

# Statistical mechanics of strange metals and black holes

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Subir Sachdev



INSTITUTE FOR  
ADVANCED STUDY

PHYSICS

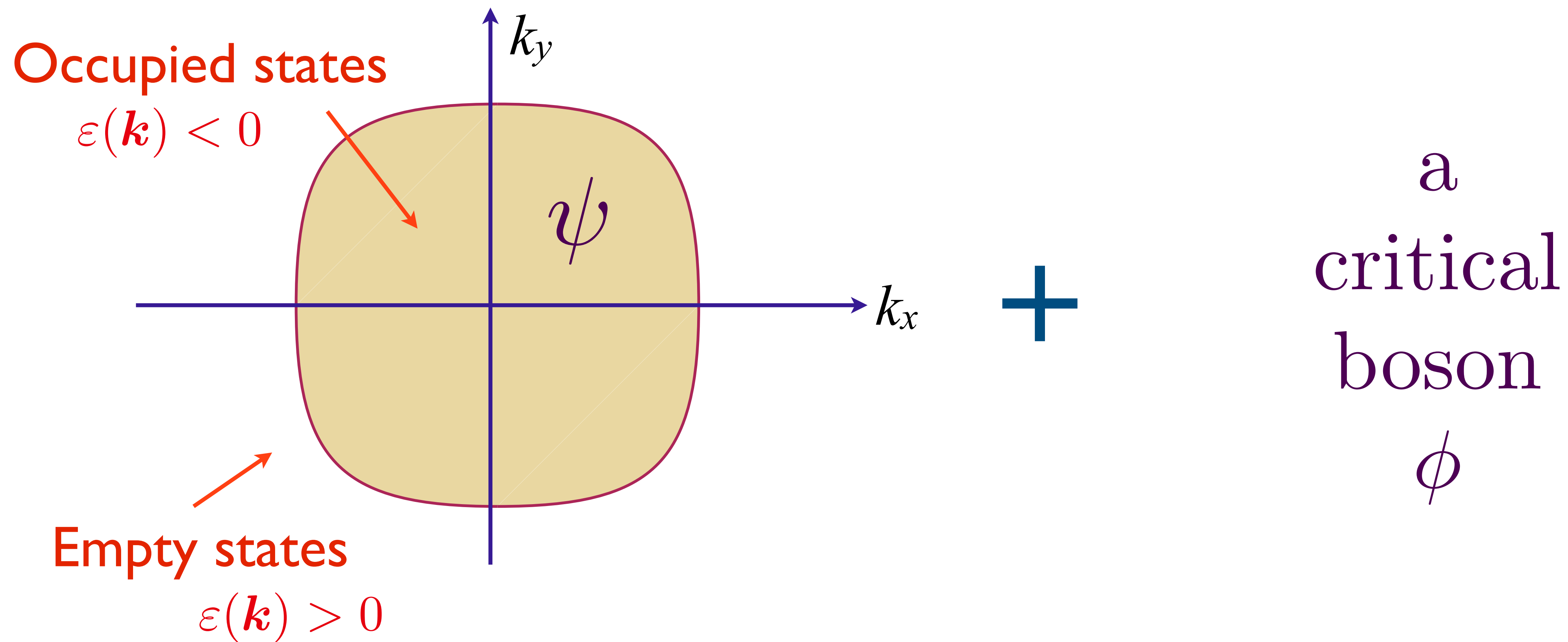


HARVARD

Talk online: [qpt.physics.harvard.edu/talks](https://qpt.physics.harvard.edu/talks)

**Yukawa-SYK models and  
a large  $N$  theory of a  
critical Fermi surface in  
two spatial dimensions**

# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson



# 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.

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)

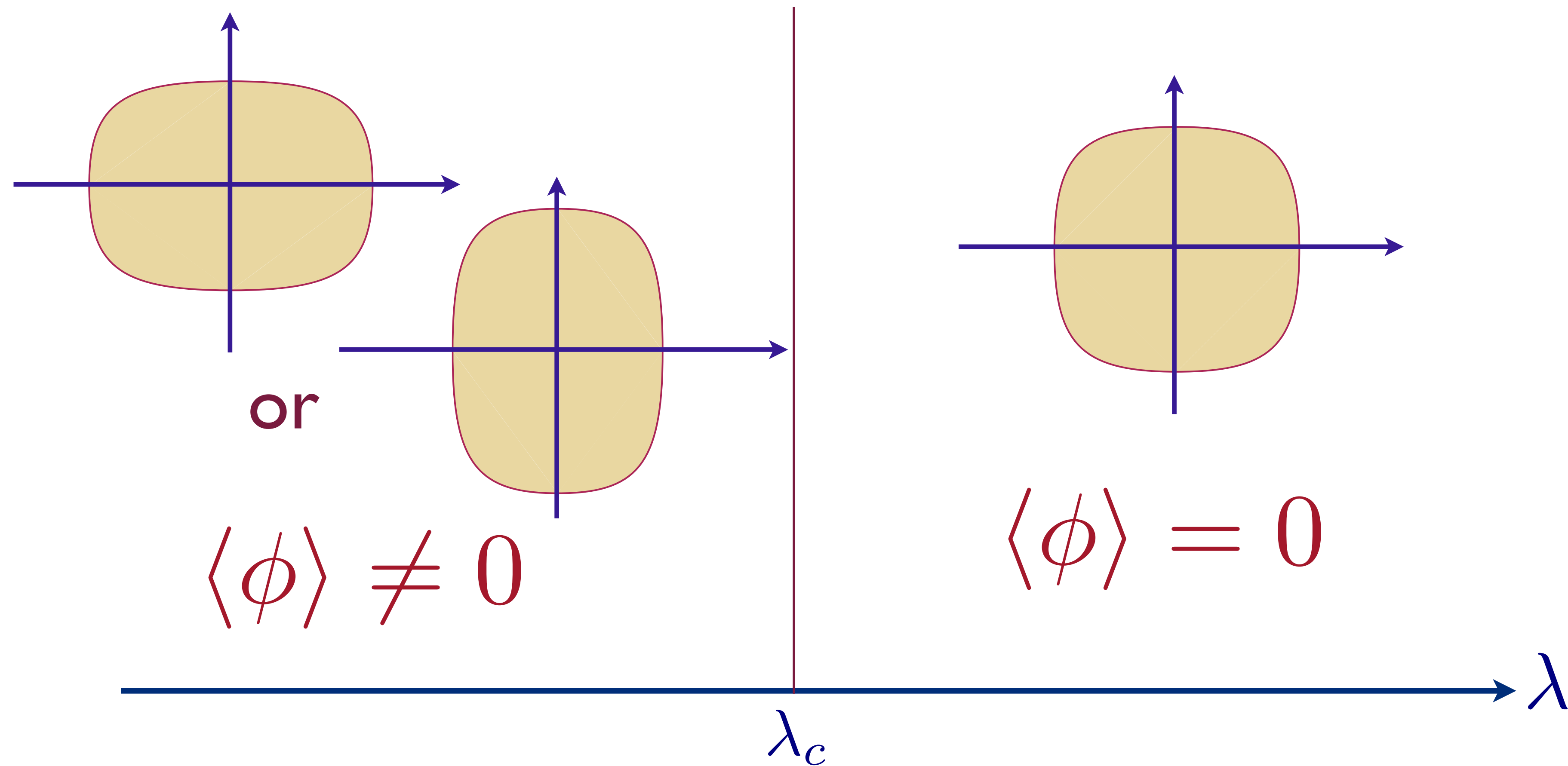
E. E. Aldape, T. Cookmeyer, A. A. Patel, and E. Altman, arXiv:2012.00763

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)

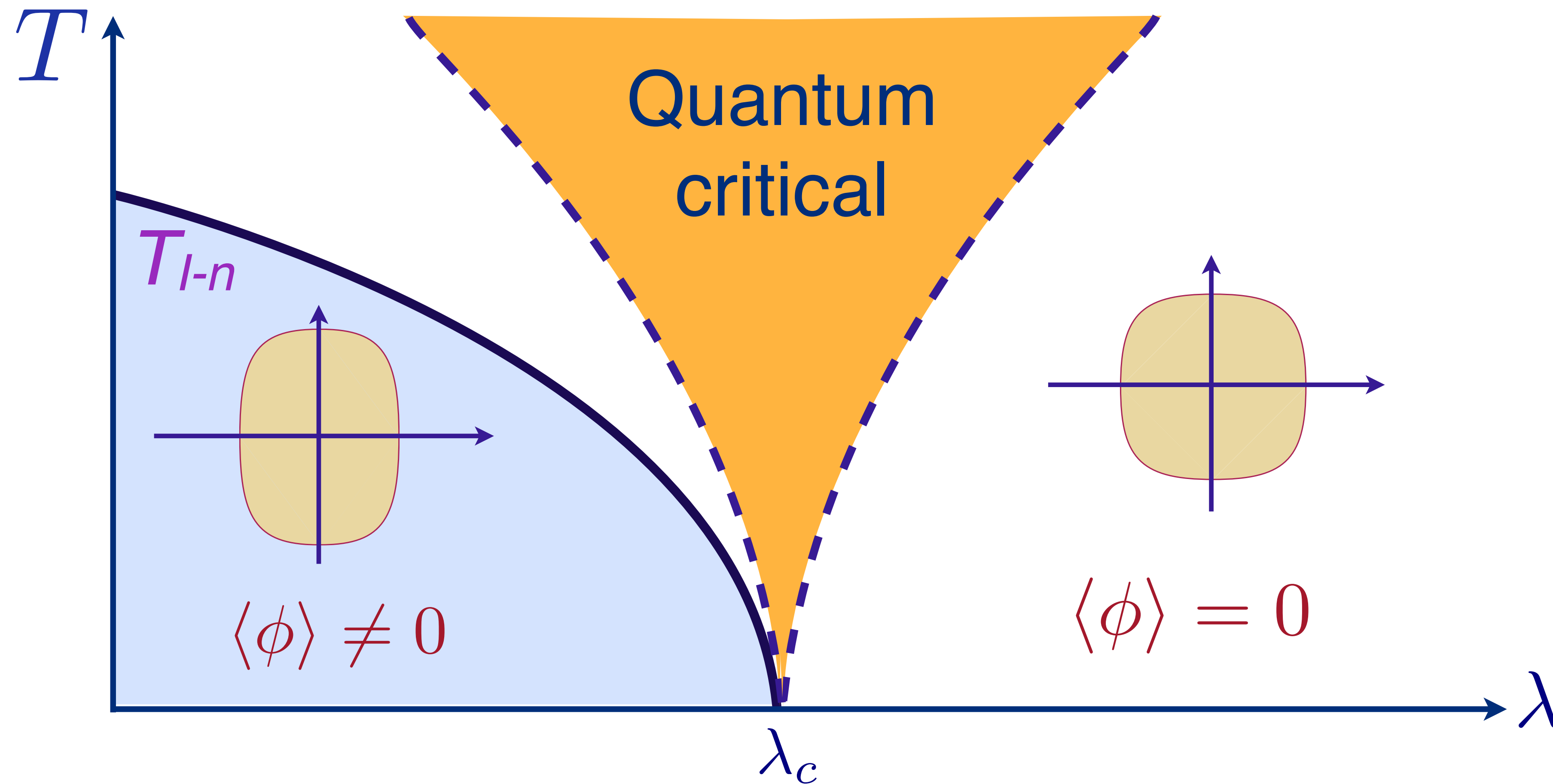
I. Esterlis, H. Guo, A. A. Patel, and S. Sachdev, PRB **103**, 235129 (2021).

# Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



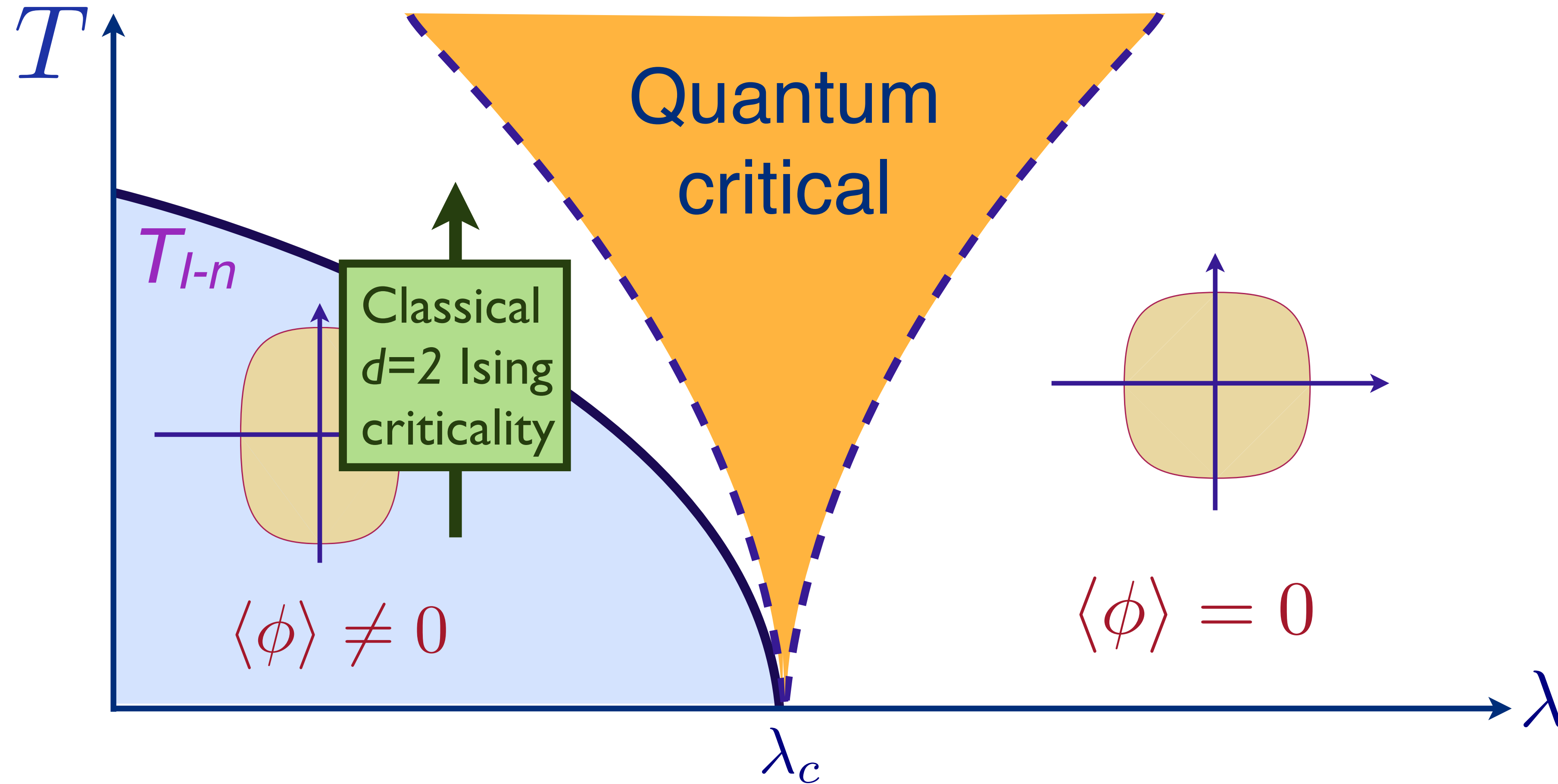
Pomeranchuk instability as a function of coupling  $\lambda$

# Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



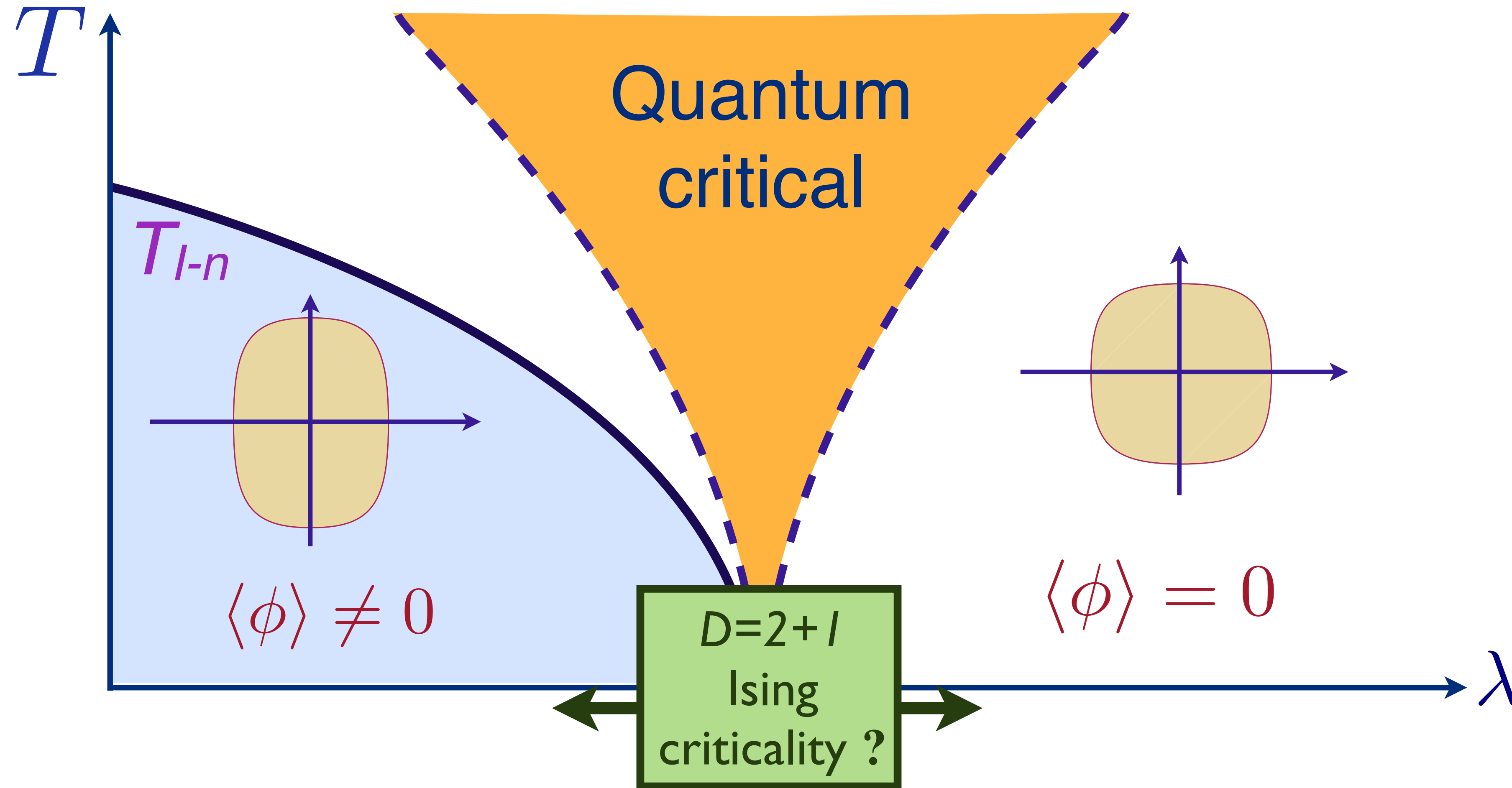
Phase diagram as a function of  $T$  and  $\lambda$

# Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



Phase diagram as a function of  $T$  and  $\lambda$

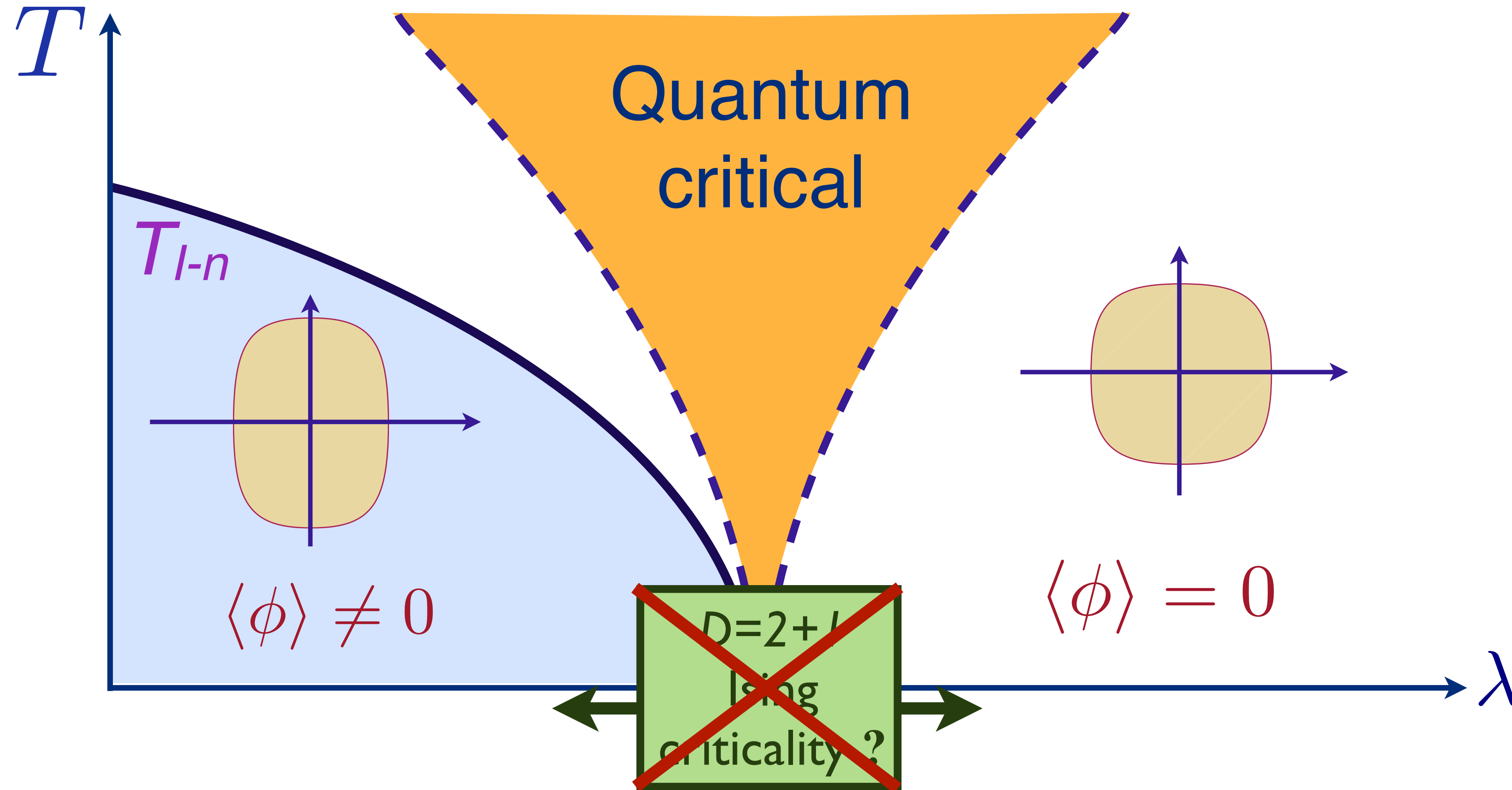
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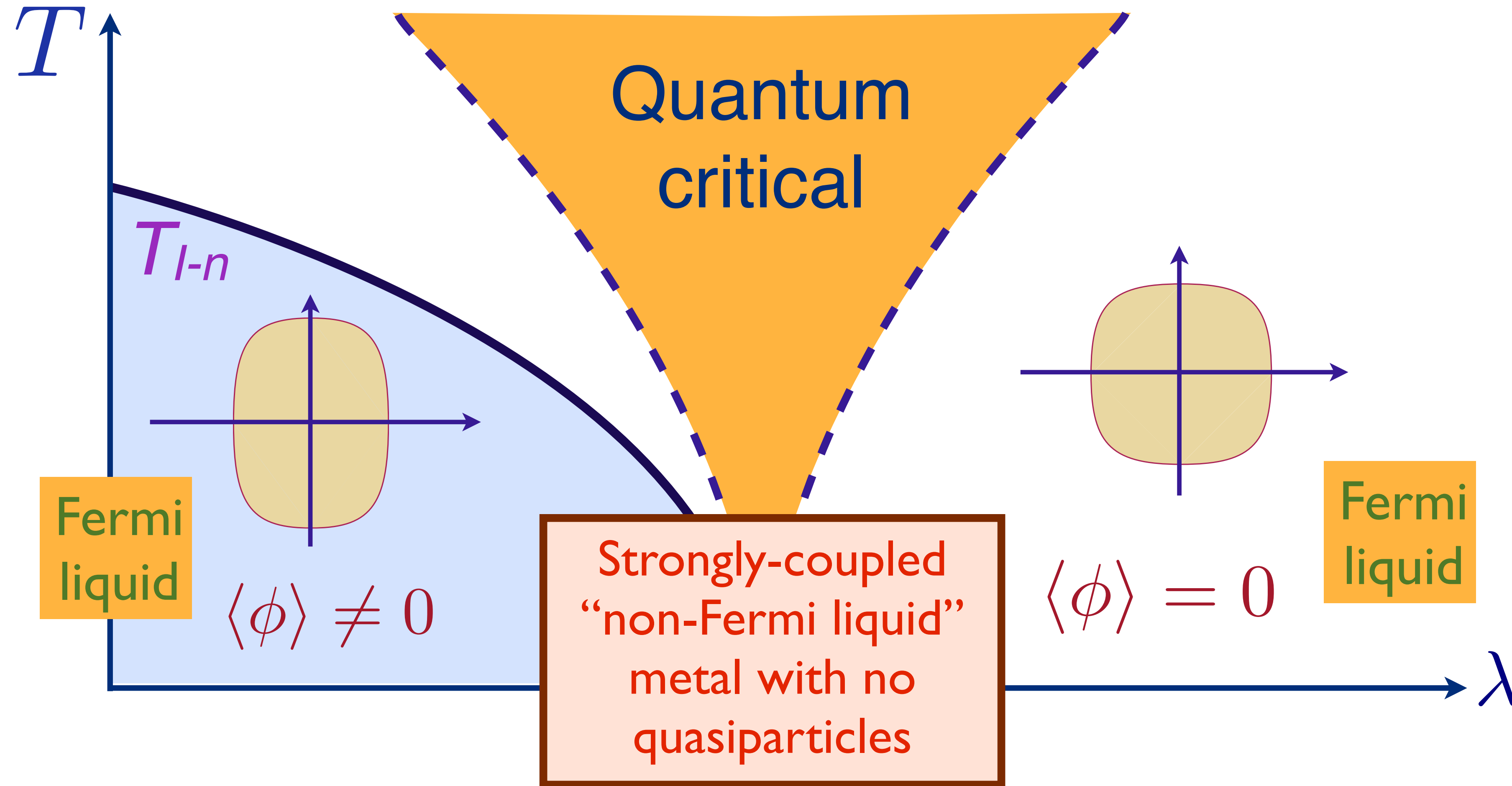


# Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



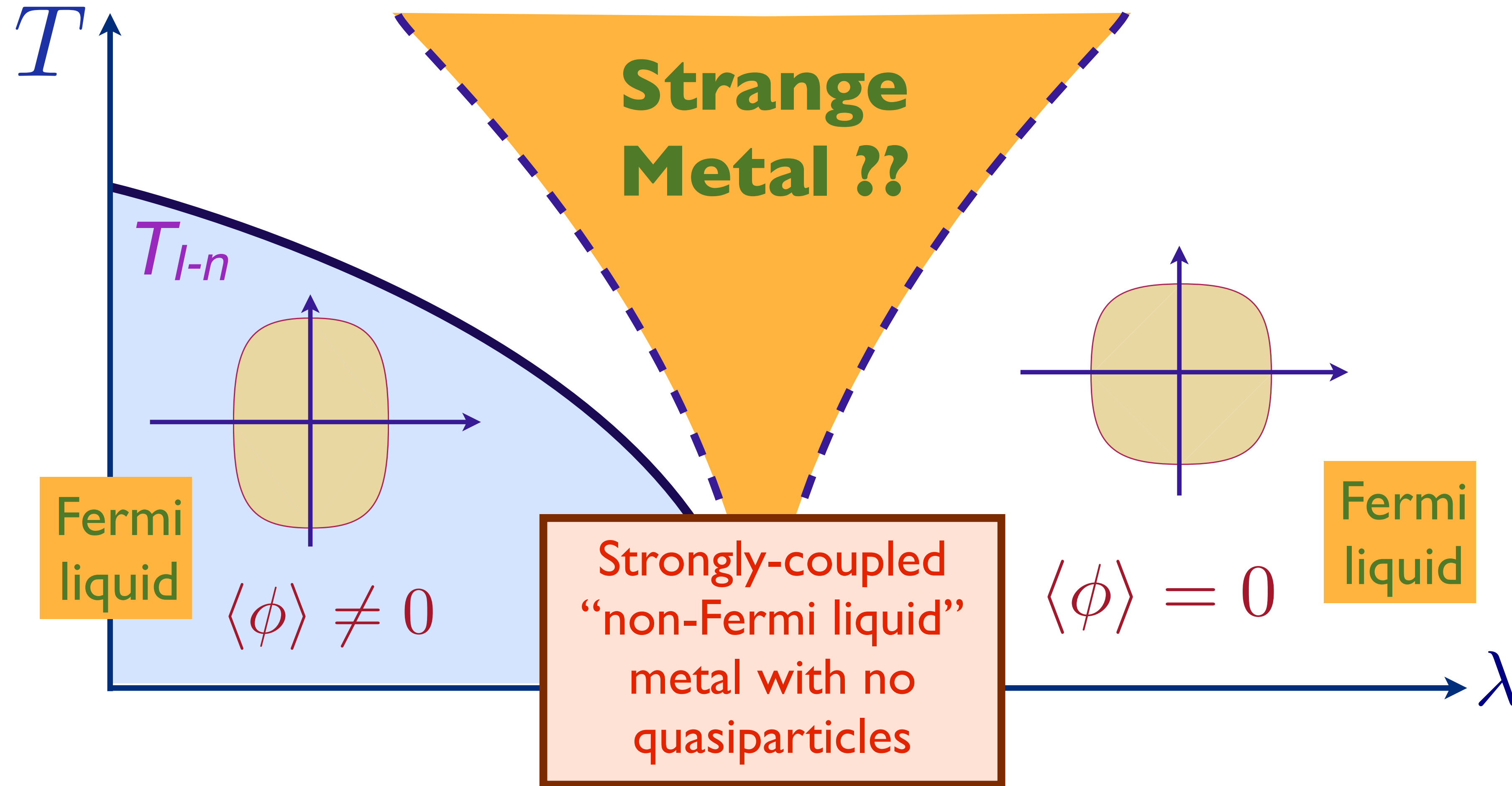
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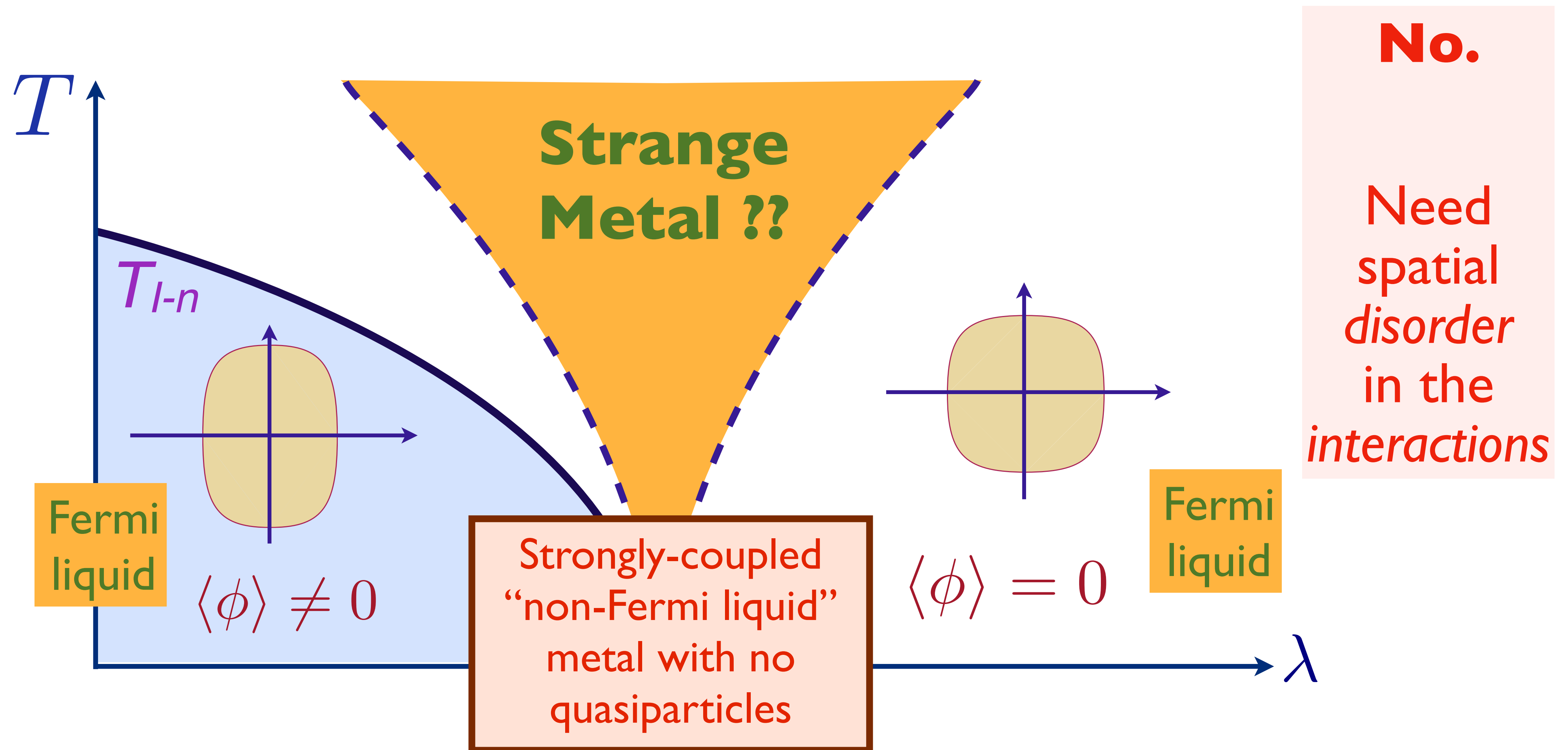
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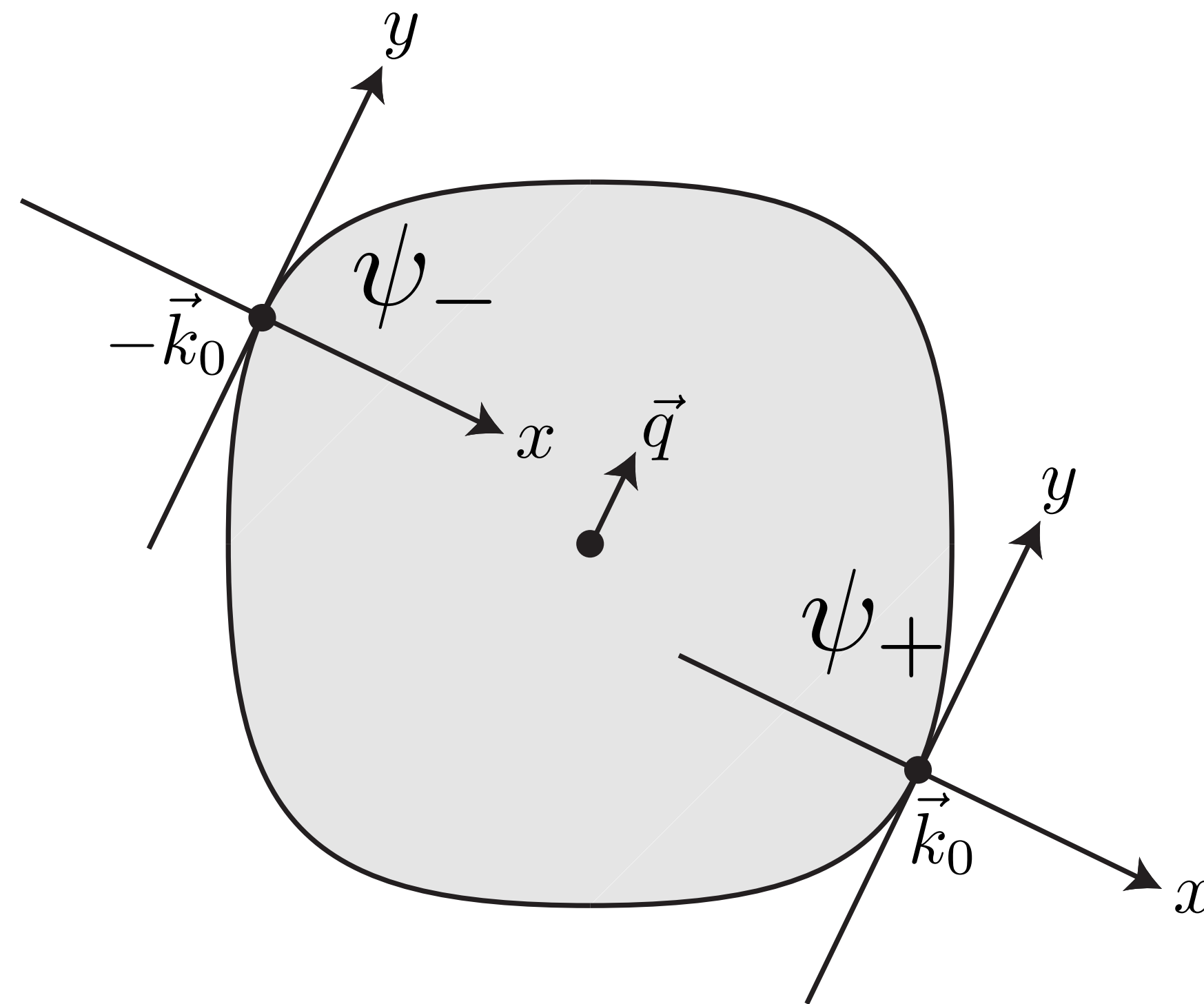
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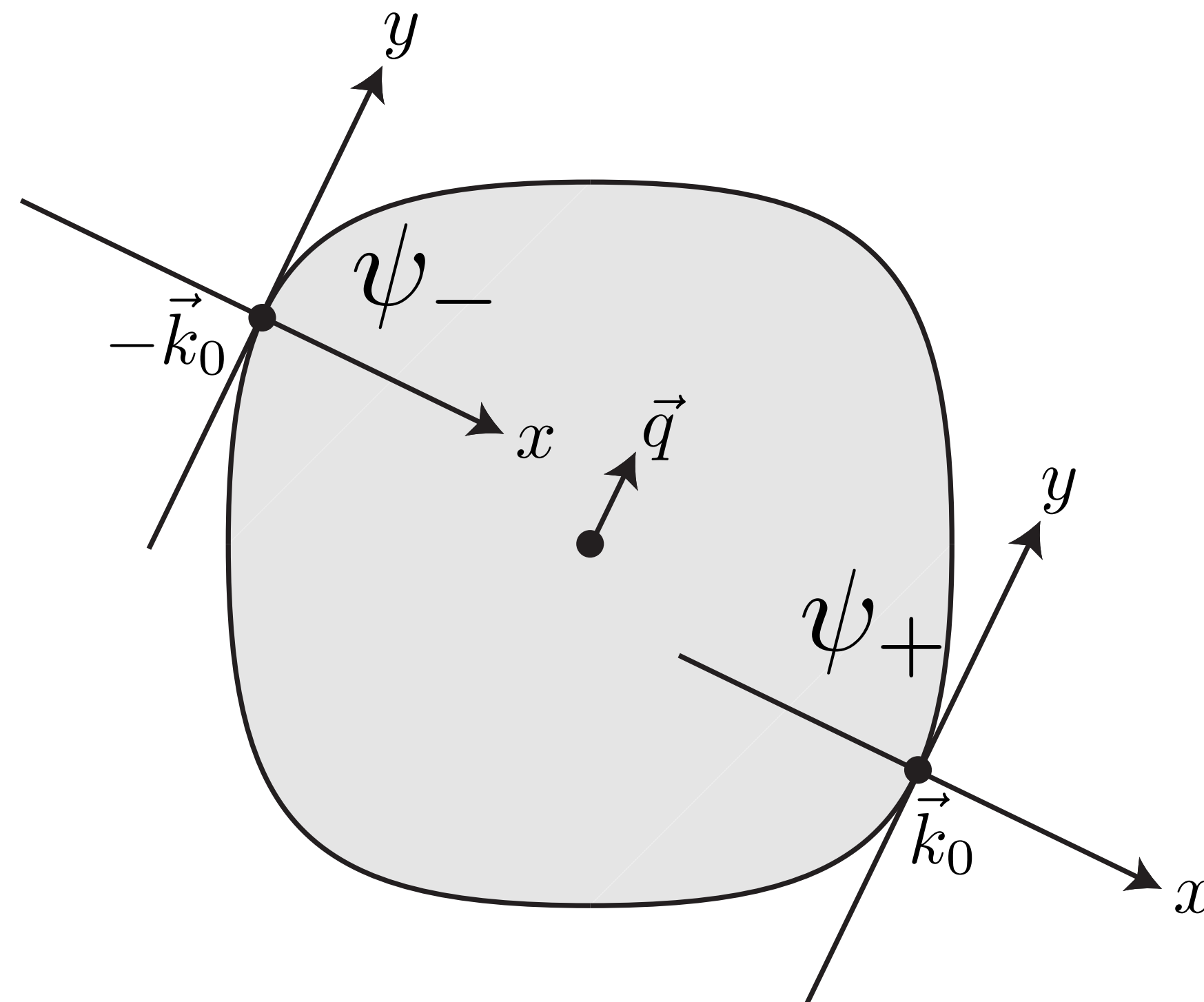
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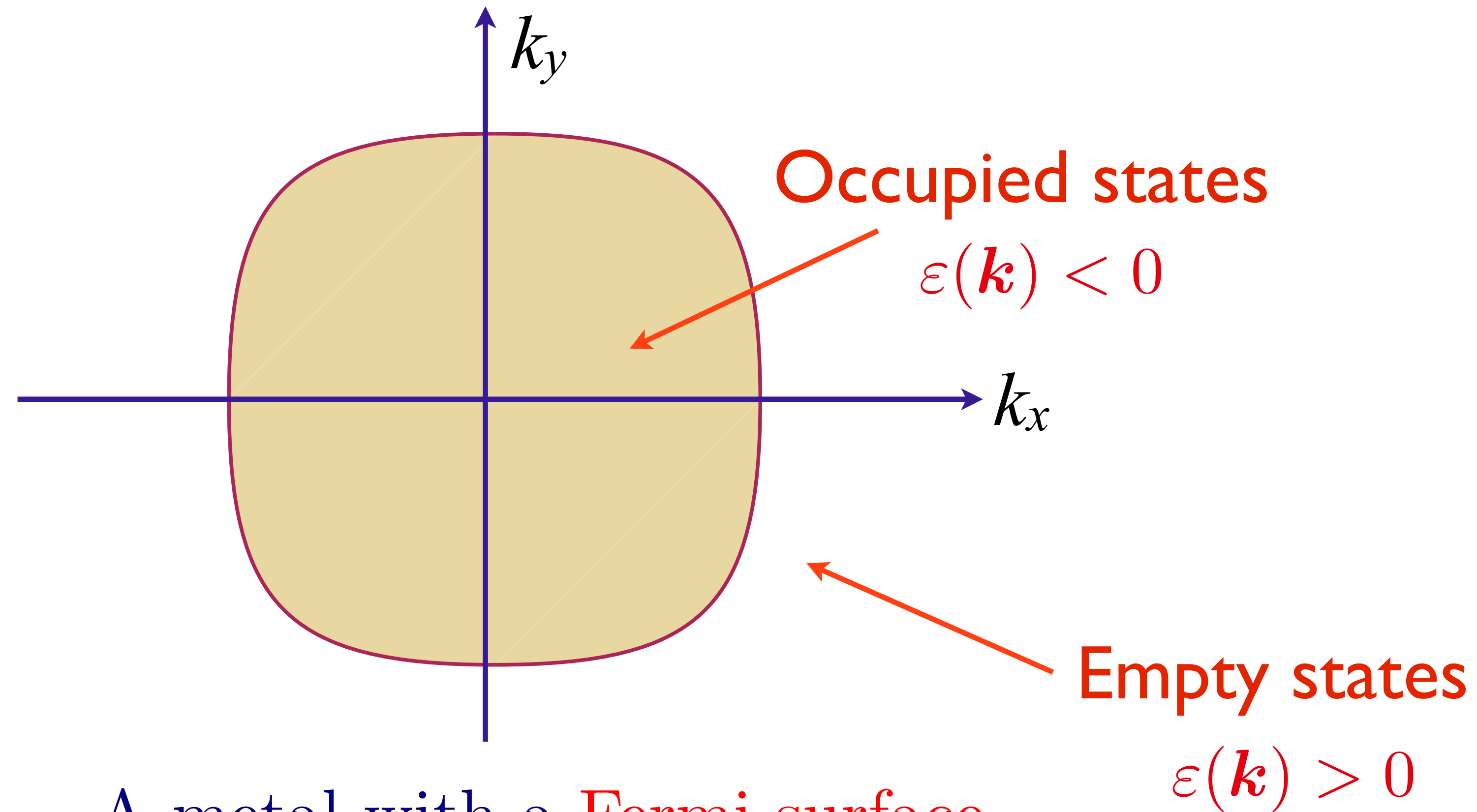
- Nematic fluctuation at wavevector  $\mathbf{q}$  couples most efficiently to fermions near  $\pm\mathbf{k}_0$ .
- Expand fermion kinetic energy at wavevectors about  $\pm\mathbf{k}_0$ .

# Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[\psi_{\pm}, \phi] = & \psi_+^\dagger (\partial_\tau - i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_+ + \psi_-^\dagger (\partial_\tau + i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_- \\ & - g \phi \left( \psi_+^\dagger \psi_+ + \psi_-^\dagger \psi_- \right) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_y \phi)^2 \end{aligned}$$

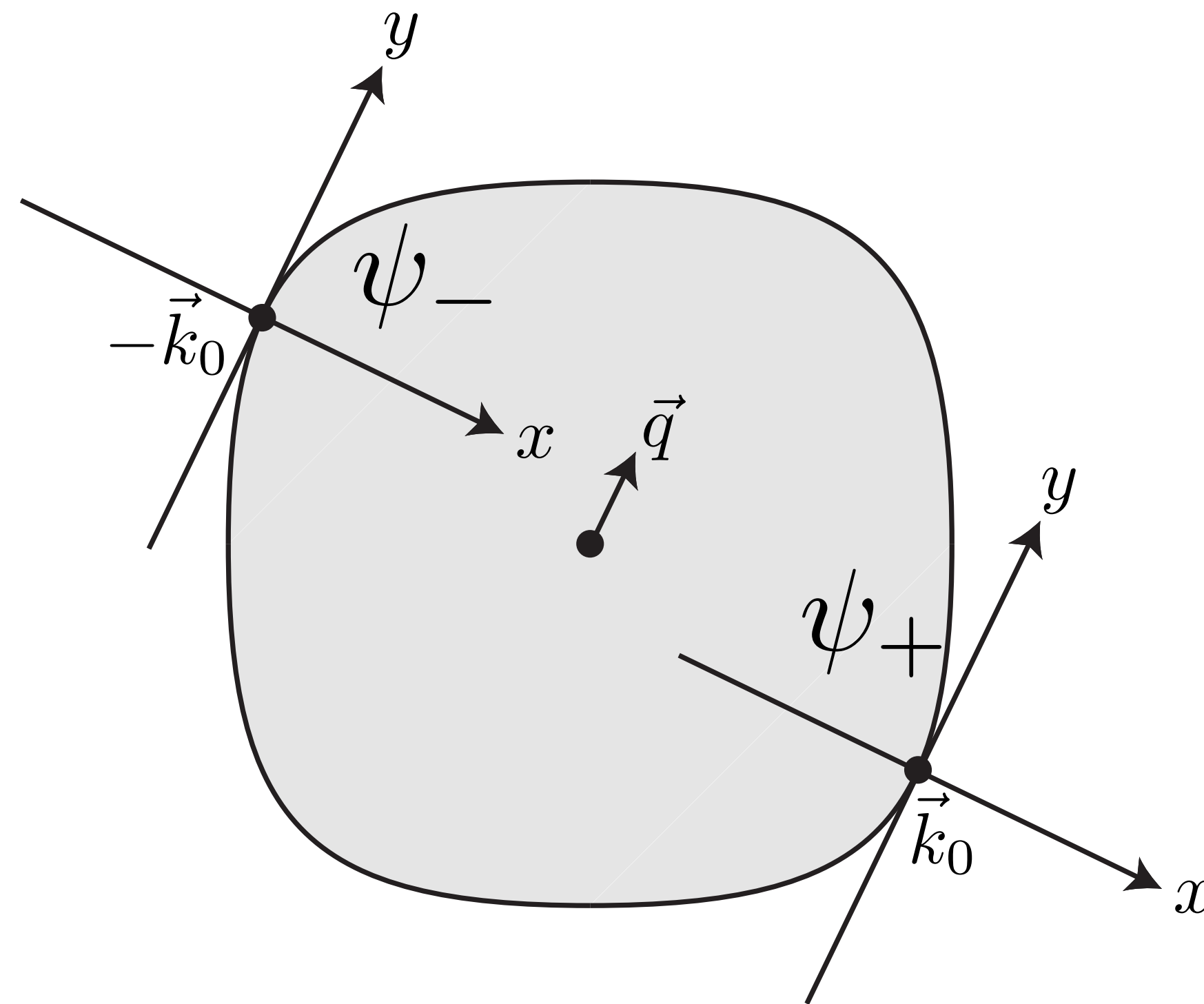
# Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field



A metal with a Fermi surface  
minimally coupled to a gauge field  $\mathbf{A}$

$$\mathcal{L} = c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + \varepsilon(-i\nabla - g\mathbf{A}) - \mu \right) c_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})^2$$

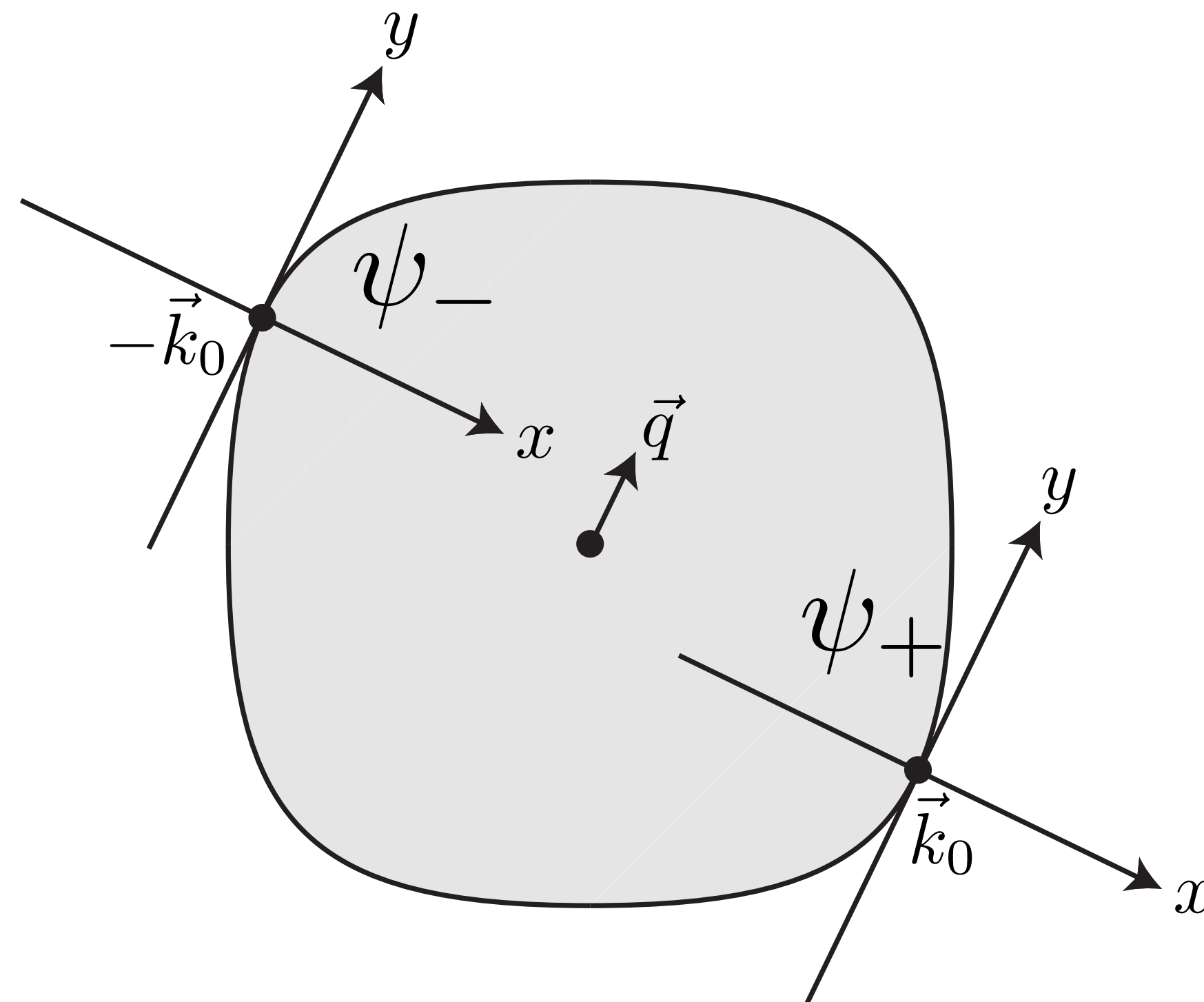
# Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field



- Gauge fluctuation at wavevector  $\mathbf{q}$  couples most efficiently to fermions near  $\pm\mathbf{k}_0$ .
- Expand fermion kinetic energy at wavevectors about  $\pm\mathbf{k}_0$ . In Landau gauge  $\mathbf{A} = (a, 0)$ .

