

Disordered Quantum Critical Fixed Points from Holography

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Boulder

Gauge-Gravity duality 2024

Outline & Acknowledgement

1. Disorder in CMT
2. Conformal perturbation theory
3. Disordered Holographic duality

GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

Reference [[XYH](#), Sachdev and Lucas, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2023)]



Subir Sachdev



Andy Lucas

Disorder in CMT: breaking ergodicity

- Anderson localization

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 109, NUMBER 5

MARCH 1, 1958

Absence of Diffusion in Certain Random Lattices

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(Received October 10, 1957)

$$H = t \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \left(c_i^\dagger c_j + c_j^\dagger c_i \right) + \sum_i U_i c_i^\dagger c_i$$

$$U_i \in [-W, +W]$$

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[Nandkishore and Huse (2015)]

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[Nandkishore and Huse (2015)]

- A universality class—infinite-randomness fixed point? [Pal and Huse (2010)]

Disorder in CMT: transport

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Using $\pi_i = e^{-1}mJ_i$

We find the Drude formula

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{e^2 n}{m(\tau_{\text{dis}}^{-1} - i\omega)}$$

$$D = 0 \longrightarrow \text{Re } \sigma \sim \delta(\omega)$$

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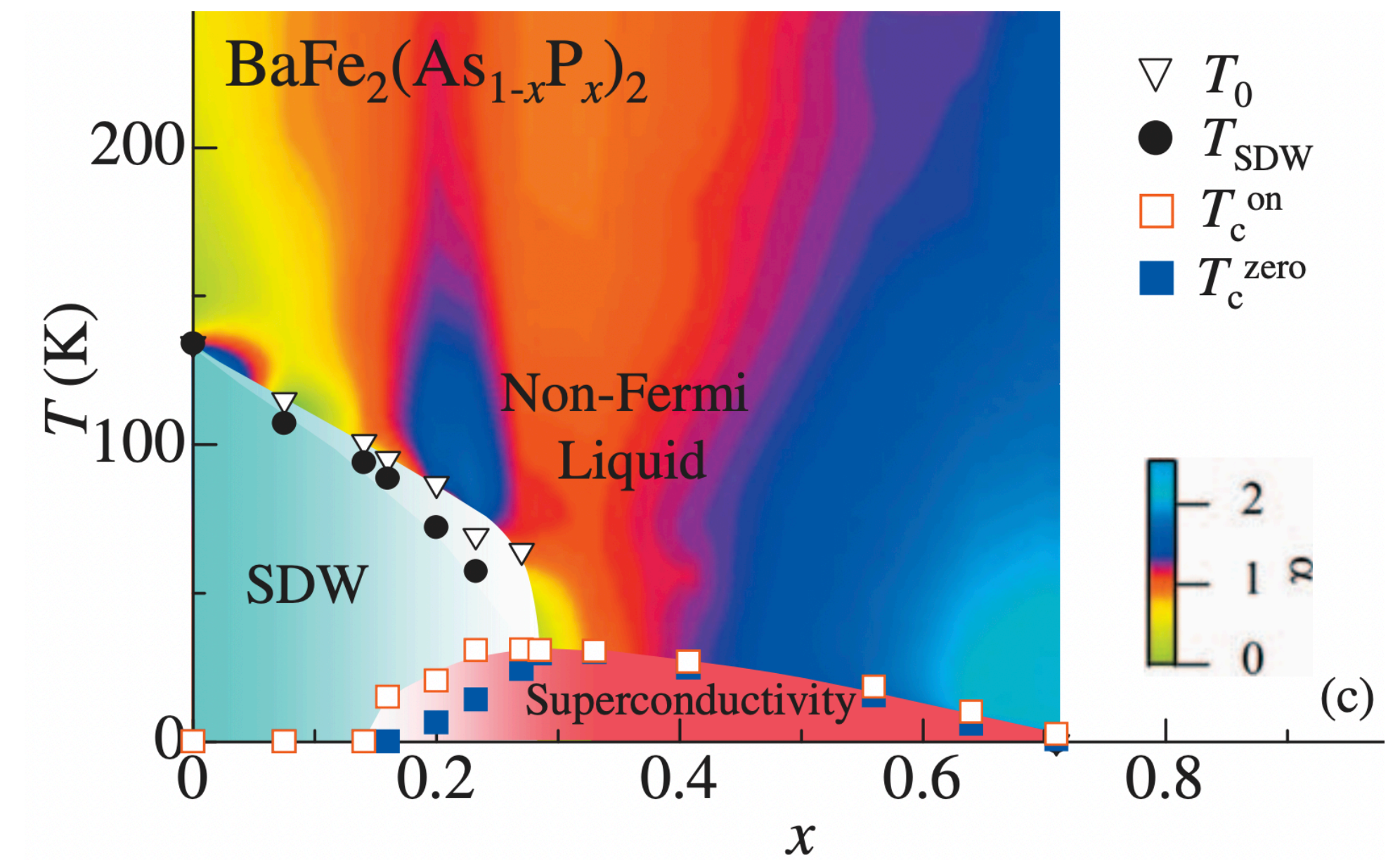
$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{e^2 n}{m(\tau_{\text{dis}}^{-1} - i\omega)}$$

