

# The novel metallic states of the cuprates: “topological” Fermi liquids (FL\*) and strange metals

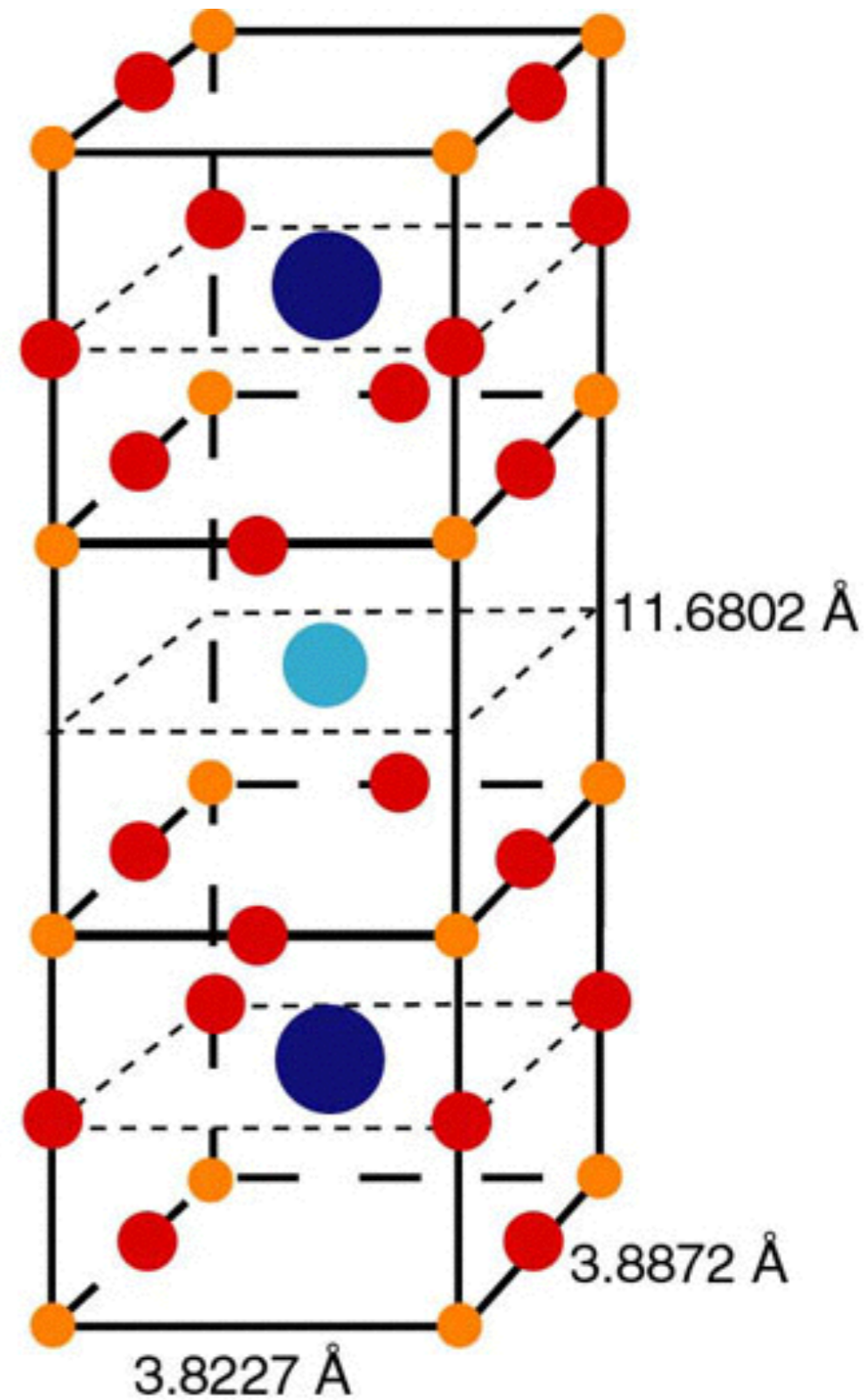
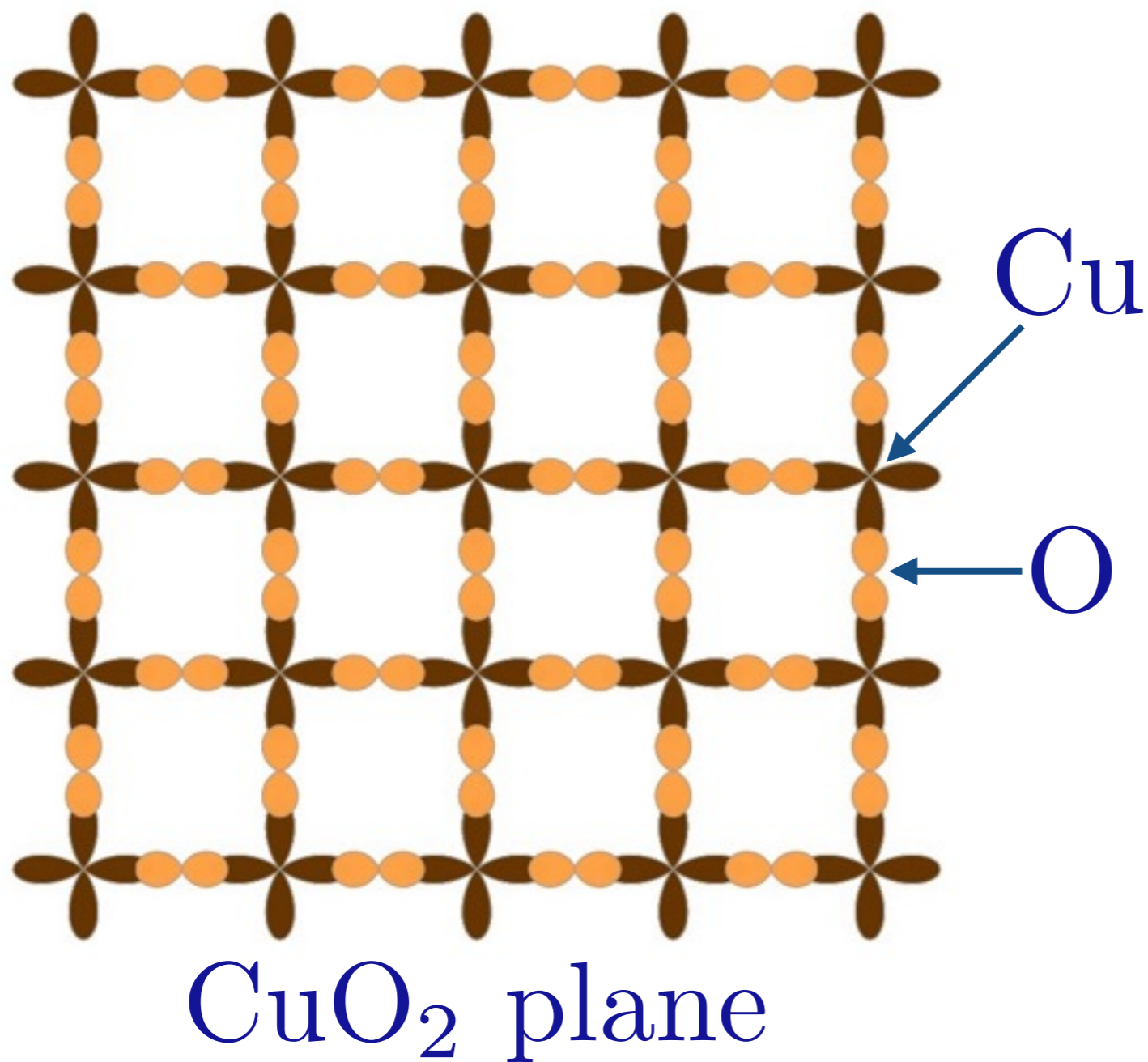
PRL Conference on Condensed Matter Physics  
Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad  
April 11, 2016

Subir Sachdev

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



# High temperature superconductors



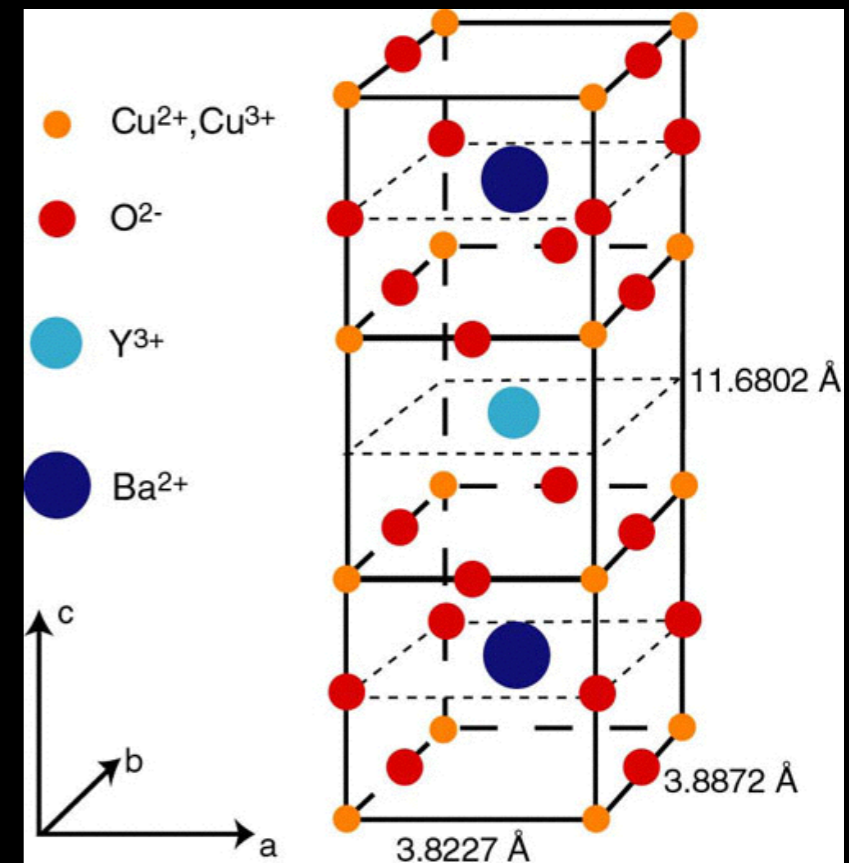
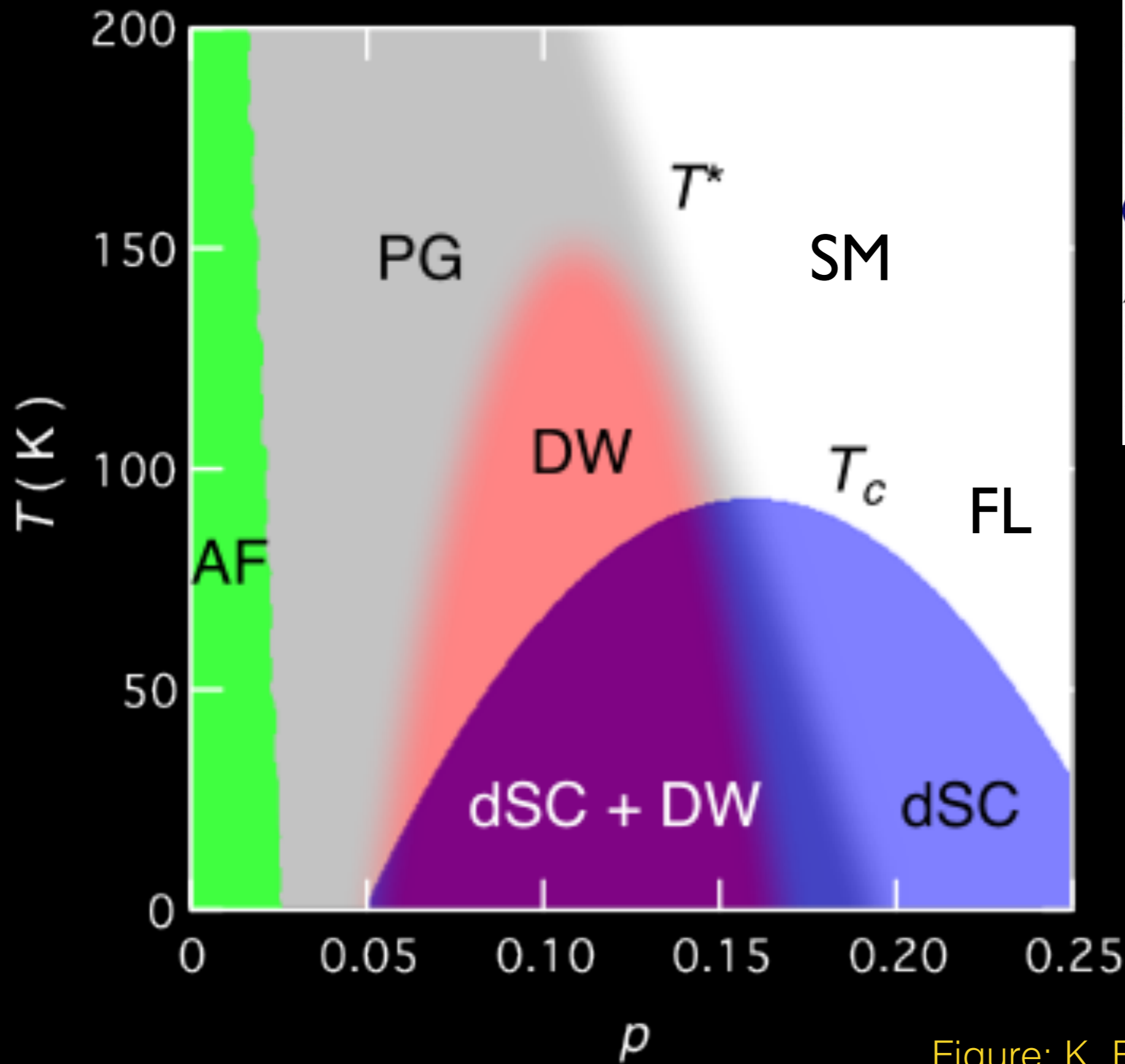
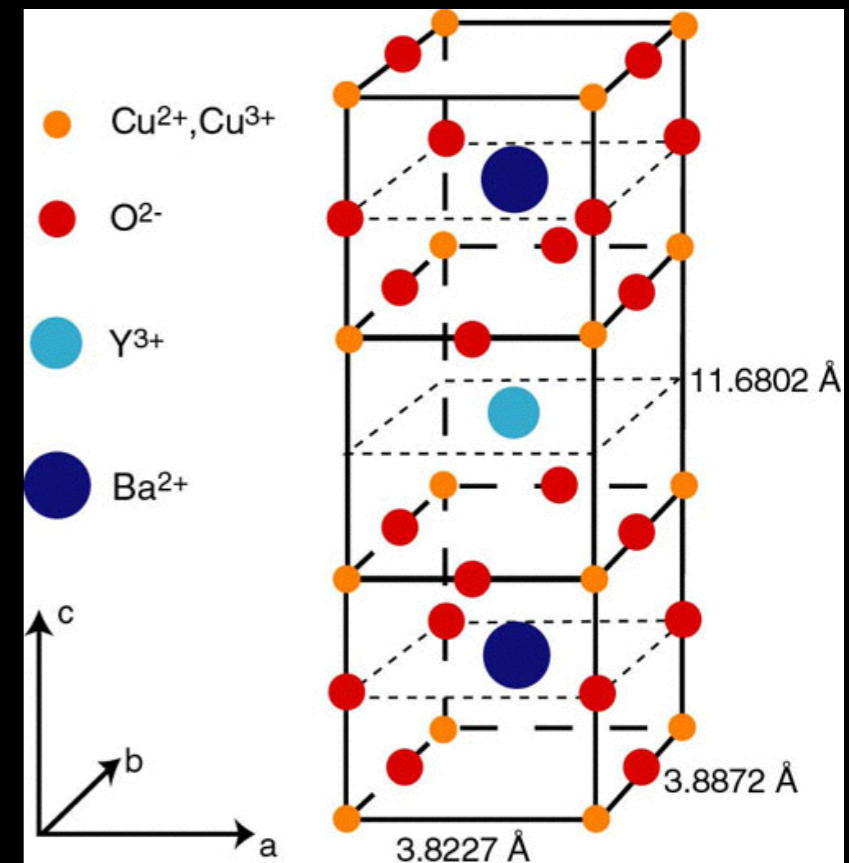
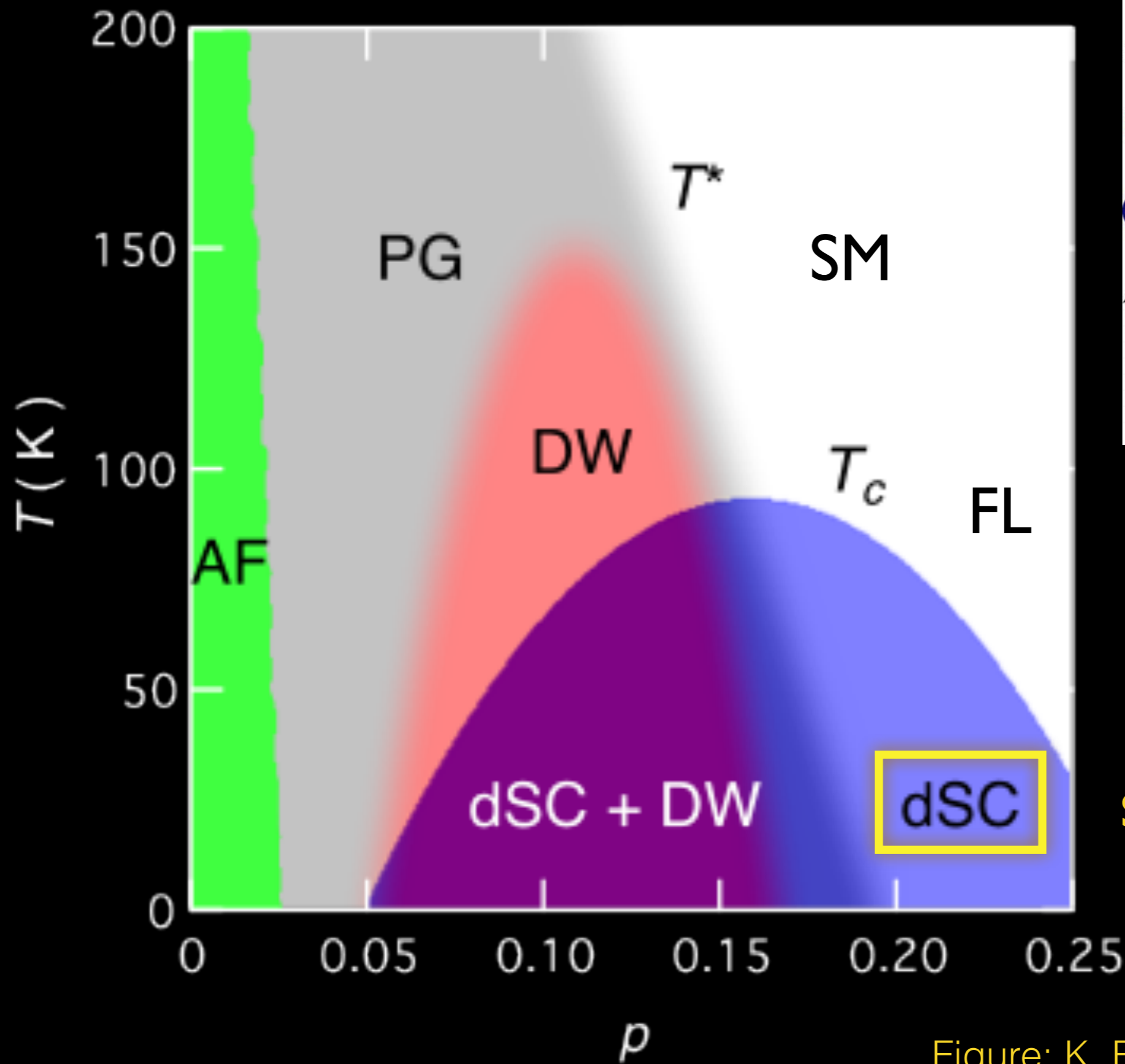
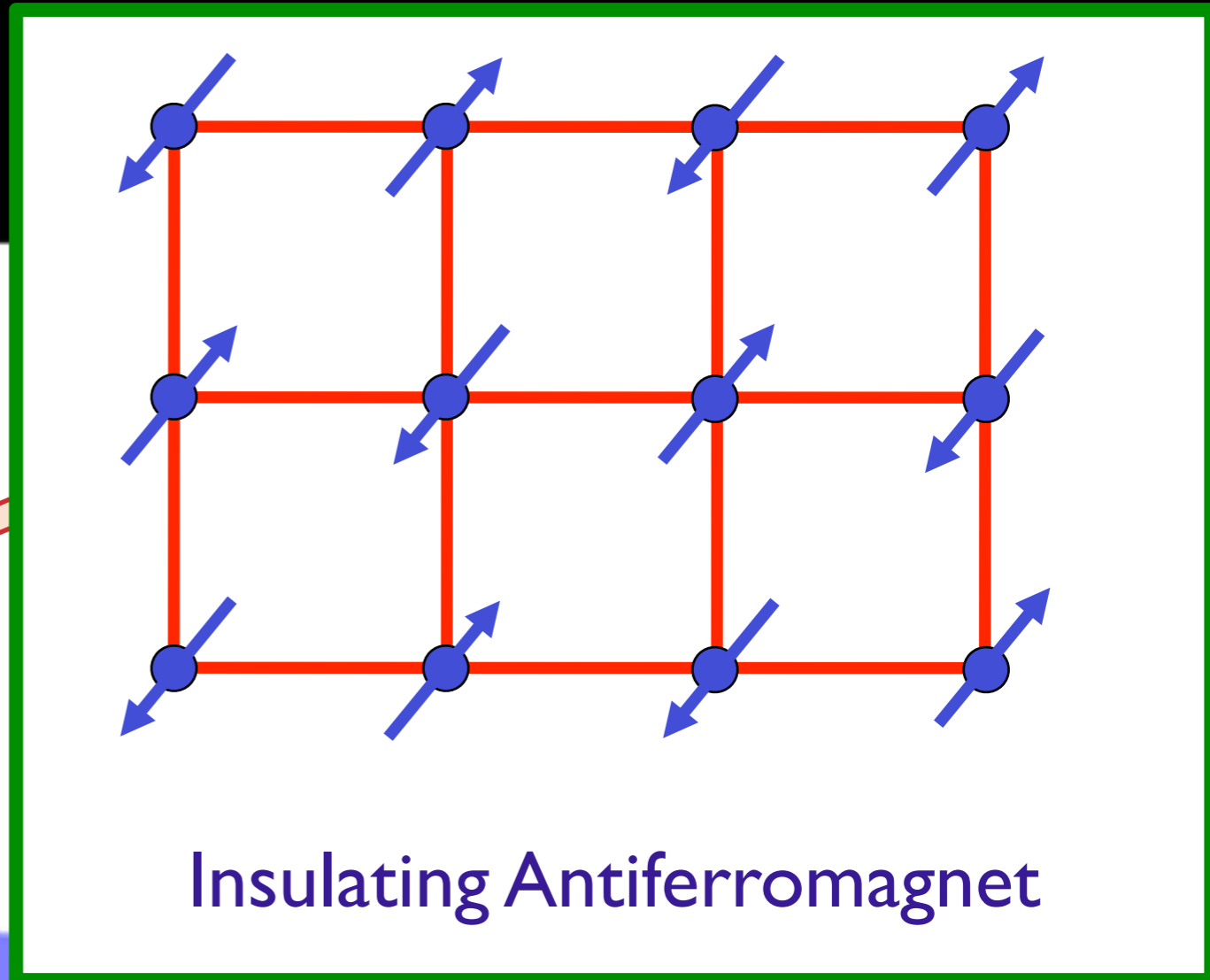
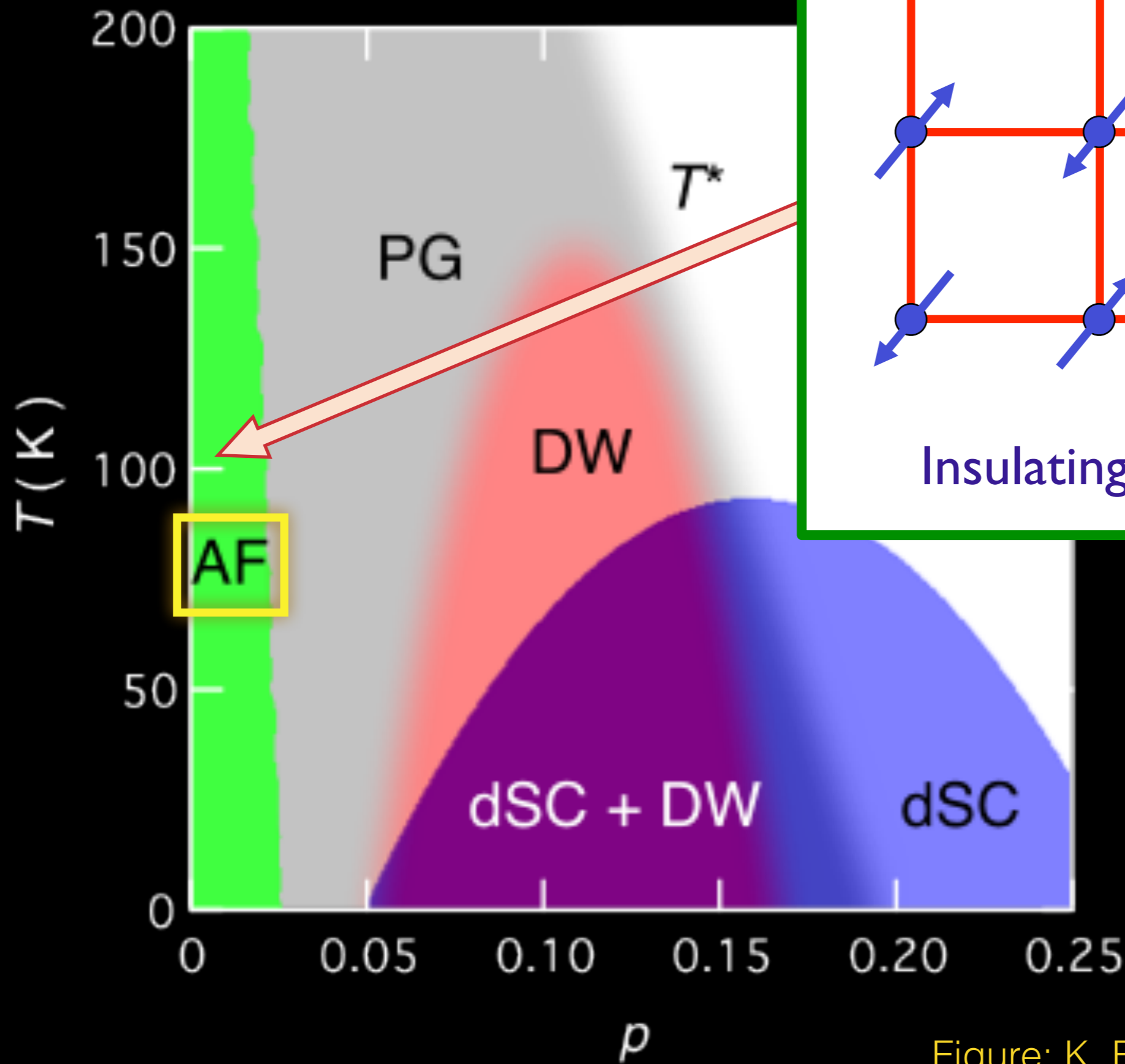


Figure: K. Fujita and J. C. Seamus Davis



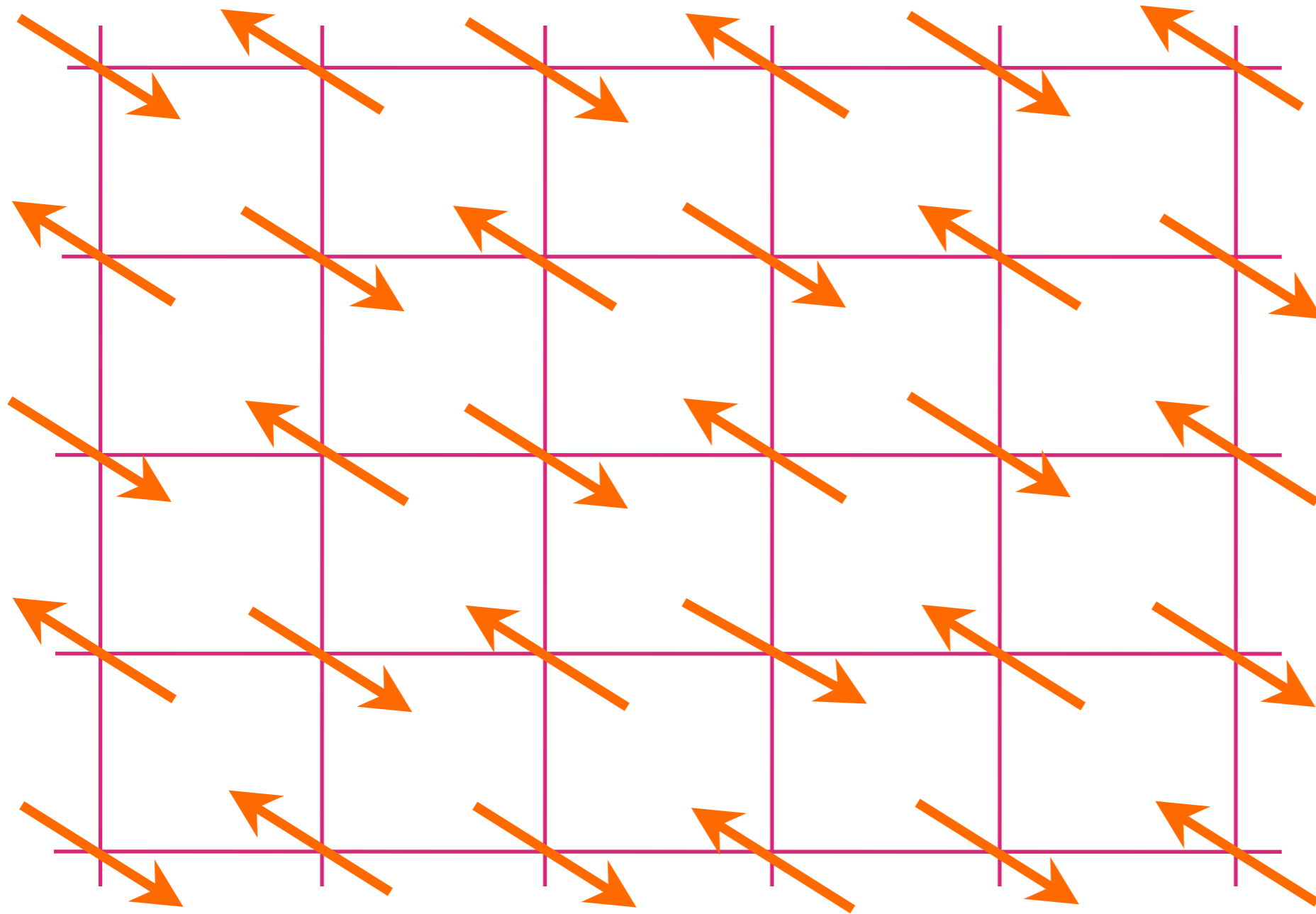
**d-wave  
superconductor**

Figure: K. Fujita and J. C. Seamus Davis

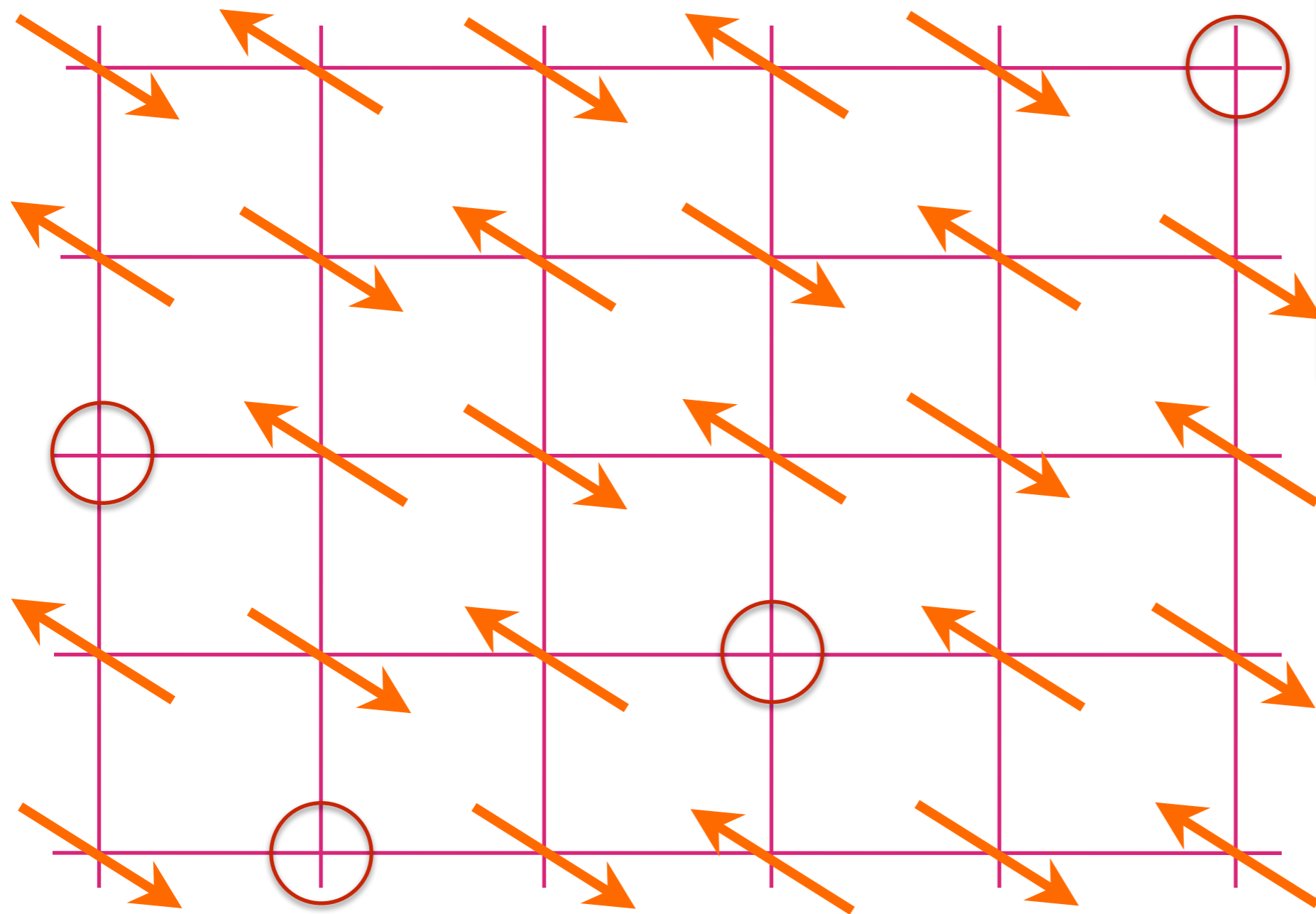


$$T = Da^2 \cup a_3 \cup 6 + x$$

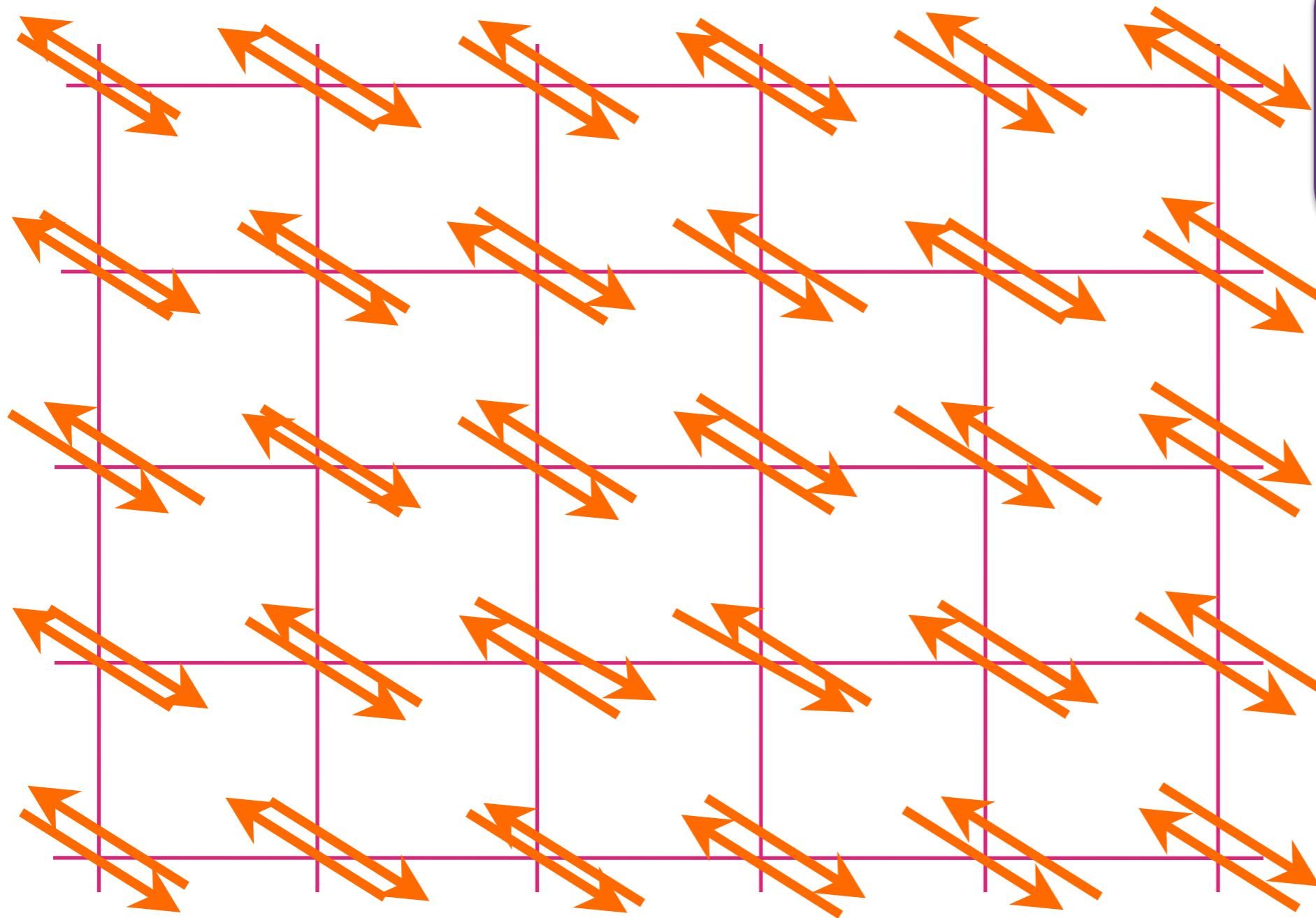
Figure: K. Fujita and J. C. Seamus Davis



