

# SYK models and black holes

Black Hole Initiative Colloquium  
Harvard, October 25, 2016

Subir Sachdev



PERIMETER INSTITUTE  
FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

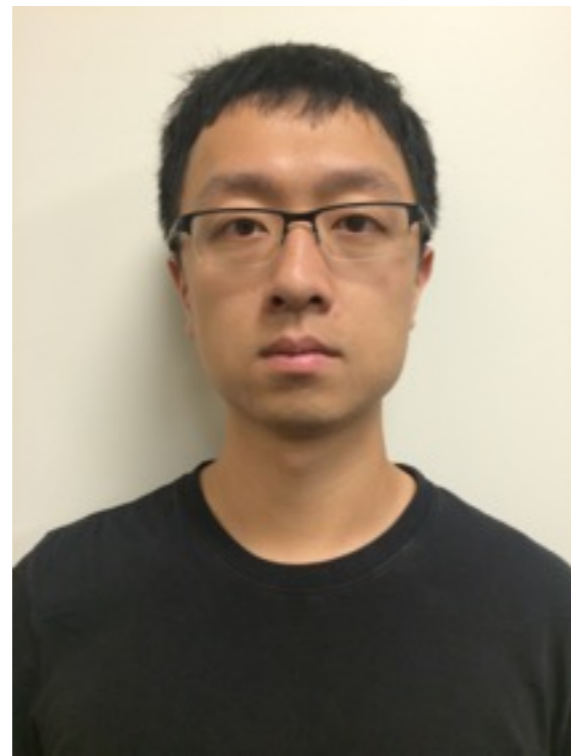
Talk online: [sachdev.physics.harvard.edu](http://sachdev.physics.harvard.edu)



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Wenbo Fu, Harvard



Yingfei Gu, Stanford

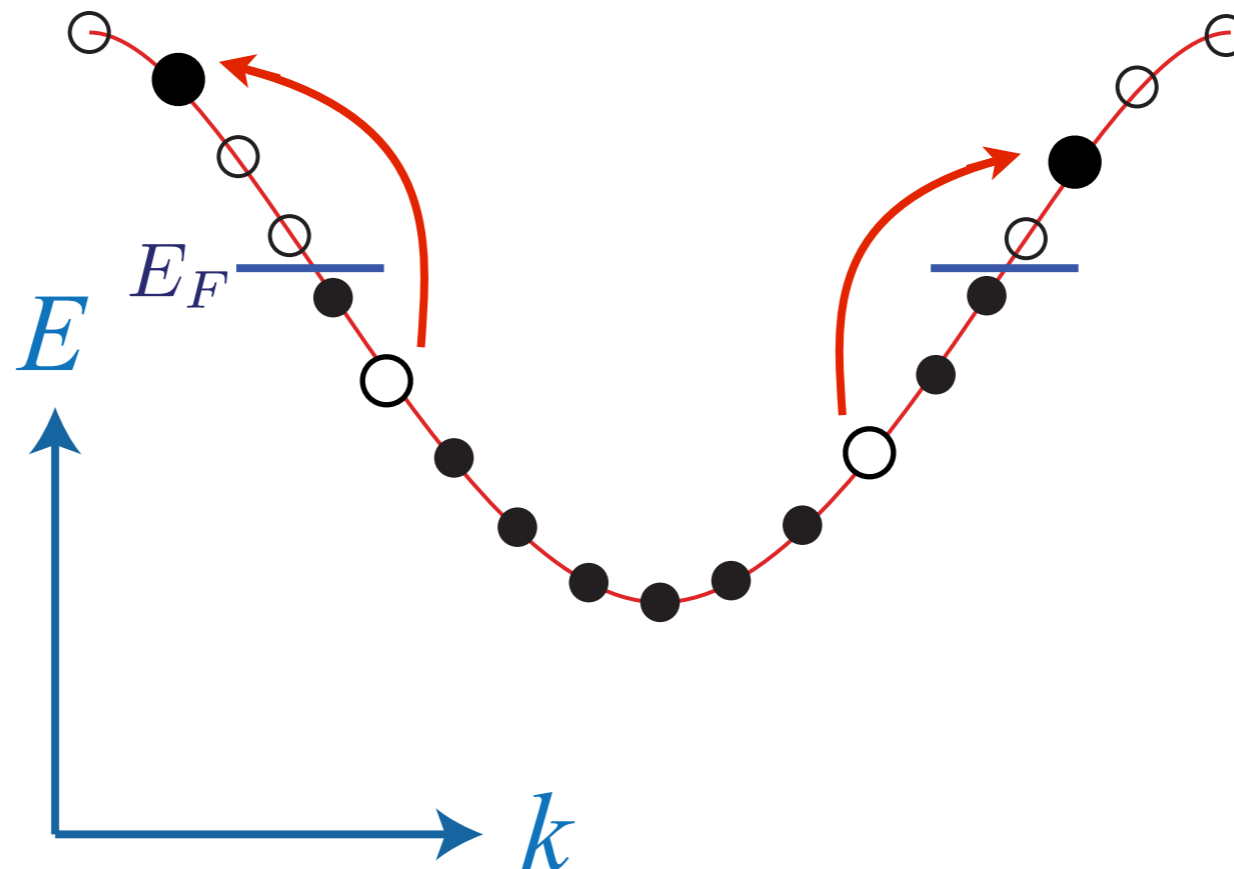


Richard Davison, Harvard

## Conventional quantum matter:

1. Ground states connected adiabatically to independent electron states
2. Boltzmann-Landau theory of quasiparticles

### Metals



## Topological quantum matter:

1. Ground states disconnected from independent electron states: many-particle entanglement
2. Boltzmann-Landau theory of quasiparticles

The fractional quantum Hall effect: the ground state is described by Laughlin's wavefunction, and the excitations are *quasiparticles* which carry fractional charge.

## Quantum matter without quasiparticles:

1. Ground states disconnected from independent electron states: many-particle entanglement
2. No quasiparticles

## Strange metals:

Such metals are found, most prominently, near optimal doping in the the cuprate high temperature superconductors.

## Quantum matter without quasiparticles:

1. Ground states disconnected from independent electron states: many-particle entanglement
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## Strange metals:

Such metals are found, most prominently, near optimal doping in the the cuprate high temperature superconductors.

But how can we be sure that no quasiparticles exist in a given system? Perhaps there are some exotic quasiparticles inaccessible to current experiments.....

## Local thermal equilibration or phase coherence time, $\tau_\varphi$ :

- There is an *lower bound* on  $\tau_\varphi$  in all many-body quantum systems of order  $\hbar/(k_B T)$ ,

$$\tau_\varphi > C \frac{\hbar}{k_B T},$$

and the lower bound is realized by systems *without* quasiparticles.

- In systems *with* quasiparticles,  $\tau_\varphi$  is parametrically larger at low  $T$ ;  
*e.g.* in Fermi liquids  $\tau_\varphi \sim 1/T^2$ ,  
and in gapped insulators  $\tau_\varphi \sim e^{\Delta/(k_B T)}$  where  $\Delta$  is the energy gap.

K. Damle and S. Sachdev, PRB 56, 8714 (1997)

S. Sachdev, *Quantum Phase Transitions*, Cambridge (1999)

## A bound on quantum chaos:

- The time over which a many-body quantum system becomes “chaotic” is given by  $\tau_L = 1/\lambda_L$ , where  $\lambda_L$  is the “Lyapunov exponent” determining memory of initial conditions. This LYAPUNOV TIME obeys the rigorous lower bound

