

# Neutrino Transport in Dense Media from AdS/CFT

Francesco Nitti

APC, U. Paris

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# Introduction

- Gauge/gravity duality (aka Holographic Correspondence):  
a way to answer questions in strongly coupled QFTs theories by doing calculations in classical GR
- holographic models can provide a descriptions of many aspects of the non-perturbative physics and can in principle be used to study high-density QCD matter

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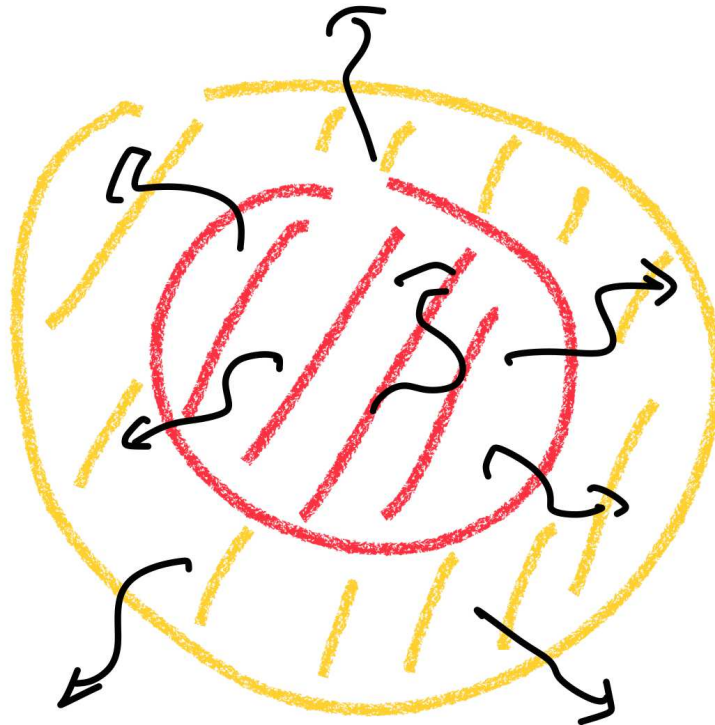
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a way to answer questions in strongly coupled QFTs theories by doing calculations in classical GR
- holographic models can provide a descriptions of many aspects of the non-perturbative physics and can in principle be used to study high-density QCD matter

## Outline

- What is the gauge/gravity duality?
- Application to Neutrino Diffusion.

# Neutrino transport

- Cooling by neutrino emission is very important in the out-of-equilibrium dynamics of compact objects (proto-NS, supernovae)
- It can be described by diffusion through a dense medium.



# Neutrino transport

- Cooling by neutrino emission is very important in the out-of-equilibrium dynamics of compact objects (proto-NS, supernovae)
- It can be described by diffusion through a dense medium.
- Diffusion (via Boltzmann equation) can be phrased in terms of the **retarded propagator** satisfying in-medium Dyson-Schwinger equation:

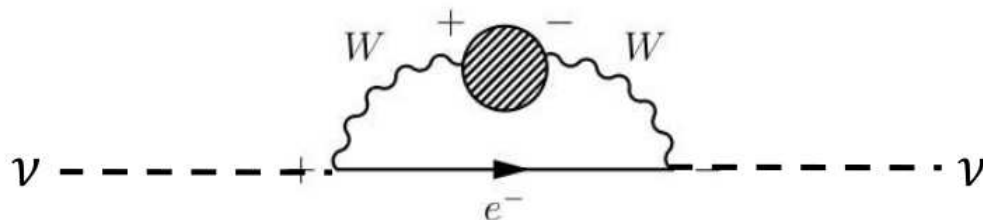
The diagram illustrates the in-medium Dyson-Schwinger equation for the retarded propagator. It shows a thick black line with an arrow pointing right, followed by an equals sign. To the right of the equals sign is a thin black line with an arrow pointing right, followed by a plus sign. To the right of the plus sign is a thick black line with an arrow pointing right that enters a red square box. Inside the box is a circle containing the Greek letter  $\Sigma$ . A red arrow points from the top of the box to the text "Self-energy". The thick line continues out of the right side of the box.

- One of the main problems is the QCD contribution to  $\Sigma$  in the strongly coupled regime

# Neutrino transport

To compute the in-medium neutrino diffusion: need  
**strong-interaction contribution** to EW gauge bosons self energies:

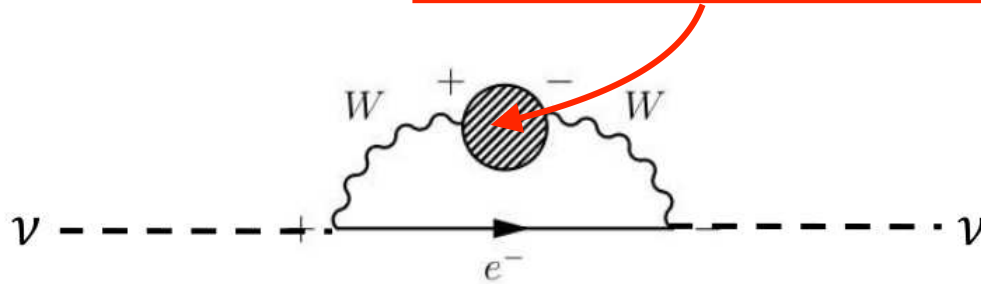
$$\Sigma^{\mu\nu}(p) = \Sigma_{EW}^{\mu\nu}(p) + \langle J^\mu(p) J^\nu(-p) \rangle_{QCD \text{ medium}}$$



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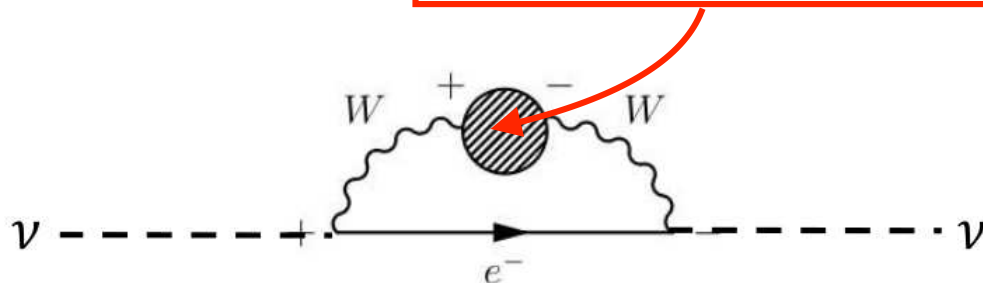
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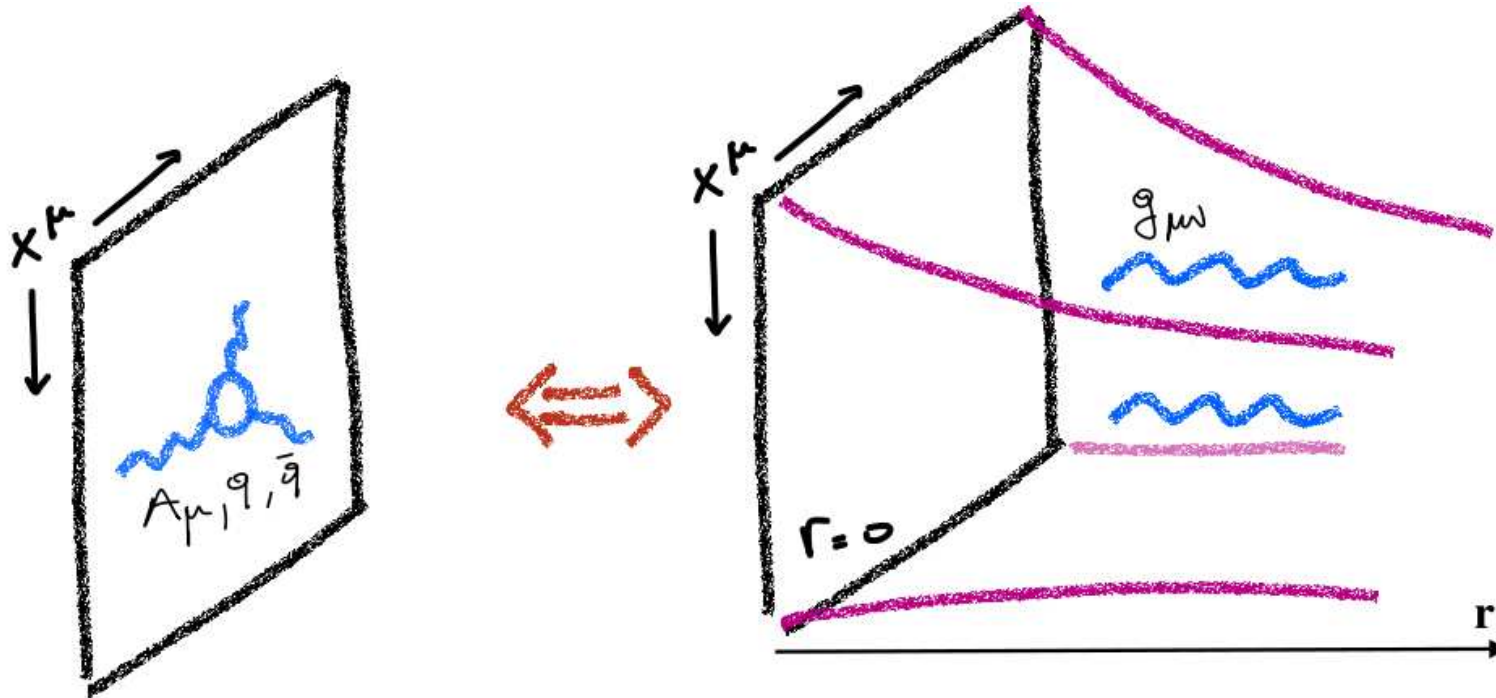
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- Can compute real-time  $\langle J^\mu J^\nu \rangle_{QCD}$  using **holography** at finite density and temperature, by a **linear perturbation** calculation in the bulk.
- Proof of principle calculation in the deconfined phase and in a simplified model [Jarvinen, Kiritsis, FN, Préau, '23](#)

