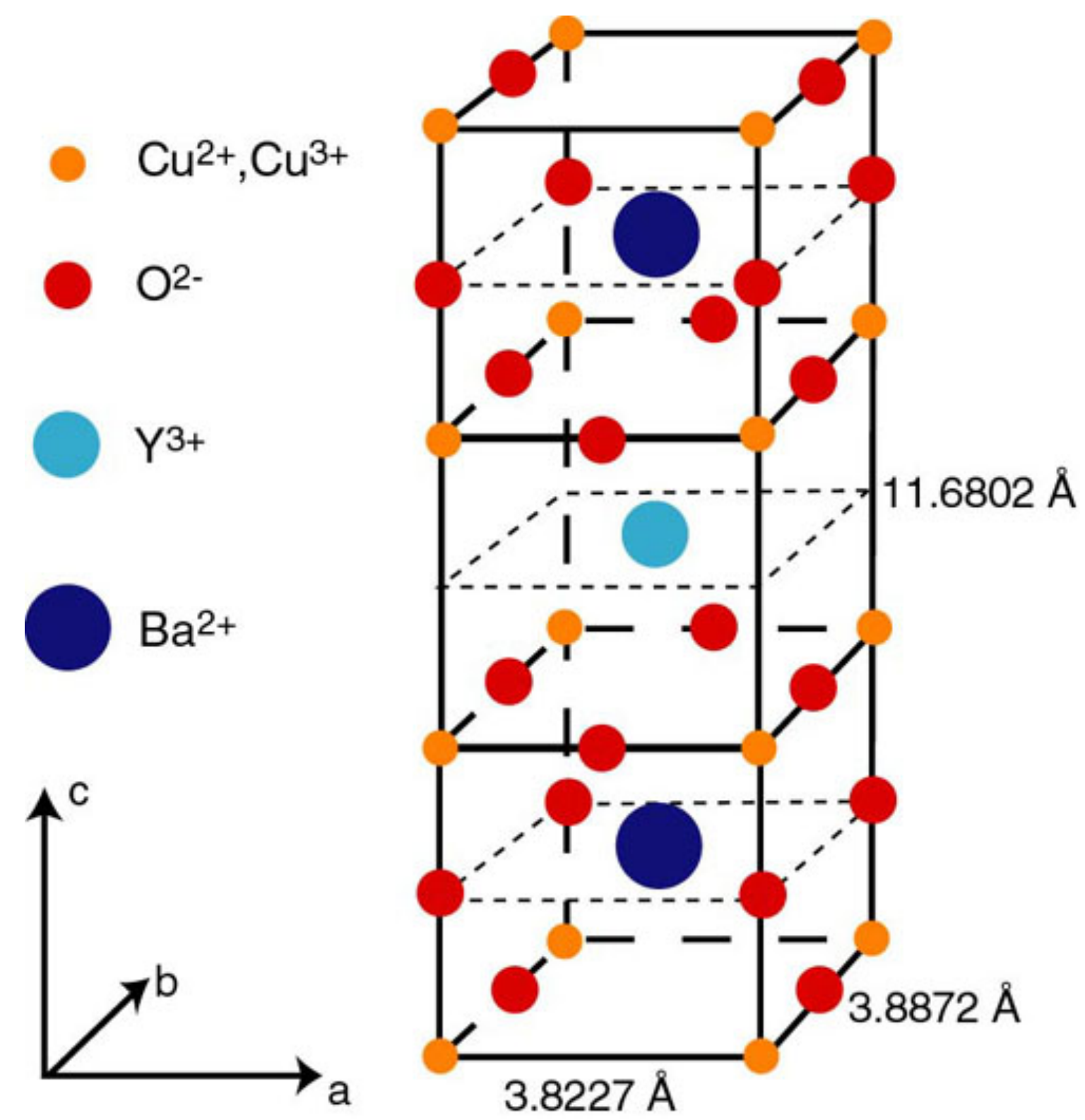
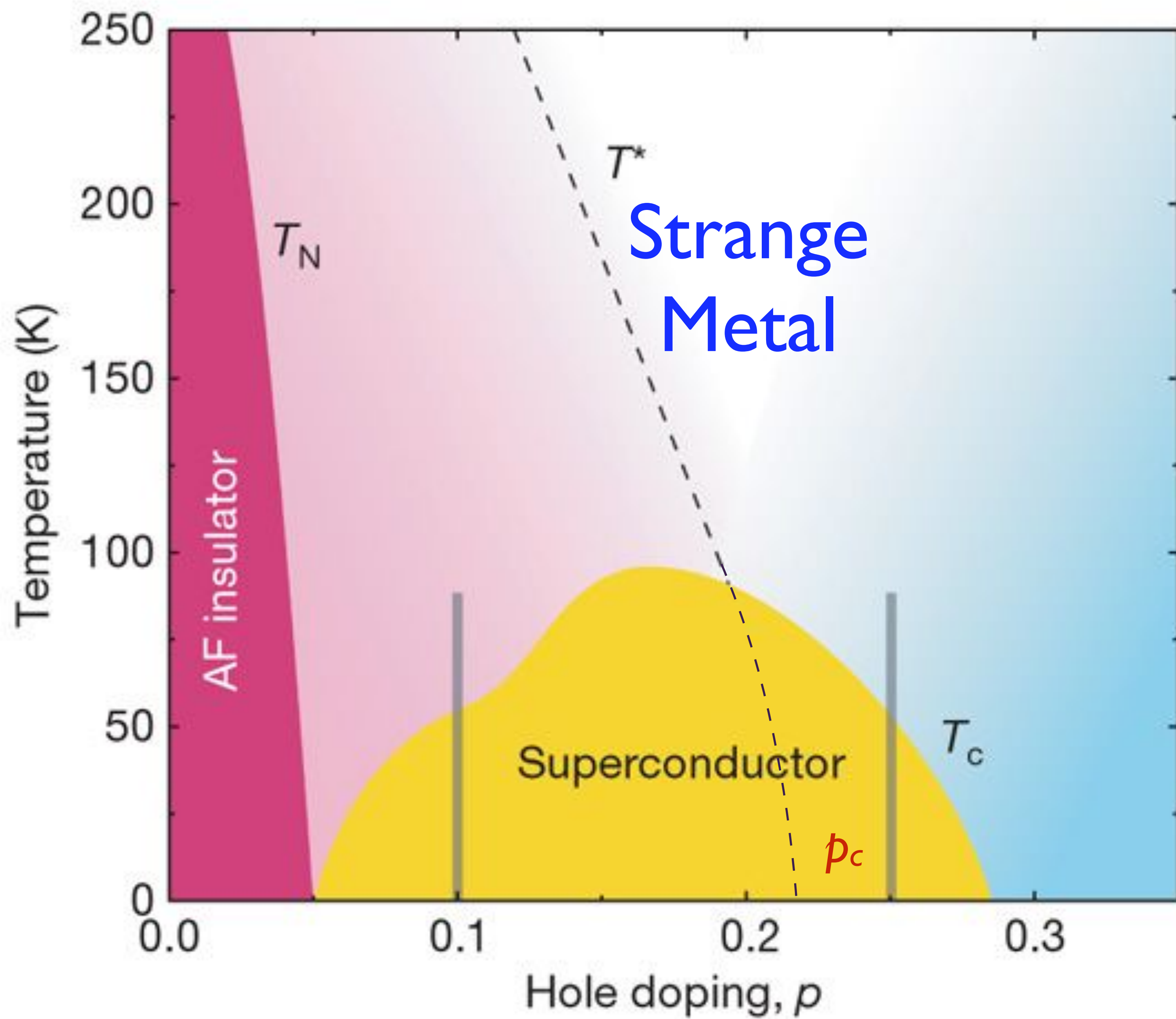
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Would-be fermionic quasiparticles have $1/\tau(\varepsilon) \gg |\varepsilon|$ and a density of states $N(\varepsilon) \sim \text{constant}$ as $|\varepsilon| \rightarrow 0$.

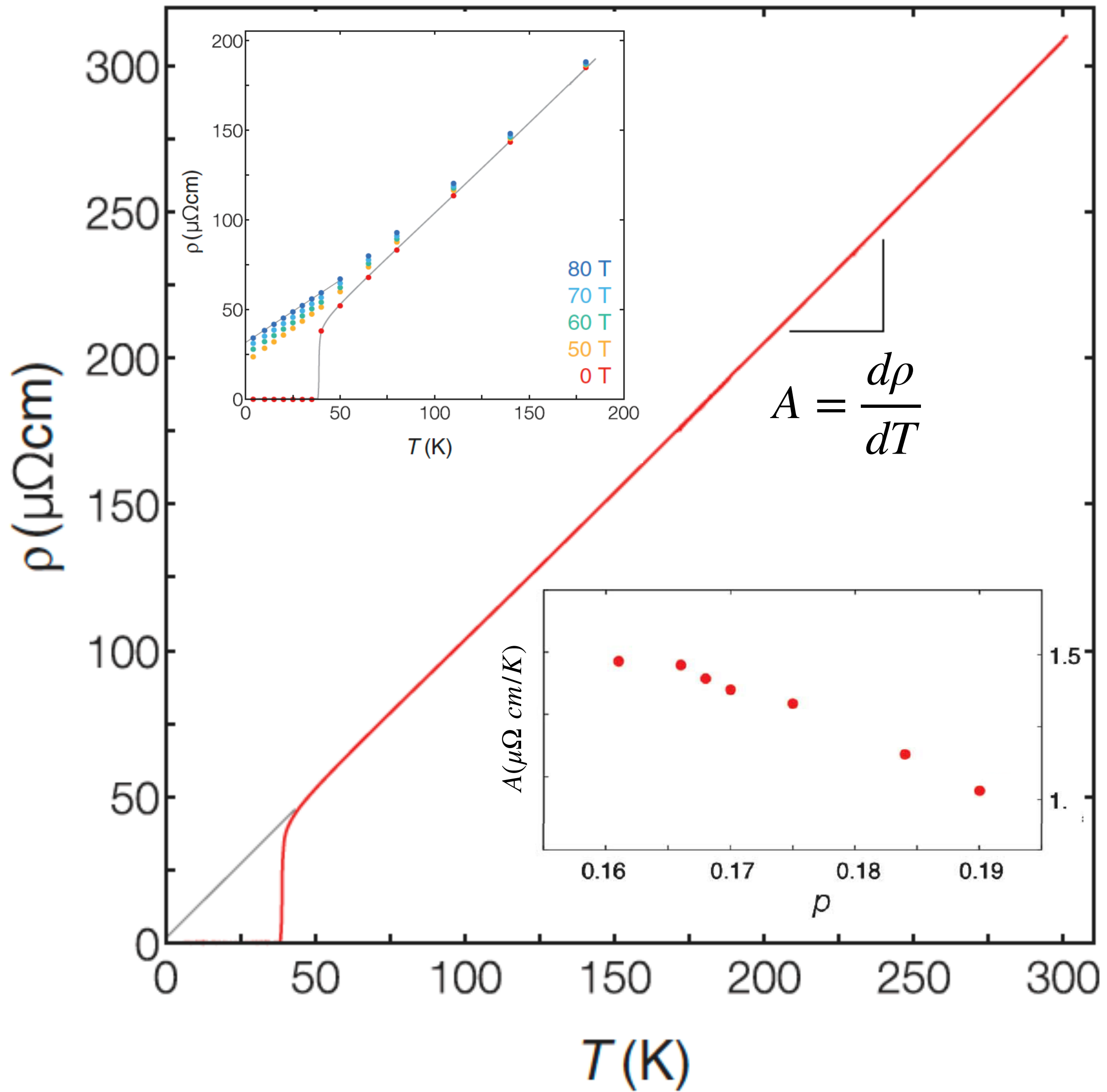
Fermi liquids and their cousins: (defined by single-particle properties)

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Would-be fermionic quasiparticles have $1/\tau(\varepsilon) \gg |\varepsilon|$ and a density of states $N(\varepsilon) \sim \text{constant}$ as $|\varepsilon| \rightarrow 0$.
- **Marginal Fermi liquids:** Fermionic quasiparticles with a lifetime obeying $1/\tau(\varepsilon) \sim |\varepsilon|$ and a density of states $N(\varepsilon) \sim \text{constant}$ as $|\varepsilon| \rightarrow 0$.

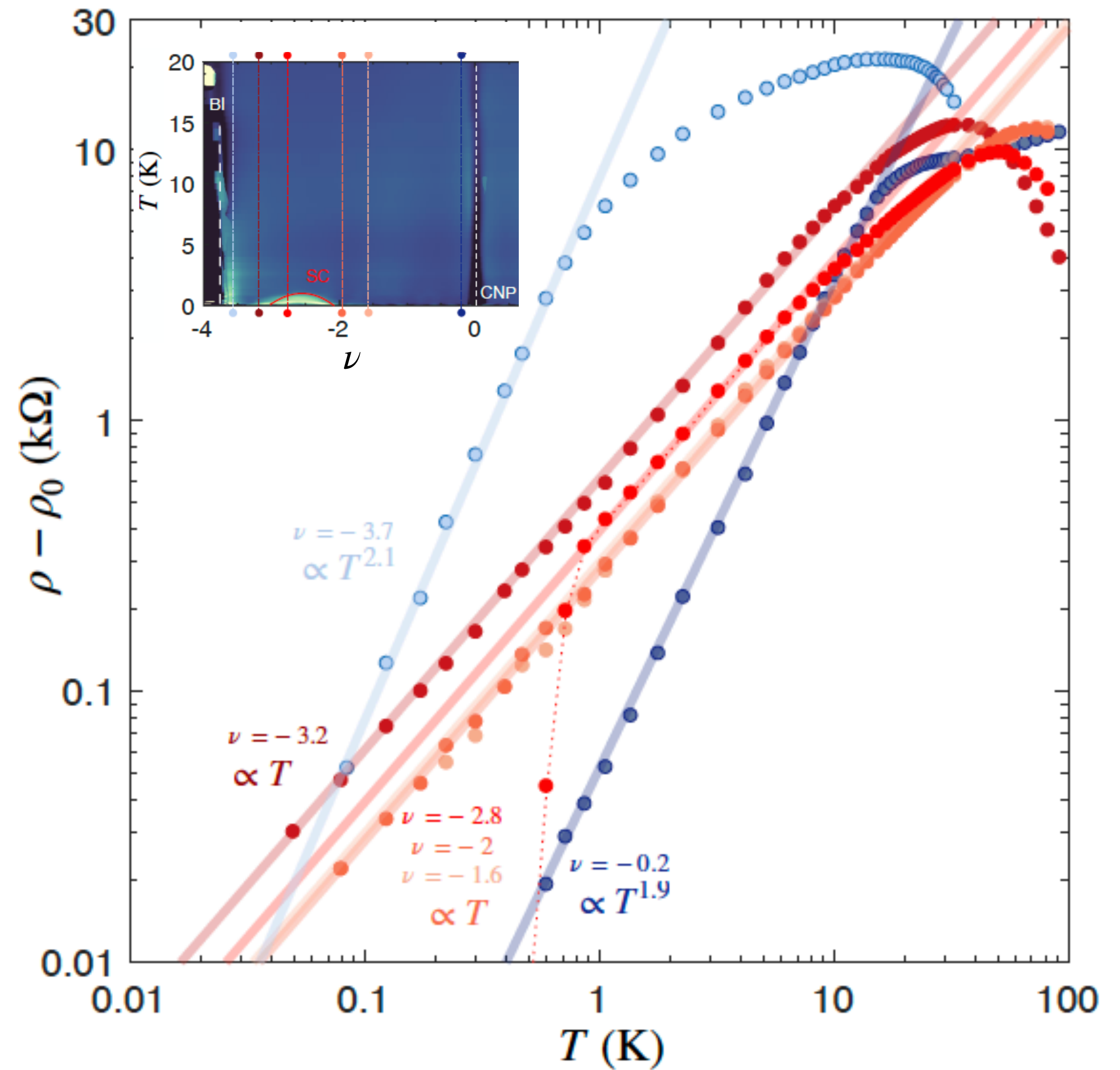
Strange metals

(defined by transport properties)





LSCO: Giraldo-Gallo et al. 2018

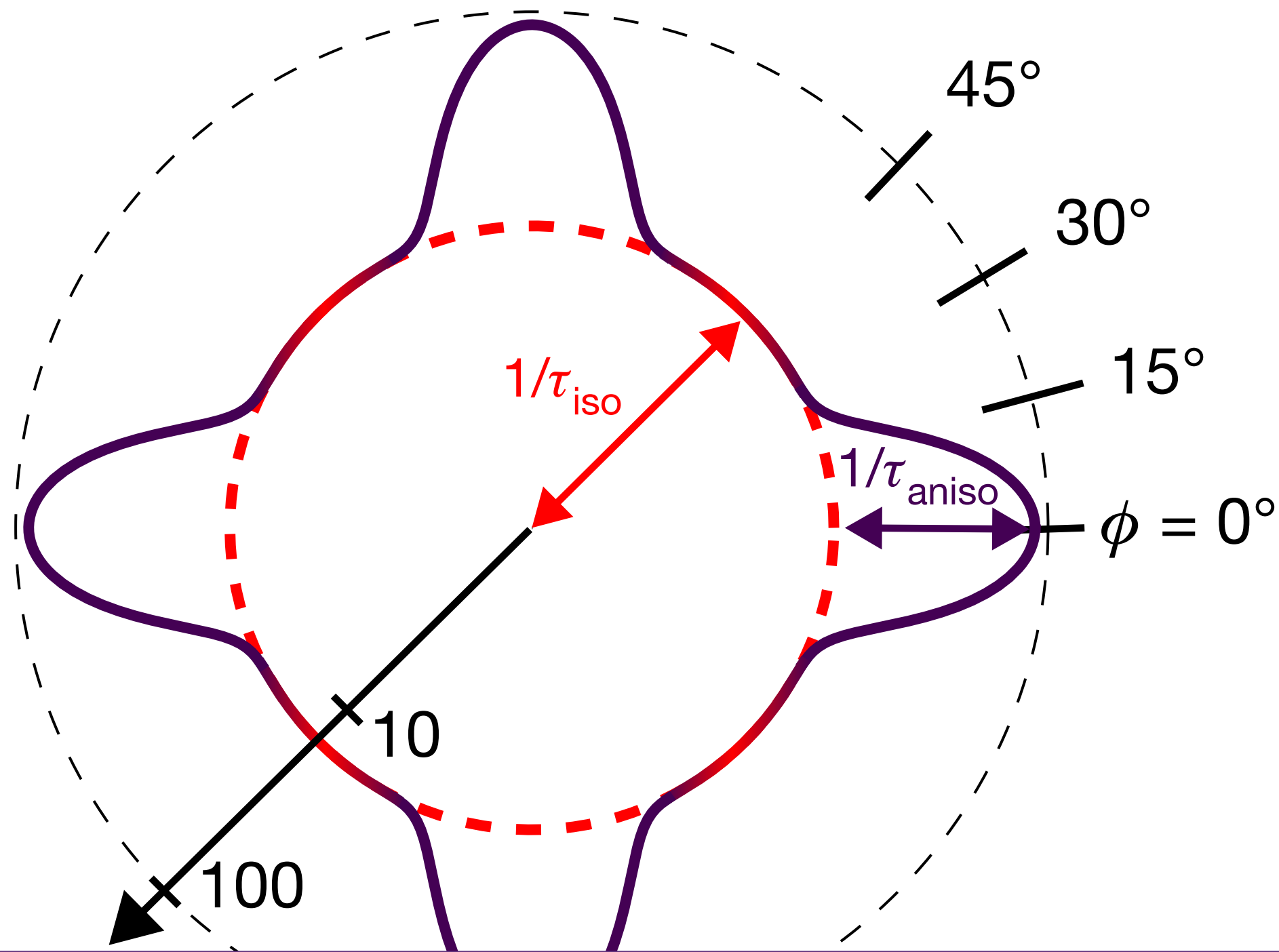


MATBG: Jaoui et al. 2021

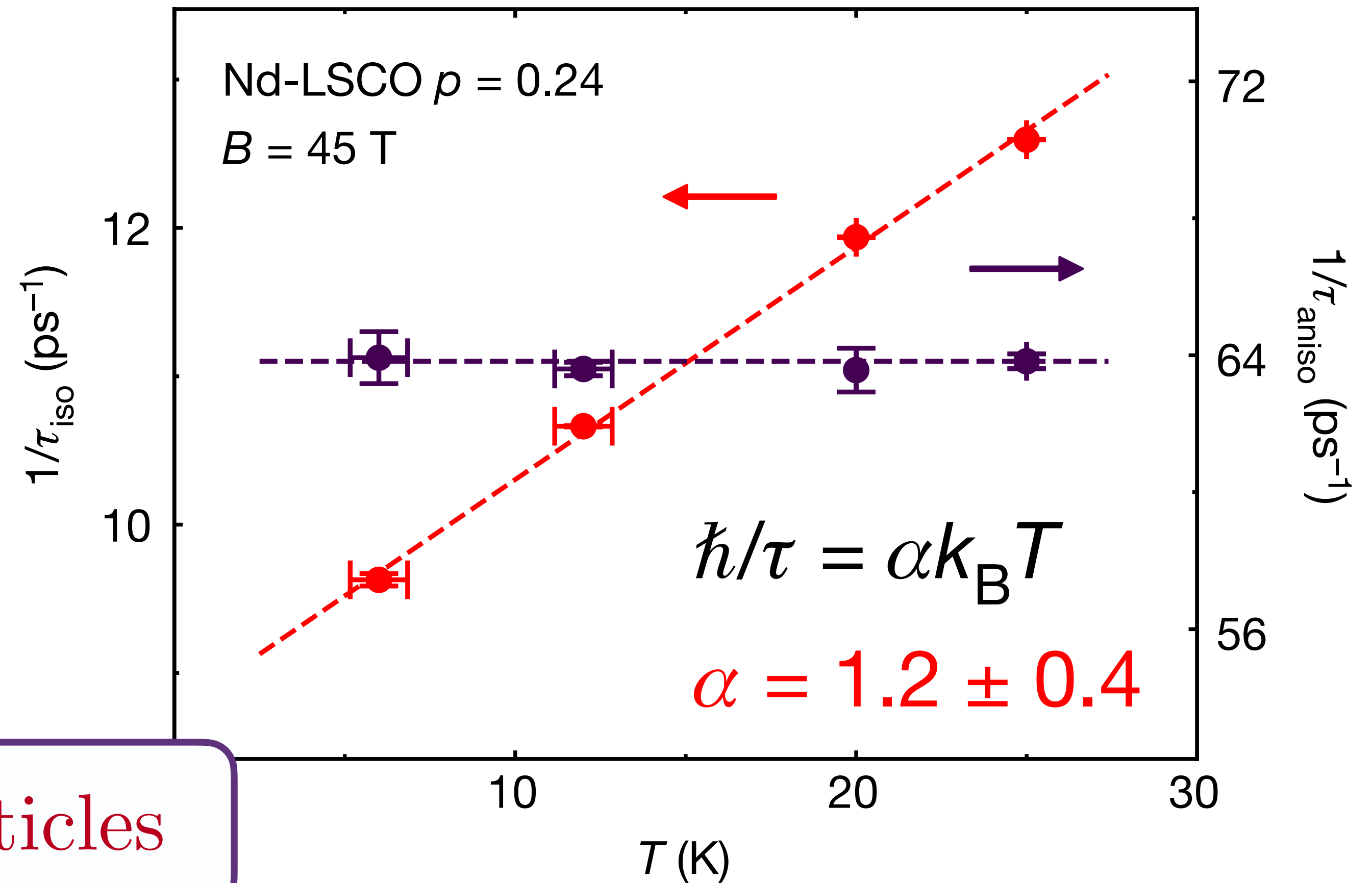
Linear-in temperature resistivity from an isotropic Planckian scattering rate