$$\tau_L \geq \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$$

A. I. Larkin and Y. N. Ovchinnikov, JETP **28**, 6 (1969)

J. Maldacena, S. H. Shenker and D. Stanford, arXiv:1503.01409

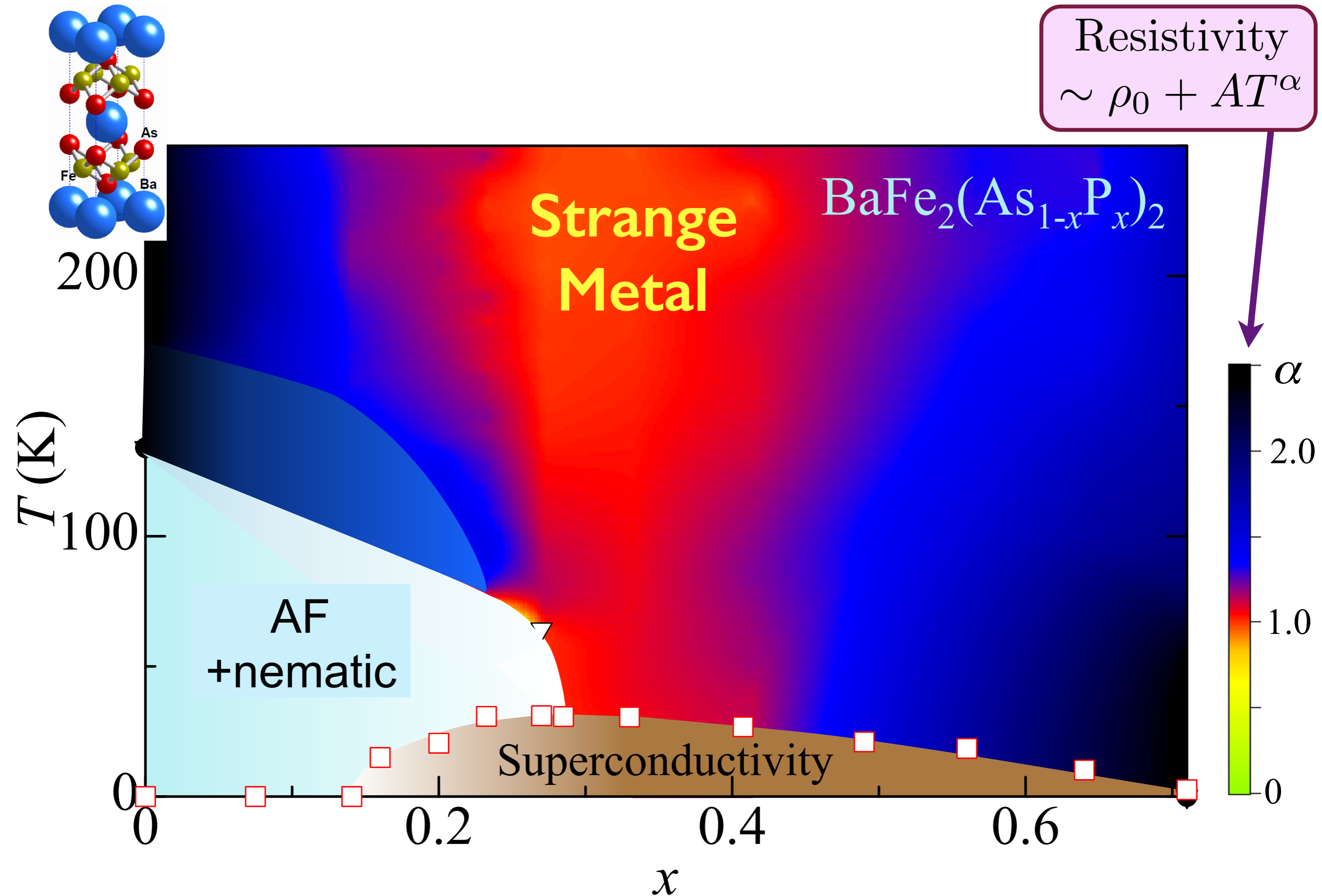


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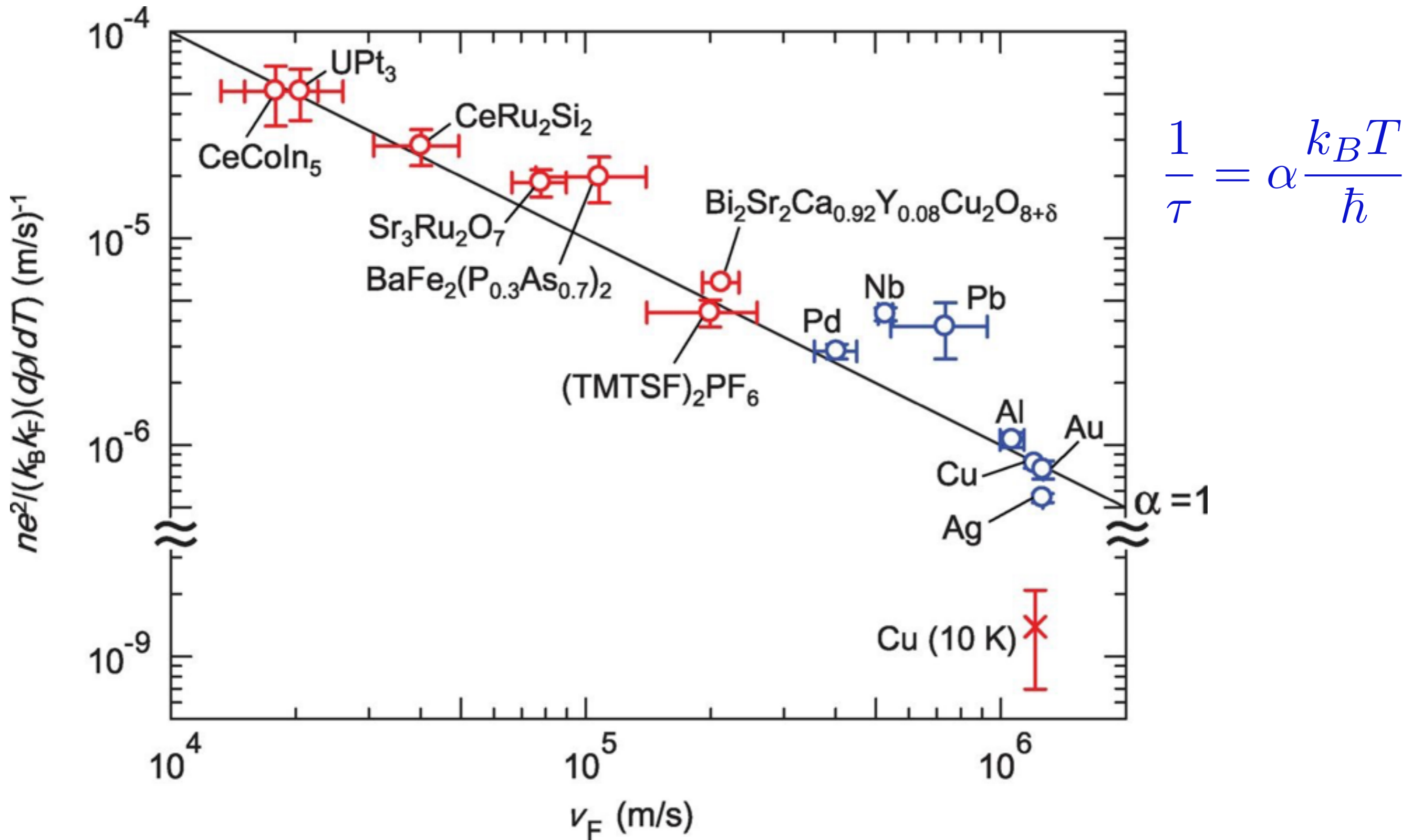
$$\tau_L \geq \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$$

Quantum matter without quasiparticles  
 $\approx$  fastest possible many-body quantum chaos