# The Gauge/Gravity Duality

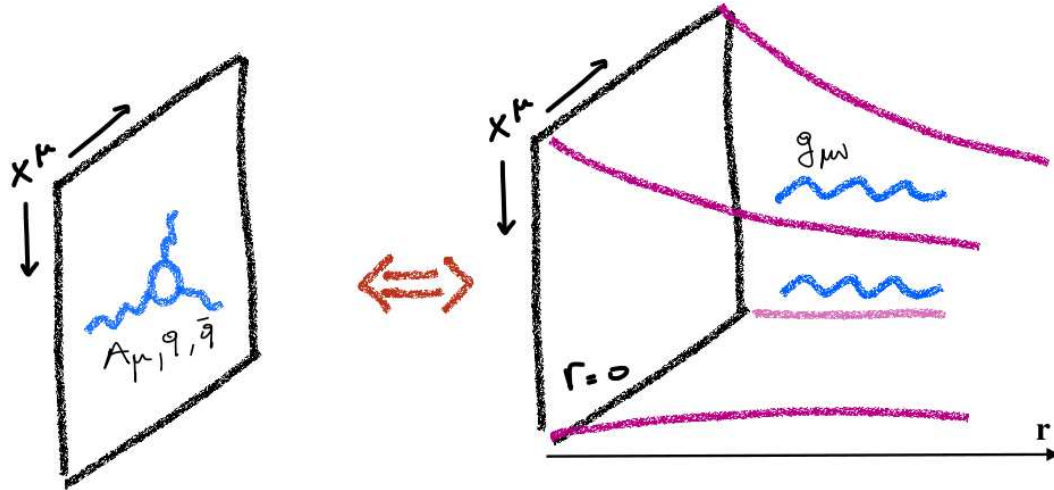
Conjecture that some 4d quantum field theories have an equivalent description as gravitational theories in higher dimensions



- Well-grounded in the string theory context for SUSY QFTs.
- General features believed to be valid in the absence of SUSY (less under control).

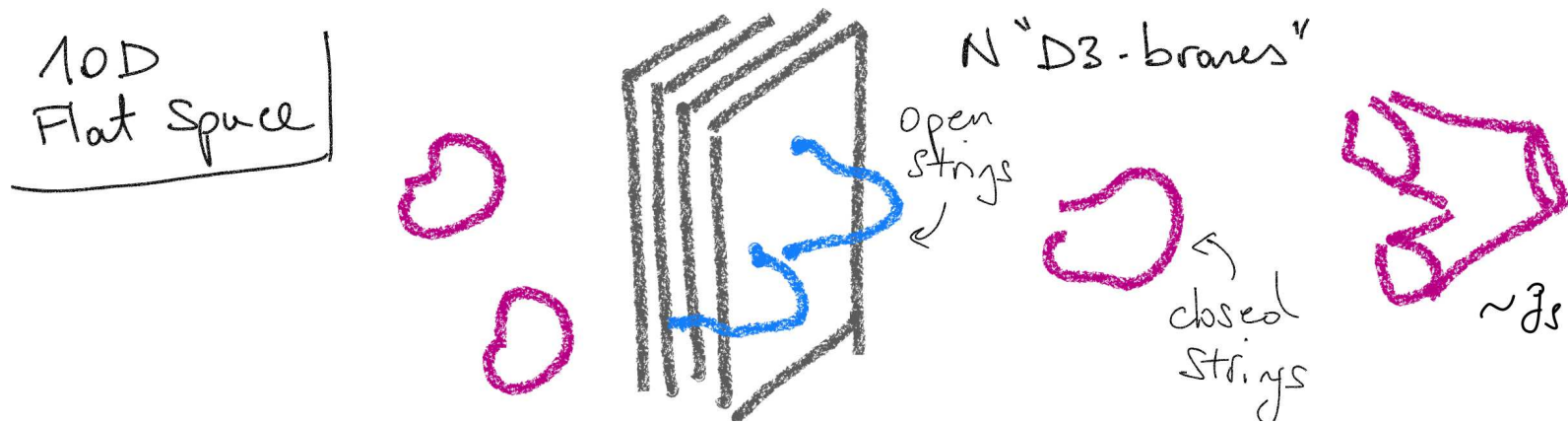
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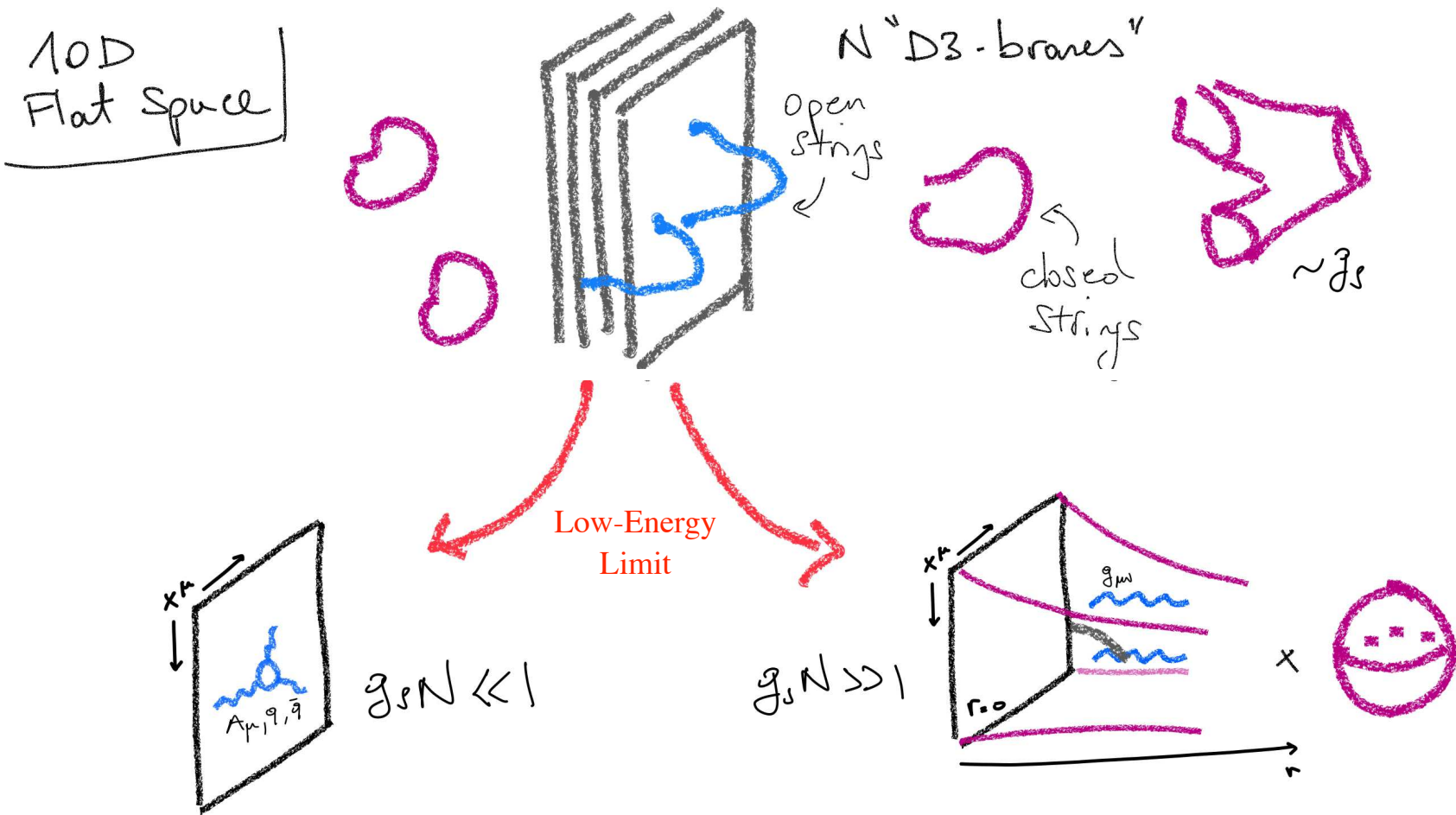


- **Equivalent** means that the two theories describe the same physics in terms of different degrees of freedom, but arranged in different ways.
- Weak QFT coupling: QFT description is perturbative;
- Strong QFT coupling: gravity side captured by **classical GR**  
(for large  $N$  gauge theories)

# String Theory Origin



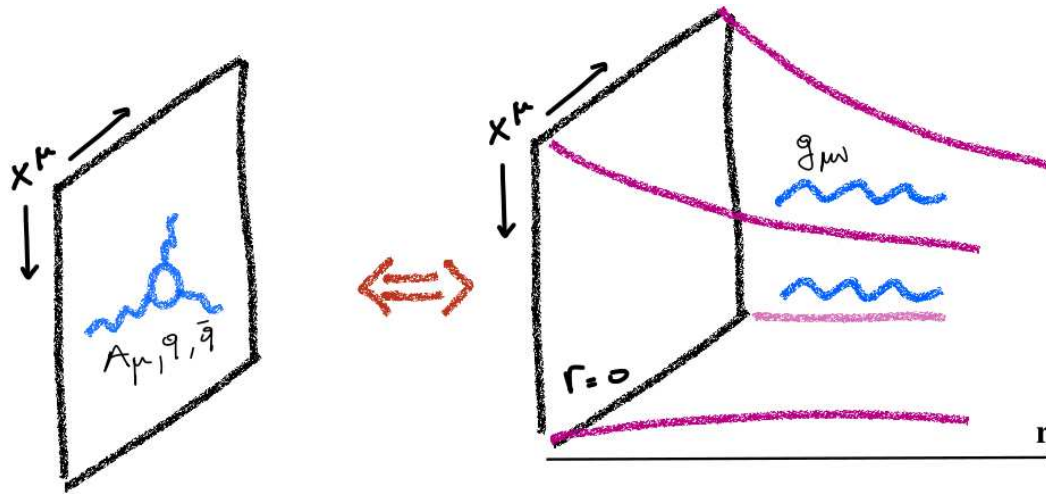
# String Theory Origin



$SU(N)$  (Supersymmetric) Yang-Mills

Gravity on  $AdS_5 \times S^5$

# Anti-de Sitter Space



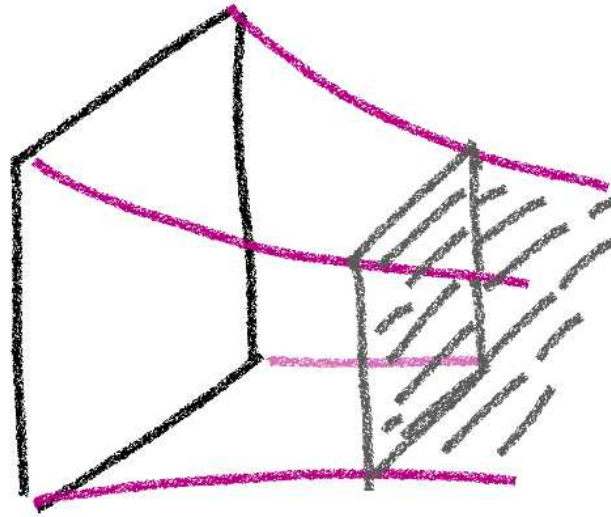
- QFT is **conformal**  $\Leftrightarrow$  Gravity side is AdS spacetime:

$$ds^2 = \frac{\ell^2}{r^2} (dr^2 + dx_\mu^2)$$

- $r = 0$ : *boundary* of AdS = spacetime where the QFT lives (hence ***holography***).
- Broken conformal invariance  $\Leftrightarrow$  AdS deformed in the interior.

