

# Non-Fermi liquids from D-brane constructions

Steve Gubser, Princeton University

Based on 1112.3036 and 1207.3352 with O. DeWolfe and C. Rosen

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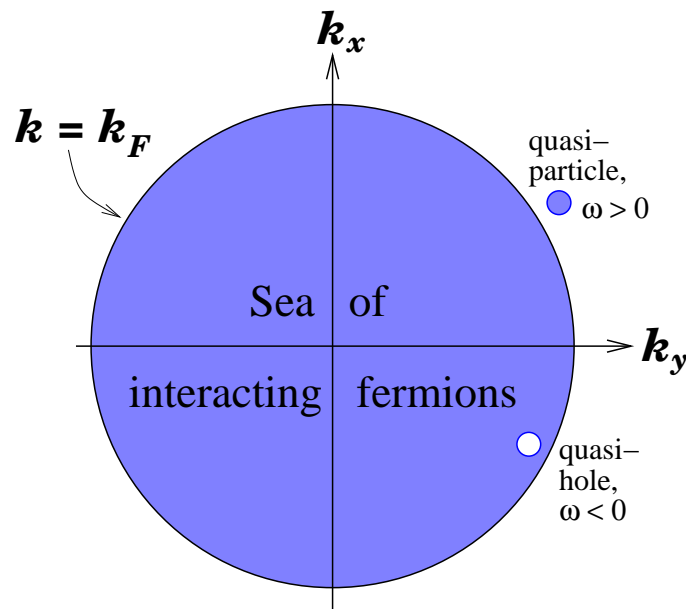
# 1. Simplest Top-down Fermi Surface constructions

The simplest charged black holes in  $AdS$  are purely bosonic backgrounds. To “see” the fermions in the dual description, bounce one more fermion off the normal state black hole and look for Green’s function singularities:

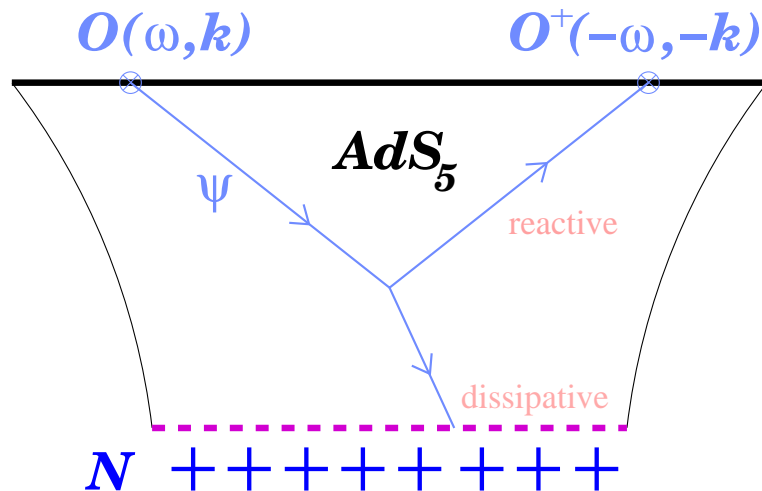
$$G(\omega, k) = \left\langle \mathcal{O}_\chi(\omega, \vec{k}) \mathcal{O}_\chi^\dagger(-\omega, -\vec{k}) \right\rangle \approx \frac{h_1}{(k - k_F) - \frac{1}{v_F} \omega - h_2 e^{i\gamma} \omega^{2\nu_F}}$$

when  $k \approx k_F$  and  $\omega \approx 0$ .

- A singularity in  $G(\omega, k)$  at  $\omega = 0$  and finite  $k = k_F$  defines the presence of a Fermi surface.
- $v_F$  is Fermi velocity.
- Assuming  $\nu_F > 1/2$ , low-energy dispersion relation is  $\omega \approx v_F(k - k_F)$ .
- If  $\nu_F > 1/2$  or if  $e^{i\gamma}$  is nearly real, quasi-particles’ width is much smaller than their energy.



The  $AdS/CFT$  calculation follows [Lee 0809.3402; Liu, McGreevy, and Vegh 0903.2477; Cubrovic, Zaanen, and Schalm, 0904.1993]:



- As  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  and  $k \rightarrow k_F$ , we want to see dissipative effects *disappear*.
- Equation solved is a variant of Dirac equation.
- Results from  $AdS_5$  give Green's function in a  $3 + 1$ -dimensional field theory.

Fermi surfaces in boundary theory correspond to fermion normal modes in the bulk.

Significant technical difficulties surround the derivation of the appropriate fermion equation of motion [DeWolfe, Rosen, SSG, 1112.3036]: in  $AdS_5$ -Reissner-Nordstrom,

$$\left( i\gamma^\mu \nabla_\mu + \frac{5}{L} \gamma^\mu a_\mu - \frac{1}{2L} + \frac{i}{4} f_{\mu\nu} \gamma^{\mu\nu} \right) \chi = 0.$$

But final results (for  $AdS_5$ -RN) are simple: find two Fermi surfaces, with

$$\frac{k_F}{\mu} = 2\sqrt{2} \pm 1$$

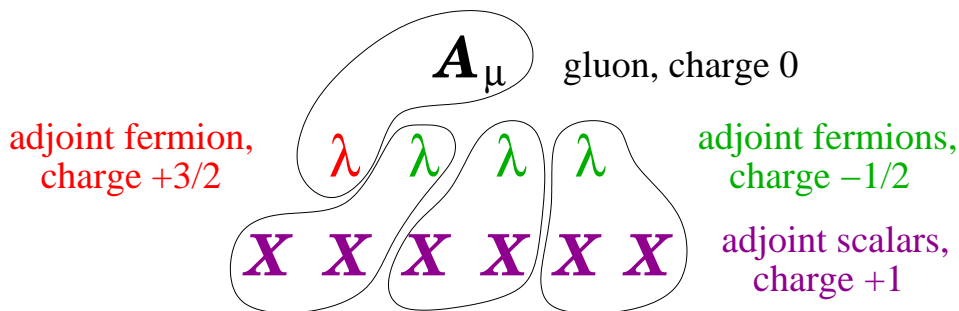
where  $\mu$  is chemical potential for fermion charge.



But  $\omega \approx (k - k_F)^6$ : a very non-Fermi-liquid.

Two conundrums:

- Super-Yang-Mills theory has charged bosons as well as charged fermions. **Why don't the bosons suck up all the charge in a condensate?**



- When  $T \rightarrow 0$ , the charged black holes retain non-zero entropy,  $S \propto V N^2 \mu^3$ . Huge violation of Nernst's Law. **What is the ground state?**

# The plan of the rest of Part I of the talk:

- Minimal gauged supergravity.  $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 2$  is simple and provides a useful warmup, but no Fermi surfaces.
- More gauged supergravity.  $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 8$  leads to simple equations and reveals a Fermi surface.
- Yet more gauged supergravity.  $D = 5, \mathcal{N} = 8$  is extremely complicated but gives the simplest final results.
- Dual field theory. I will *speculate* on the interpretation of the meaning of  $AdS_5$  results in light of scaling arguments and Luttinger-style counting.

Why so much gauged supergravity?

- Gauged SUGRA embeds into various string theory backgrounds, including  $AdS_5 \times S^5$ .
- SUGRA fixes the correct fermion equations on symmetry principles.
- Solving these equations means we are computing actual correlators in known (SUSY) field theories.

## 1.1. $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 2$ gauged supergravity

We couple two Majorana gravitini  $\psi_\mu^i$  to an  $SO(2)$  gauge field  $A_\mu^{ij} = \epsilon^{ij} A_\mu$ :

$$D_\mu \psi_\nu^i = \nabla_\mu \psi_\nu^i - g A_\mu^{ij} \psi_\nu^j$$

The lagrangian and SUSY transformations are **deformations** of **ungauged SUGRA** [Freedman and Das, 1977]:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{SUGRA}} = & -\frac{1}{2}R - \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^{ij})^2 + 3g^2 \\ & - \epsilon^{\lambda\rho\mu\nu} \bar{\psi}_\lambda^i \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu (\delta^{ij} \nabla_\nu - g A_\nu^{ij}) \psi_\rho^j - \bar{\psi}_\mu^i (F^{ij\mu\nu} - \frac{i}{2} \gamma_5 \tilde{F}^{ij\mu\nu}) \psi_\nu^j \\ & - 2g \bar{\psi}_\mu^i \sigma^{\mu\nu} \psi_\nu^i + \psi^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta e_{a\mu} &= -i \bar{\epsilon}^i \gamma_a \psi_\mu^i & \delta A_\mu^{ij} &= -2 \bar{\epsilon}^{[i} \psi_\mu^{j]} \\ \delta \psi_\rho^i &= (\delta^{ij} \nabla_\rho - g A_\rho^{ij}) \epsilon^j - \frac{i}{2} \sigma^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}^{ij} \gamma_\rho \epsilon^j + \frac{ig}{2} \gamma_\rho \epsilon^i + \psi^2 \epsilon^i. \end{aligned}$$

The  $\psi^4$  and  $\psi^2 \epsilon$  have some subtle  $\gamma$ -matrix structure.