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Electrical conductivity is finite at small frequency

Disorder in CMT: transport

- Disorder is important for strange metal transport



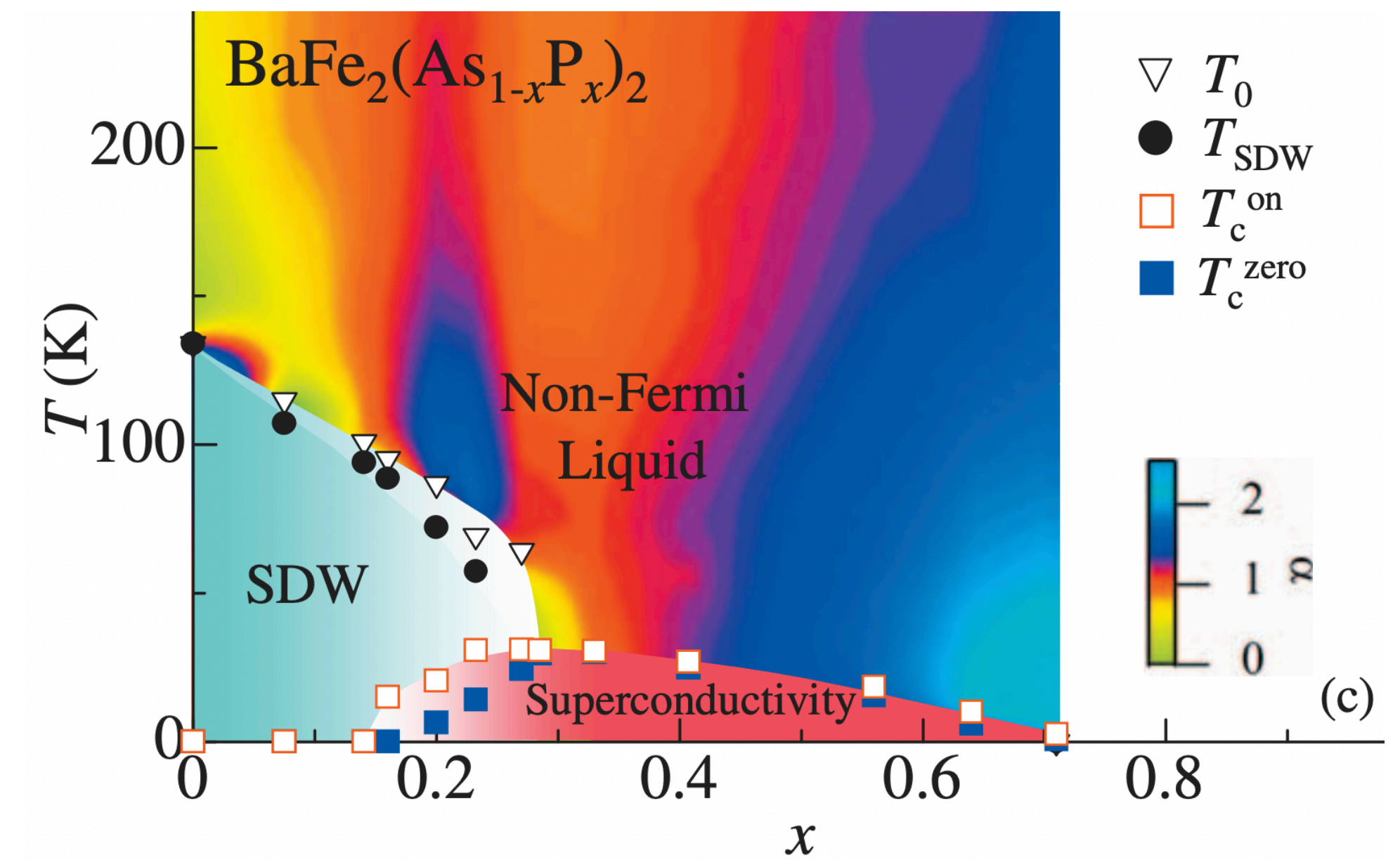
[S. Kasahara et al., PRB (2010)]