# Hot and dense thermodynamics states

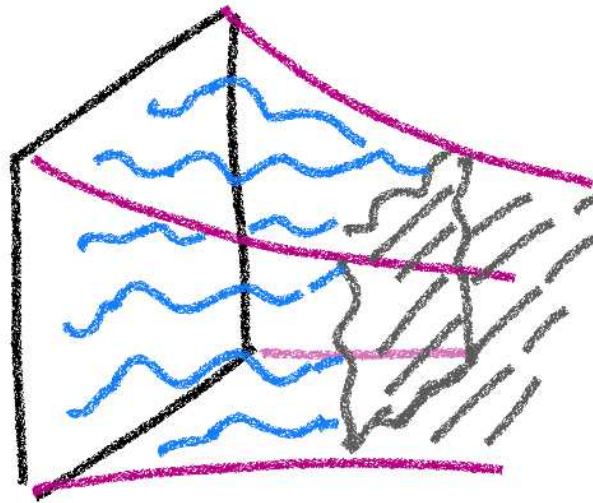
- Finite  $T \Leftrightarrow$  5D Black Hole geometry



- EoS obtained from 5D Black Hole Thermodynamics (standard GR)

# Beyond thermodynamics

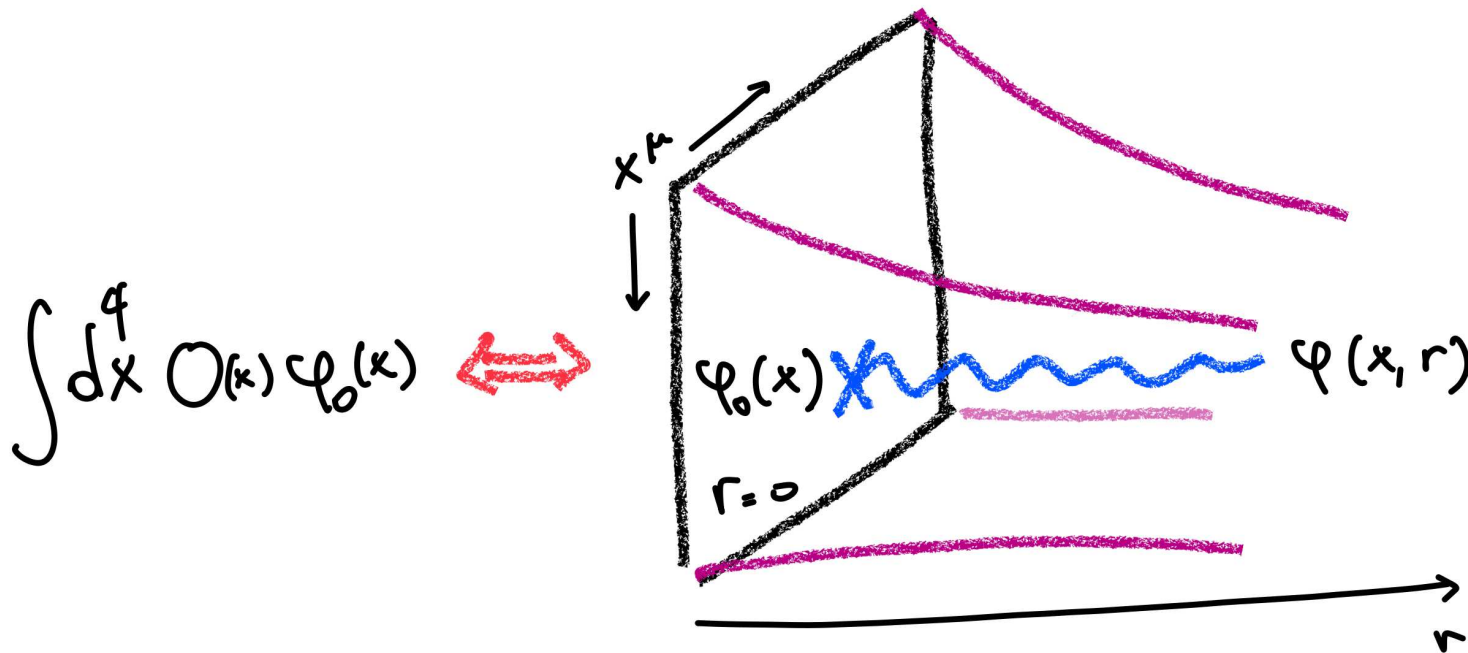
- Out-of-equilibrium evolution can be obtained by evolving bulk state
- Linear hydro  $\leftrightarrow$  linear perturbations around BHs in GR



- Can compute **transport coefficients** (viscosities) entering non-ideal hydro by a **simple linearized GR calculation**.
- QFT: transport encoded in real-time correlators  $\langle O(x, t) O(x', t') \rangle$ . **How is this computed on the gravity side?**

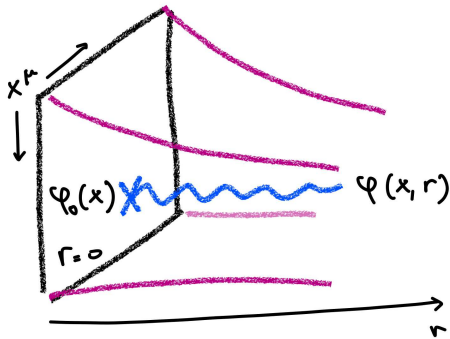
# Field/Operator correspondence

- QFT operator  $O(x)$   $\Leftrightarrow$  Bulk field  $\Phi(x, r)$ .
- $\Phi_0(x) = \Phi(x, 0)$  is a **source** for  $O(x)$  in the QFT:



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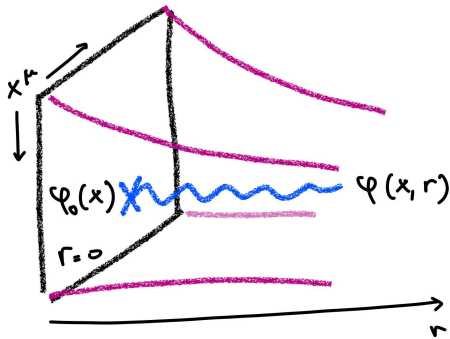
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 $m^2 = \Delta(\Delta - d)$ .

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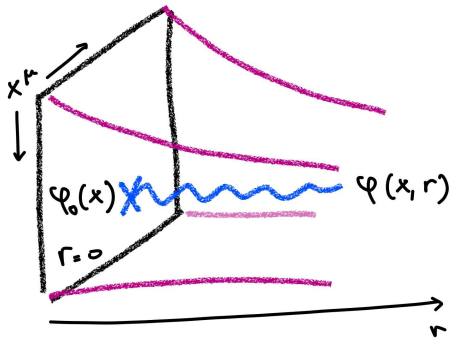
in the large- $N$  limit:

$$\mathcal{Z}_{QFT}[\Phi_0(x)] = \exp iS_{cl}[\Phi_0(x)]$$

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$$\langle O(x_1) \dots O(x_n) \rangle = \frac{\delta}{\delta \Phi_0(x_1)} \dots \frac{\delta}{\delta \Phi_0(x_n)} S_{cl}[\Phi_0]$$

# Holographic 2-point function

- Take a free scalar on AdS

$$S = \int_0^{+\infty} dr \int d^4x \sqrt{g} (g^{MN} \partial_M \Phi \partial_N \Phi - m^2 \Phi^2) \quad m^2 = \Delta(\Delta - d)$$

- Solve field equation with boundary condition at  $r = 0$

$$(\square - m^2)\Phi = 0, \quad \Phi(x, r) \rightarrow \Phi_0(x) r^{(d-\Delta)} \quad r \rightarrow 0$$

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Independent of boundary cond.

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$\langle O(x) O(y) \rangle$

# Holographic models for QCD

- Dictionary:

| 4D Operator                                |                   | 5D Bulk field                           |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| $Tr F^2$                                   | $\Leftrightarrow$ | $\Phi$                                  |
| $T_{\mu\nu}$                               | $\Leftrightarrow$ | $g_{\mu\nu}$                            |
| Stress tensor                              |                   | bulk metric                             |
| $J_L^\mu, J_R^\mu$                         | $\Leftrightarrow$ | $A_L^\mu, A_R^\mu$                      |
| $U(N_f)_L \times U(N_f)_R$ flavor currents |                   | $U(N_f)_L \times U(N_f)_R$ gauge fields |
| $\psi^i \psi_j$                            | $\Leftrightarrow$ | $T_j^i$                                 |
| quark bilinear                             |                   | matrix of scalars                       |

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- Bottom-up:** Einstein-Scalar-Yang-Mills action depending on *phenomenological potentials* (functions of the scalars)
- State of the art: **V-QCD model** Järvinen, Kiritsis '11

# Minimal Holographic Neutrino Transport

Goal: compute correlators of non-abelian chiral current operators.