Supergravity dimensional analysis in any  $D$  looks like this:  $[g_{\mu\nu}] = [A_\mu] = [\phi] = 0$ ,  
 $[\partial_\mu] = [g] = 1$ ,  $[\psi_\mu] = [\chi] = -[\epsilon] = 1/2$ ,  $[\mathcal{L}] = 2$ .

Consider gravitino two-point function in extremal  $AdS_4$ -Reissner-Nordstrom:

$$ds^2 = \frac{r^2}{L^2}(f dt^2 - d\vec{x}^2) - \frac{L^2 dr^2}{r^2 f} \quad A_0 = \mu \left(1 - \frac{r_0}{r}\right)$$

$$f = 1 - 4\frac{r_0^3}{r^3} + 3\frac{r_0^4}{r^4} \quad L = \frac{1}{2g} \quad \mu = \frac{\sqrt{3}r_0}{L}.$$

- In  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{SUGRA}}$ , only the quadratic terms in  $\psi_\mu^i$  matter since we are after the two-point function  $G_S$  of the dual operator  $S_m^i \sim \text{tr } \lambda D_m X$ , with  $\Delta_S = 5/2$ .
- There's a scaling form valid for all  $\omega, k$ :

$$G_S(\omega, k) = \frac{L^2}{\kappa^2} \mu^{2\Delta_S-3} \hat{G}_S(\hat{\omega}, \hat{k}) \quad \hat{\omega} = \frac{\omega}{\mu}, \quad \hat{k} = \frac{k}{\mu},$$

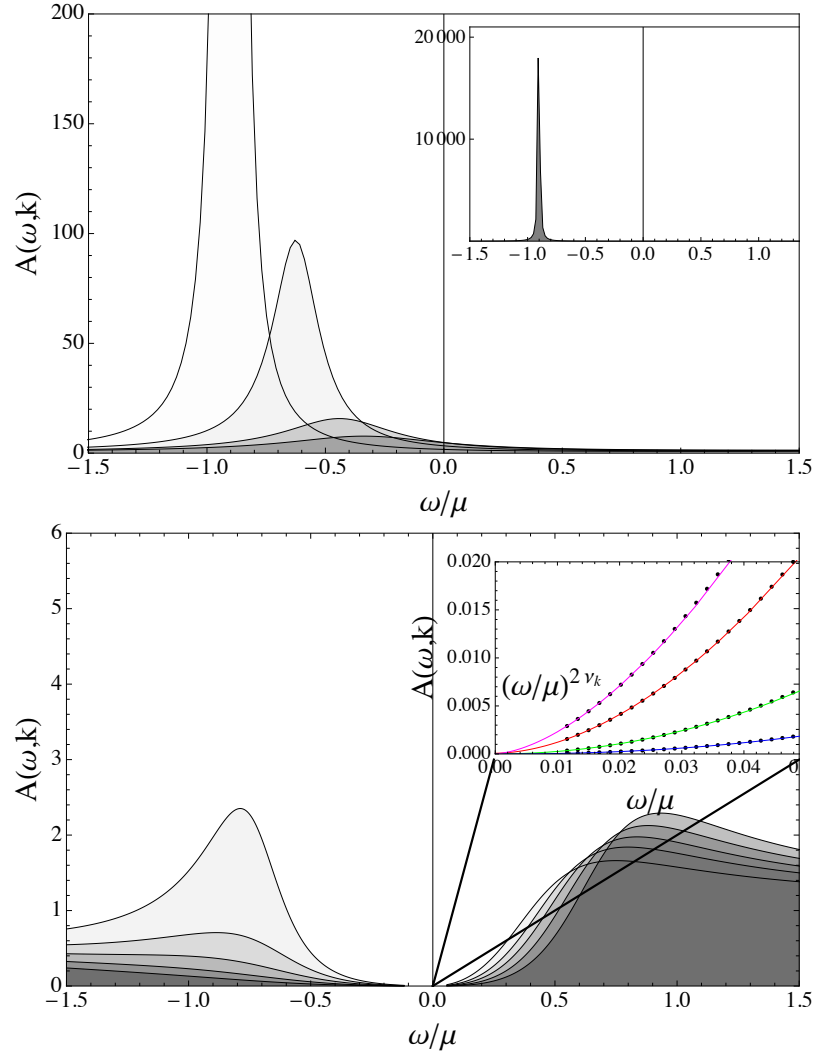
where  $I_{\text{SUGRA}} = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \mathcal{L}_{\text{SUGRA}}$ . Usually we quote  $G_S(\omega, k)$  with  $L = \kappa = r_0 = 1$ .

- $\hat{G}_S(\hat{\omega}, \hat{k})$  has no free parameters and can be uniquely determined by solving diff EQs in  $AdS_4$ -Reissner-Nordstrom.
- Details are challenging because  $\psi_\mu$  has lots of components and one must be careful about gauge-fixing.



No Fermi surface singularities were found [Gauntlett, Sonner, and Waldram, 1106.4694 & 1108.1205; Belliard, Gubser, and Yaron, 1106.6030]; however, Gauntlett et al. exhibited (see figure)

- Phonino resonances that get sharp as  $k \rightarrow 0$ , with  $\omega \approx -\mu$  (relative to expected Fermi energy  $\omega = 0$ ), at  $T \sim \mu$  (upper panel).
- Power law depletion of spectral measure  $A(\omega, k)$  near  $\omega = 0$  for  $T \approx 0$  (lower panel).
- Power  $\nu_k = \sqrt{\frac{7}{12} + \frac{k^2}{2\mu^2}}$  is always real, in contrast to bottom-up constructions where  $\nu_k \sim \sqrt{k^2 - q^2}$  can be imaginary.



## 1.2. More gauged supergravity: $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 8$

$D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 8$  gauged supergravity [de Wit and Nicolai, 1982]:

- A semi-pedagogical introduction can be found in [de Wit, hep-th/0212245].
- Field content is: graviton  $g_{\mu\nu}$ , 8 gravitini  $\psi_\mu^i$ , 28 gauge fields  $A_\mu^{ij}$ , 56 Majorana spinors  $\chi^{ijk}$ , and 70 real scalars  $\phi^{ijkl}$ .
- Eight-valued indices  $i, j, \dots$  characterize either the gauge group  $SO(8)$  or the internal symmetry group  $SU(8)$ .
- Solutions of  $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 8$  can be lifted to solutions of 11-d SUGRA on a (possibly deformed)  $S^7$ .
- Scalars parametrize  $E_{7(7)}/SU(8)$  and indicate how the  $S^7$  is deformed.
- By specializing to trivial scalars (i.e. round  $S^7$ ) we are able to ignore difference between  $SU(8)$  and  $SO(8)$  indices.
- We turn on just one gauge field,  $a_\mu = A_\mu^{12} = -A_\mu^{21}$ .
- By an  $SO(8)$  triality rotation one can describe this equivalently as  $A_\mu^{12} = A_\mu^{34} = A_\mu^{56} = A_\mu^{78}$ . Before the triality rotation,  $i$  is spinorial wrt  $S^7$ .