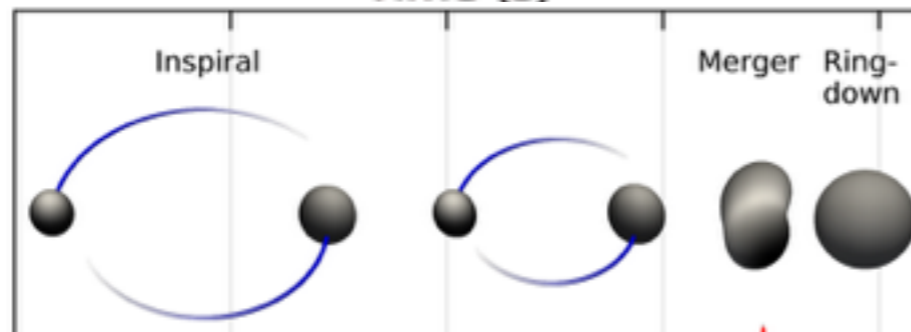
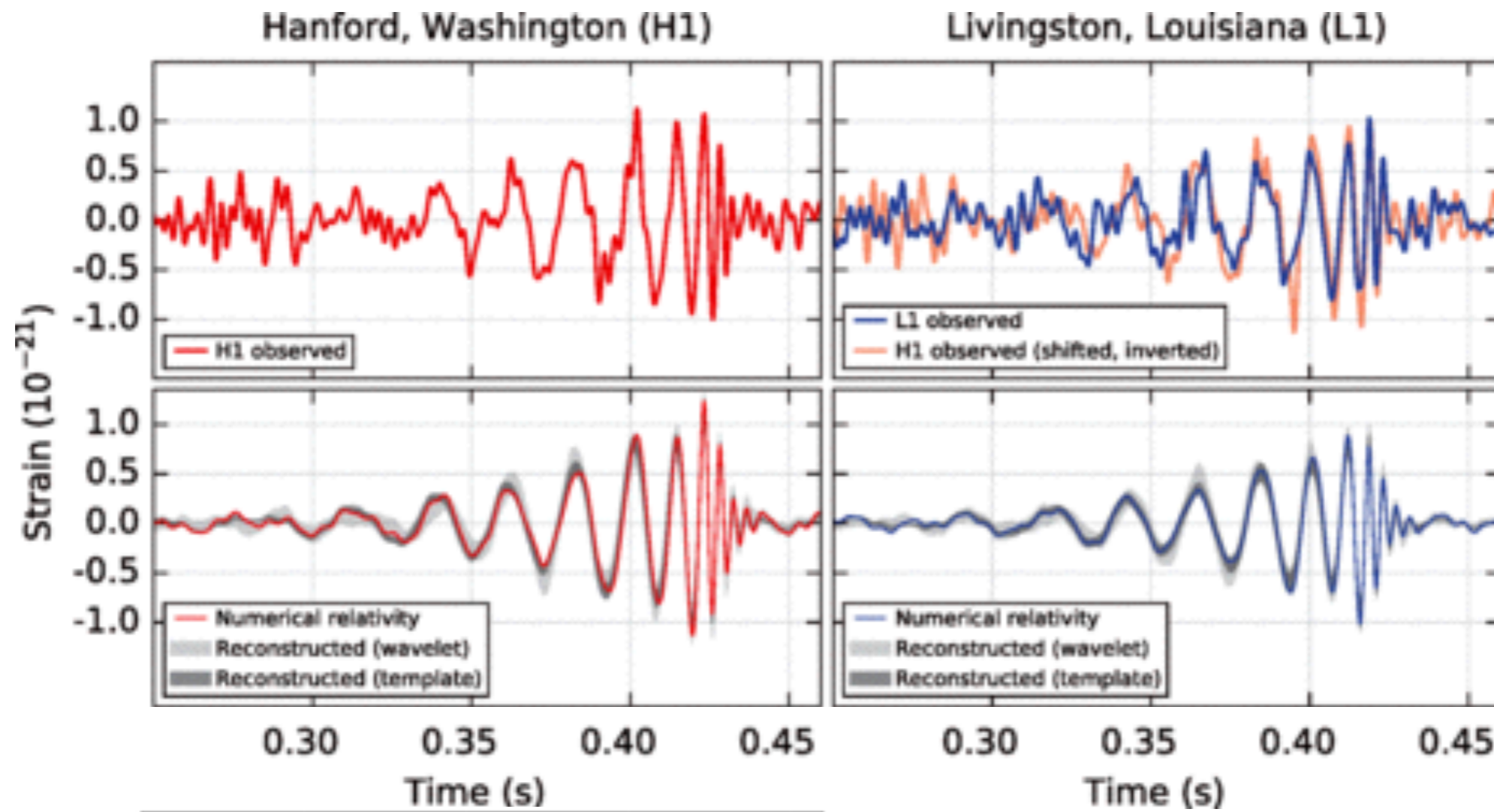


S. Kasahara, T. Shibauchi, K. Hashimoto, K. Ikada, S. Tonegawa, R. Okazaki, H. Shishido, H. Ikeda, H. Takeya, K. Hirata, T. Terashima, and Y. Matsuda, *Physical Review B* **81**, 184519 (2010)

# Strange metals

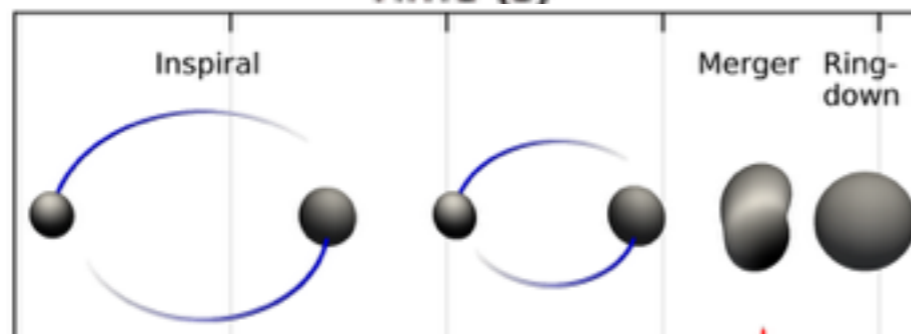
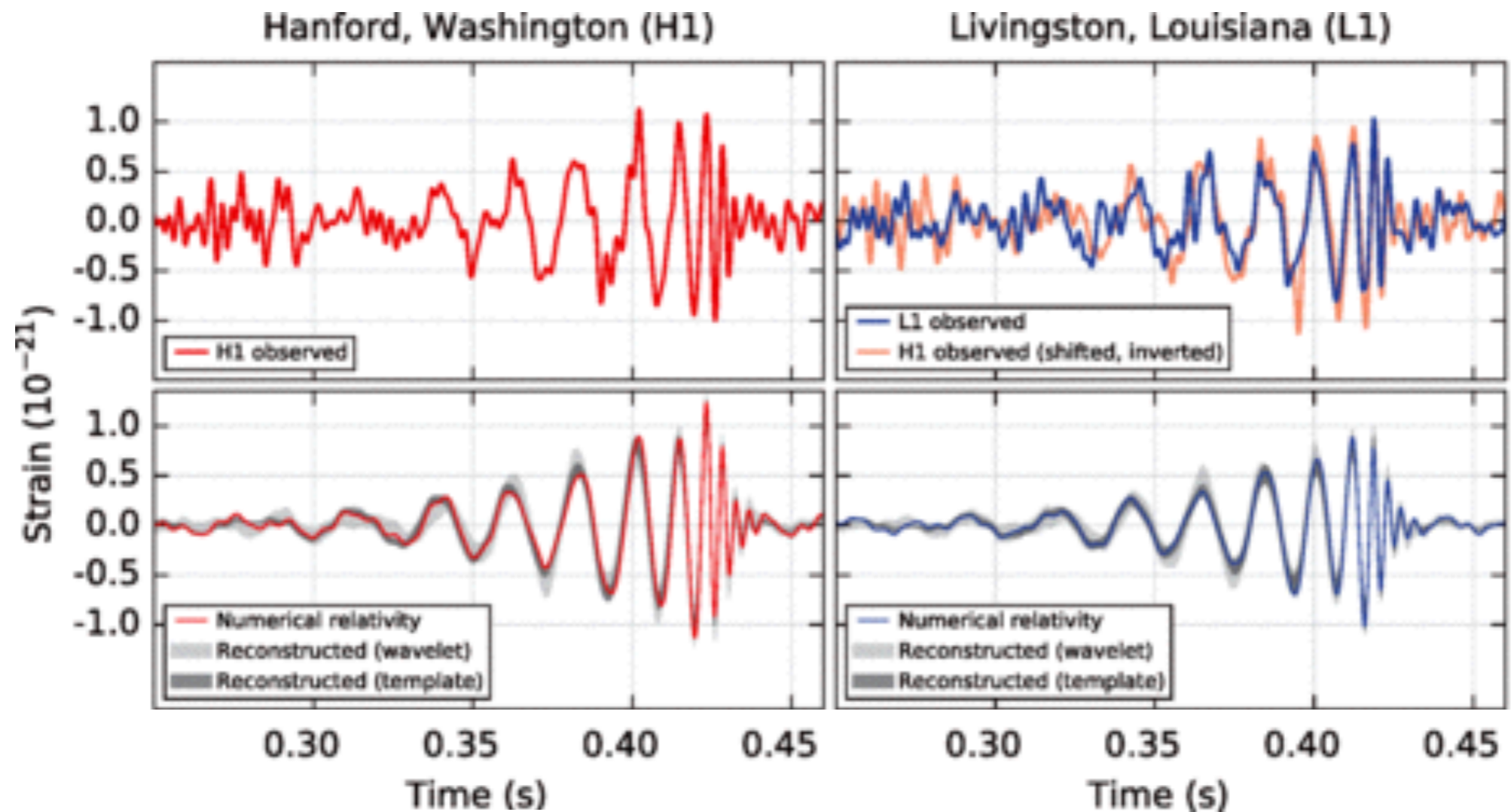