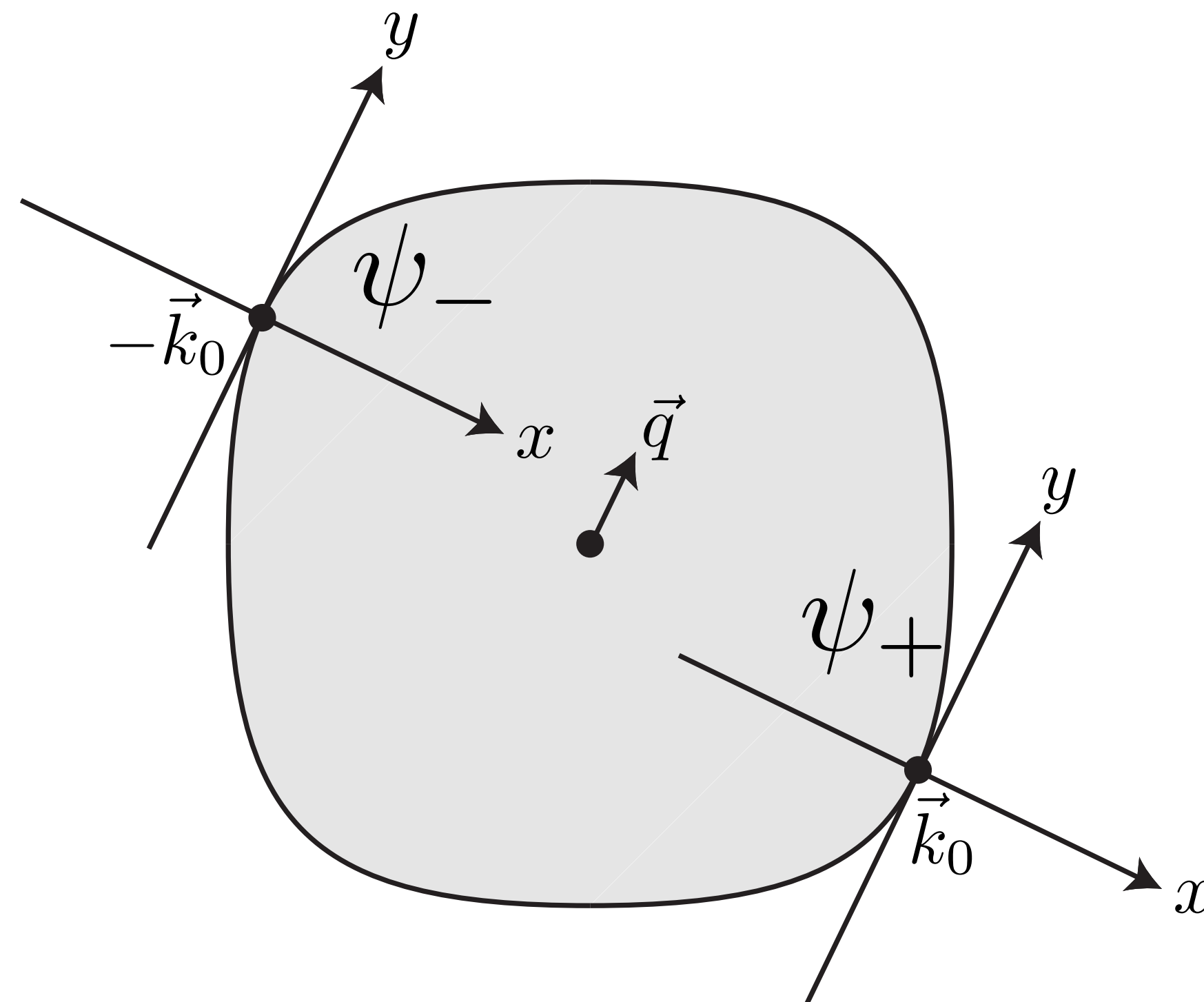


# Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field



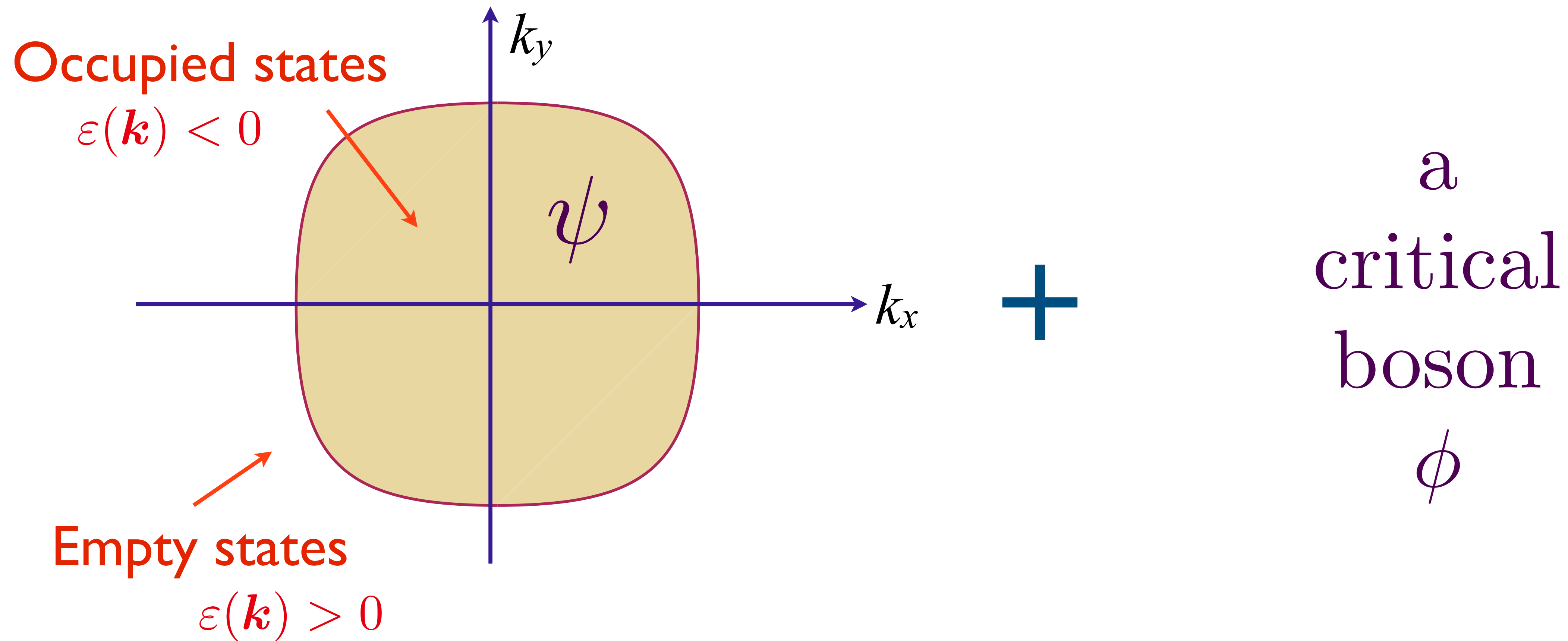
$$\mathcal{L}[\psi_{\pm}, a] = \psi_+^\dagger (\partial_\tau - i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_+ + \psi_-^\dagger (\partial_\tau + i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_- - g a (\psi_+^\dagger \psi_+ - \psi_-^\dagger \psi_-) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_y a)^2$$

# Quantum criticality of Ising-nematic ordering in a metal



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# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson



# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson

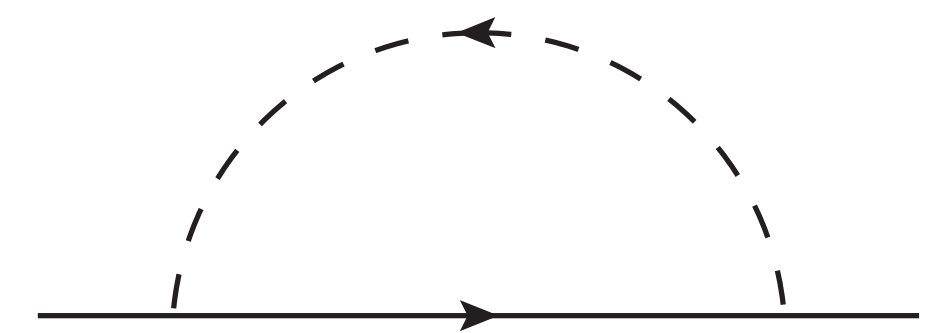
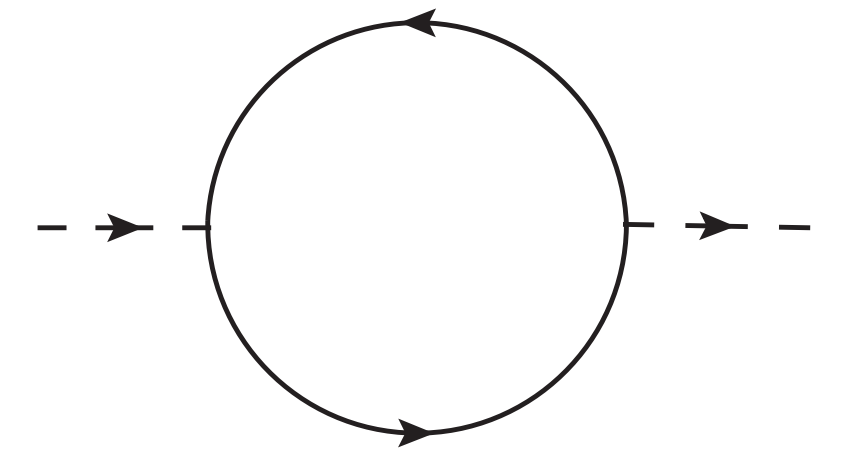
“Yukawa” coupling:  $g \int d^2r d\tau \psi^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi(r, \tau) \phi(r, \tau)$

Boson self energy  $\Pi(q, i\Omega) \sim -g^2 \frac{|\Omega|}{q}$  (Landau damping)

Boson Green's function  $D(q, i\Omega) = \frac{1}{q^2 + \gamma|\Omega|/q}$

Fermion self energy  $\Sigma(\hat{\mathbf{k}}, i\omega) \sim -i \text{sgn}(\omega) |\omega|^{2/3}$

Fermion Green's function  $G(\mathbf{k}, i\omega) = \frac{1}{i\omega \mp k_x - k_y^2 - \Sigma(\hat{\mathbf{k}}, i\omega)}$



P.A. Lee (1989)

Yields a state without quasiparticle excitations, but the theory is not systematic at large  $N$

Sung-Sik Lee (2009)

## Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \psi_+^\dagger (\partial_\tau - i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_+ + \psi_-^\dagger (\partial_\tau + i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_- \\ & - g a (\psi_+^\dagger \psi_+ - \psi_-^\dagger \psi_-) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_y a)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Simple scaling argument for  $z = 3/2$ .

Under the rescaling  $x \rightarrow x/s$ ,  $y \rightarrow y/s^{1/2}$ , and  $\tau \rightarrow \tau/s^z$ , we find invariance provided

$$a \rightarrow a s^{(2z+1)/4}$$

$$\psi \rightarrow \psi s^{(2z+1)/4}$$

$$g \rightarrow g s^{(3-2z)/4}$$

So the action is invariant provided  $z = 3/2$ .

## Fermi surface coupled to a gauge field

$$\mathcal{L} = \psi_+^\dagger (\cancel{\partial_\tau} - i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_+ + \psi_-^\dagger (\cancel{\partial_\tau} + i\partial_x - \partial_y^2) \psi_- - g a \left( \psi_+^\dagger \psi_+ - \psi_-^\dagger \psi_- \right) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_y a)^2$$

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# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson

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

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

## Main idea:

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)

# $G$ - $\Sigma$ - $D$ - $\Pi$ Theory

The theory self-averages, and the average partition function can be written exactly as a ‘ $G$ - $\Sigma$ ’ theory involving a path integral over *bilocal in spacetime*. We introduce the spacetime co-ordinate  $X \equiv (\tau, x, y)$ , and all Green’s functions and self energies in the path integral are functions of two spacetime co-ordinates  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ .

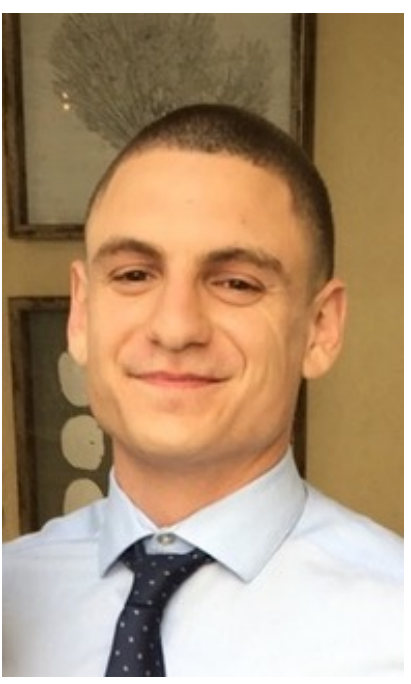
$$\bar{\mathcal{Z}} = \int \mathcal{D}G(X_1, X_2) \mathcal{D}\Sigma(X_1, X_2) \mathcal{D}D(X_1, X_2) \mathcal{D}\Pi(X_1, X_2) \exp [-NI(G, \Sigma, D, \Pi)] .$$

The  $G$ - $\Sigma$ - $D$ - $\Pi$  action is now

$$\begin{aligned} I(G, \Sigma, D, \Pi) = & \frac{g^2}{2} \text{Tr} (G \cdot [GD]) - \text{Tr}(G \cdot \Sigma) + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(D \cdot \Pi) \\ & - \ln \det [(\partial_{\tau_1} + \varepsilon(-i\nabla_1)) \delta(X_1 - X_2) + \Sigma(X_1, X_2)] \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \ln \det [(-\partial_{\tau_1}^2 - \nabla_1^2 + s) \delta(X_1 - X_2) - \Pi(X_1, X_2)] . \end{aligned}$$

where we have introduced notation

$$\text{Tr} (f \cdot g) \equiv \int dX_1 dX_2 f(X_2, X_1)g(X_1, X_2) .$$





# G-Σ-D-Π Theory

The saddle point equations are

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

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

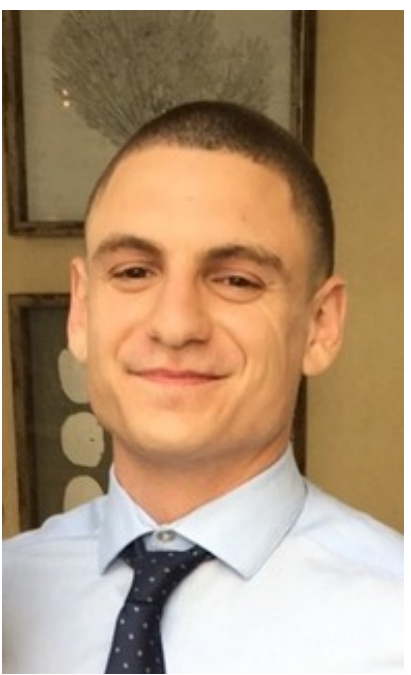
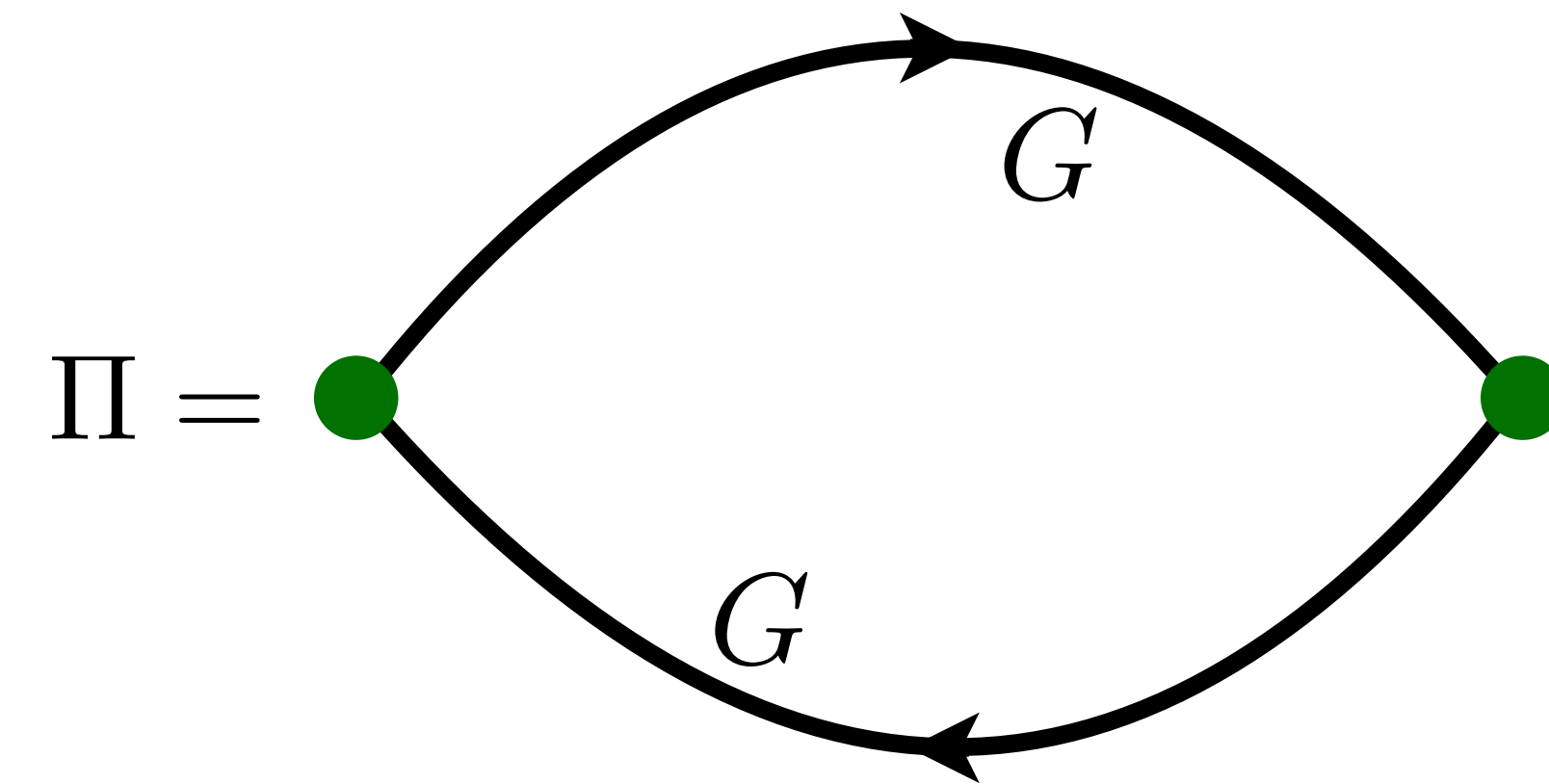
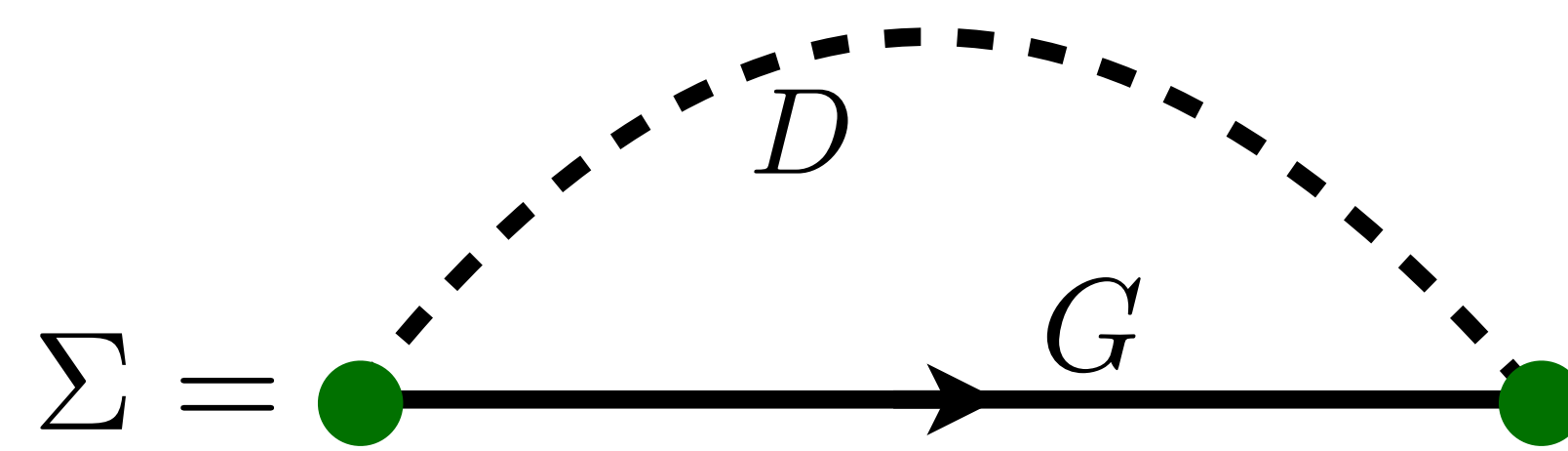
$$G(\mathbf{k}, i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n - \varepsilon(\mathbf{k}) - \Sigma(\mathbf{k}, i\omega_n)},$$

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

Exact Solution at small  $\omega$ :

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

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  $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ .

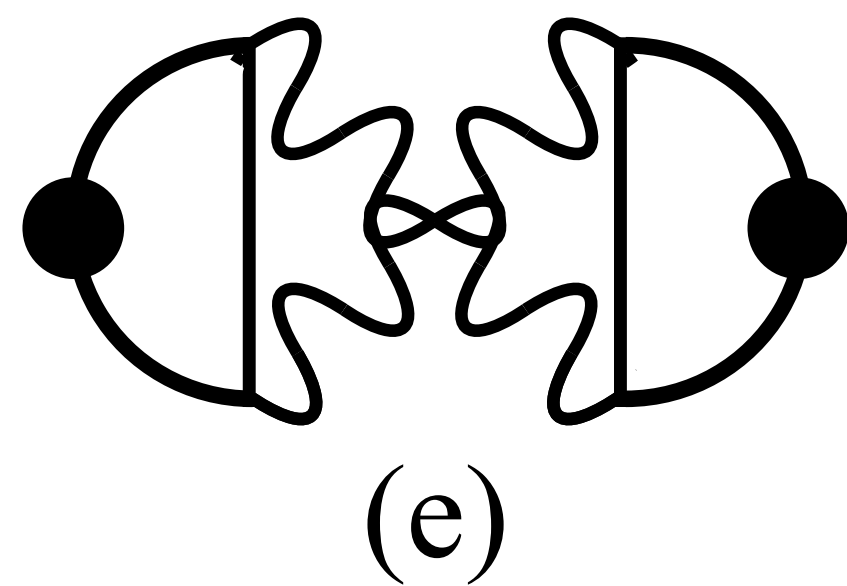
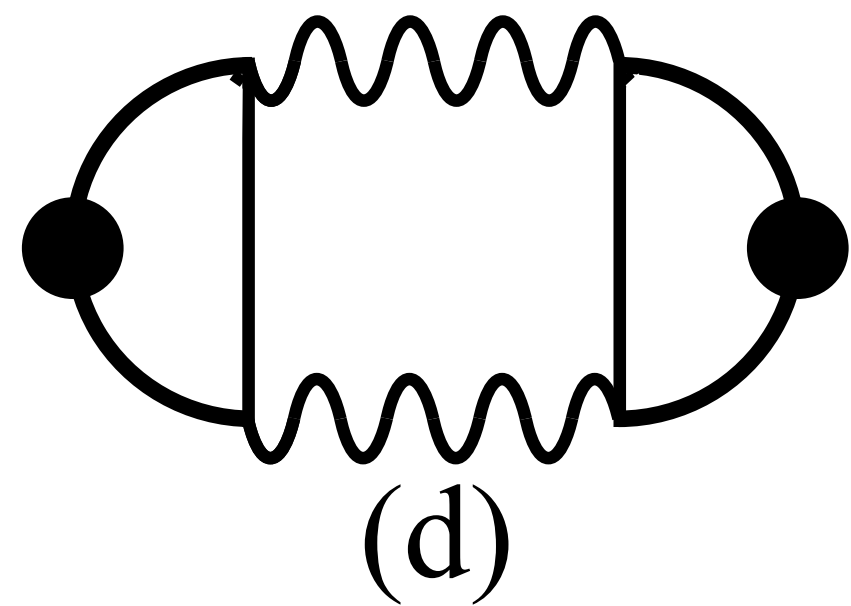
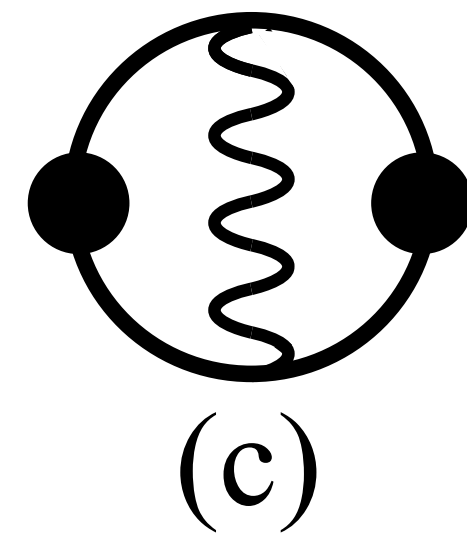
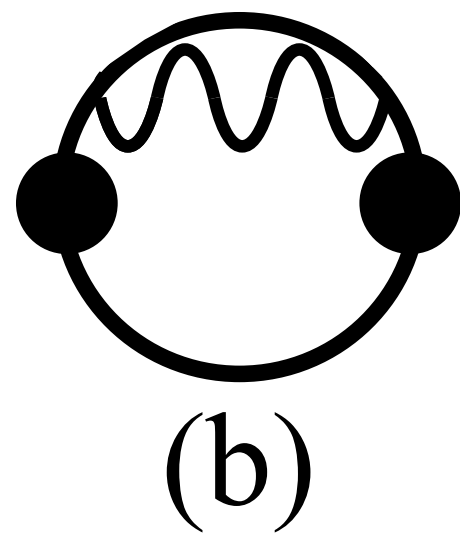
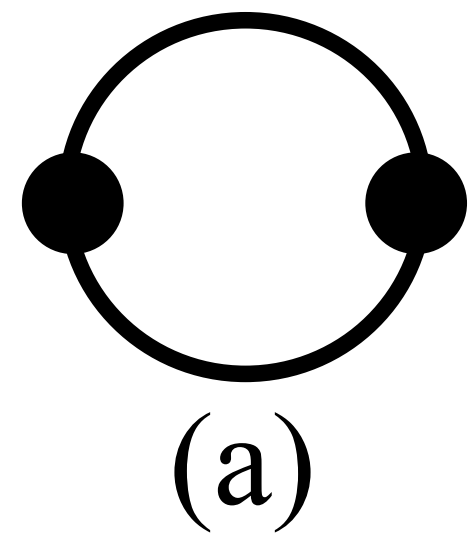
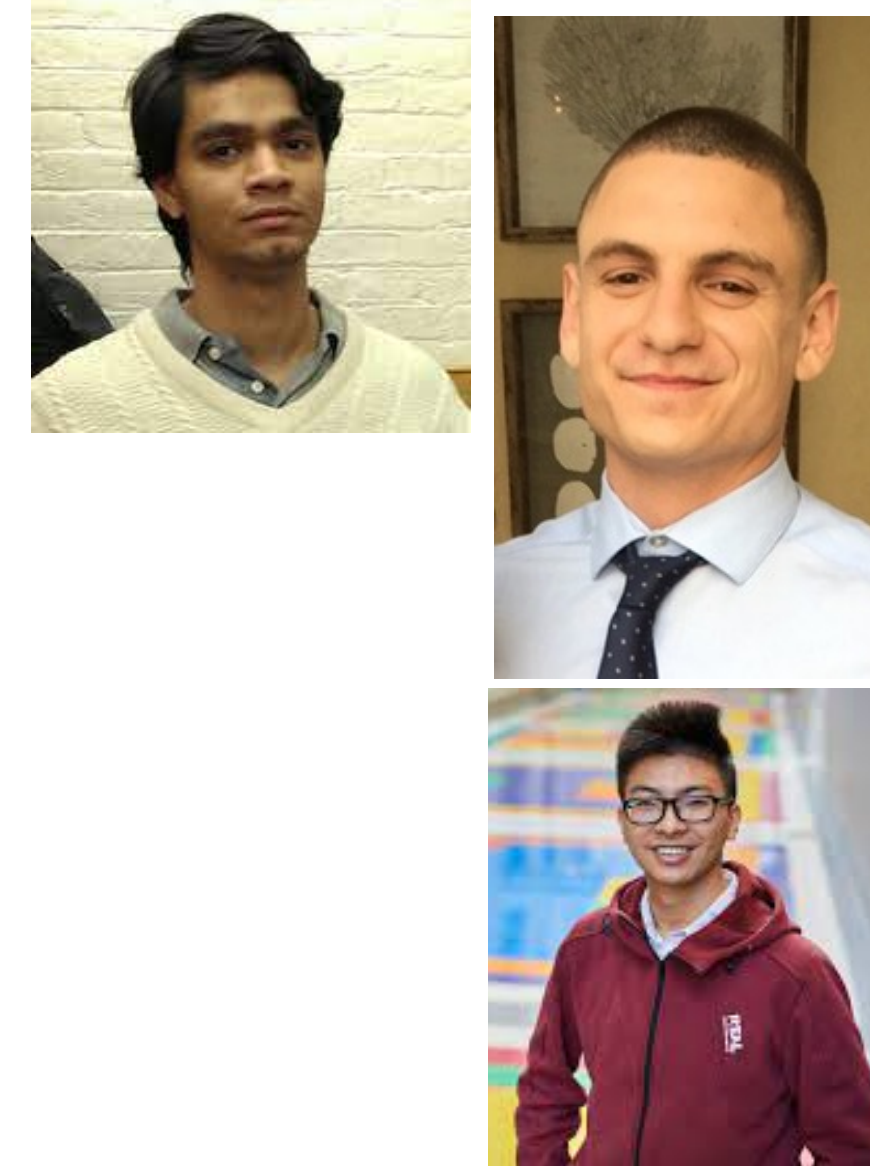


**Strange metal  
in two spatial dimensions from  
spatially random interactions**

# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson

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

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



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  $\rho(T) \sim T^{4/3}$   
and  $\sigma(\omega \gg T) \sim \omega^{-2/3}$ .

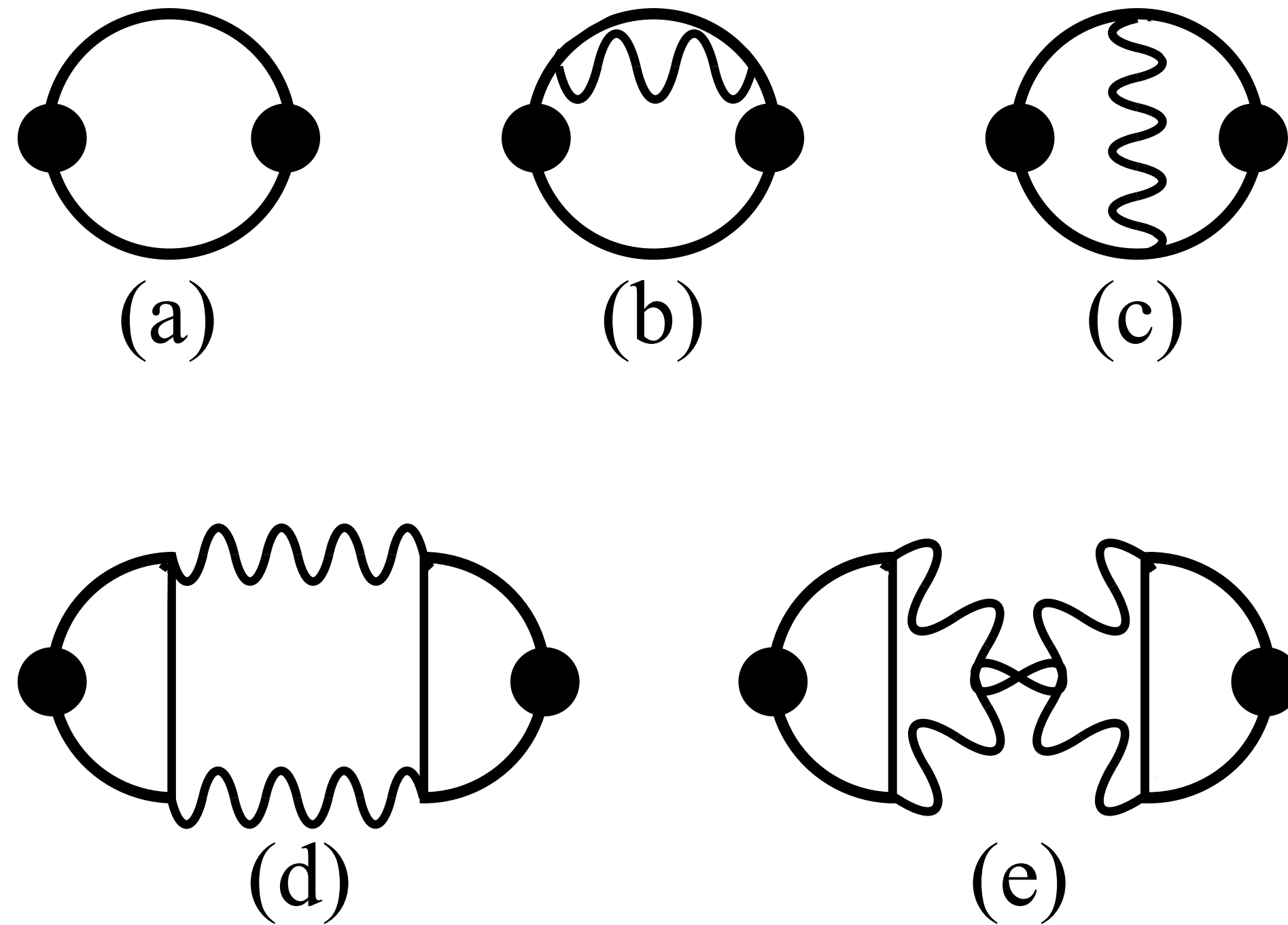
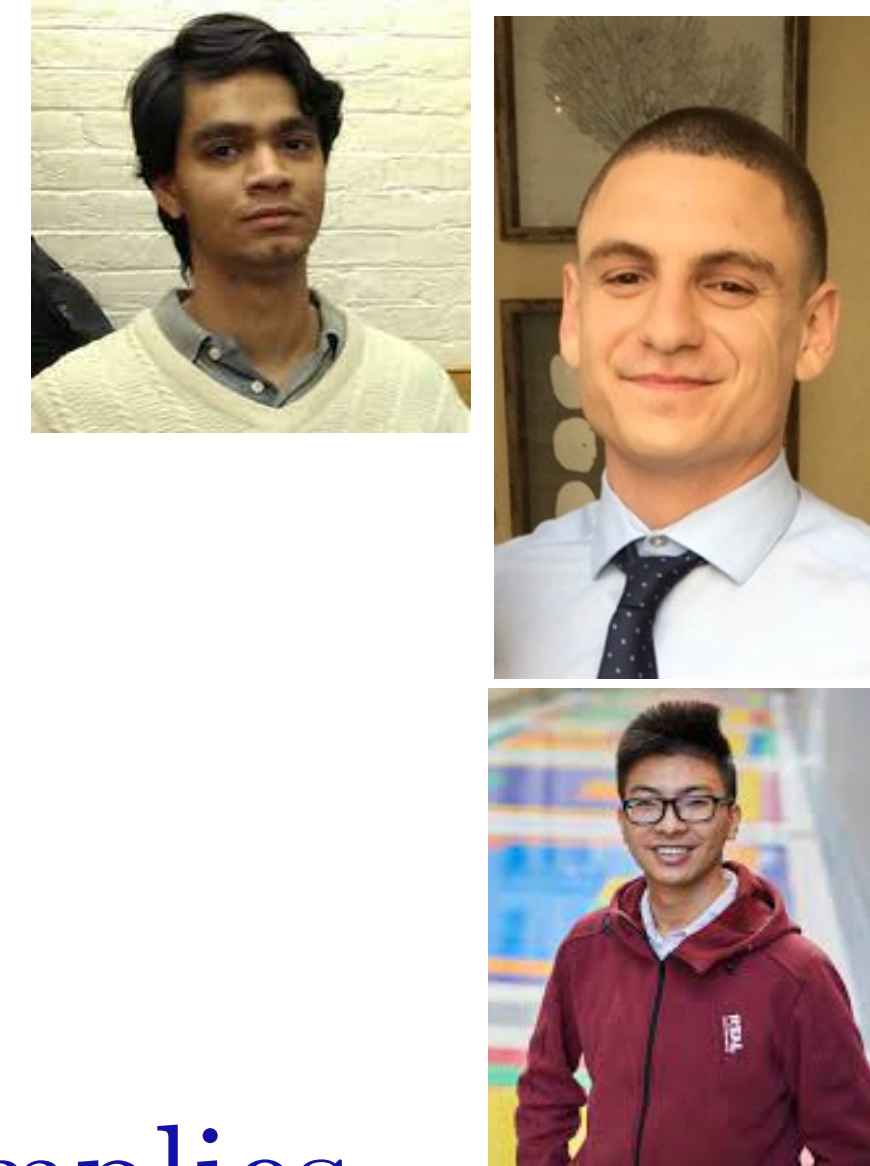
These results do not account for  
conservation of total momentum *i.e.* ‘boson drag’.

+ all ladders and bubbles.....

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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)

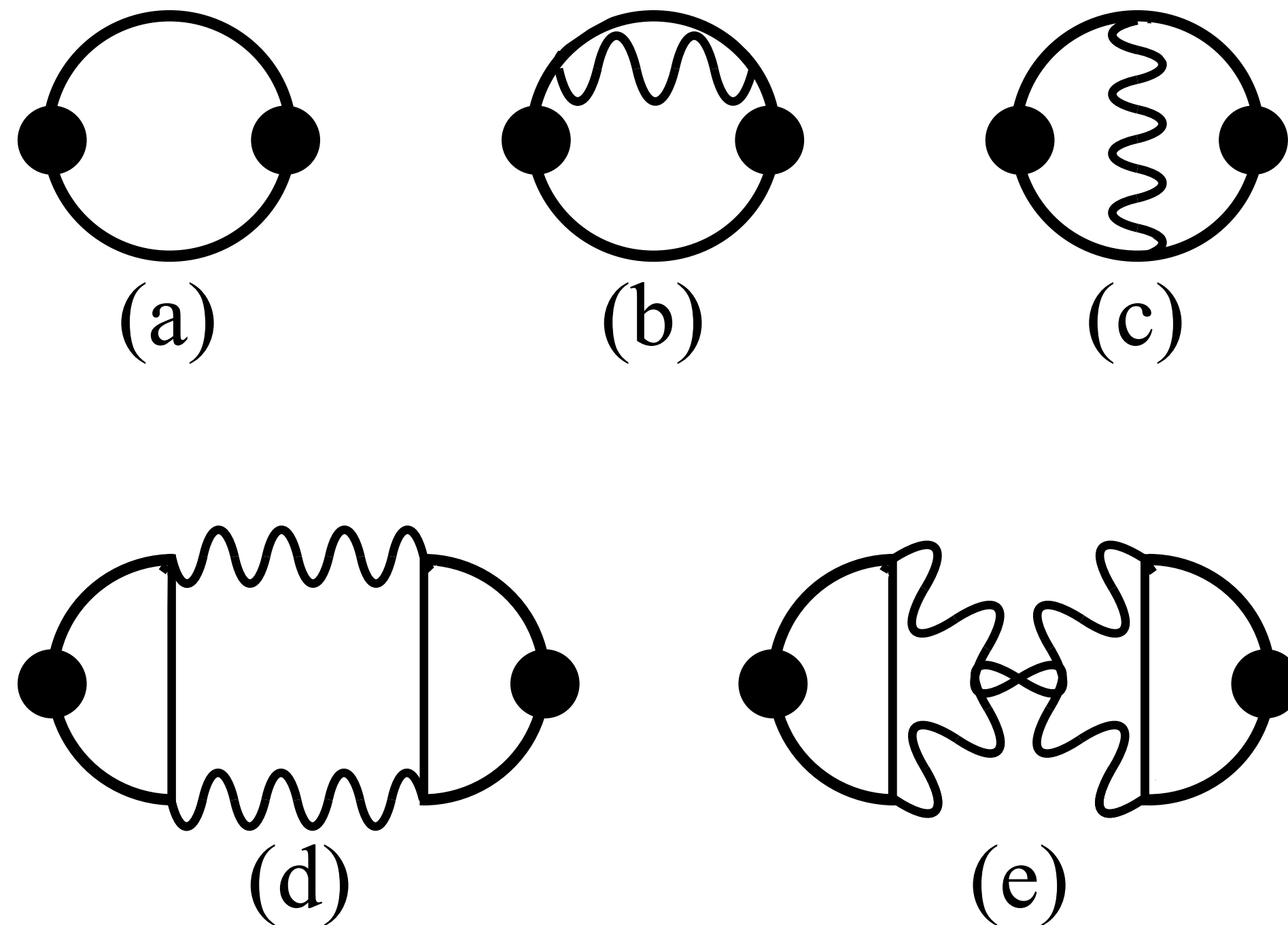
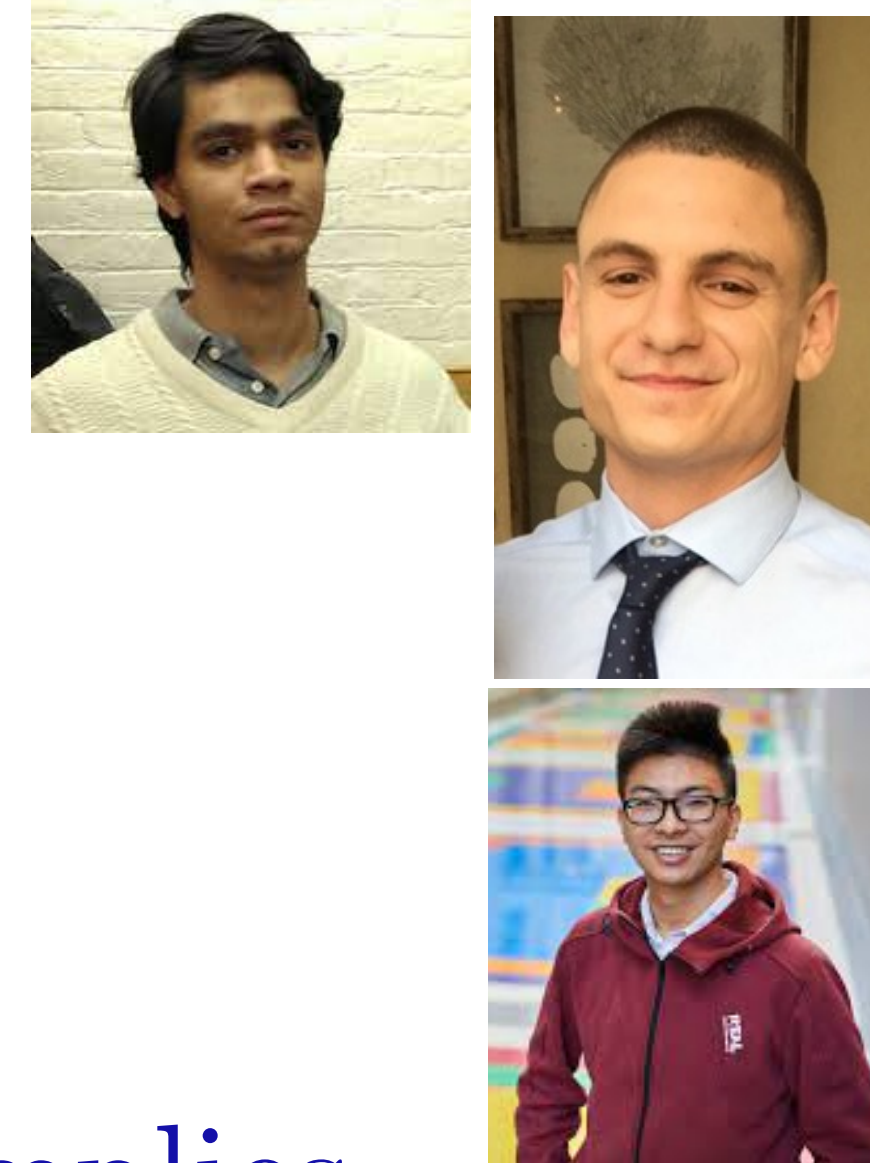
A. Eberlein, I. Mandal, and S. S. PRB **94**, 045133 (2016)