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$$\rho \sim T^\alpha$$

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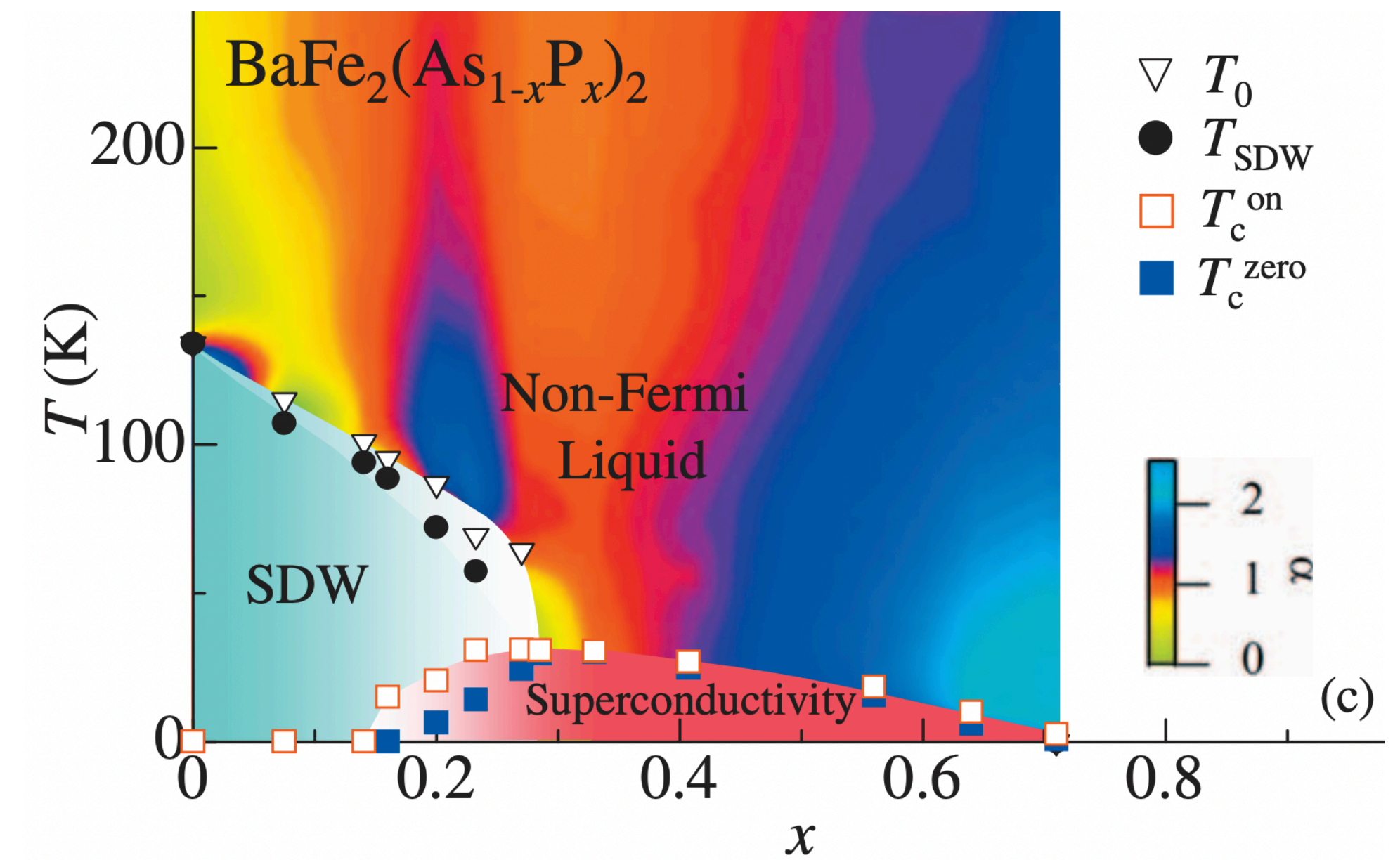
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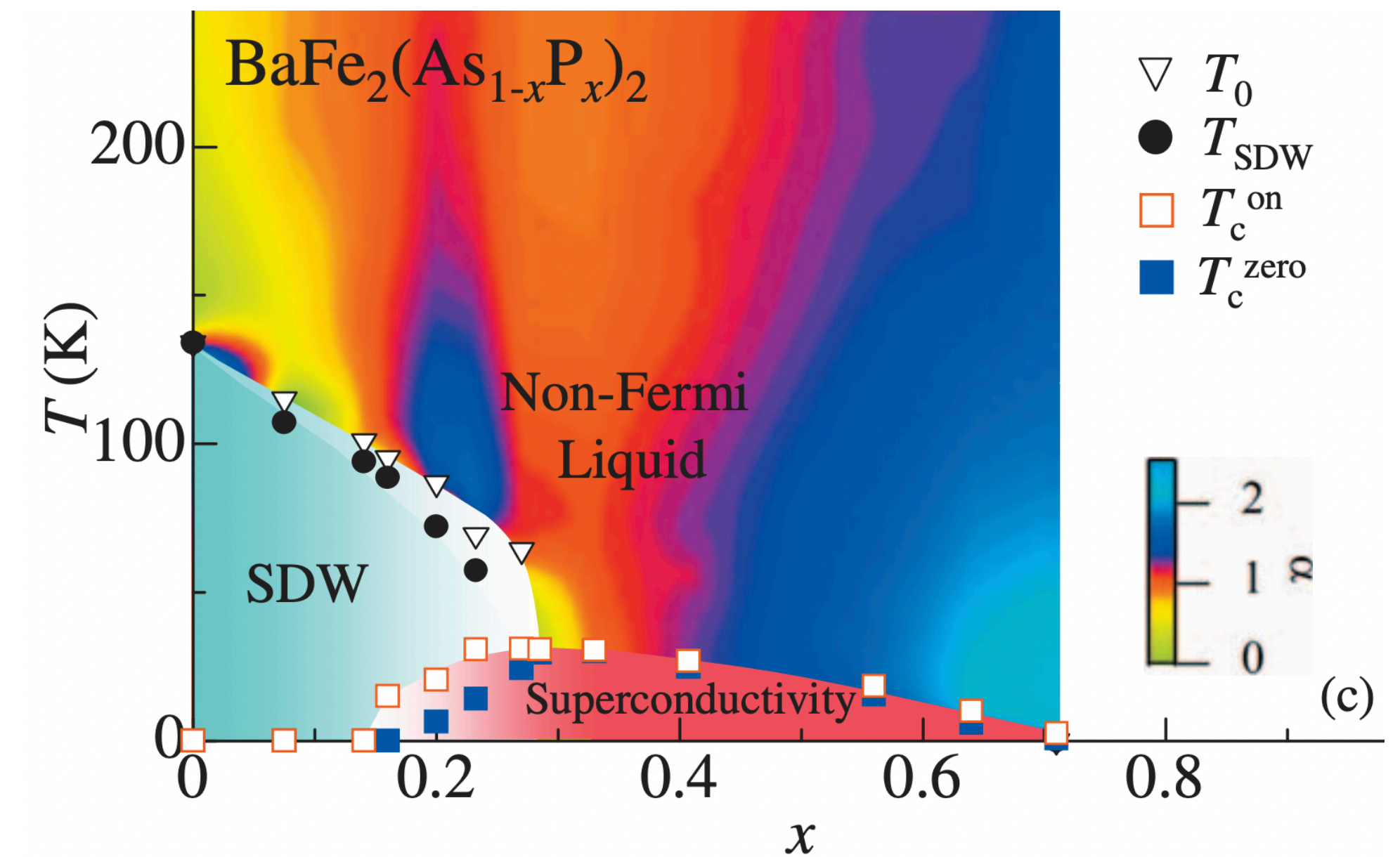
- Spatially random interaction