J. A. N. Bruin, H. Sakai, R. S. Perry, A. P. Mackenzie, *Science*. **339**, 804 (2013)



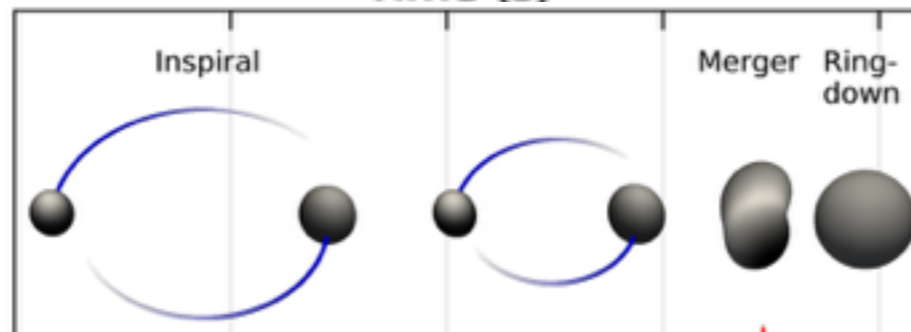
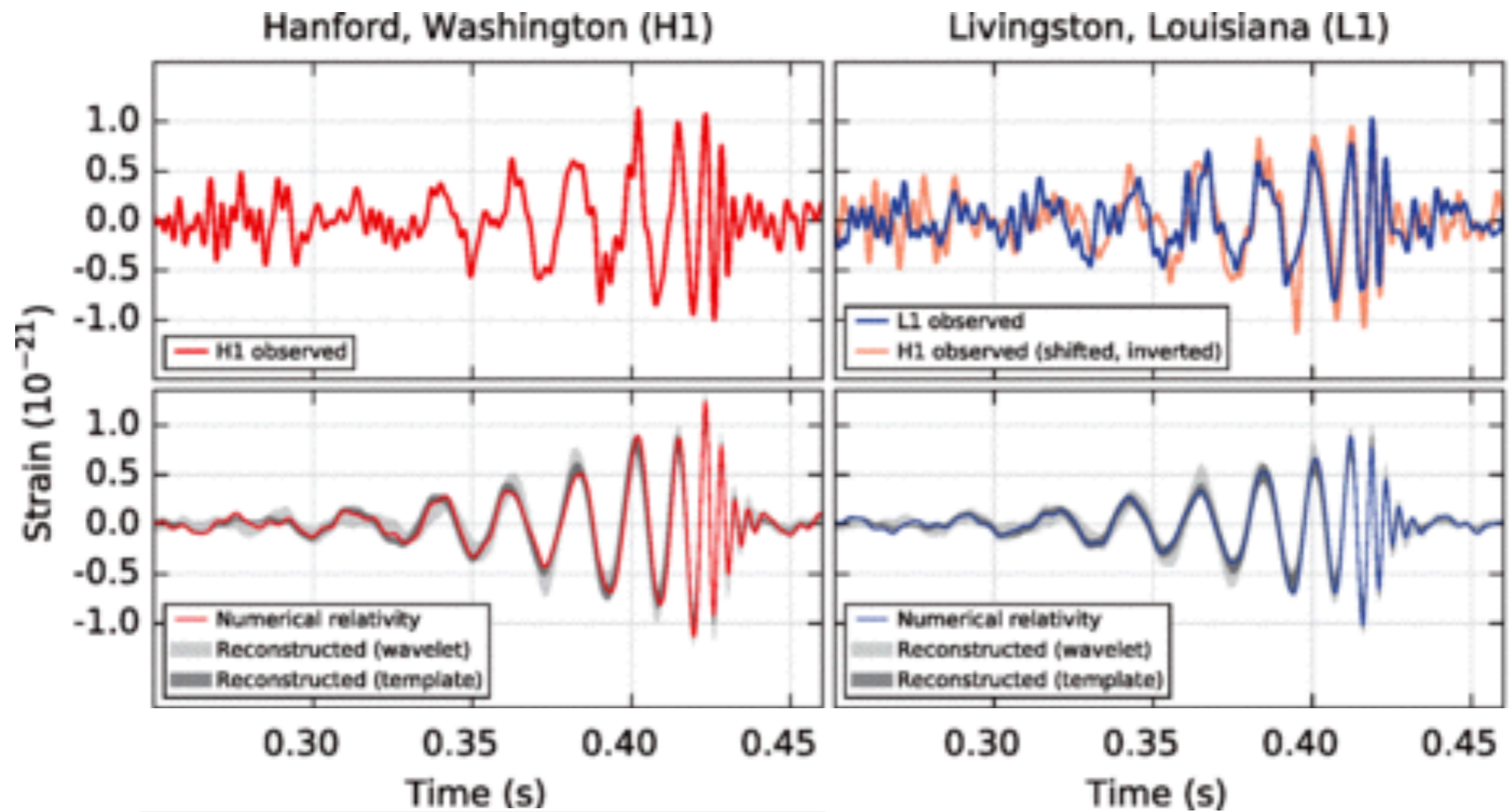
**LIGO**  
**September 14, 2015**





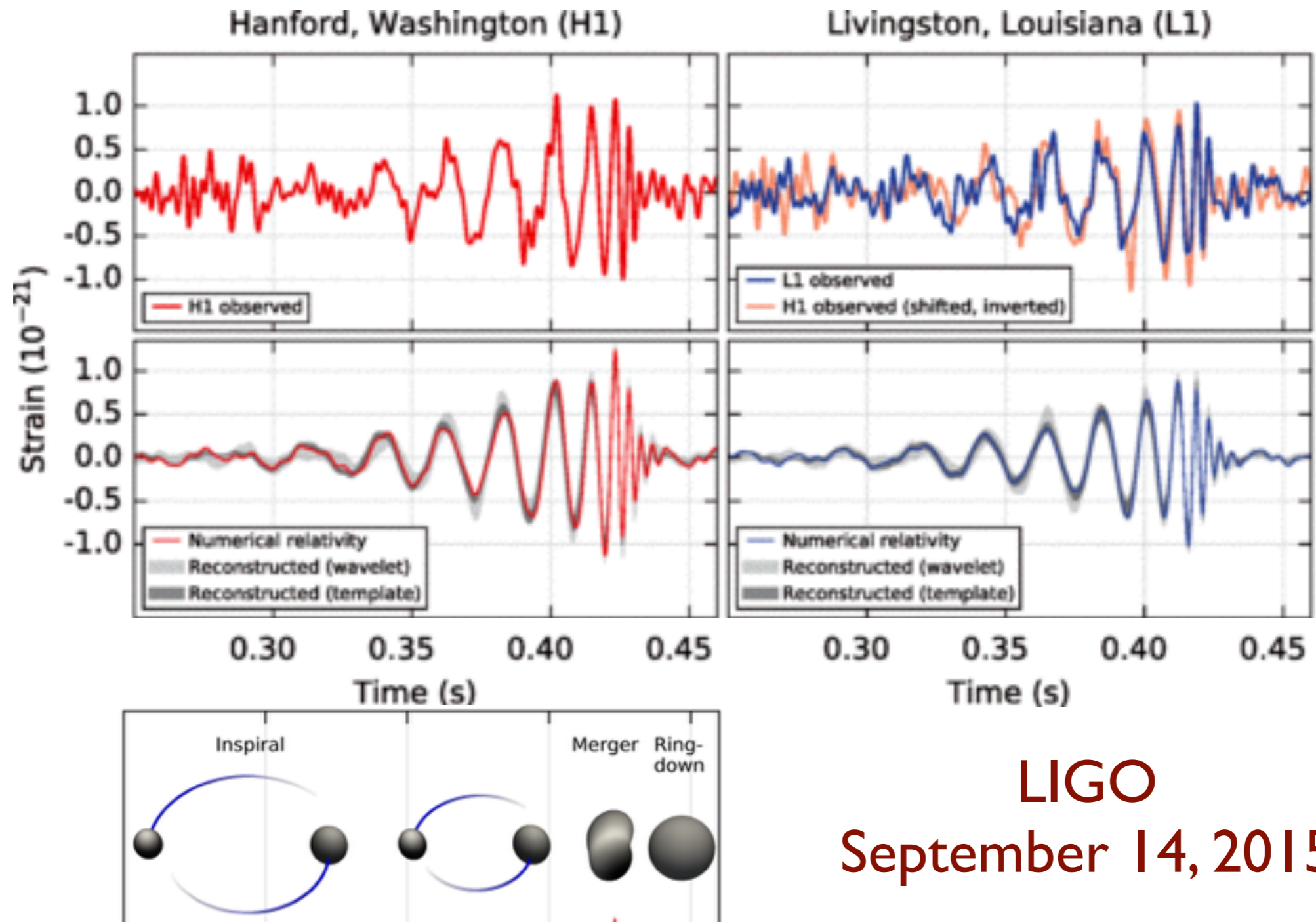
## LIGO September 14, 2015

- Black holes have a “ring-down” time,  $\tau_r$ , in which they radiate energy, and stabilize to a ‘featureless’ spherical object. This time can be computed in Einstein’s general relativity theory.
- For this black hole  $\tau_r = 7.7$  milliseconds. (Radius of black hole = 183 km; Mass of black hole = 62 solar masses.)