Here are the main equations for setting up fermions in  $RNA dS_4$  with only  $a_\mu = A_\mu^{12}$  non-zero:

$$D_\mu \chi_{ijk} = \nabla_\mu \chi_{ijk} + 3g A_\mu^m [{}_i \chi_{jk}]_m \quad (\text{even for more general gauge fields})$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}R - \frac{1}{4}f_{\mu\nu}f^{\mu\nu} + 6g^2 + \mathcal{L}_{1/2} \quad (\text{specialized to round } S^7)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{1/2} = -\frac{1}{12}\bar{\chi}^{ijk}(\gamma^\mu D_\mu - \overleftarrow{D}_\mu \gamma^\mu)\chi_{ijk} \quad (\text{The Dirac kinetic term for } \chi_{ijk})$$

$$- \frac{1}{2}(F_{\mu\nu ij}^+ O^{+\mu\nu ij} + \text{h.c.}) \quad (\text{Eventually can ignore this } F^+ O^+ \text{ bit...})$$

$$O^{+\mu\nu ij} \equiv -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{144}\epsilon^{ijklmnpq}\bar{\chi}_{klm}\sigma^{\mu\nu}\chi_{npq} \quad \dots\text{which looks like Pauli couplings...}$$

$$- \frac{1}{2}\bar{\psi}_{\rho k}\sigma^{\mu\nu}\gamma^\rho\chi^{ijk} + (\psi_\rho^2 \text{ term}) \quad \dots\text{and } \chi\psi \text{ mixing}.$$

To see that you can drop  $F^+ O^+$ , note that  $ij = 12$ , so none of  $klm$  or  $npq$  are 1 or 2: thus  $\chi_{klm}$ ,  $\chi_{npq}$ , and also  $\chi^{ijk} = \chi^{12k}$ , are all *uncharged*.

The upshot: Form  $\chi = \chi_{1jk} + i\chi_{2jk}$  and find simple massless Dirac equation,

$$\gamma^\mu \left( \nabla_\mu - \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}L} a_\mu \right) \chi = 0.$$

$$\gamma^\mu \left( \nabla_\mu - \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}L} a_\mu \right) \chi = 0.$$

This equation is well-analyzed in the bottom-up literature [Liu, McGreevy, and Vegh, 0903.2477; Faulkner et al, 0907.2694; Hartman and Hartnoll, 1003.1918]. There *is* a Fermi surface, near which

$$G_R = \frac{h_1}{k_\perp - h_2 e^{i\gamma_F} \omega^{2\nu_{k_F}}} \quad \text{where } k_\perp = k - k_F \text{ and } h_2 > 0$$

$$k_F \approx 0.9185 \quad (\text{with } \kappa = L = r_0 = 1)$$

$$\nu_{k_F} = 0.2393 < 1/2 \quad \text{rather different from Landau-Fermi liquid}$$

$$\gamma_F \equiv 0.0285 \pmod{2\pi\nu_F} \quad \text{Really small!}$$

So if the nearest quasi-normal frequency to the origin is  $\omega_{\text{QNM}} = \omega_* - i\Gamma$ , then

$$\frac{\Gamma}{\omega_*} = \tan \frac{\gamma_F}{2\nu_{k_F}} = \frac{1}{16.8} \quad \text{for } k_\perp > 0 \quad (\text{quasi-particles})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma}{\omega_*} = \tan \frac{\gamma_F + \pi}{2\nu_{k_F}} = \frac{1}{2.8} \quad \text{for } k_\perp < 0 \quad (\text{quasi-holes}) .$$

### 1.3. Yet more gauged supergravity: $D = 5, \mathcal{N} = 8$

$D = 5, \mathcal{N} = 8$  gauged supergravity [Gunaydin, Romans, and Warner, 1986] has a similarly intricate structure, with gauge group  $SO(6)$ . Realized as type IIB SUGRA on  $S^5$ .

With  $A_\mu^{12} = A_\mu^{34} = A_\mu^{56} = a_\mu$ , find (up to a Chern-Simons term that doesn't matter)

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}R - \frac{3}{4}f_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{3g^2}{4} \quad ds^2 = \frac{r^2}{L^2}(f dt^2 - d\vec{x}^2) - \frac{L^2}{r^2} \frac{dr^2}{f}$$

$$f = 1 - 3\frac{r_0^4}{r^4} + 2\frac{r_0^6}{r^6} \quad a_0 = \frac{\sqrt{6}r_0}{L} \left(1 - \frac{r_0^2}{r^2}\right) \quad g = \frac{2}{L}.$$

Follows from  $SO(6)$  group theory for the most highly charged fermion.

Follows (up to sign) from dimension of dual operator,  $\Delta = 5/2$  for  $\text{tr } \lambda X$ .

Really have to know some supergravity to get this term straight.

$$\left( i\gamma^\mu \nabla_\mu + \frac{5}{L} \gamma^\mu a_\mu - \frac{1}{2L} + \frac{i}{4} f_{\mu\nu} \gamma^{\mu\nu} \right) \chi = 0.$$

$$\left( i\gamma^\mu \nabla_\mu + \frac{5}{L}\gamma^\mu a_\mu - \frac{1}{2L} + \frac{i}{4}f_{\mu\nu}\gamma^{\mu\nu} \right) \chi = 0$$

(Similar equations were analyzed in [Edalati et al, 1012.3751].) Final results:

$$G_R = \frac{h_1}{k_\perp - h_2 e^{i\gamma_F \omega} \omega^{2\nu_{k_F}}} \quad \text{where } k_F = k_{F,\pm} = 2 \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (\kappa = L = r_0 = 1)$$

$$\nu_{k_F} = 1/12 \quad \text{So quasi-particle dispersion relation is } \omega_* \propto k_\perp^6$$

$$\gamma_F = 0.0126 \quad \text{So } \frac{\Gamma}{\omega_*} \approx \frac{1}{13.2} \text{ for quasi-particles and quasi-holes.}$$

Also observe a rapidly vanishing residue near Fermi surface,  $Z \sim (k_\perp)^{\frac{1}{2\nu_{k_F}} - 1} = k_\perp^5$ .

- $k_{F,\pm}$  were determined *numerically*: diff EQ is complicated, and I have no clue how to express the normal mode wave-function in closed form.
- Small  $\nu_{k_F}$  signals that  $k_{F,\pm}$  are close to an oscillatory region with imaginary  $\nu_k$ .
- Small  $\gamma_F$  owes to  $AdS_2$  effects: Per [Faulkner et al, 0907.2694] (slightly adjusted),

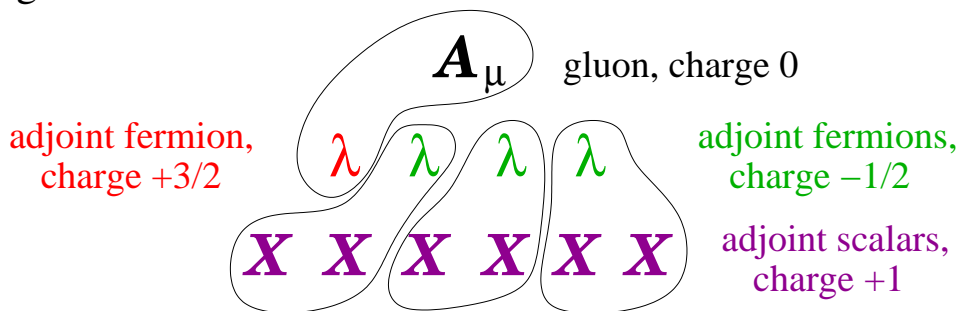
$$\gamma_F = \arg \left( e^{\pi \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} q} - e^{-2\pi i \nu_{k_F}} \right) \approx \arg \left( 41 - e^{-\pi i/6} \right)$$

where  $q = 5/2$ . So it matters that  $q$  is somewhat large.

## 1.4. Field theory speculation

Dual to  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  is  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super-Yang-Mills, whose R-symmetry group is  $SO(6)$ .

- We specialized from the start to the  $U(1) \subset SO(6)$  which is the diagonal combination of the three  $U(1)$ 's of CSA:  $A_\mu^{12} = A_\mu^{34} = A_\mu^{56}$ .
- Gauginos in 4 of  $SO(6)$  and scalars in the 6 give rise to the following pattern of  $U(1)$  charges:



- The way to construct a  $q = 5/2$  operator is  $\mathcal{O}_x = \text{tr } \lambda X$ . Note  $\Delta_{\mathcal{O}_x} = 5/2$  as promised. The equality  $q = \Delta_{\mathcal{O}_x}$  signals that this is a BPS operator.
- You can't turn on a chemical potential for only the fermions: for any choice  $U(1) \subset SO(6)$ , some scalars will be charged.

In some settings [Huijse and Sachdev, 1104.5022; Iqbal, Liu, and Mezei, 1110.3814; Huijse, Sachdev, and Swingle, 1112.0573], singularities in holographic Green's functions are understood as signaling a Fermi surface of  $\lambda X$  mesinos.

I am suspicious of a mesino interpretation *in our particular setting* for three reasons:

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super-Yang-Mills doesn't confine at finite  $\mu$  as far as I can tell, so it's not clear mesinos should exist.
- If they do exist, I don't see why  $\lambda X$  mesinos would be preferred over  $XX$  mesons as charge carriers.
- $\langle \mathcal{O}_\chi \mathcal{O}_\chi^\dagger \rangle \sim N^2$ , so if you cut the amplitude to find out what states  $\mathcal{O}_\chi$  can produce, they're almost certainly colored.