“Undoped”  
insulating  
anti-  
ferromagnet

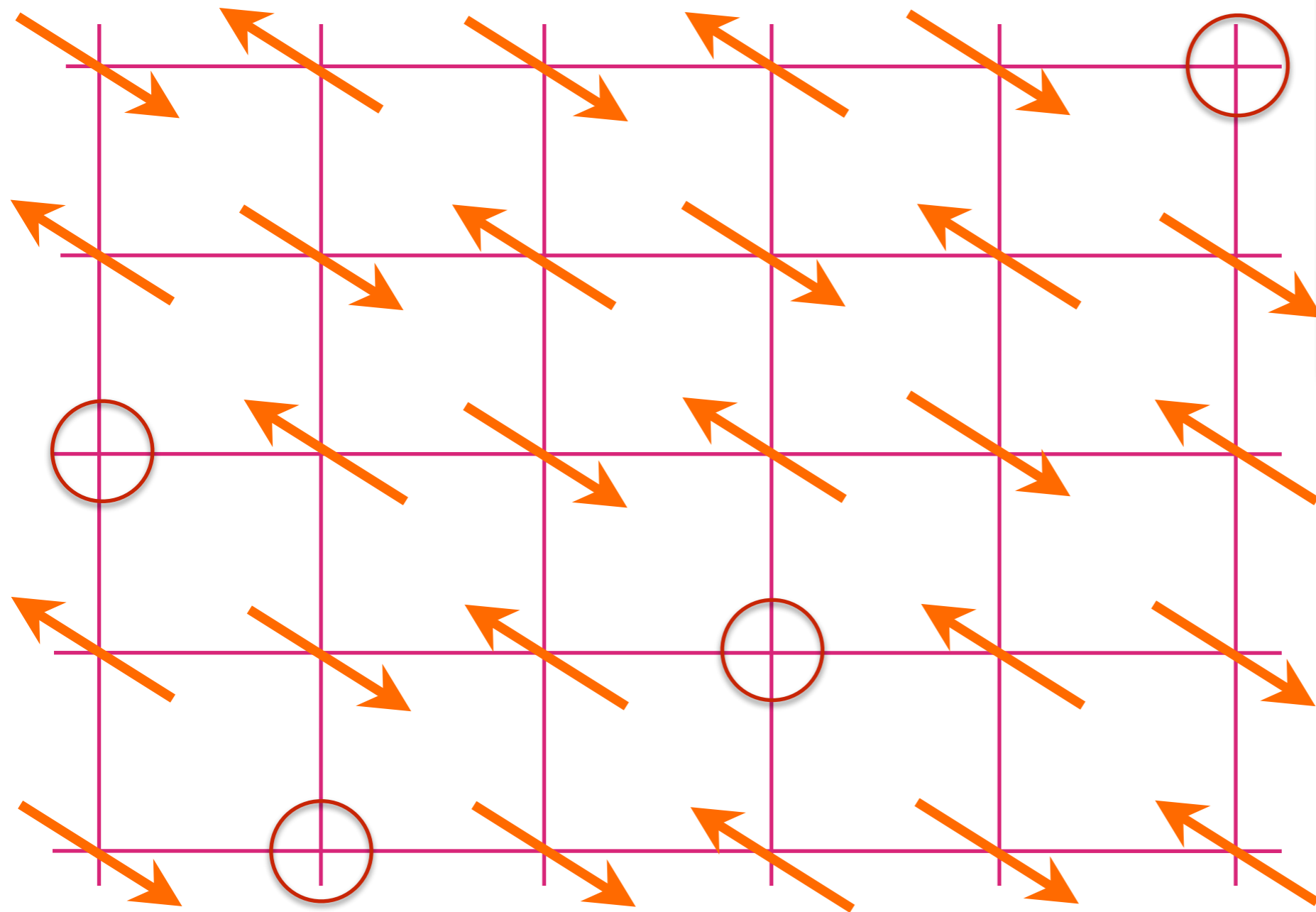


Anti-ferromagnet  
with  $p$  mobile  
holes  
per square



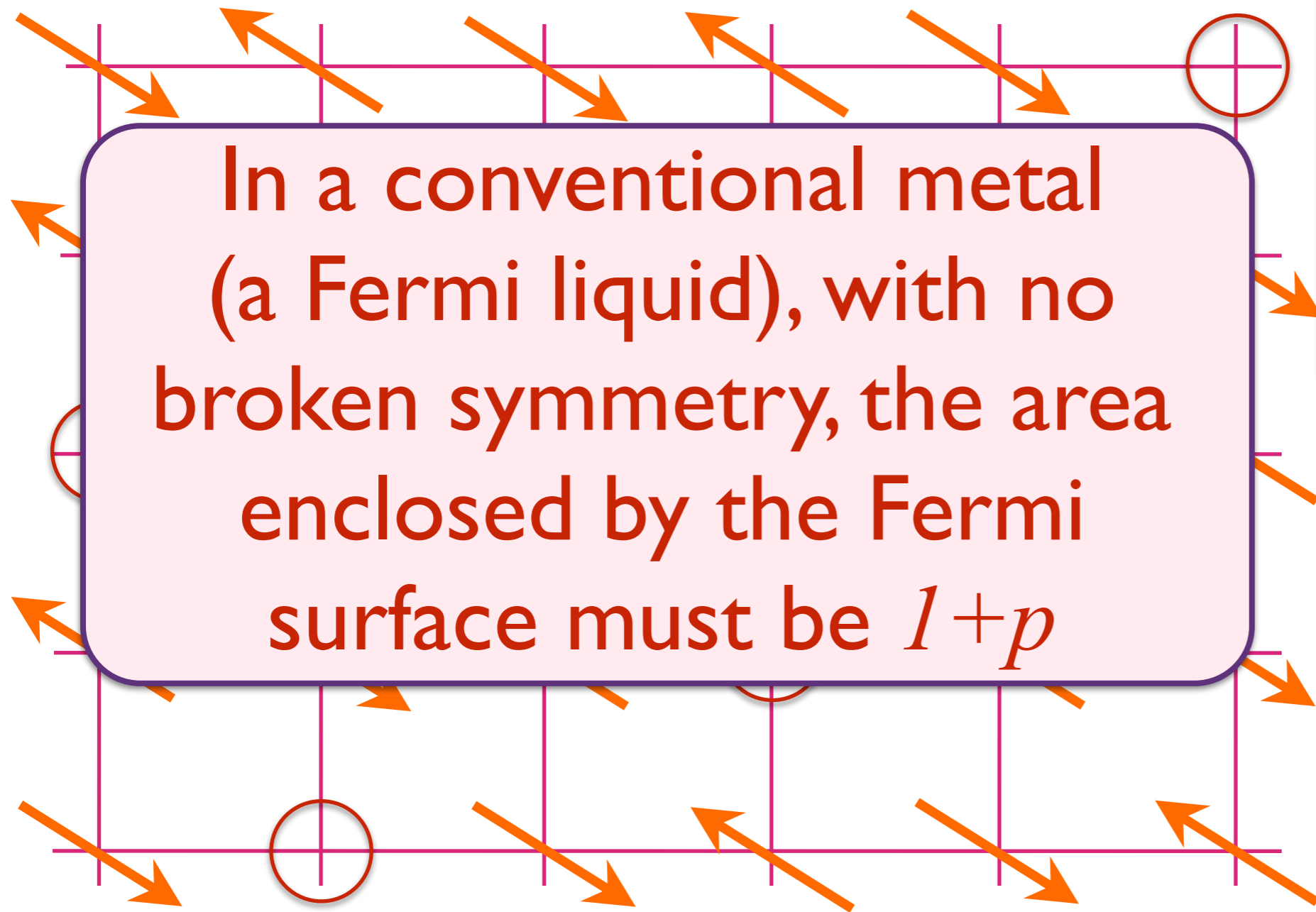
Filled  
Band





Anti-ferromagnet with  $p$  mobile holes per square

But relative to the band insulator, there are  $1+p$  holes per square



In a conventional metal (a Fermi liquid), with no broken symmetry, the area enclosed by the Fermi surface must be  $l+p$

Anti-ferromagnet with  $p$  mobile holes per square

But relative to the band insulator, there are  $l+p$  holes per square

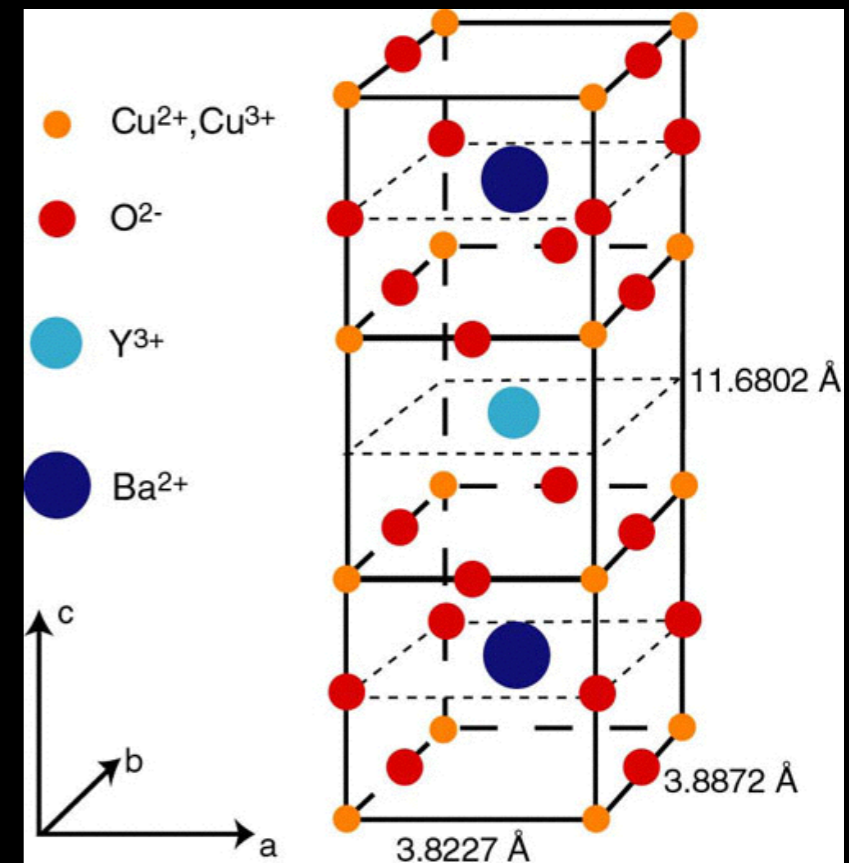
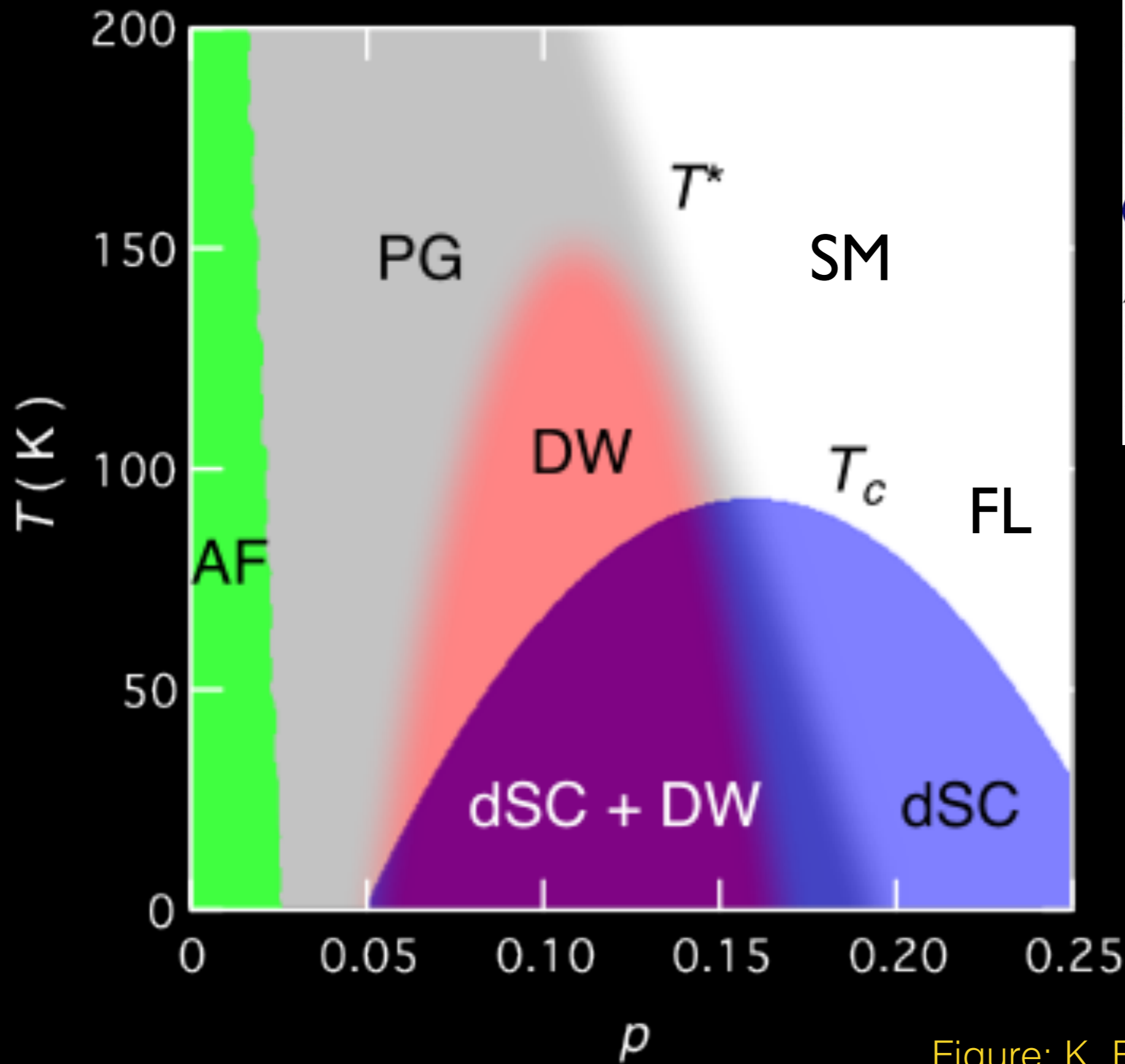
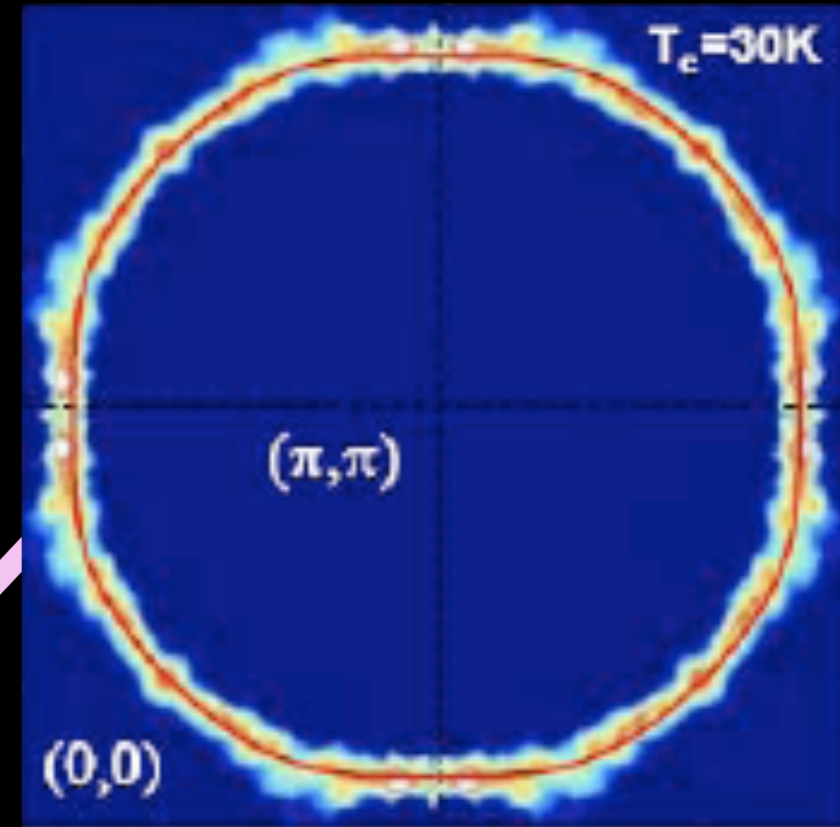
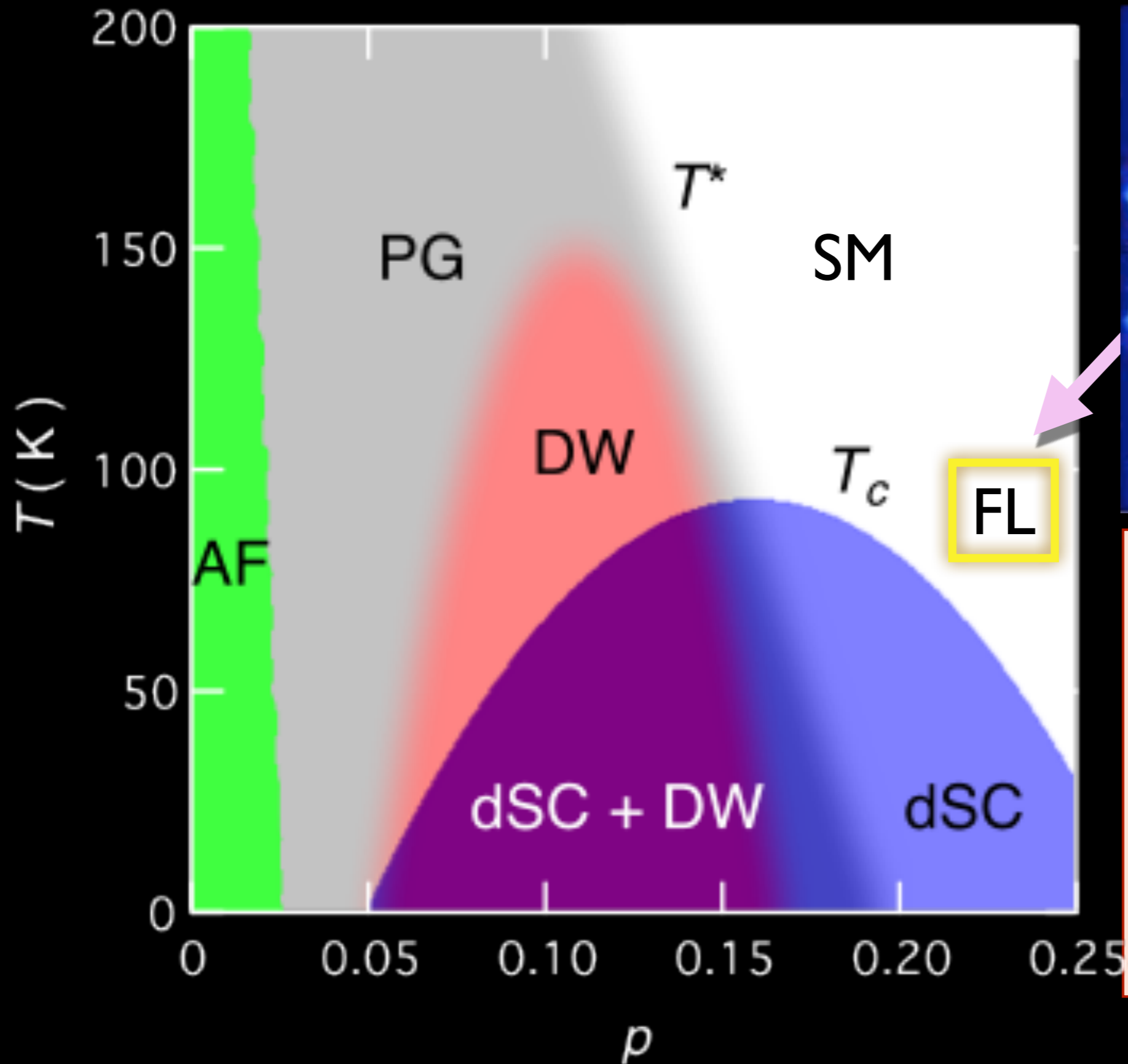
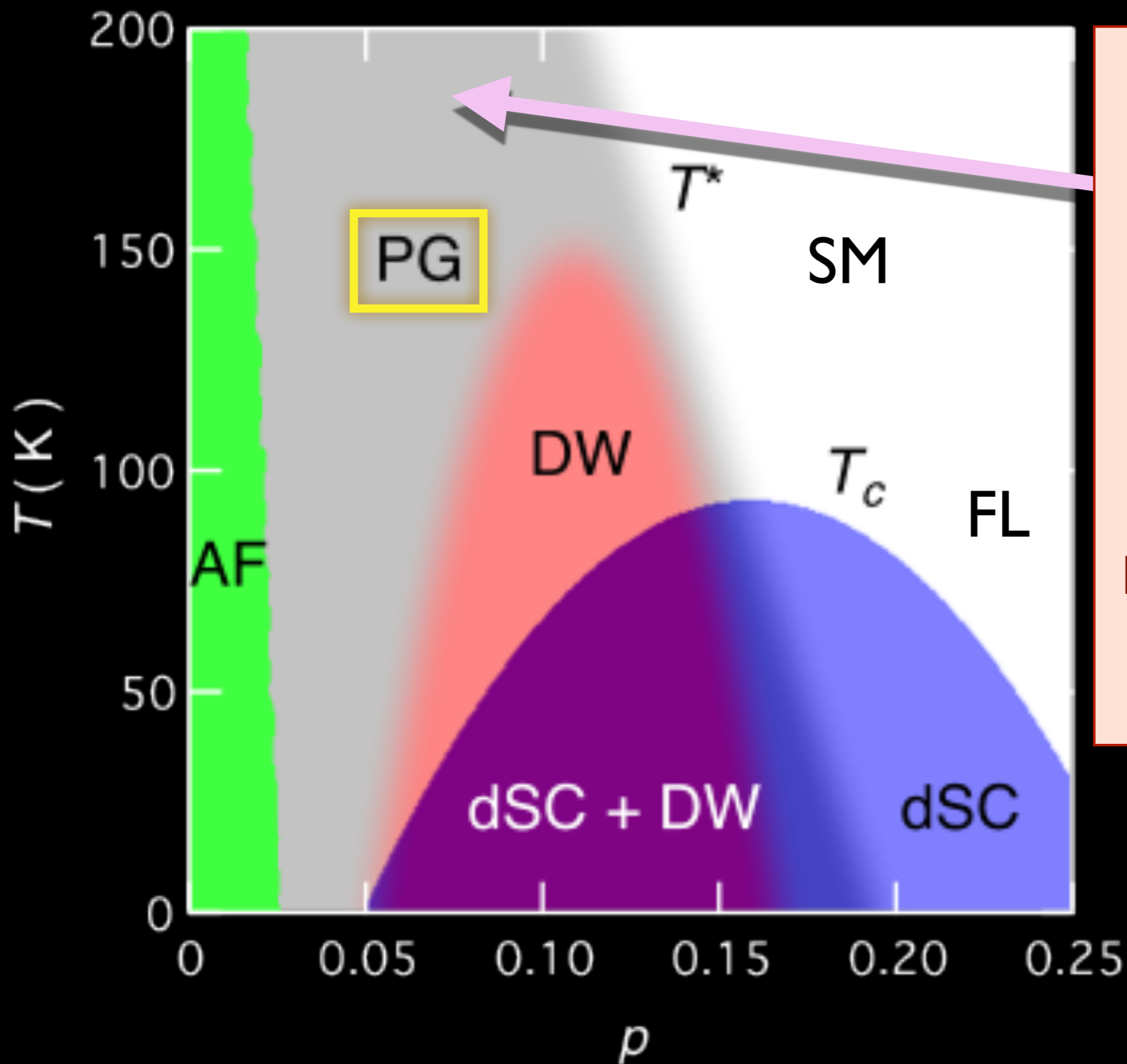


Figure: K. Fujita and J. C. Seamus Davis

M. Platié, J. D. F. Mottershead, I. S. Elfimov, D. C. Peets, Ruixing Liang, D. A. Bonn, W. N. Hardy, S. Chiuzbaian, M. Falub, M. Shi, L. Patthey, and A. Damascelli, Phys. Rev. Lett. **95**, 077001 (2005)



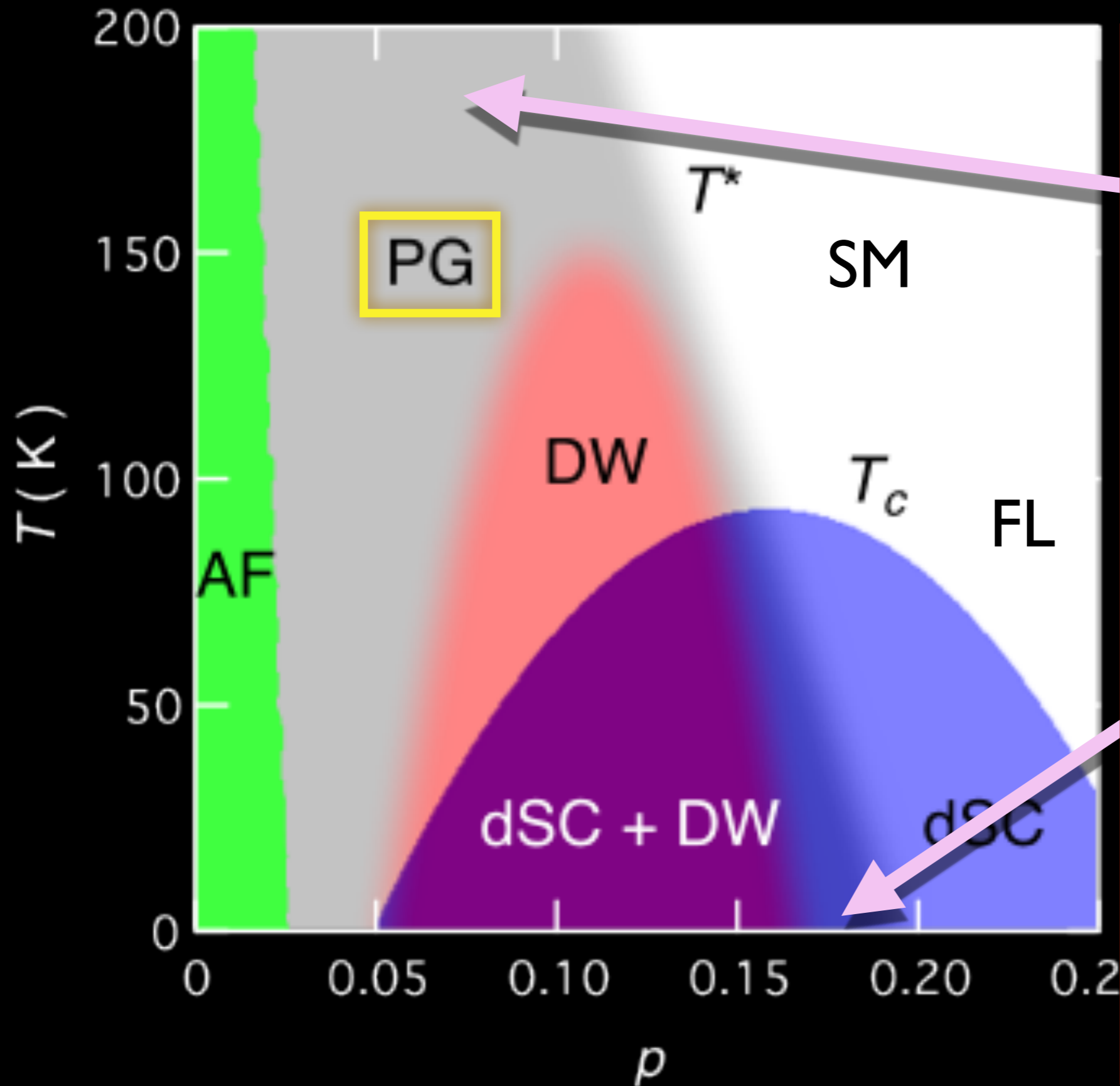
A conventional metal:  
the Fermi liquid  
with Fermi  
surface of size  
 $l+p$



Pseudogap  
metal  
at low  $p$

Many experimental indications that this metal behaves like a Fermi liquid, but with Fermi surface size  $p$  and *not*  $1+p$ .

S. Badoux, W. Tabis, F. Laliberté, G. Grissonnanche, B. Vignolle, D. Vignolles, J. Béard, D.A. Bonn, W.N. Hardy, R. Liang, N. Doiron-Leyraud, L. Taillefer, and C. Proust, Nature **531**, 210 (2016).

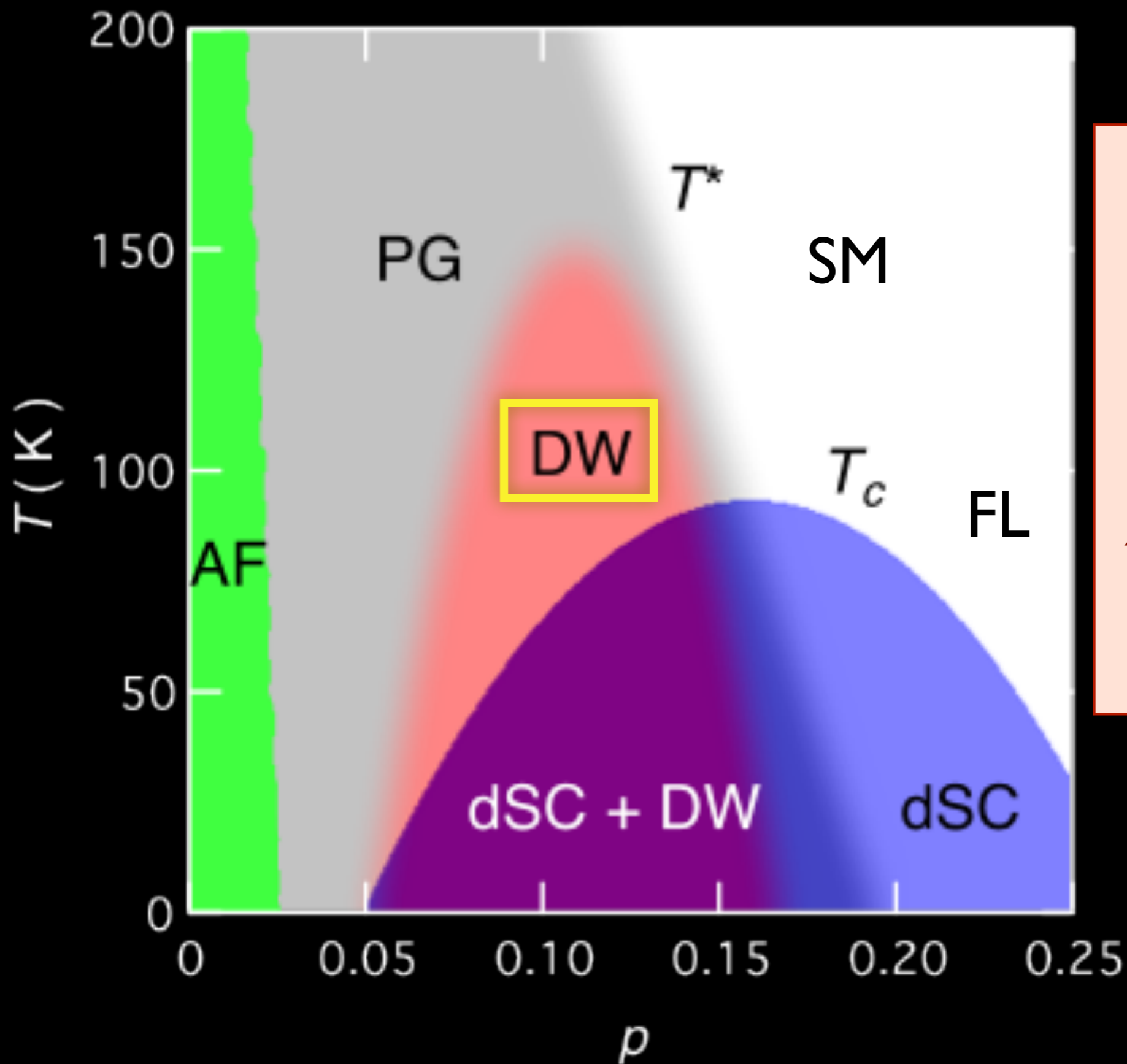


## Pseudogap metal

at low  $p$

Many experimental indications that this metal behaves like a Fermi liquid, but with Fermi surface size  $p$  and *not*  $1+p$ .

