

Holographic transport with random-field disorder

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Quantum Field Theory, String Theory and Condensed Matter Physics:
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Lucas, Sachdev, Schalm, *Physical Review* **D89** 066018 (2014)

Random Fields in QFT

- ▶ **random-field disorder** in a low-energy EFT (d spatial dimensions):

$$H = H_0 + \underbrace{\int d^d \mathbf{x} \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}) g(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{linear coupling of disorder}},$$

$$\mathbb{E}[g(\mathbf{x})] = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}[g(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{y})] = \varepsilon^2 \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}).$$

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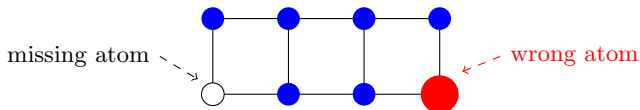
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- ▶ suppose H_0 invariant under \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry, $\mathcal{O} \rightarrow -\mathcal{O}$. \mathbb{Z}_2 is *locally*, not globally, broken
- ▶ *defects* act as random-fields in the solid-state lab:



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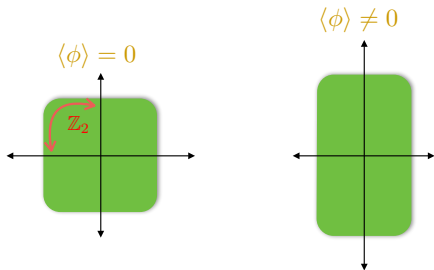
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- ▶ Harris criterion: $\langle \mathcal{O}(0)\mathcal{O}(x) \rangle \sim x^{-2\Delta}$; disorder relevant if

$$\Delta < \frac{d - \theta}{2} + z$$

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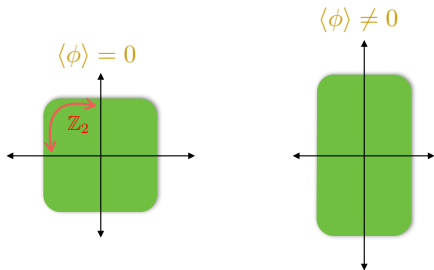
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- Ising-nematic quantum critical point:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{r_c}{2}\phi^2 - \frac{u}{24}\phi^4 + c^{\dagger}(i\partial_t - \epsilon(i\nabla))c - \lambda c^{\dagger}c(\partial_x^2 - \partial_y^2)\phi$$

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- ▶ random-fields *dominate transport* at low T :

$$\rho_{\text{dc}} \sim \mathbb{E}[V^2] + \frac{\mathbb{E}[h^2]}{\sqrt{T \log(T^*/T)}} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{calculation breaks} \\ \text{down as } T \rightarrow 0! \end{array}$$

(Almost) Hydrodynamics and Memory Matrices

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$$\partial_\mu \langle T^{\mu t} \rangle = 0, \quad \partial_\mu \langle T^{\mu i} \rangle = -\frac{1}{\tau} \langle T^{ti} \rangle.$$

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- ▶ memory matrix formalism ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{dis}} \sim g\mathcal{O}$, $g \sim \varepsilon$):

$$\rho_{\text{dc}} \sim \varepsilon^2 \int d^2\mathbf{k} k^2 \text{Im} \frac{G_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}}^{\text{R}}(\omega, \mathbf{k})}{\omega}$$

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- ▶ computation of ρ_{dc} :[◦]

$$\rho_{\text{dc}} \sim \tau \sim m^2$$

m^2 perturbatively computable for “holographic lattice”
(holographic Higgs mechanism)

* Vegh, arXiv:1301.0537

† Davison, *Physical Review* **D88** 086003 (2013)

◦ Blake, Tong, Vegh, *Physical Review Letters* **112** 071602 (2014)

Beyond Replicas

- ▶ we start with finite charge density EMD geometry (g_{MN}, A_M, Φ) for given z, θ