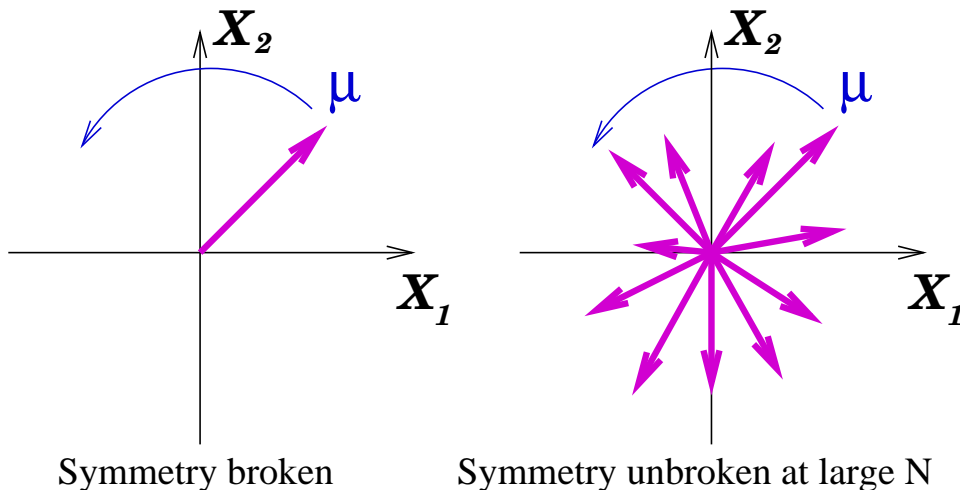
More precisely:  $\langle \mathcal{O}_\chi(x) \mathcal{O}_\chi^\dagger(0) \rangle \sim N^2/x^5$  for  $x \ll 1/\mu$  is a non-renormalized, BPS protected result, and  $N^2$  scaling applies equally to residue at  $\omega = 0$ ,  $k = k_F$ , so  $\mathcal{O}(N^2)$  things can be produced by  $\mathcal{O}_\chi$  near Fermi surface.

I'd like to consider the following alternative interpretation:

The singularity in  $\langle \mathcal{O}_\chi \mathcal{O}_\chi^\dagger \rangle$  is due to a gaugino Fermi surface, co-existing with a scalar condensate which (at large  $N$ ) leaves the  $U(1)$  symmetry unbroken.



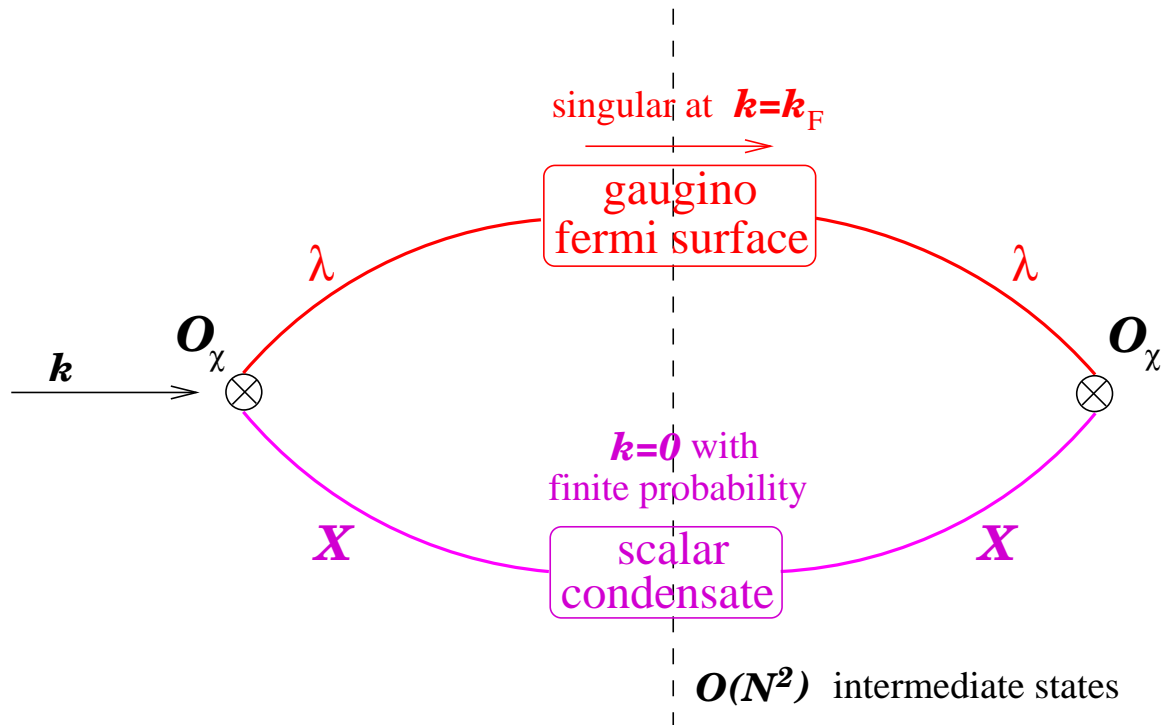
Large  $N$  allows  $U(1)$  to remain unbroken even with non-zero scalar condensate:



A common worry is that scalar condensate can run away along flat directions. But perhaps this is not relevant at large  $N$ . Here's why:

- Only a subleading fraction of directions satisfy  $[X^I, X^J] = 0$ .
- Since  $RNAdS_5$  is finitely far from SUSY limit, it's probably more representative to think of non-commuting directions.
- In non-commuting directions, condensate is limited by  $V \sim g^2 \text{tr}[X^I, X^J]^2$ .

So—plausibly—the singularity at  $k = k_F$ , with residue  $\sim N^2$ , owes to diagrams roughly like this:



If the above diagram summarizes the right idea, then we should be able to compare total charge density to a Luttinger count of gauginos derived from  $k_{F,\pm}$ .

Charge density from thermodynamics [Cvetic and Gubser, hep-th/9903132]:

$$j_{\text{total}} = \frac{9\sqrt{6}}{4\pi^2} N^2 \quad \text{with } \kappa = L = r_0 = 1.$$

Charge density from a Luttinger-style count:

$$j_{\text{fermions}} = \sum_{\text{Fermi surfaces}} q_\lambda g_s \int_{|k| < |k_F|} \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} (g_+ |k_{F,+}|^3 + g_- |k_{F,-}|^3)$$

$$= \frac{11}{2\pi^2} N^2 = \sqrt{\frac{242}{243}} j_{\text{total}} \quad \text{who ordered that?}$$

At least this supports the picture of a finite fraction of charge in the scalar condensate; but why should the fraction be so small? Did we get  $g_\pm$  right? Maybe  $g_\pm < N^2$ ? Maybe  $g_- = -N^2$  if Fermi sea is a thick shell? Other gauginos?

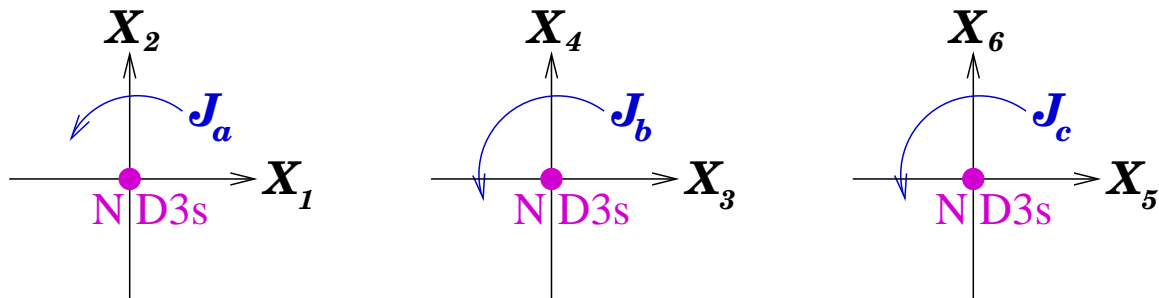
Don't consider the matter settled before someone can come and calculate  $k_{F,\pm}$  and  $g_s$  in field theory!

## 2. Fermi surfaces for unequal charge black holes

Given that holographic Fermi surfaces exist in string theory, why continue with more ornate cases?

- Zero-point entropy is very bothersome.
- $\omega_* \propto k_\perp^6$  is far from real CM phenomena.
- The scalar condensate and the gaugino interpretation are guesses; can we gather more field theory data to help our intuition?