Nature **595**, 667-672 (2021)

G. Grissonnanche, Y. Fang, A. Legros, S. Verret, F. Laliberté, C. Collignon, J. Zhou, D. Graf, P. Goddard, L. Taillefer, B. J. Ramshaw



Current flow without quasiparticles



Properties of a strange metal:

- Resistivity $\rho(T) = \rho_0 + AT + \dots$ as $T \rightarrow 0$
and $\rho(T) < h/e^2$ (in $d = 2$).
Metals with $\rho(T) > h/e^2$ are bad metals.

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S.A. Hartnoll and A.P. MacKenzie, arXiv:2107.07802

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S.A. Hartnoll and A.P. MacKenzie, arXiv:2107.07802

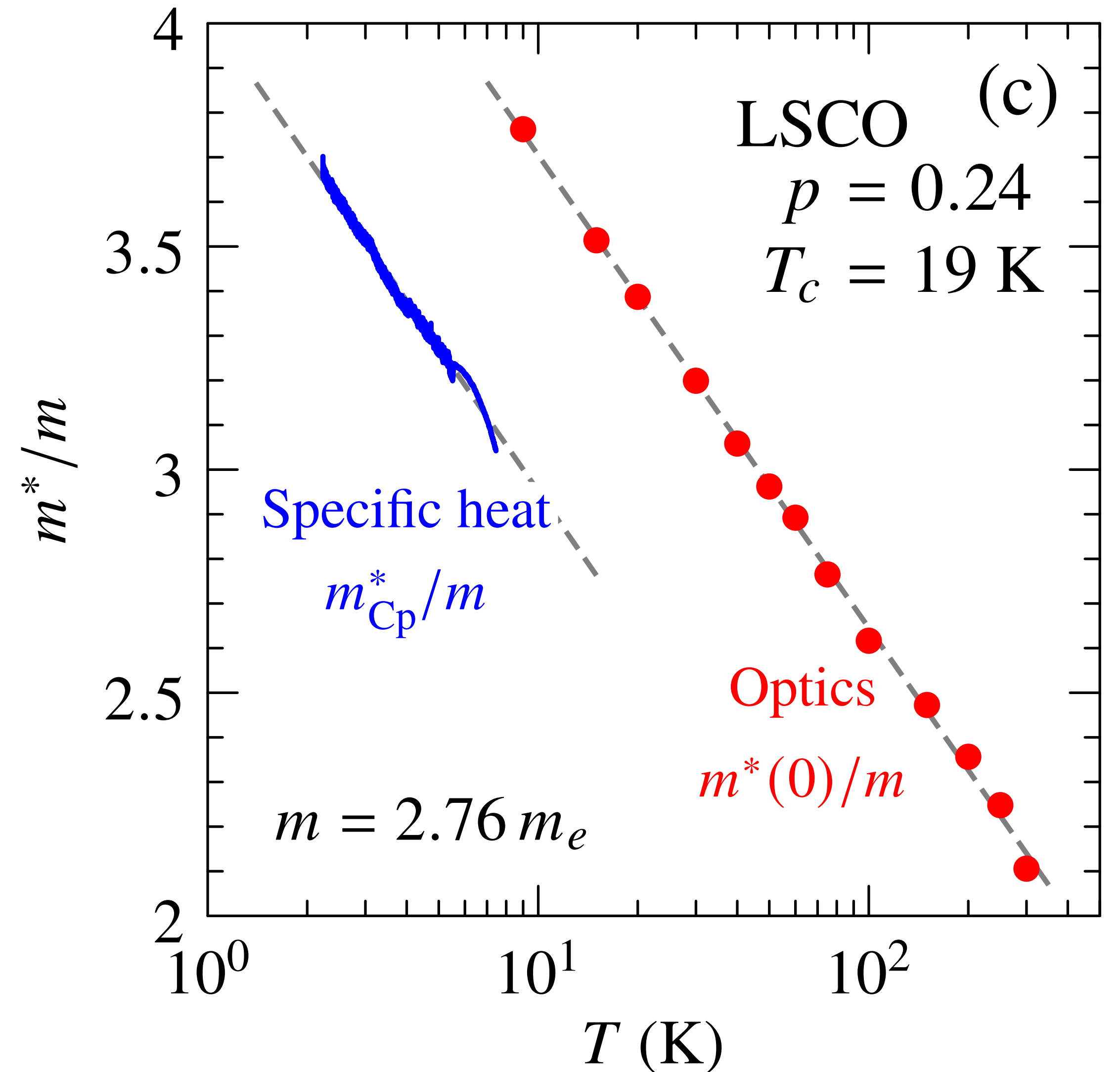
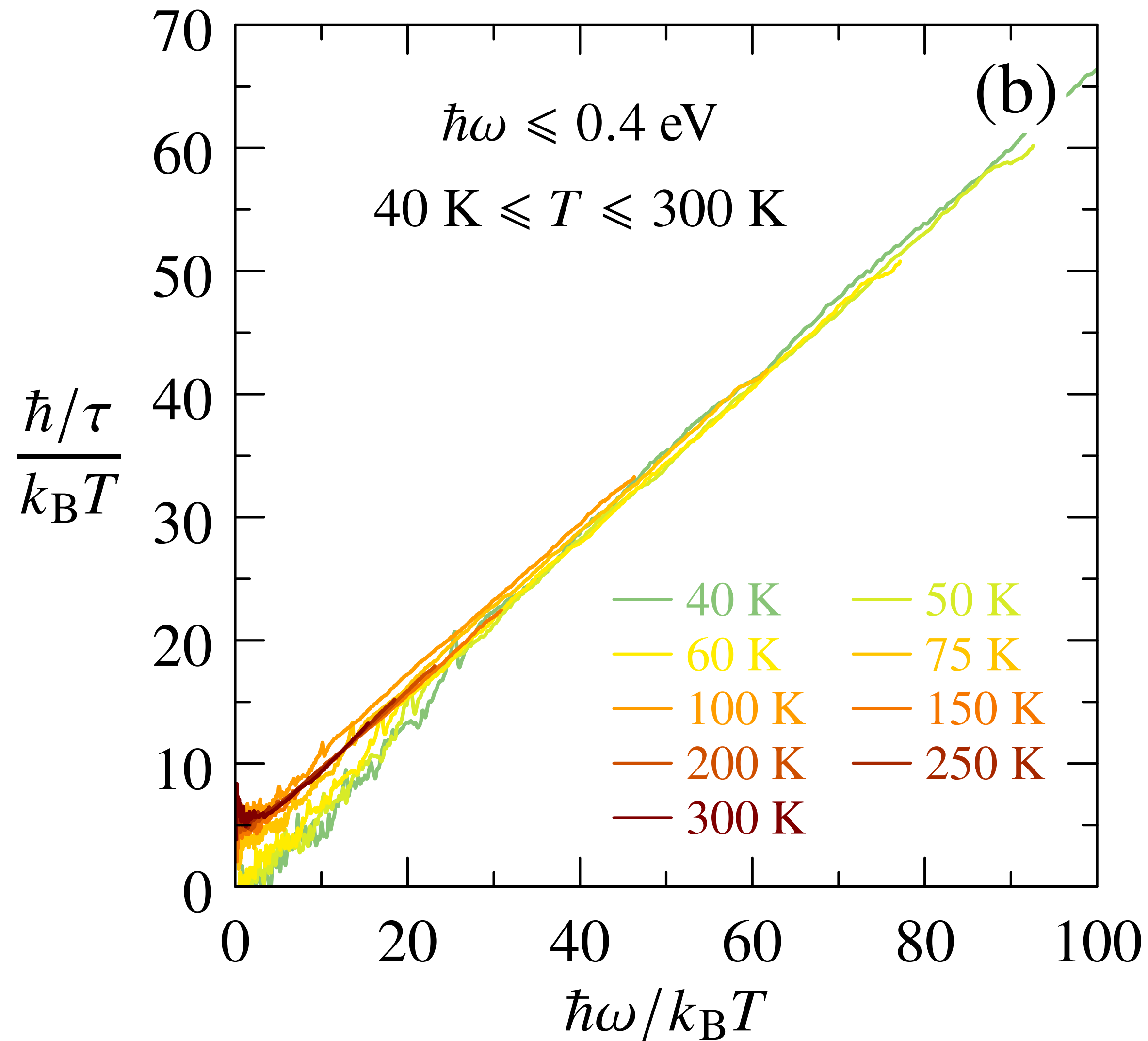
$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{K}{\frac{1}{\tau(\omega)} - i\omega \frac{m^*(\omega)}{m}} \quad ; \quad \frac{1}{\tau(\omega)} = \frac{k_B T}{\hbar} G \left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{k_B T} \right)$$

B. Michon.....A. Georges, arXiv:2205.04030

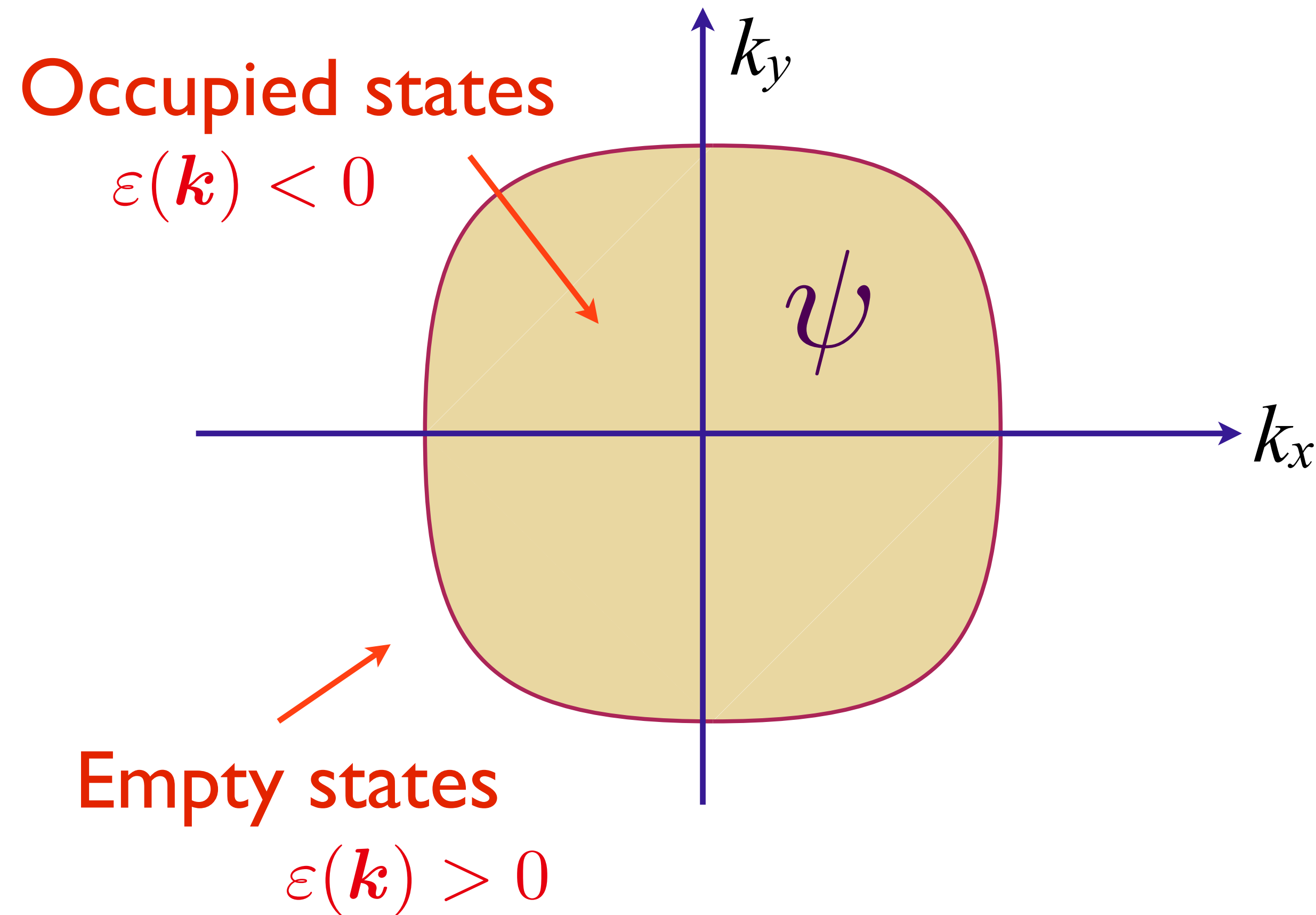
Properties of a strange metal:

B. Michon.....A. Georges, arXiv:2205.04030

- Optical conductivity



3 key ingredients of our universal theory of strange metals:



+

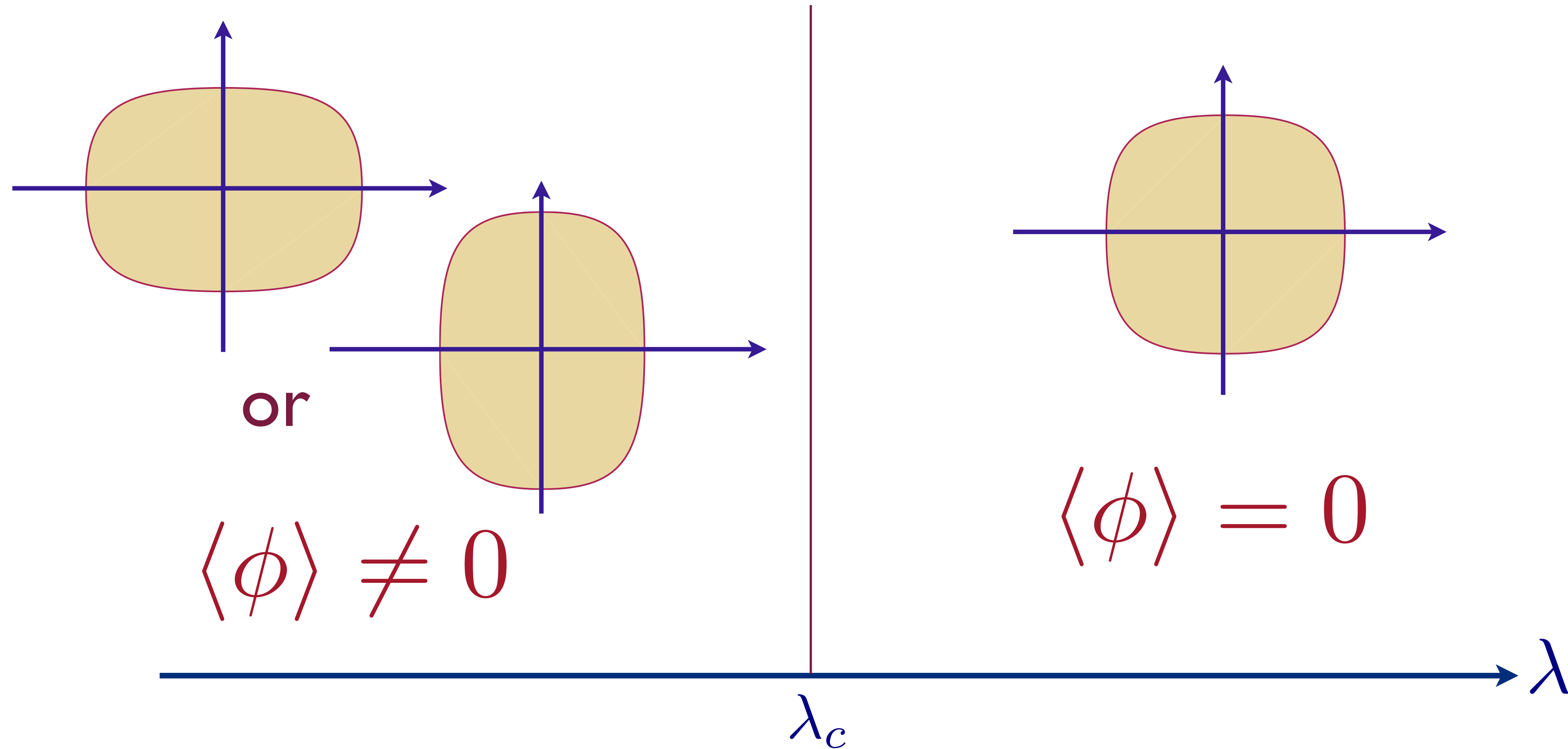
1. a critical boson

ϕ

- Nematic order
- Ferromagnetic order
- Transverse component of abelian or non-abelian gauge field
- Antiferromagnetic order...