**LIGO**  
**September 14, 2015**

- ‘Featureless’ black holes have a Bekenstein-Hawking entropy, and a Hawking temperature,  $T_H$ .



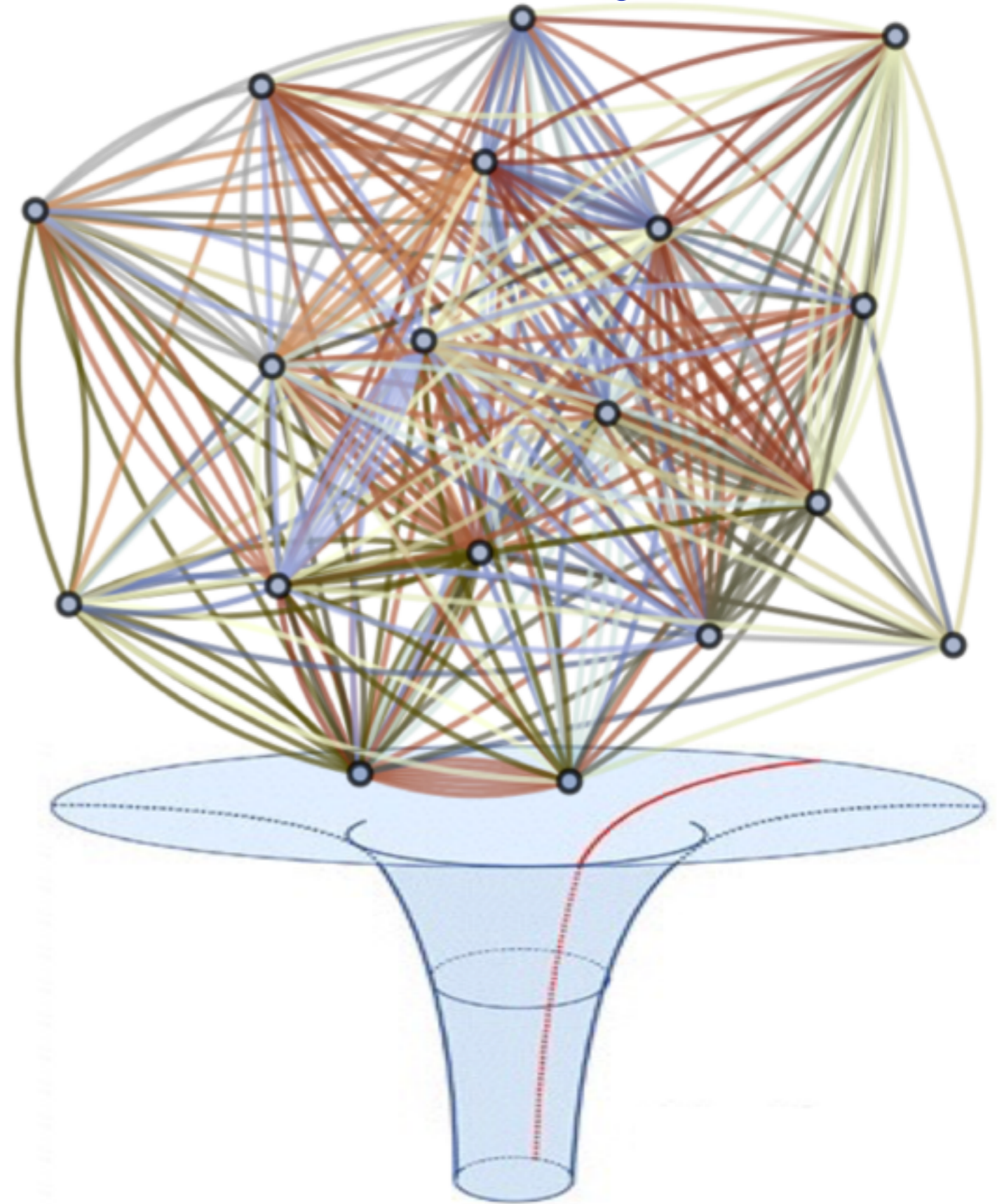
**LIGO**  
**September 14, 2015**

- Expressed in terms of the Hawking temperature, the ring-down time is  $\tau_r \sim \hbar / (k_B T_H)$  !
- For this black hole  $T_H \approx 1$  nK.

# The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model:

- A theory of a strange metal
- Dual theory of gravity on  $AdS_2$

Figure credit: L. Balents

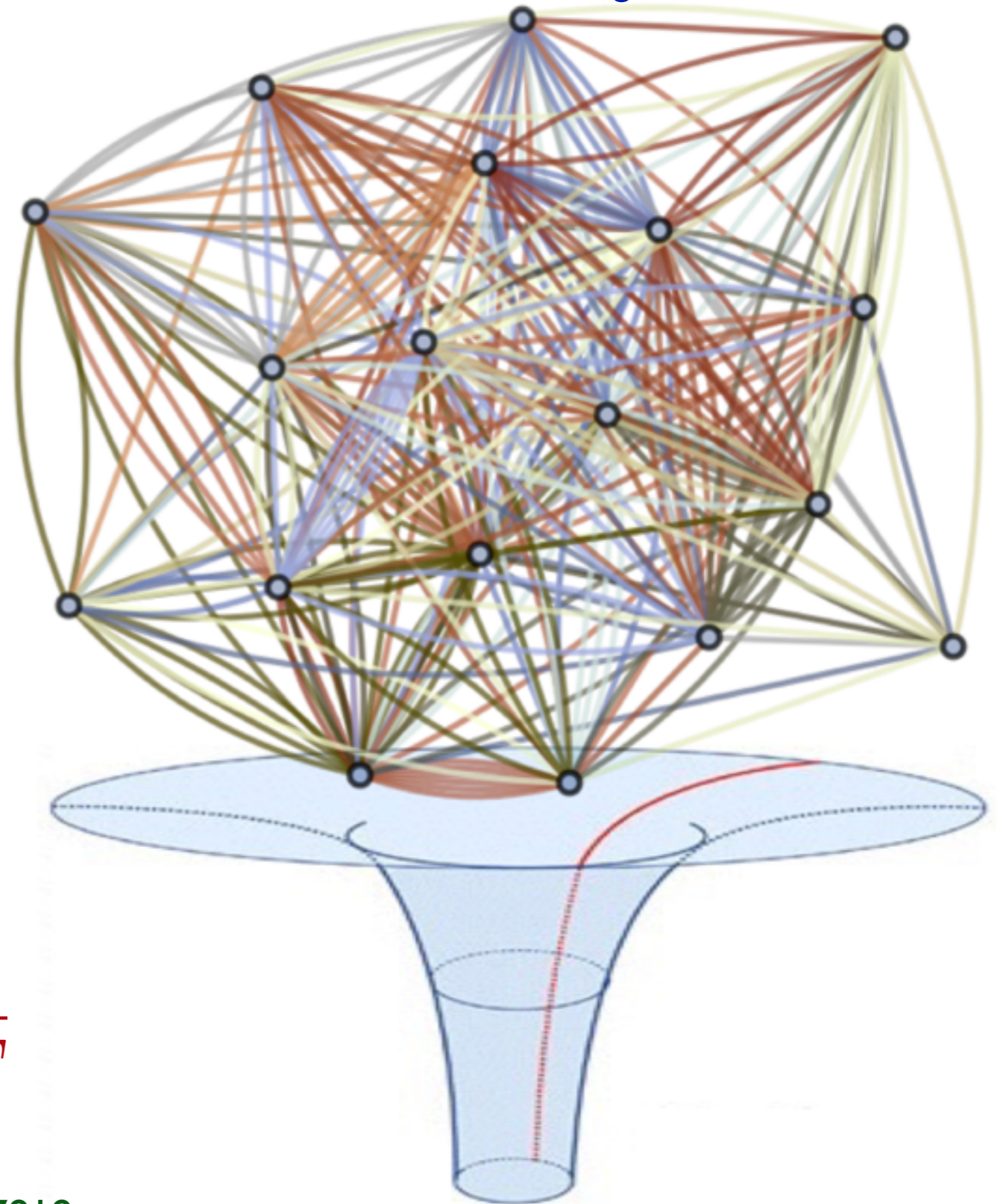




# The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model:

- A theory of a strange metal
- Dual theory of gravity on  $AdS_2$
- Fastest possible quantum chaos  
with  $\tau_L = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi k_B T}$