Recent experiments show the PG metal is also present at low  $T$  in high magnetic field



DW is “(charge) density wave” order, which is a low  $T$  instability of the PG metal. It yields important clues on the nature of the PG metal, and will be discussed later.

Q: Can we have a metal with a Fermi surface of size  $p$  with electron-like (charge  $e$ , spin  $1/2$ ) quasiparticles?



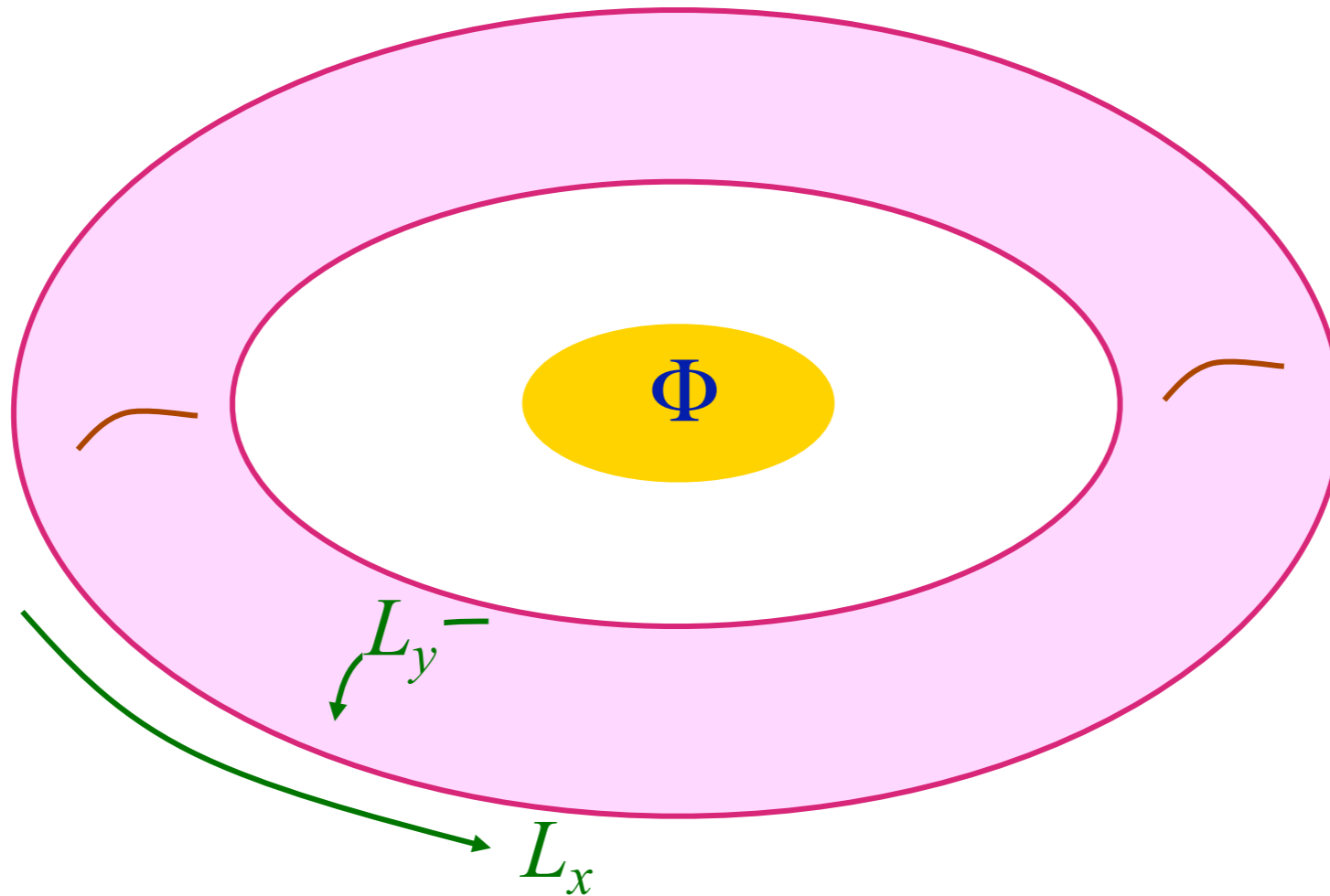
Q: Can we have a metal with a Fermi surface of size  $p$  with electron-like (charge  $e$ , spin  $1/2$ ) quasiparticles?

A: Yes, but only if there are additional excitations described by emergent gauge fields. In the simplest case we shall discuss, these excitations are described by a topological quantum field theory (TQFT).

**We shall call such a metal FL\***

1. Flux insertion on the torus, and momentum balance in *any* quantum state.
2. Fermi surface size in FL
3. Insulating spin liquids and topological quantum field theory (TQFT)
4. A one-band FL\* model for the PG metal

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We take  $N$  particles, each with charge  $Q$ , on a  $L_x \times L_y$  lattice on a torus. We pierce flux  $\Phi = hc/Q$  through a hole of the torus.

An exact computation shows that the change in crystal momentum of *any* many-body quantum state due to flux piercing is

$$\Delta P_x \equiv P_{xf} - P_{xi} = \frac{2\pi N}{L_x} (\text{mod } 2\pi) = 2\pi n L_y (\text{mod } 2\pi)$$

where  $n = N/(L_x L_y)$  is the density.

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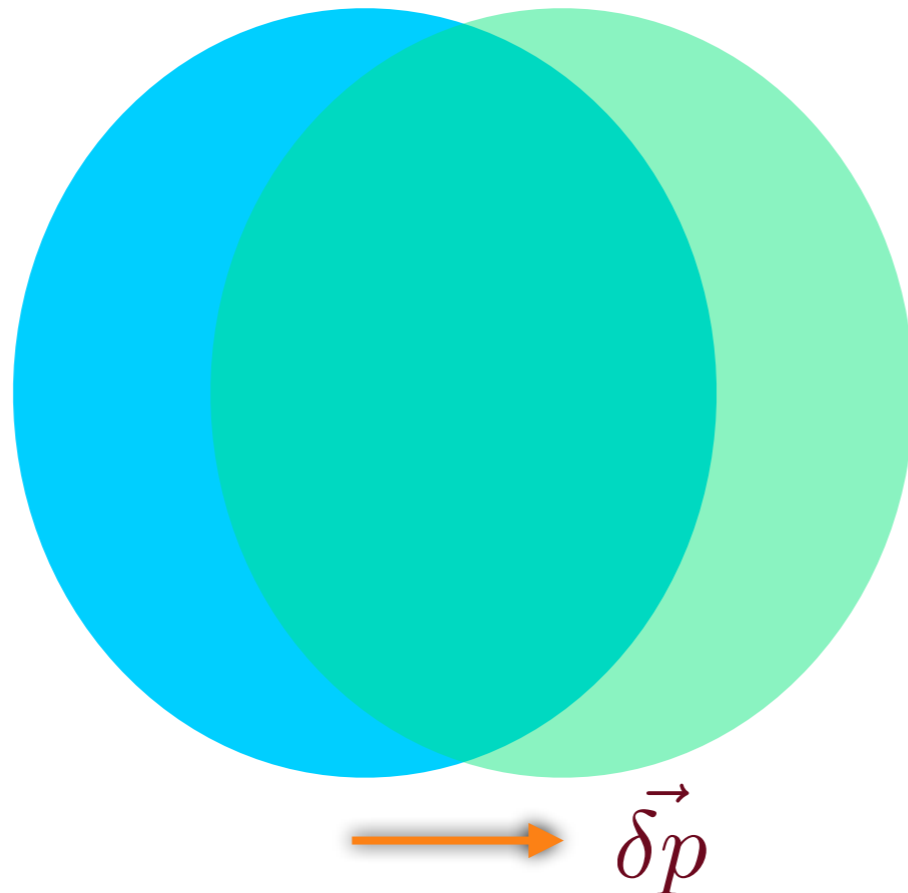
## Flux insertion in FL

Now we compute the momentum balance assuming that the only low energy excitations are nearly-free quasiparticles near the Fermi surface, and each quasiparticle picks up a momentum  $\vec{\delta p} \equiv (2\pi/L_x, 0)$ . Then a simple geometric computation shows that

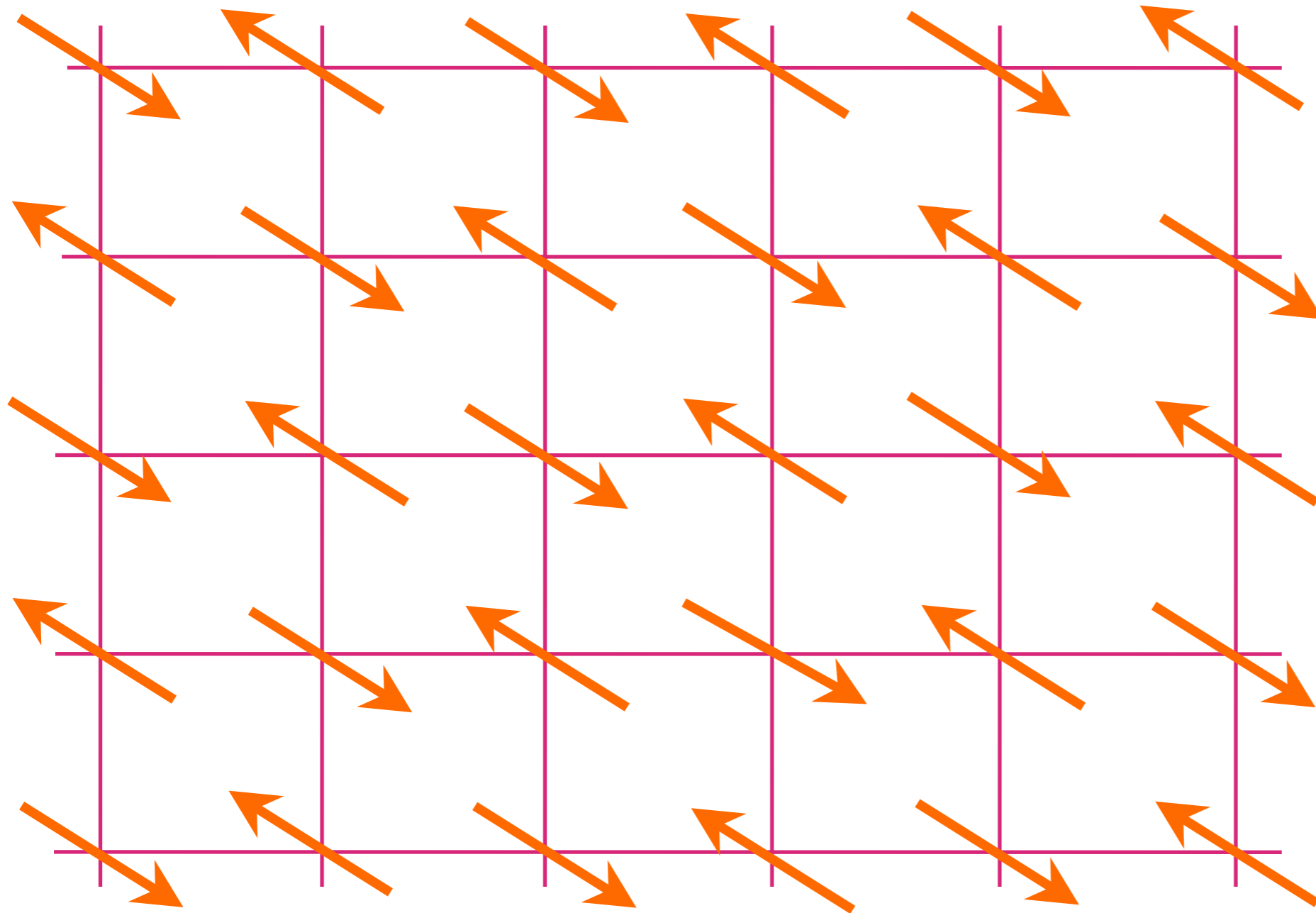
$$\Delta P_x = \left( \frac{2\pi}{L_x} \right) \frac{L_x L_y}{4\pi^2} V_{\text{FS}} \pmod{2\pi}$$

where  $V_{\text{FS}}$  is the volume of the Fermi surface. Assuming this holds for all mutually prime  $L_{x,y}$ , and for spinful electrons we can establish Luttinger's theorem:

$$\frac{V_{\text{FS}}}{4\pi^2} = n \equiv (1 + p) \pmod{2}$$




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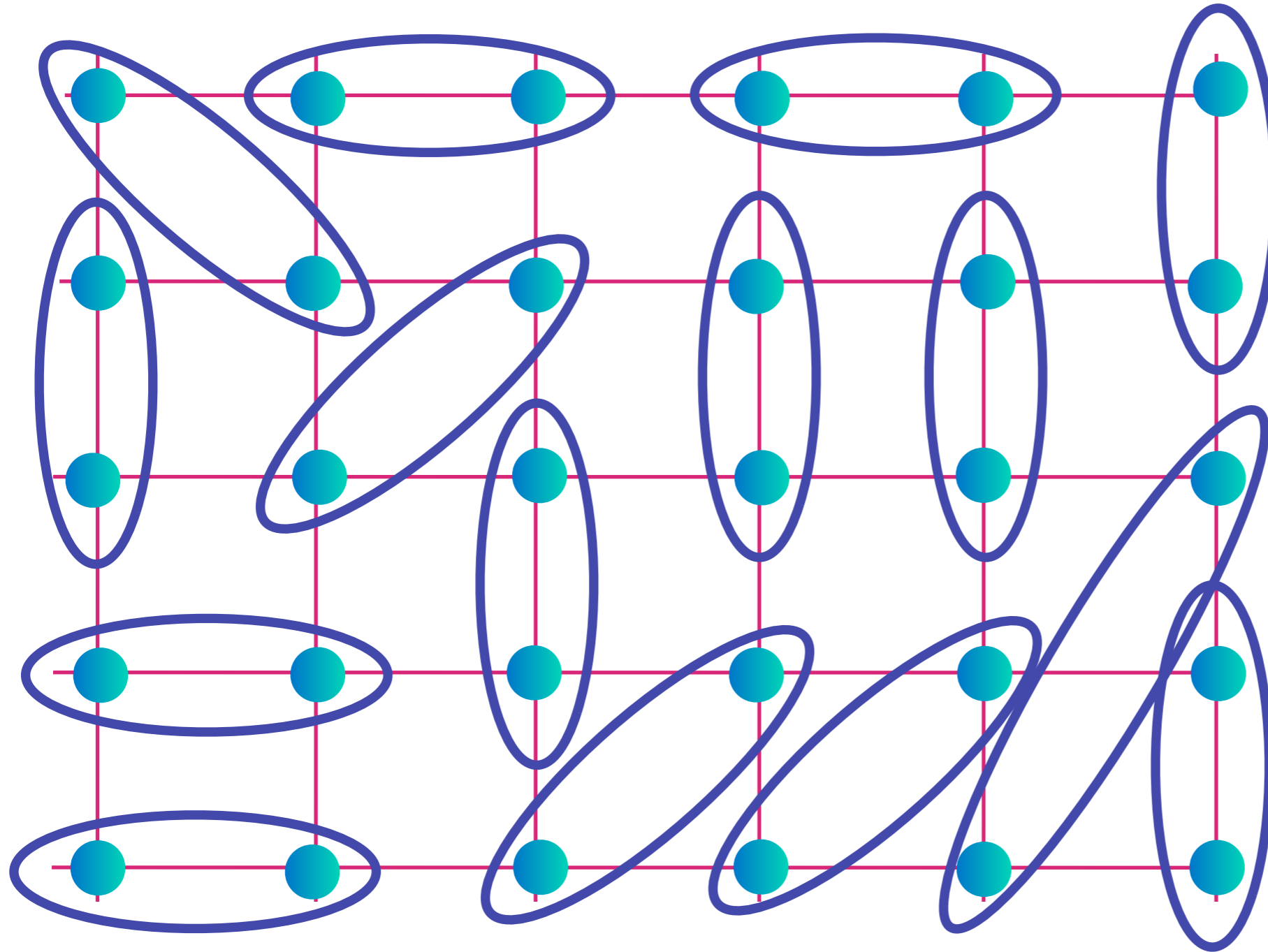


“Undoped”  
Anti-  
ferromagnet



# Insulating spin liquid


$$= (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$




The first  
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quantum  
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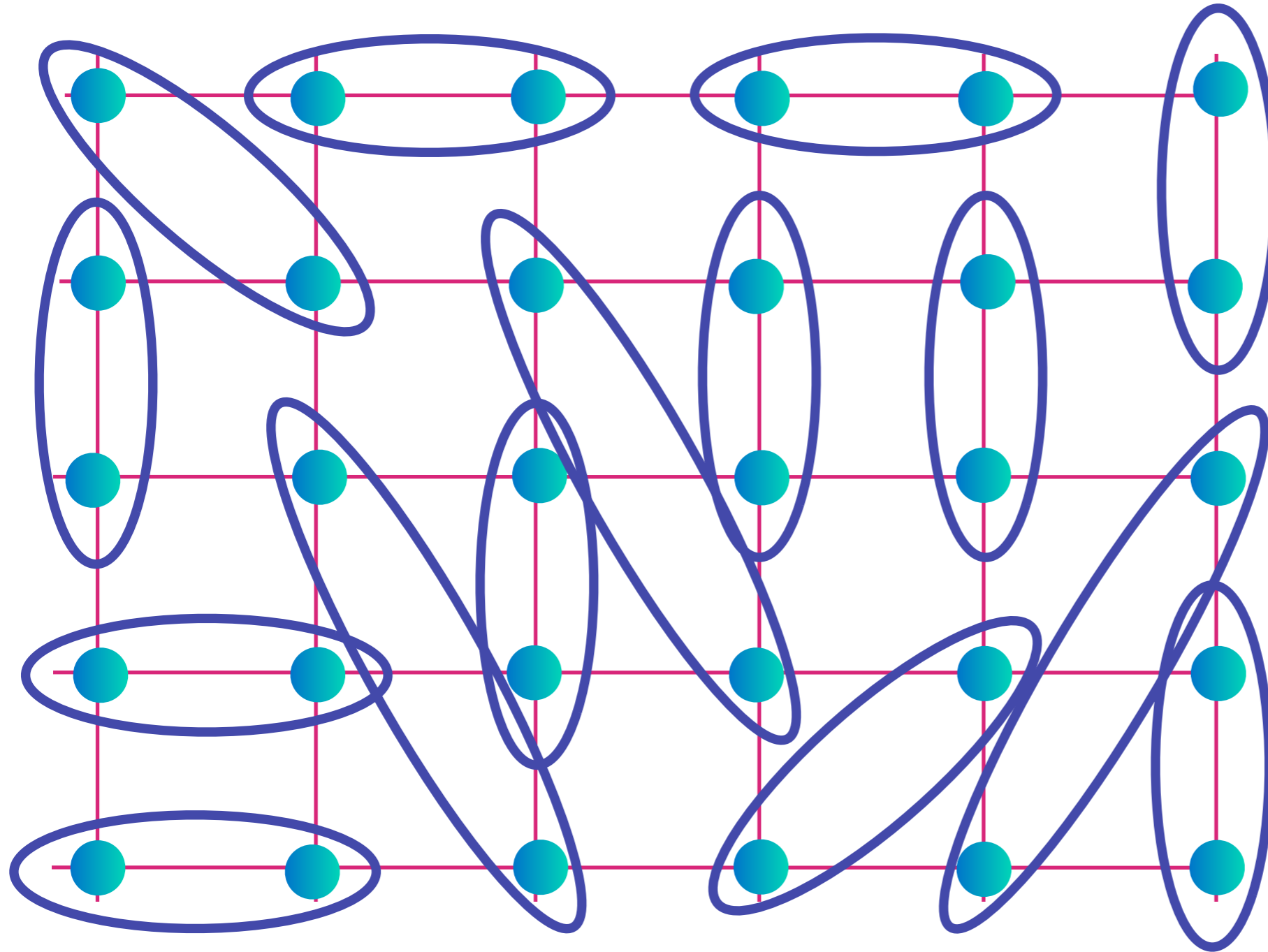
L. Pauling, Proceedings of the Royal Society London A **196**, 343 (1949)

P. W. Anderson, Materials Research Bulletin **8**, 153 (1973)

G. Baskaran and P. W. Anderson, Phys. Rev. B **37**, 580(R) (1988)

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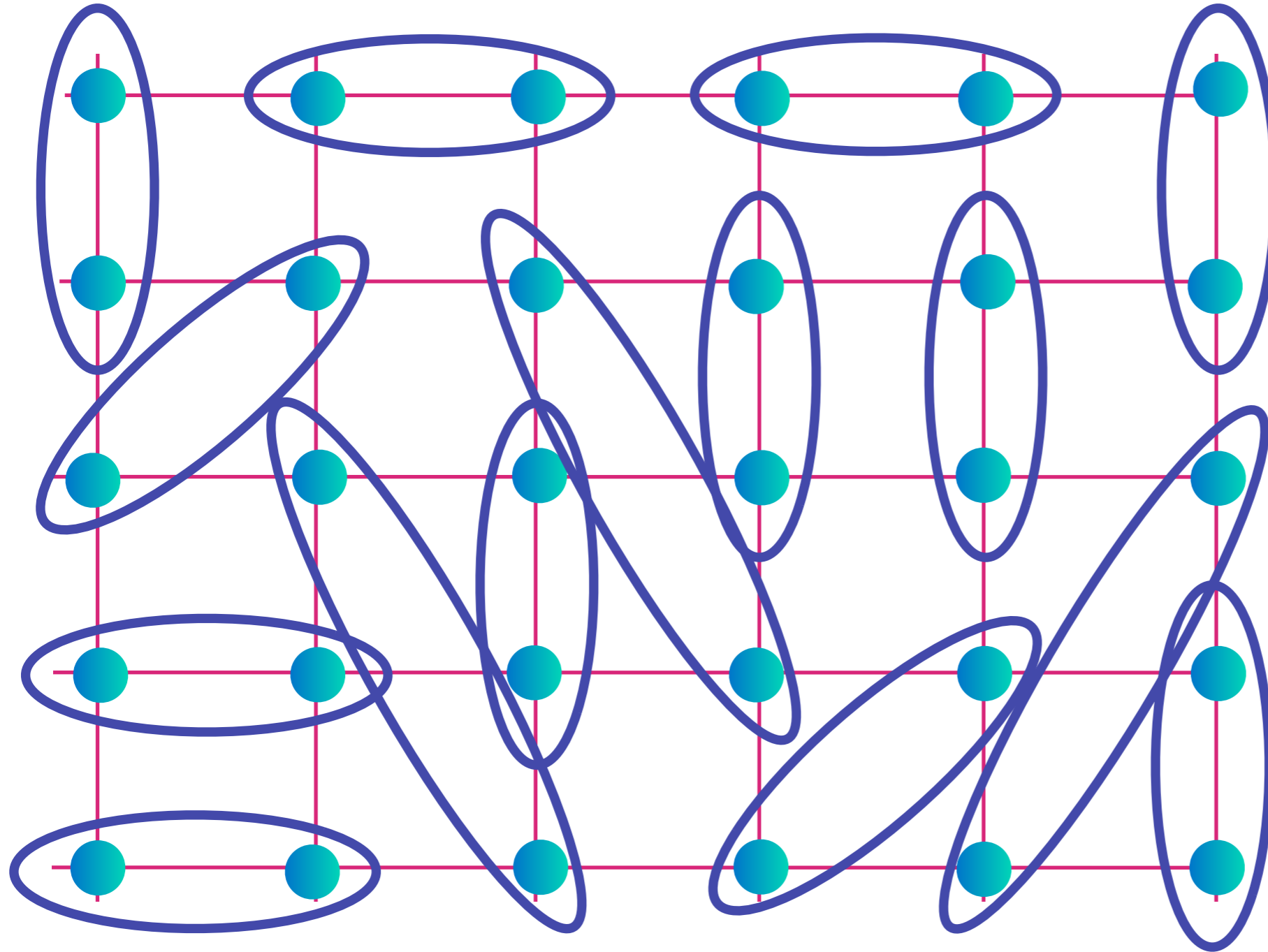
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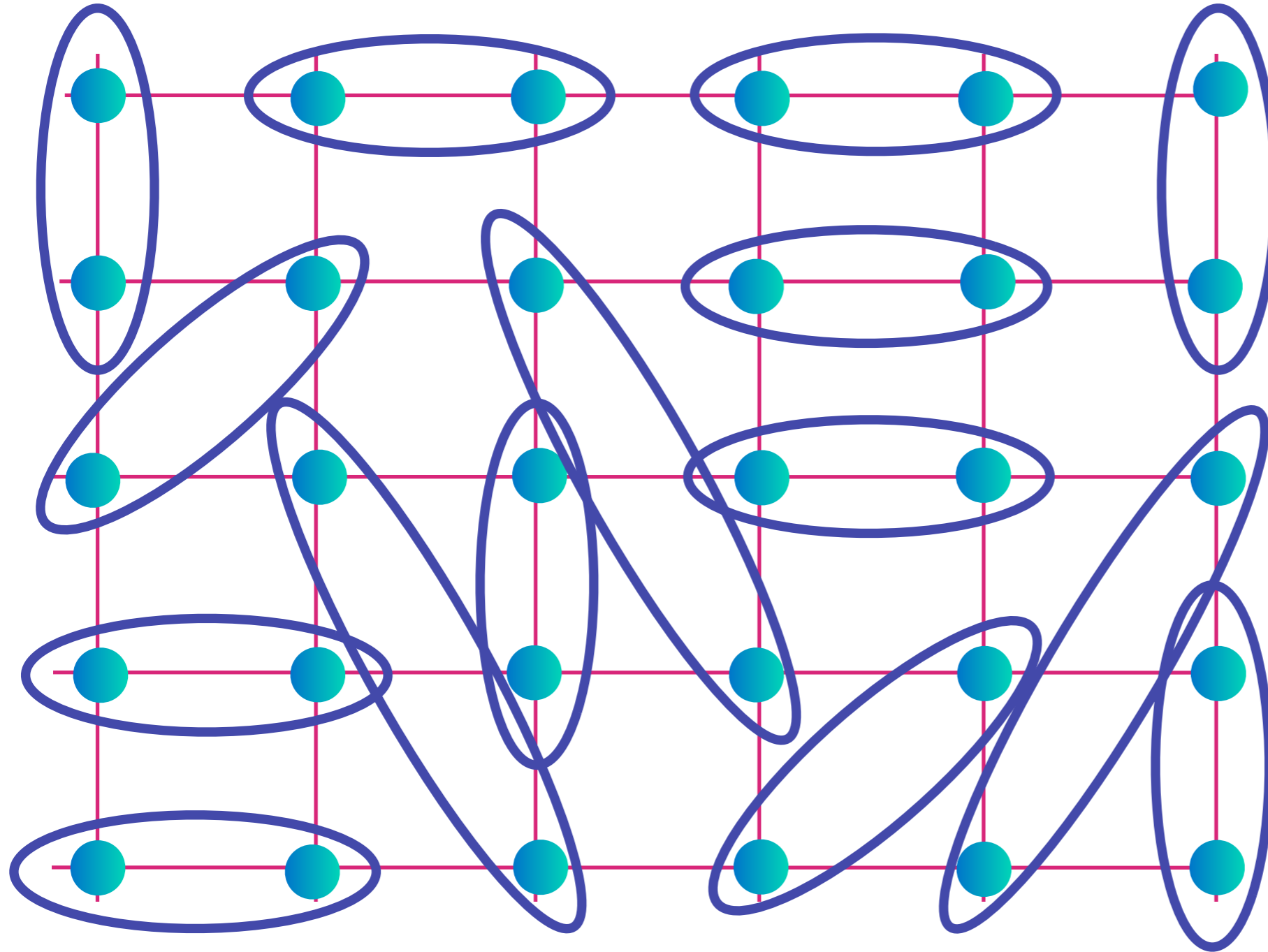
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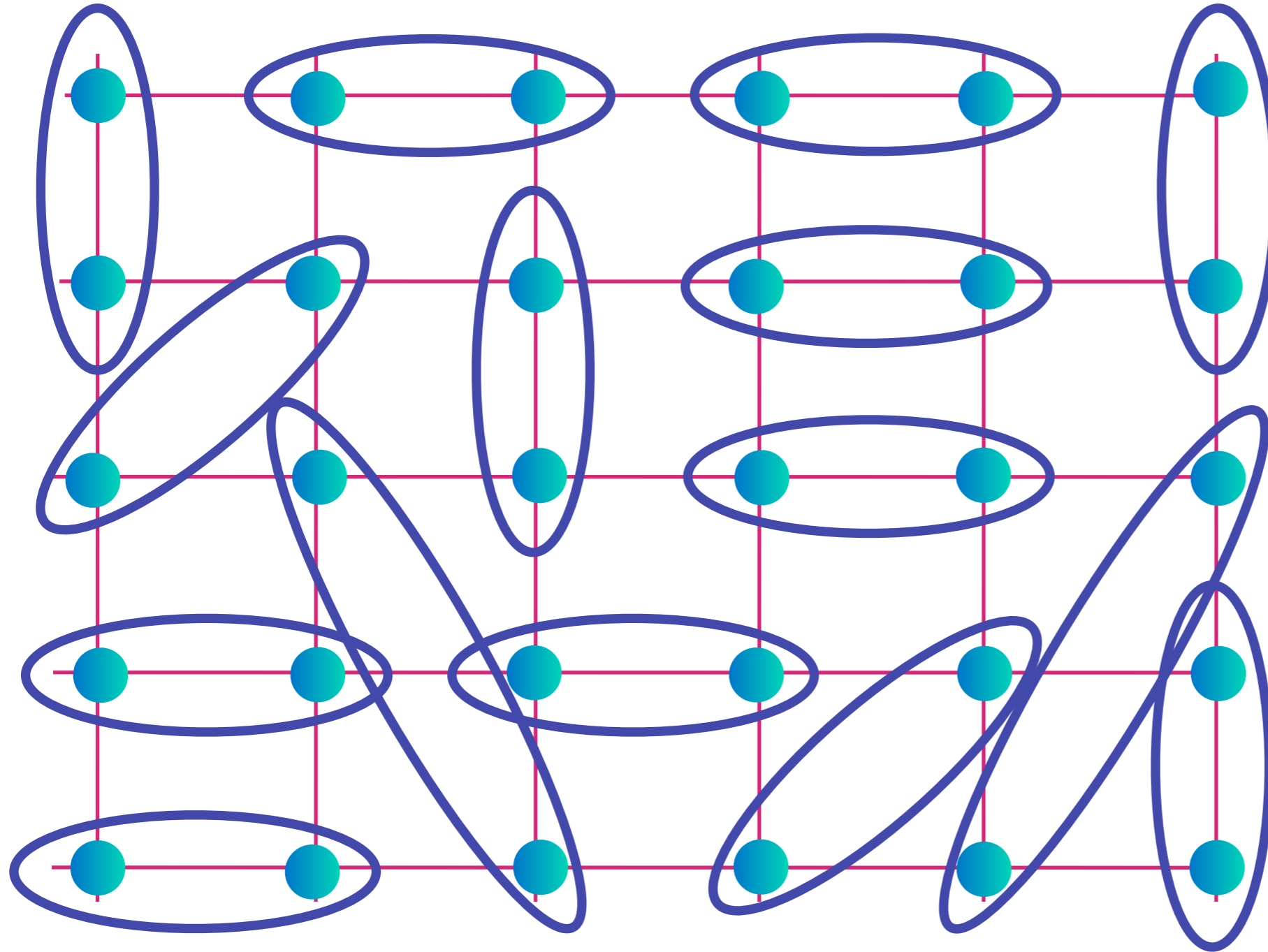
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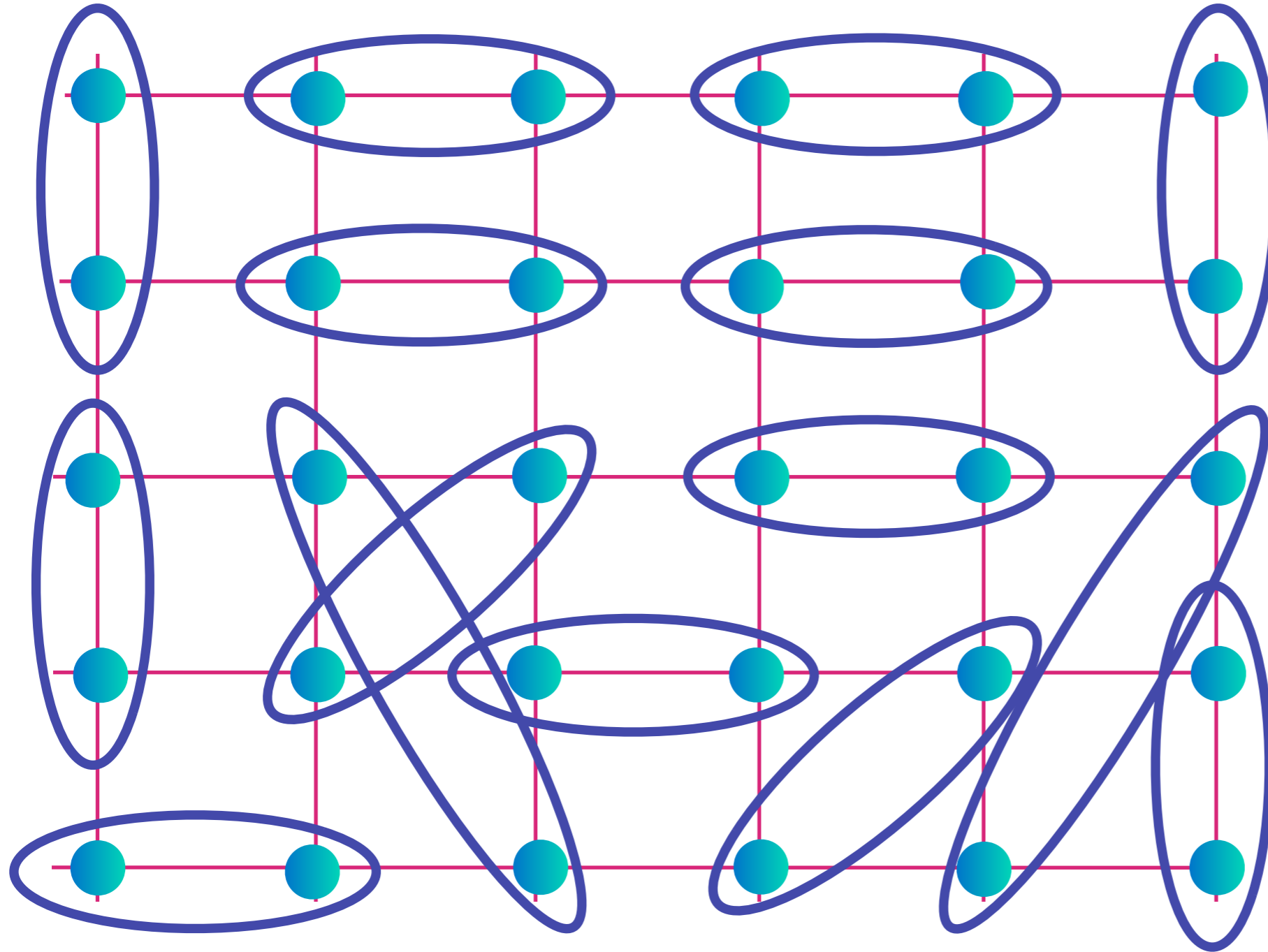
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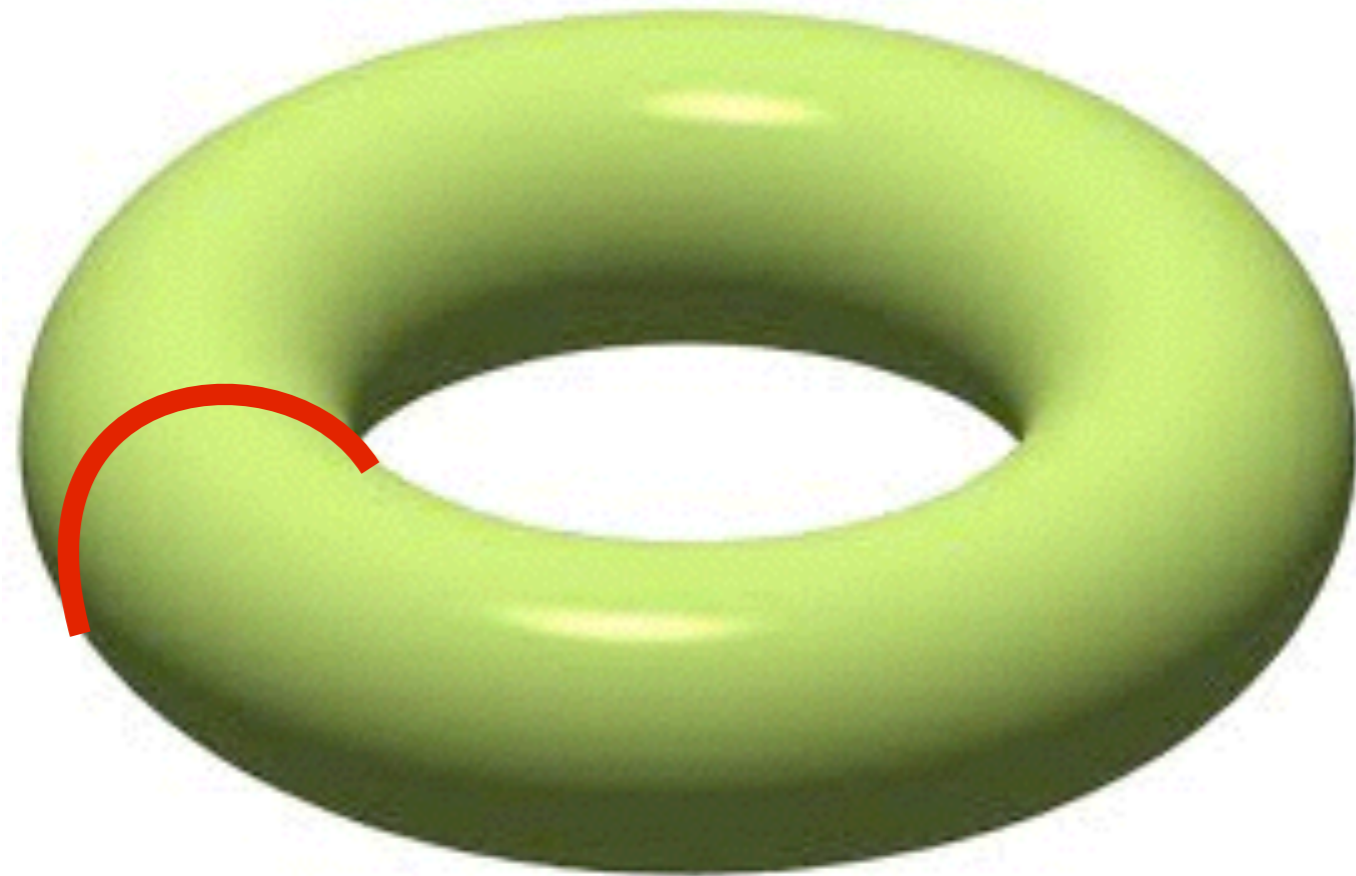
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# Why is this a TQFT ?