The rest of the talk will be devoted to D3-branes with angular momentum in directions perpendicular to their world-volume:



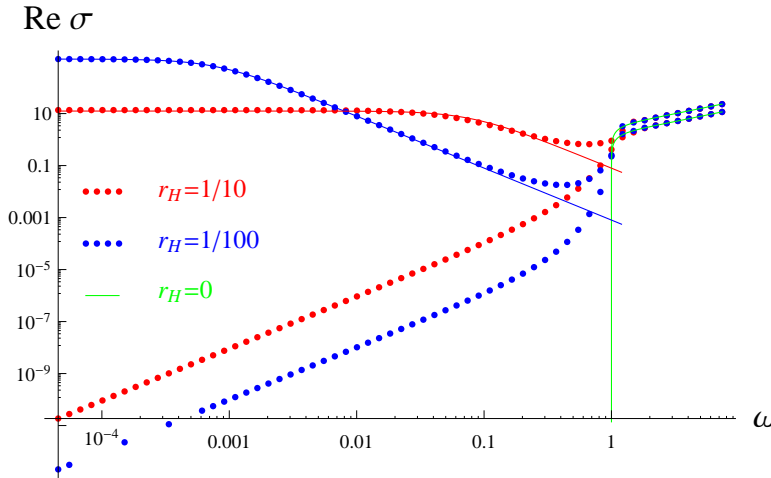
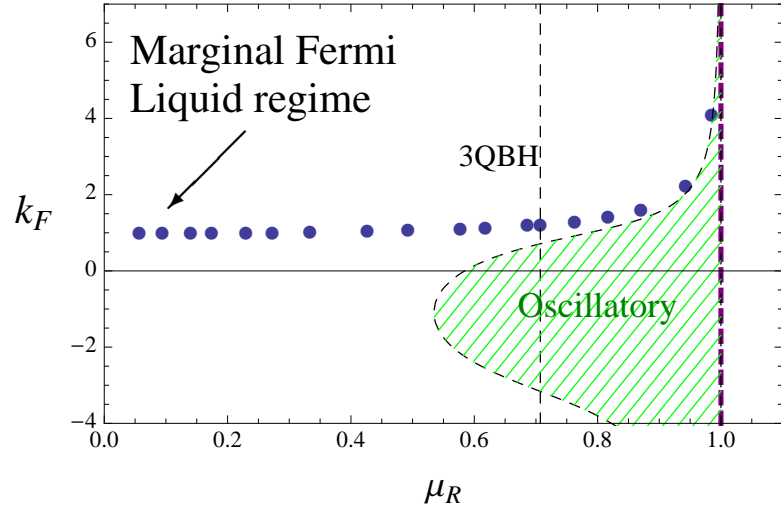
Setting  $J_1 = J_a$  and  $J_2 = J_b = J_c$  will be general enough. Five-dimensional description is the “2+1-charge” black hole in  $AdS_5$ , based on

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{bos}} = & -R + \frac{(\partial X)^2}{12X^2} + \frac{8X^2}{L^2} + \frac{4}{X^4 L^2} \\ & - X^8 f_{\mu\nu} f^{\mu\nu} - \frac{2}{X^4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - 2\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} f_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma} A_\tau . \end{aligned}$$

- $X$  is a scalar in the  $\mathbf{20}'$  with  $m^2 L^2 = -4$  which describes how oblate the  $S^5$  is in the  $X_1$ - $X_2$  v.s.  $X_3$ - $X_4$ - $X_5$ - $X_6$  directions.
- $f_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu a_\nu - \partial_\nu a_\mu$  describes  $J_1$  charge.
- $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$  describes  $J_2$  charge.
- We’ll avoid situations where the Chern-Simons term is needed.
- $\mathcal{L}_{\text{bos}}$  is a truncation of  $D = 5$ ,  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity, and we’ll consider quadratic fermion equations derived from the same theory.
- We’ll restrict attention to extremal black holes. Up to rescalings, they are parametrized by the ratio of chemical potentials,  $\mu_R = \mu_1/\mu_2$ .

## Partial summary of results:

- There are several different Fermi surfaces.
- The most interesting one has  $k_F \rightarrow 1$  as  $\mu_R \rightarrow 0$  with  $r_H = 1$ .
- In this limit,  $q \gg Q$  and entropy  $\rightarrow 0$ .
- Green's function shows Marginal Fermi Liquid behavior,  $\nu_k \rightarrow 1/2$  from below.



- $\mu_R \rightarrow 0$  limit is related to a Coulomb branch state with non-zero  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ .
- This state is a superconductor wrt  $a_\mu$  and an insulator wrt  $A_\mu$ .
- Conductivities in the MFL regime show a Drude peak for  $a_\mu$  and near-insulator behavior for  $A_\mu$ .

# The plan of the rest of Part II of the talk:

- Bosonic backgrounds. Thermodynamics is a bit intricate and exhibits some instabilities.
- Fermions from  $D = 5, \mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity. Hard work with assorted group structures.
- Finding the Fermi surfaces. Numerics supplemented with near-horizon analysis.
- The MFL regime. Analytic results for Coulomb branch solution, superconducting v.s. insulative behavior, some puzzles.

**Overall impression:** In addition to providing a “field guide” to various Fermi surface phenomena exhibited by D3-branes, we focus in on an MFL regime which is close (in some sense) to a SUSY vacuum state of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super-Yang-Mills.

We haven’t gotten very far in understanding the field theory side.

Scalar condensate is definitely important; not so sure about mesinos versus gauginos.

Zero-point entropy is almost gone.

## 2.1. Bosonic backgrounds

We want to study charged black branes in the Poincaré patch:

$$\begin{aligned}
 ds^2 &= e^{2A} \left[ -h(r) dt^2 + dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + dx_3^2 \right] + \frac{e^{2B}}{h} dr^2 \\
 A(r) &= \log \frac{r}{L} + \frac{1}{6} \log \left( 1 + \frac{q^2}{r^2} \right) + \frac{1}{3} \log \left( 1 + \frac{Q^2}{r^2} \right) \\
 B(r) &= -\log \frac{r}{L} - \frac{1}{3} \log \left( 1 + \frac{q^2}{r^2} \right) - \frac{2}{3} \log \left( 1 + \frac{Q^2}{r^2} \right) \\
 h(r) &= 1 - \frac{r^2(r_H^2 + q^2)(r_H^2 + Q^2)^2}{r_H^2(r^2 + q^2)(r^2 + Q^2)^2} & X(r) &= \left( \frac{r^2 + q^2}{r^2 + Q^2} \right)^{1/6} \\
 \phi(r) &= \frac{q(r_H^2 + Q^2)}{2Lr_H \sqrt{r_H^2 + q^2}} \left( \frac{r_H^2 + q^2}{r^2 + q^2} - 1 \right) \\
 \Phi(r) &= \frac{Q \sqrt{r_H^2 + q^2}}{2Lr_H} \left( \frac{r_H^2 + Q^2}{r^2 + Q^2} - 1 \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

where to obtain extremal black holes we would set

$$r_H^2 = \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{q^4 + 8q^2 Q^2} - \frac{1}{4} q^2.$$



Some thermodynamic quantities of interest:

$$s = \frac{1}{4G_5 L^3} \sqrt{(r_H^2 + q^2)(r_H^2 + Q^2)^2}$$

$$\mu_1 \equiv 2\phi \Big|_{\text{bdy}} = -\frac{q(r_H^2 + Q^2)}{L r_H \sqrt{r_H^2 + q^2}} \quad \mu_2 \equiv 2\sqrt{2}\Phi \Big|_{\text{bdy}} = -\frac{\sqrt{2}Q \sqrt{r_H^2 + q^2}}{L r_H}$$

$$\mu_R \equiv \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{q}{r_H} \right)^2}} \quad \text{at extremality.}$$

$q$  and  $Q$  are length parameters, *related* to the conserved charge densities  $\rho_a$  and  $\rho_A$ :

$$\rho_a = \frac{s}{r_H} q \quad \rho_A = \frac{s}{r_H} Q .$$

Expressed in terms of  $\rho_a$ ,  $\rho_A$ , and the energy density,  $s$  is *not* uniformly concave, which means there are Gregory-Laflamme instabilities if charges are too large [Gubser, hep-th/9810225; Gubser and Cvetic, hep-th/9903132], e.g. if  $\rho_a > \frac{s}{\sqrt{2}\pi}$  when  $\rho_A = 0$ .