Figure credit: L. Balents



A. Kitaev, unpublished

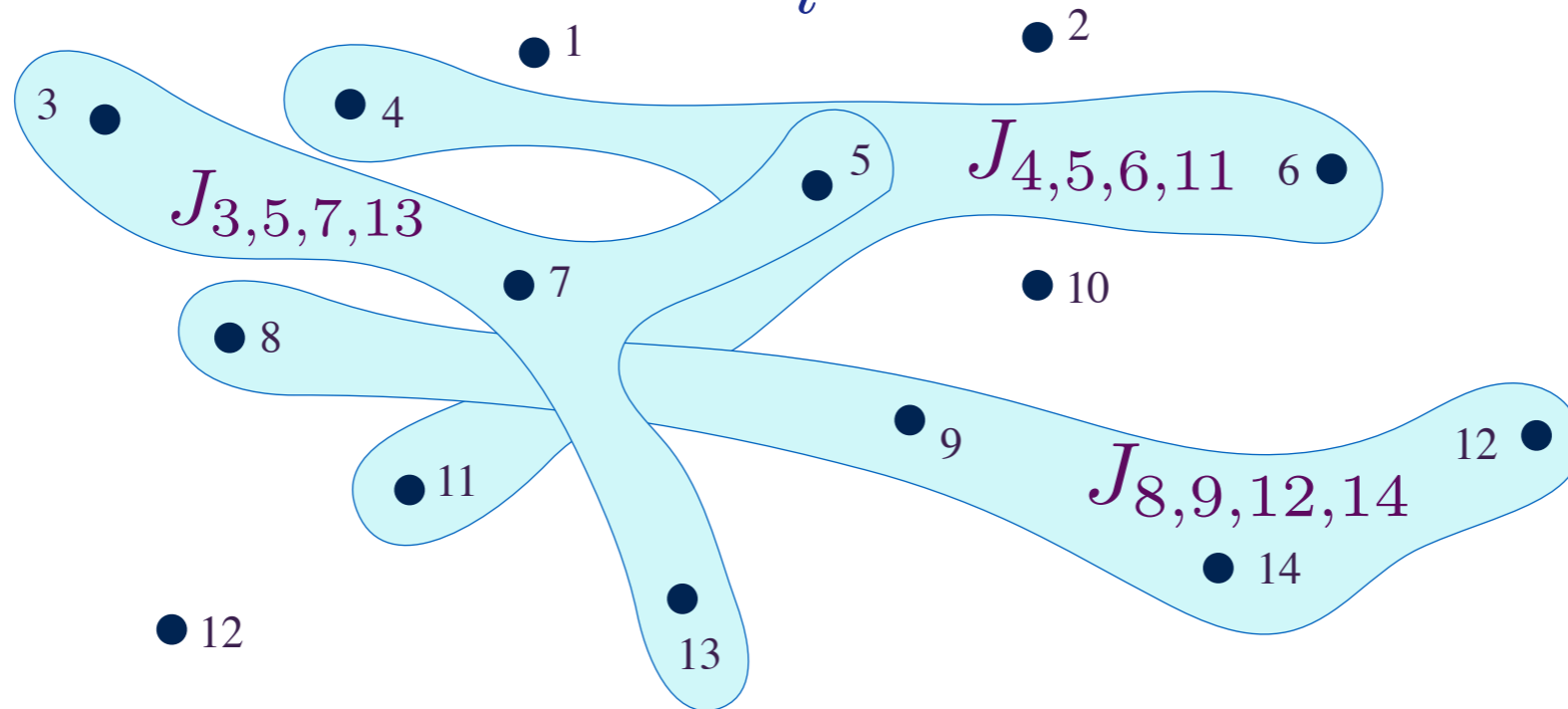
J. Maldacena and D. Stanford, arXiv:1604.07818

# SYK model

$$H = \frac{1}{(2N)^{3/2}} \sum_{i,j,k,\ell=1}^N J_{ij;kl} c_i^\dagger c_j^\dagger c_k c_\ell - \mu \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i$$

$$c_i c_j + c_j c_i = 0 \quad , \quad c_i c_j^\dagger + c_j^\dagger c_i = \delta_{ij}$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i$$



$J_{ij;kl}$  are independent random variables with  $\overline{J_{ij;kl}} = 0$  and  $\overline{|J_{ij;kl}|^2} = J^2$   
 $N \rightarrow \infty$  yields critical strange metal.

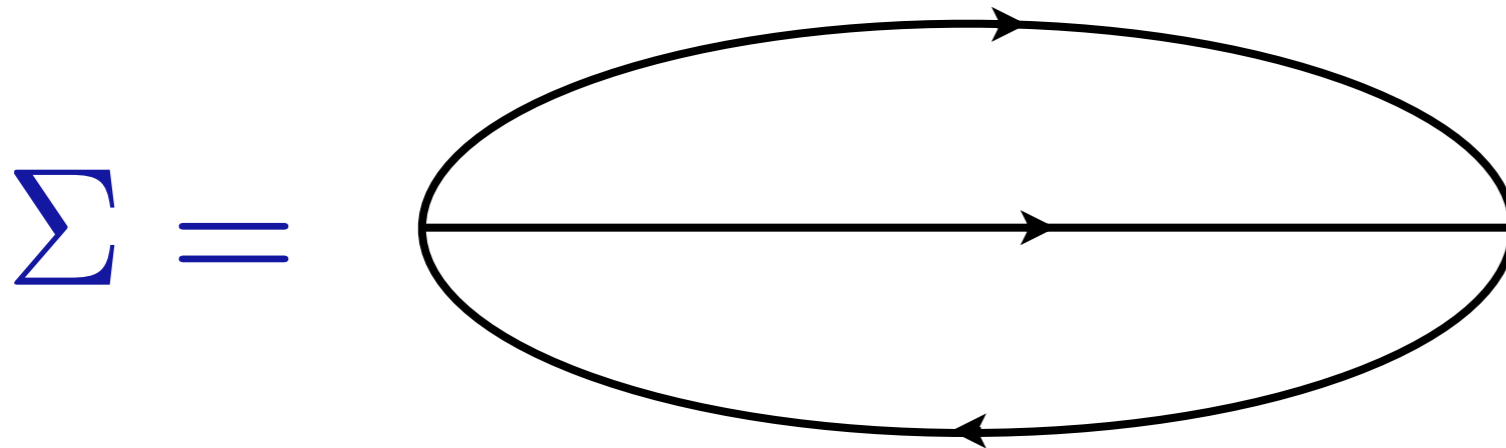
S. Sachdev and J. Ye, PRL **70**, 3339 (1993)

A. Kitaev, unpublished; S. Sachdev, PRX **5**, 041025 (2015)

# SYK model

Feynman graph expansion in  $J_{ij..}$ , and graph-by-graph average, yields exact equations in the large  $N$  limit:

$$G(i\omega) = \frac{1}{i\omega + \mu - \Sigma(i\omega)} \quad , \quad \Sigma(\tau) = -J^2 G^2(\tau) G(-\tau)$$
$$G(\tau = 0^-) = Q.$$



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Low frequency analysis shows that the solutions must be gapless and obey

$$\Sigma(z) = \mu - \frac{1}{A} \sqrt{z} + \dots \quad , \quad G(z) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{z}}$$

for some complex  $A$ . The ground state is a non-Fermi liquid, with a continuously variable density  $Q$ .

# SYK model

- $T = 0$  Green's function  $G \sim \begin{cases} -1/\sqrt{\tau} & \text{for } \tau > 0 \\ e^{-2\pi\mathcal{E}}/\sqrt{\tau} & \text{for } \tau < 0 \end{cases}$

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- $T > 0$  Green's function has conformal invariance  
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A. Georges and O. Parcollet PRB 59, 5341 (1999)

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- Non-zero GPS entropy as  $T \rightarrow 0$ ,  $S(T \rightarrow 0) = NS_0 + \dots$