PHYSICS

Universal theory of strange metals from spatially random interactions

Aavishkar A. Patel^{1,2}, Haoyu Guo^{3,4,5}, Ilya Esterlis^{4,6}, Subir Sachdev^{4,7*}

Strange metals—ubiquitous in correlated quantum materials—transport electrical charge at low temperatures but not by the individual electronic quasiparticle excitations, which carry charge in ordinary metals. In this work, we consider two-dimensional metals of fermions coupled to quantum critical scalars, the latter representing order parameters or fractionalized particles. We show that at low temperatures (T), such metals generically exhibit strange metal behavior with a T -linear resistivity arising from spatially random fluctuations in the fermion-scalar Yukawa couplings about a nonzero spatial average. We also find a $T \ln(1/T)$ specific heat and a rationale for the Planckian bound on the transport scattering time. These results are in agreement with observations and are obtained in the large N expansion of an ensemble of critical metals with N fermion flavors.



[S. Kasahara et al., PRB (2010)]

$$\text{Re } \sigma(\omega) \sim \tau(\omega) \sim 1/|\omega|$$

Disorder in CMT: universality

A longstanding problem:

Controlled IR fixed points for strongly coupled systems with finite disorder

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- Fermi surface

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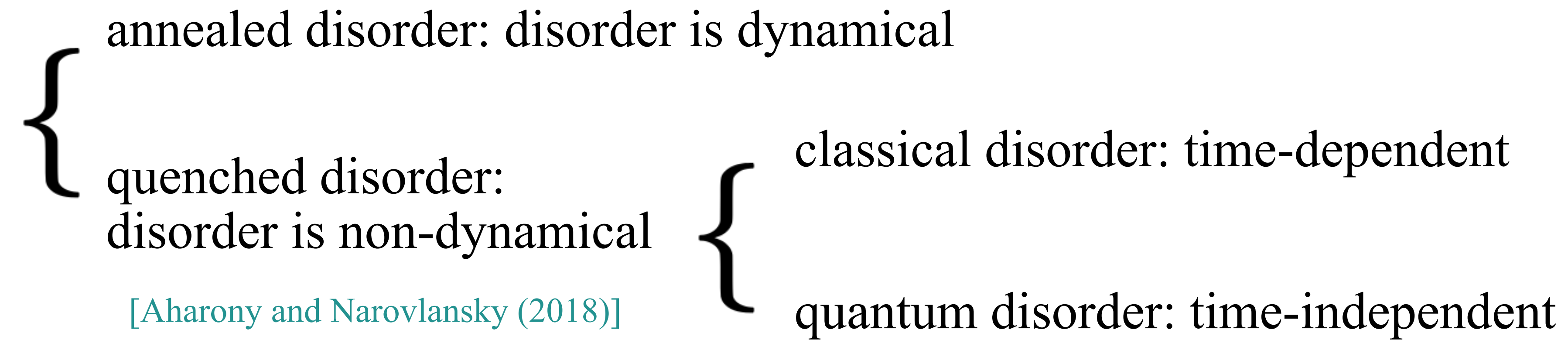
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This talk: A random fixed point with a perturbative quenched quantum disorder at finite density