Place  
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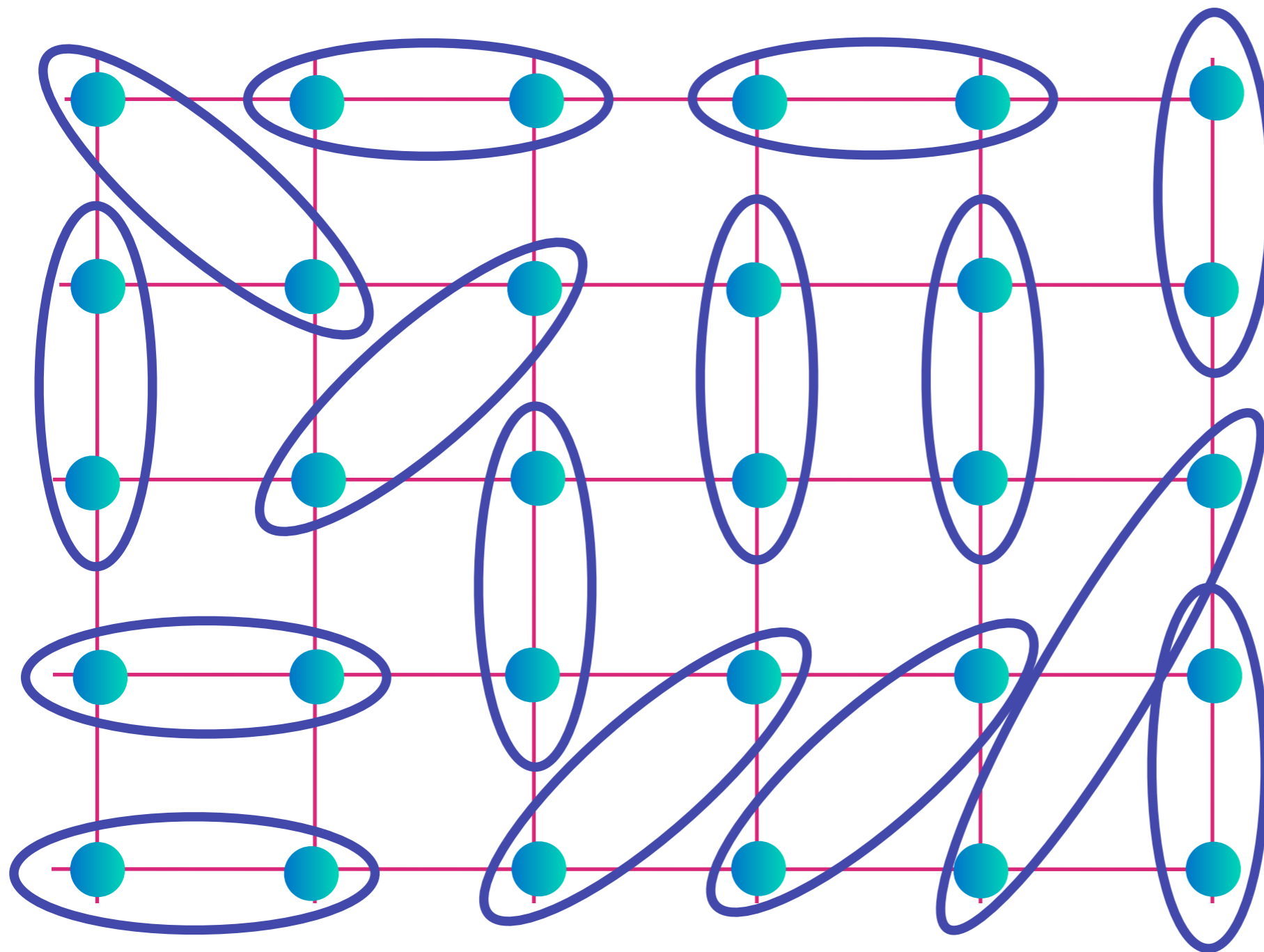
Place  
insulator  
on a torus:

Obtain a  
degenerate  
orthogonal state  
by modifying the  
wavefunction on  
a “branch-cut”  
encircling the  
torus.



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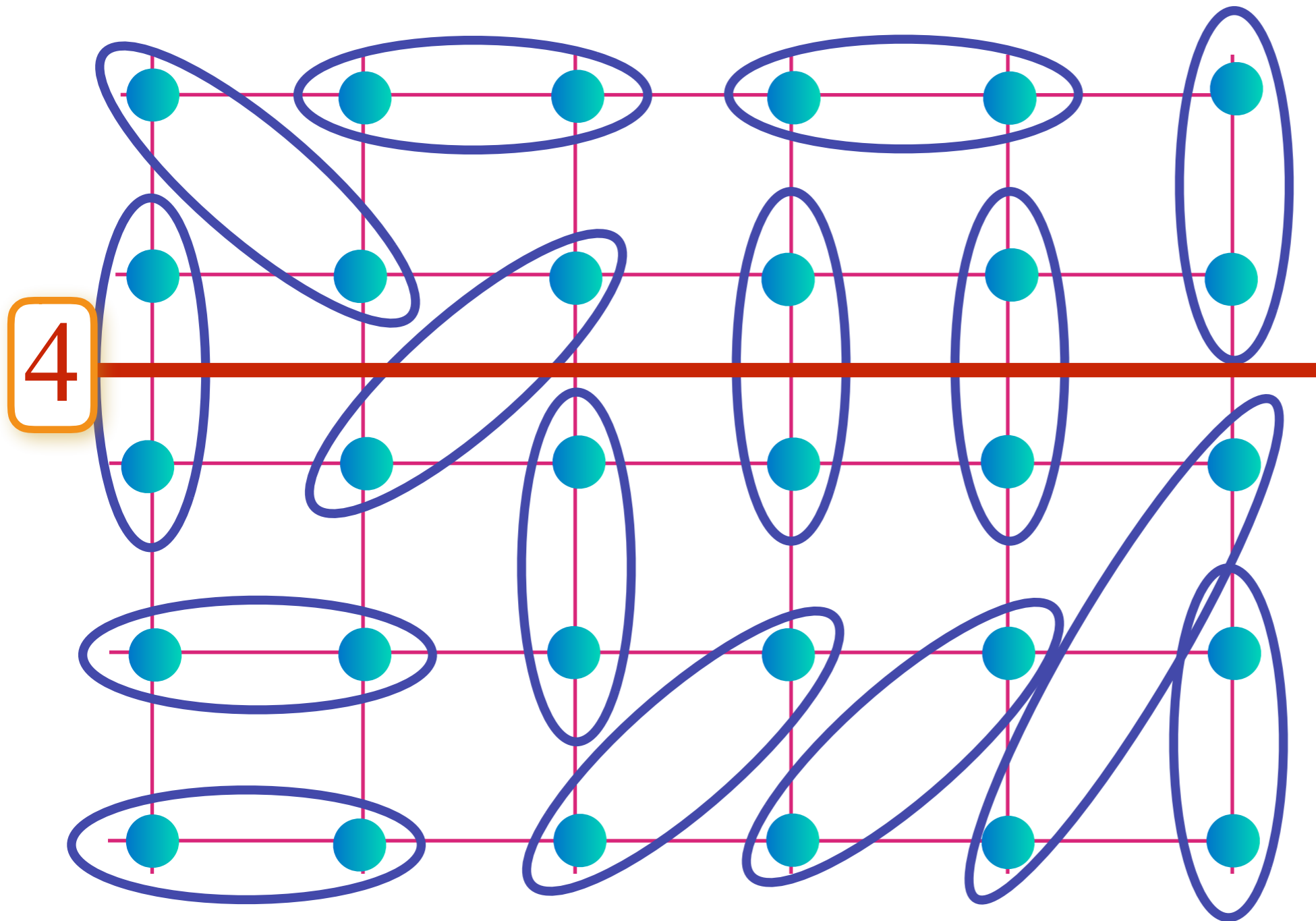
Number of  
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“branch-cut” is  
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modulo 2:  
there are nearly  
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D.J. Thouless, PRB 36, 7187 (1987)

S.A. Kivelson, D.S. Rokhsar and J.P. Sethna, Europhys. Lett. 6, 353 (1988)

# Why is this a TQFT ?

$$\text{[Diagram of two teal dots in a blue oval]} = (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$



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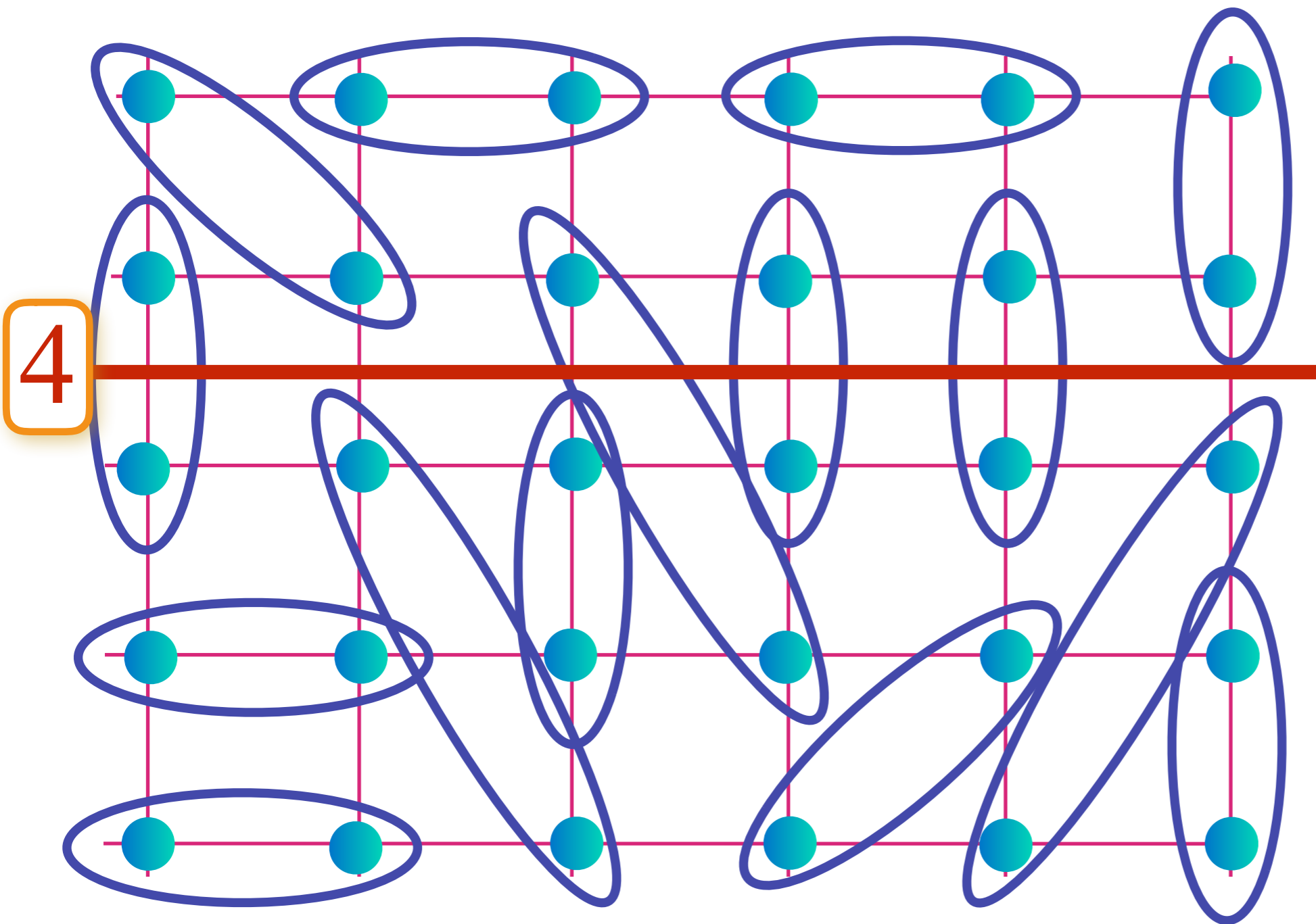
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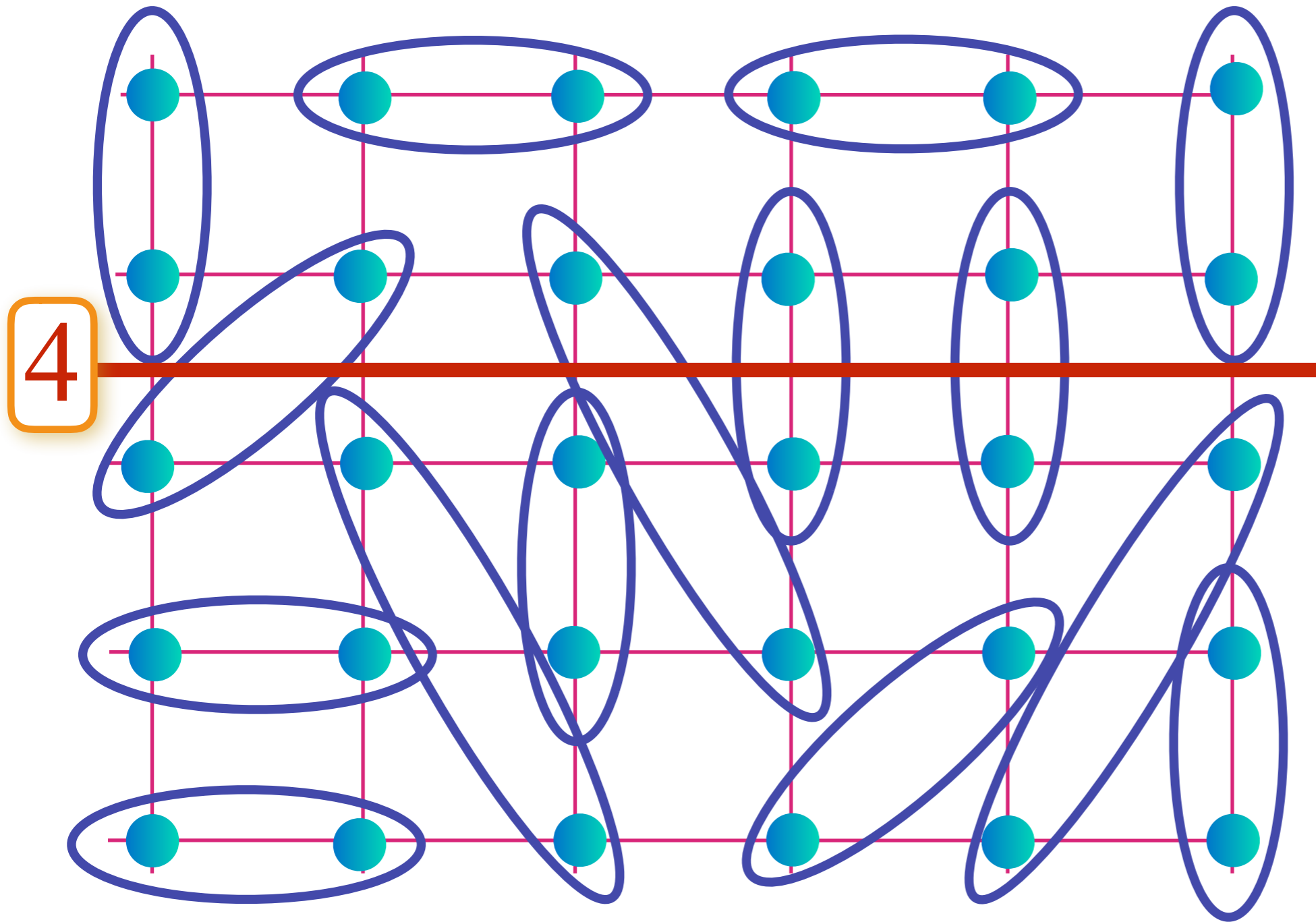
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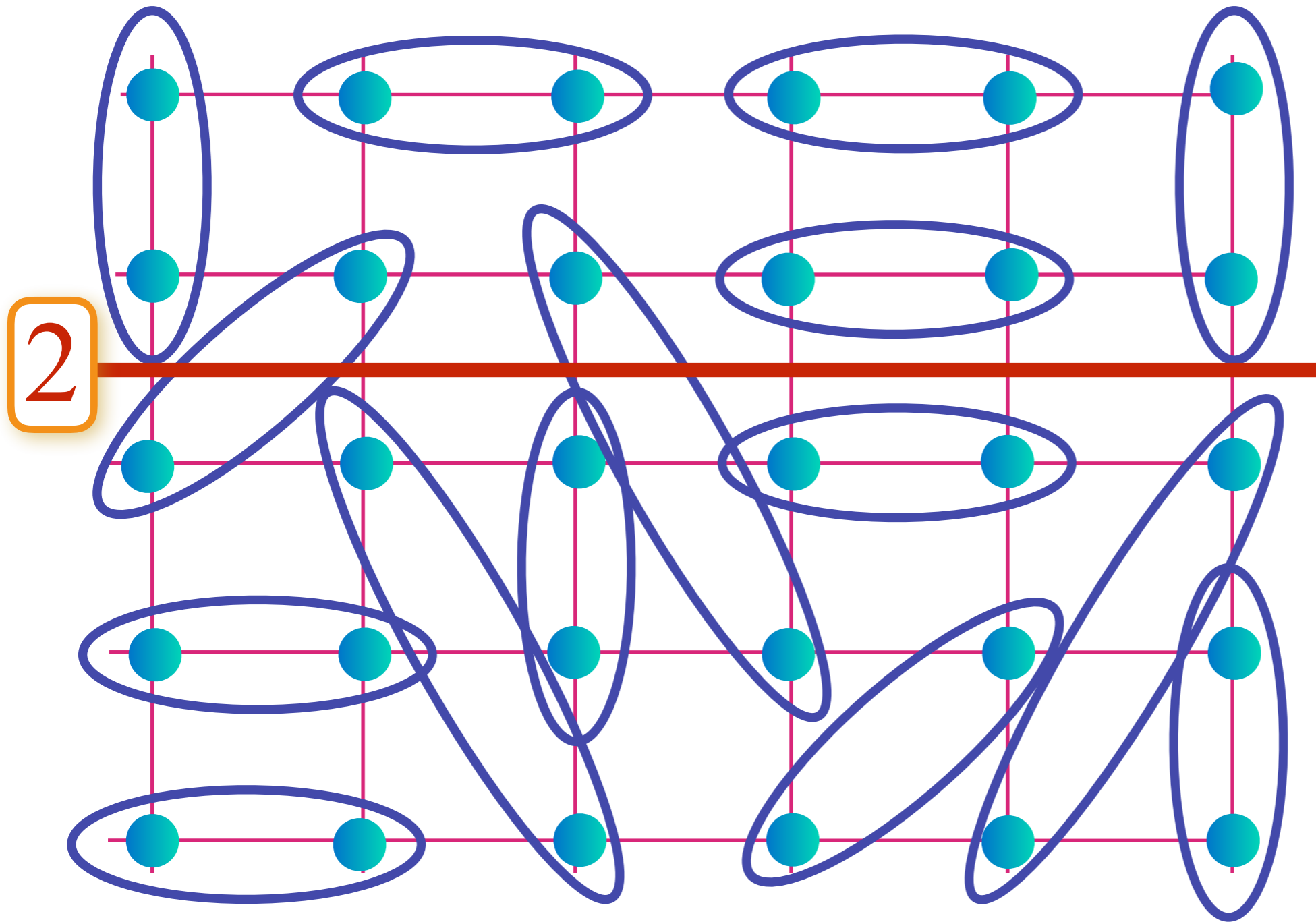
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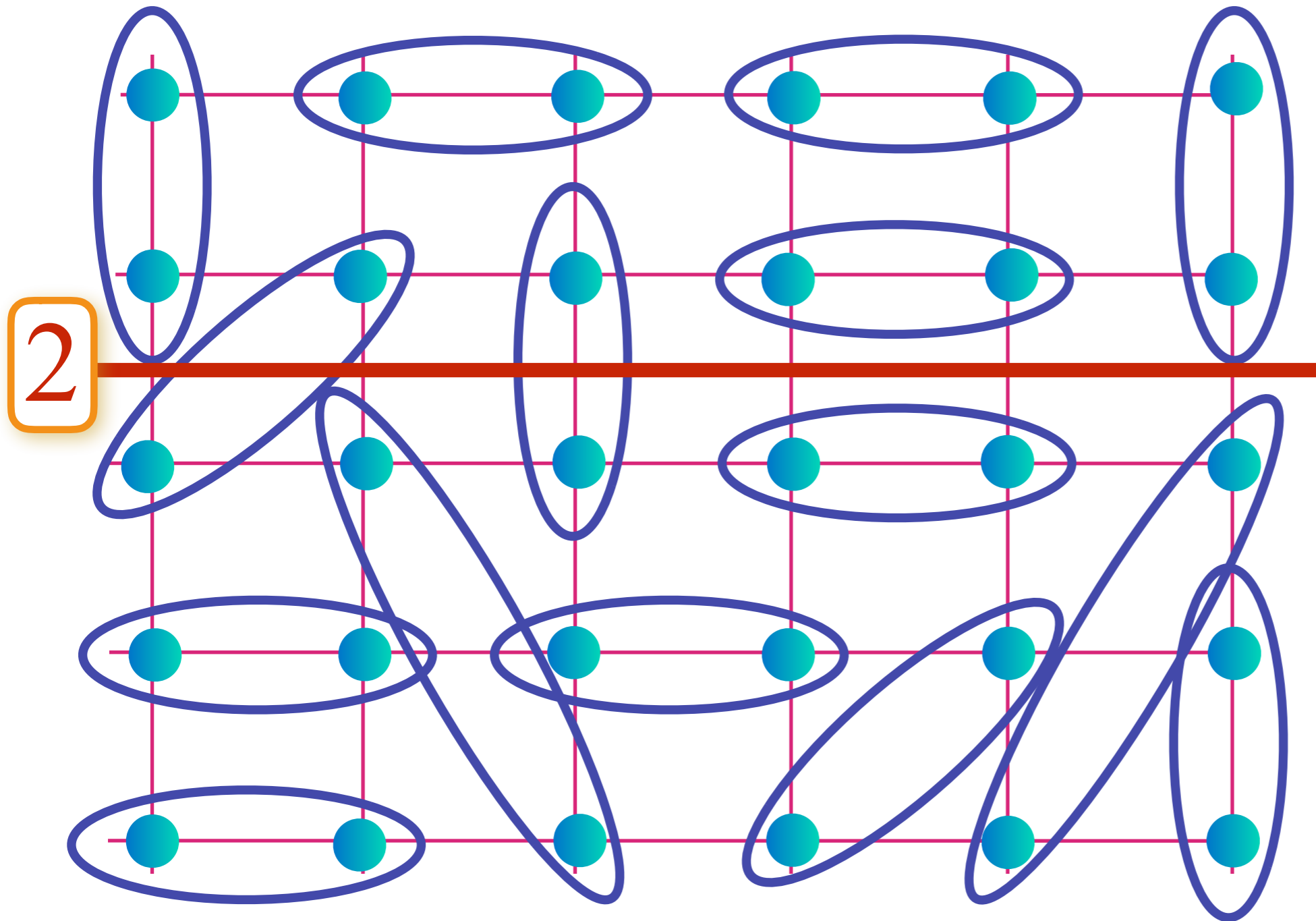
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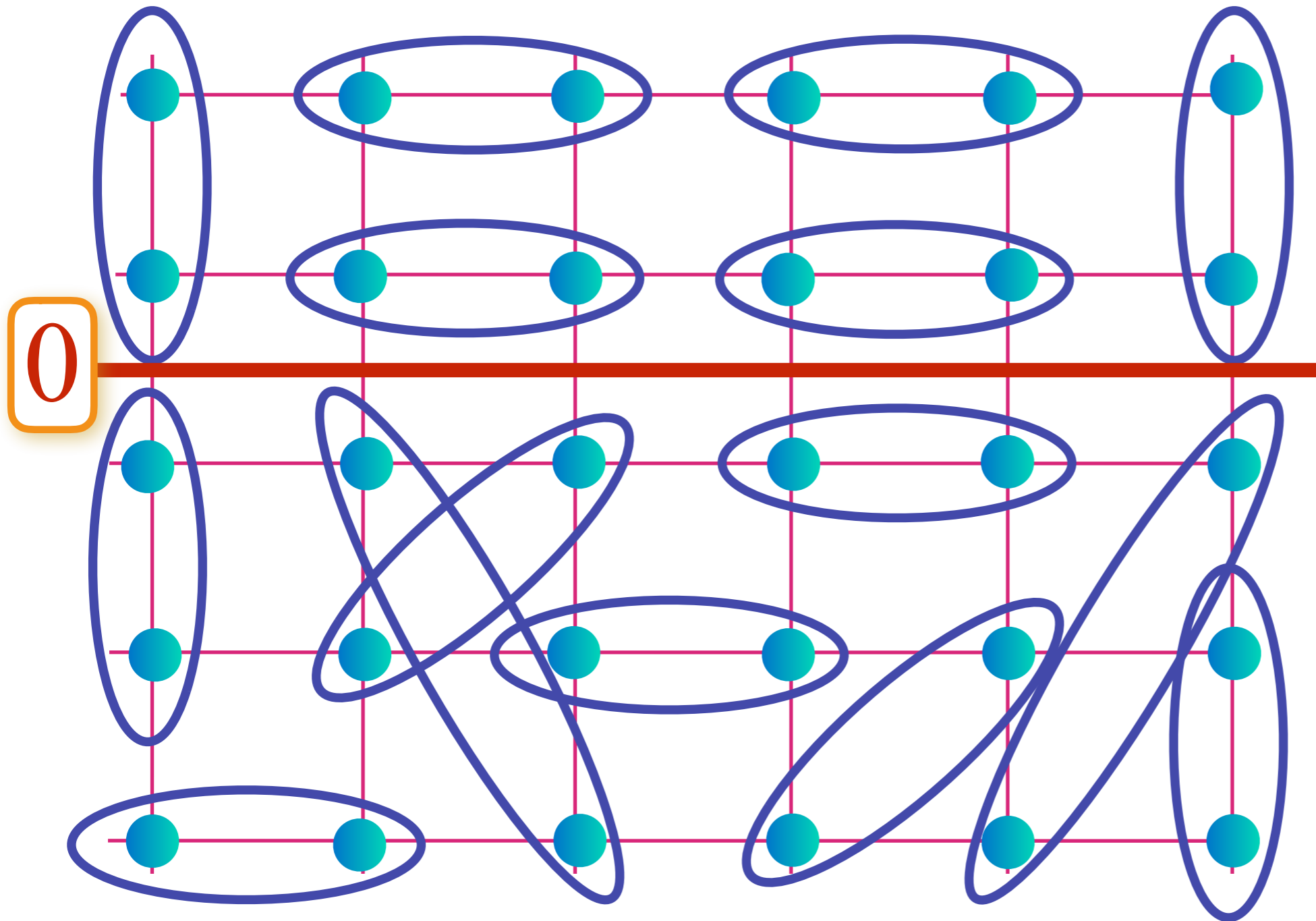
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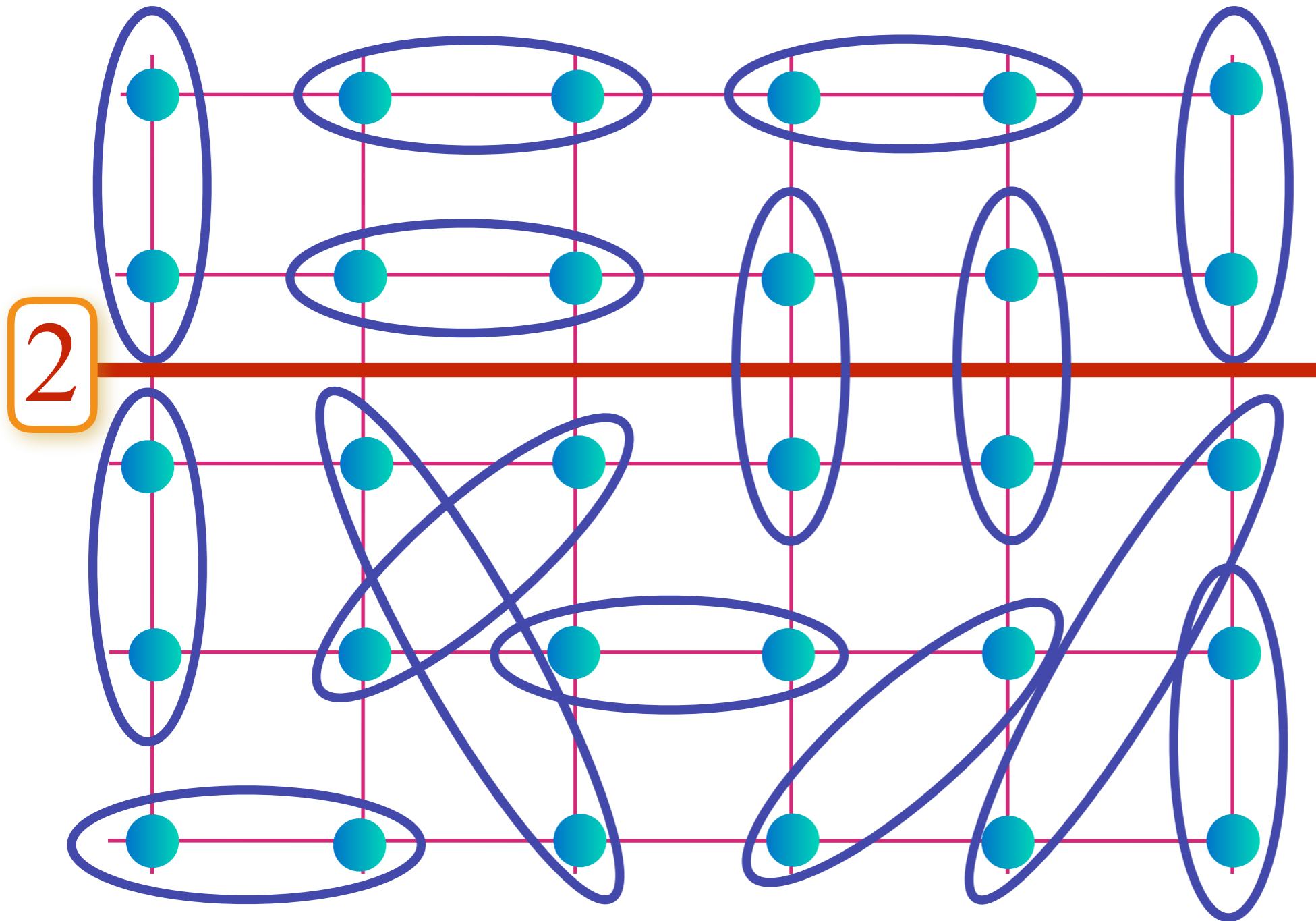
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S.A. Kivelson, D.S. Rokhsar and J.P. Sethna, Europhys. Lett. 6, 353 (1988)



# The TQFT

The  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  spin liquid: Described by the simplest, non-trivial, topological field theory with time-reversal symmetry:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{4\pi} K_{IJ} \int d^3x a^I \wedge da^J$$

where  $a^I$ ,  $I = 1, 2$  are U(1) gauge connections, and the  $K$  matrix is

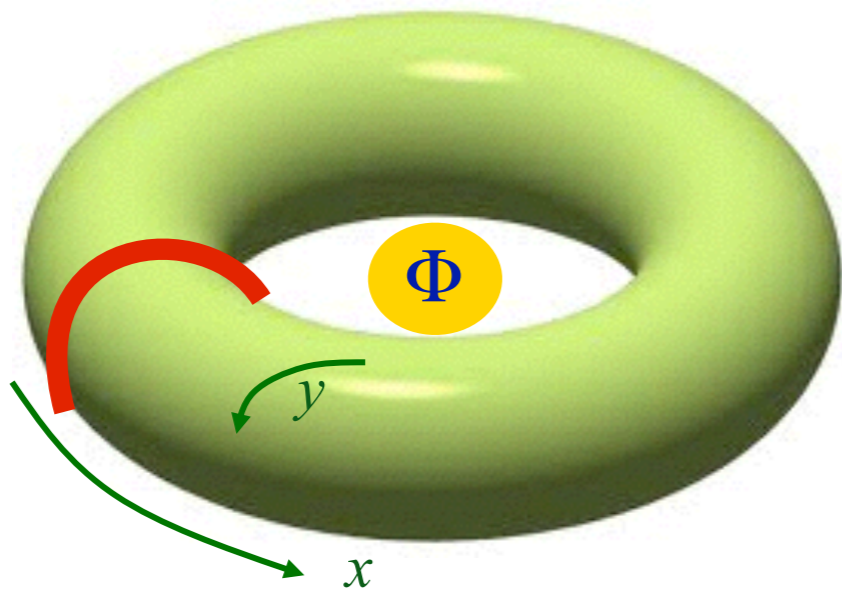
$$K = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

N. Read and S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. Lett. 66, 1773 (1991)

X.-G. Wen, Phys. Rev. B 44, 2664 (1991)

M. Freedman, C. Nayak, K. Shtengel, K. Walker, and Z. Wang, Annals of Physics 310, 428 (2004)

# Momentum balance in the TQFT



R.A. Jalabert and S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. B 44, 686 (1991)

S. Sachdev and M. Vojta, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn 69, Supp. B, 1 (1999)

T. Senthil and M. P.A. Fisher, PRB 62, 7850 (2000)

The gauge field  $A$ , producing flux  $\Phi$ , couples to one of the emergent gauge fields,  $a$ , of the TQFT by  $\mathcal{L} = (1/(2\pi)) \int d^3x a \wedge dA$ . Consequently, the flux insertion changes the quantum state  $|\Psi\rangle$

$$|\Psi\rangle \Rightarrow W_y |\Psi\rangle \quad , \quad W_y \equiv \left( i \oint dy a_y \right)$$

The ‘Wilson-loop’ operator,  $W_y$ , is precisely the “branch-cut”! The  $\Phi$  flux insertion therefore cycles between the degenerate states on the torus. Further, one can show that under a lattice translation,  $T_x$ , in a model with  $S = 1/2$  spin in each unit cell,  $T_x^{-1} W_y T_x = \exp(i\pi L_y) W_y$ . Consequently, the momentum transfer (per spin) by the flux insertion is

$$\Delta P_x = \pi L_y = \left( \frac{2\pi}{L_x} \right) \frac{1}{2} L_x L_y$$

This is precisely the value expected for a quantum system at a density  $n = 1/2$  (per spin) by the general argument.