+ all ladders and bubbles.....

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

$$\sigma(\omega) \sim \frac{1}{-i\omega + \omega^2}$$

+ all ladders and bubbles.....

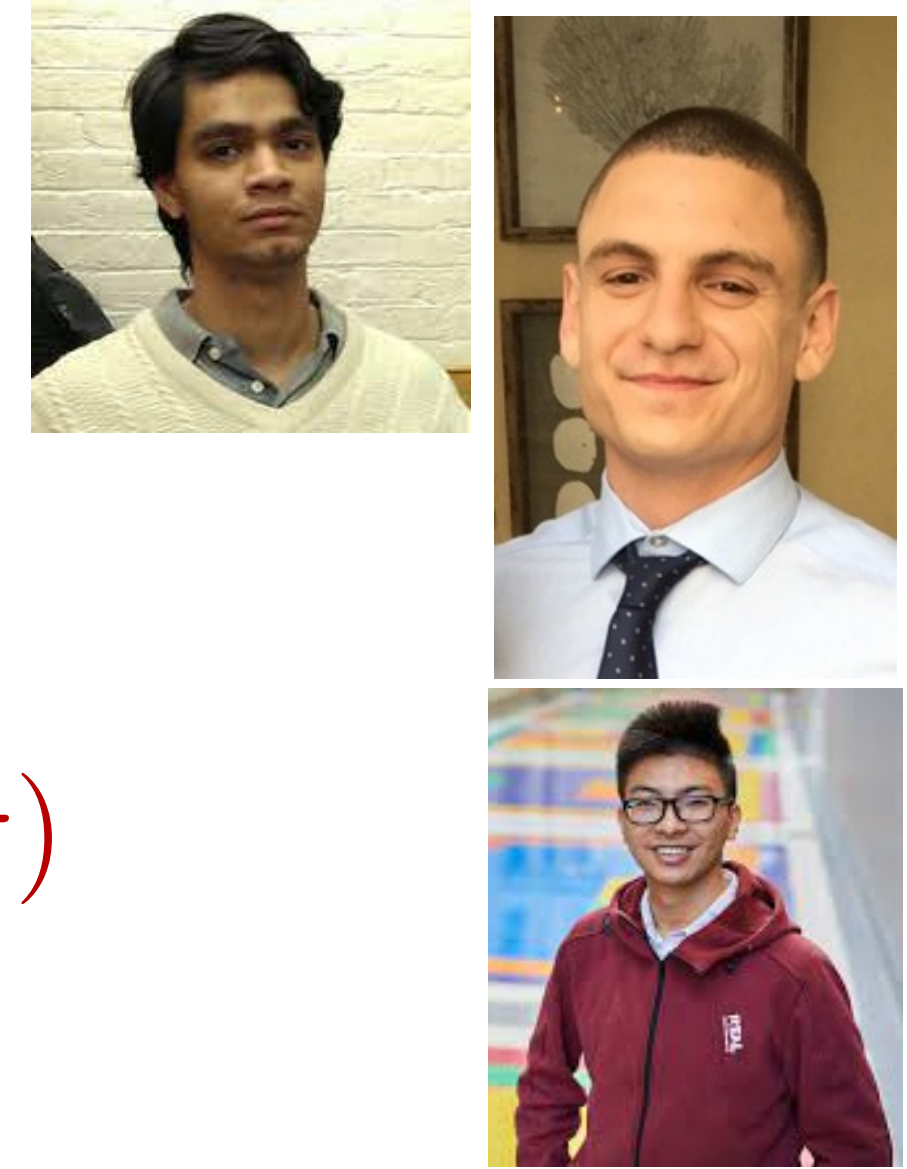
Zhengyan Darius Shi, Hart Goldman, Dominic V. Else, T. Senthil arXiv:2204.07585

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

# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

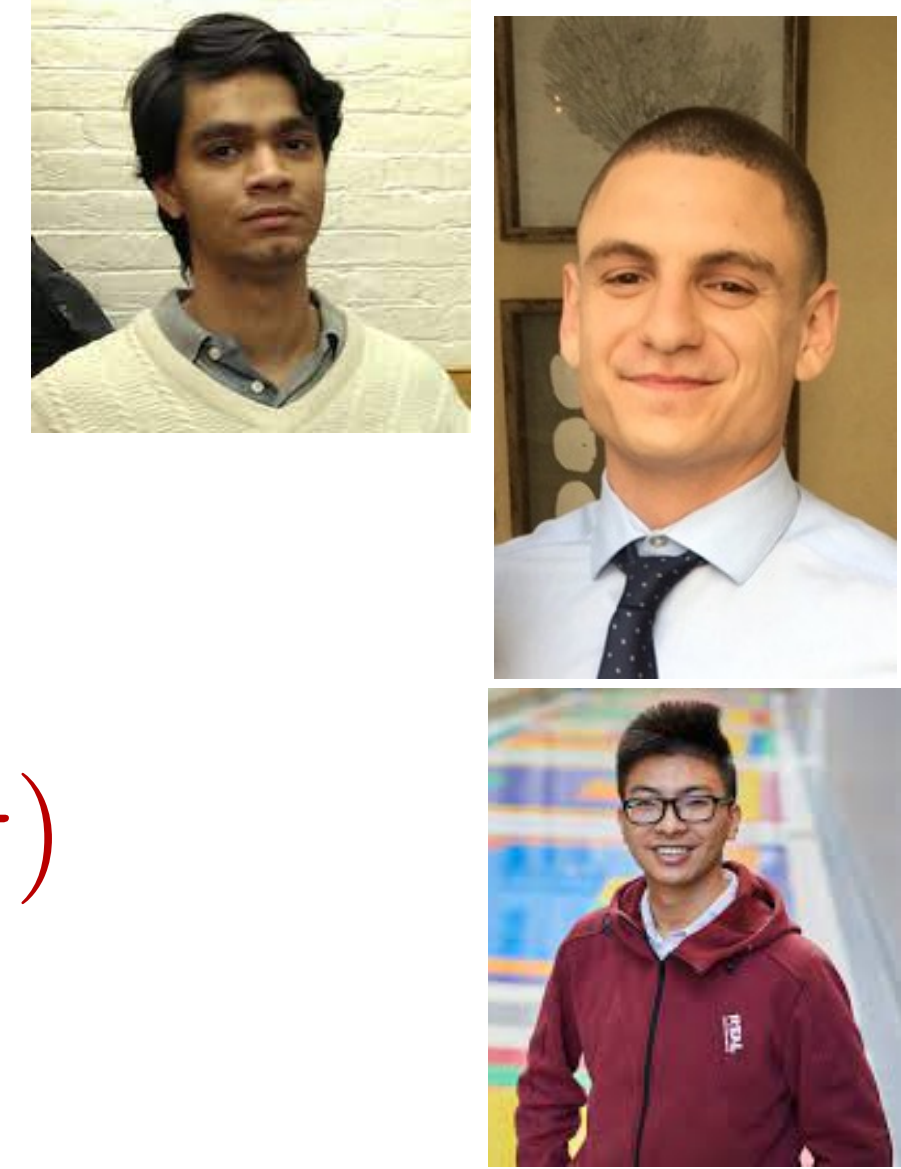
“Yukawa” coupling:  $\frac{g_{ijl}}{N} \int d^2r d\tau \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau) \phi_l(r, \tau)$

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



$$\overline{g_{ijl}} = 0 \quad , \quad \overline{g_{ijl}^* g_{abc}} = g^2 \delta_{ia} \delta_{jb} \delta_{lc} \quad , \quad \overline{v_{ij}(r)} = 0 \quad , \quad \overline{v_{ij}^*(r) v_{lm}(r')} = v^2 \delta(r - r') \delta_{il} \delta_{jm}$$

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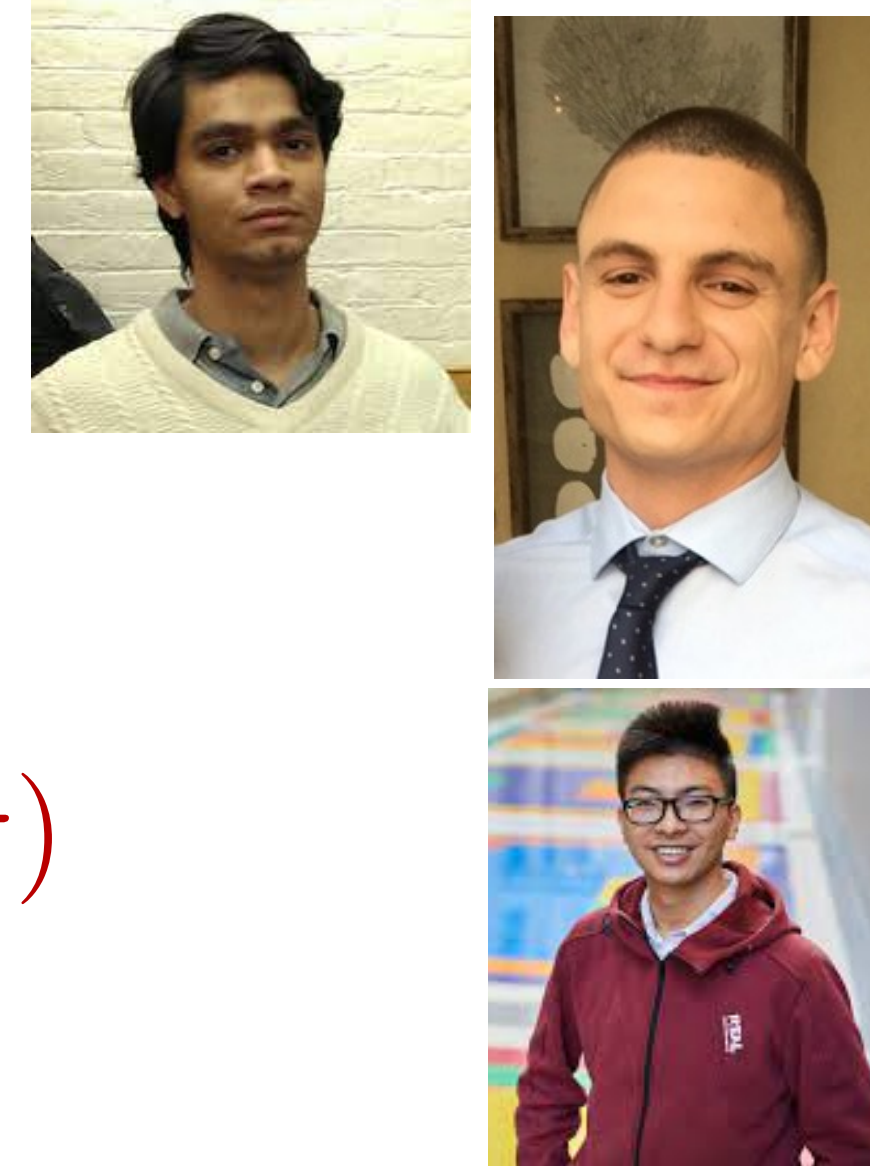
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$$\text{Boson self energy: } \Pi \sim -\frac{g^2}{v^2} |\Omega|, \quad D(q, i\Omega) = \frac{1}{q^2 + \gamma |\Omega|}$$

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

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

# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

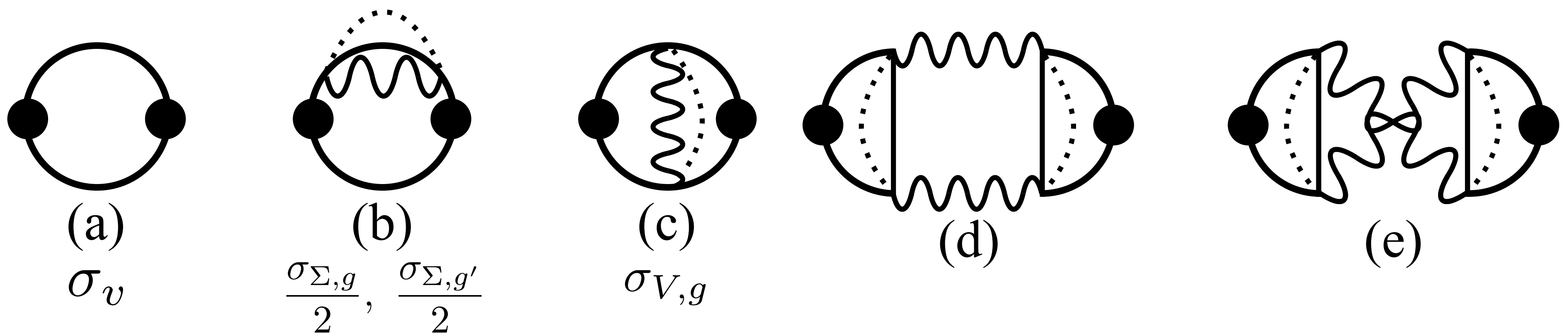


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Random potential:  $+\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \int d^2r d\tau v_{ij}(r) \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau)$

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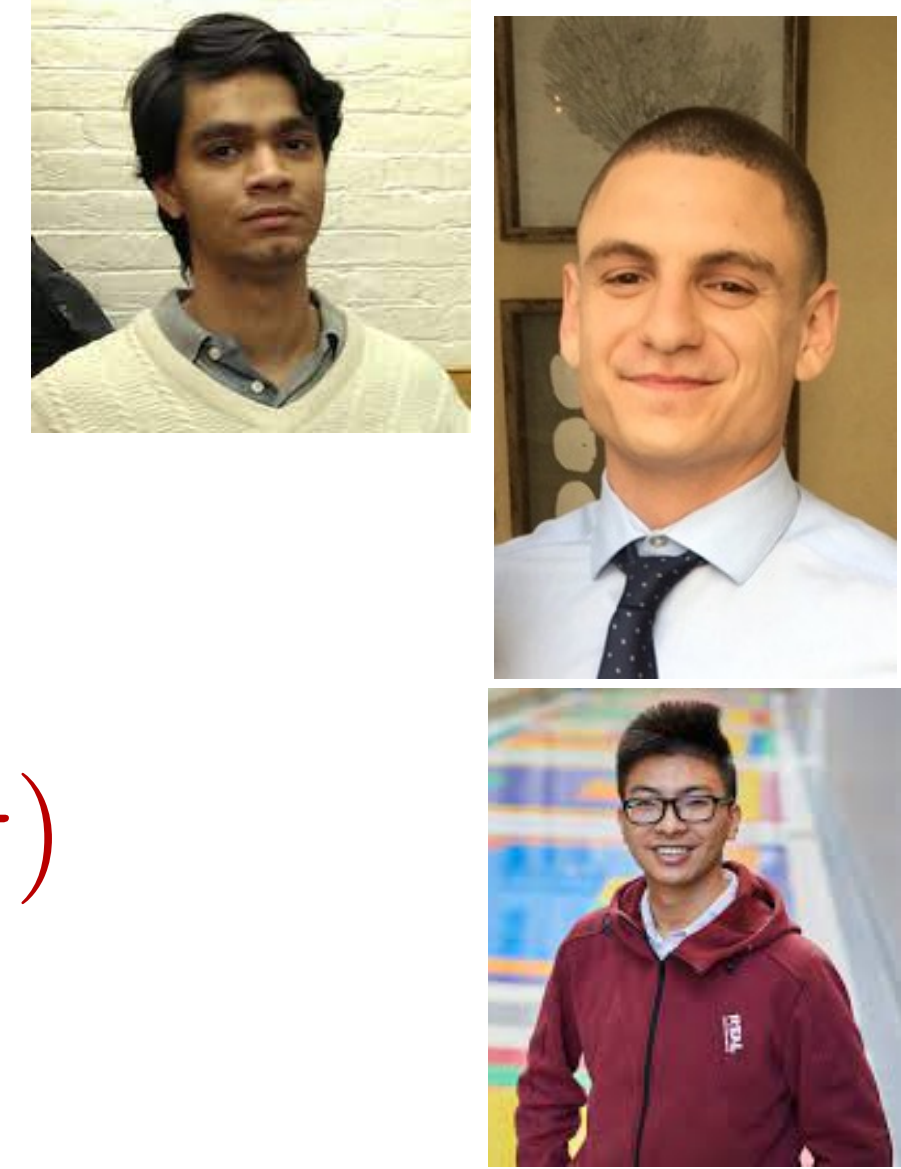
Conductivity:



+ all ladders and bubbles.....



