Quantum matter and gauge-gravity duality

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Subir Sachdev



I. Conformal quantum matter

2. Compressible quantum matter

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The boson Hubbard model and the superfluid-insulator transition

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The fermion Hubbard model

and the metal-insulator transition

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*The AdS*₄ - *Schwarzschild black brane*

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Non-Fermi liquid phases map to holographic spaces with logarithmic violation of entanglement entropy

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Superfluid-insulator transition



M. Greiner, O. Mandel, T. Esslinger, T. W. Hänsch, and I. Bloch, Nature 415, 39 (2002).

The Superfluid-Insulator transition

Boson Hubbard model

Degrees of freedom: Bosons, b_j^{\dagger} , hopping between the sites, *j*, of a lattice, with short-range repulsive interactions.

$$H = -t \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} b_i^{\dagger} b_j - \mu \sum_j n_j + \frac{U}{2} \sum_j n_j (n_j - 1) + \cdots$$
$$n_j \equiv b_j^{\dagger} b_j$$
$$[b_j, b_k^{\dagger}] = \delta_{jk}$$

M.P. A. Fisher, P.B. Weichmann, G. Grinstein, and D.S. Fisher, Phys. Rev. B 40, 546 (1989).

Insulator (the vacuum) at large repulsion between bosons

Excitations of the insulator:



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Density of particles = density of holes \Rightarrow "relativistic" field theory for ψ :

$$S = \int d^2 r d\tau \left[|\partial_\tau \psi|^2 + v^2 |\vec{\nabla} \psi|^2 + (g - g_c) |\psi|^2 + \frac{u}{2} |\psi|^4 \right]$$

M.P. A. Fisher, P.B. Weichmann, G. Grinstein, and D.S. Fisher, Phys. Rev. B 40, 546 (1989).









Quantum "nearly perfect fluid" with shortest possible equilibration time, τ_{eq}



where \mathcal{C} is a *universal* constant

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

Transport co-oefficients not determined by collision rate, but by universal constants of nature

Conductivity

 $\sigma = \frac{Q^2}{h} \times [\text{Universal constant } \mathcal{O}(1)]$

(Q is the "charge" of one boson)

M.P.A. Fisher, G. Grinstein, and S.M. Girvin, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **64**, 587 (1990) K. Damle and S. Sachdev, *Phys. Rev. B* **56**, 8714 (1997).

Transport co-oefficients not determined by collision rate, but by universal constants of nature



P. Kovtun, D. T. Son, and A. Starinets, Phys. Rev. Lett. 94, 11601 (2005)

Describe charge transport using Boltzmann theory of interacting bosons:

$$\frac{dv}{dt} + \frac{v}{\tau_c} = F.$$

This gives a frequency (ω) dependent conductivity

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{\sigma_0}{1 - i\,\omega\,\tau_c}$$

where $\tau_c \sim \hbar/(k_B T)$ is the time between boson collisions.

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Also, we have $\sigma(\omega \to \infty) = \sigma_{\infty}$, associated with the density of states for particle-hole creation (the "optical conductivity") in the CFT3.

Boltzmann theory of bosons



So far, we have described the quantum critical point using the boson particle and hole excitations of the insulator.



However, we could equally well describe the conductivity using the excitations of the superfluid, which are *vortices*.



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These are quantum particles (in 2+1 dimensions) which described by a (mirror/e.m.) "dual" CFT3 with an emergent U(1) gauge field. Their T > 0 dynamics can also be described by a Boltzmann equation:

> Conductivity = Resistivity of vortices $\langle \psi \rangle \neq 0$ $\langle \psi \rangle = 0$ Superfluid Insulator g_c g

Boltzmann theory of bosons



Boltzmann theory of vortices



Boltzmann theory of bosons



Vector large N expansion for CFT3



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AdS₄ theory of "nearly perfect fluids"

To leading order in a gradient expansion, charge transport in an infinite set of strongly-interacting CFT3s can be described by Einstein-Maxwell gravity/electrodynamics on AdS_4 -Schwarzschild

$$\mathcal{S}_{EM} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[-\frac{1}{4e^2} F_{ab} F^{ab} \right]$$

C. P. Herzog, P. K. Kovtun, S. Sachdev, and D. T. Son, *Phys. Rev.* D **75**, 085020 (2007).

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We include all possible 4-derivative terms: after suitable field redefinitions, the required theory has only *one* dimensionless constant γ (L is the radius of AdS₄):

$$\mathcal{S}_{EM} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[-\frac{1}{4e^2} F_{ab} F^{ab} + \frac{\gamma L^2}{e^2} C_{abcd} F^{ab} F^{cd} \right] \,,$$

where C_{abcd} is the Weyl curvature tensor. Stability and causality constraints restrict $|\gamma| < 1/12$.

R. C. Myers, S. Sachdev, and A. Singh, *Physical Review D* 83, 066017 (2011)

AdS₄ theory of strongly interacting "perfect fluids"



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R. C. Myers, S. Sachdev, and A. Singh, *Physical Review D* 83, 066017 (2011)

AdS4 theory of strongly interacting "perfect fluids"



R. C. Myers, S. Sachdev, and A. Singh, *Physical Review D* 83, 066017 (2011)

AdS4 theory of strongly interacting "perfect fluids"

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