**All black holes of interest to us** are on the **unstable** side of Gregory-Laflamme stability line. Are the extremal ones dynamically unstable? Not sure.

## 2.2. Fermions from $\mathcal{D} = 5, \mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity

Scalar coset in  $\mathcal{D} = 5, \mathcal{N} = 8$  is  $E_{6(6)}/USp(8)$ , and fermions are conveniently expressed in terms of  $USp(8)$  representations:  $\psi_\mu^a$  in the **8** and  $\chi^{abc}$  in the **48**:

$$48 = \binom{8}{3} - 8 \quad \text{because} \quad \chi^{abc} = \chi^{[abc]} \quad \text{and} \quad \Omega_{ab}\chi^{abc} = 0.$$

We focus on the spin-1/2 fields. They satisfy a symplectic Majorana condition,

$$\chi^{abc} = C(\bar{\chi}^{abc})^T \quad \text{where} \quad \bar{\chi}^{abc} = (\chi_{abc})^\dagger \gamma^0 \quad \text{and} \quad (\gamma^\mu)^T = C\gamma^\mu C^{-1}.$$

To compare with  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super-Yang-Mills we need to understand the  $SO(6)$  group content.

$$USp(8) \supset SO(6) \quad \text{so that} \quad \mathbf{8} = \mathbf{4} + \bar{\mathbf{4}}.$$

For  $\chi^{abc}$ ,  $\mathbf{48} = \mathbf{20} + \bar{\mathbf{20}} + \mathbf{4} + \bar{\mathbf{4}}$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{\mathbf{20}} &\sim \text{Tr}(\lambda X) & \text{with} & \quad m = \frac{1}{2L} \\ \chi_{\mathbf{4}} &\sim \text{Tr}(\lambda F_+) & \text{with} & \quad m = \frac{3}{2L}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $SO(6)$  were unbroken, then  $\mathbf{8} = \mathbf{4} + \overline{\mathbf{4}}$  and  $\mathbf{48} = \mathbf{20} + \overline{\mathbf{20}} + \mathbf{4} + \overline{\mathbf{4}}$  would take us a long way toward figuring out which  $\chi$  modes don't mix with gravitinos.

$U(1)_a \times U(1)_b \times U(1)_c \subset SO(6)$  is unbroken, and carefully tracking the charges helps identify decoupled  $\chi$  modes and their explicit duals.

Practice a little charge counting:

$$Z_1 = X_1 + iX_2 = Z_1^{(1,0,0)} \quad \lambda_1 = \lambda_1^{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} \quad \lambda_2 = \lambda_2^{(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})}$$

$$\text{“maximal”} \quad \chi^{(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} \leftrightarrow \text{Tr } \lambda_1 Z_1 \quad \chi^{(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})} \leftrightarrow \text{Tr } \lambda_2 Z_1$$

$$\text{“overlapping”} \quad \chi^{(\pm\frac{1}{2}, \pm\frac{1}{2}, \pm\frac{1}{2})} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{eight charge choices,} \\ \text{three-fold degenerate} \end{array} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{various Tr } \lambda X \text{ and} \\ \text{Tr } \lambda F_+ \text{ operators} \end{array}$$

“Maximal” fermions (24 in all) are the ones where one  $U(1)$  charge is  $\pm 3/2$ . They can't mix with each other because they all have distinct  $(q_a, q_b, q_c)$ . And they can't mix with gravitini because  $\mathbf{4} + \overline{\mathbf{4}}$  has all  $U(1)$  charges  $\pm 1/2$ .

Of the “overlapping” fermions, with  $(q_a, q_b, q_c)$  quantum numbers identical to gravitinos, 8 indeed mix with gravitinos (super-Higgs), while the other 16 decouple completely.

**The upshot:** There are 8 massive gravitinos, which we didn't study (!), plus 40 decoupled spin-1/2 fields, each of which satisfies an equation of motion of the form

$$\left[ i\gamma^\mu \nabla_\mu - g \left( m_1 X^2 + \frac{m_2}{X^4} \right) + gq_1 \gamma^\mu a_\mu + gq_2 \gamma^\mu A_\mu + ip_1 X^4 f_{\mu\nu} \gamma^{\mu\nu} + i \frac{p_2}{X^2} F_{\mu\nu} \gamma^{\mu\nu} \right] \chi = 0,$$

where  $g = \frac{2}{L}$  and  $(m_1, m_2, q_1, q_2, p_1, p_2)$  are parameters which differ among the 40 cases. Two interesting cases:

$\chi^{q_a q_b q_c}$	$m_1$	$m_2$	$q_1$	$q_2$	$p_1$	$p_2$	type	Dual operator
$\chi^{(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	1	$-\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	maximal	$\text{Tr } \lambda_1 Z_1$
$\bar{\chi}^{(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$-\frac{1}{4}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	maximal	$\text{Tr } \bar{\lambda}_3 Z_1$

To get hold of  $m_1, \dots, p_2$ , one needs several terms in  $D = 5, \mathcal{N} = 8$  lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_\chi = \frac{i}{12} \bar{\chi}^{abc} \gamma^\mu D_\mu \chi_{abc} + \frac{ig}{2} \bar{\chi}^{abc} \left( \frac{1}{2} A_{bcde} - \frac{1}{45} \Omega_{bd} T_{ce} \right) \chi_a{}^{de} + \frac{i}{8} F_{\mu\nu}{}^{ab} \bar{\chi}_{acd} \gamma^{\mu\nu} \chi_b{}^{cd}$$

Diagram illustrating the mapping of parameters to terms in the Lagrangian:

- $q_1, q_2$  (boxed) points to the  $D_\mu$  term.
- $m_1, m_2$  (boxed) points to the  $A_{bcde}$  and  $\Omega_{bd} T_{ce}$  terms.
- $p_1, p_2$  (boxed) points to the  $F_{\mu\nu}$  term.

## 2.3. Finding the Fermi surfaces

We want to find singularities in two-point functions of operators dual to  $\chi$ , e.g.  $\text{Tr } \lambda X$ .

Let's briefly rehearse some well-established methods, e.g. from [Faulkner et al, 0907.2694].

$$\chi = e^{-2A} h^{-1/4} e^{-i\omega t + i k x} \Psi \quad \Psi = \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{1+} \\ \Psi_{1-} \\ \Psi_{2+} \\ \Psi_{2-} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \left( \partial_r + \frac{m e^B}{\sqrt{h}} \right) \Psi_{\alpha-} &= \frac{e^{B-A}}{\sqrt{h}} [u(r) + (-1)^\alpha k - v(r)] \Psi_{\alpha+} \\ \left( \partial_r - \frac{m e^B}{\sqrt{h}} \right) \Psi_{\alpha+} &= \frac{e^{B-A}}{\sqrt{h}} [-u(r) + (-1)^\alpha k - v(r)] \Psi_{\alpha-} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \alpha = 1, 2$$

where

$$u(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{h}} (\omega + g q_1 \phi + g q_2 \Phi) \quad v(r) = 2e^{-B} \left( p_1 X^4 \partial_r \phi + p_2 \frac{1}{X^2} \partial_r \Phi \right).$$

Near the boundary, for  $|mL| \neq 1/2$ , we have

$$\Psi_{\alpha+} \sim A_\alpha(k) r^{mL} + B_\alpha(k) r^{-mL-1}, \quad \Psi_{\alpha-} \sim C_\alpha(k) r^{mL-1} + D_\alpha(k) r^{-mL},$$

while for  $mL = 1/2$  we have

$$\Psi_{\alpha-} \sim C_{\alpha}(k)r^{-1/2} \log r + D_{\alpha}(k)r^{-1/2}.$$

A spinorial Green's function  $G_{\alpha}(k) \sim \langle \mathcal{O}_{\alpha}(k) \overline{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha}(-k) \rangle$  can be defined through

$$D_{\alpha}(k) = G_{\alpha}(k)A_{\alpha}(k)$$

A singularity occurs when  $A \rightarrow 0$  without  $D \rightarrow 0$ . ( $C \sim A$  and  $B \sim D$  always). Corresponds to a normal mode of  $\chi$ .

Near-horizon analysis is equally important and equally familiar:  $AdS_2 \times \mathbf{R}^2$  region with new scaling exponents:

$$ds^2 = \frac{L_2^2}{\zeta^2}(-d\tau^2 + d\zeta^2) + K_x^2 d\vec{x}^2 \quad a_{\tau} = \frac{e_1}{\zeta} \quad A_{\tau} = \frac{e_2}{\zeta}$$

where

$$r - r_H = \frac{K_r}{\zeta} \quad t = K_{\tau}\tau$$

and  $(K_x, K_r, K_{\tau}, e_1, e_2)$  are somewhat complicated combinations of  $q, Q, r_H$ , and  $L$ .