3 key ingredients of our universal theory of strange metals:

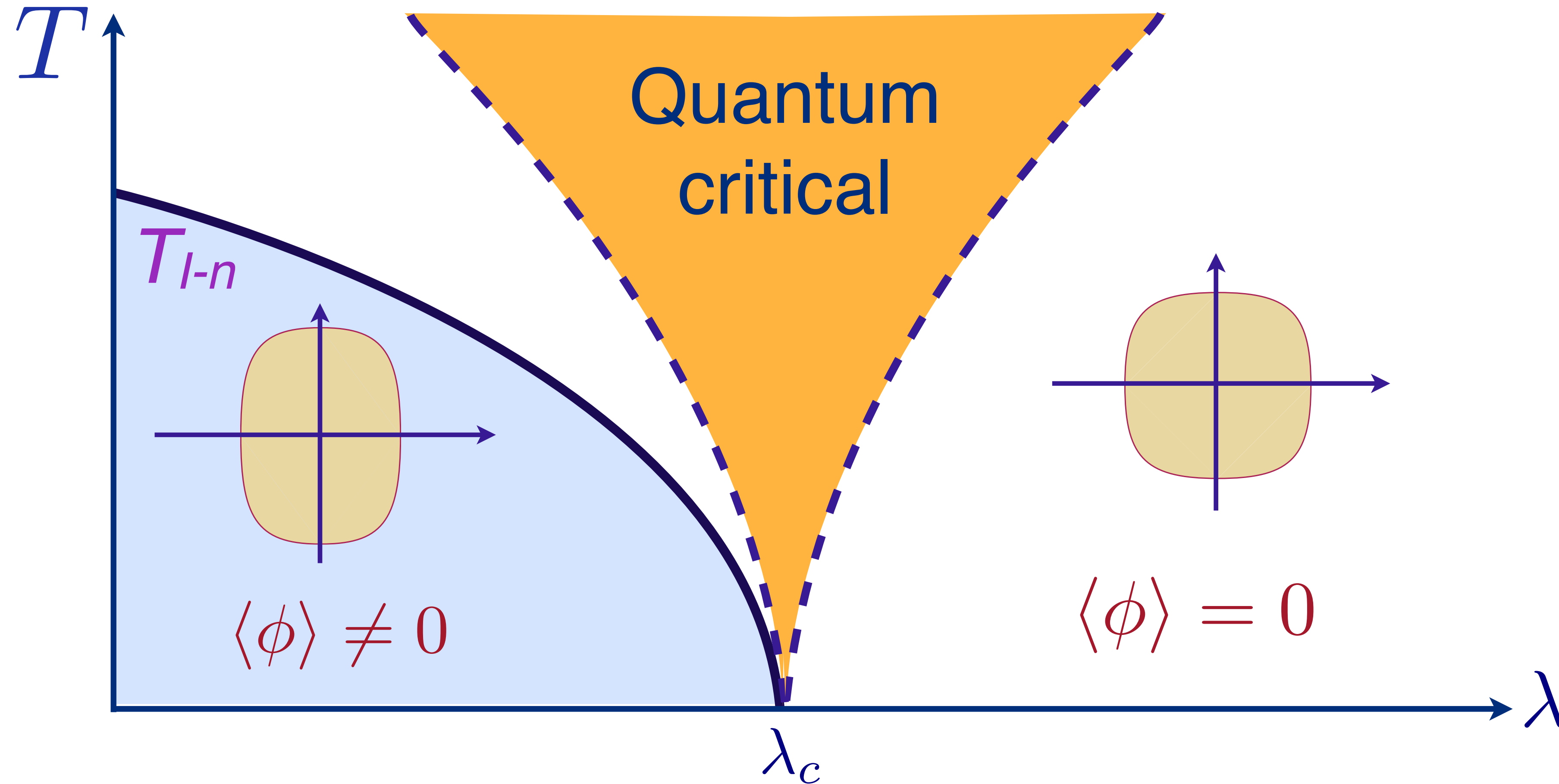
Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



Pommeranchuk instability as a function of coupling λ

3 key ingredients of our universal theory of strange metals:

Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



Phase diagram as a function of T and λ

3 key ingredients of our universal theory of strange metals:

2. **Spatially random interactions:** *e.g.* randomness in hopping t_{ij} , leads to randomness in exchange interactions t_{ij}^2/U . More generally we have fermion (ψ) and boson Yukawa coupling of the form

$$\int d^2r d\tau \left[g + g'(r) \right] \psi^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi(r, \tau) \phi(r, \tau),$$

where g is spatially uniform and $g'(r)$ is spatially random.

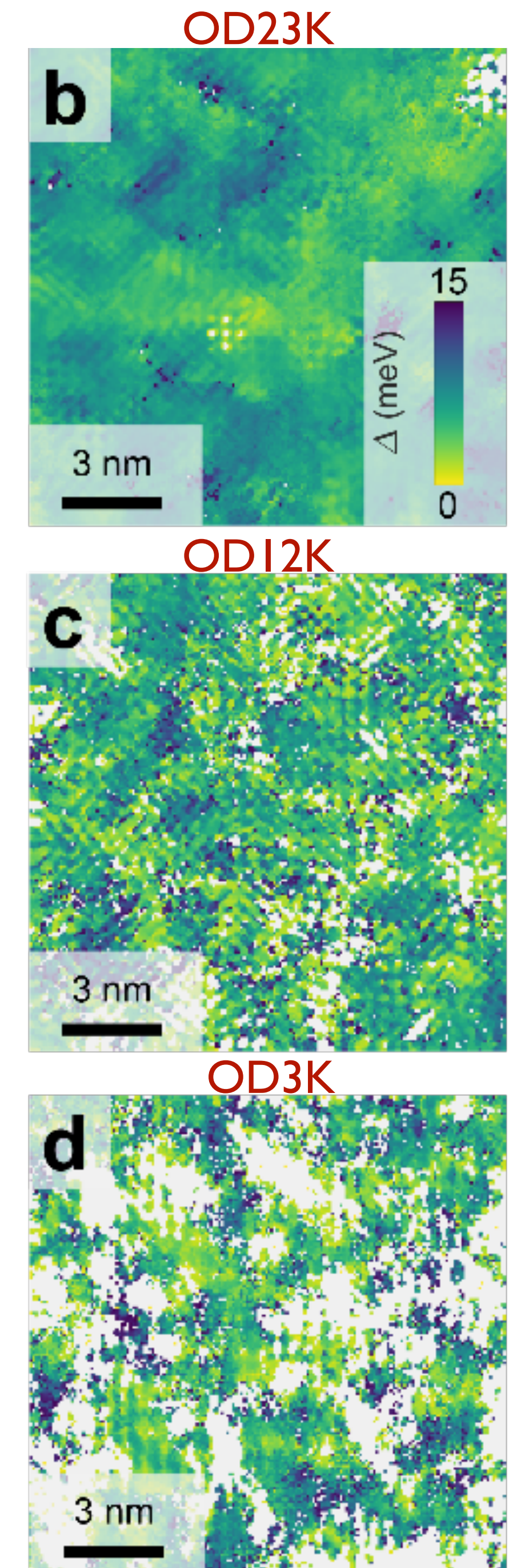
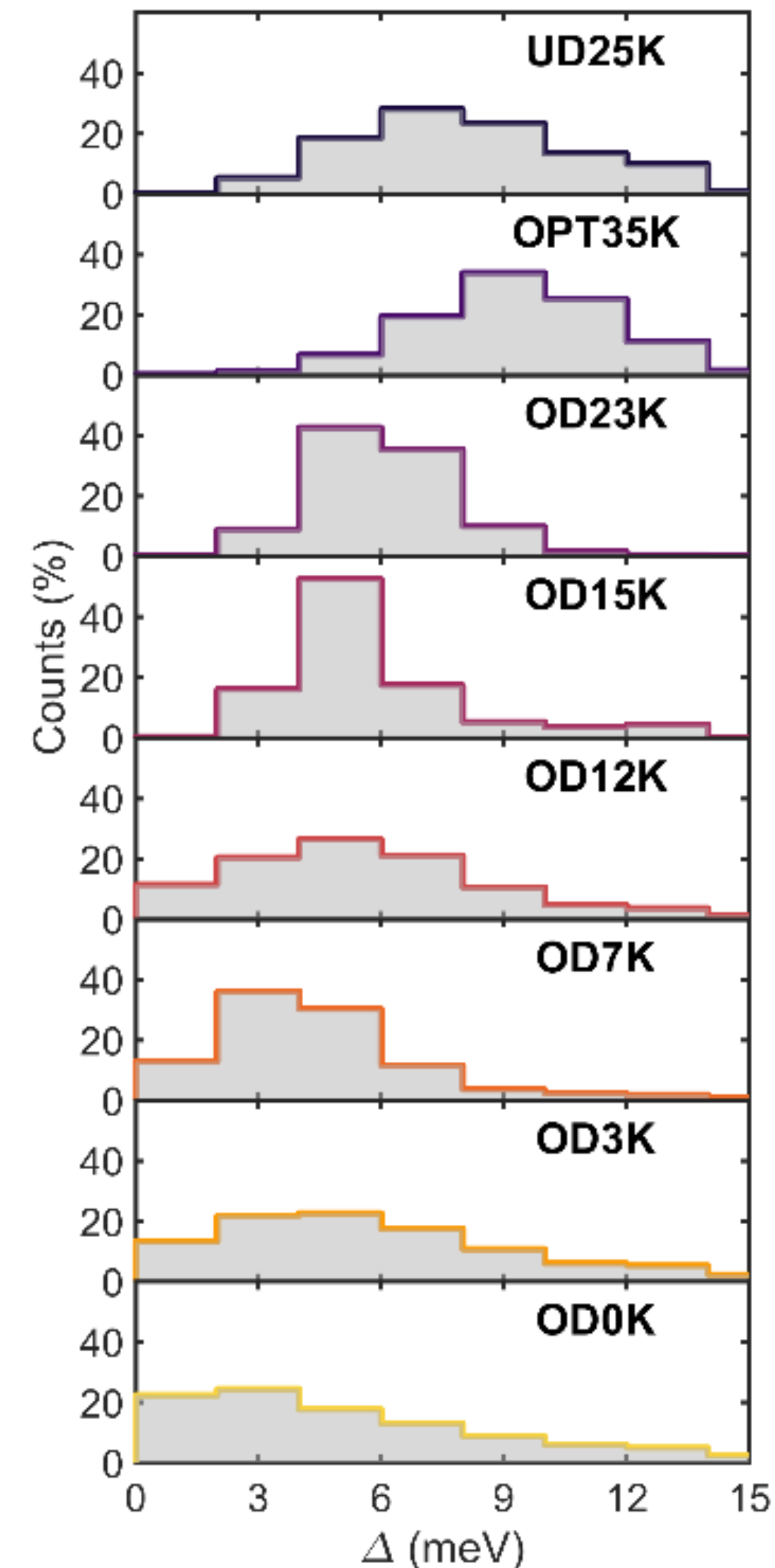
Spatially random interactions!

Puddle formation, persistent gaps, and non-mean-field breakdown of superconductivity in overdoped $(\text{Pb,Bi})_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CuO}_{6+\delta}$

Willem O. Tromp, Tjerk Benschop, Jian-Feng Ge, Irene Battisti, Koen M. Bastiaans, Damianos Chatzopoulos, Amber Vervloet, Steef Smit, Erik van Heumen, Mark S. Golden, Yinkai Huang, Takeshi Kondo, Yi Yin, Jennifer E. Hoffman, Miguel Antonio Sulangi, Jan Zaanen, Milan P. Allan

Our scanning tunneling spectroscopy measurements in the overdoped regime of the $(\text{Pb,Bi})_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CuO}_{6+\delta}$ high-temperature superconductor show the emergence of puddled superconductivity, featuring nanoscale superconducting islands in a metallic matrix

arXiv:2205.09740



3 key ingredients of our universal theory of strange metals:

3. Fermion-boson drag:

- For electron-phonon scattering in metals, we have “Bloch’s law” (1931): a resistivity $\rho(T) \sim T^5$.

However, Bloch’s law ignores conservation of total momentum, or **phonon drag**. Peierls (1932) pointed out that the conservation of total momentum implies that an electrical current cannot decay, and so the resistance is practically zero in a pure sample. But because of the weak electron-phonon coupling, Bloch’s law applies except in ultrapure crystals.

3 key ingredients of our universal theory of strange metals:

3. Fermion-boson drag:

In a non-Fermi liquid, we cannot separate the momenta carried by the fermions and the bosons, because neither of them exists at low energies! We must treat the combined system together: extreme drag. The analog of Bloch's law does not apply.

3 key ingredients of our universal theory of strange metals:

Needed: a systematic method
to include these key ingredients!

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson:

No spatial disorder

A non-Fermi liquid but NOT a strange metal

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Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson:

Potential disorder

A marginal Fermi liquid but NOT a strange metal

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Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson:

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Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson:

Interaction disorder

A marginal Fermi liquid AND a strange metal

Needed: a systematic method
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Yukawa-SYK "toy" models

Yukawa-SYK models

$$H = \sum_{ij} t_{ij} \psi_i^\dagger \psi_j + \sum_{\ell} \frac{1}{2} (\pi_{\ell}^2 + \omega_{\ell}^2 \phi_{\ell}^2) + \sum_{ij\ell} g_{ij\ell} \psi_i^\dagger \psi_j \phi_{\ell}$$

Leads to fully self-consistent Migdal-Eliashberg equations

$\Sigma_{\psi} \sim g^2 G_{\psi} G_{\phi}$, $\Sigma_{\phi} \sim g^2 G_{\psi} G_{\psi}$ in a SYK-like large N limit.

Dionysios Anninos, Tarek Anous, Paul de Lange, George Konstantinidis, JHEP 03, 066 (2015)

W. Fu, D. Gaiotto, J. Maldacena, and S. Sachdev, PRD **95**, 026009 (2017)

J. Murugan, D. Stanford, and E. Witten, JHEP 08, 146 (2017)

A. A. Patel and S. Sachdev, PRB **98**, 125134 (2018)

E. Marcus and S. Vandoren, JHEP 01, 166 (2018)

Yuxuan Wang, PRL **124**, 017002 (2020)

I. Esterlis and J. Schmalian, PRB **100**, 115132 (2019)

Yuxuan Wang and A. V. Chubukov, PRR **2**, 033084 (2020)

E. E. Aldape, T. Cookmeyer, A. A. Patel, and E. Altman, arXiv:2012.00763

Jaewon Kim, E. Altman, and Xiangyu Cao, PRB **103**, 081113 (2021)

W. Wang, A. Davis, G. Pan, Yuxuan Wang, and Zi Yang Meng, PRB **103**, 195108 (2021)

I. Esterlis, H. Guo, A. A. Patel, and S. Sachdev, PRB **103**, 235129 (2021).

Yukawa-SYK models

$$\mathcal{H} = -\mu \sum_i \psi_i^\dagger \psi + \sum_\ell \frac{1}{2} (\pi_\ell^2 + \omega_0^2 \phi_\ell^2) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{ij\ell} g_{ij\ell} \psi_i^\dagger \psi_j \phi_\ell$$

with $g_{ij\ell}$ independent random numbers with zero mean. The large N saddle point equations are

$$G(i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n + \mu - \Sigma(i\omega_n)} \quad , \quad D(i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{\omega_n^2 + \omega_0^2 - \Pi(i\omega_n)}$$
$$\Sigma(\tau) = g^2 G(\tau) D(\tau) \quad , \quad \Pi(\tau) = -g^2 G(\tau) G(-\tau)$$

Make the low frequency ansatz

$$G(i\omega) \sim -i \operatorname{sgn}(\omega) |\omega|^{-(1-2\Delta)} \quad , \quad D(i\omega) \sim |\omega|^{1-4\Delta} \quad , \quad \frac{1}{4} < \Delta < \frac{1}{2}$$

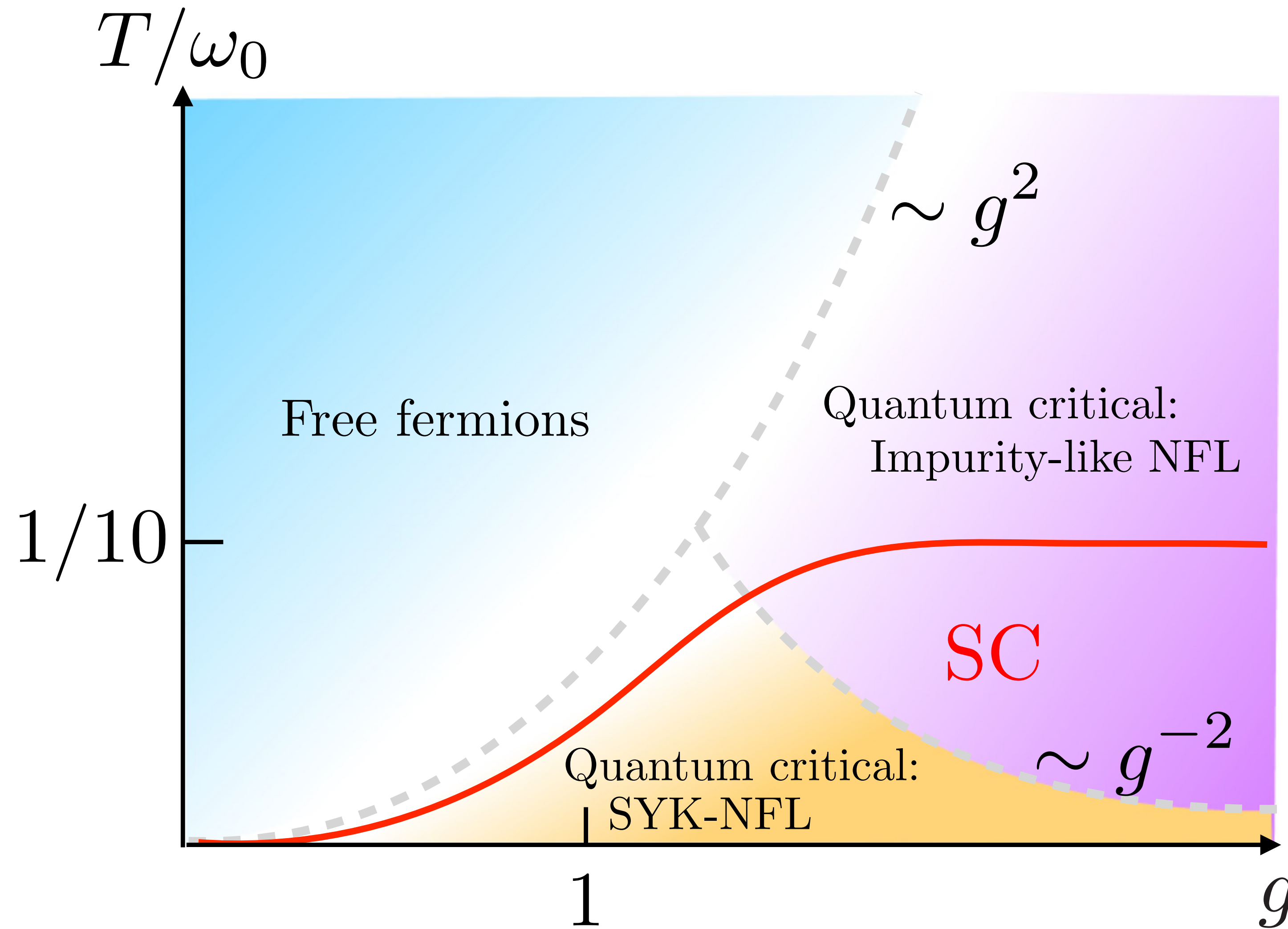
A consistent solution exists for

$$\frac{4\Delta - 1}{2(2\Delta - 1)[\sec(2\pi\Delta) - 1]} = 1 \quad , \quad \Delta = 0.42037 \dots$$

I. Esterlis and J. Schmalian, PRB **100**, 115132 (2019)

See also Yuxuan Wang, PRL **124**, 017002 (2020)

Yukawa-SYK models



I. Esterlis and J. Schmalian, PRB **100**, 115132 (2019)

See also Yuxuan Wang, PRL **124**, 017002 (2020)

Needed: a systematic method
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Beyond "toy" models....