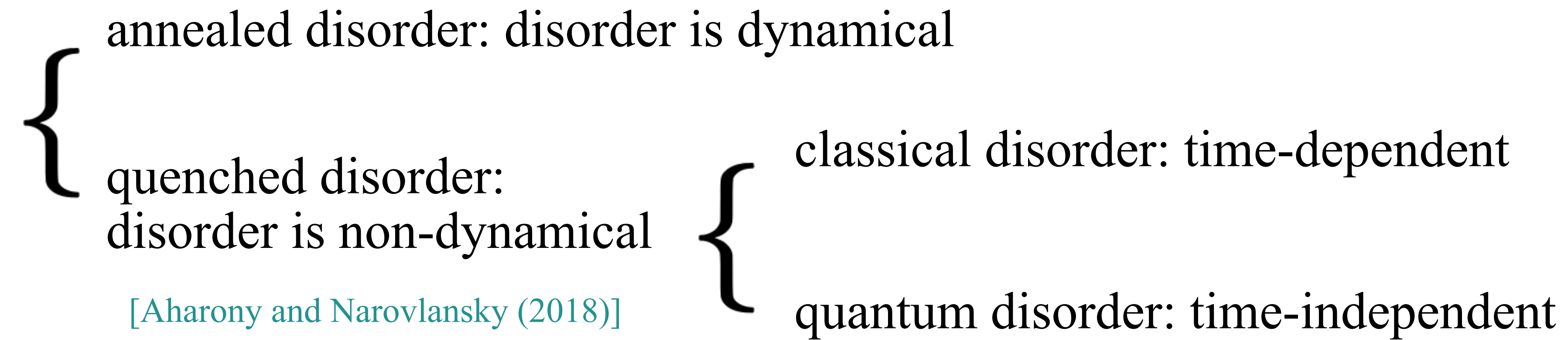
Model

{ annealed disorder: disorder is dynamical
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Model



Model



Model

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{annealed disorder: disorder is dynamical} \\ \text{quenched disorder: disorder is non-dynamical} \end{array} \right. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{classical disorder: time-dependent} \\ \text{quantum disorder: time-independent} \end{array} \right.$

[Aharony and Narovlansky (2018)]



Perturb a clean S_0 by a spatially random field $h(\vec{x})$ that couples to a scalar operator $\mathcal{O}$

$$S = S_0 + \int dt \, d^d x \, h(\mathbf{x}) \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

where $\overline{h(\mathbf{x})h(\mathbf{y})} \approx D\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$.

Harris criterion

Replica action:

$$S_n = \sum_A^n S_{0,A} - \frac{D}{2} \sum_{AB} \int d^d x \, dt \, dt' \mathcal{O}_A(x, t) \mathcal{O}_B(x, t')$$

Let $[x] = -1$ $[\mathcal{O}] = \Delta$

- Dynamical scaling exponent z $[t] = z[x]$ e.g. Galilean symmetry $z = 2$
- Hyperscaling-violation θ $d \rightarrow d - \theta$ e.g. Fermi surface $\theta = d - 1$

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$$[D] = -2\Delta + d - \theta + 2z$$

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$$[D] = -2\Delta + d - \theta + 2z$$

or $[D] = 2\nu$

- Harris criterion: $\nu < 0$ (irrelevant), $\nu = 0$ (marginal), $\nu > 0$ (relevant)

[Harris (1974)]

Disordered CFT

CFT: $z = 1, \theta = 0$

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- Marginal disorder $\Delta = d/2 + 1$ (i. e. $\nu = 0$)

$$\mathcal{O}_A(x, t) \mathcal{O}_B(x, t') \supset \frac{-|C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}T}|}{C_{TT}} \frac{1}{|t - t'|} T_{00,A}(x, t) \delta_{AB} + \dots$$

[Aharony and Narovlansky (2018)]

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- Lifshitz scaling

$$z = 1 + D \frac{|C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}T}|}{C_{TT}} \log b$$

Disordered CFT

$$z^* = 1 + D \frac{|C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}T}|}{C_{TT}} \log b$$