A. Georges, O. Parcollet, and S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. B **63**, 134406 (2001)

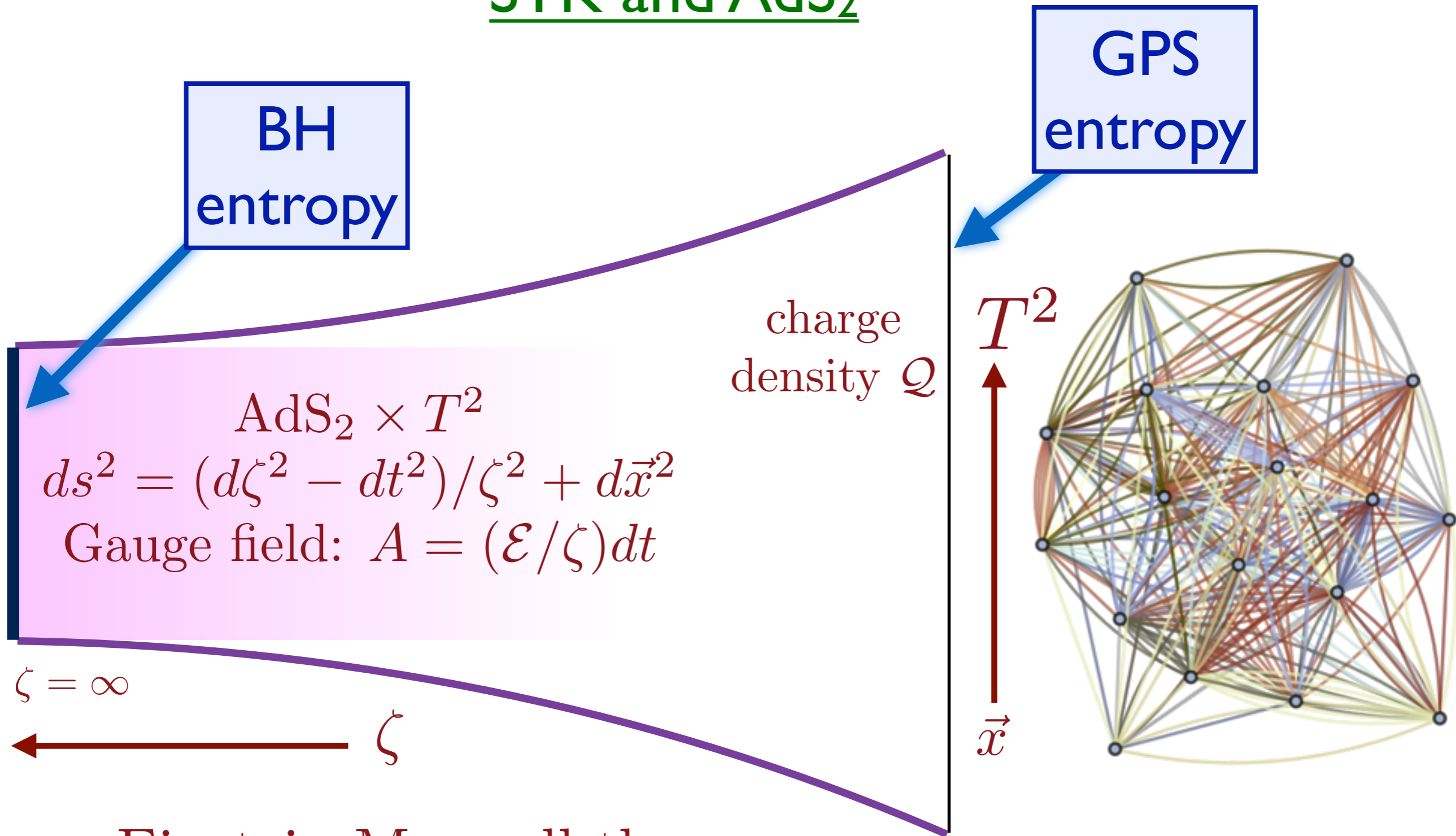


# SYK and AdS<sub>2</sub>

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- Non-zero GPS entropy as  $T \rightarrow 0$ ,  $S(T \rightarrow 0) = NS_0 + \dots$
- SYK models are “are states of matter at non-zero density realizing the near-horizon,  $\text{AdS}_2 \times R^2$  physics of Reissner-Nördstrom black holes”. The Bekenstein-Hawking entropy is  $NS_0$  (GPS = BH). S. Sachdev, PRL 105, 151602 (2010)
- $\mathcal{E}$  is identified with the electric field on  $\text{AdS}_2$ . The relationship  $(\partial S / \partial Q)_T = 2\pi\mathcal{E}$  is obeyed both by the GPS entropy, and by the BH entropy of  $\text{AdS}_2$  horizons in a large class of gravity theories. S. Sachdev, PRX 5, 041025 (2015)



# SYK and AdS<sub>2</sub>



Einstein-Maxwell theory  
+ cosmological constant

Mapping to SYK applies when temperature  $\ll 1/(\text{size of } T^2)$

# SYK and AdS<sub>2</sub>

$$G(i\omega) = \frac{1}{i\omega + \mu - \Sigma(i\omega)} \quad , \quad \Sigma(\tau) = -J^2 G^2(\tau) G(-\tau)$$
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At frequencies  $\ll J$ , the  $i\omega + \mu$  can be dropped, and without it equations are invariant under the reparametrization and gauge transformations

$$\tau = f(\sigma)$$

$$G(\tau_1, \tau_2) = [f'(\sigma_1) f'(\sigma_2)]^{-1/4} \frac{g(\sigma_1)}{g(\sigma_2)} G(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$$

$$\Sigma(\tau_1, \tau_2) = [f'(\sigma_1) f'(\sigma_2)]^{-3/4} \frac{g(\sigma_1)}{g(\sigma_2)} \Sigma(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$$

where  $f(\sigma)$  and  $g(\sigma)$  are arbitrary functions.

# SYK and AdS<sub>2</sub>

Let us write the large  $N$  saddle point solutions of  $S$  as

$$G_s(\tau_1 - \tau_2) \sim (\tau_1 - \tau_2)^{-1/2} \quad , \quad \Sigma_s(\tau_1 - \tau_2) \sim (\tau_1 - \tau_2)^{-3/2} .$$

These are not invariant under the reparametrization symmetry but are invariant only under a  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  subgroup under which

$$f(\tau) = \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d} \quad , \quad ad - bc = 1 .$$

So the (approximate) reparametrization symmetry is spontaneously broken.

# SYK and AdS<sub>2</sub>

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$$C(\tau, \tau_0) \sim (\tau - \tau_0)^{-1/2} \quad \Sigma(\tau, \tau_0) \sim (\tau - \tau_0)^{-3/2}$$

## Connections of SYK to gravity and AdS<sub>2</sub> horizons

- Reparameterization and gauge invariance are the ‘symmetries’ of the Einstein-Maxwell theory of gravity and electromagnetism
- $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  is the isometry group of AdS<sub>2</sub>.

# SYK and AdS<sub>2</sub>

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So the (approximate) reparametrization symmetry is spontaneously broken.

## Reparametrization zero mode

Expand about the saddle point by writing

$$G(\tau_1, \tau_2) = [f'(\tau_1)f'(\tau_2)]^{1/4} G_s(f(\tau_1) - f(\tau_2))$$

(and similarly for  $\Sigma$ ) and obtain an effective action for  $f(\tau)$ . This action must vanish for  $f(\tau) \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ .

J. Maldacena and D. Stanford, arXiv:1604.07818

See also A. Kitaev, unpublished, and J. Polchinski and V. Rosenhaus, arXiv:1601.06768

# SYK and AdS<sub>2</sub>

With  $g(\tau) = e^{-i\phi(\tau)}$ , the action for  $\phi(\tau)$  and  $f(\tau) = \frac{1}{\pi T} \tan(\pi T(\tau + \epsilon(\tau)))$  fluctuations is

$$S_{\phi, f} = \frac{K}{2} \int_0^{1/T} d\tau (\partial_\tau \phi + i(2\pi \mathcal{E} T) \partial_\tau \epsilon)^2 - \frac{\gamma}{4\pi^2} \int_0^{1/T} d\tau \{f, \tau\},$$

where  $\{f, \tau\}$  is the Schwarzian:

$$\{f, \tau\} \equiv \frac{f'''}{f'} - \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{f''}{f'} \right)^2.$$

The couplings are given by thermodynamics:  $\Omega$  is the grand potential,  $S_0$  is the GPS entropy, and  $\mathcal{Q}$  is the density.

$$K = - \left( \frac{\partial^2 \Omega}{\partial \mu^2} \right)_T, \quad \gamma + 4\pi^2 \mathcal{E}^2 K = - \left( \frac{\partial^2 \Omega}{\partial T^2} \right)_\mu$$
$$2\pi \mathcal{E} = \frac{\partial S_0}{\partial \mathcal{Q}}$$

In holography: the  $\gamma$  term in the action has been obtained from theories on AdS<sub>2</sub>;  $\mathcal{E}$  is the electric field, and has the same relationship to  $S_0$ .