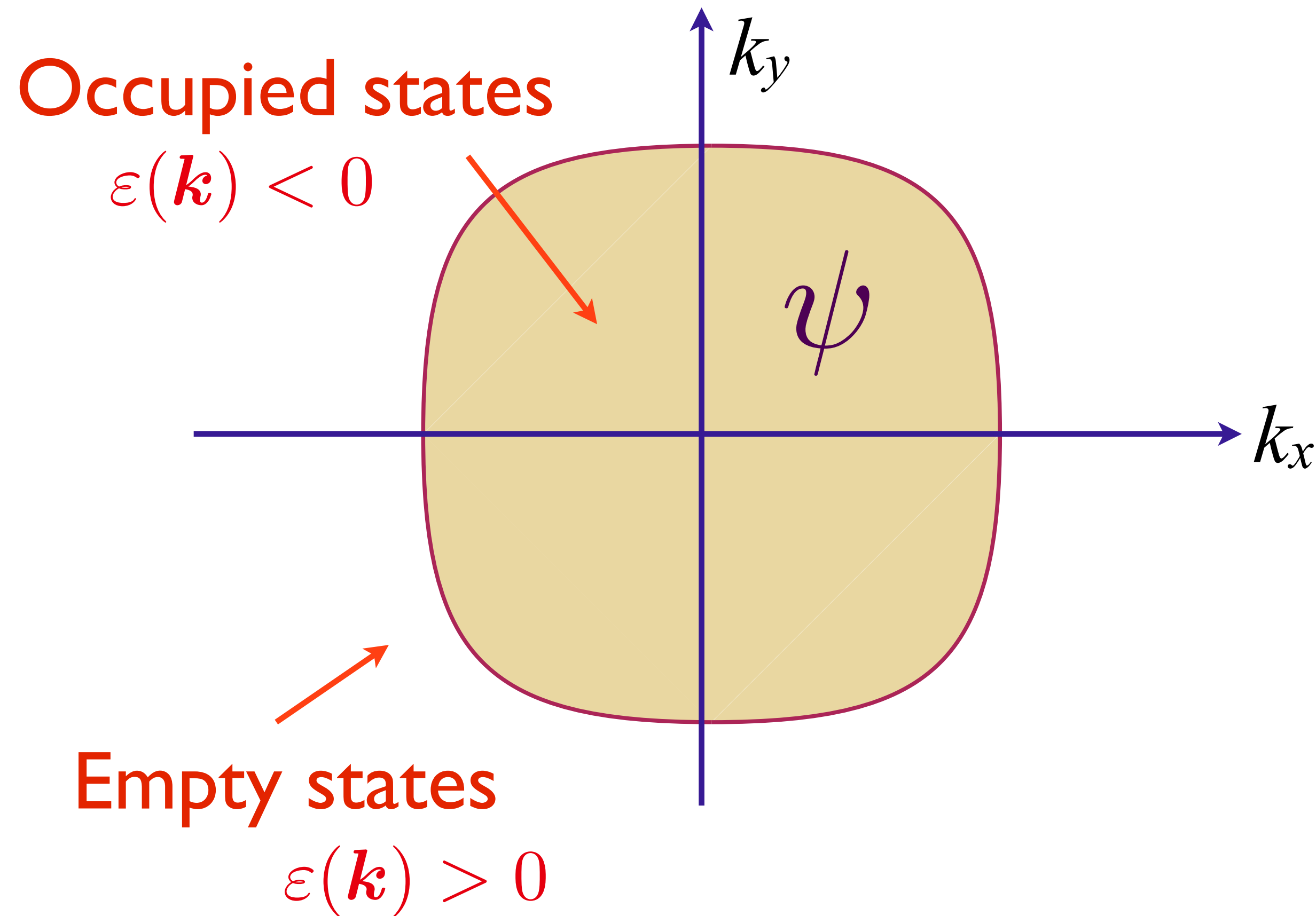
Fermi surface coupled to a
critical boson:

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Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson



$$\mathcal{L}_\psi = \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + \varepsilon(\mathbf{k}) \right) \psi_{\mathbf{k}}$$

a critical boson

ϕ

- Nematic order
- Ferromagnetic order
- Transverse component of abelian or non-abelian gauge field
- Antiferromagnetic order...

$$\mathcal{L}_\phi = \frac{1}{2} [(\partial_\tau \phi)^2 + (\nabla \phi)^2 + s\phi^2]$$

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson

“Yukawa” coupling: $\frac{g_{ijl}}{N} \int d^2r d\tau \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau) \phi_l(r, \tau)$

$$\overline{g_{ijl}} = 0 \quad , \quad \overline{|g_{ijl}|^2} = g^2$$

Application of Yukawa-SYK approach:

Introduce N flavors of fermions and bosons, and examine an *ensemble* of theories with different Yukawa couplings. In the large N limit, every member of the ensemble is expected to have the same critical properties, and so it is easier to study the average theory.

Ilya Esterlis, J. Schmalian, PRB **100**, 115132 (2019)

Yuxuan Wang and A.V. Chubukov, PRR **2**, 033084 (2020)

E. E. Aldape, T. Cookmeyer, A.A. Patel, and E. Altman, arXiv:2012.00763

Ilya Esterlis, Haoyu Guo, Aavishkar Patel, S.S. PRB **103**, 235129 (2021)

G-Σ-D-Π Theory

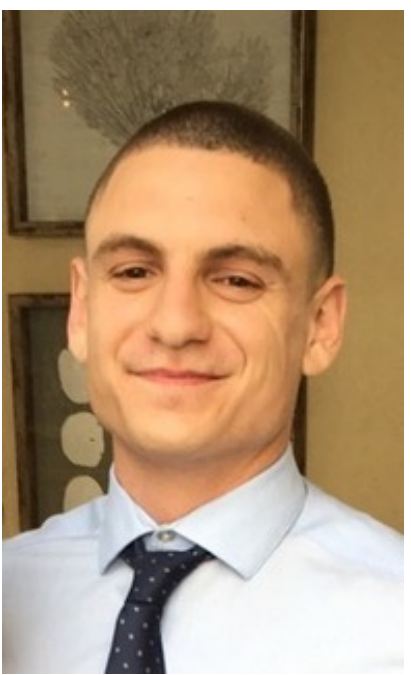
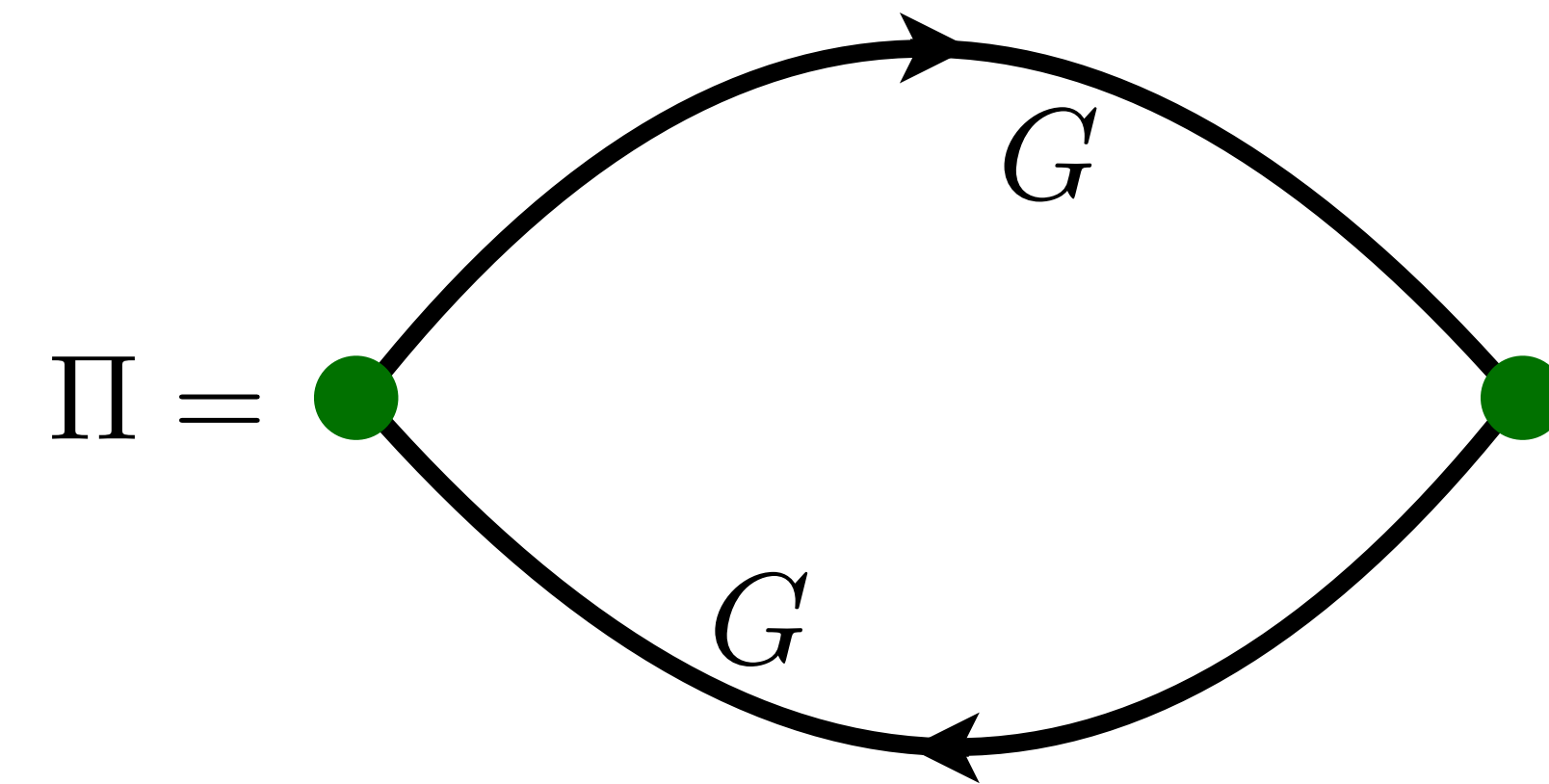
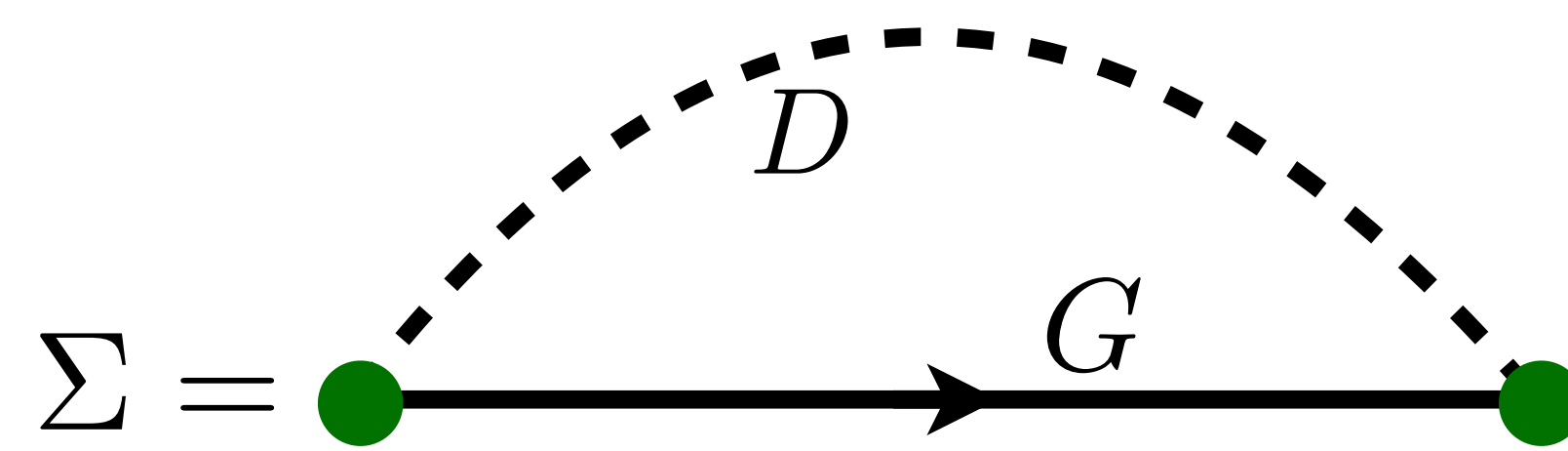
The saddle point equations are

$$\Sigma(\mathbf{r}, \tau) = g^2 \lambda D(\mathbf{r}, \tau) G(\mathbf{r}, \tau),$$

$$\Pi(\mathbf{r}, \tau) = -g^2 G(-\mathbf{r}, -\tau) G(\mathbf{r}, \tau),$$

$$G(\mathbf{k}, i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n - \varepsilon(\mathbf{k}) - \Sigma(\mathbf{k}, i\omega_n)},$$

$$D(\mathbf{q}, i\Omega_m) = \frac{1}{\Omega_m^2 + q^2 + s - \Pi(\mathbf{q}, i\Omega_m)}.$$



Exact Solution at small ω :

$$\Sigma(\hat{\mathbf{k}}, i\omega) \sim -i \text{sgn}(\omega) |\omega|^{2/3}, \quad G(\mathbf{k}, i\omega) = \frac{-1}{\varepsilon(\mathbf{k}) + \Sigma(\hat{\mathbf{k}}, i\omega)}, \quad D(\mathbf{q}, i\Omega) = \frac{1}{q^2 + \gamma |\Omega|/q}$$

P.A. Lee (1989)

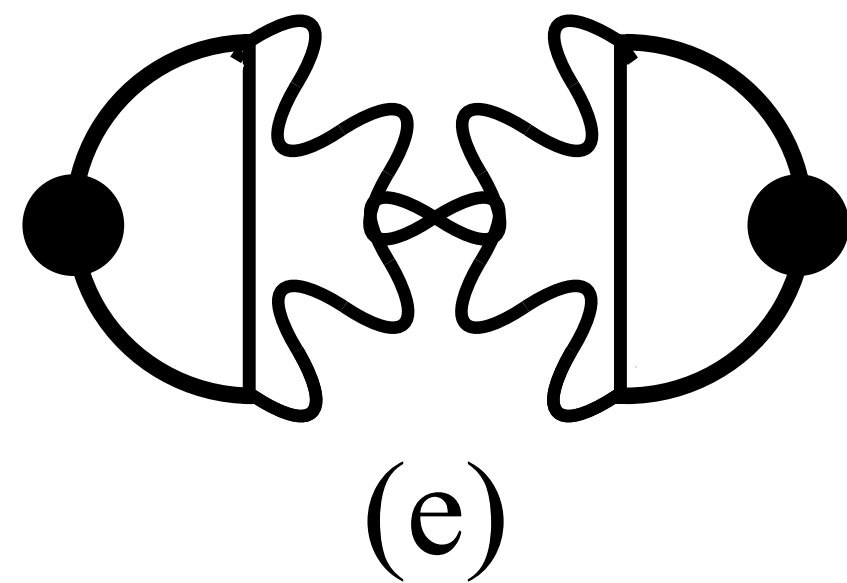
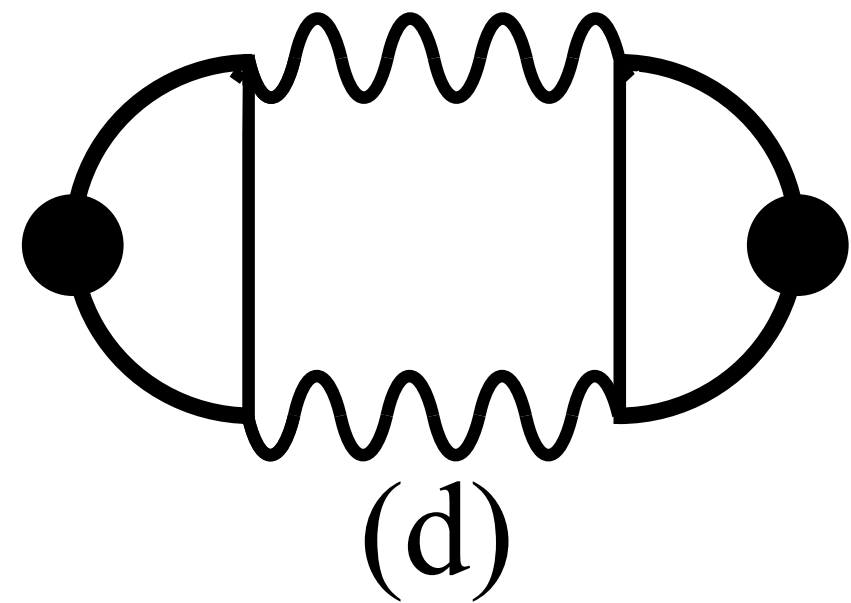
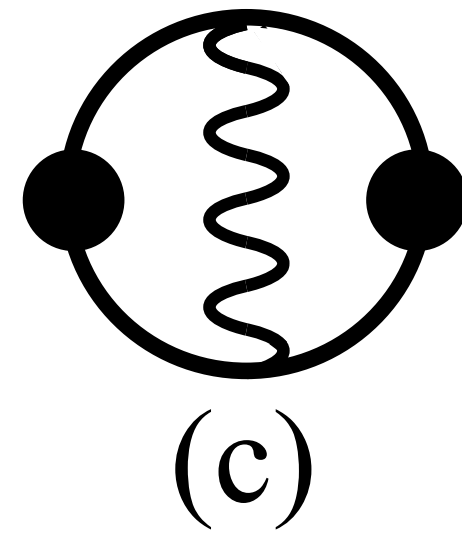
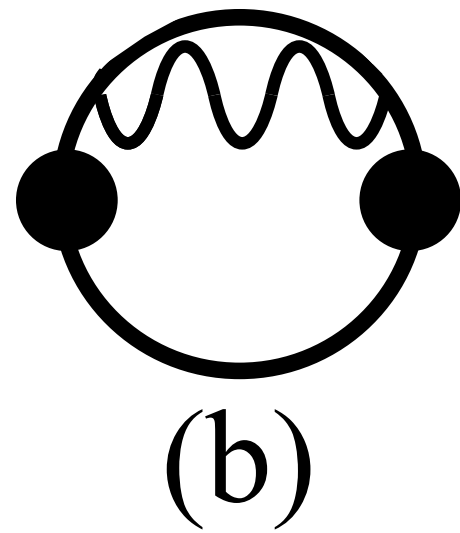
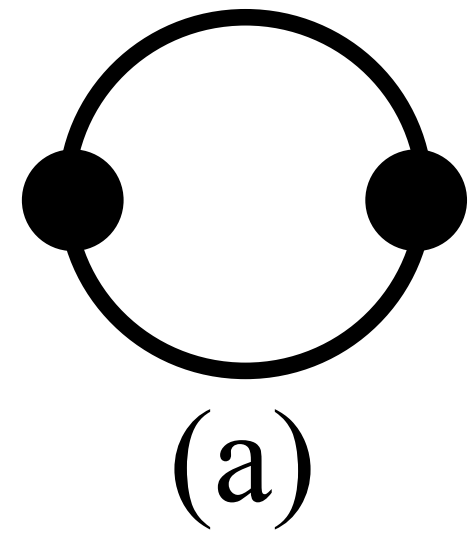
where the co-efficient is known exactly in terms of the Fermi velocity and Fermi surface curvature at the Fermi surface point along the direction $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$.

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson

“Yukawa” coupling: $\frac{g_{ijl}}{N} \int d^2r d\tau \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau) \phi_l(r, \tau)$

$$\overline{g_{ijl}} = 0 \quad , \quad \overline{|g_{ijl}|^2} = g^2$$

Transport:

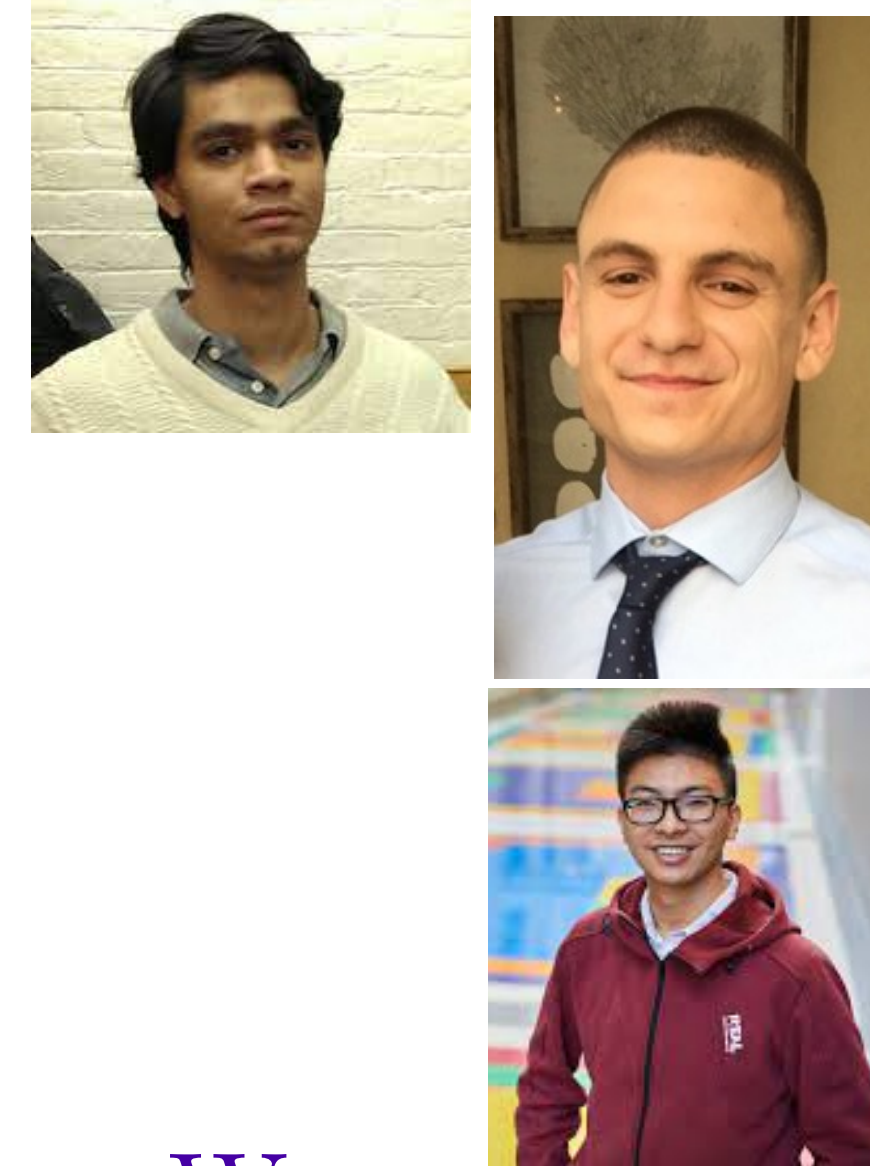


+ all ladders and bubbles.....

Yong Baek Kim, A. Furusaki, Xiao-Gang Wen,
P. A. Lee, PRB **50**, 17917 (1994)

examined these graphs and concluded that
the d.c. resistivity $\rho(T) \sim T^{4/3}$ (analog of Bloch’s law)
and $\sigma(\omega \gg T) \sim \omega^{-2/3}$.