This Lifshitz scaling was previously found using holographic duality

[Hartnoll and Santos (2014)]

[Hartnoll, Ramirez and Santos (2016)]

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At this new fixed point

$$\Delta' \approx \left(\frac{d}{2} + 1 \right) + \left(\frac{d}{2} + 1 \right) (z^* - 1) > \frac{d}{2} + 1$$

[Ganesan and Lucas (2020)]

[Ganesan, Lucas and Radzihovsky (2022)]

The scaling dimension of the disordered operator is renormalized, resulting in an *irrelevant* disorder

$$\nu < 0$$

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Contradiction: an irrelevant disorder cannot support the Lifshitz scaling!

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We are missing the renormalization of the disorder strength D

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In the “matrix large N ” limit of holographic duality, we have leading order C_{TT} , $C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}}$, C_{TTT} , $C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}T}$ but $C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}} = 0$

$$e^{-S_n} = e^{-\sum_A S_{0,A}} \left[1 + \dots - \frac{D^2}{2} \frac{|C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}T}|}{C_{TT}} \log b \sum_{ABC} \int d^d x_1 dt_1 d^d x_2 dt_2 dt'_2 T_{00,A}(x_1, t_1) \mathcal{O}_B(x_2, t_2) \mathcal{O}_C(x_2, t'_2) + \dots \right]$$

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$$\beta_D = - \frac{\partial \delta D}{\partial \log b} = \frac{d|C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}T}|}{C_{TT}} D^2$$

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We find a *Lifshitz fixed point*

$$D^* = \frac{2\nu C_{TT}}{d|C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}T}|}$$

$$z^* = 1 + \frac{|C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}T}|}{C_{TT}} D^* = 1 + \frac{2\nu}{d}$$

Disordered holography

Global symmetry on the boundary (QFT) is dual to gauge symmetry in the bulk

- stress tensor $\longleftrightarrow$ metric
- U(1) current $\longleftrightarrow$ U(1) gauge field

Einstein-Maxwell-Dilaton model

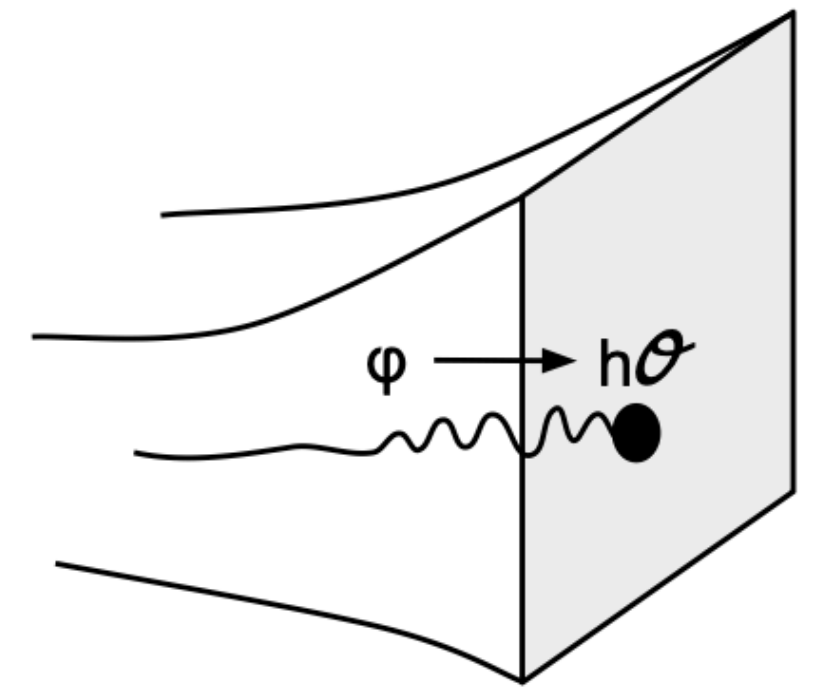
$$S_0 = \int d^{d+2}x \sqrt{-g} \left[(R - 2(\partial\Phi)^2 - V(\Phi)) - \frac{Z(\Phi)}{4} F^2 \right]$$