Singularities occur at  $\omega = 0$ , and allowed solution in  $AdS_2 \times \mathbf{R}^2$  is

$$\Psi_\alpha \propto \zeta^{-\nu_k} \quad \text{where} \quad \nu_k = \sqrt{m_2^2 L_2^2 - g^2(q_1 e_1 + q_2 e_2)^2}$$

$$m_2^2 = m^2(X_H) + \frac{\tilde{k}^2}{K_x^2} \quad \tilde{k} = k - (-1)^\alpha \frac{2K_x}{L_2^2} \left( p_1 X_H^4 + p_2 \frac{1}{X_H^2} \right) .$$

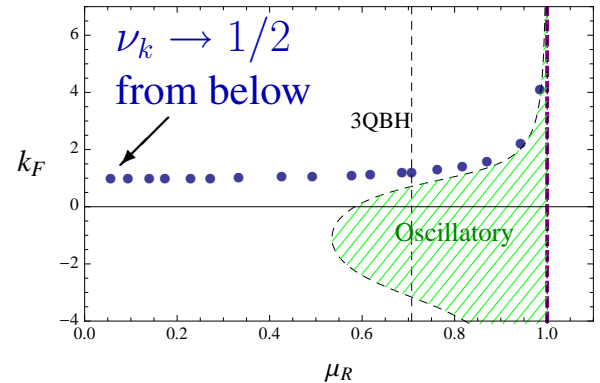
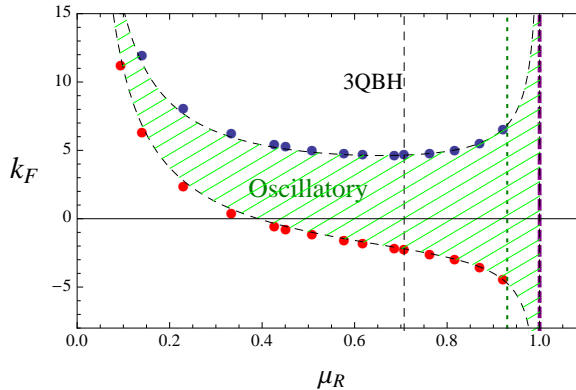
Two contrasting cases:

- $\nu_k$  imaginary: purely infalling mode, non-zero flux into the horizon at  $\omega = 0$ , can't be a normal mode. “Oscillatory.”
- $\nu_k$  real and positive:  $\Psi_\alpha \rightarrow 0$  as  $\zeta \rightarrow \infty$ , which is  $r \rightarrow r_H$ . “Normalizable.”

$$\chi^{(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$$

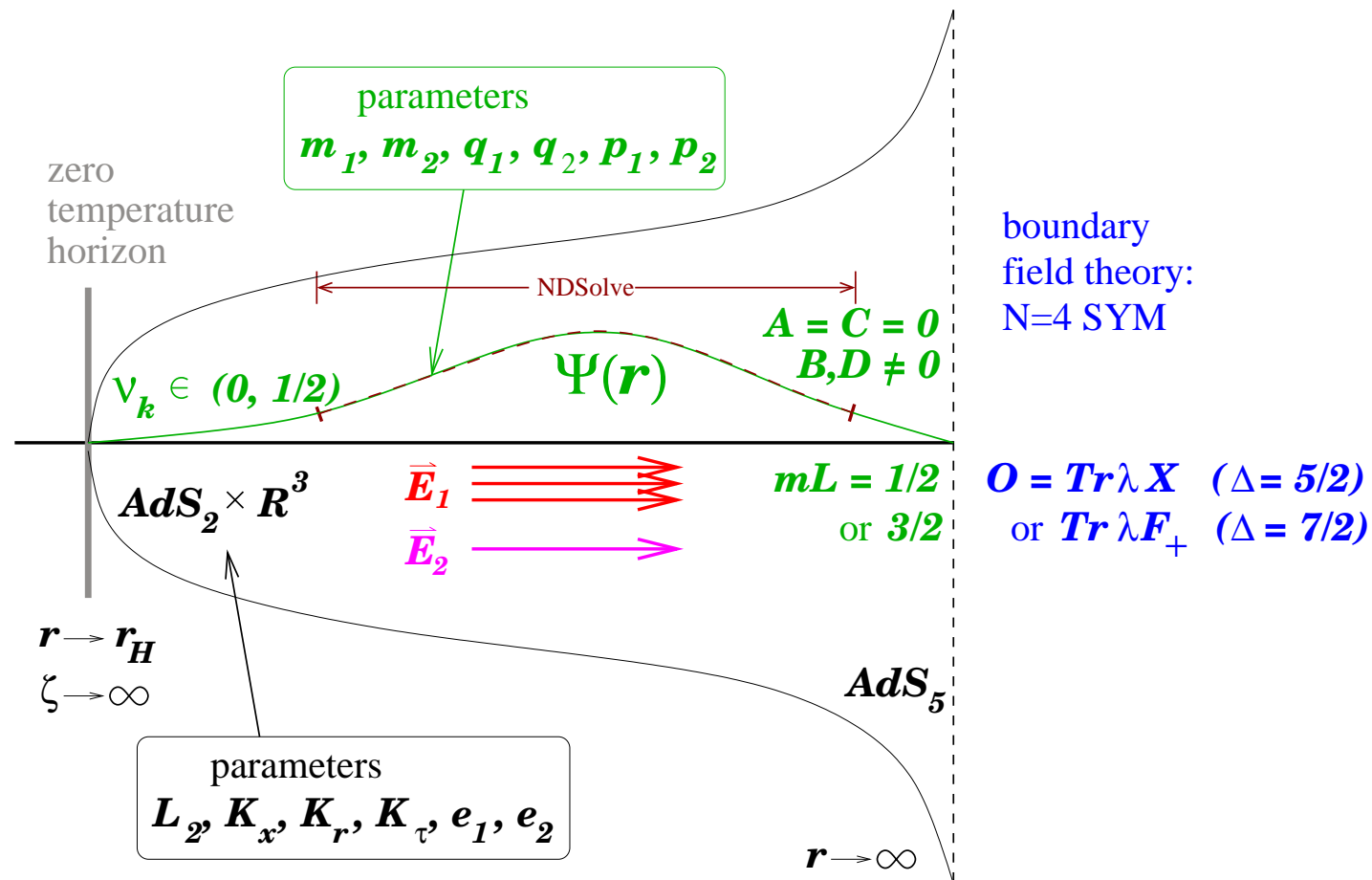
$$\bar{\chi}^{(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$$

Results  
with  
 $r_H = 1$ :



(For three-charge black hole, 3QBH,  $r_H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}r_0$  due to change in definition of  $r$ .)

Each point is a normalizable bulk fermion mode, indicating a Fermi surface.





## 2.4. The MFL regime

We found  $0 \leq \nu_k < 1/2$  for all Fermi surfaces we found: *all* are non-Fermi liquids, where Fermi velocity is not formally defined.

$$G_R = \frac{h_1}{k_\perp - \frac{1}{v_F}\omega - h_2 e^{i\gamma_F} \omega^{2\nu_F}} \quad \text{close to the Fermi surface, with } k_\perp = k - k_F.$$

MFL limit is where  $\nu_k \rightarrow 1/2$  from below, so that Fermi velocity is almost defined:

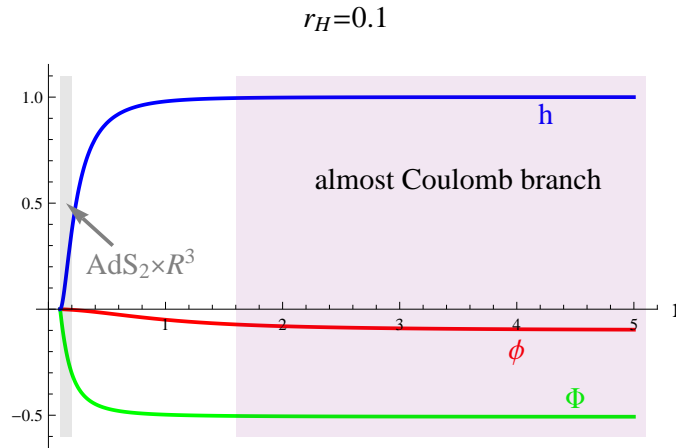
$$G_R \approx \frac{h_1}{k_\perp + \tilde{c}_1 \omega \log \omega + c_1 \omega}.$$

MFL theory has had notable successes in describing normal state of cuprates near optimal doping [Varma, Littlewood, Schmitt-Rink, Abrahams, Ruckenstein 1989], but its microscopic underpinnings are not well understood.