- QFT: Operators  $J_\mu^{a,L} = \bar{q}^L \gamma_\mu T^a q^L$ ,  $J_\mu^{a,R} = \bar{q}^R \gamma_\mu T^a q^R$

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Bulk:  $U(N_f)_L \times U(N_f)_R$  gauge fields  $A_M^{a,L}$ ,  $A_M^{a,R}$

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- Minimal bulk theory: 5d Einstein Gravity +  
 $U(N_f)_L \times U(N_f)_R$  5d Yang-Mills theory:

$$S_{5d} = M^3 N_c^2 \int d^5x \sqrt{g} \left( R + \frac{12}{\ell^2} + \right. \\ \left. + \kappa \frac{N_f}{N_c} \text{Tr} \left[ F_{MN}^{(L)} F^{MN(L)} + F_{MN}^{(R)} F^{MN(R)} \right] \right)$$

$$F^{(L)} = dA^{(L)} - A^{(L)} \wedge A^{(L)}, \quad F^{(R)} = dA^{(R)} - A^{(R)} \wedge A^{(R)}$$

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Color sector

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Flavor sector

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# Charged Black Hole Solutions

- Look for state at finite temperature and baryon density
- Baryon number  $\leftrightarrow U(1)_V$  gauge field  $A_0^{(L)} = A_0^{(R)} = V_0(r)\mathbf{1}$
- Solution with non-trivial abelian vector charge and finite temperature: Charged AdS Black hole

$$ds_5^2 = \frac{\ell^2}{r^2} \left( -f(r)dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + d\vec{x}^2 \right), \quad V_0 = 2\mu \left( 1 - \frac{r^2}{r_H^2} \right)$$

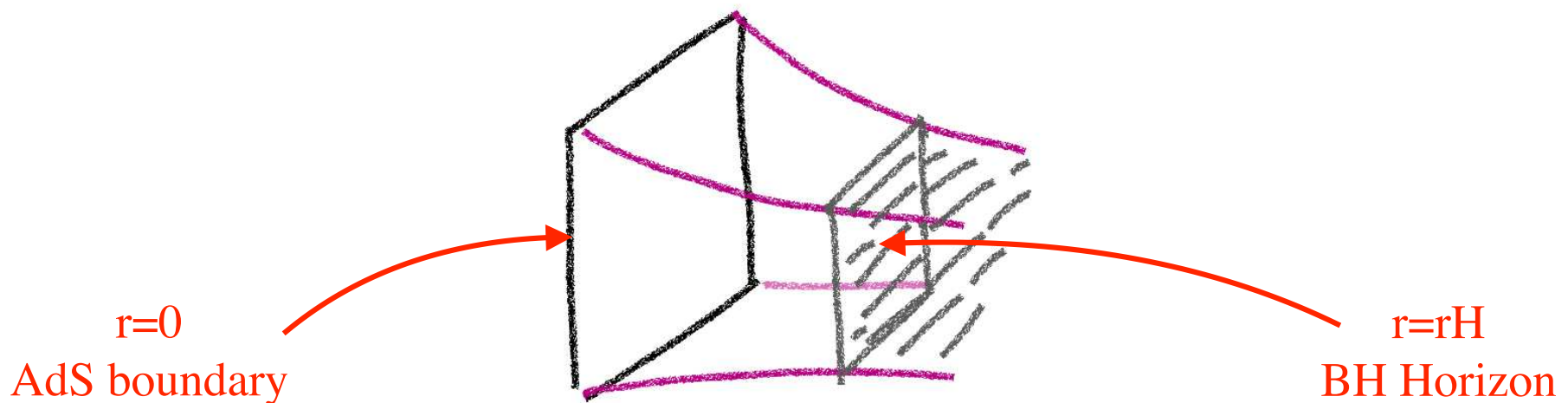
$$f(r) = 1 - (3 - 2\pi T r_H) \left( \frac{r}{r_H} \right)^4 + 2(1 - \pi T r_H) \left( \frac{r}{r_H} \right)^6$$

- $\mu$  = baryon chemical potential;  $f(r) = 0$  at horizon  $r = r_H$ ;  
 $f'(r_H) \propto 1/T$
- Two parameters:  $\mu, T$ ; Choose  $T/\mu \ll 1$  (near-extremal BH).

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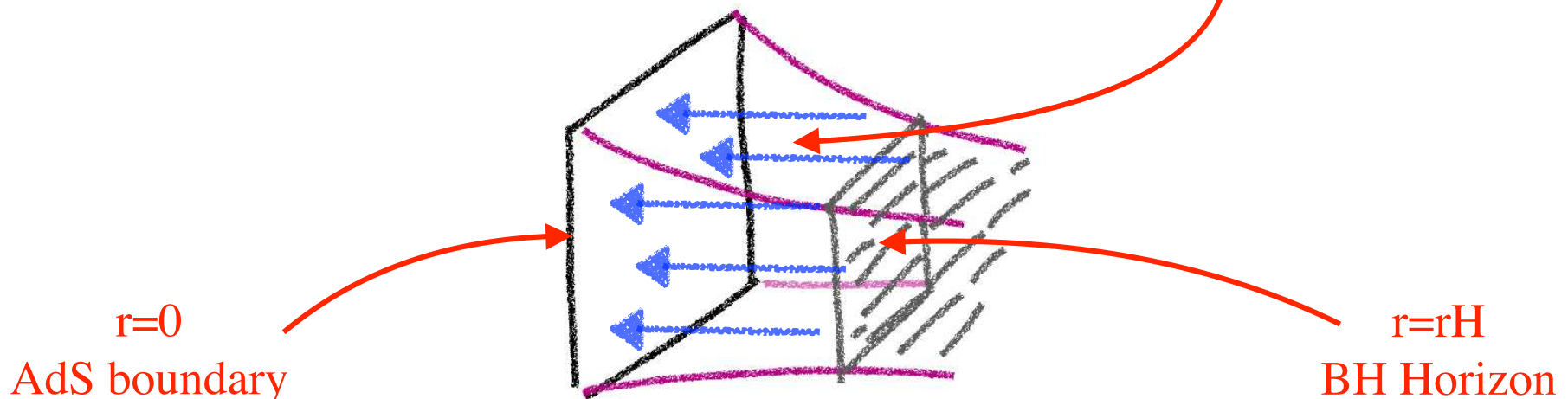
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Electric Field

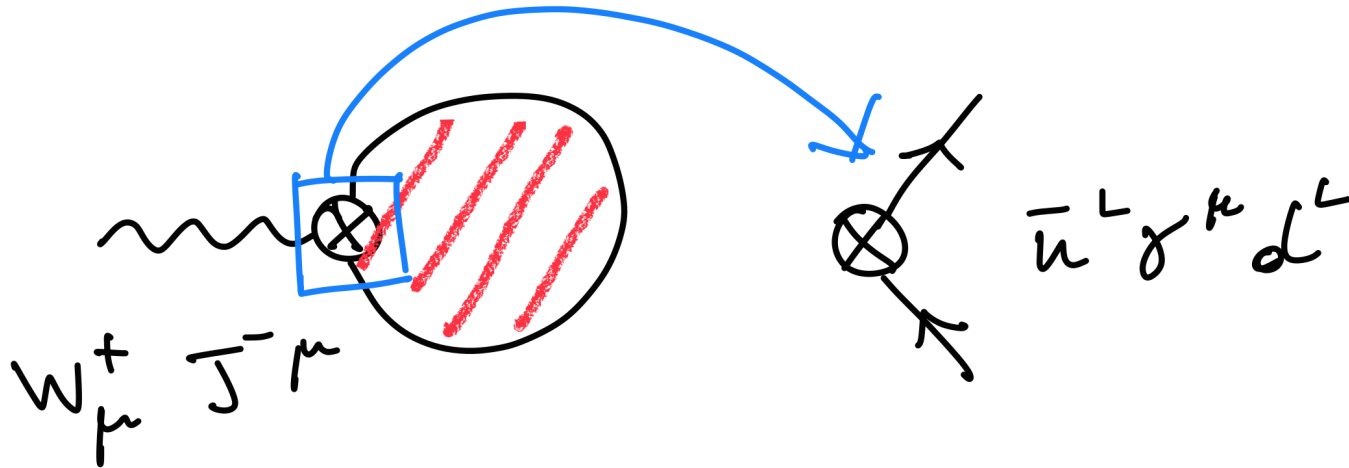


# Pros and Cons of minimal model

- Pros: **simplicity:**
  - Minimal number of fields
  - Minimal number of adjustable parameters
  - Background solution known analytically
- Cons: **Not realistic:**
  - QFT is conformal (vacuum state at  $T = \mu = 0$  is AdS): no QCD running coupling.
  - Thermal state is in deconfined phase (albeit strongly coupled)
  - Missing low-dimension operators (gluon fields, quark bilinears)
- Good testing ground for non-abelian current correlator computation, computation can be carried over to a more realistic model.

# Charged Current Operator/Field

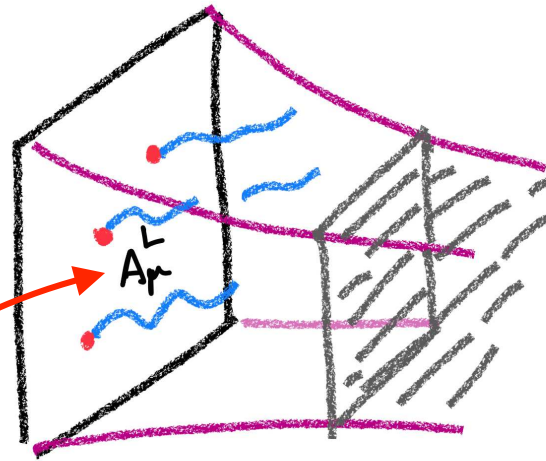
- Set  $N_f = 2$ ,  $q_i = (u, d)$ , bulk gauge group  $U(2)_L \times U(2)_R$



$$\bar{u}^L \gamma^\mu d = (\bar{u}^L \ \bar{d}^L) \gamma^\mu \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{\frac{\sigma^1}{2} + i\frac{\sigma^2}{2}} \begin{pmatrix} u^L \\ d^L \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_\mu^{L,-} = J^{1,L} + iJ^{2,L} \Rightarrow \text{turn on bulk field } A_\mu^{L,1}(x, r), A_\mu^{L,2}(x, r)$$

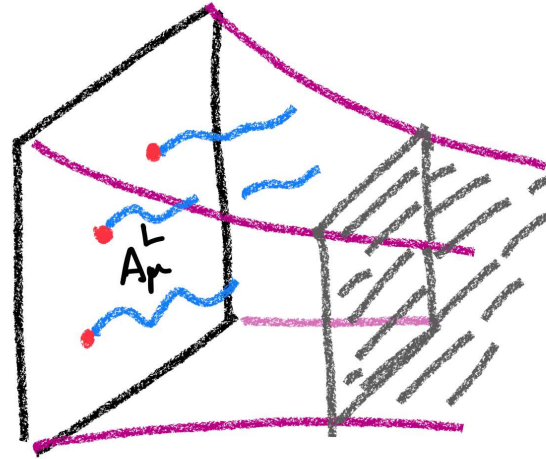
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- Solve 5d field equations for non-abelian gauge field fluctuations  $A_\mu^{L,1}, A_\mu^{L,2}$  added to charged BH background  $\nabla^M F_{MN}^{(L)} = 0$
- obtain 2-point function:  $\langle J_\mu^- J_\nu^+ \rangle_R(\omega, \vec{k})$ .