These conclusions are not consistent with
conservation of total momentum *i.e.* ‘boson drag’.

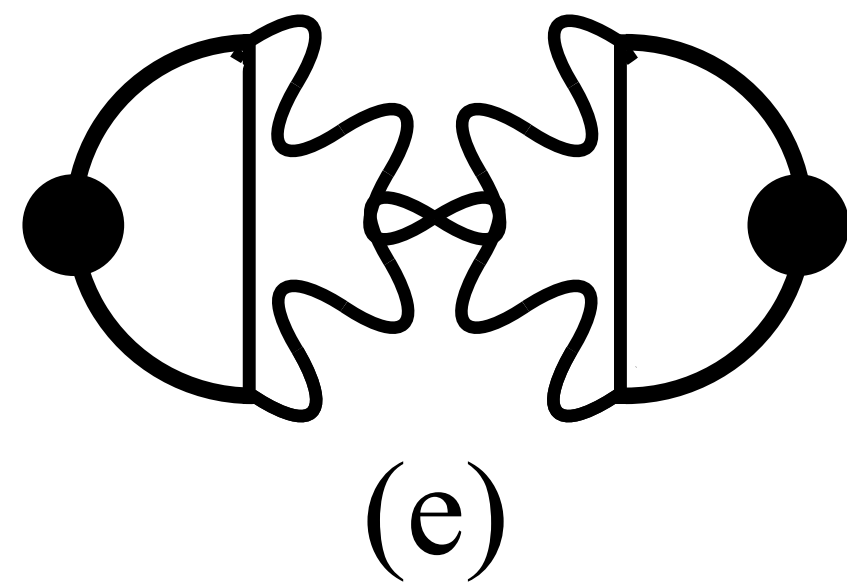
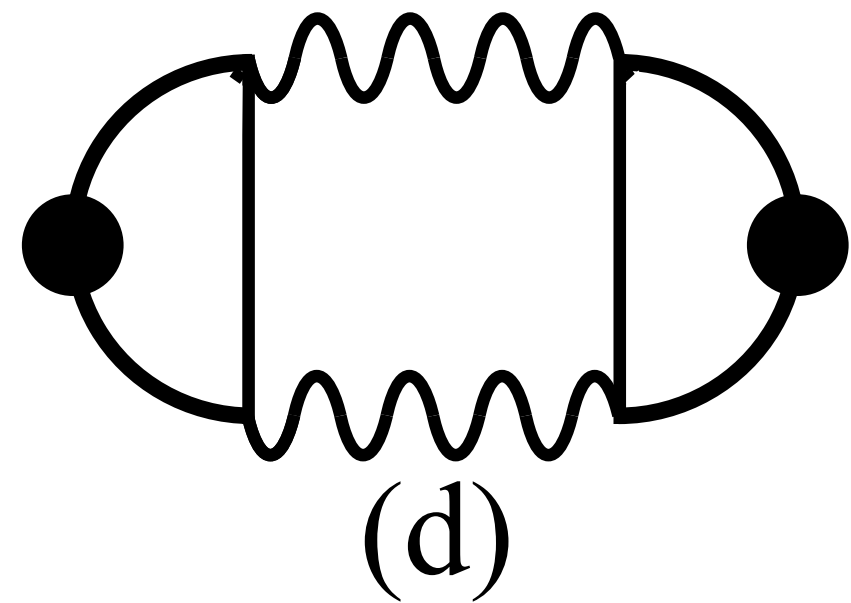
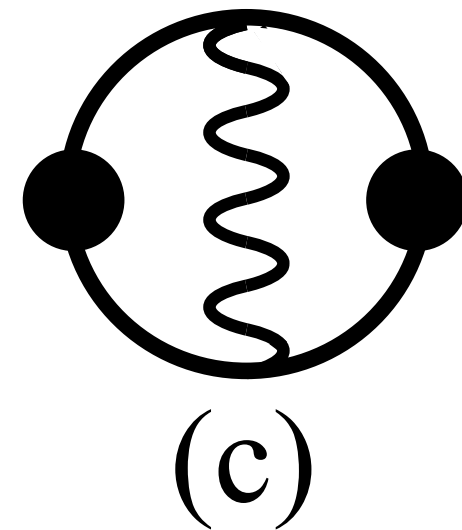
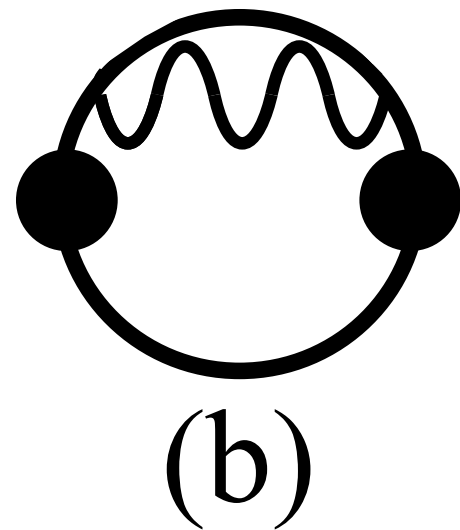
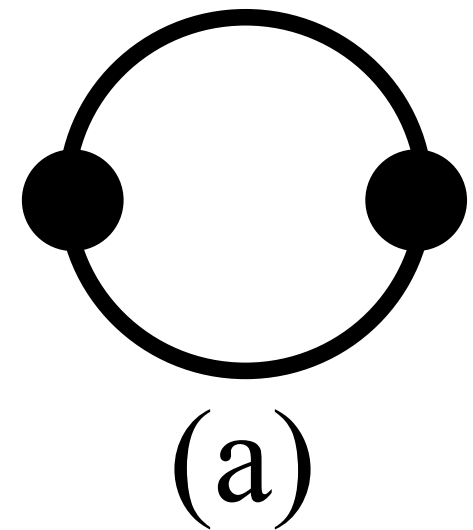


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+ all ladders and bubbles.....

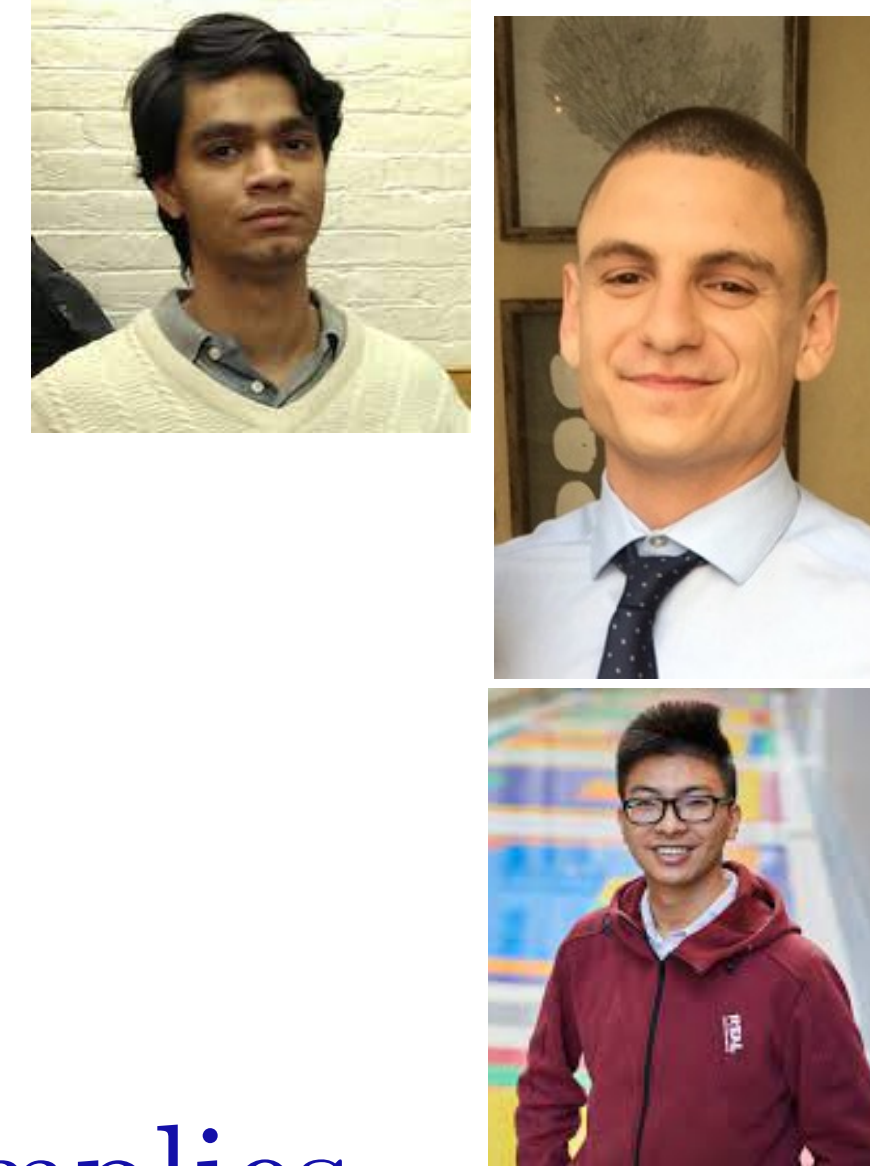
Conservation of momentum implies the d.c. conductivity is infinite

$$\text{Re } \sigma(\omega) = D\delta(\omega) + \dots$$

S. A. Hartnoll, P. K. Kovtun, M. Muller, and S.S. PRB **76**, 144502 (2007)

S. A. Hartnoll, R. Mahajan, M. Punk, and S.S. PRB **89**, 155130 (2014)

A. Eberlein, I. Mandal, and S. S. PRB **94**, 045133 (2016)

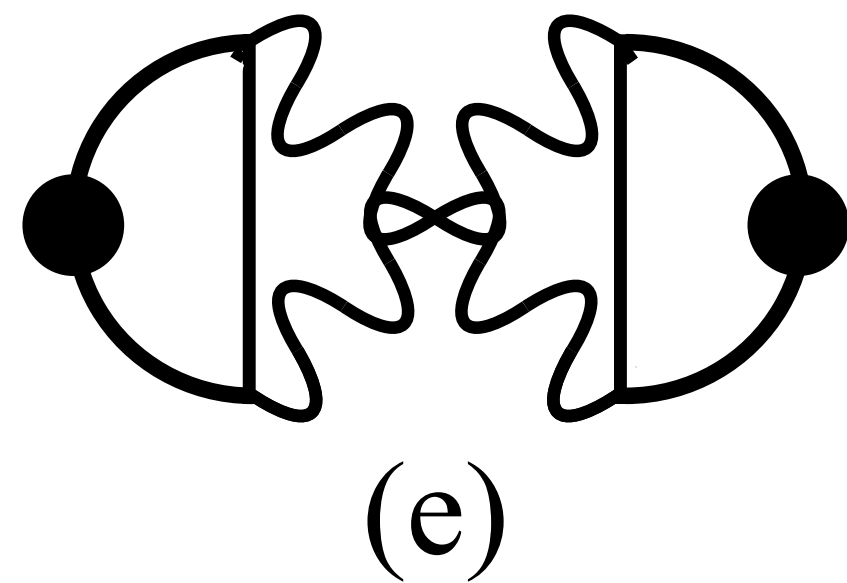
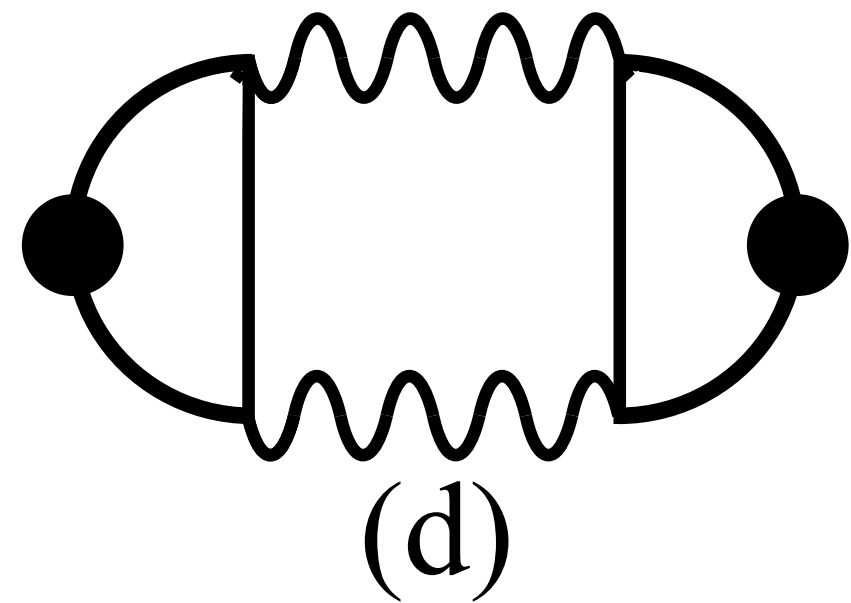
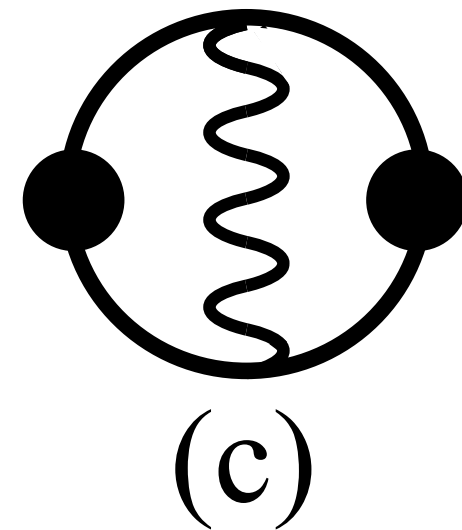
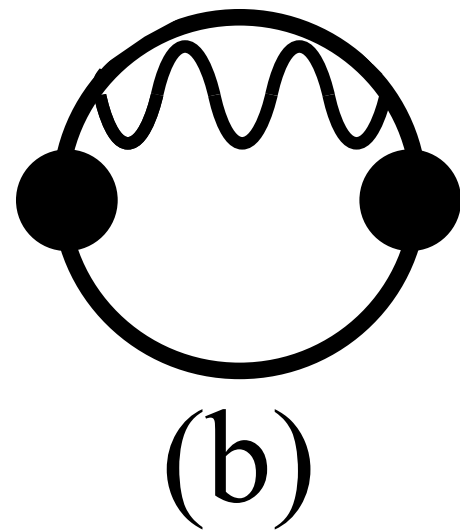
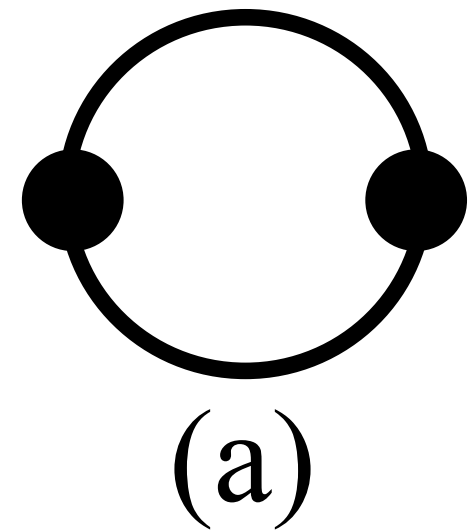


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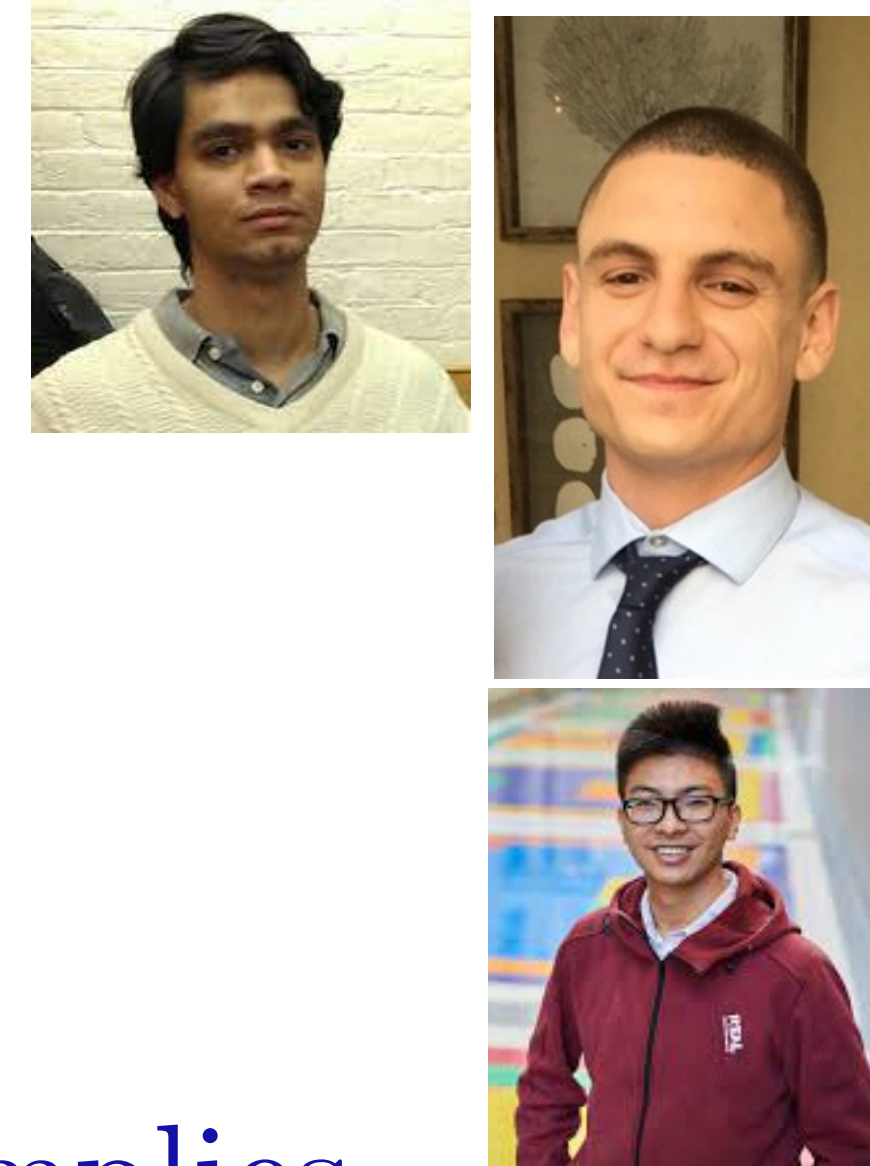
S. A. Hartnoll, R. Mahajan, M. Punk, and S.S. PRB **89**, 155130 (2014)

A. Eberlein, I. Mandal, and S. S. PRB **94**, 045133 (2016)

$$\sigma(\omega) \sim \frac{1}{-i\omega} + |\omega|^0 + \dots$$

Zhengyan Darius Shi, Hart Goldman, Dominic V. Else, T. Senthil arXiv:2204.07585

Aavishkar Patel, Haoyu Guo, Ilya Esterlis, S.S. arXiv:2203.04990



Fermi surface coupled to a
critical boson:

No spatial disorder

A non-Fermi liquid

but NOT a strange metal

Fermi surface coupled to a
critical boson:

Potential disorder

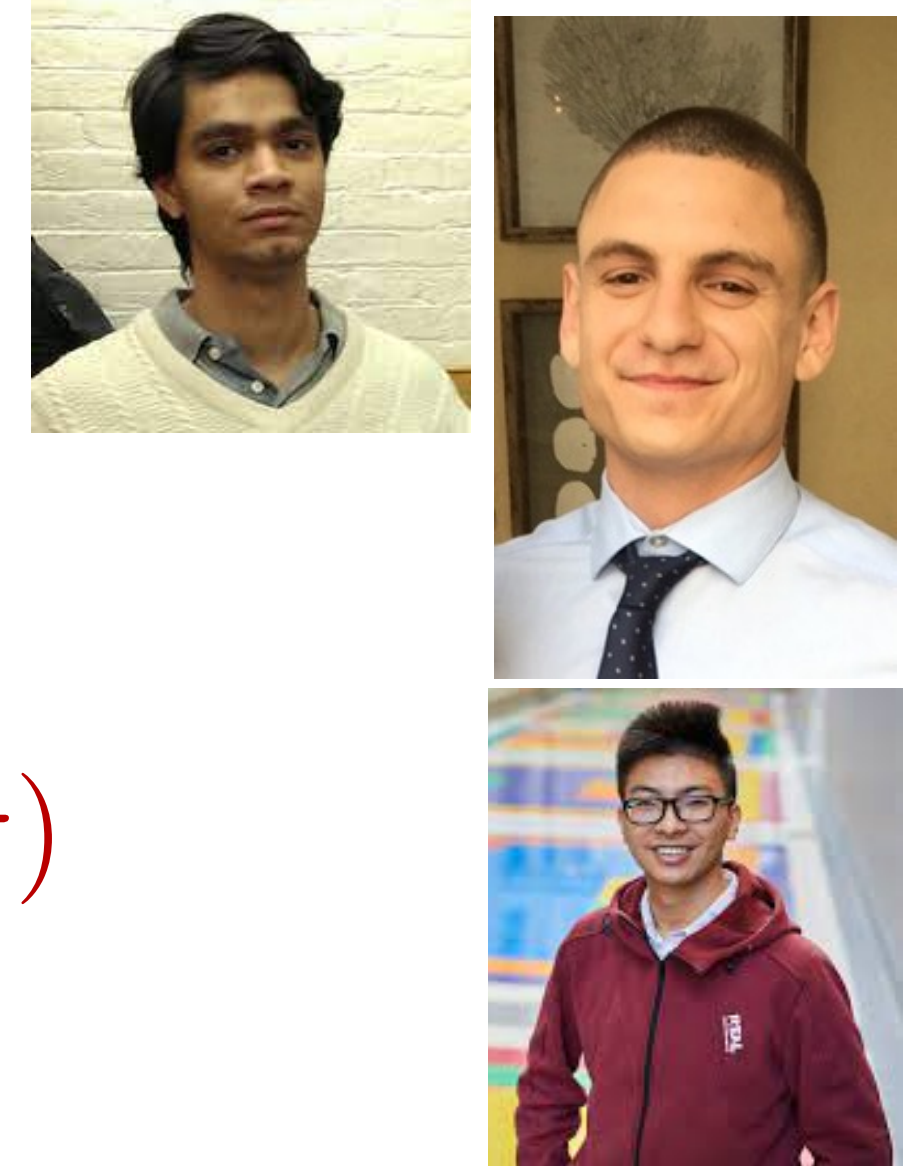
A marginal Fermi liquid
but **NOT** a strange metal

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

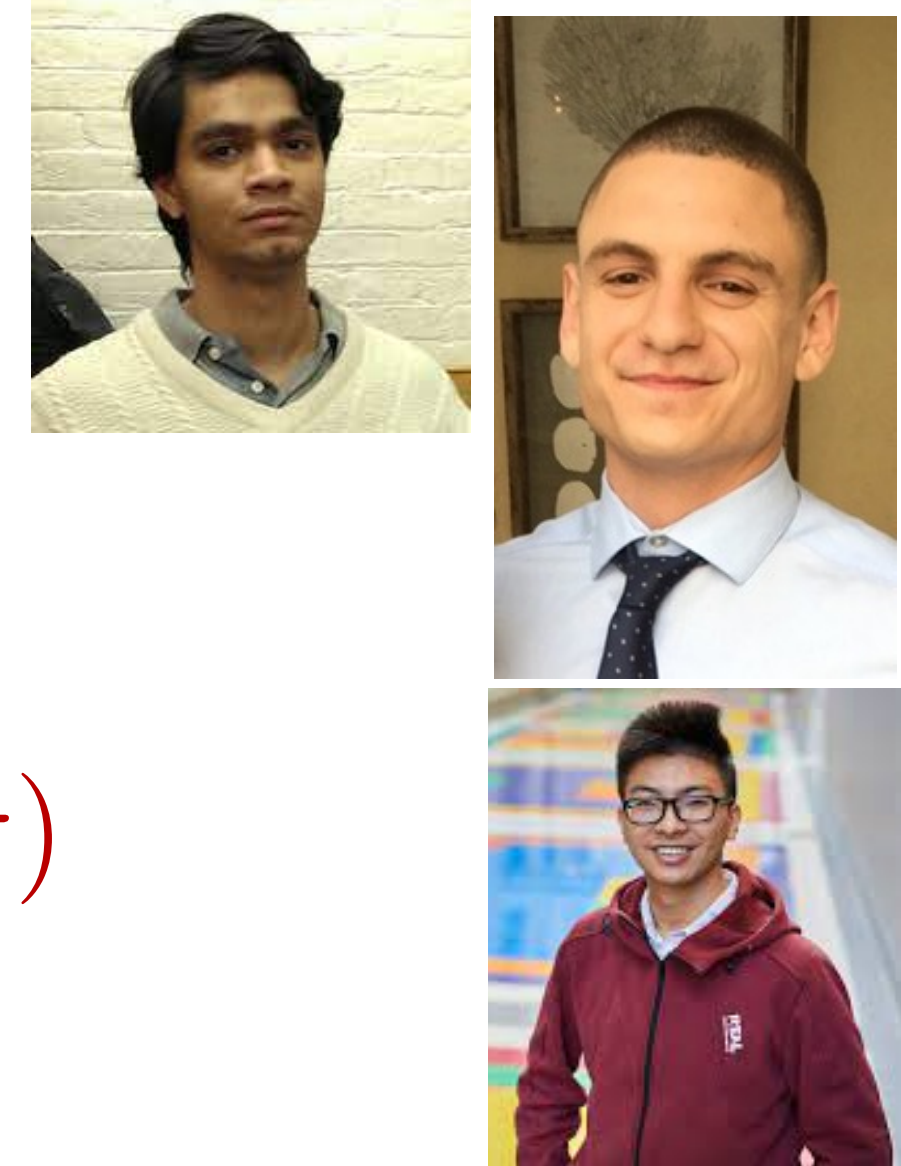
“Yukawa” coupling: $\frac{g_{ijl}}{N} \int d^2r d\tau \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau) \phi_l(r, \tau)$

Random potential: $+\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \int d^2r d\tau v_{ij}(r) \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau)$

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Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder



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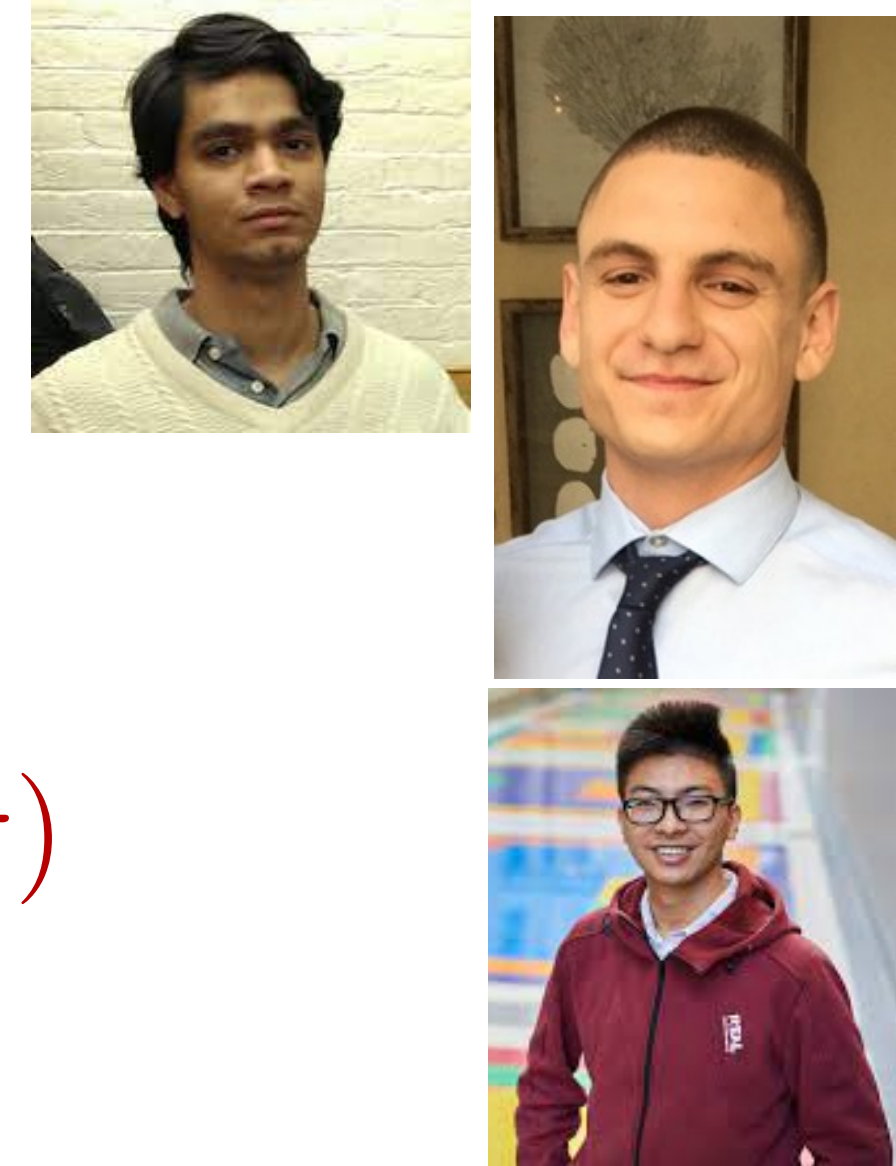
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$$\text{Boson self energy: } \Pi \sim -\frac{g^2}{v^2} |\Omega|, \quad D(q, i\Omega) = \frac{1}{q^2 + \gamma |\Omega|}$$

$$\text{Fermion self energy: } \Sigma(i\omega) \sim -iv^2 \text{sgn}(\omega) - i\frac{g^2}{v^2} \omega \ln(1/|\omega|)$$

Marginal Fermi liquid self energy and $T \log T$ specific heat

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

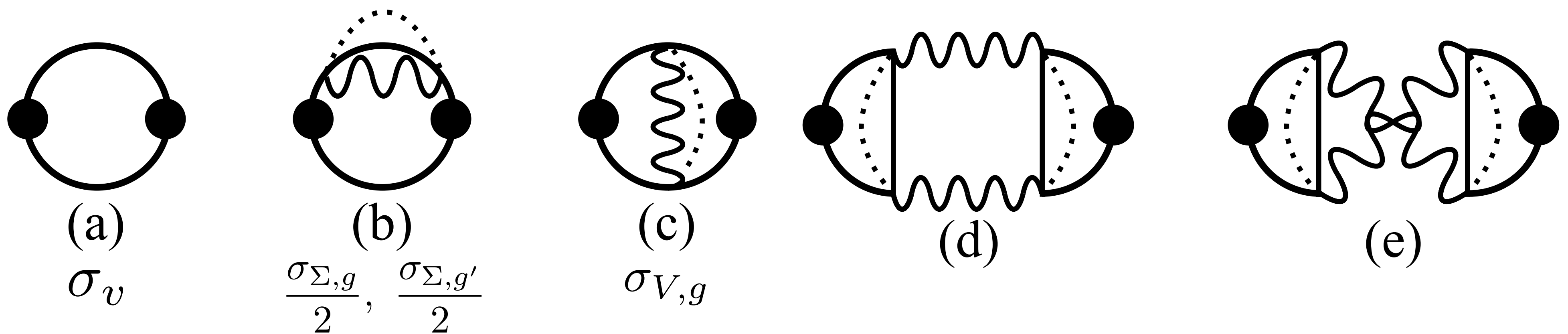


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Conductivity:

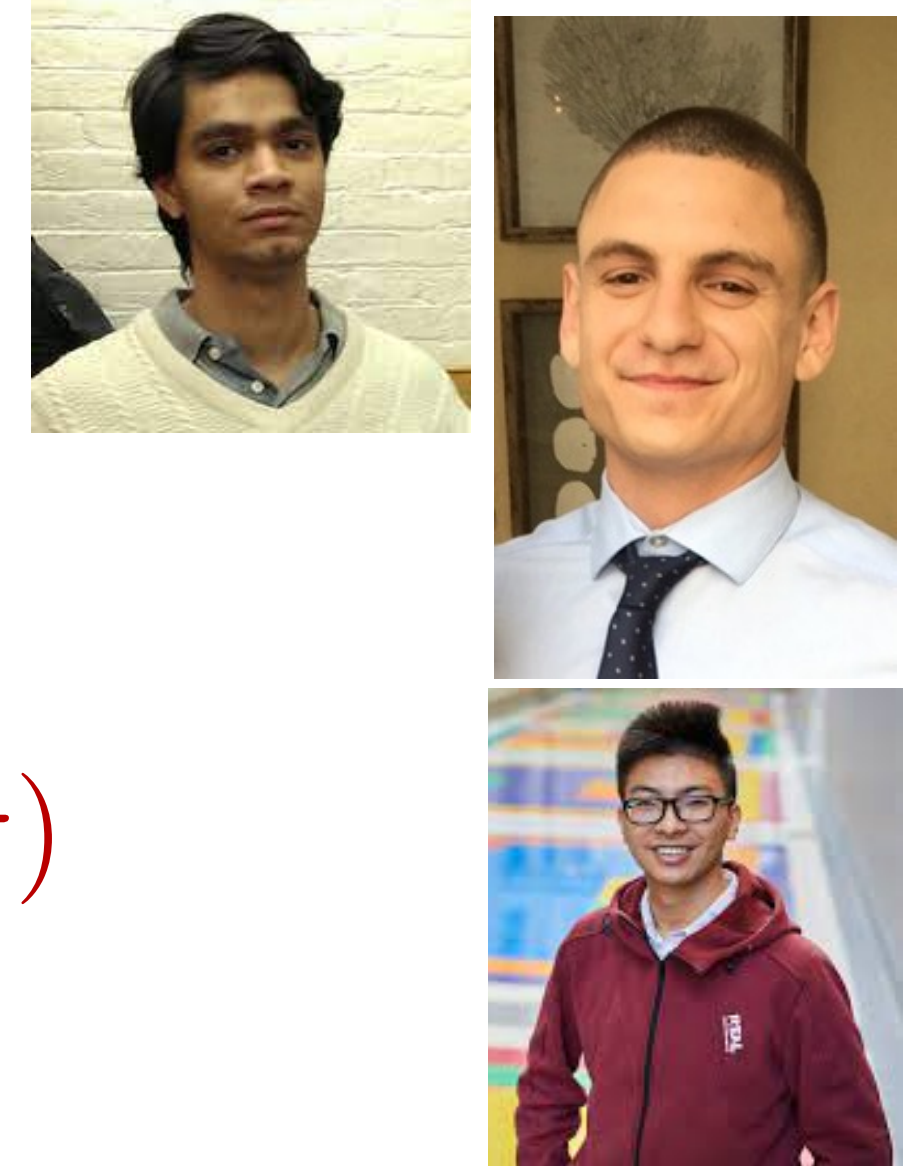


+ all ladders and bubbles.....

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

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The $g^2 \log$ term does not contribute to transport:
With g and v non-zero, we obtain a non-zero residual resistivity
and Fermi liquid like corrections

$$\rho(T) = \rho(0) + AT^2 + \dots$$

with $1/\rho(0) \sim 1/\tau_{\text{trans}} \sim v^2$.

Fermi surface coupled to a
critical boson:

Potential disorder

A marginal Fermi liquid
but NOT a strange metal

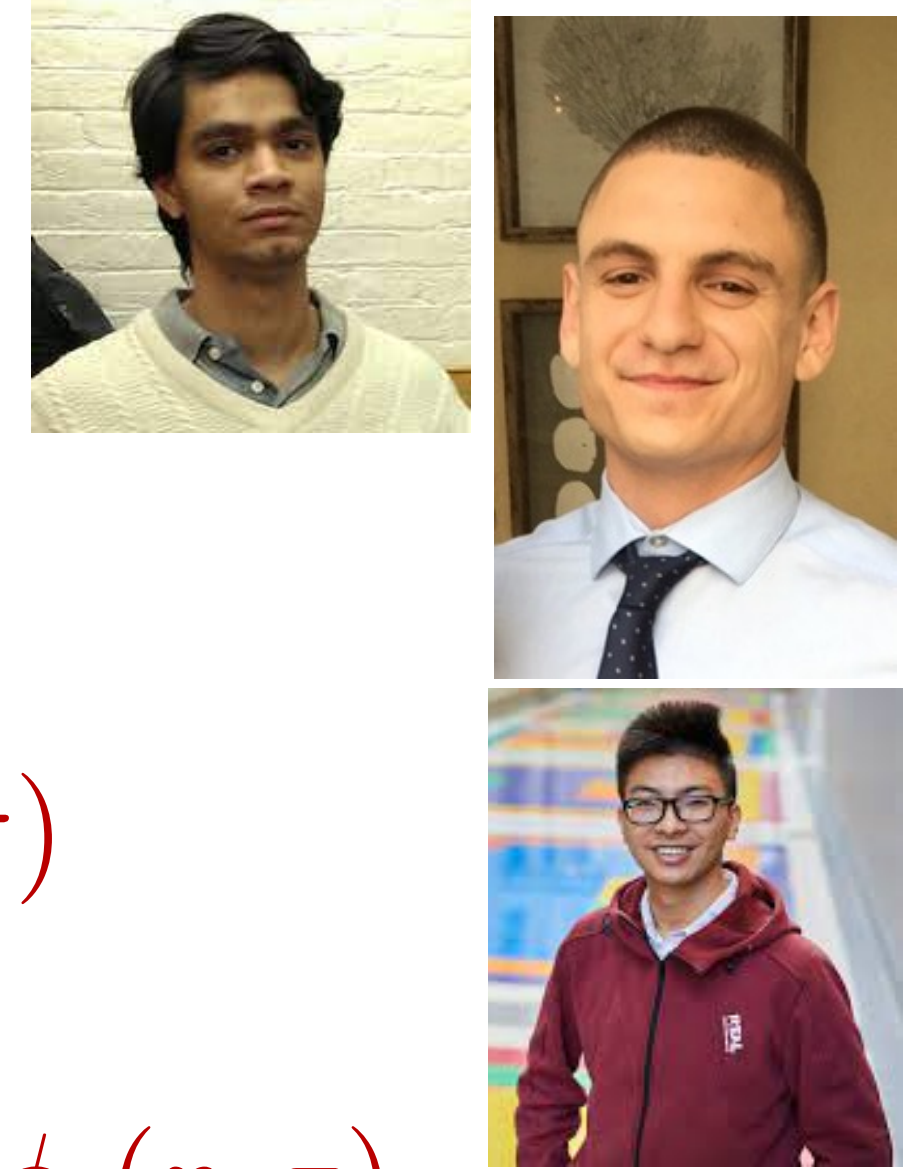
Fermi surface coupled to a
critical boson:

Interaction disorder

A marginal Fermi liquid

AND a strange metal

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder



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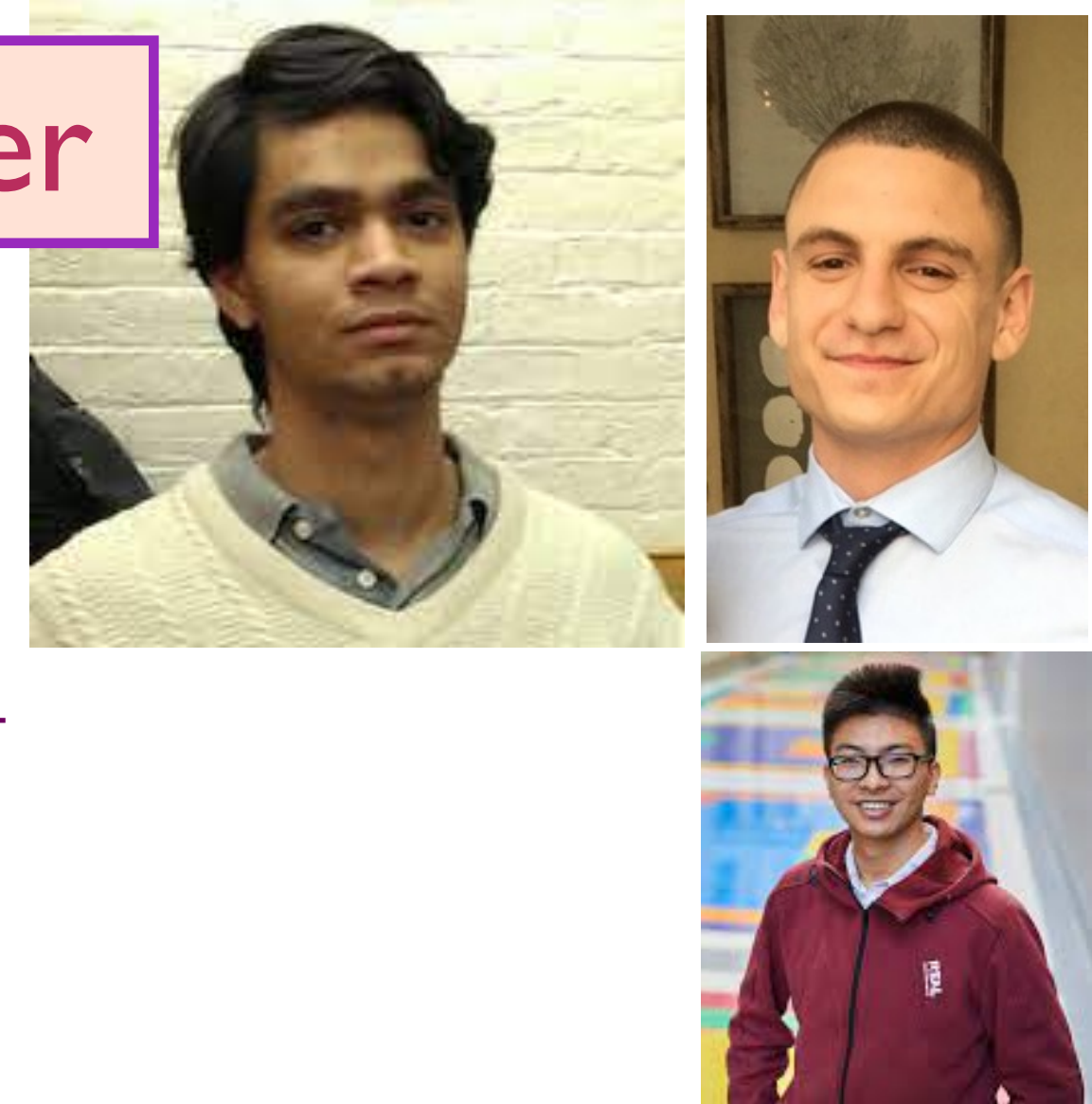
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Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