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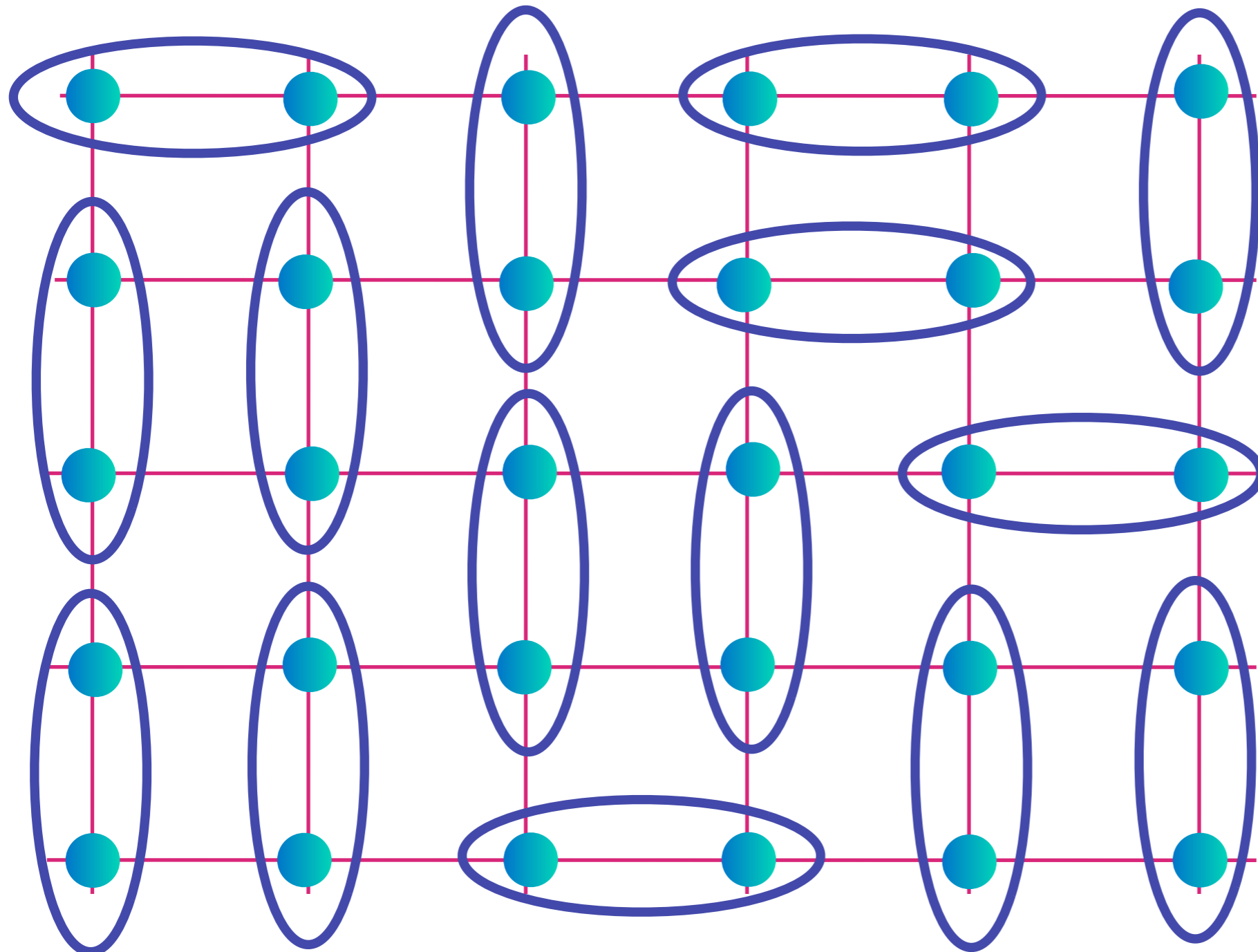
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A: A  $Z_2$ -FL\* metal has 2 classes of low energy excitations:

- Electron-like quasiparticles on a Fermi surface of size  $p$
- A sector described by a TQFT

The classes combine to satisfy the momentum balance at a density  $1+p$ .



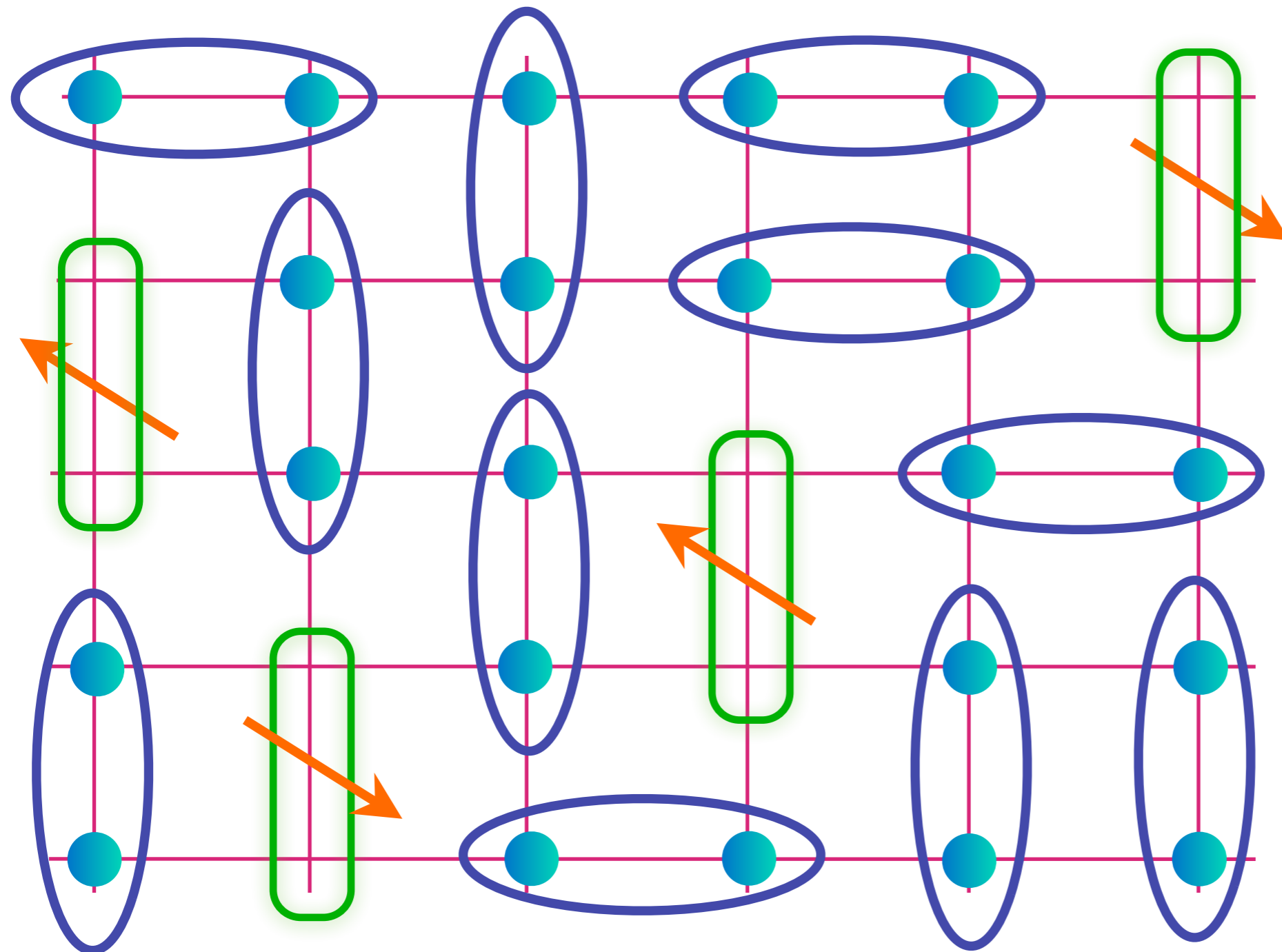
Start with a spin liquid and then remove electrons


 $= (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$

# FL\*

S. Sachdev PRB 49, 6770 (1994); X.-G. Wen and P.A. Lee PRL 76, 503 (1996)

R. K. Kaul, A. Kolezhuk, M. Levin, S. Sachdev, and T. Senthil, PRB 75, 235122 (2007)



Each green “dimer” is a “bound state” of a vacancy and a free spin

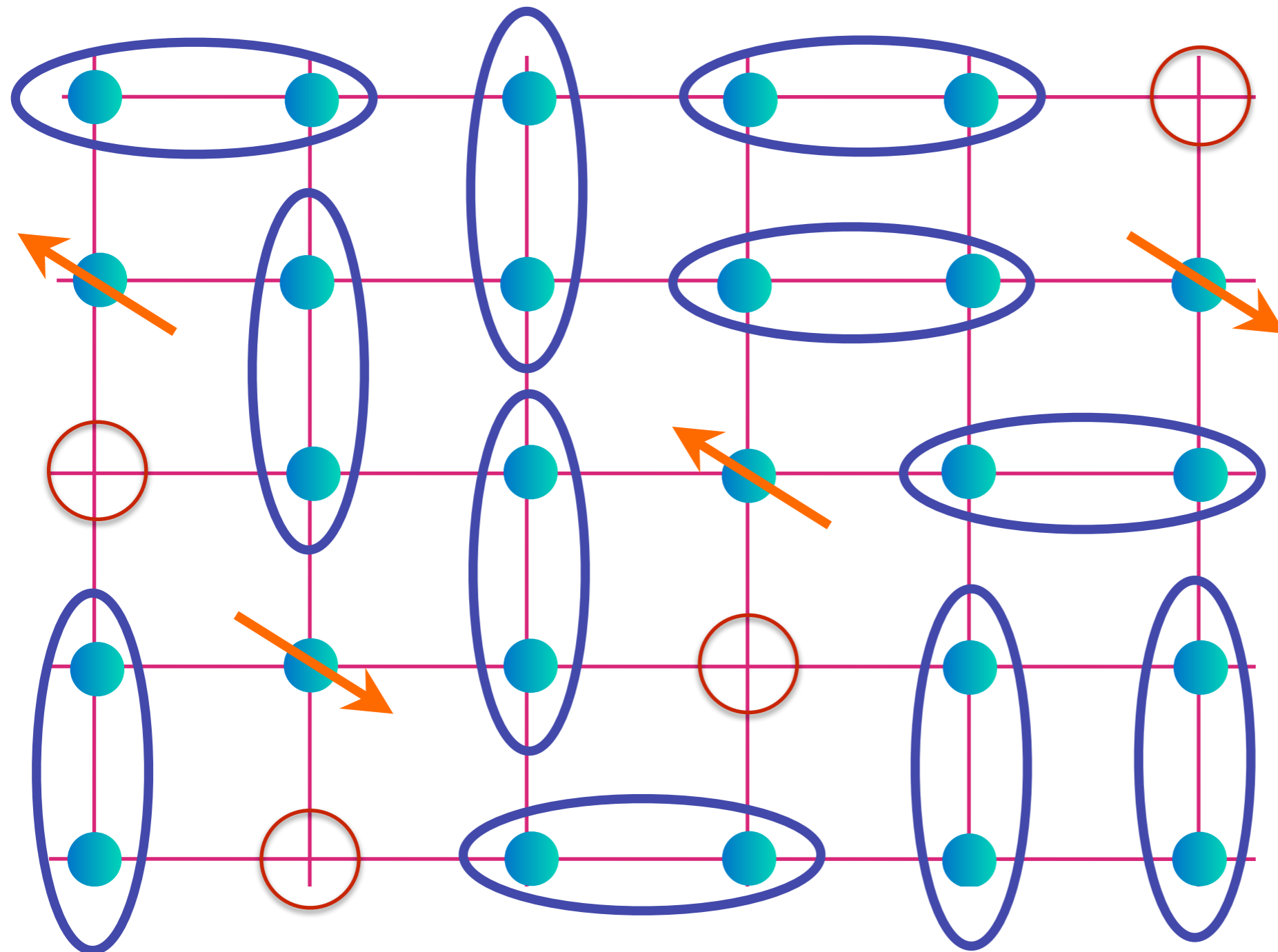
$$\text{Blue oval} = (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

$$\text{Green oval} = (|\uparrow\circ\rangle + |\circ\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

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Each green “dimer” is a “bound state” of a vacancy and a free spin

$$\text{[Teal spin, Teal spin]} = (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

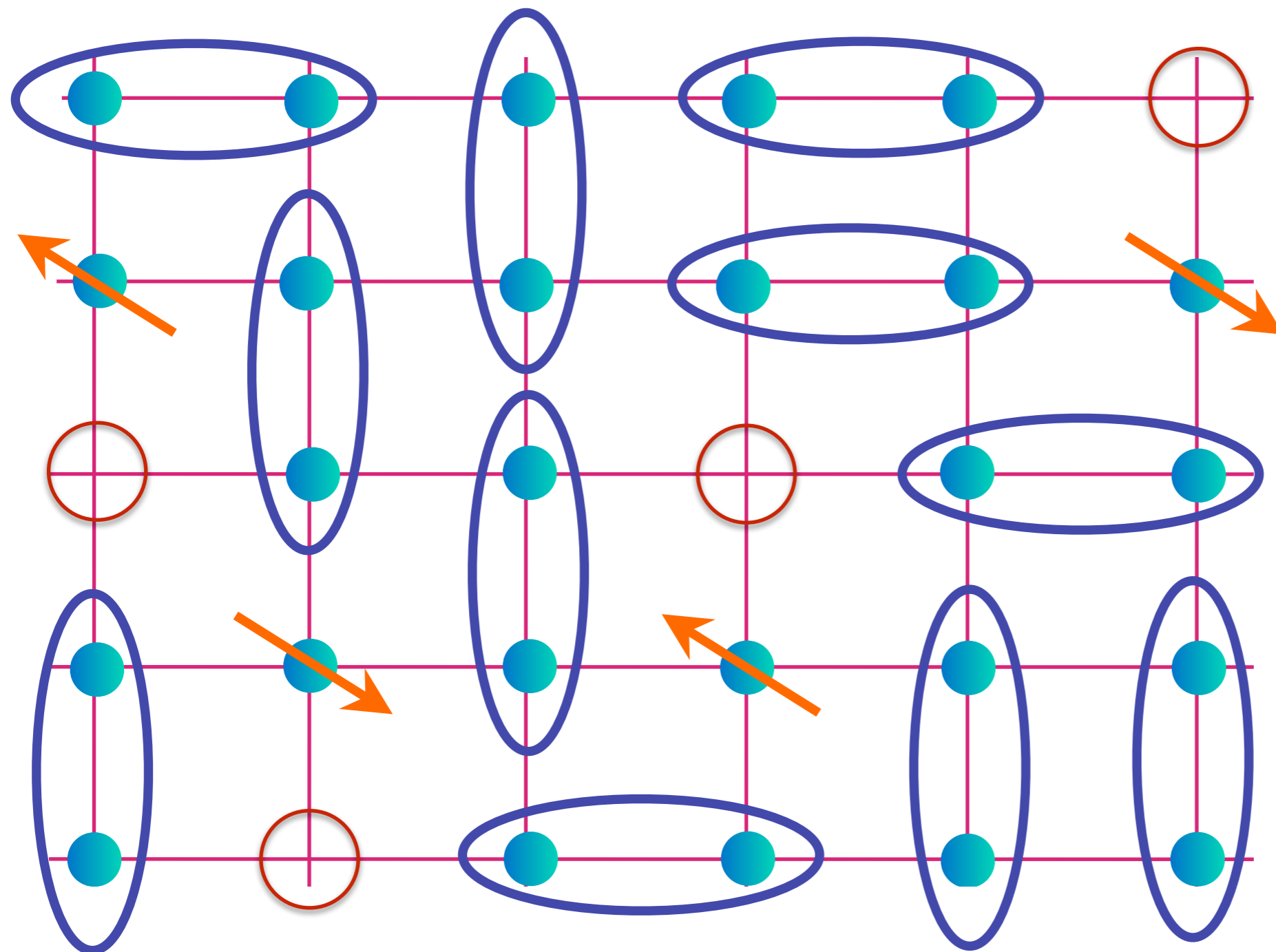
$$\text{[Teal spin, Vacancy]} = (|\uparrow\circ\rangle + |\circ\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$



# FL\*

S. Sachdev PRB 49, 6770 (1994); X.-G. Wen and P.A. Lee PRL 76, 503 (1996)

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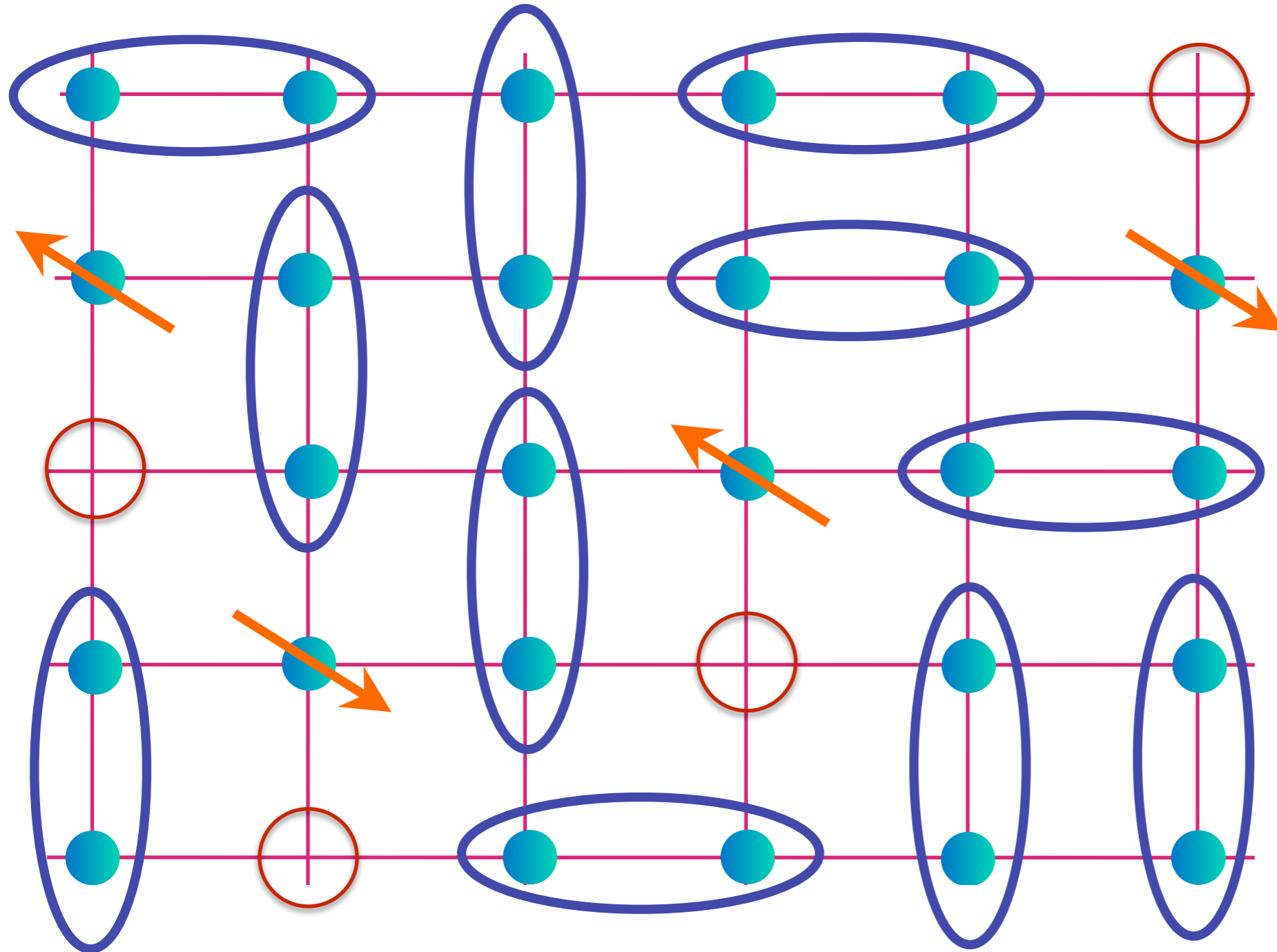
$$\text{[Teal spin, Teal spin]} = (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

$$\text{[Teal spin, Orange arrow]} = (|\uparrow\circ\rangle + |\circ\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

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S. Sachdev PRB 49, 6770 (1994); X.-G. Wen and P.A. Lee PRL 76, 503 (1996)

R. K. Kaul, A. Kolezhuk, M. Levin, S. Sachdev, and T. Senthil, PRB 75, 235122 (2007)



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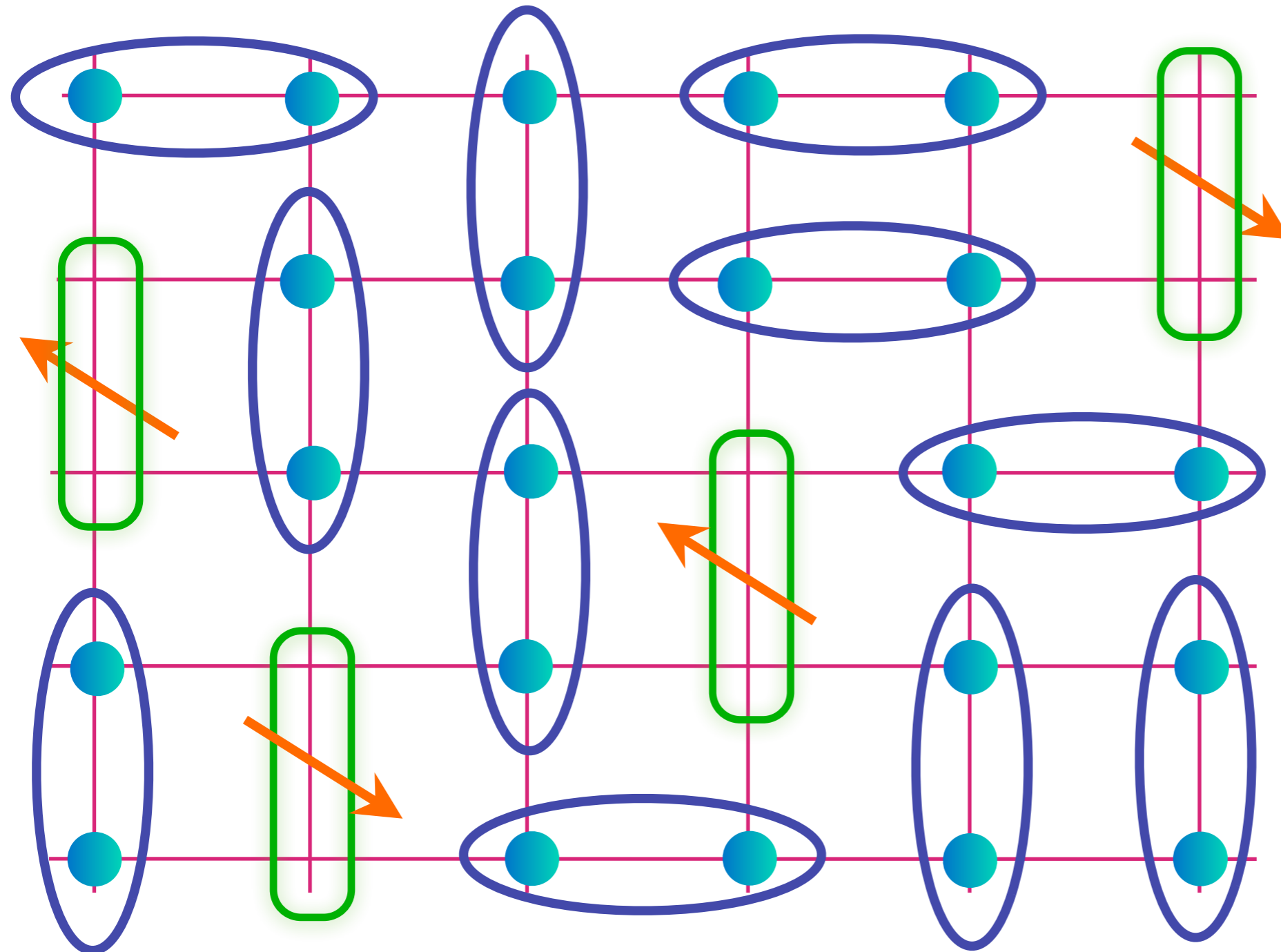
$$\text{[Teal spin, Teal spin]} = (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

$$\text{[Teal spin, Empty site]} = (|\uparrow\circ\rangle + |\circ\uparrow\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

# Quasiparticles of FL\*

S. Sachdev PRB 49, 6770 (1994); X.-G. Wen and P.A. Lee PRL 76, 503 (1996)

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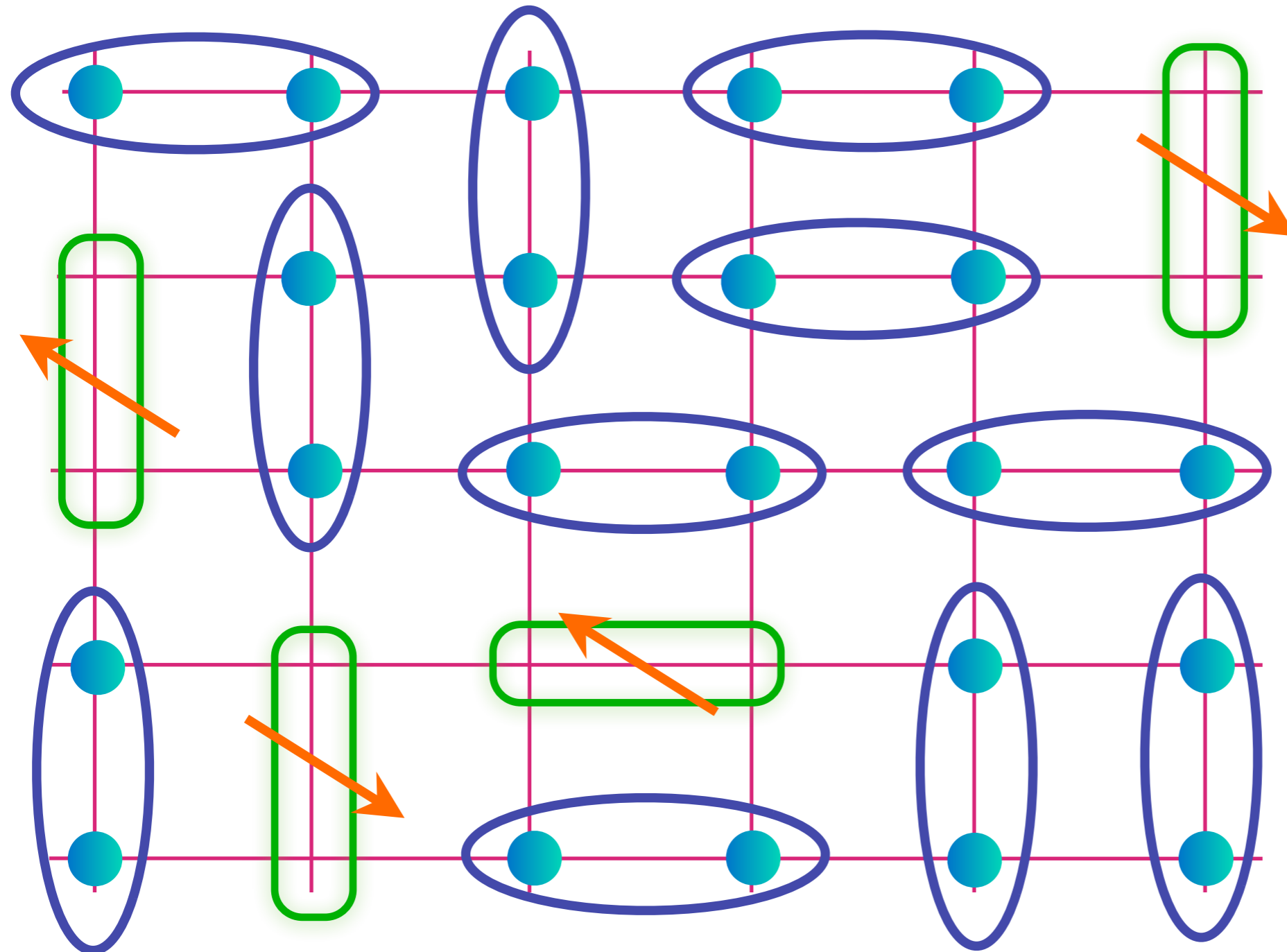
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Mobile  
 $S=1/2$ , charge  
 $+e$  fermionic  
 dimers: form  
 a Fermi  
 surface of  
 size  $p$  of  
 electrons