Retarded correlator  $\longleftrightarrow$  Infalling solution at BH horizon

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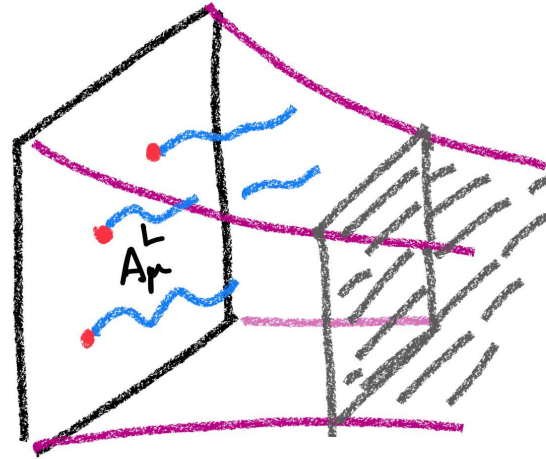


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$$\langle J_\mu^- J_\nu^+ \rangle_R = \left( P_{\mu\nu}^\perp \Pi^\perp(\omega, \vec{k}) + P_{\mu\nu}^\parallel \Pi^\parallel(\omega, \vec{k}) \right)$$

Transverse / Longitudinal Projectors

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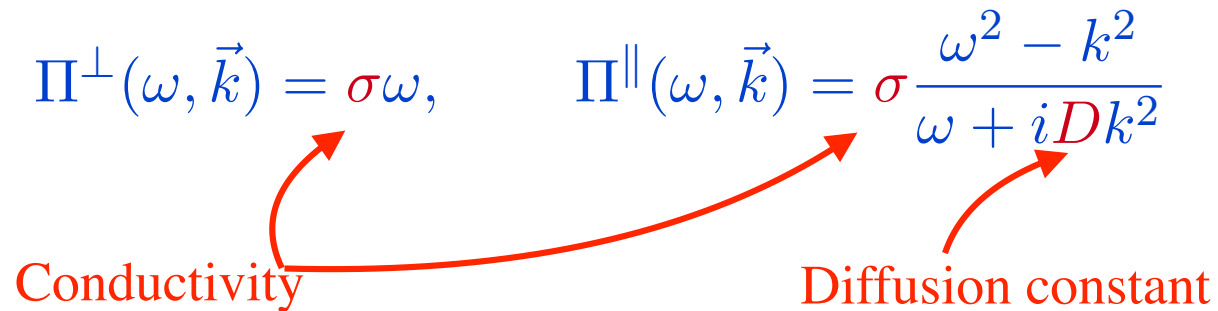
Polarisation functions

# Hydrodynamic limit

- In the limit  $\omega \rightarrow 0, \vec{k} \rightarrow 0$ , 2-point function becomes universal:

$$\Pi^\perp(\omega, \vec{k}) = \sigma \omega, \quad \Pi^\parallel(\omega, \vec{k}) = \sigma \frac{\omega^2 - k^2}{\omega + i D k^2}$$

Conductivity Diffusion constant



# Hydrodynamic limit

- In the limit  $\omega \rightarrow 0, \vec{k} \rightarrow 0$ , 2-point function becomes universal:

$$\Pi^\perp(\omega, \vec{k}) = \sigma \omega, \quad \Pi^\parallel(\omega, \vec{k}) = \sigma \frac{\omega^2 - k^2}{\omega + i D k^2}$$

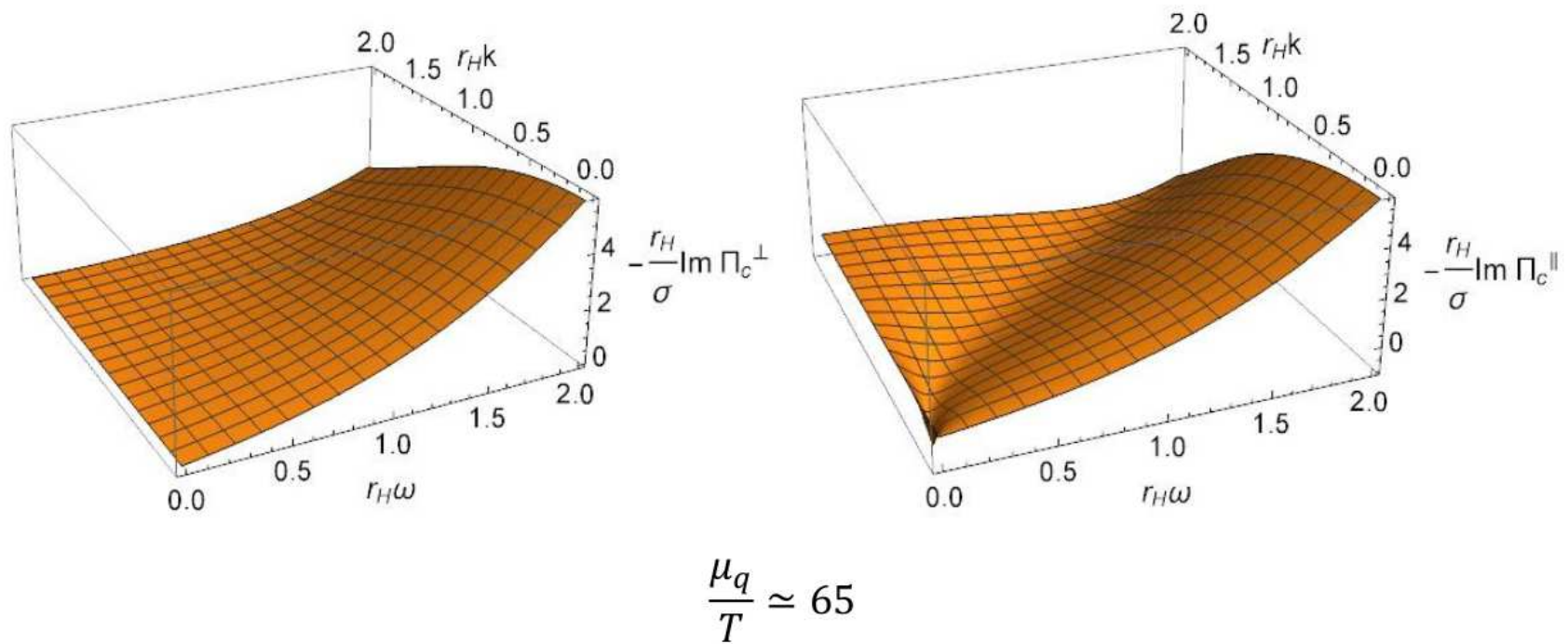
Conductivity

Diffusion constant

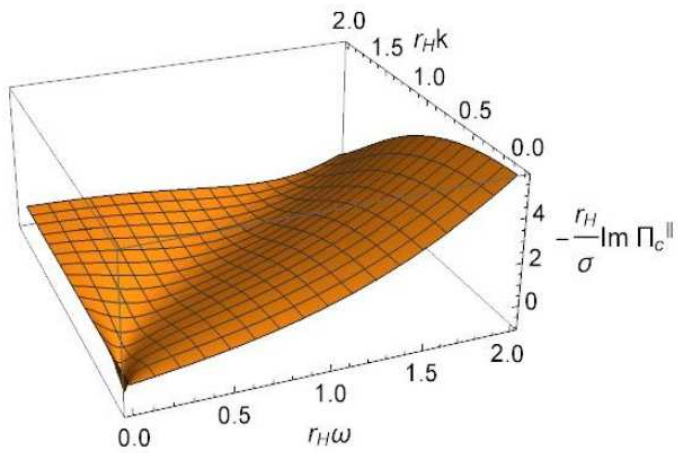
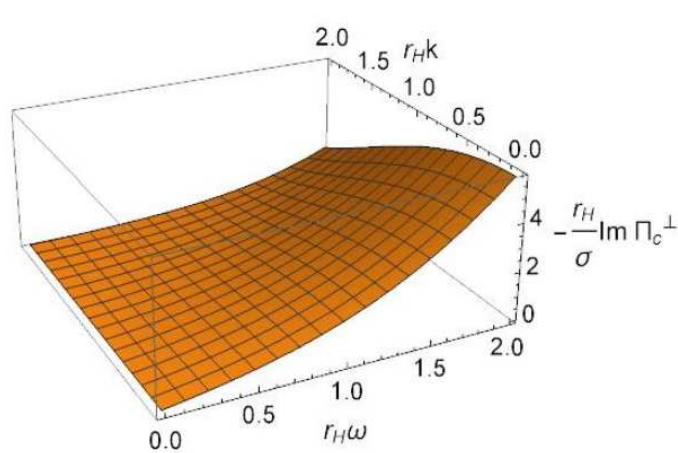
- Normally hydrodynamic limit breaks down as  $T \rightarrow 0$ . However the charged AdS-BH is special: hints of hydro up  $\omega, |\vec{k}| \sim \mu$ , even for  $T/\mu \ll 1$ .
- Due to non-hydro poles having small residues for  $T/\mu \rightarrow 0$   
(Davison, Parnachev '13; Arian, Davison, Goutéraux, Suzuki '21).