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

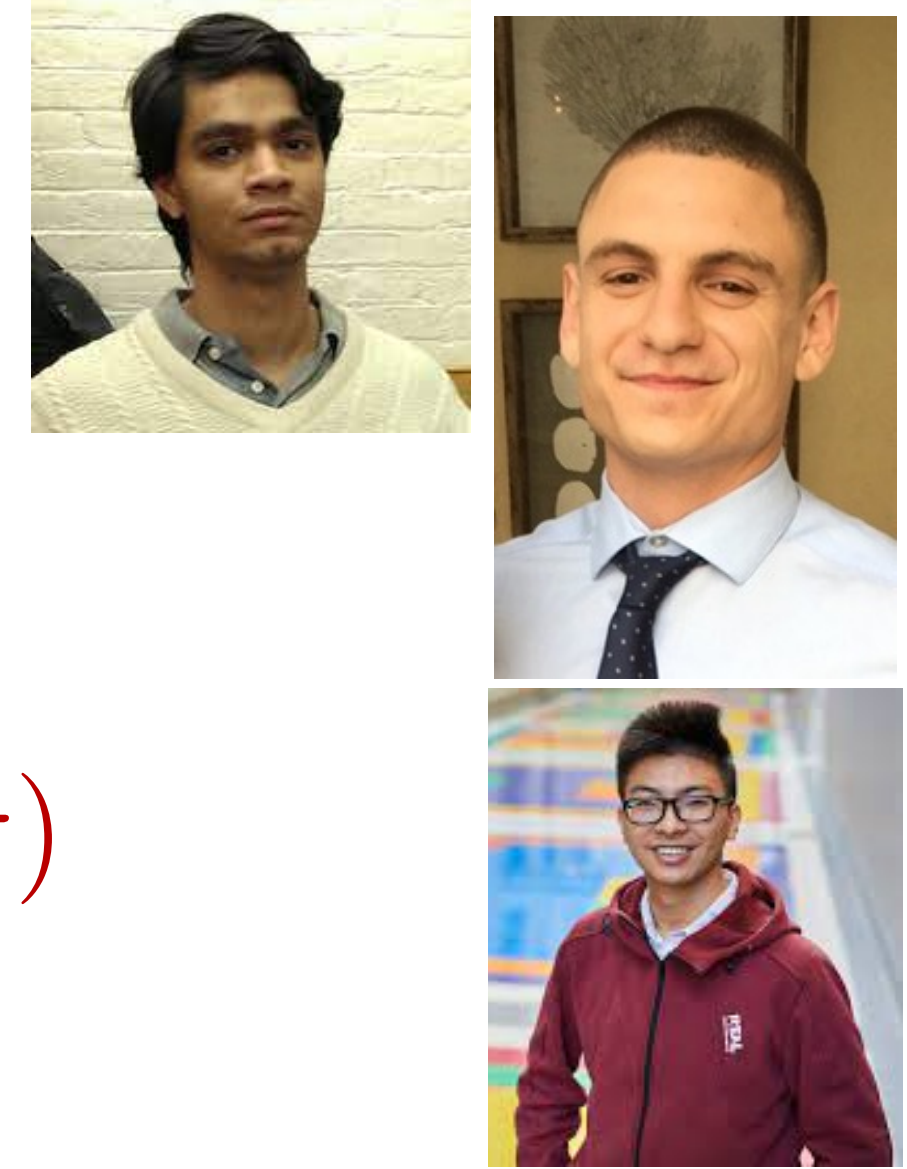
$$\text{Fermion self energy: } \Sigma(i\omega) \sim -iv^2 \text{sgn}(\omega) - i\frac{g^2}{v^2} \omega \ln(1/|\omega|)$$

The  $g^2$  log term does not contribute to transport

# 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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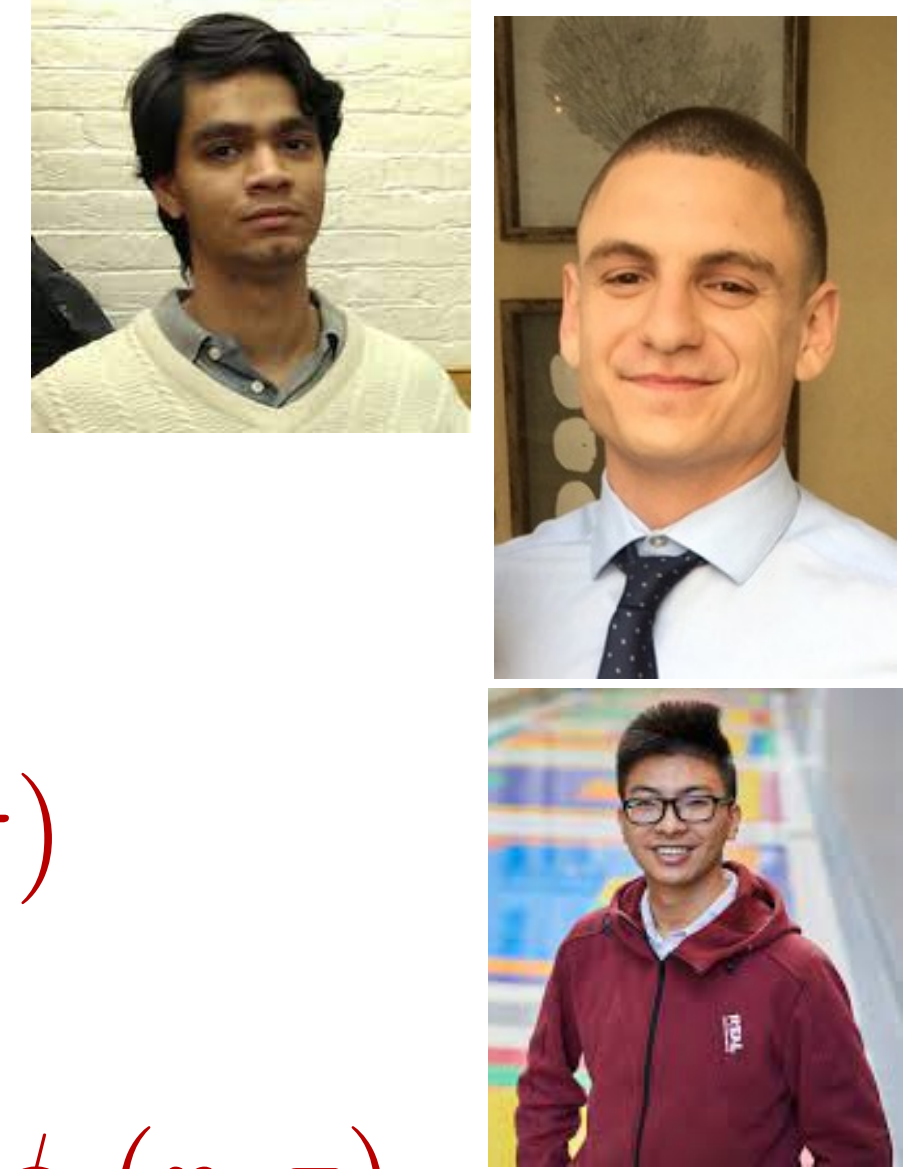
$$\overline{g_{ijl}} = 0 \quad , \quad \overline{g_{ijl}^* g_{abc}} = g^2 \delta_{ia} \delta_{jb} \delta_{lc} \quad , \quad \overline{v_{ij}(r)} = 0 \quad , \quad \overline{v_{ij}^*(r) v_{lm}(r')} = v^2 \delta(r - r') \delta_{il} \delta_{jm}$$

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 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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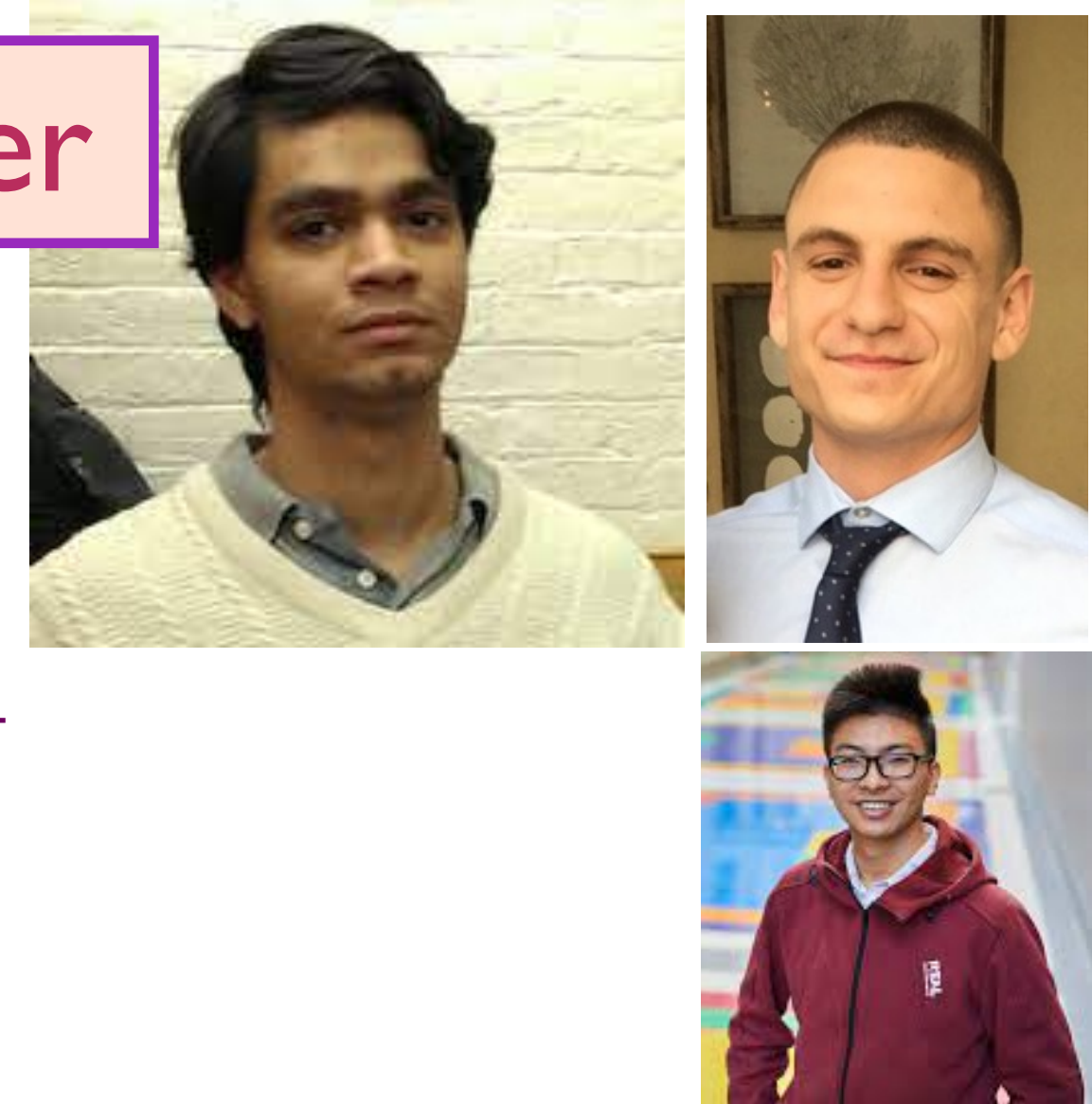
Random interactions:  $+\frac{1}{N} \int d^2r d\tau g'_{ijl}(r) \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau) \phi_l(r, \tau)$

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$$\overline{g'_{ijl}(r)} = 0 \quad , \quad \overline{g'_{ijl}^*(r) g'_{abc}(r')} = g'^2 \delta(r - r') \delta_{ia} \delta_{jb} \delta_{lc}$$

# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

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

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



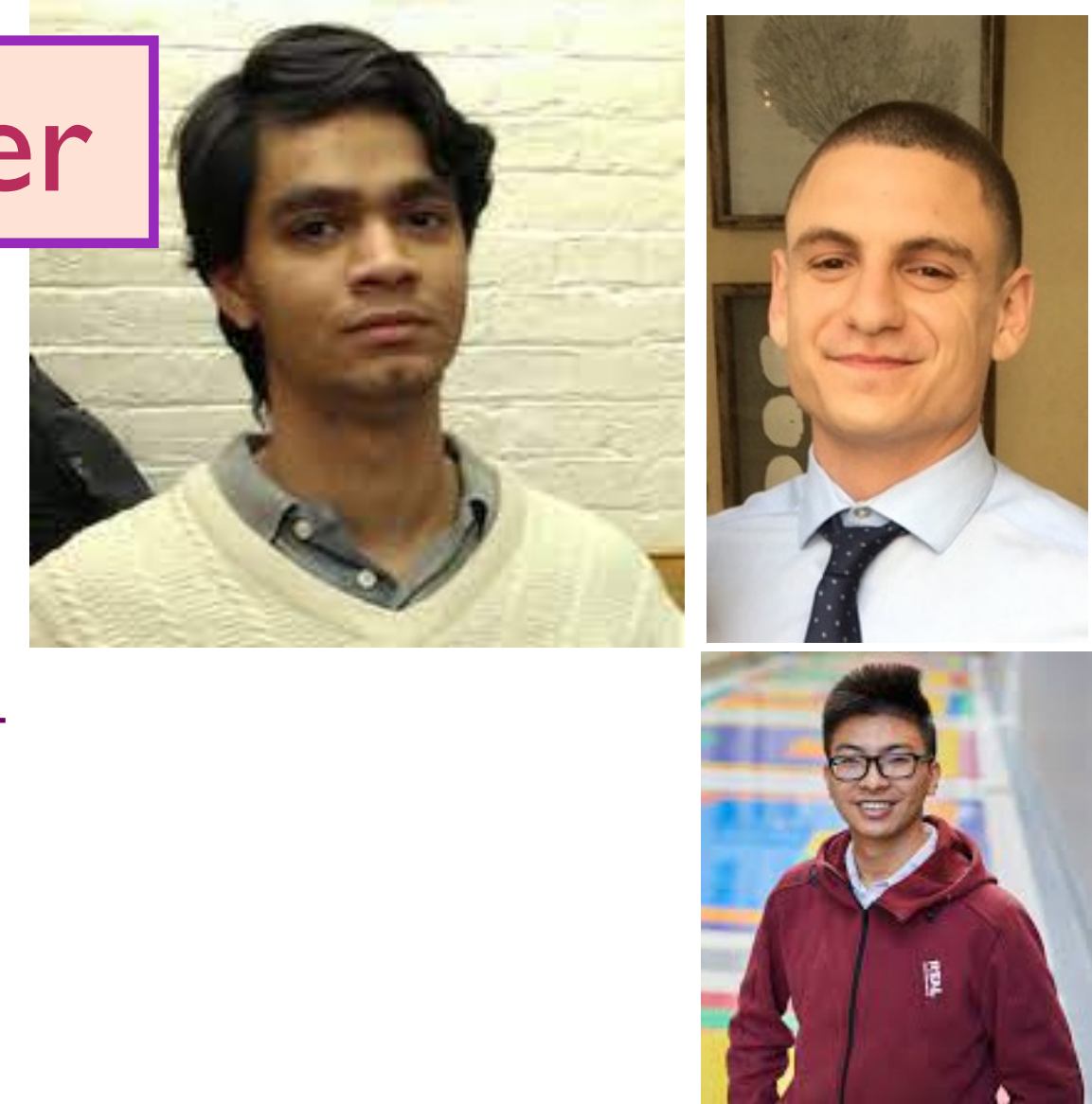
# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

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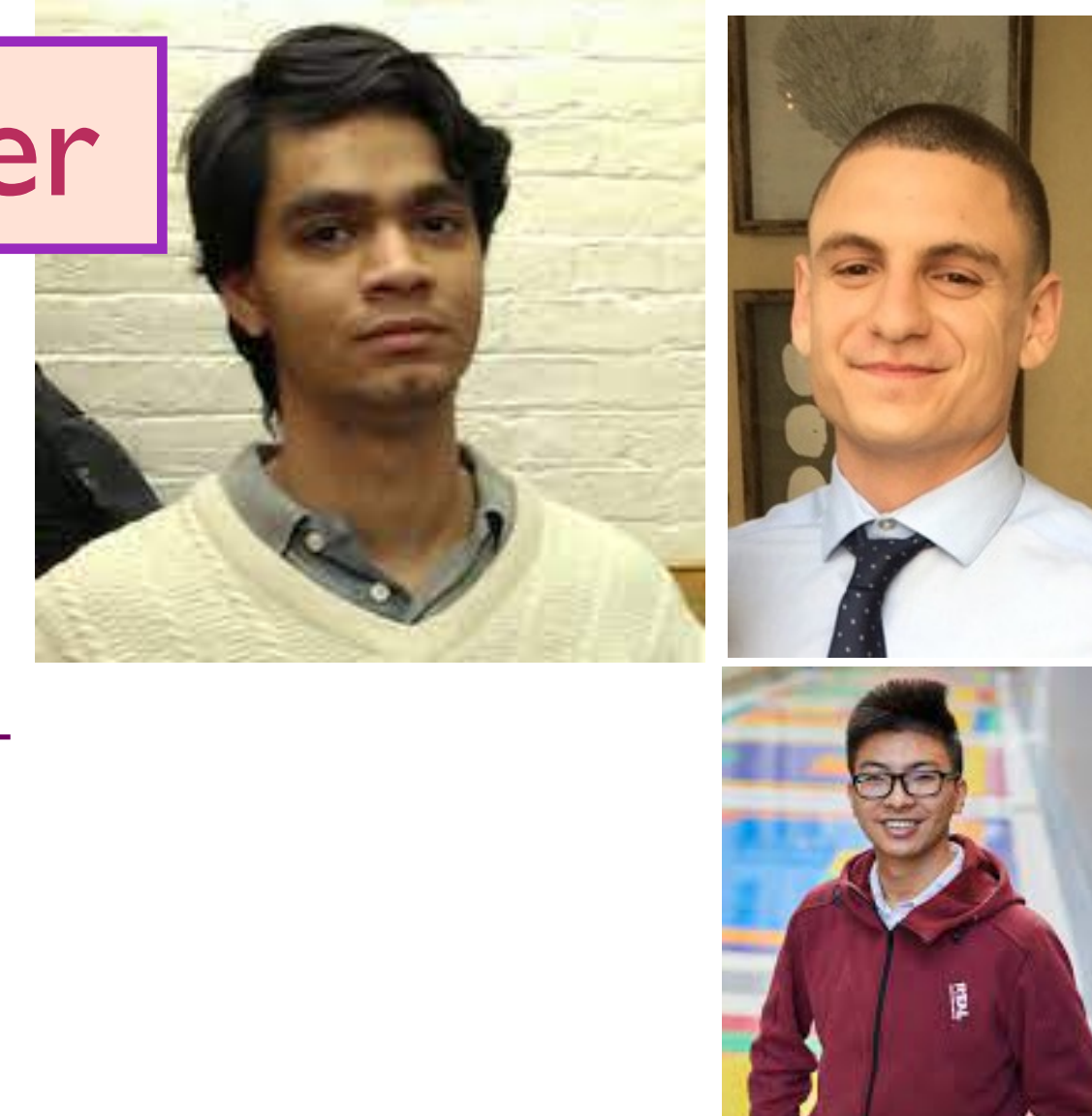
$$\Pi_g(i\Omega) \sim -\frac{g^2}{v^2}|\Omega|, \quad \Pi_{g'}(i\Omega) \sim -g'^2|\Omega|, \quad D(q, i\Omega) = \frac{1}{q^2 + \gamma|\Omega|}$$

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



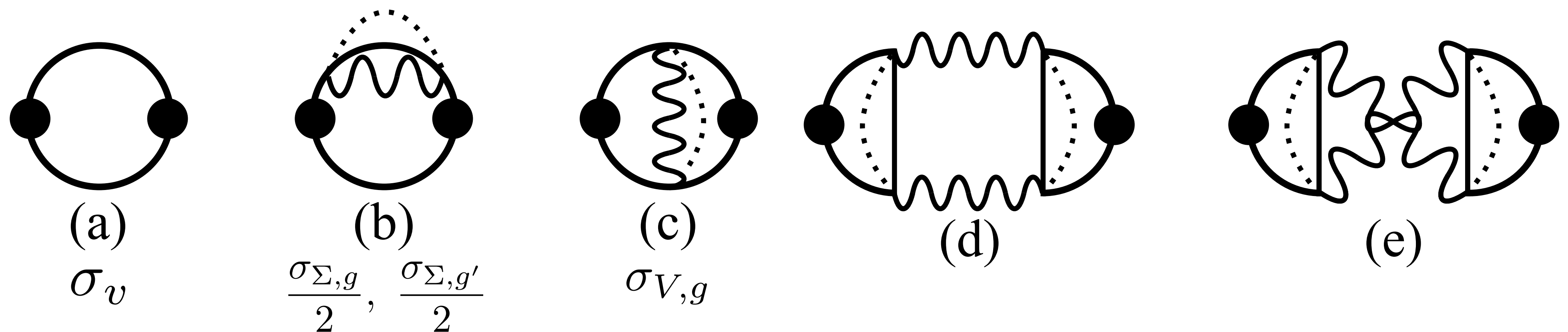
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Conductivity:



+ all ladders and bubbles.....