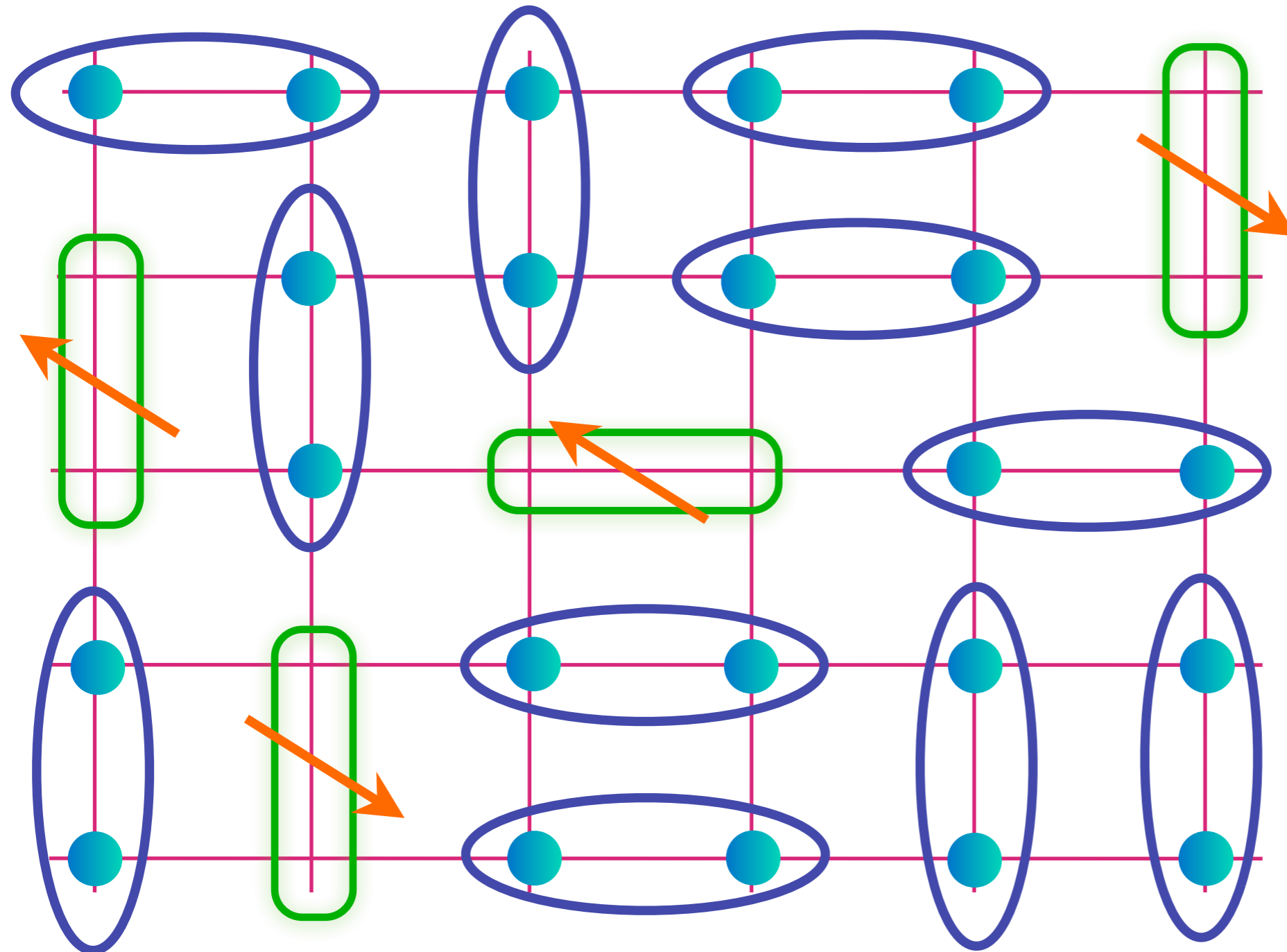
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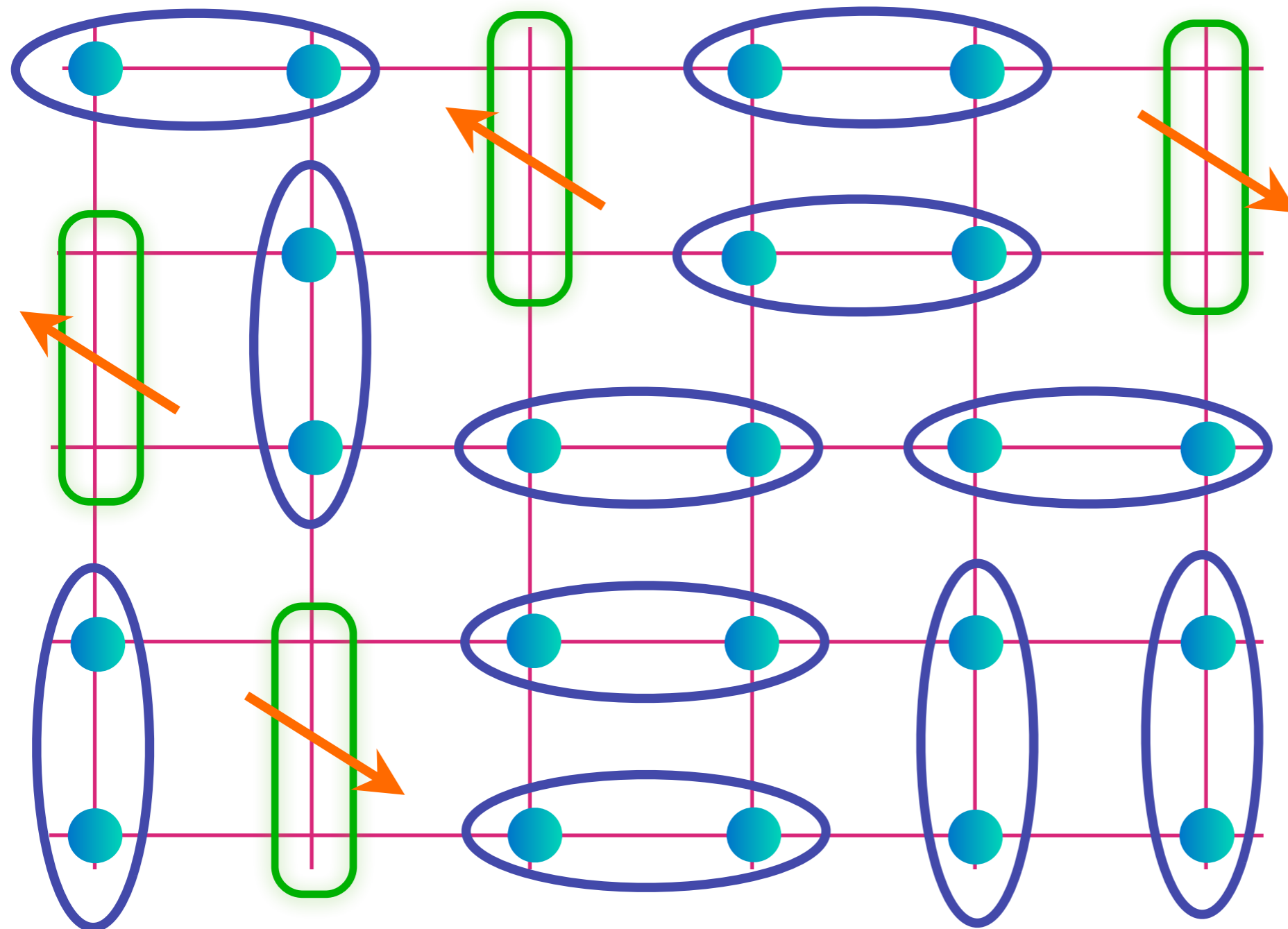
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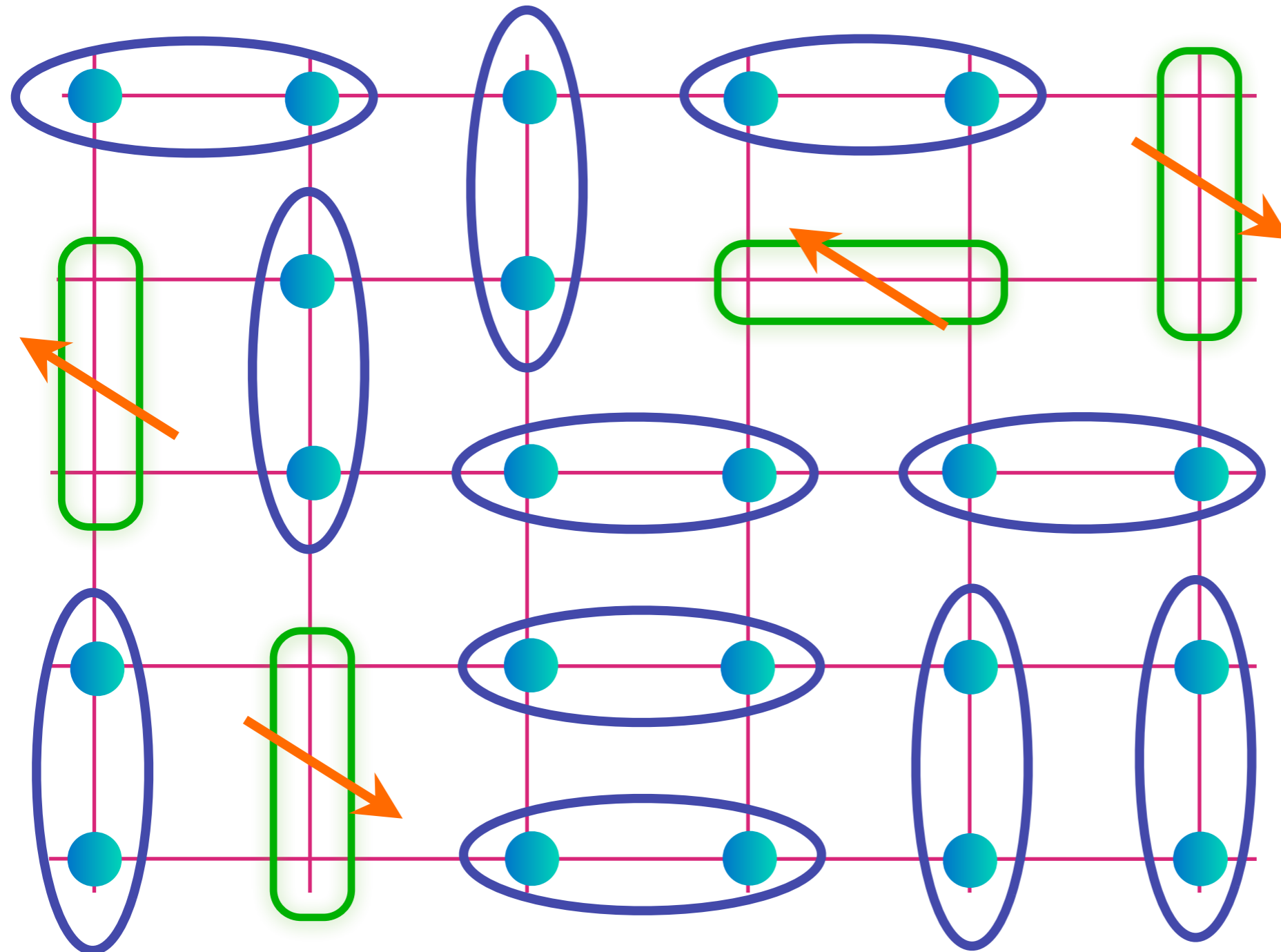
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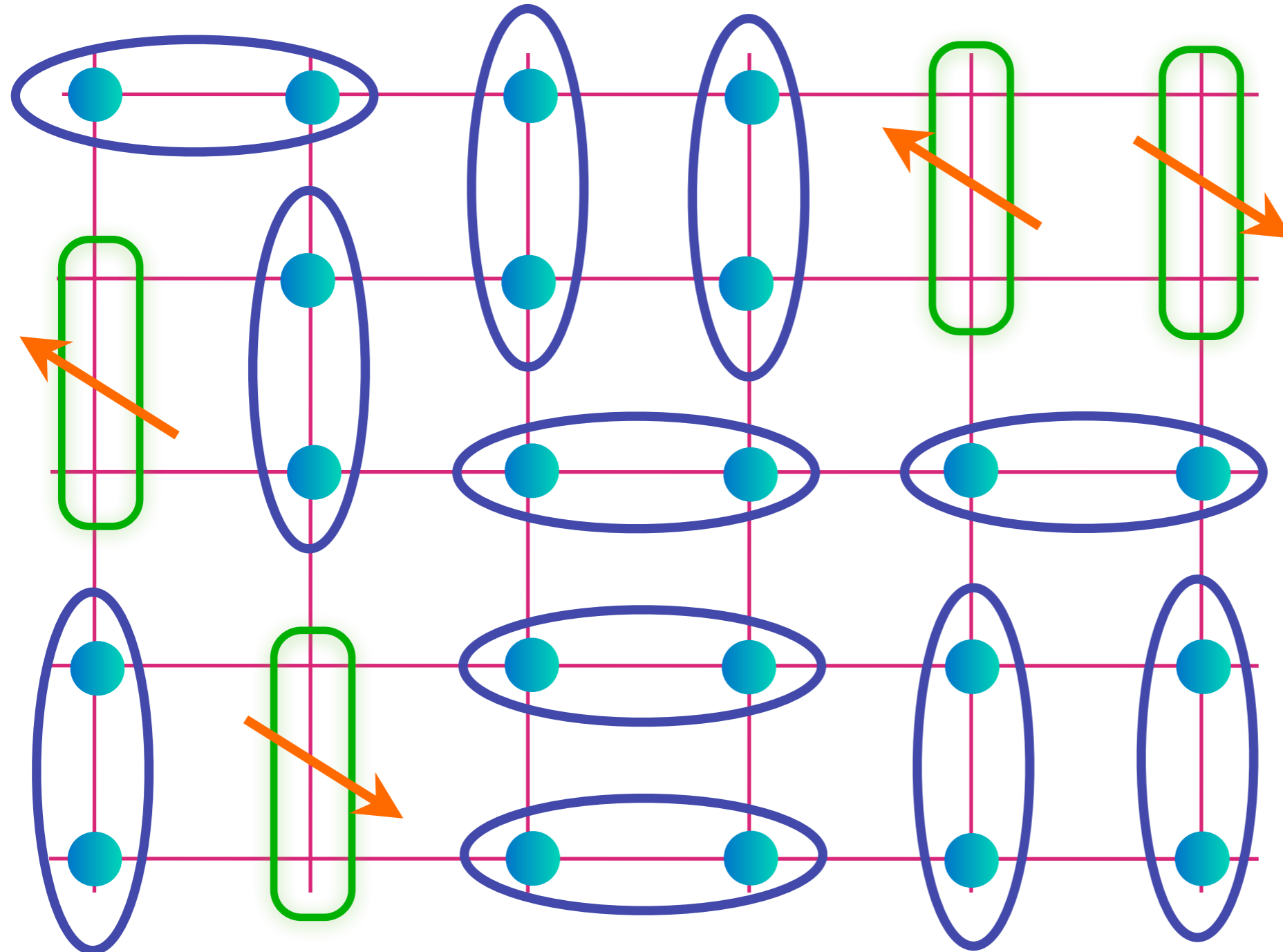
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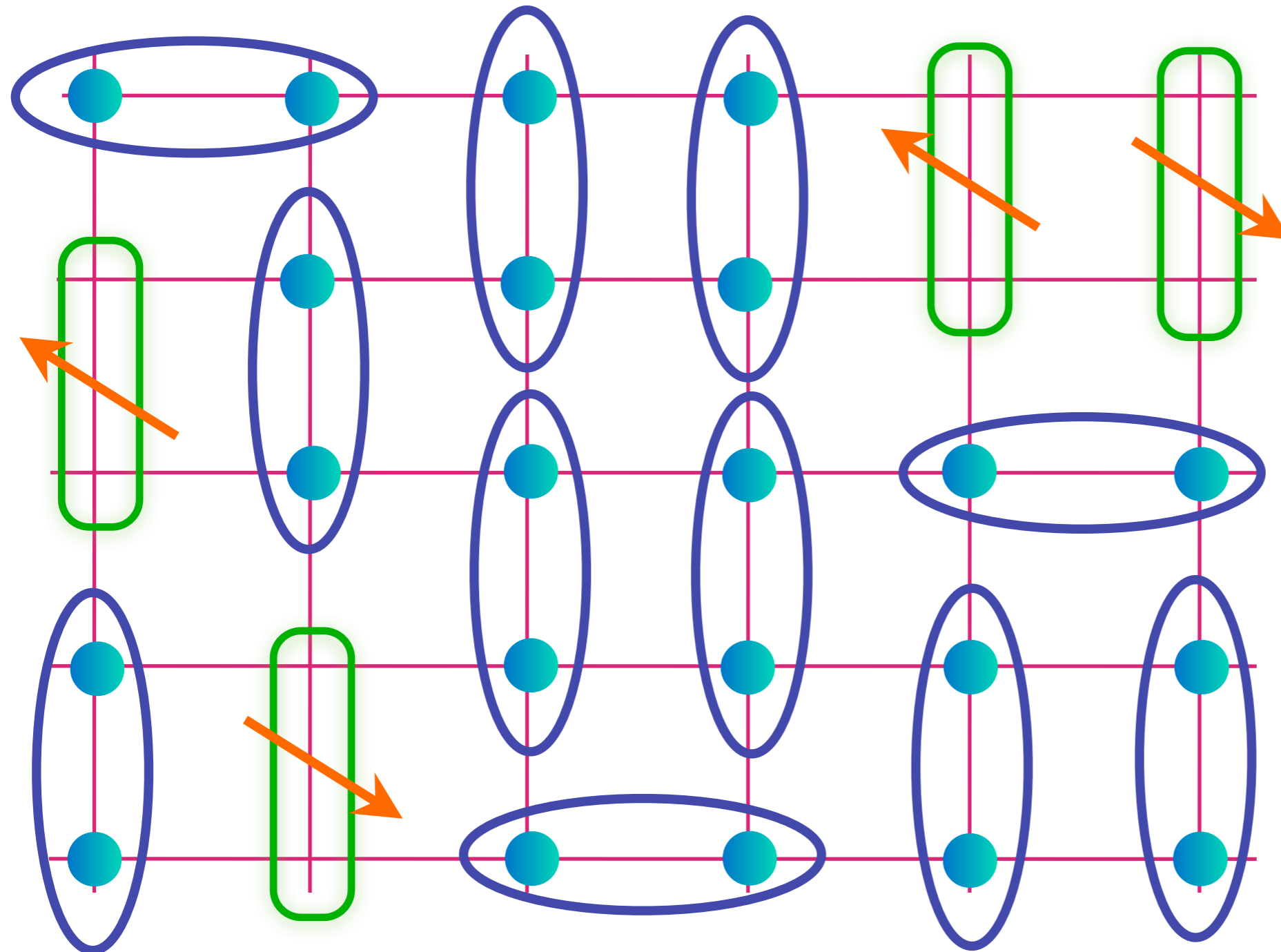
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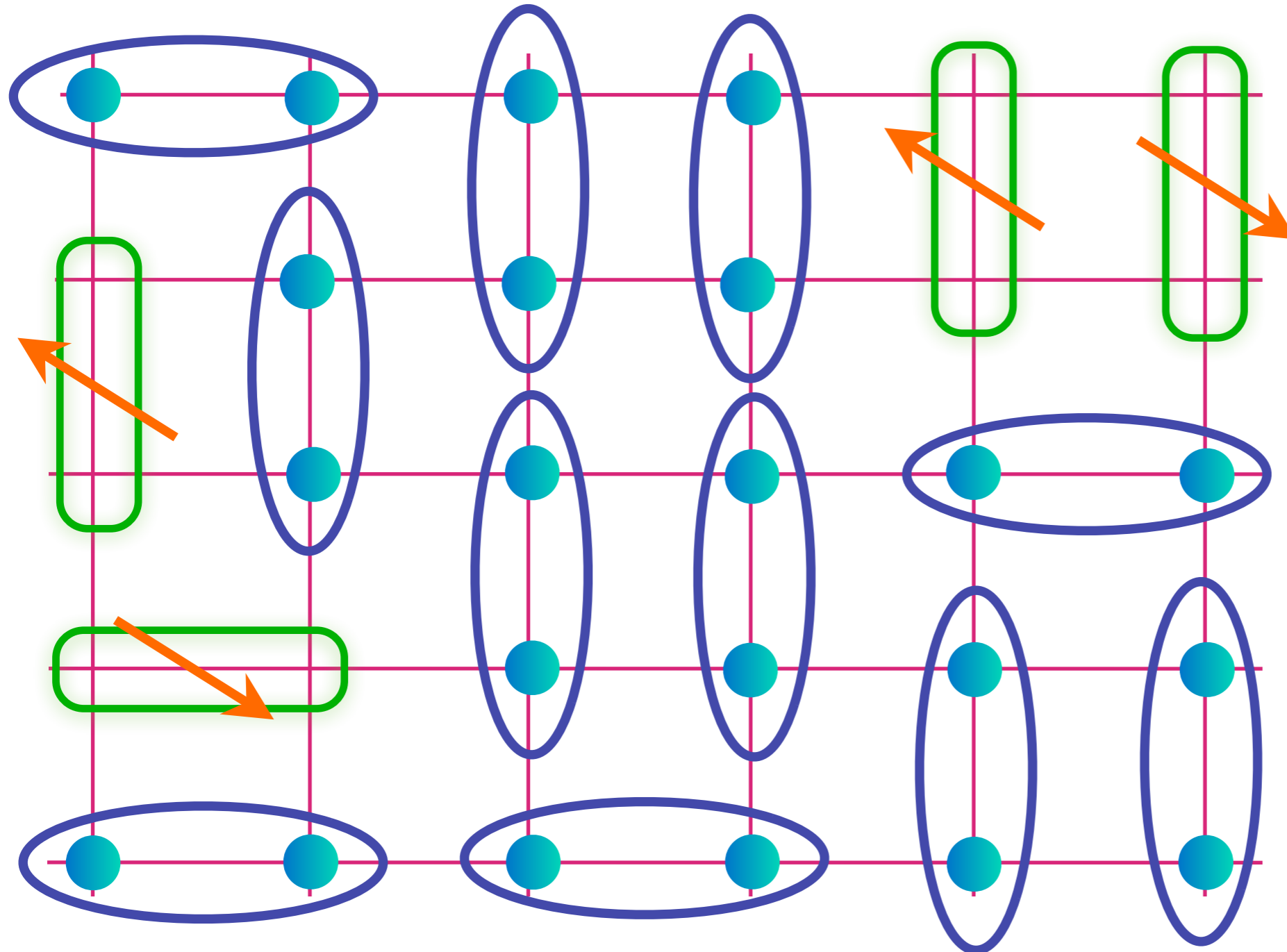
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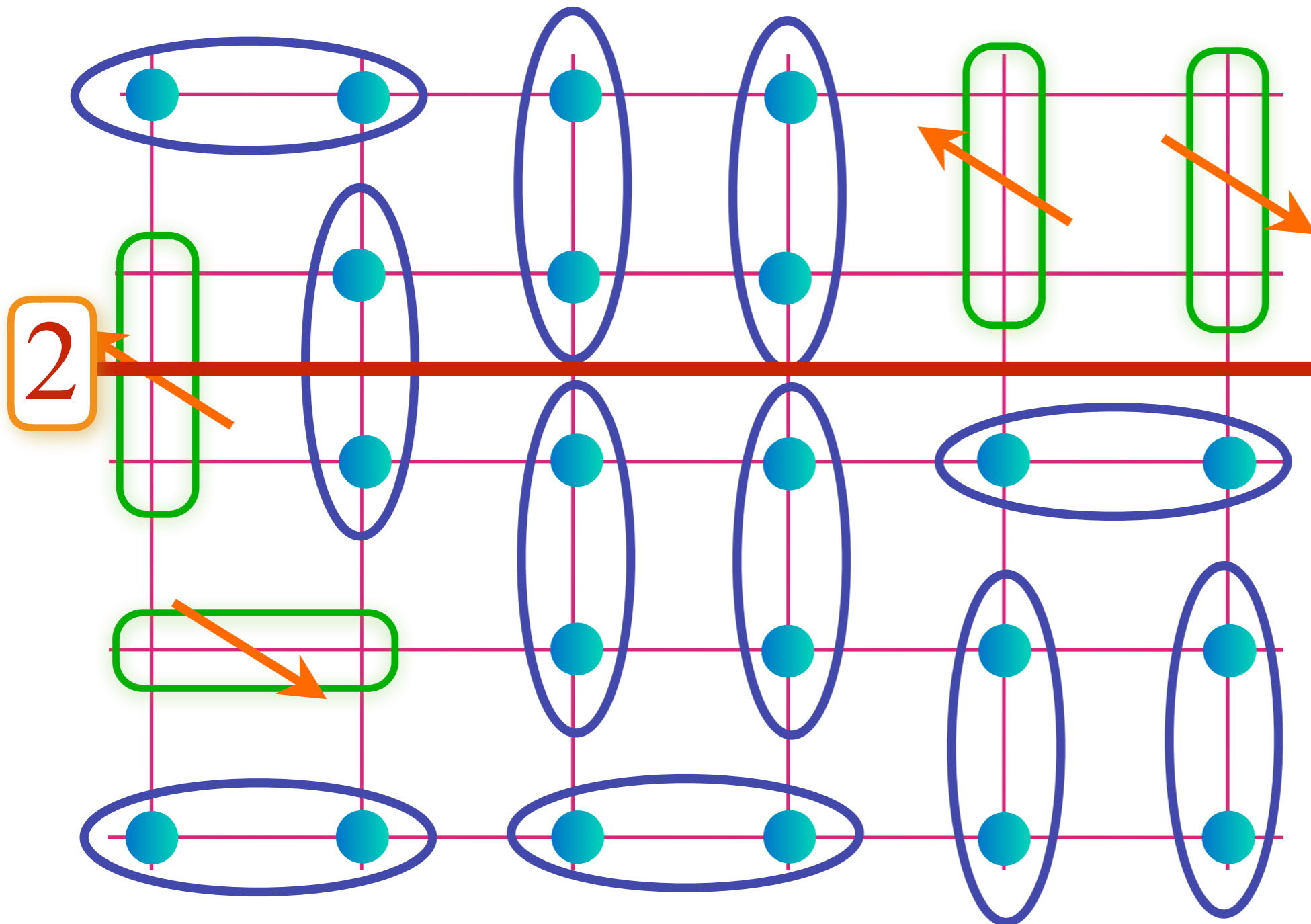
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# FL\* as a TQFT

Place FL\*  
on a torus:

Number of dimers crossing “branch-cut” is conserved modulo 2: there are nearly degenerate states with odd and even dimer-cuts



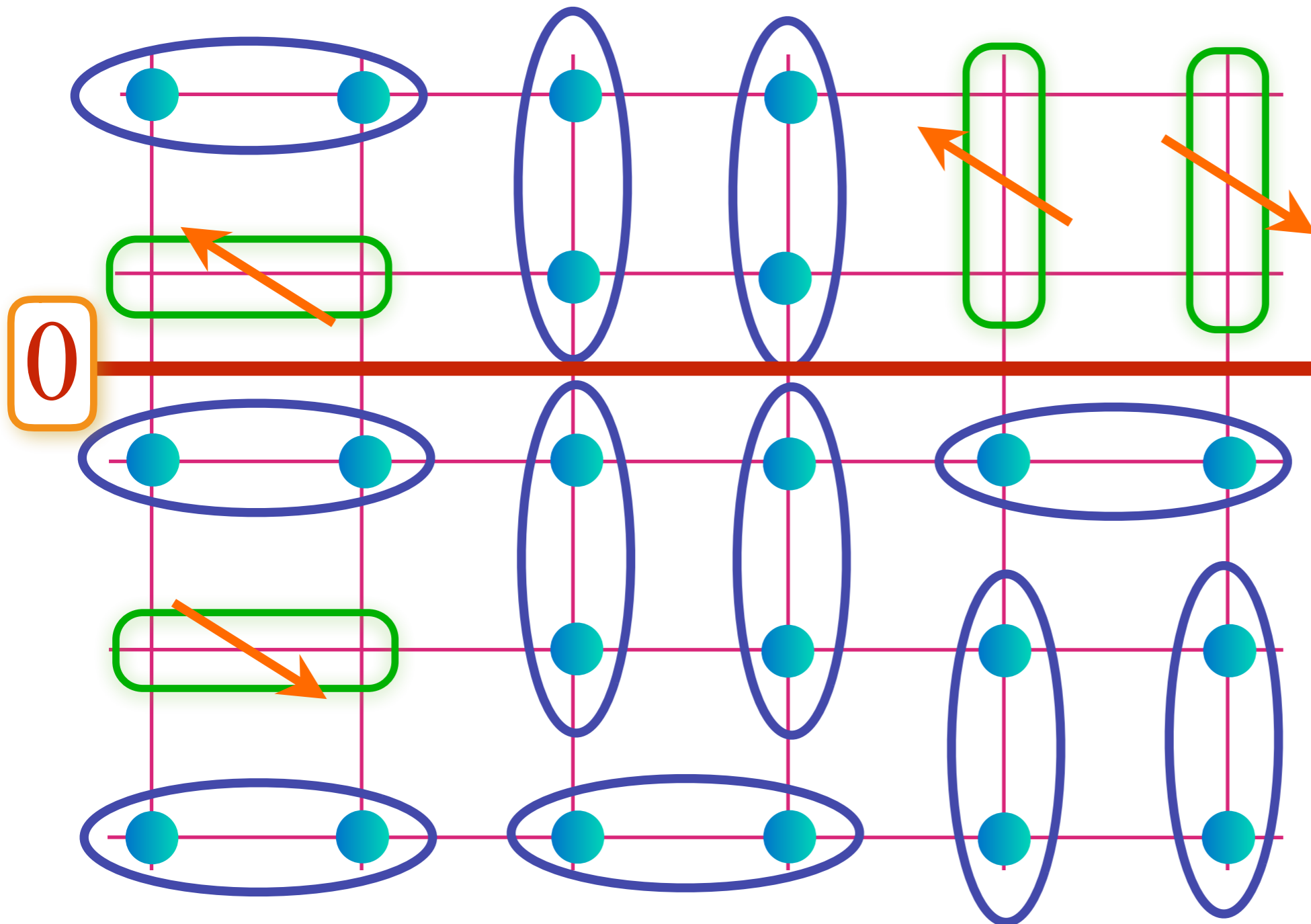
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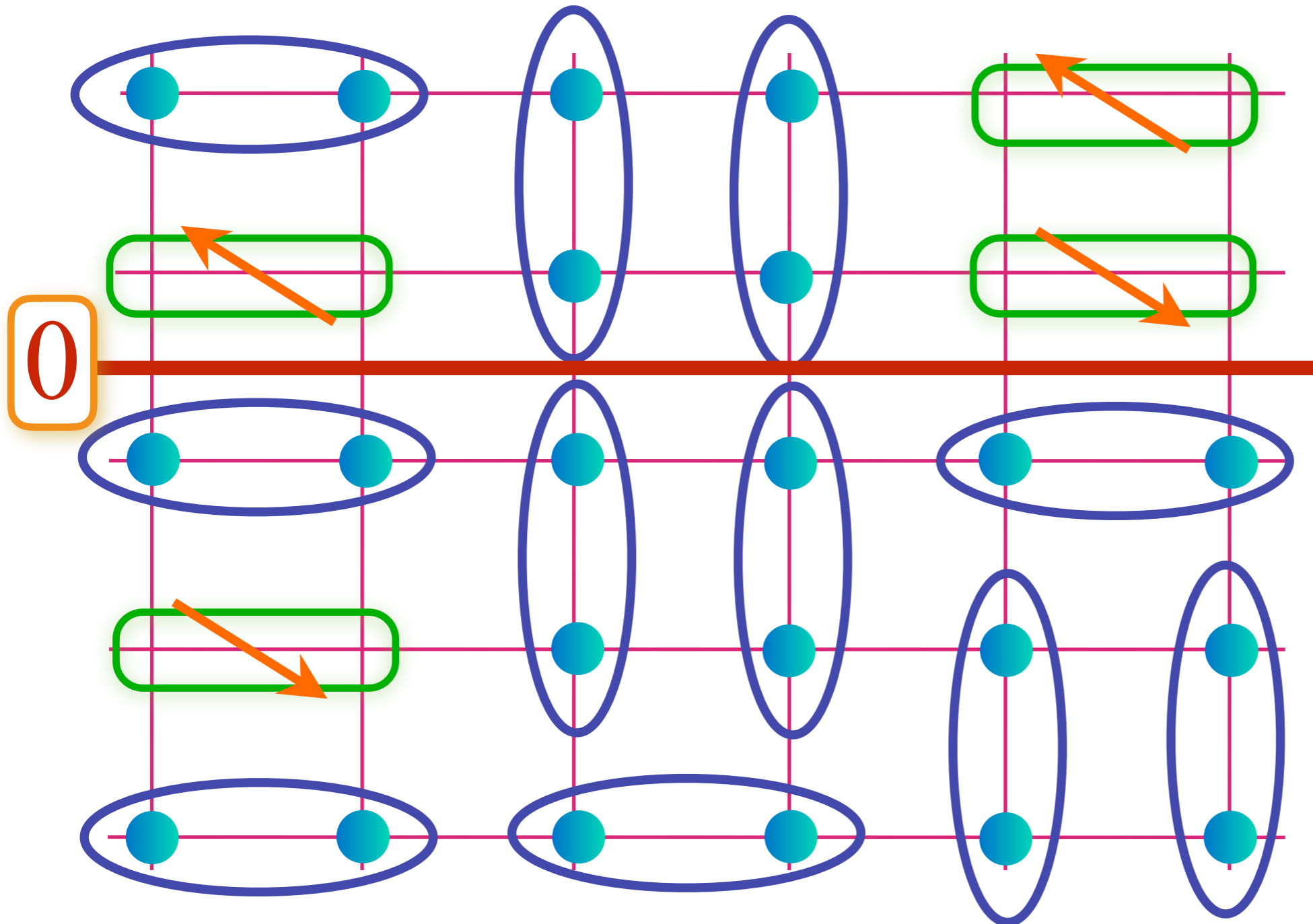
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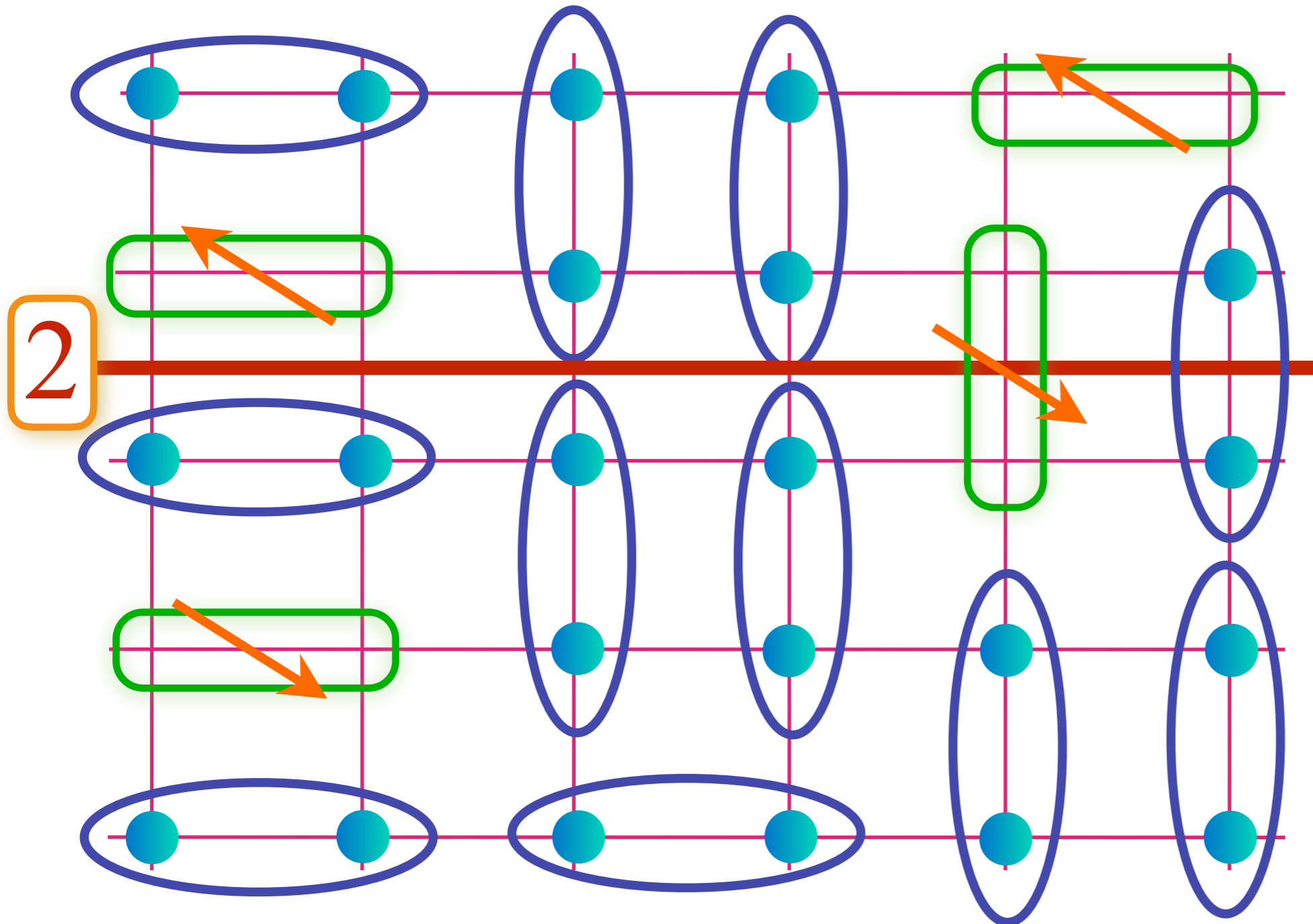
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1. Flux insertion on the torus, and momentum balance in *any* quantum state.
2. Fermi surface size in FL
3. Insulating spin liquids and topological quantum field theory (TQFT)
4. A one-band FL\* model for the PG metal