# Numerical computation

- Fix  $N_c = 3$ ,  $N_f = 2$ ;
- Fix parameters in the action  $M_p \ell$ ,  $\kappa$  to match UV perturbative limit
- Obtain polarization functions numerically

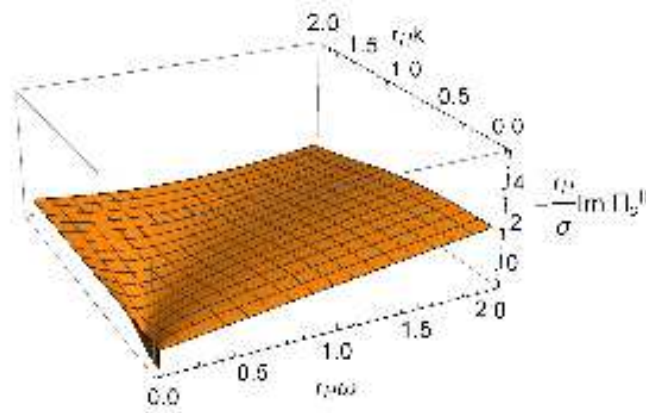
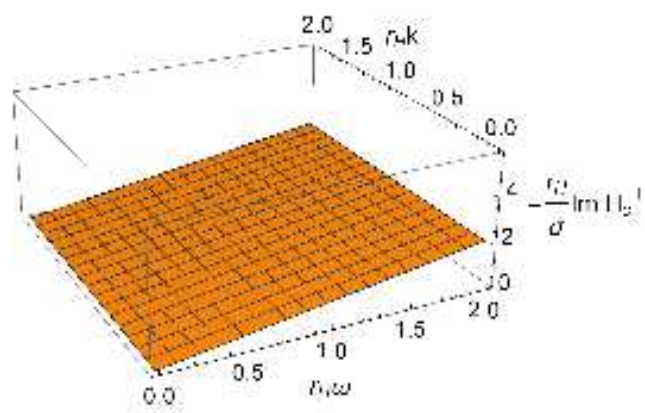


# Comparing with Hydro



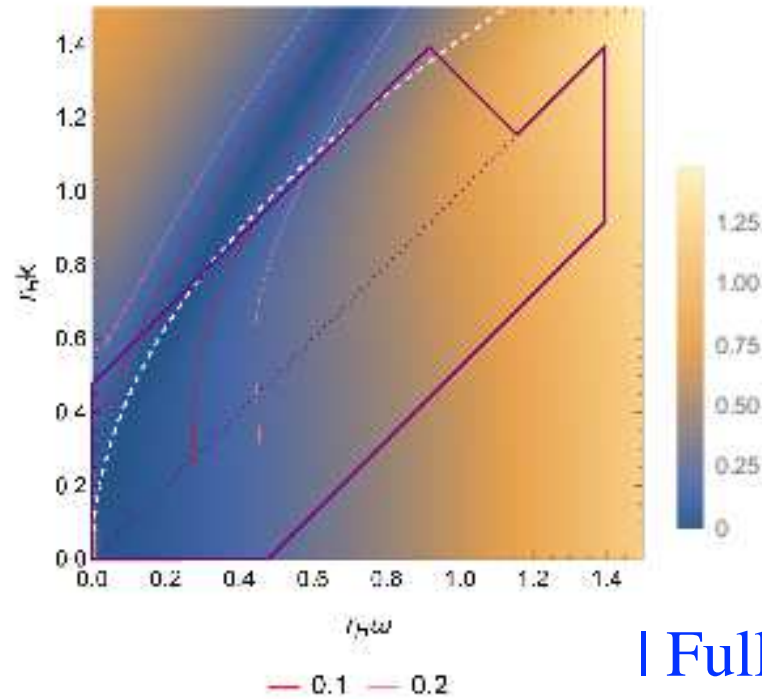
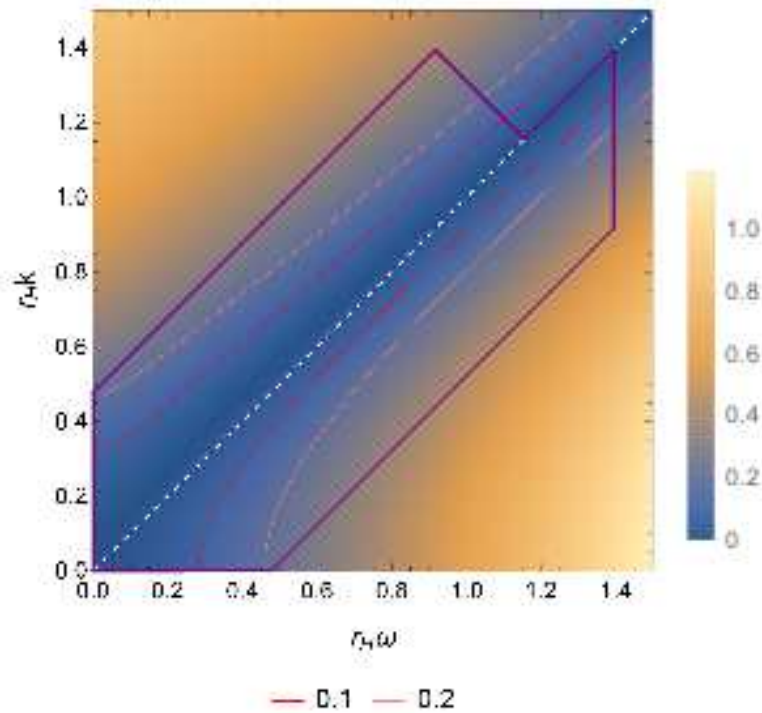
Full  
Correlator

$$\frac{\mu_q}{T} \simeq 65$$



Hydro  
Approximation

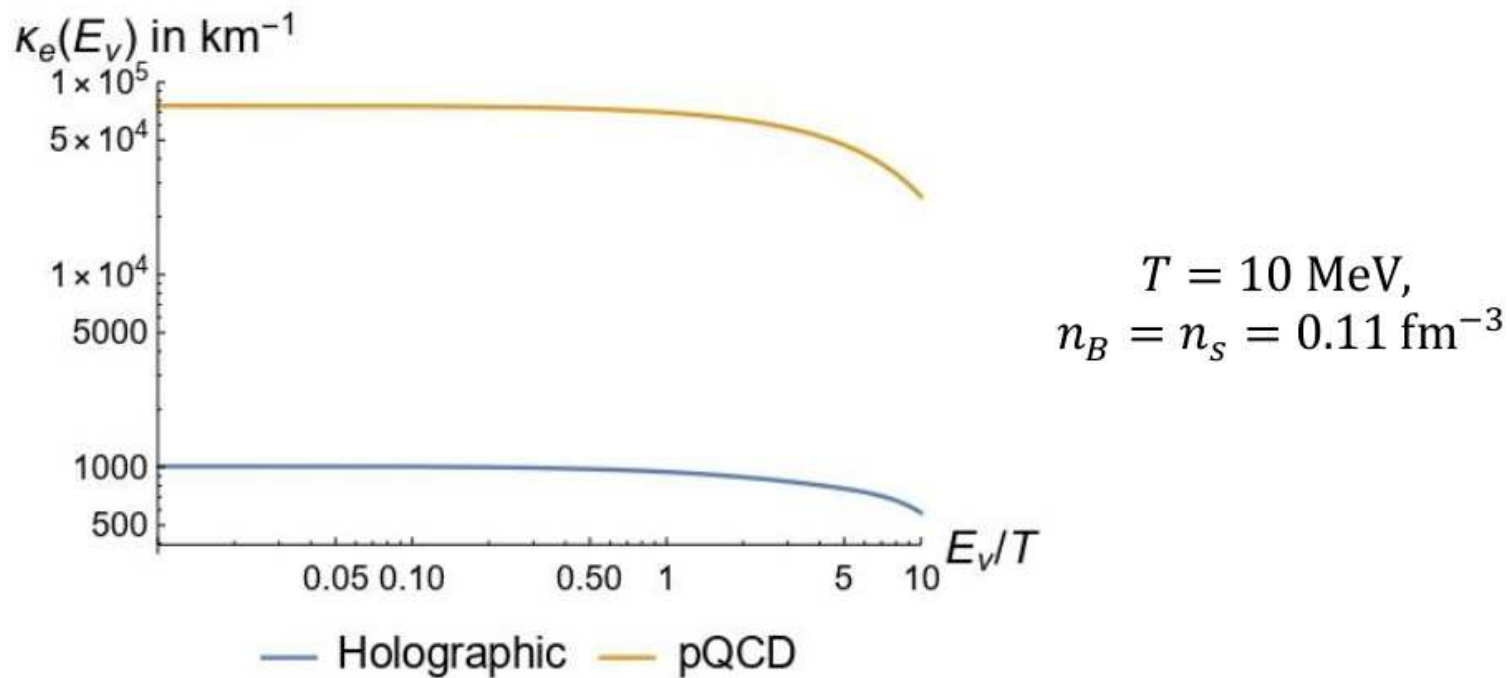
# Comparing with Hydro



| Full - Hydro |  
Hydro

# Neutrino Opacities

- Opacity  $\kappa(E_\nu)$ : relevant diffusion coefficient entering Boltzmann equation (obtained from integrated current-current correlator)



# Conclusion and future goals

- Holography can compute out-of-equilibrium current correlators in a strongly coupled dense medium, needed for neutrino transport
- So far:
  - conformal toy model
  - no isospin asymmetry

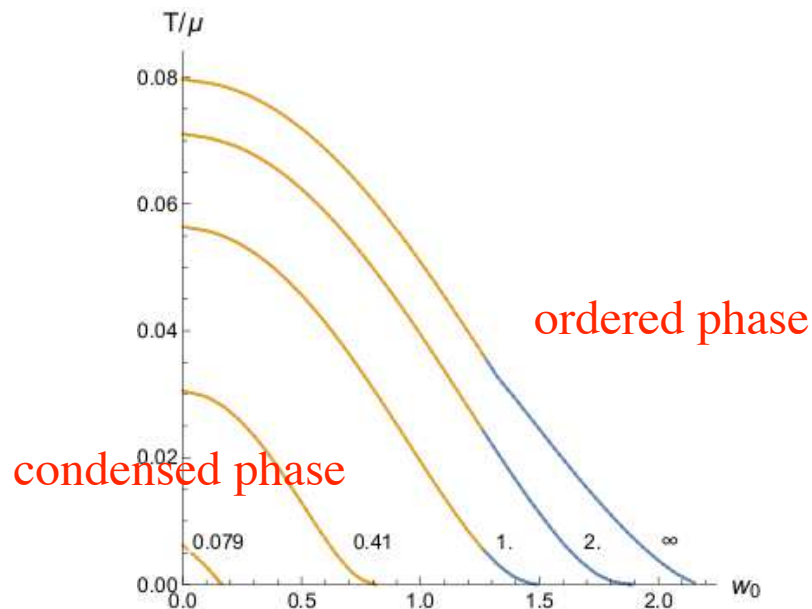
# Conclusion and future goals

- Holography can compute out-of-equilibrium current correlators in a strongly coupled dense medium, needed for neutrino transport
- So far:
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- Future:
  - Include isospin chemical potential (different phases may appear) ( in progress)
  - Extend the computation to neutral current contribution (this requires including bulk metric fluctuations) ( in progress)
  - Work in a **realistic holographic QCD model** such as V-QCD
  - Do the computation in the **confined (nucleonic) phase** ( under construction)