What's going on as we approach the MFL limit in our construction?

- $T = 0$  is held fixed—by construction.
- Convenient to hold  $q = 1$  fixed too. Thus  $r_H \rightarrow 0$ . Also set  $L = 4G_5 = 1$ .
- $s \approx 2r_H^2 \rightarrow 0$  and  $Q \approx r_H \rightarrow 0$ .

- $\rho_a \approx 2r_H \rightarrow 0$  and  $\rho_A \approx 2r_H^2 \rightarrow 0$ .
- $\rho_a/\rho_A$  is big, but  $\mu_R = \mu_1/\mu_2$  is small: **Weird**.
- $AdS_2 \times \mathbf{R}^2$  region gets squeezed, since it goes out only to  $\sim 2r_H$ .
- Outer geometry converges essentially to Coulomb branch solution.



- Basically, take the SUSY Coulomb branch solution at finite  $q$  and “dope” with a little bit of  $Q$ —but remember,  $\rho_a$  and  $\rho_A$  are the conserved charge densities.
- Can demonstrate analytically that  $k_F \approx r_H$  at small  $r_H$  for  $\bar{\chi}^{(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$ .
- $\chi^{(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$  has finite  $k_F/\mu_2$  and  $\nu_k < 1/2$  (non-MFL, but co-existing with MFL).

The Coulomb branch solution has a long history [Kraus, Larsen, Trivedi hep-th/9811120; Freedman, Gubser, Pilch, Warner hep-th/9906194; Bianchi, DeWolfe, Freedman, Pilch, hep-th/0009156]. The main things to know are:

- The 5-d geometry lifts to the background of a uniform disk of D3-branes spread uniformly in the  $X_1$ - $X_2$  directions out to a radius  $q$ .
- Two-point functions characteristically exhibit a continuum above a gap  $\Delta_g \equiv q/L^2$ . Surprising because BPS spectrum extends down continuously to 0.

In particular, fermion two-point functions exhibit the gap  $\Delta_g$ .

Is this an insulator band-gap? (Remember we haven't "doped" yet.) Or is it a superconducting gap?

**The claim:** The Coulomb branch state is an insulator wrt  $A_\mu$  and a superconductor wrt  $a_\mu$ .

Superconductivity is subtle to see in 5-d because the only scalar involved (our friend  $X$ ) is *neutral*—like a dilaton.

Let's finish with an examination of conductivities to demonstrate the **claim**.

Conductivities are simple for the Coulomb branch because the linear perturbations

$$a_x = e^{-i\omega t} b_x(r) \quad A_x = e^{-i\omega t} B_x(r)$$

decouple from all other perturbations. (Usually  $h_{tx}$  couples, but here the background *has no charge*.)

$$b_x'' + \frac{3r^2 - q^2}{r^3 + q^2 r} b_x' + \frac{\omega^2 L^4}{r^4 + q^2 r^2} b_x = 0 \quad B_x'' + \frac{3}{r} B_x' + \frac{\omega^2 L^4}{r^4 + q^2 r^2} B_x = 0.$$

Solutions are easy:

$$b_x = \frac{1}{X^6} B_x = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{1-\omega^2}}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{3+\sqrt{1-\omega^2}}{2}\right)}{\Gamma(1+\sqrt{1-\omega^2})} r^{1+\sqrt{1-\omega^2}} \times \\ {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{1-\omega^2}}{2}, \frac{3+\sqrt{1-\omega^2}}{2}; 1+\sqrt{1-\omega^2}; -r^2\right)$$

where we've taken either the more regular solutions at  $r \rightarrow 0$ , or the purely infalling ones.

How can  $b_x$  possibly describe a superconductor while  $B_x = X^6 b_x$  describes an insulator?

Expand both at large  $r$  and small  $\omega$  to get low frequency conductivity.  $q = L = 1$ .

$$b_x = \left(1 - \frac{1}{r^2}\right) + \frac{1 + 2 \log r}{4r^2} \omega^2 + \mathcal{O}(\omega^4) + \mathcal{O}(1/r^4)$$

$$B_x = 1 + \frac{1 + 2 \log r}{4r^2} \omega^2 + \mathcal{O}(\omega^4) + \mathcal{O}(1/r^4).$$

- The  $\frac{\log r}{r^2} \omega^2$  term gets canceled by  $S_{\text{c.t.}} \propto \int d^4x (f_{mn}^2 + 2F_{mn}^2)$ .
- We then read off Green's function from  $b_x = 1 + G_a^R(\omega)/2r^2$ .
- $\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} G_a^R(\omega) = -2$  while  $\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} G_A^R(\omega) = 0$ .

Now we can extract the low-frequency conductivity:

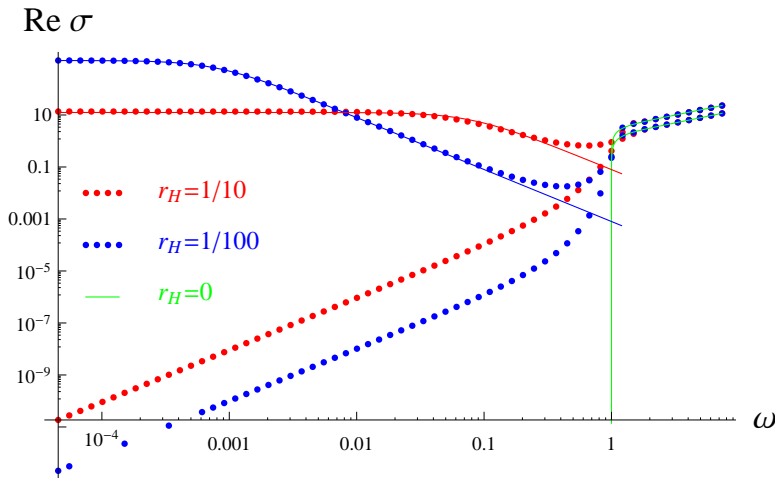
$$\sigma(\omega) \equiv \frac{G^R(\omega)}{i(\omega + i\epsilon)} \approx \frac{G^R(0)}{i(\omega + i\epsilon)} = G^R(0) \left[ -i\mathcal{P} \frac{1}{\omega} - \pi\delta(\omega) \right]$$

So the  $-\frac{1}{r^2}$ , coming precisely from  $1/X^6$ , is just what we need to go from insulative behavior for  $A_\mu$  to superconducting behavior for  $a_\mu$ .

Full spectral measure shows hard-gapped  $s$ -wave superconductivity for  $a_\mu$ :

$$\text{Re } \sigma_a(\omega) = 2\pi\delta(\omega) + \frac{\pi\omega}{2}\theta(\omega^2 - 1) \tanh \frac{\pi\sqrt{\omega^2 - 1}}{2}$$

$$\text{Re } \sigma_A(\omega) = \pi\omega \theta(\omega^2 - 1) \tanh \frac{\pi\sqrt{\omega^2 - 1}}{2}.$$



We also worked out conductivities in the MFL regime: small  $r_H$  quantifies slight “doping” of Coulomb branch configuration.

- Gauge field perturbations now mix with each other and the metric.

- Small conductivity is mostly  $A_\mu$ ; large one is mostly  $a_\mu$ .
- $\delta(\omega)$  behavior partially broadens to a Drude peak, but we’re not sure we understand the full small  $\omega$  behavior when  $r_H \neq 0$ .

### 3. Summary

- There are various Fermi surfaces in charged black holes dual to  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super-Yang-Mills.
- They are hard to find because supergravity is complicated. But sometimes  $k_F$  and  $\nu_k$  are nice numbers.
- After initial study of gravitinos, we focused entirely on decoupled spin-1/2 particles.
- The charged black holes have some weird thermodynamics, including Gregory-Laflamme instabilities.
- We found a Marginal Fermi Liquid regime approaching a SUSY vacuum state (on the Coulomb branch) at zero temperature, along a “doping” axis. Could a field theory construction of MFL be within reach?
- The Coulomb branch state is a hard-gapped  $s$ -wave superconductor.
- $\mathcal{O}(N^2)$  scaling of two-point functions suggests that the Fermi surfaces are for adjoint fermions—like gauginos? But we’re having trouble accounting for full range of Fermi surface behaviors without some recourse to bound states.