J. Maldacena and D. Stanford, arXiv:1604.07818; R. Davison, Wenbo Fu, Yingfei Gu, S. Sachdev, unpublished; S. Sachdev, PRX 5, 041025 (2015); J. Maldacena, D. Stanford, and Zhenbin Yang, arXiv:1606.01857; K. Jensen, arXiv:1605.06098; J. Engelsoy, T.G. Mertens, and H. Verlinde, arXiv:1606.03438

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The correlators of the density fluctuations,  $\delta Q(\tau)$ , and the energy fluctuations  $\delta E - \mu \delta Q(\tau)$  are time independent and given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle \delta Q(\tau) \delta Q(0) \rangle & \langle (\delta E(\tau) - \mu \delta Q(\tau)) \delta Q(0) \rangle / T \\ \langle (\delta E(\tau) - \mu \delta Q(\tau)) \delta Q(0) \rangle & \langle (\delta E(\tau) - \mu \delta Q(\tau)) (\delta E(0) - \mu \delta Q(0)) \rangle / T \end{pmatrix} = T \chi_s$$

where  $\chi_s$  is the static susceptibility matrix given by

$$\chi_s \equiv \begin{pmatrix} -(\partial^2 \Omega / \partial \mu^2)_T & -\partial^2 \Omega / (\partial T \partial \mu) \\ -T \partial^2 \Omega / (\partial T \partial \mu) & -T (\partial^2 \Omega / \partial T^2)_\mu \end{pmatrix}.$$



# Coupled SYK models

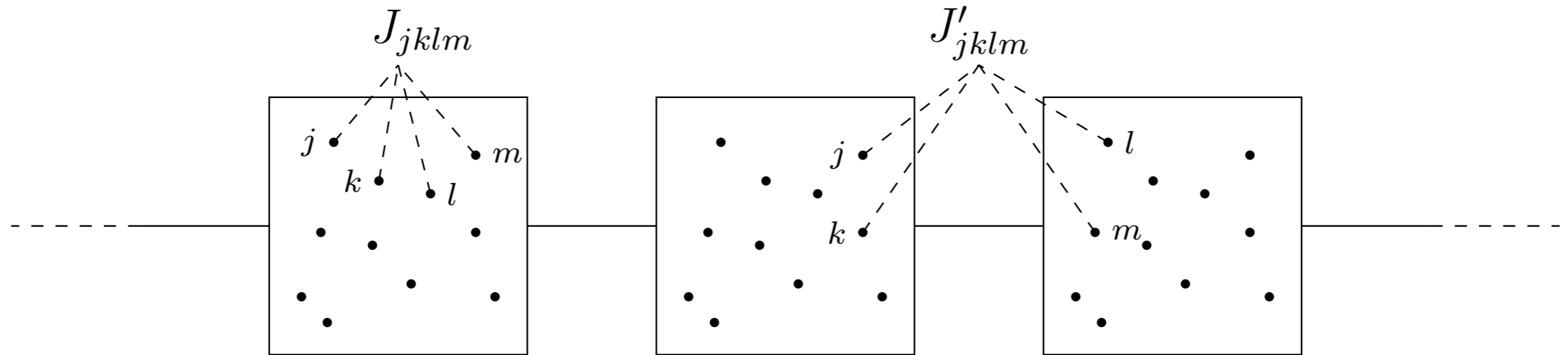


Figure 1: A chain of coupled SYK sites: each site contains  $N \gg 1$  fermion with SYK interaction. The coupling between nearest neighbor sites are four fermion interaction with two from each site.

Yingfei Gu, Xiao-Liang Qi, and D. Stanford, arXiv:1609.07832

# SYK models

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## Coupled SYK models

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle Q; Q \rangle_{k,\omega} & \langle E - \mu Q; Q \rangle_{k,\omega} / T \\ \langle E - \mu Q; Q \rangle_{k,\omega} & \langle E - \mu Q; E - \mu Q \rangle_{k,\omega} / T \end{pmatrix} = [i\omega(-i\omega + Dk^2)^{-1} + 1] \chi_s$$

where the diffusivities are related to the thermoelectric conductivities by the Einstein relations

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma & \alpha \\ \alpha T & \bar{\kappa} \end{pmatrix} \chi_s^{-1}.$$

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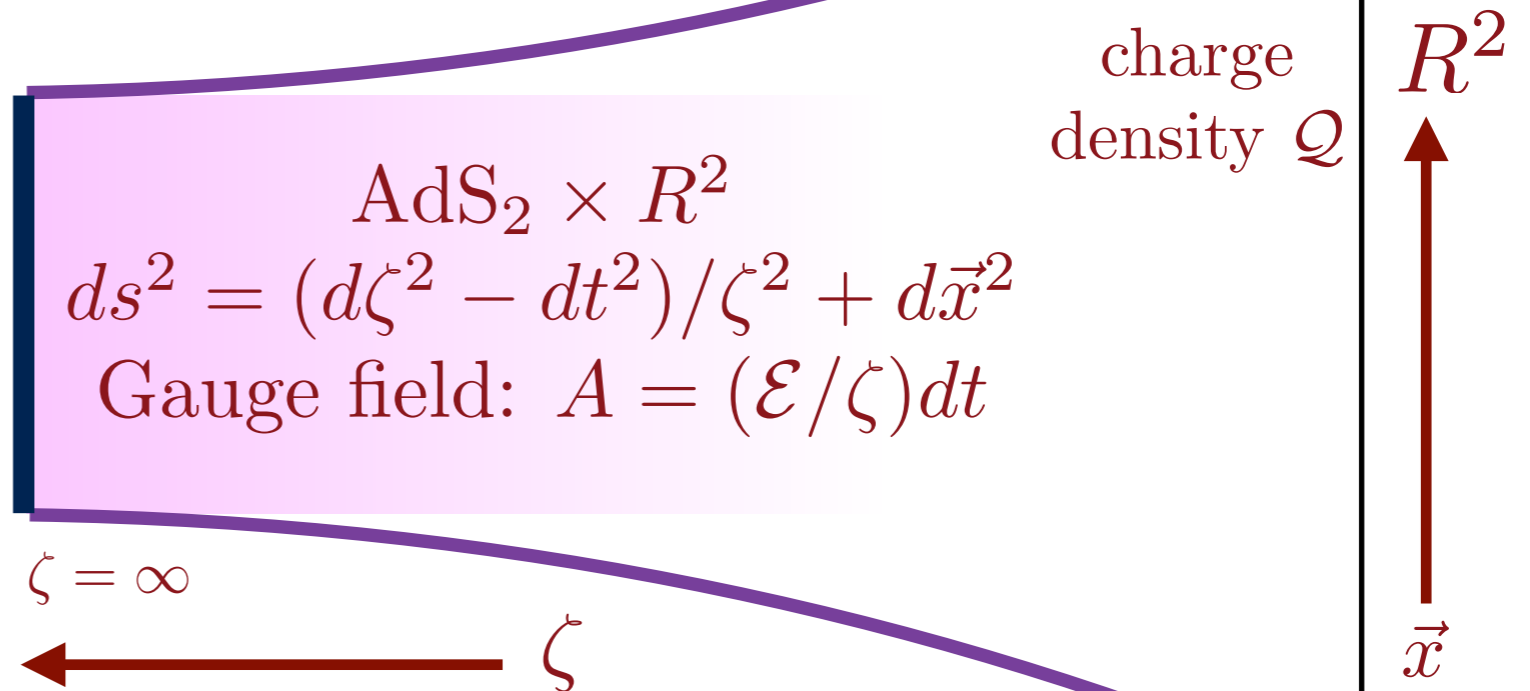
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$$\alpha = \sigma \frac{\partial S_0}{\partial Q}$$

The coupled SYK models realize a diffusive metal with no quasiparticle excitations.  
(a “strange metal”)

# Holography: Einstein-Maxwell-axion theory



$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\hat{g}} \left( \hat{\mathcal{R}} + 6/L^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 (\partial \hat{\varphi}_i)^2 - \frac{1}{4} \hat{F}_{\mu\nu} \hat{F}^{\mu\nu} \right),$$

- For  $\hat{\varphi}_i = 0$ , we obtain the Reissner-Nördstrom-AdS charged black hole, with a near-horizon  $\text{AdS}_2 \times R^2$  near-horizon geometry.
- For  $\hat{\varphi}_i = kx_i$ , we obtain a similar solution but with momentum dissipation (a bulk massive graviton). This yields the same diffusive metal correlators as the coupled SYK models, and the same relationship between  $\alpha$  and  $\sigma$ .

# Entangled quantum matter without quasiparticles

- Is there a connection between strange metals and black holes?  
Yes, *e.g.* the SYK model.
- Why do they have the same equilibration time  $\sim \hbar/(k_B T)$ ?  
Strange metals don't have quasiparticles and thermalize rapidly;  
Black holes are “fast scramblers”.
- Theoretical predictions for strange metal transport in graphene agree well with experiments