$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2}{r^2} \left[\frac{dr^2}{r^{2\theta/(d-\theta)} f} - \frac{f dt^2}{r^{2d(z-1)/(d-\theta)}} + d\mathbf{x}^2 \right], \quad f = 1 - \left(\frac{r}{r_h} \right)^{d+dz/(d-\theta)}$$

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- ▶ AdS/CFT dictionary: random-field disorder \iff random (scalar ψ) field in bulk – normalizable mode turned on:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{dis}} = g(\mathbf{k}) \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{k}) \iff \psi(\mathbf{k}, r \rightarrow 0) \sim \underbrace{g(\mathbf{k}) r^{\nu_+}}_{\text{relevant operator}} + \dots$$

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- ▶ $g(\mathbf{k}) \sim \varepsilon$ “small enough” \implies background approx ψ -independent. (“memory matrix” regime)

Aside: Scalar Fields with $\theta \neq 0$

- ▶ for this computation to work, “must” choose

$$S[\psi] = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^{d+2}x \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial^M \psi \partial_M \psi + \frac{1}{2} B(\Phi) \psi^2 \right)$$

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- ▶ if $B(\Phi) = m^2$, “AdS radius” L enters the boundary theory as a length scale in ψ correlation functions!

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- ▶ given ρ_{dc} , coefficients $\bar{\kappa}_{\text{dc}}$, α_{dc} straightforward to obtain*

* Amoretti, Braggio, Maggiore, Magnoli, Musso, [arXiv:1407.0306](https://arxiv.org/abs/1407.0306)

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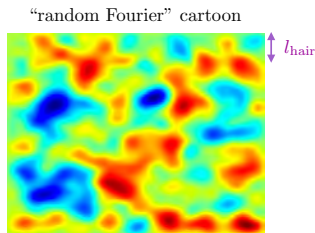
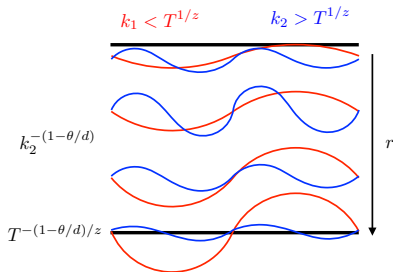
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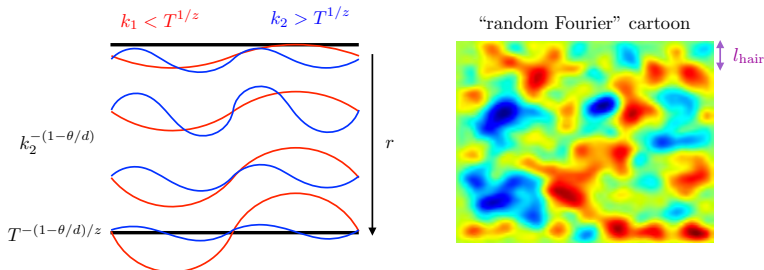


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- similar logic valid even when horizon non-perturbative?

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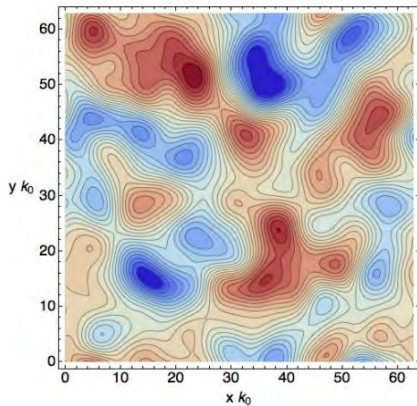
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- ▶ generically scalar RF disorder has more singular contribution

* Davison, Schalm, Zaanen, *Physical Review* **B89** 245116 (2014)

Nonperturbative Numerics

numerics have recently been performed on ($T = 0$) disordered horizons with marginal scalars: plot of $\psi(\mathbf{x}, r_h)$:



Hartnoll, Santos, *Physical Review Letters* **112** 231601 (2014)

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- ▶ in progress: “easy” interpolating AdS→HV geometry at all T for (almost all) z, θ ; holographic check of