# Exotic phases

- Holography predicts *exotic phases* in the presence of both baryon **and** isospin chemical potential: condensation of a vector order parameter

Jarvinen, Kiritsis, FN, Préau, '24

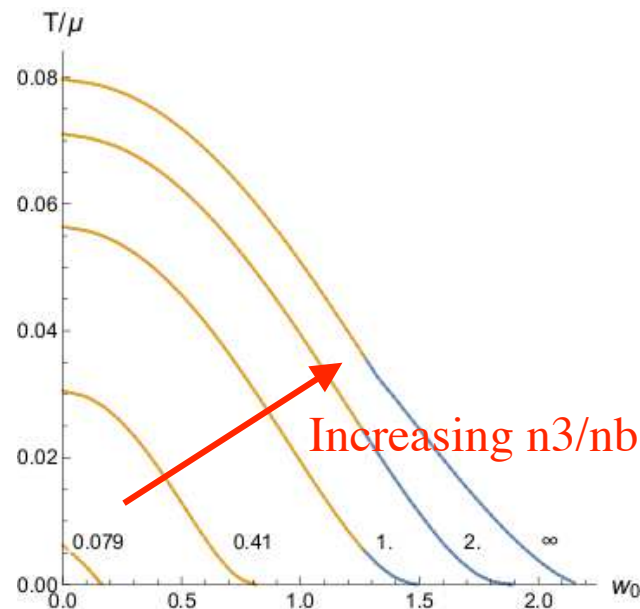


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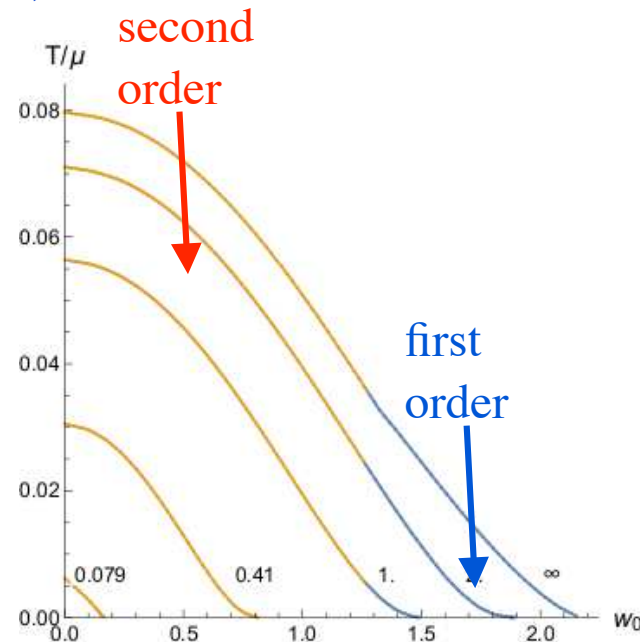


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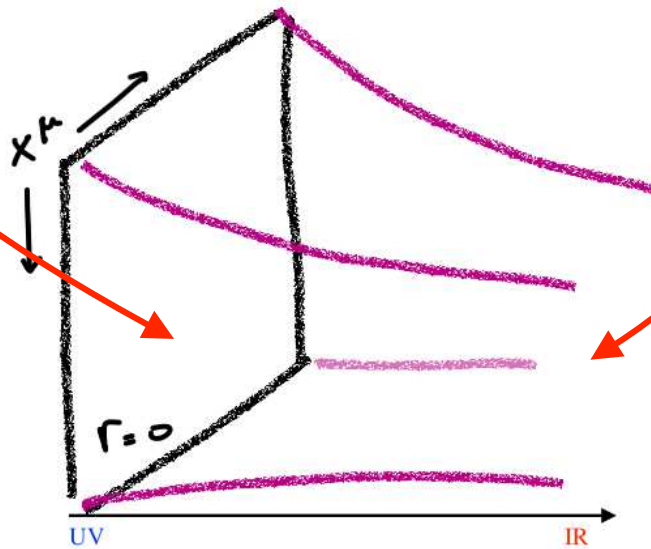
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# Confinement

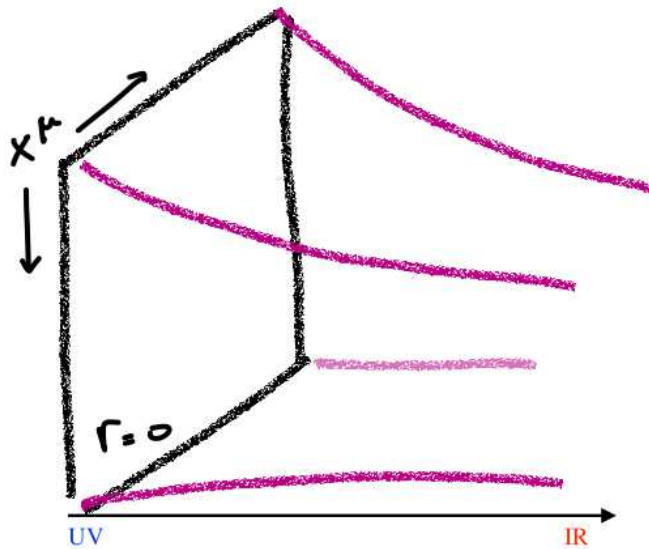
- UV of the QFT  $\Leftrightarrow$  near-boundary region
- IR of the QFT  $\Leftrightarrow$  interior



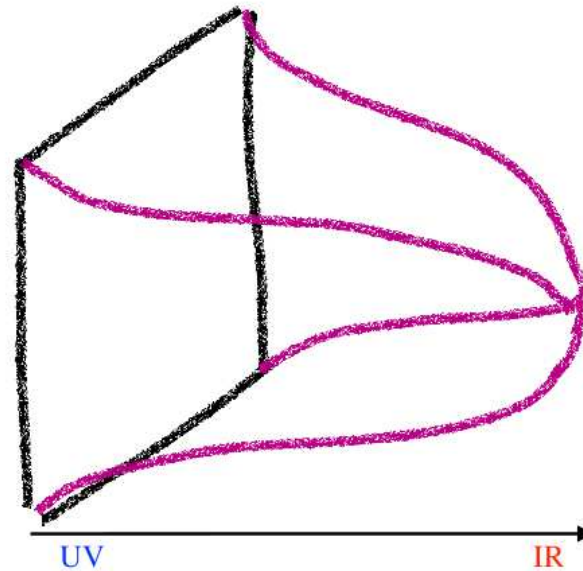
Conformal ( $AdS$  space)

# Confinement

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Conformal (*AdS* space)



Confining

- **Confinement** is associated to properties of the interior geometry.
- Interior dynamically determined by bulk EOM.

# Minimal holographic YM

- The bulk theory is five-dimensional ( $x^\mu$  + RG coordinate  $r$ )
- Include only lowest dimension YM operators ( $\Delta = 4$ )

| 4D Operator  |                   | Bulk field   | Coupling                     |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| $Tr F^2$     | $\Leftrightarrow$ | $\Phi$       | $N \int e^{-\Phi} Tr F^2$    |
| $T_{\mu\nu}$ | $\Leftrightarrow$ | $g_{\mu\nu}$ | $\int g_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}$ |

$\lambda = N g_{YM}^2 = e^\Phi$  (finite in the large  $N$  limit).

- Breaking of conformal symmetry, mass gap, confinement, and all non-perturbative dynamics driven by the dilaton dynamics (aka the Yang-Mills coupling).
- (Eventually: add axion field  $a \Rightarrow Tr F \tilde{F}$ )

# 5-D Einstein-Dilaton Theory

Gursoy, Kiritsis, FN, 2007

Bulk dynamics described by a 2-derivative action:

$$S_c = -M_p^3 N_c^2 \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[ R + \frac{4}{3} \frac{(\partial\lambda)^2}{\lambda^2} - V(\lambda) \right]$$

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- **IR:**  $\lambda$  large,  $e^A \rightarrow 0; \quad V(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{4/3} (\log \lambda)^{1/2}$
- Features: asymptotic freedom, confinement, discrete linear glueball spectrum, correct thermodynamics and phase diagram

# Five dimensional setup: Yang-Mills

The Poincaré-invariant vacuum solution has the general form:

$$ds^2 = e^{2A(r)}(dr^2 + dx_\mu dx^\mu), \quad \lambda = \lambda(r), \quad 0 < r < +\infty$$

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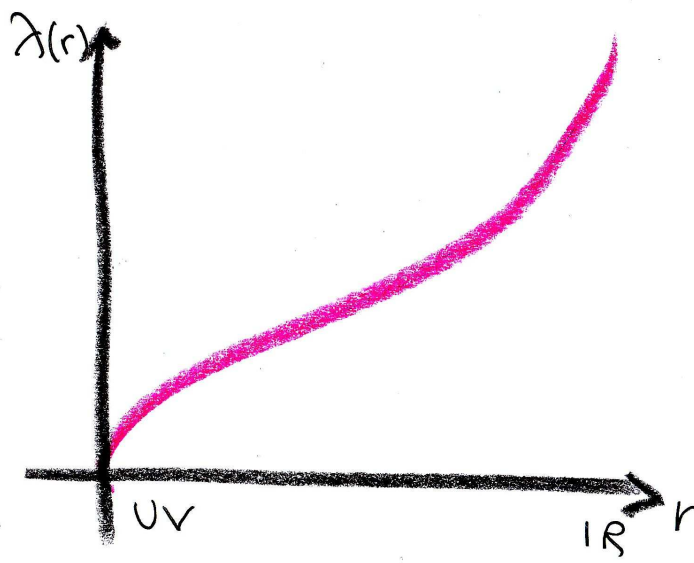
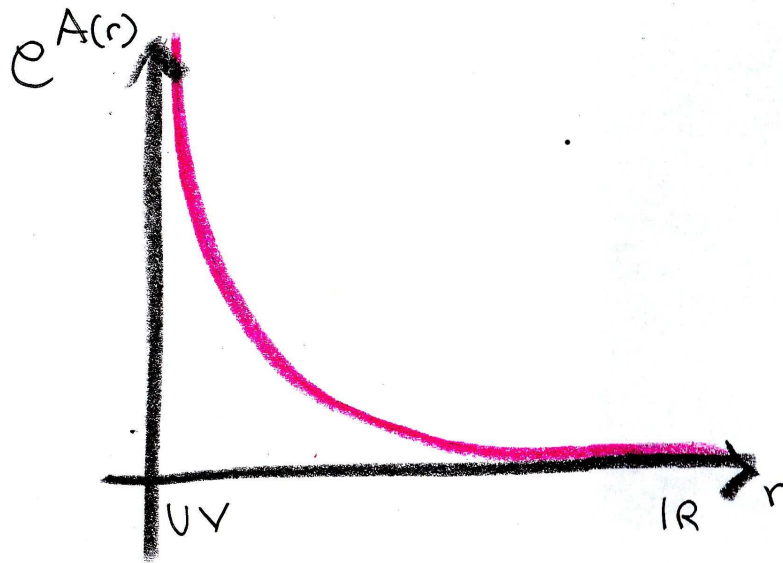
- $e^A(r) \propto$  4D energy scale
- $\lambda(r) \propto$  running 't Hooft coupling
- $A(r), \lambda(r)$  determined by solving bulk Einstein's equations.