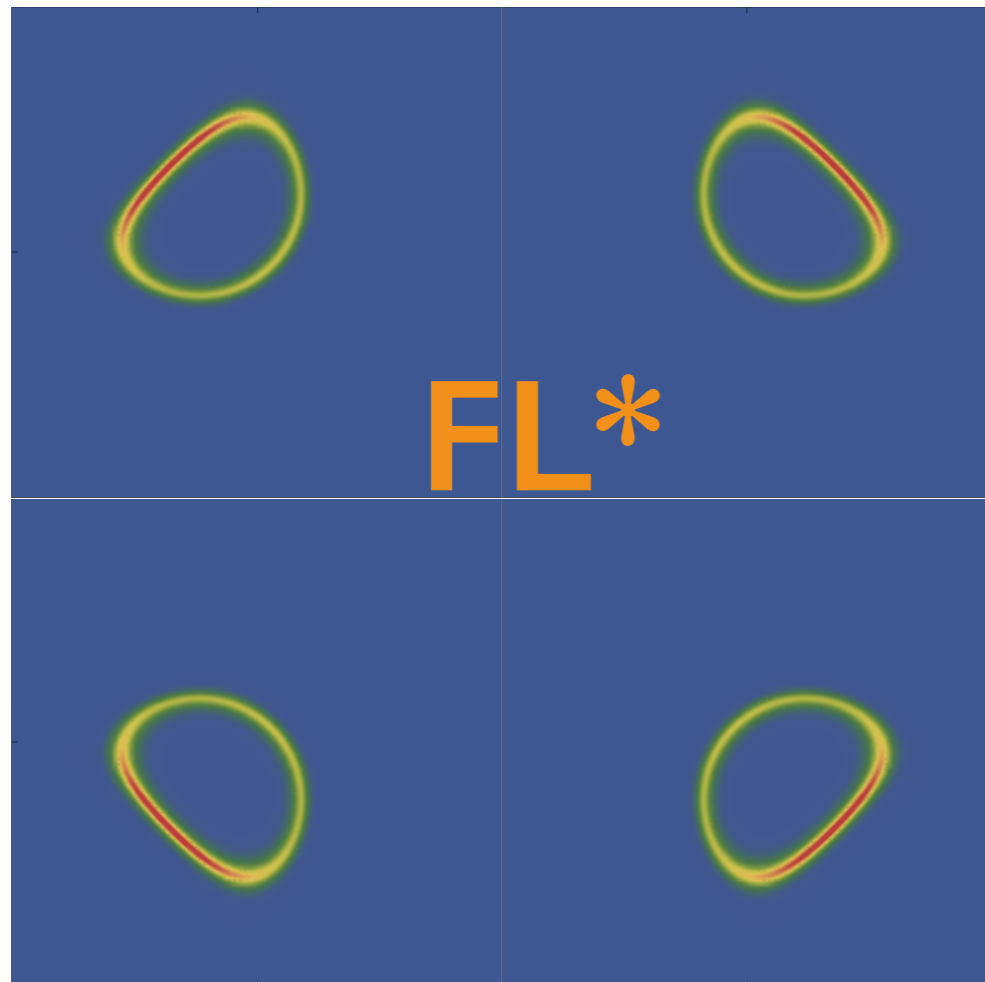
Evidence for pseudogap metal as FL\*



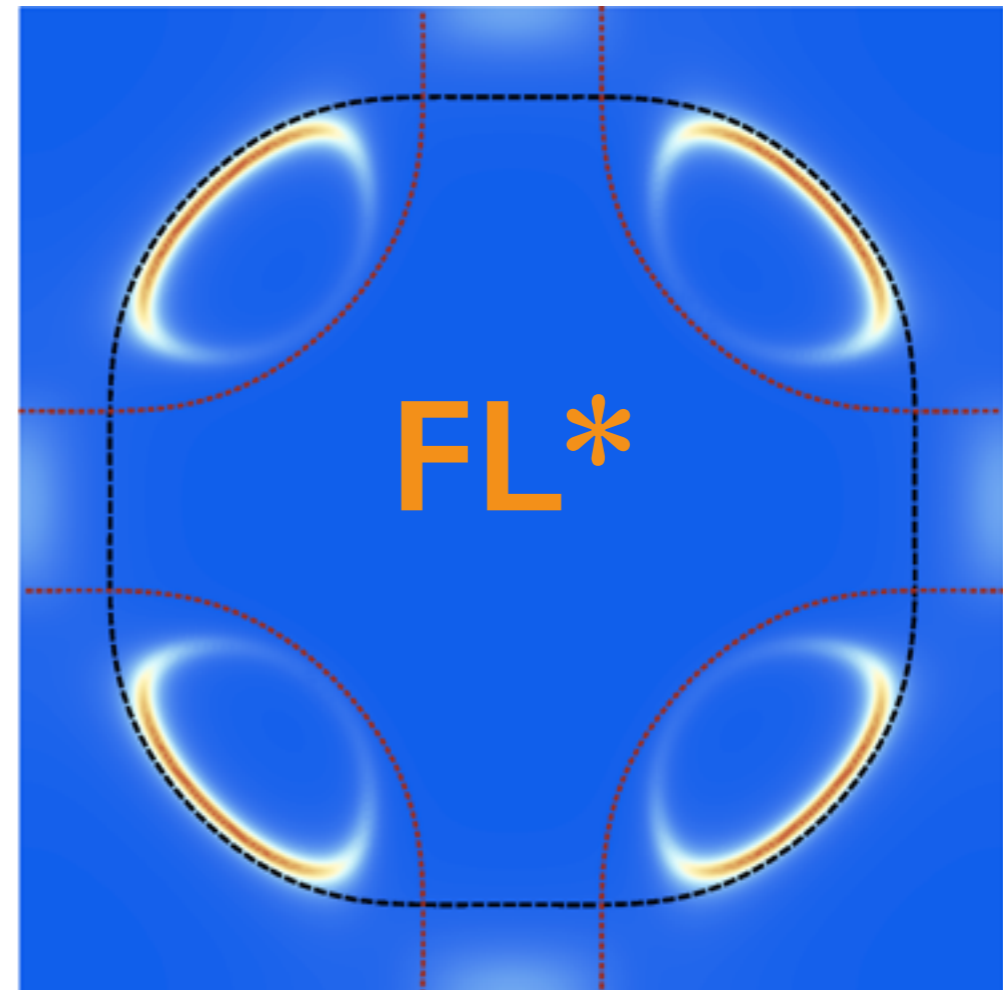
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# Fermi surfaces in one-band models of FL\*



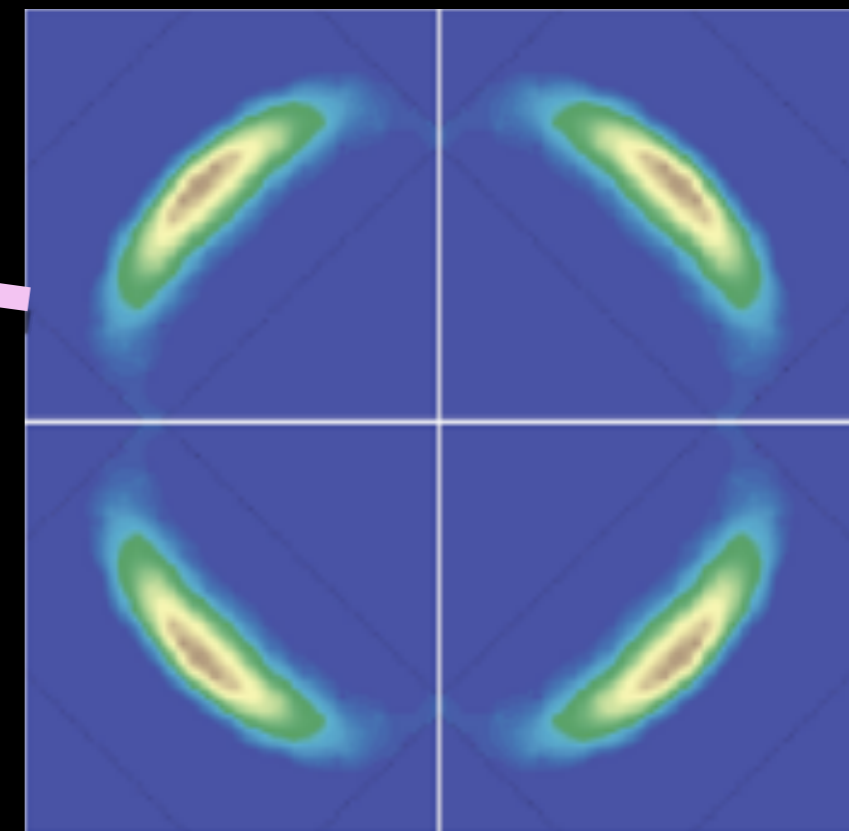
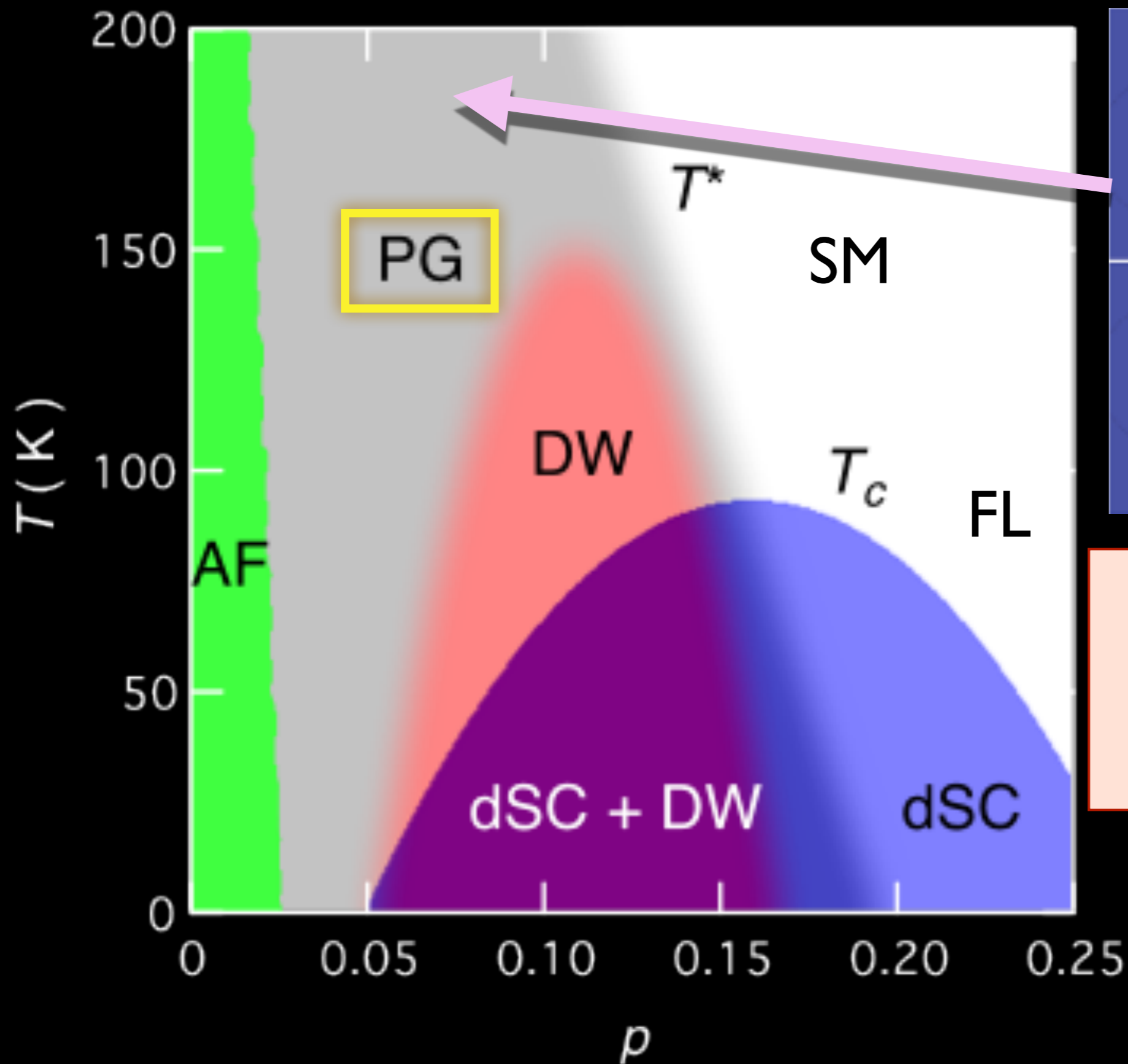
M. Punk, A. Allais, and S. Sachdev,  
PNAS **112**, 9552 (2015)



Y. Qi and S. Sachdev,  
Phys. Rev. B **81**, 115129 (2010)

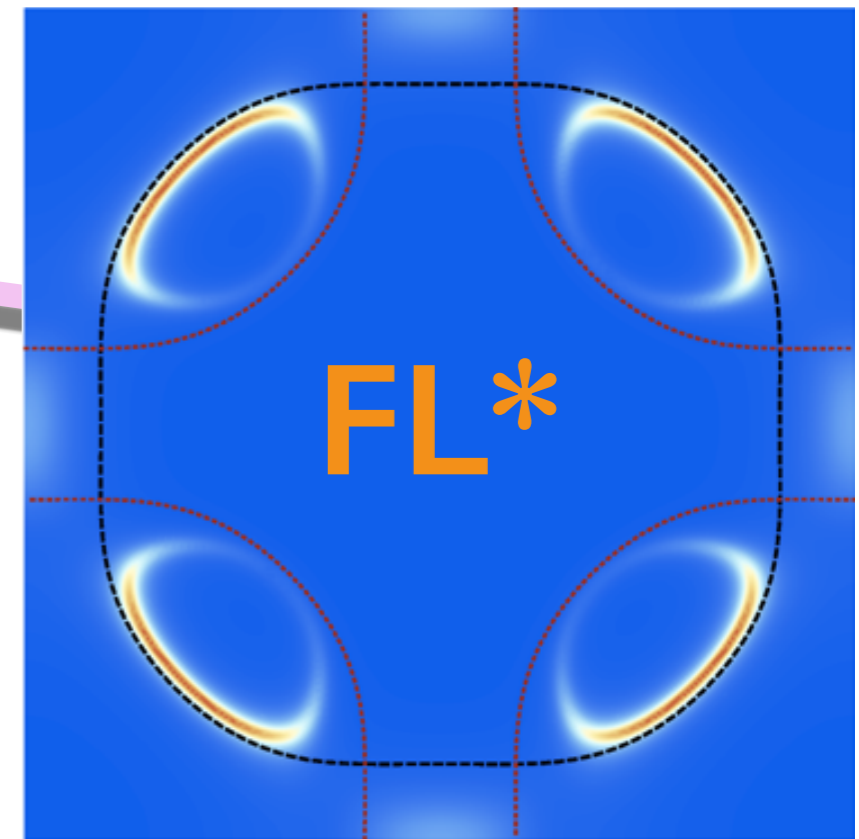
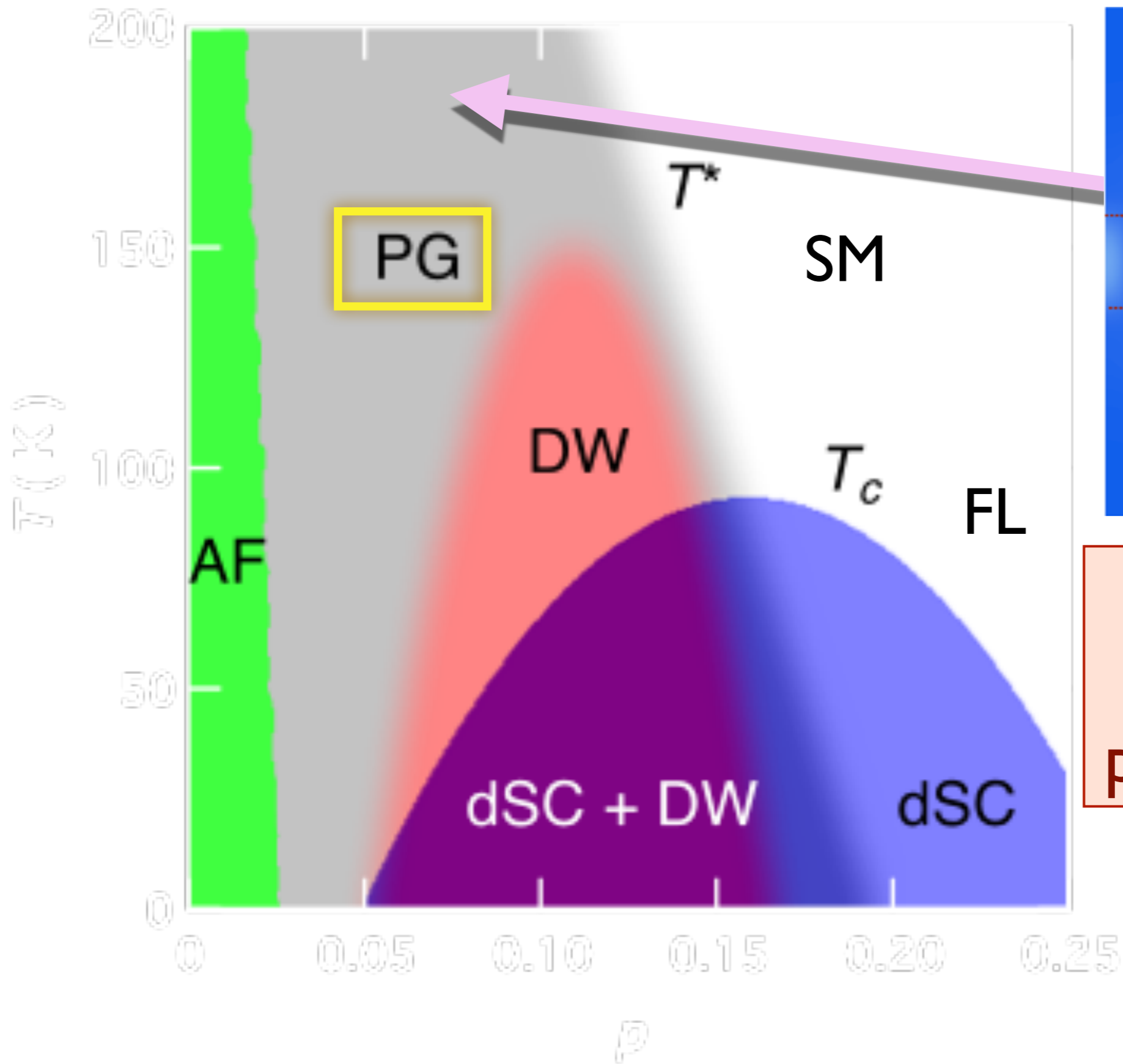
“Back side” of Fermi surface is suppressed for observables which change electron number in the square lattice

Kyle M. Shen, F. Ronning, D. H. Lu, F. Baumberger, N. J. C. Ingle, W. S. Lee, W. Meevasana, Y. Kohsaka, M. Azuma, M. Takano, H. Takagi, Z.-X. Shen, *Science* **307**, 901 (2005)



Photoemission  
in pseudogap  
metal

Y. Qi and S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. B **81**, 115129 (2010)  
M. Punk, A. Allais, and S. Sachdev, PNAS **112**, 9552 (2015)



Photoemission  
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## Evidence for pseudogap metal as FL\*

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- Optical conductivity  $\sim 1/(-i\omega + 1/\tau)$  with  $1/\tau \sim \omega^2 + T^2$ , with carrier density  $p$  (Mirzaei *et al.*, PNAS **110**, 5774 (2013)).

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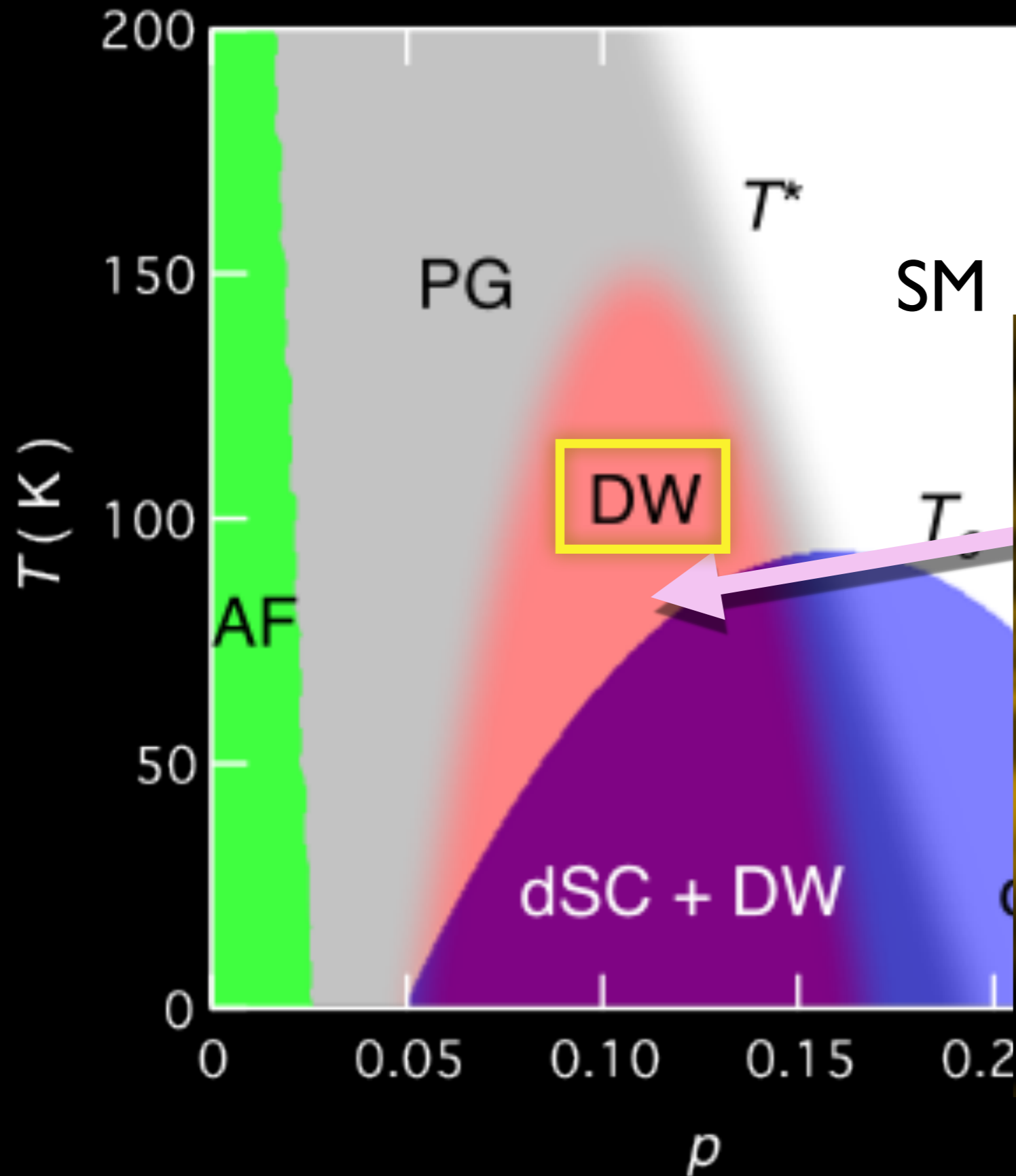
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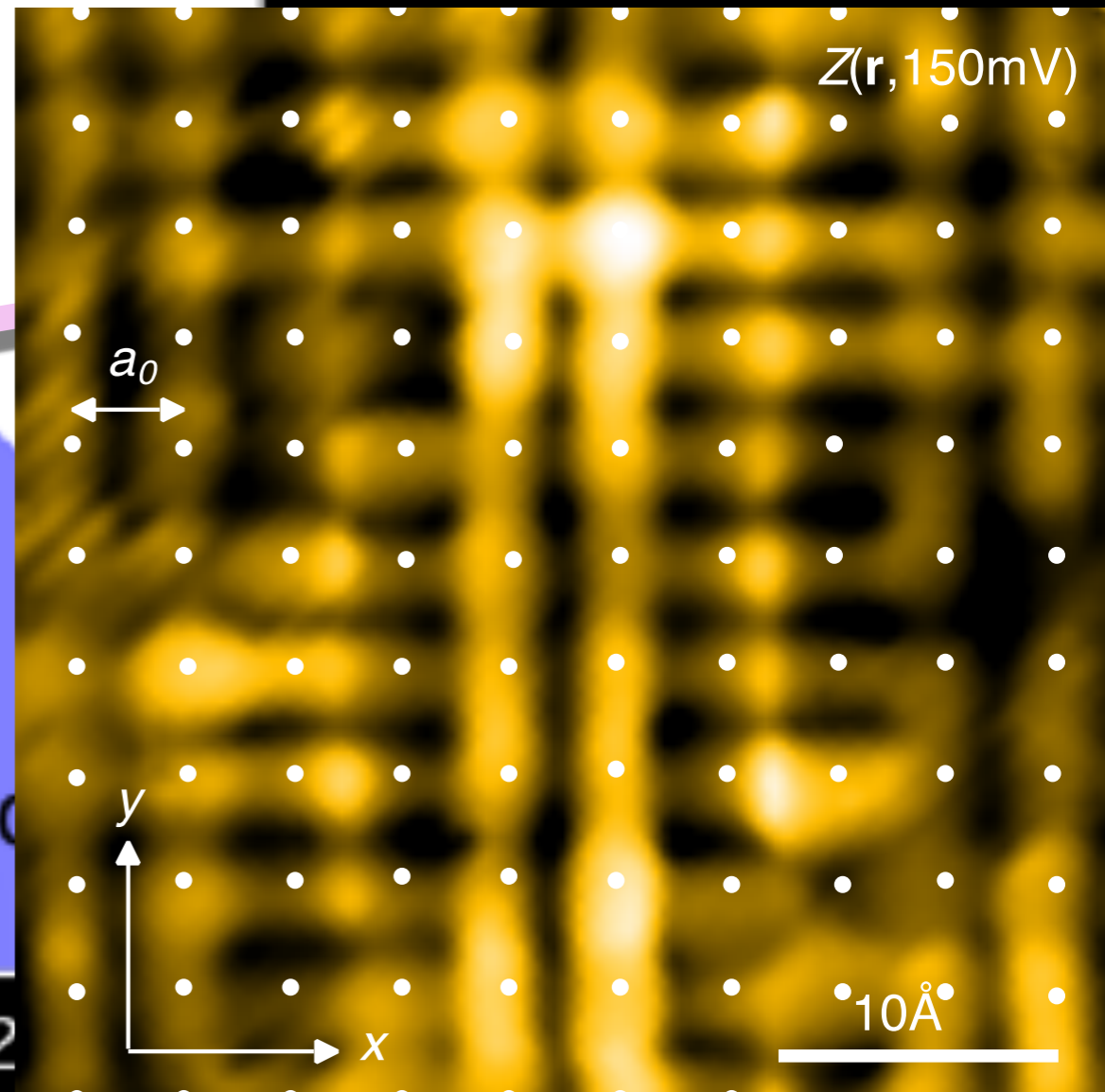
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Y. Kohsaka *et al.*, SCIENCE **315**, 1380 (2007)

M. H. Hamidian *et al.*, NATURE PHYSICS **12**, 150 (2016)



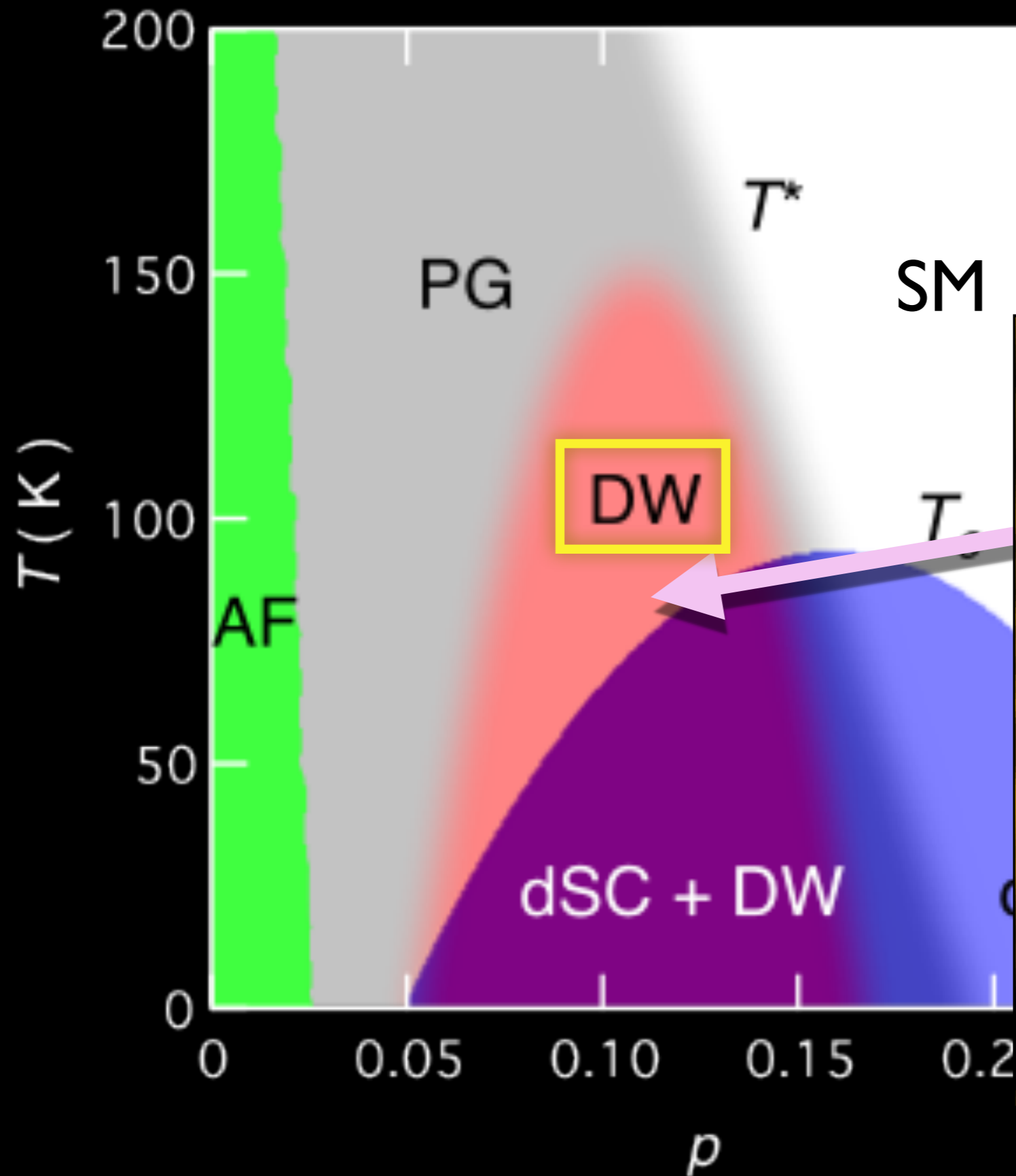
Density wave (DW)  
order at low  $T$  and  $\rho$



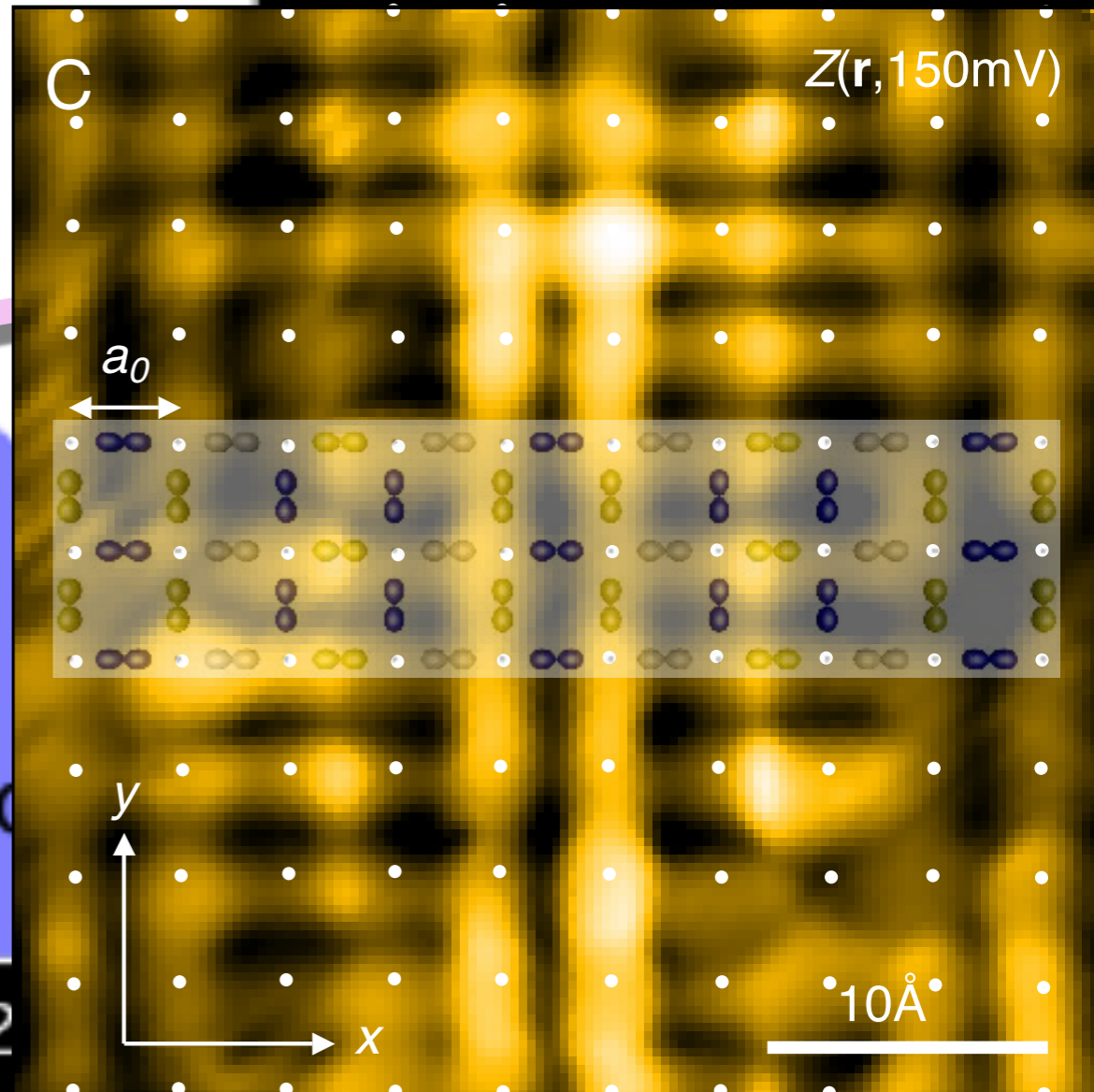


M. A. Metlitski and S. Sachdev, PRB **82**, 075128 (2010). S. Sachdev R. La Placa, PRL **111**, 027202 (2013).

K. Fujita, M. H Hamidian, S. D. Edkins, Chung Koo Kim, Y. Kohsaka, M. Azuma, M. Takano, H. Takagi, H. Eisaki, S. Uchida, A. Allais, M. J. Lawler, E.-A. Kim, S. Sachdev, and J. C. Davis, PNAS **111**, E3026 (2014)