# Fermi surface coupled to a critical boson with spatial disorder

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

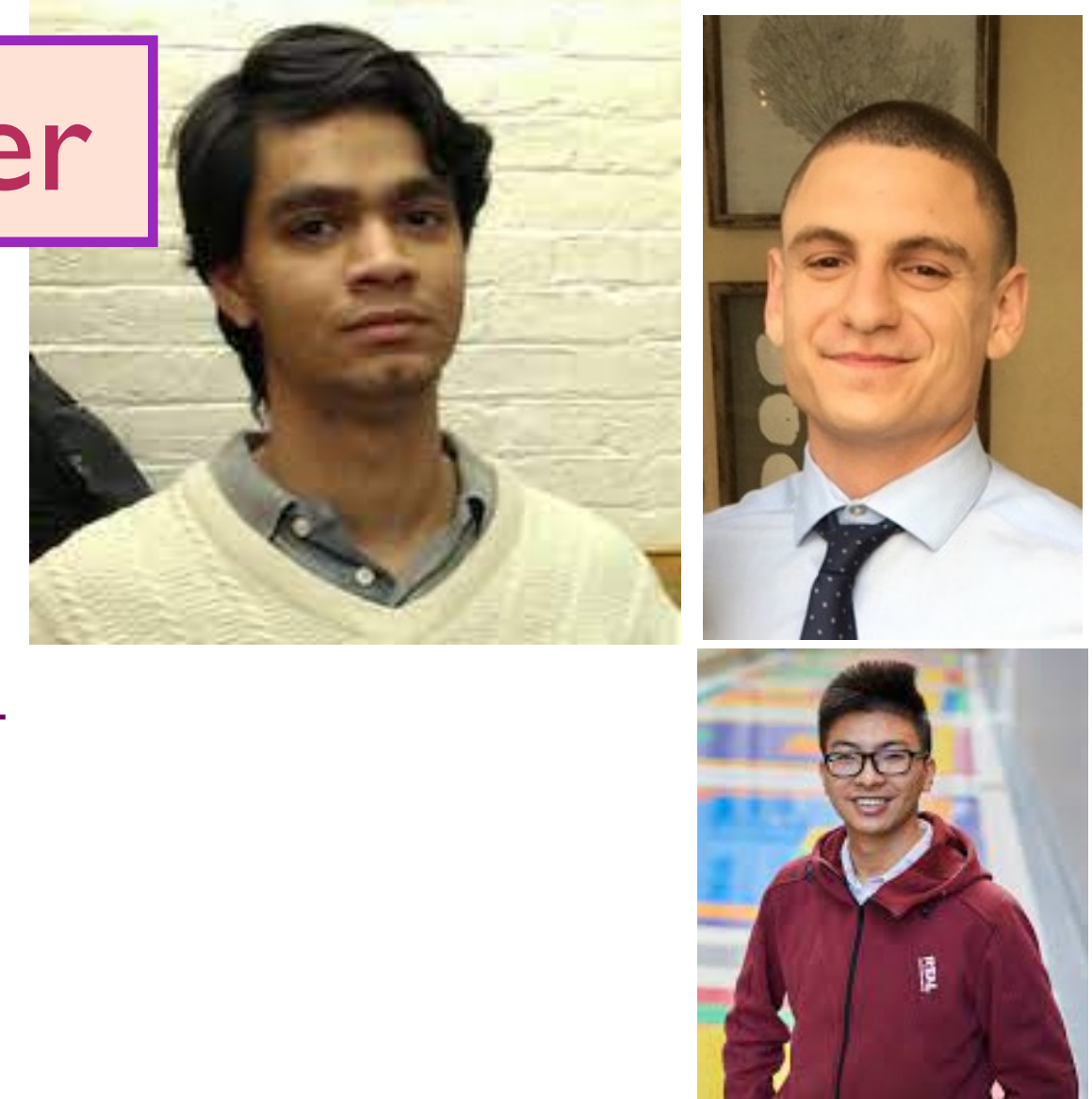
$$\Pi_g(i\Omega) \sim -\frac{g^2}{v^2}|\Omega|, \quad \Pi_{g'}(i\Omega) \sim -g'^2|\Omega|, \quad D(q, i\Omega) = \frac{1}{q^2 + \gamma|\Omega|}$$

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

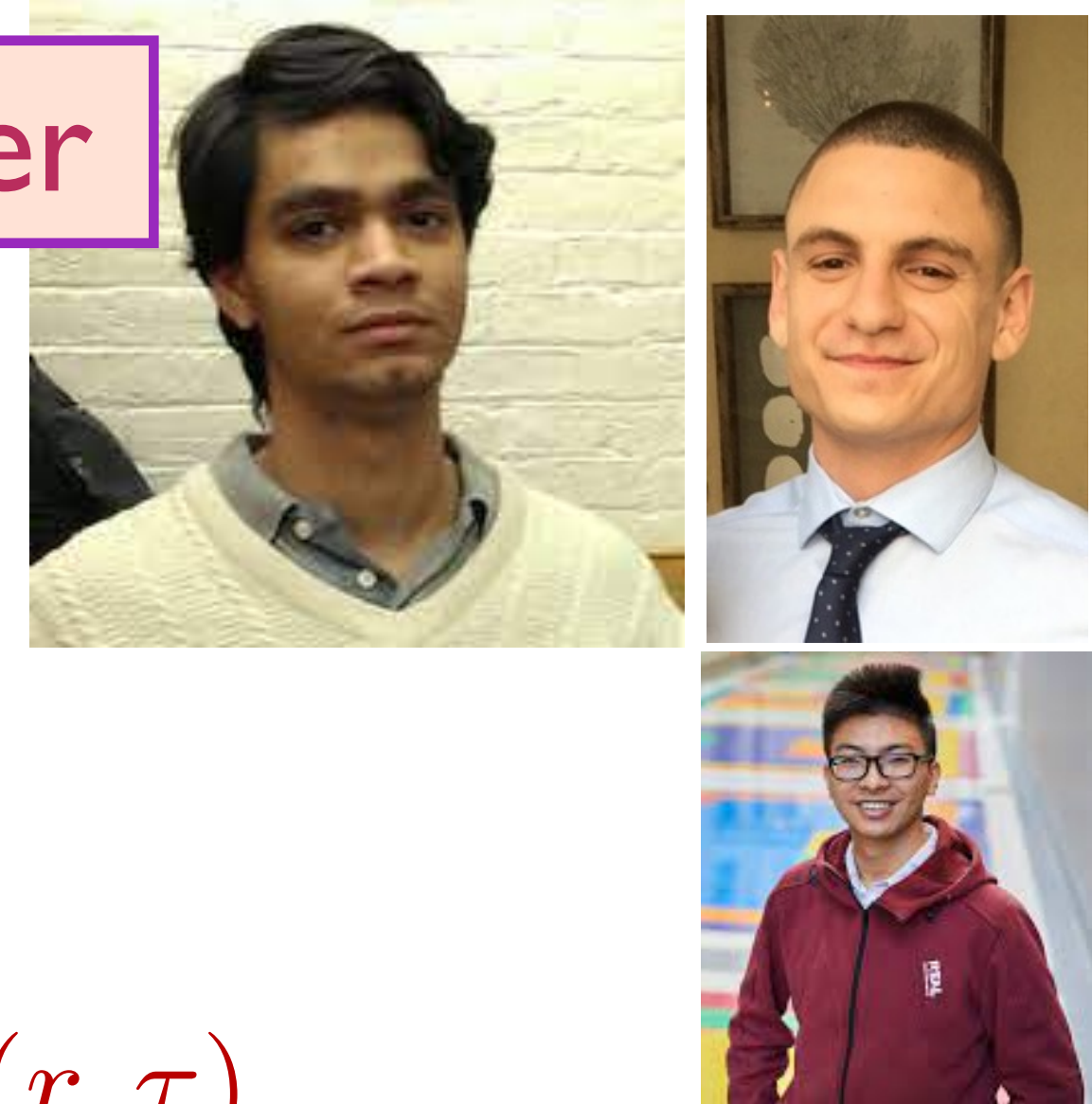
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## Conductivity:

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

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

Random interactions:  $+\frac{1}{N} \int d^2r d\tau g'_{ijl}(r) \psi_i^\dagger(r, \tau) \psi_j(r, \tau) \phi_l(r, \tau)$

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

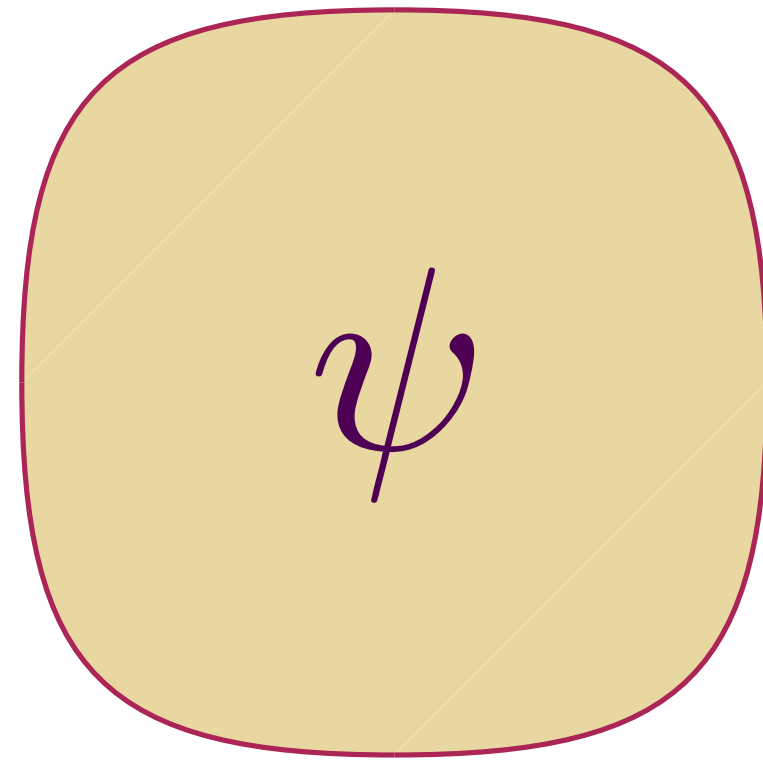
$$\text{Conductivity: } \sigma(\omega) \sim [1/\tau_{\text{trans}}(\omega) - i\omega m^*(\omega)/m]^{-1}$$

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

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



# Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model



+

a critical boson

$\phi$

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

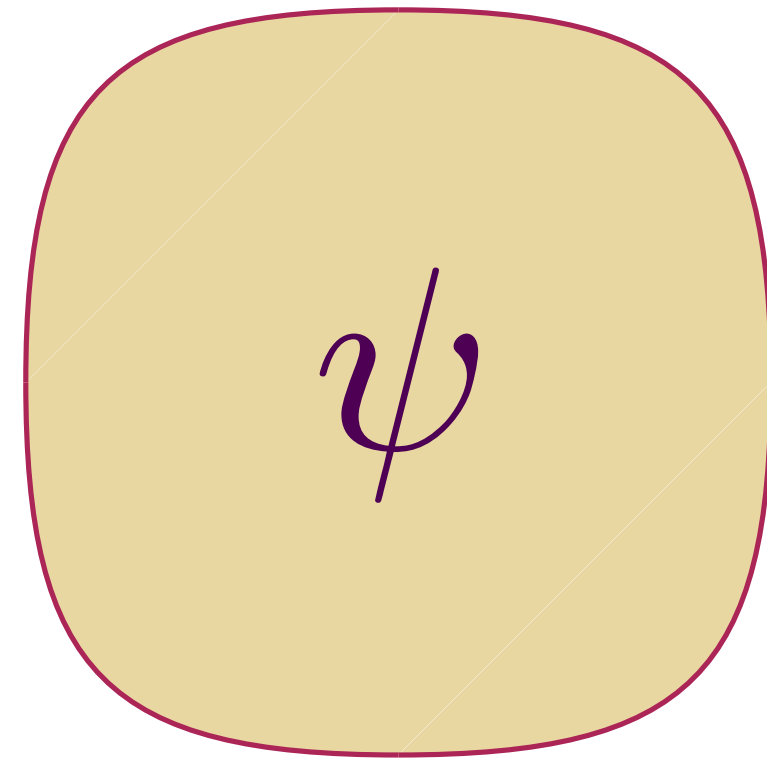
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# Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model



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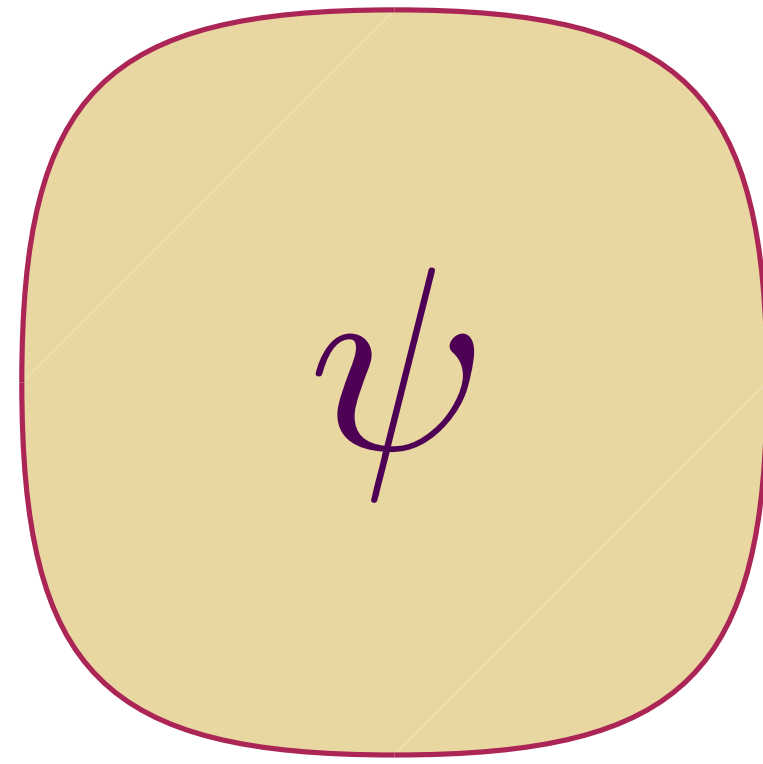
Non-Fermi liquid with  $T^{2/3}$  specific heat,  
but conductivity  $\sigma(\omega) \sim \delta(\omega)$

“Yukawa” coupling:

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

$$\overline{g_{ijl}} = 0 \quad , \quad \overline{g_{ijl}^* g_{abc}} = g^2 \delta_{ia} \delta_{jb} \delta_{lc}$$

# Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model



+

a critical boson

$\phi$

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

“Yukawa” coupling:

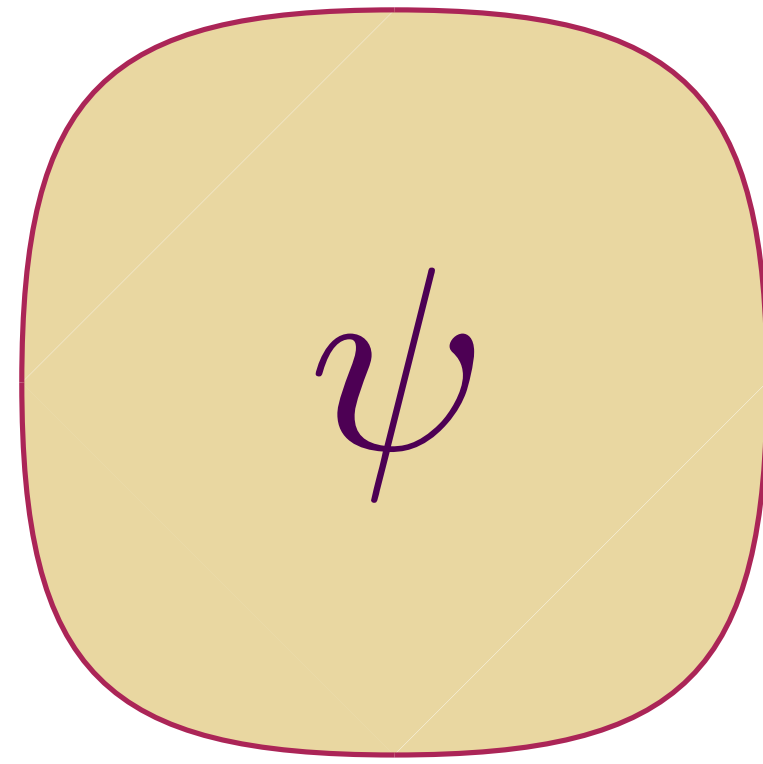
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# Strange metal from a Yukawa-SYK model



+

a critical boson

$\phi$

MFL self-energy,  $T \ln(1/T)$  specific heat,  
linear- $T$  resistivity and  
 $1/[\omega - i(2\omega/\pi) \ln(\Lambda/\omega)]$  optical conductivity

“Yukawa” coupling:

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