This model is known to support nonzero charge density and generic z , θ

[Huijse, Sachdev and Swingle (2012)]

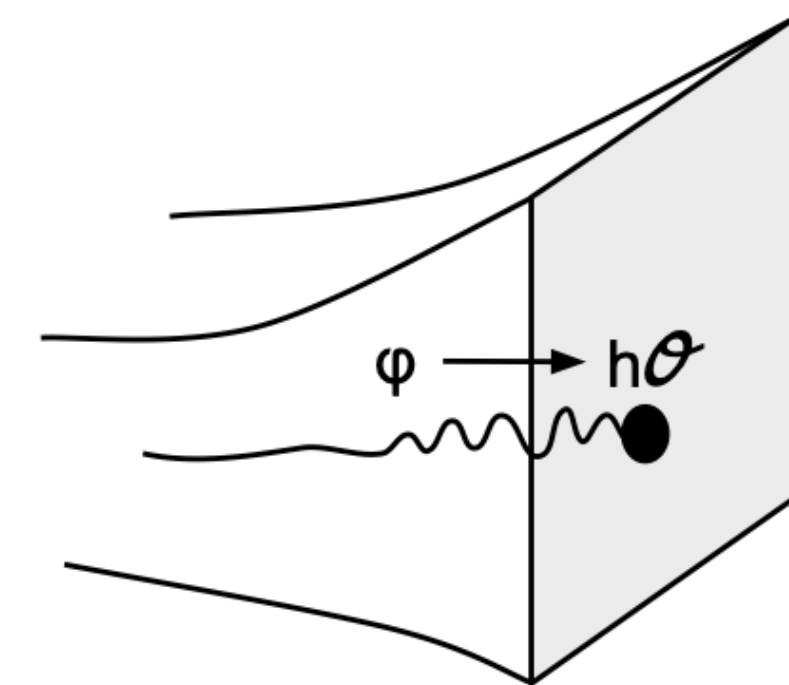
[Lucas, Sachdev and Schalm (2014)]

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Disordered holography

Disordered theory *without using replica trick!* [Hartnoll and Santos (2014)]



- disordered operator $\mathcal{O} \longleftrightarrow$ scalar field ψ $\psi(r \rightarrow 0, t, x) \sim r^\# h(x)$

The total action

$$S = S_{\text{EMD}} - \int d^{d+2}x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{1}{2} (\partial\psi)^2 + \frac{B(\Phi)}{2} \psi^2 \right]$$

$B(\Phi)$ encodes the scaling dimension $[\mathcal{O}] = \Delta$

Holographic fixed point

Solve the bulk equations of motion

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1) We are interested in the spatially homogeneous solution

inhomogeneity enters at $O(D^2)$

$$R_{ab} - \frac{R}{2} g_{ab} = \frac{1}{2} \left(T_{ab}^A + T_{ab}^\Phi + \overbrace{T_{ab}^\psi}^{\text{Stress tensors}} \right)$$

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Solve ODEs and ignore differences that are vanishingly small at IR ($r \rightarrow \infty$)

confirmed by numerics

Holographic fixed point

We find

$$z^* \approx z + \frac{2\nu}{d}(z - \theta), \quad \theta^* = \theta$$

$$D^* \propto \nu$$

UV-IR crossover energy is non-perturbatively large

$$E_c \sim \left(\frac{D}{\nu} \right)^{\frac{1}{\nu}}$$

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$$z^* = 1 + \frac{2\nu}{d}$$

consistent with CFT perturbation

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consistent with CFT perturbation

2) For $z = 1, \theta = 0, d = 2$

$$z^* = 1 + \nu, \quad \nu = \frac{16}{3\pi^2 N}$$

[Goldman, et al., (2020)]

[XYH, Sachdev and Lucas (2023)]

Summary & outlook

We find at a disordered fixed point at finite charge density

$$z^* \approx z + \frac{2\nu}{d}(z - \theta), \quad \theta^* = \theta$$

Outlook:

- Emergent scale invariance under inhomogeneous boundary condition using numerics
- Non-equilibrium fixed point?