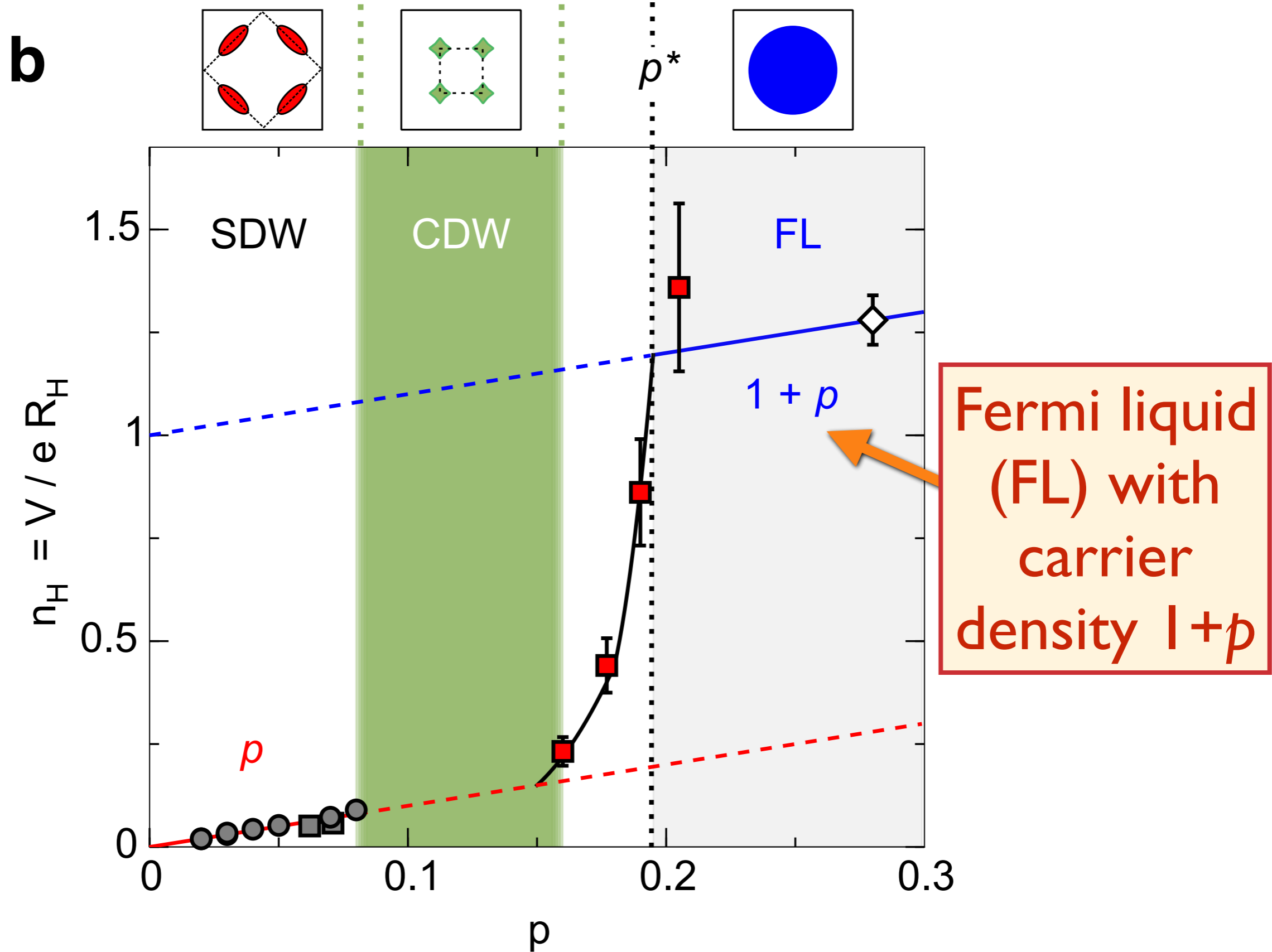
Identified as a predicted “ $d$ -form factor density wave”



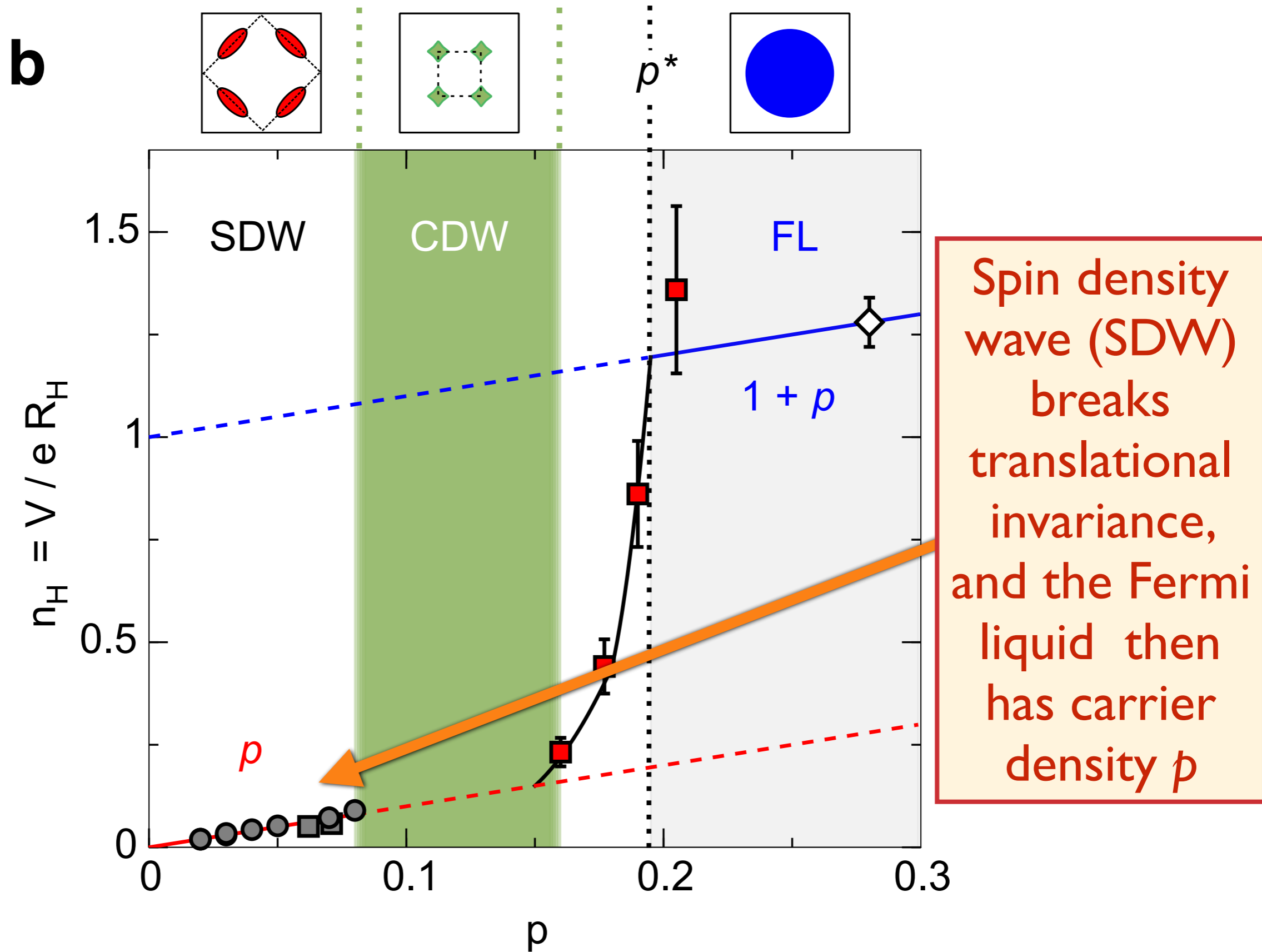
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- $T$ -independent positive Hall co-efficient,  $R_H$ , corresponding to carrier density  $p$  in the higher temperature pseudogap (Ando *et al.*, PRL **92**, 197001 (2004)) and in recent measurements at high fields, low  $T$ , and around  $p \approx 0.16$  in YBCO (Badoux *et al.*, Nature **531**, 210 (2016)).

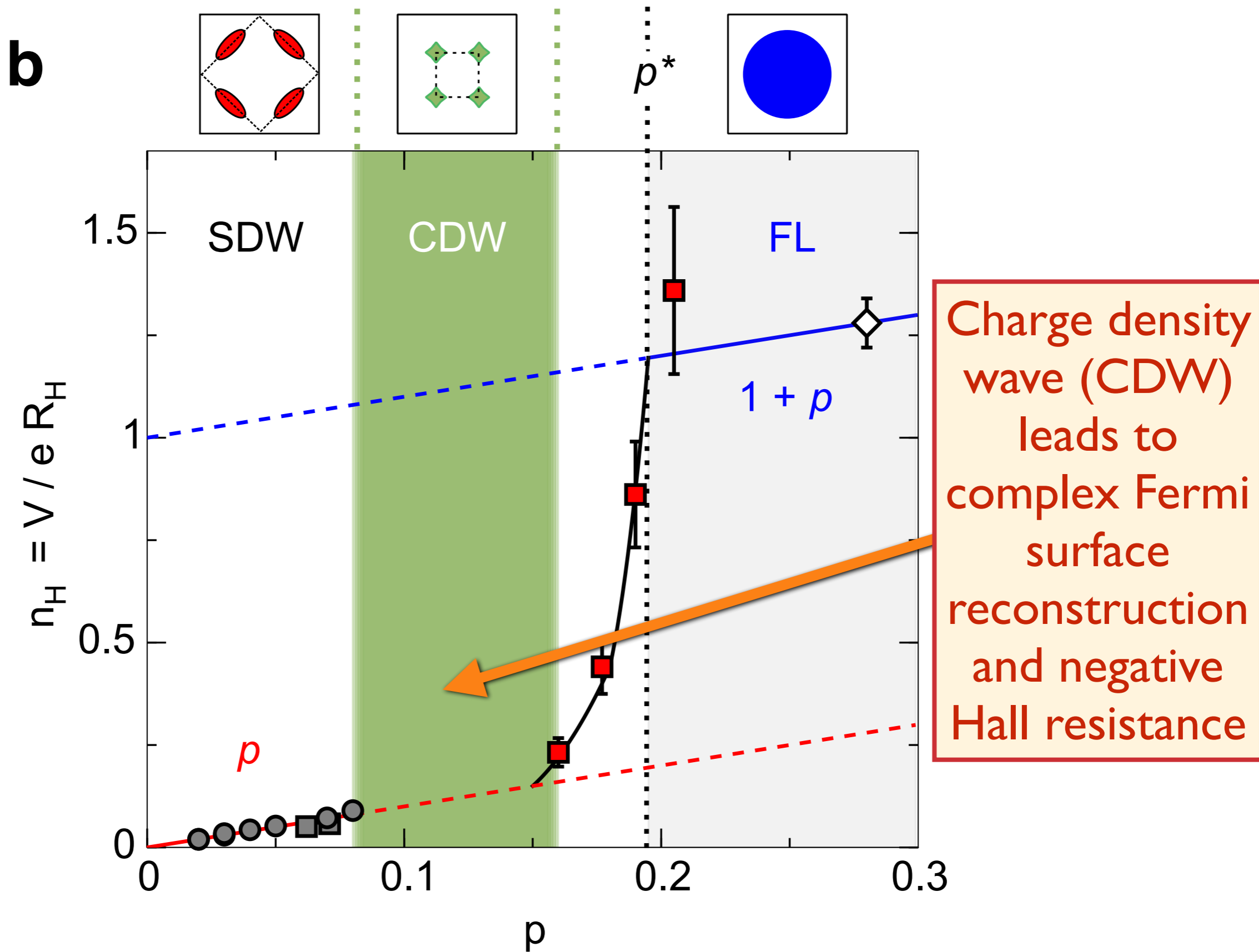
# Hall effect measurements in YBCO



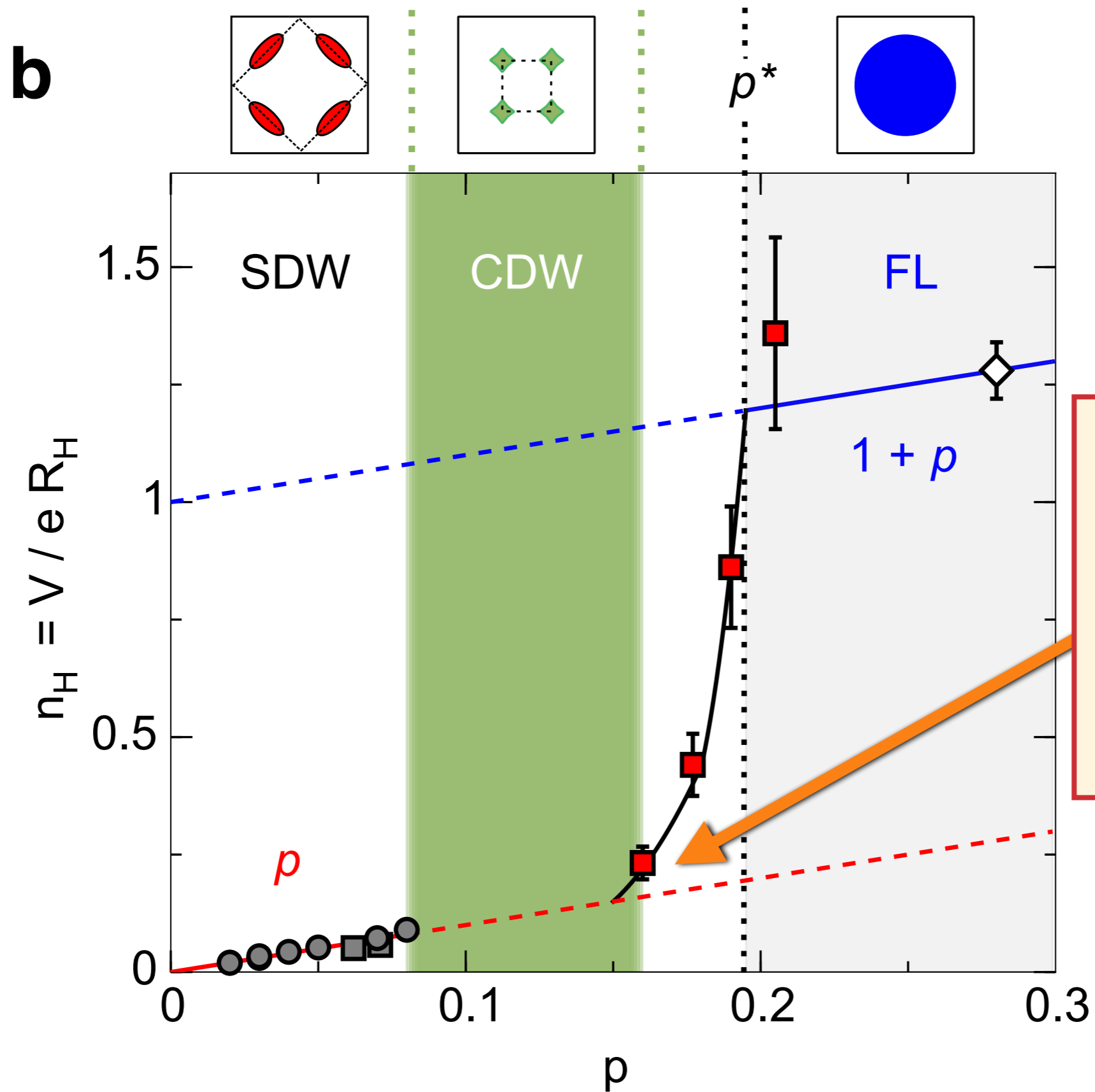
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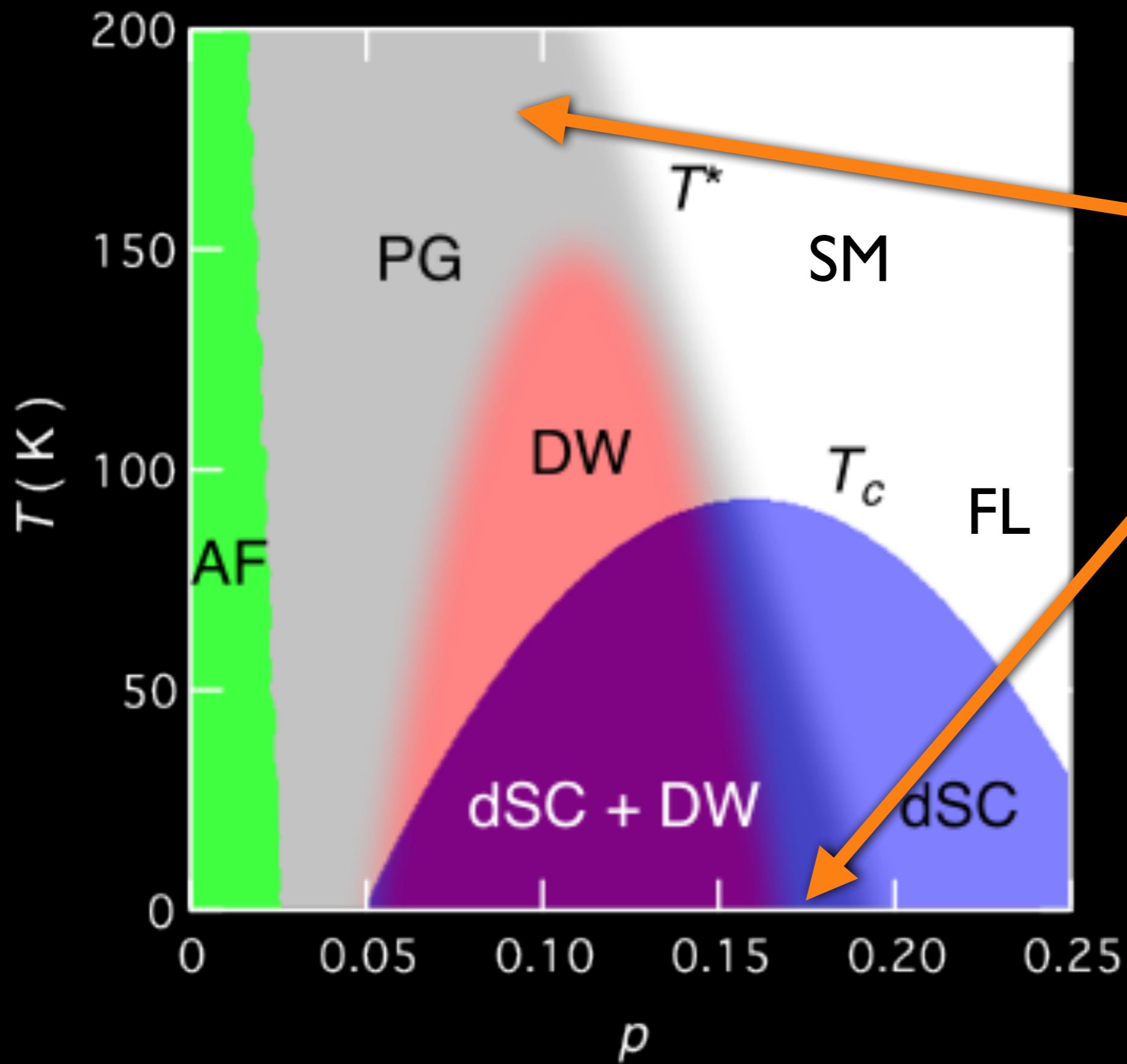
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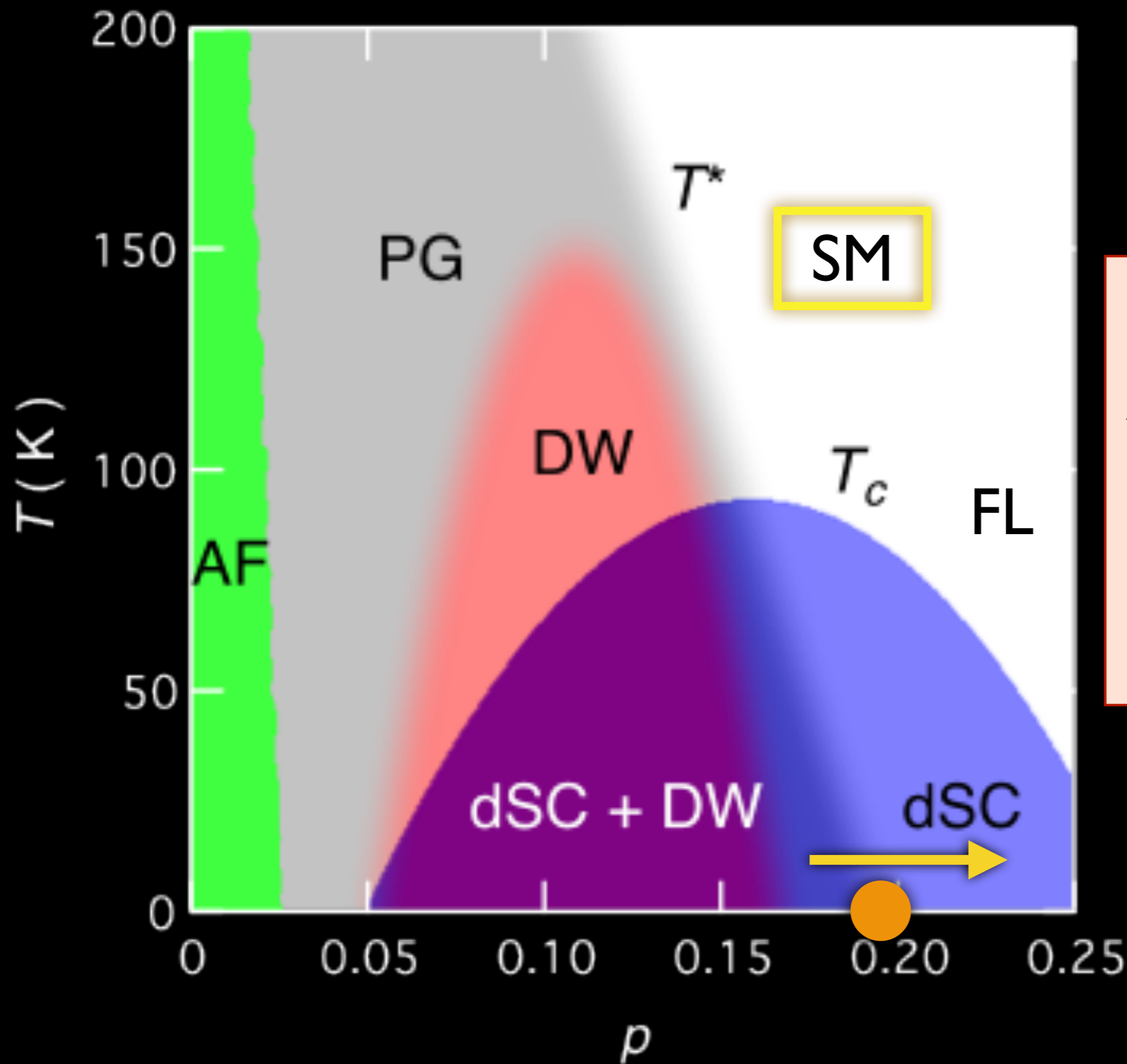


# Hall effect measurements in YBCO



Evidence for FL\* metal with Fermi surface of size  $p$  !





Transition from  $Z_2$ -FL\* to FL as a theory of the strange metal (SM)



## Quantum critical point at optimal doping

- Transition is primarily “topological”. Main change is in the size of the Fermi surface.

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- The main symmetry breaking which appears co-incident with the transition is Ising-nematic ordering. But this symmetry cannot change the size of the Fermi surface; similar comments apply to time-reversal symmetry.
- Need a gauge theory for transition from “topological” to “confined” state.

## SU(2) gauge theory for transition between $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -FL\* and FL

- Spinless fermion  $\psi$  (the fermionic chargin) transforming as a gauge SU(2) fundamental, with dispersion  $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}}$  from the band structure, at a non-zero chemical potential: has a “large” Fermi surface, and carries electromagnetic charge

S. Sachdev, M. A. Metlitski, Y. Qi, and C. Xu, Phys. Rev. B **80**, 155129 (2009)

D. Chowdhury and S. Sachdev, PRB **91**, 115123 (2015)

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- A SU(2) fundamental scalar  $z_\alpha$  (the bosonic spinon), carrying electron-spin and electromagnetically neutral.
- A SU(2) gauge boson.
- Two complex Higgs fields,  $\vec{H}_x$  and  $\vec{H}_y$ , transforming as gauge SU(2) adjoints, and carrying non-zero lattice momentum.



# SU(2) gauge theory for transition between $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -FL\* and FL



- The ‘Higgs’ phase with  $\langle \vec{H}_{x,y} \rangle \neq 0$  has a deconfined  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  gauge field, and realizes a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -FL\*. This is the pseudogap metal and it has long-range Ising-nematic order.

# SU(2) gauge theory for transition between $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -FL\* and FL

$$\langle \vec{H}_{x,y} \rangle \neq 0$$

$\mathbb{Z}_2$ -FL\*

Ising-nematic order

Confining phases  
of SU(2) gauge theory

- The ‘Higgs’ phase with  $\langle \vec{H}_{x,y} \rangle \neq 0$  has a deconfined  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  gauge field, and realizes a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -FL\*. This is the pseudogap metal and it has long-range Ising-nematic order.
- The ‘confining’ phase is a FL or a superconductor, and no Ising-nematic order. These are the conventional states at large  $p$ .

# SU(2) gauge theory for transition between $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -FL\* and FL

$$\langle \vec{H}_{x,y} \rangle \neq 0$$
$$\mathbb{Z}_2\text{-FL}^*$$

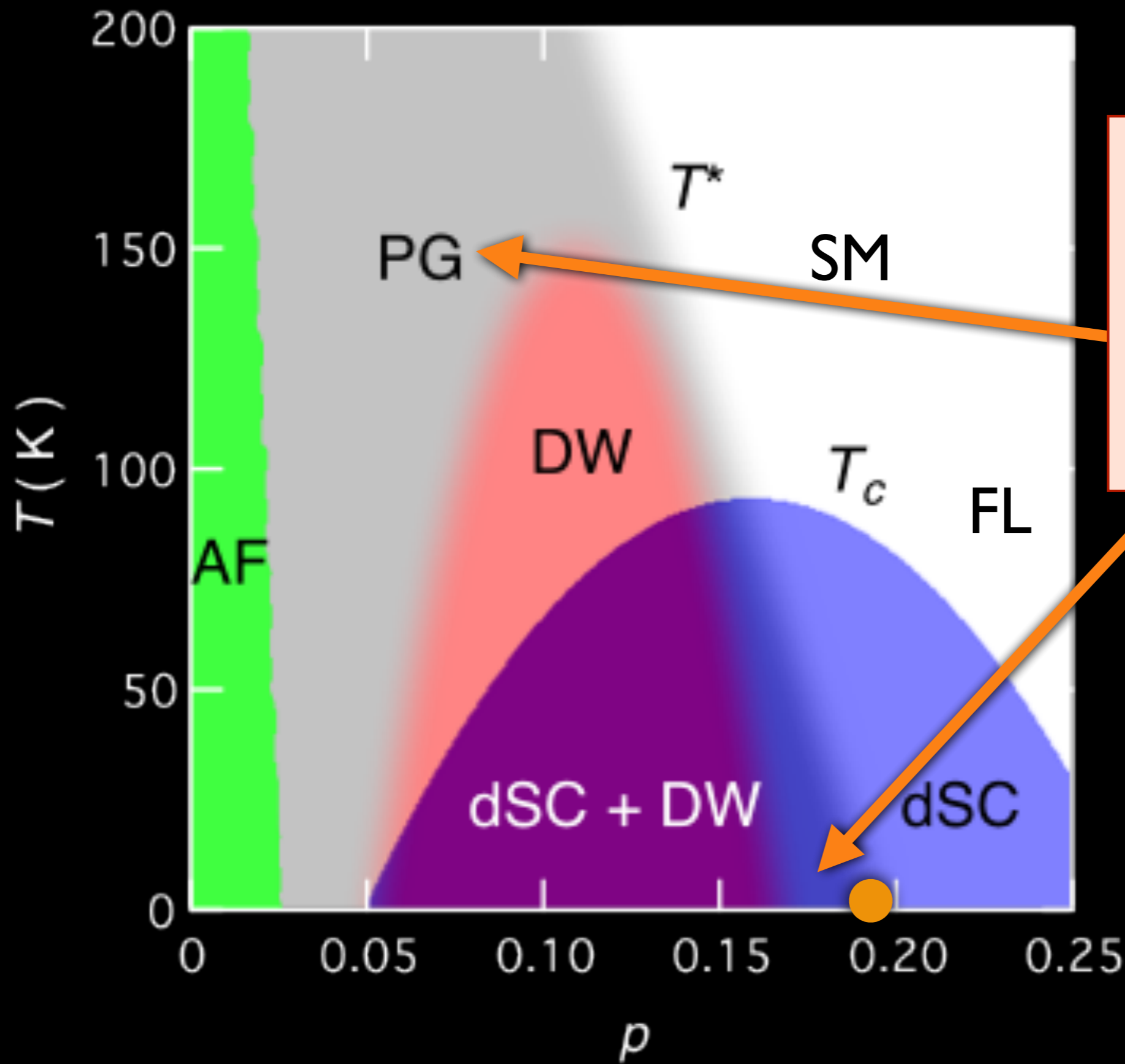
Ising-nematic order

Confining phases  
of SU(2) gauge theory

- The ‘Higgs’ phase with  $\langle \vec{H}_{x,y} \rangle \neq 0$  has a deconfined  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  gauge field, and realizes a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -FL\*. This is the pseudogap metal and it has long-range Ising-nematic order.
- The ‘confining’ phase is a FL or a superconductor, and no Ising-nematic order. These are the conventional states at large  $p$ .
- When the Higgs potential is critical, we obtain a non-Fermi liquid of a  $\psi$  Fermi surface coupled to Landau-damped gauge bosons, and critical Landau-damped Higgs field. This is a candidate for describing the strange metal.

S. Sachdev, M. A. Metlitski, Y. Qi, and C. Xu, Phys. Rev. B **80**, 155129 (2009)

D. Chowdhury and S. Sachdev, PRB **91**, 115123 (2015)

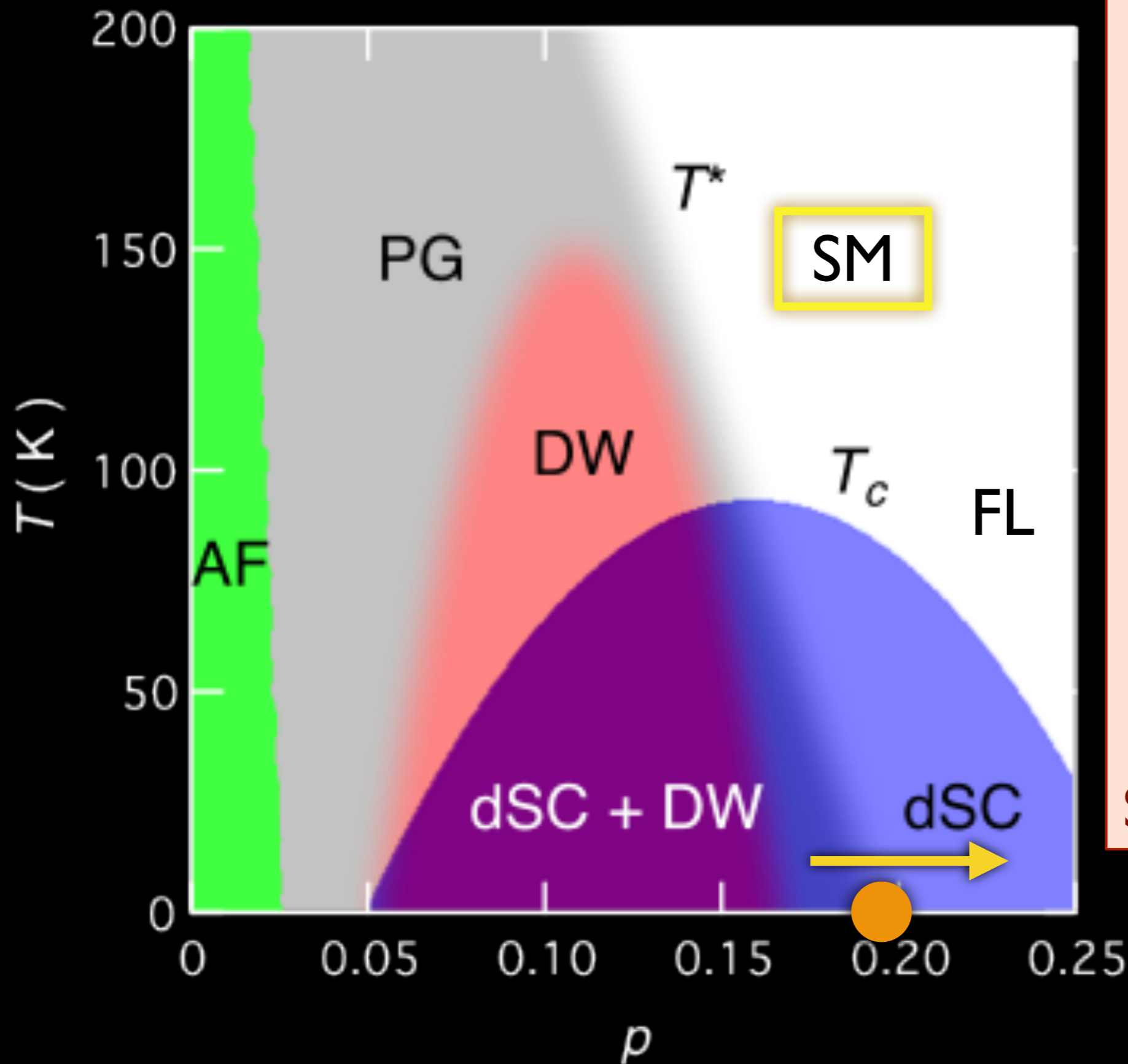


Pseudogap metal matches properties of  $FL^*$

# FL\*

We have described a metal with:

- A Fermi surface of electrons enclosing volume  $p$ , and not the Luttinger volume of  $l+p$
- The  $Z_2$ -FL\* also has excitations described by a topological quantum field theory (TQFT) and this is essentially to modify the size of the Fermi surface in the momentum balance argument.



Proposed a SU(2) gauge theory for transition from  $Z_2$ -FL\* to FL. This phase transition is beyond the Landau-Ginzburg-Wilson paradigm, and is instead a Higgs-confinement transition in a SU(2) gauge theory