Boson self energy: $\Pi = \Pi_g + \Pi_{g'}$

$$\Pi_g(i\Omega) \sim -\frac{g^2}{v^2}|\Omega|, \quad \Pi_{g'}(i\Omega) \sim -g'^2|\Omega|, \quad D(q, i\Omega) = \frac{1}{q^2 + \gamma|\Omega|}$$



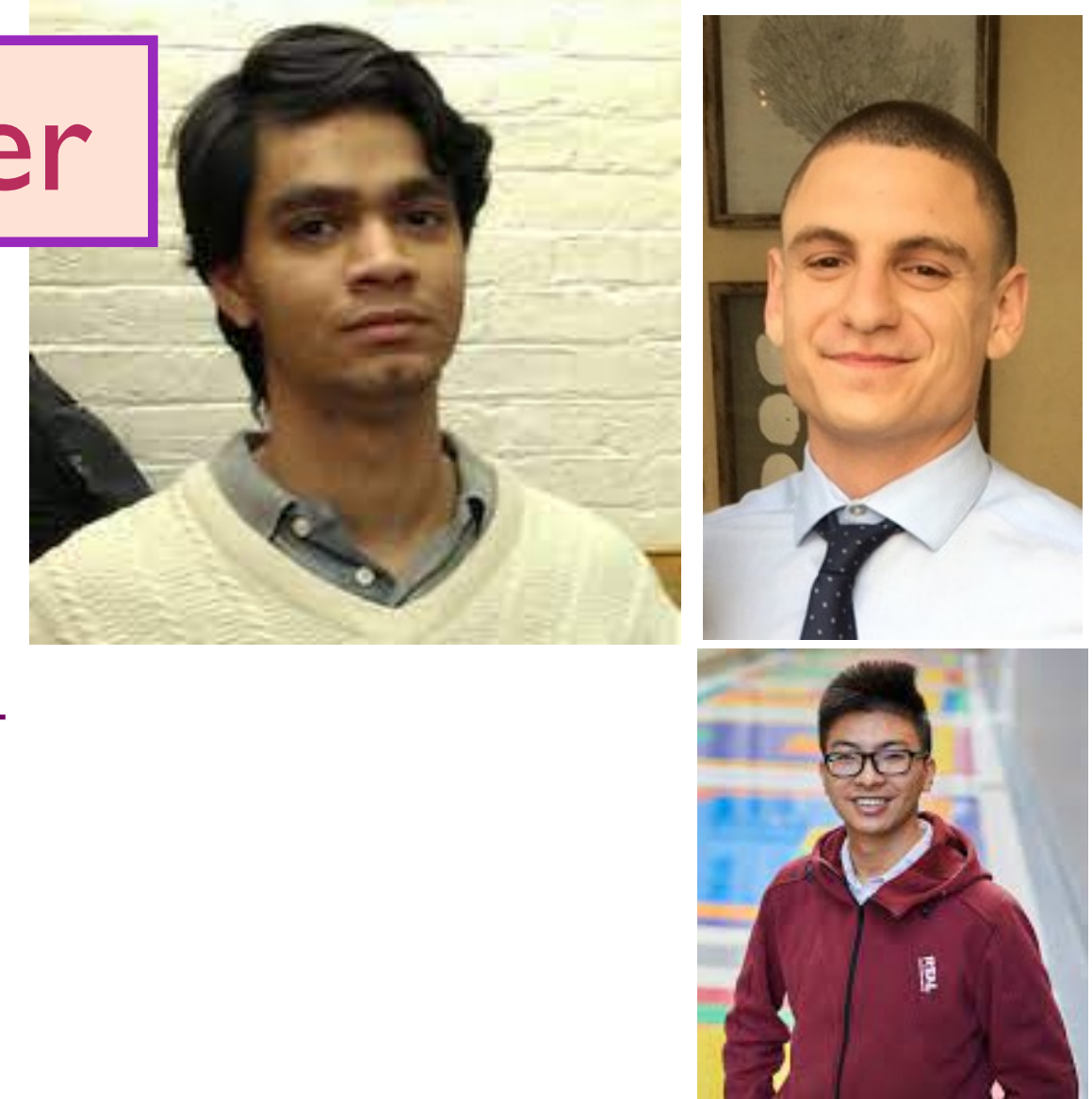
Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

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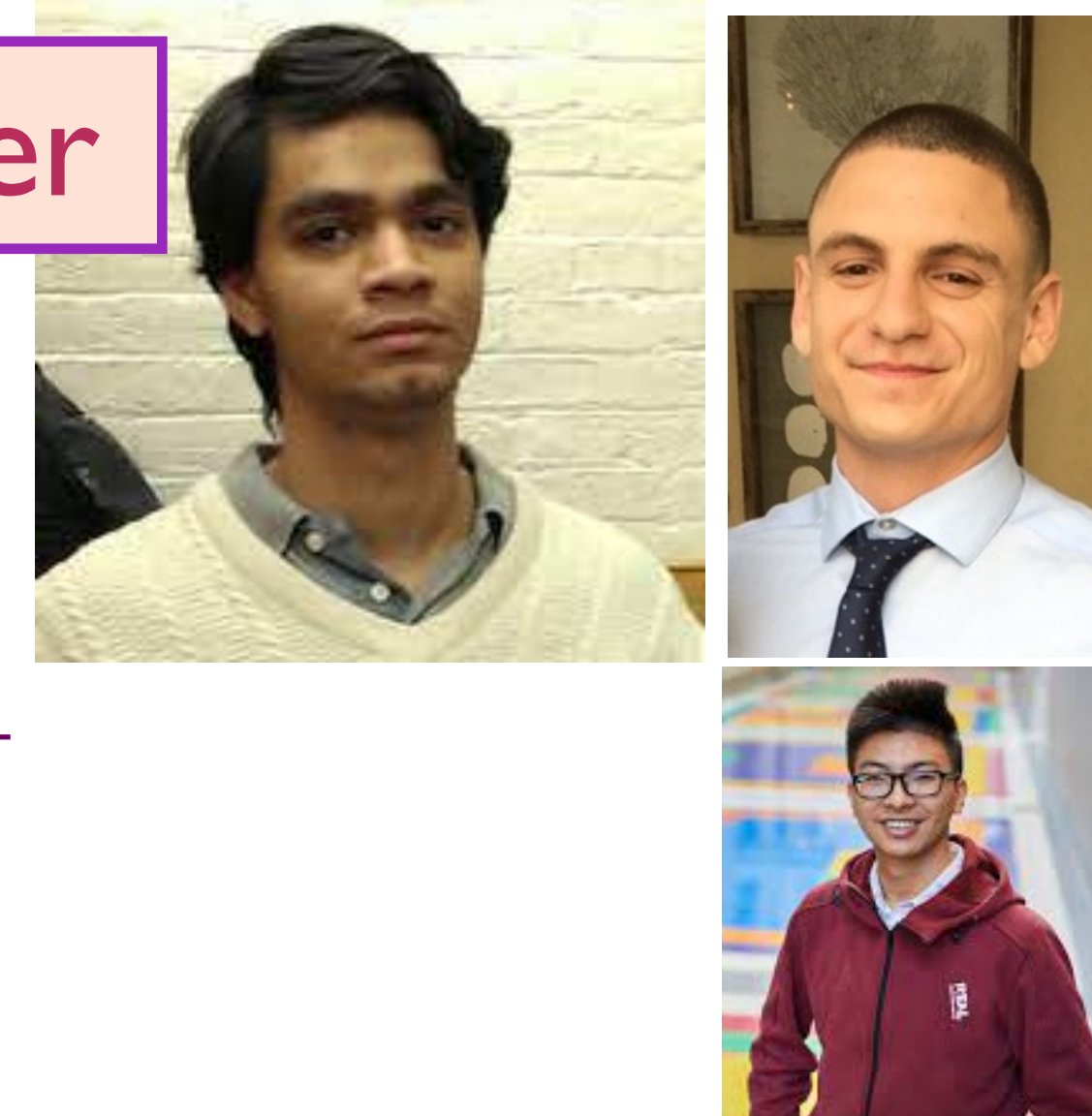
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Fermion self energy: $\Sigma = \Sigma_v + \Sigma_g + \Sigma_{g'}$

$$\Sigma_v(i\omega) \sim -iv^2\text{sgn}(\omega), \quad \Sigma_g(i\omega) \sim -i\frac{g^2}{v^2}\omega \ln(1/|\omega|), \quad \Sigma_{g'}(i\omega) \sim -ig'^2\omega \ln(1/|\omega|)$$



Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder



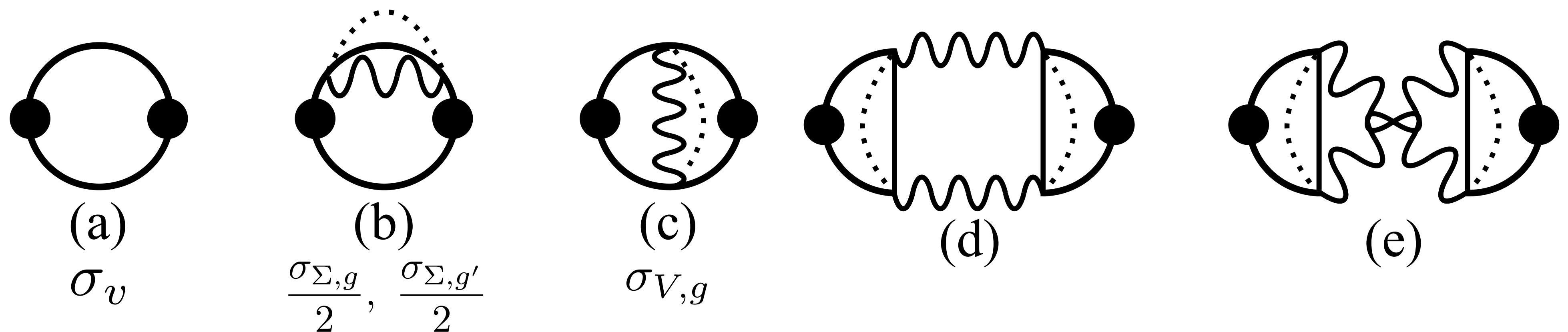
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Conductivity:



+ all ladders and bubbles.....

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

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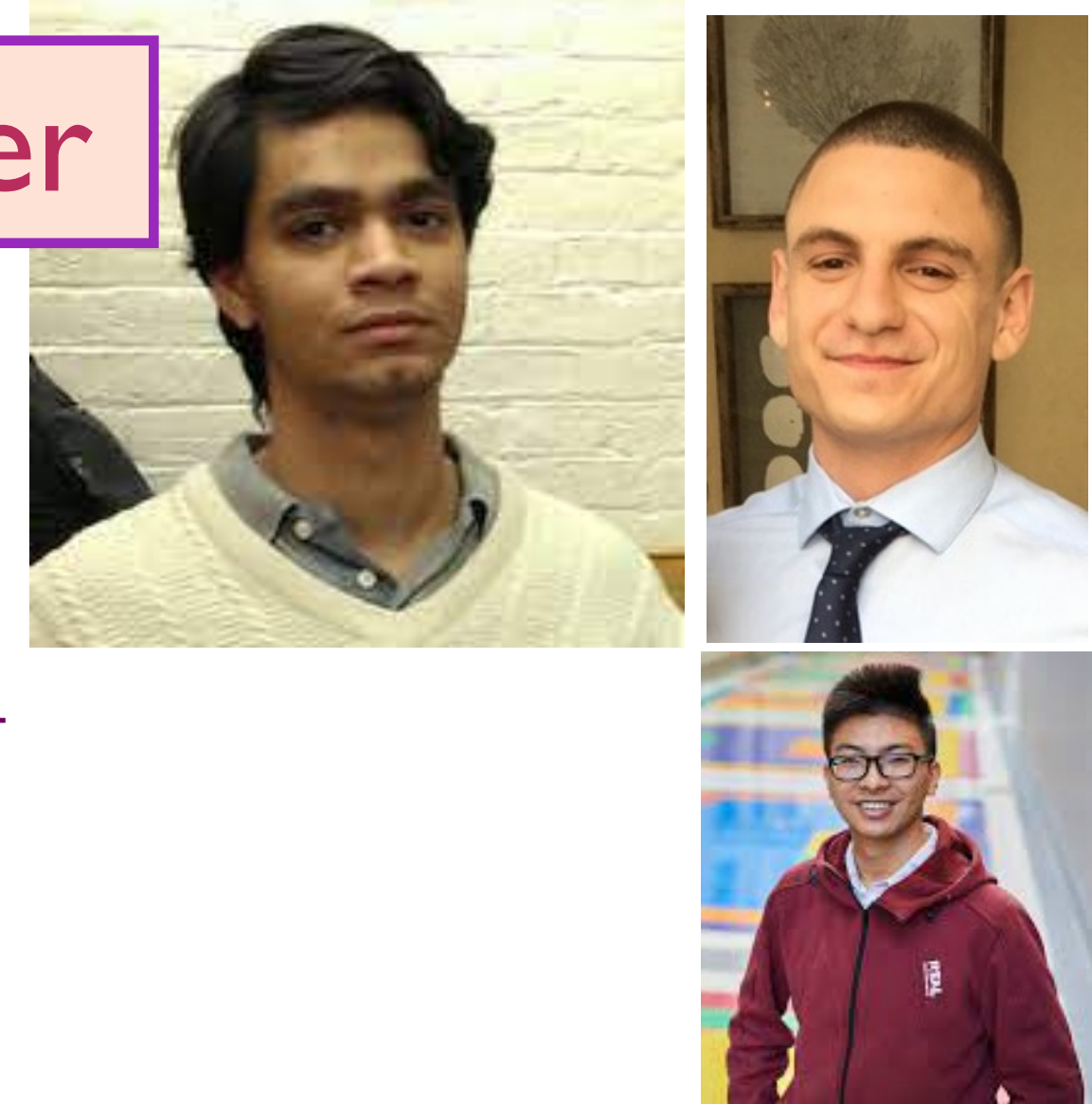
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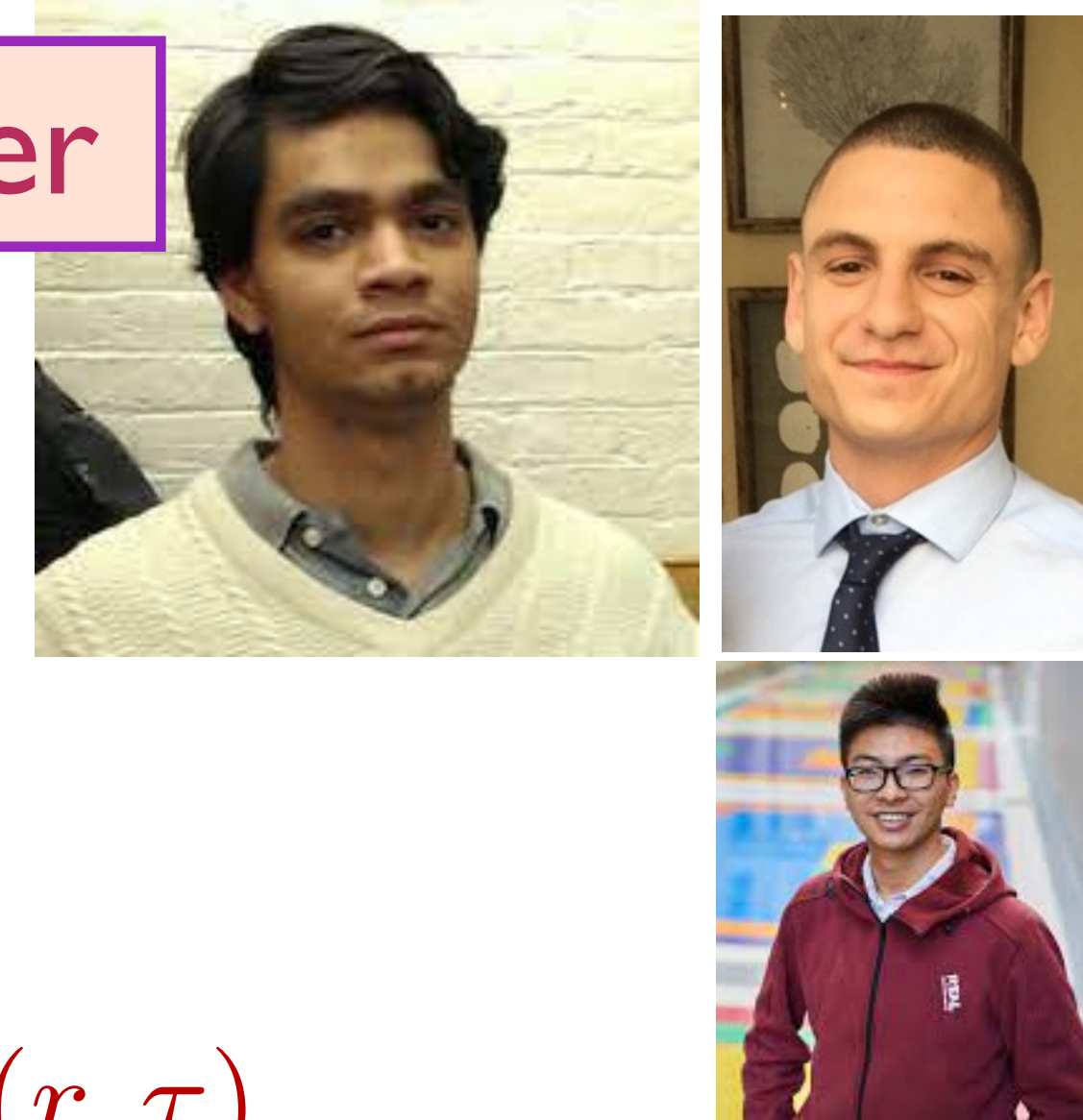
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Conductivity:

The g^2 log term does not contribute to transport
but the g'^2 log term does!



Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder



“Yukawa” coupling: $\frac{g_{ijl}}{N} \int d^2r d\tau \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau) \phi_l(r, \tau)$

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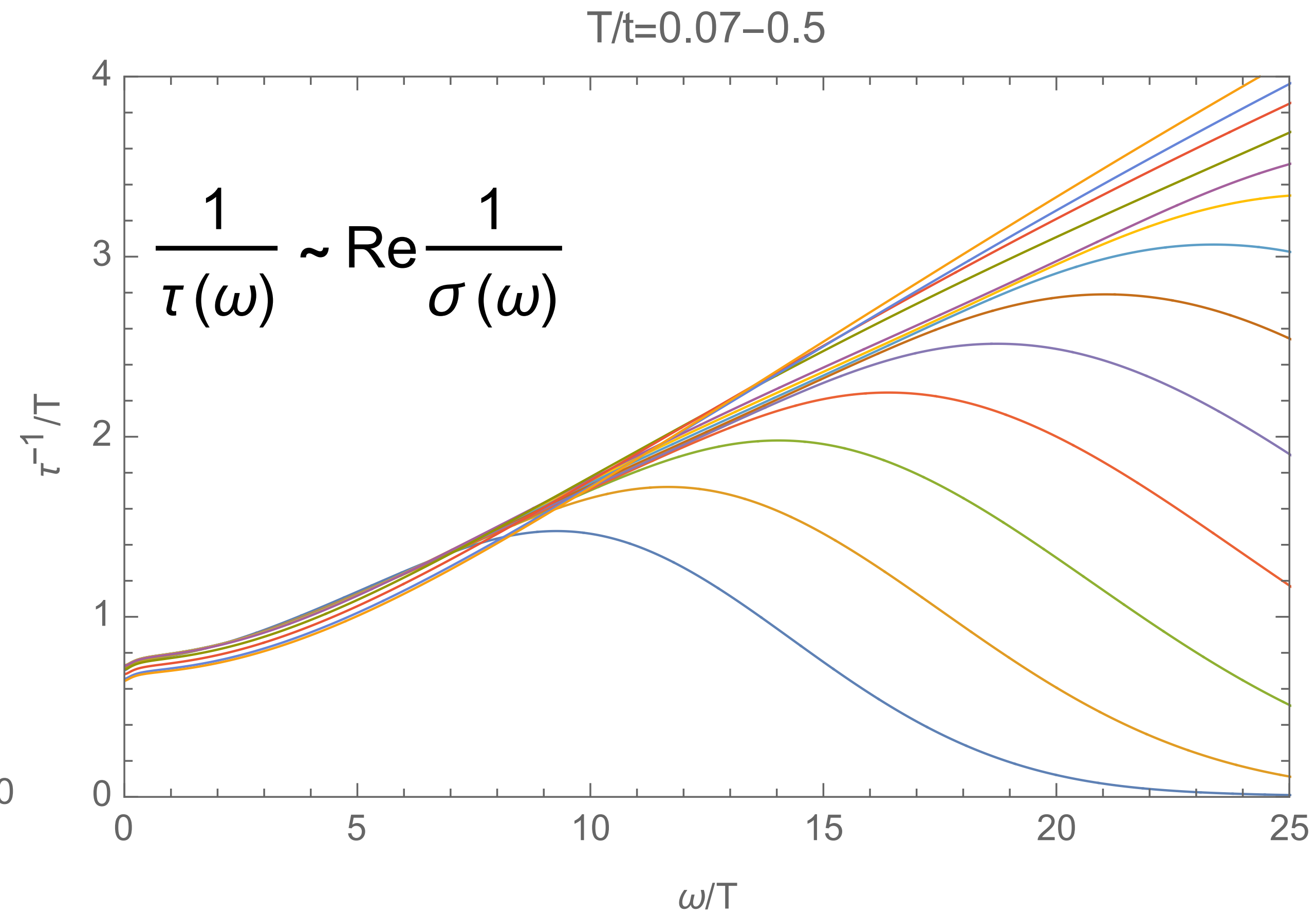
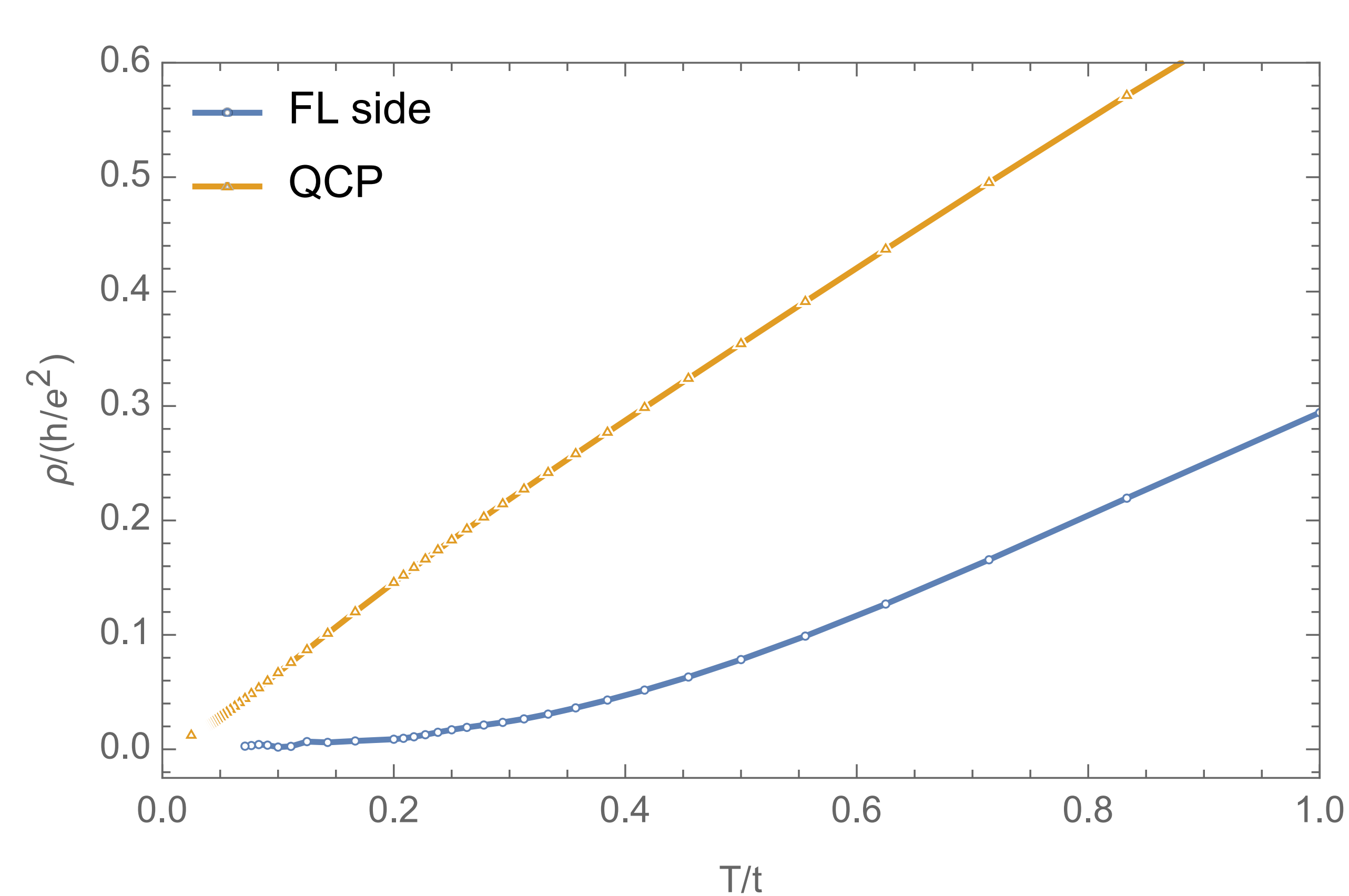
$$\text{Conductivity: } \sigma(\omega) \sim [1/\tau_{\text{trans}}(\omega) - i\omega m^*(\omega)/m]^{-1}$$

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{\text{trans}}(\omega)} \sim v^2 + g'^2 |\omega| \quad ; \quad \frac{m^*(\omega)}{m} \sim \frac{2g'^2}{\pi} \ln(\Lambda/\omega)$$

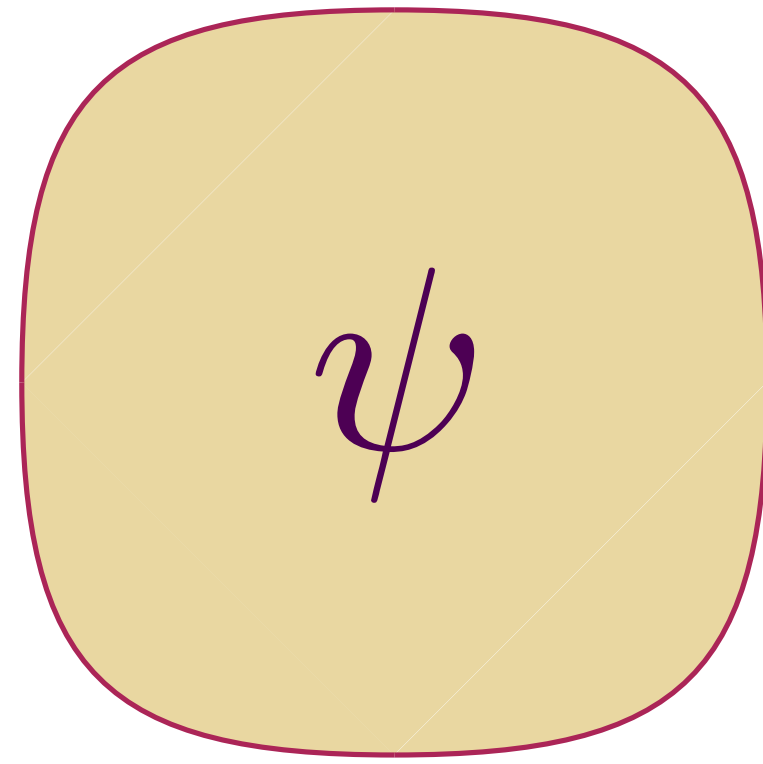
Residual resistivity is determined by v^2 ; Linear-in- T resistivity determined by g'^2 .

Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model

Full numerical solution of large N limit at $g' \neq 0, g = 0$
(the singular corrections from a non-zero g are expected to vanish in the conductivity).



Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model



+

a critical boson

ϕ

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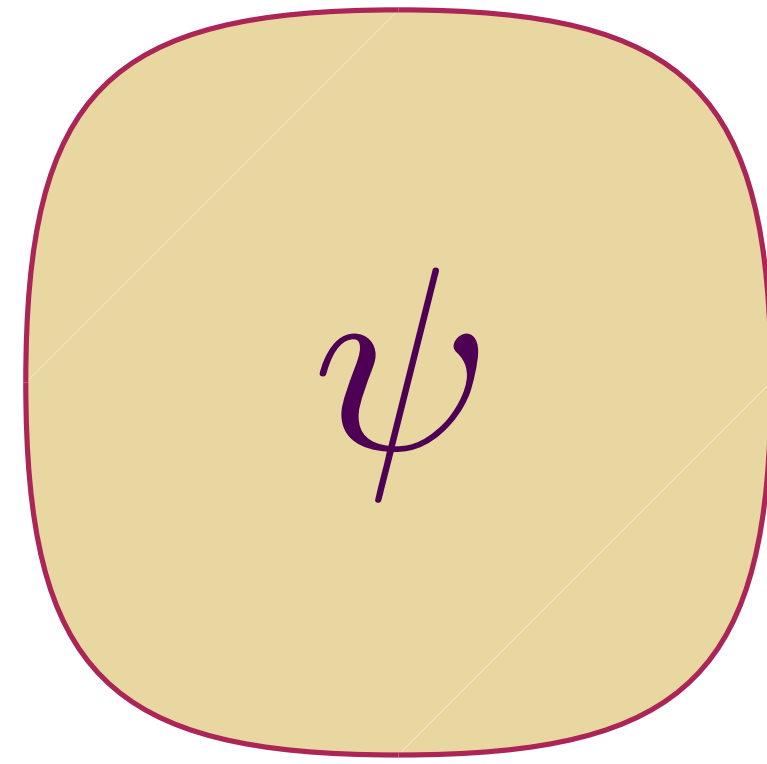
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Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model



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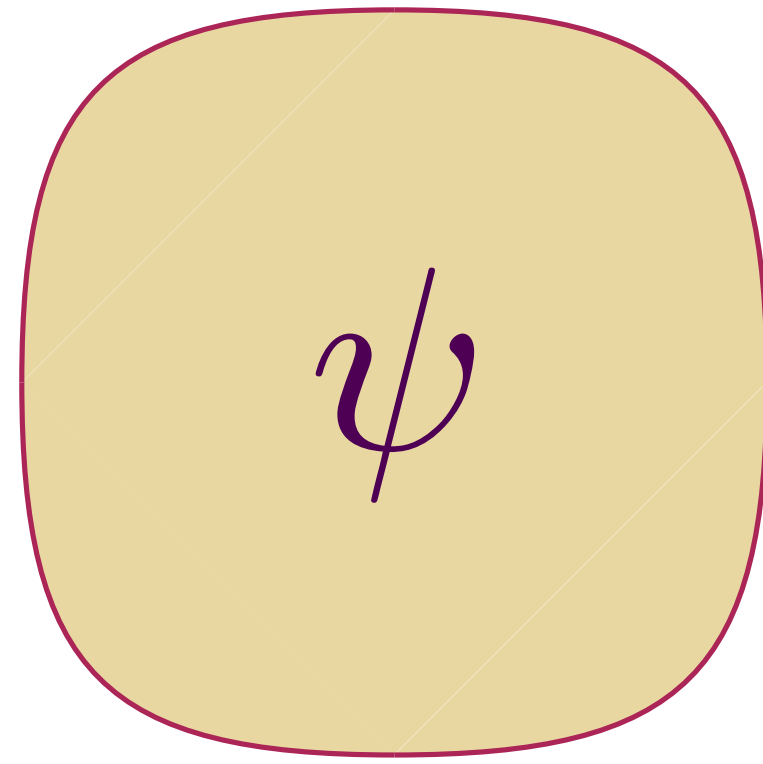
Non-Fermi liquid with $T^{2/3}$ specific heat,
but conductivity $\sigma(\omega) \sim \delta(\omega)$

“Yukawa” coupling:

$$\frac{g_{ijkl}}{N} \int d^2r d\tau \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau) \phi_l(r, \tau)$$

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Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model



+

a critical boson

ϕ

MFL self-energy, $T \ln(1/T)$ specific heat,
but T -independent ‘residual’ resistivity,
and negligible optical conductivity

“Yukawa” coupling:

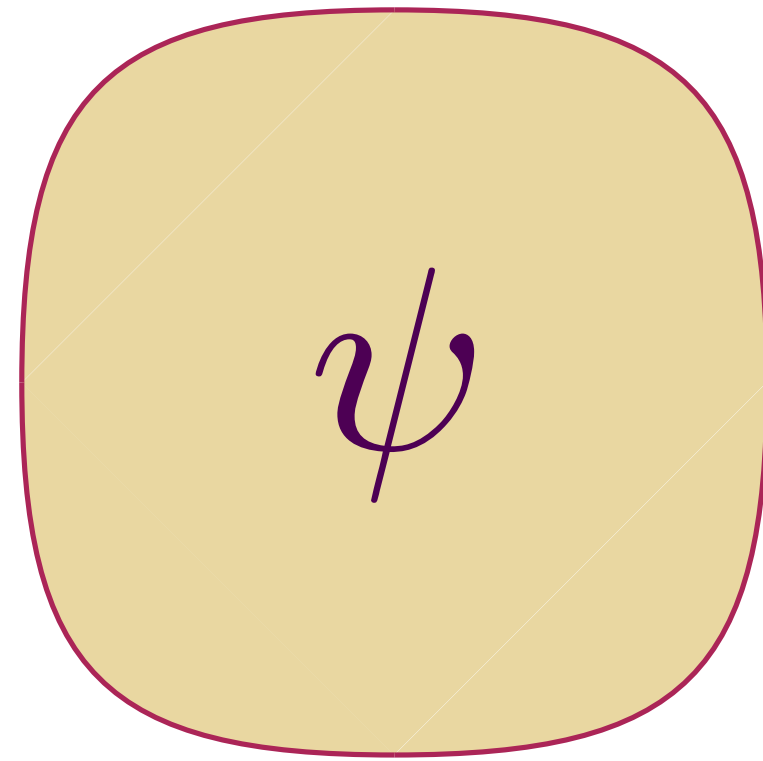
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Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model



+

a critical boson

ϕ

MFL self-energy, $T \ln(1/T)$ specific heat,
linear- T resistivity and
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Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson:

No spatial disorder

A non-Fermi liquid but NOT a strange metal

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson:

Potential disorder

A marginal Fermi liquid but NOT a strange metal

Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson:

Interaction disorder

A marginal Fermi liquid AND a strange metal

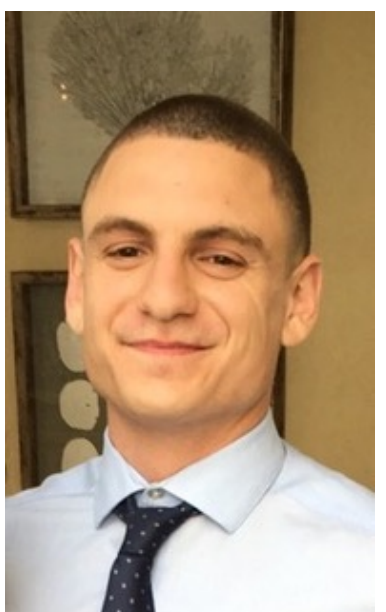
Summary

- SYK: a solvable model without particle-like excitations, exhibiting thermalization and many-body chaos in a time of order $\hbar/(k_B T)$, independent of microscopic energy scales.

Summary

- SYK: a solvable model without particle-like excitations, exhibiting thermalization and many-body chaos in a time of order $\hbar/(k_B T)$, independent of microscopic energy scales.
- Universal theory of a marginal Fermi liquid and a strange metal (including linear- T resistivity): spatially random interactions in a two-dimensional quantum-critical metal, solvable in a Yukawa-SYK-like large N limit.

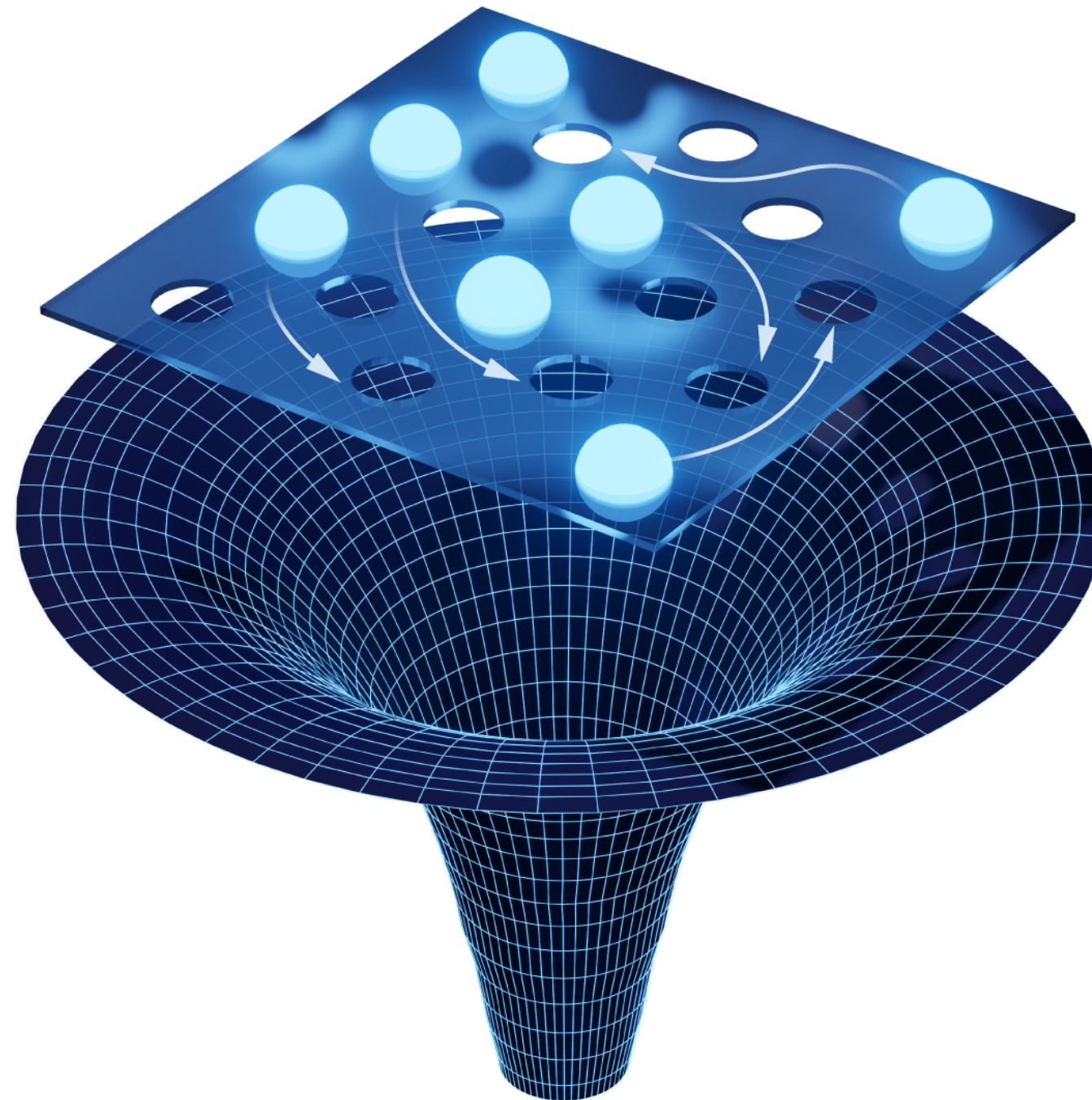
D. Chowdhury, A. Georges, O. Parcollet, S. Sachdev,
arXiv: 2109.05037, Reviews of Modern Physics



Aavishkar Patel, Haoyu Guo, Ilya Esterlis, S.S. arXiv: 2203.04990

Summary

- Black holes with a net charge in asymptotically Minkowski space have a near horizon $AdS_2 \times S^2$ geometry: this geometry has an emergent time-reparameterization soft mode with an action identical to that of the SYK model. In other words, the SYK model is a quantum simulation of the low energy physics of charged black holes in Einstein-Maxwell theory.



D. Chowdhury, A. Georges, O. Parcollet, S. Sachdev,
arXiv: 2109.05037, Reviews of Modern Physics