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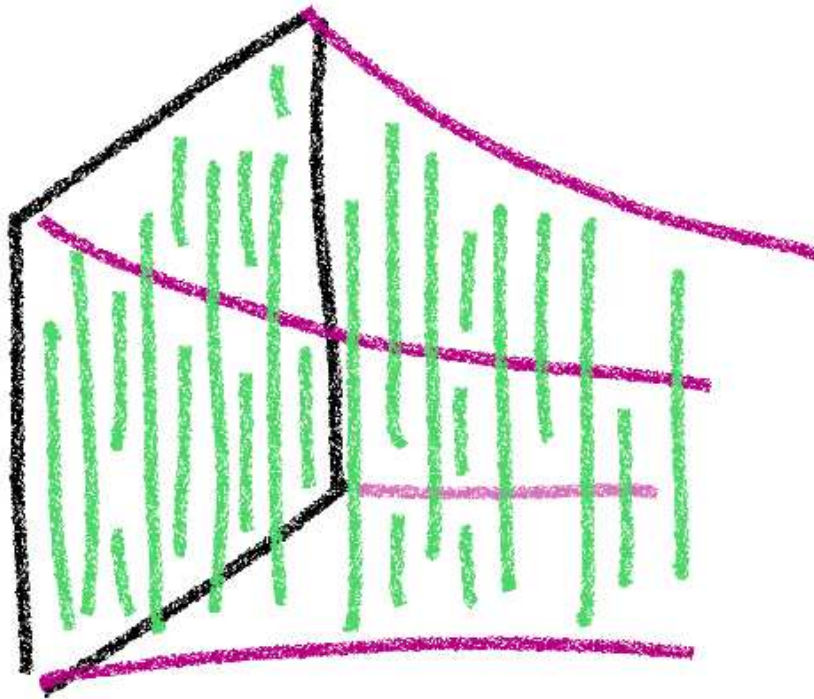
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# Adding Flavor: V-QCD

Jarvinen, Kiritsis 2011

$N_f$  quark flavors  $\Leftrightarrow N_f$  space-filling branes-antibranes.



# Adding Flavor: V-QCD

Jarvinen, Kiritsis 2011

Flavor brane worldvolume fields:

- $U(N_f)_L \times U(N_f)_R$  gauge fields

$$A_B^{a;L}, A_B^{a;R} \Leftrightarrow J_\mu^{a;L,R} \equiv \bar{q}^i \gamma_\mu (\tau^a)_i^j (1 \pm \gamma_5) q_j$$

$$a = 1 \dots N_f^2, \quad i, j = 1 \dots N_f$$

$$U_B(1) \text{ current} \Leftrightarrow \text{abelian vector } A_\mu^{(L)} + A_\mu^{(R)}$$

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- Bi-fundamental scalars Scalars

$$\mathcal{T}_j^i \Leftrightarrow \bar{q}^i q_j \quad m^2 = -3 \Leftrightarrow \Delta = 3$$

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$$S_{VQCD} = S_c + S_{DBI} + S_{CS}$$

## Action: DBI term

$$S_{DBI} = -M_p^3 N_c \text{Tr} \int d^5x V_f(\lambda, \mathcal{T}^\dagger \mathcal{T}) \left[ \sqrt{-\det \mathbf{A}^{(L)}} + \sqrt{-\det \mathbf{A}^{(R)}} \right]$$

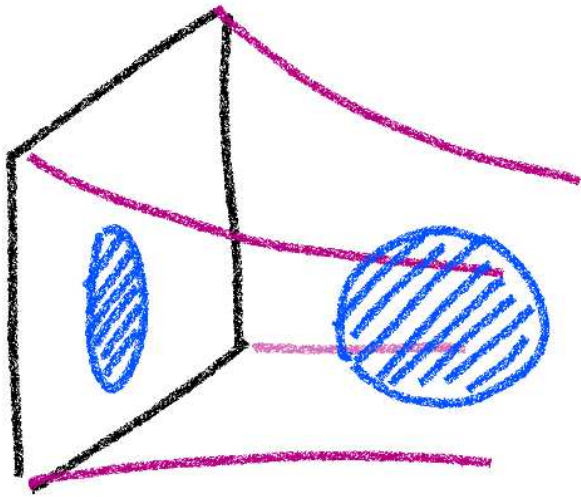
$$\mathbf{A}_{ab} = g_{ab} + w(\lambda, \mathcal{T}^\dagger \mathcal{T}) F_{ab} + \kappa(\lambda, \mathcal{T}^\dagger \mathcal{T}) (D_a \mathcal{T})^\dagger D_b \mathcal{T} + h.c.$$

To quadratic order:

$$S_{DBI} \simeq M_p^3 N_c \int d^5x V_f w^2 \left( \text{Tr} F_L^2 + \text{Tr} F_R^2 \right)$$

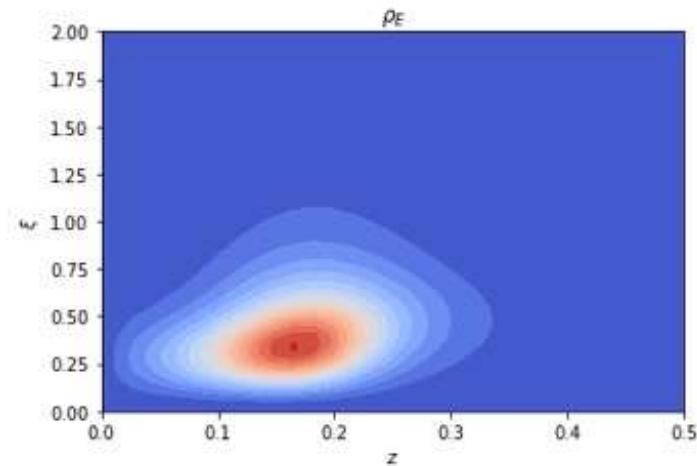
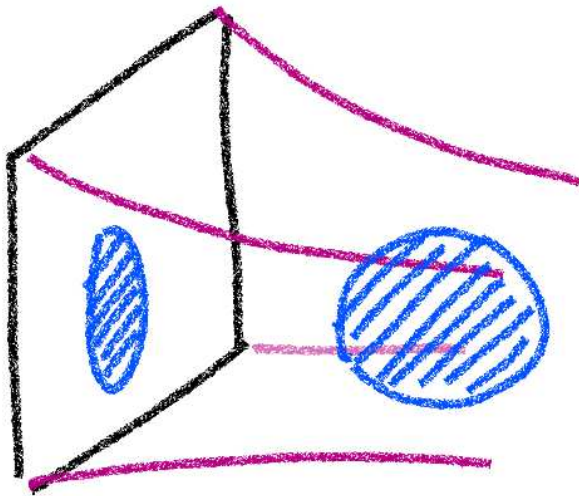
# Baryonic phase

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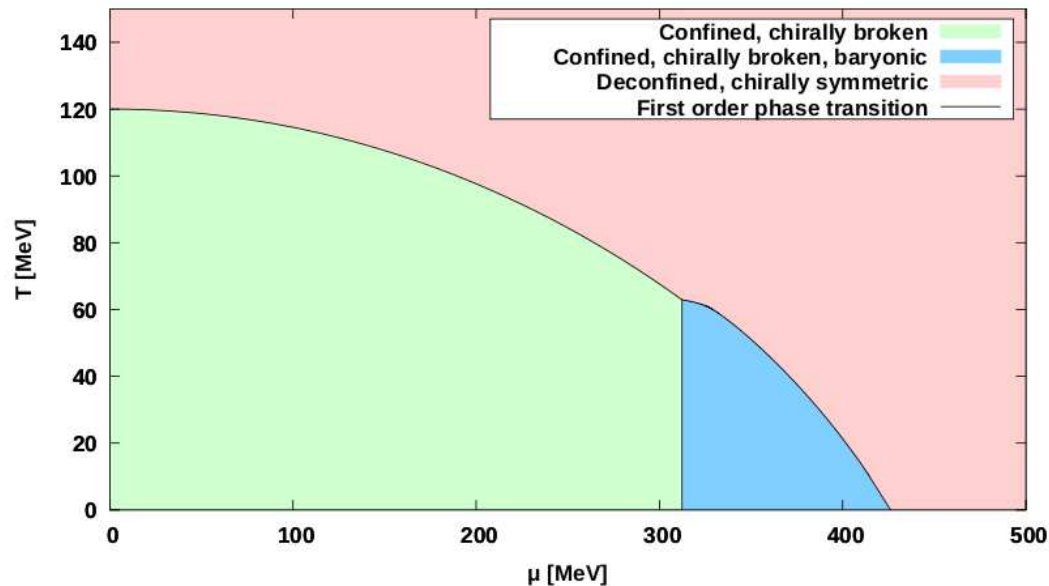


- V-QCD Baryon constructed numerically [Järvinen, Kiritsis, FN, Préau, '22](#)
- In progress: multi-baryon fluid/solid (**not** a black hole)

# Effective/hybrid models

- Effective holographic description of baryonic matter in V-QCD

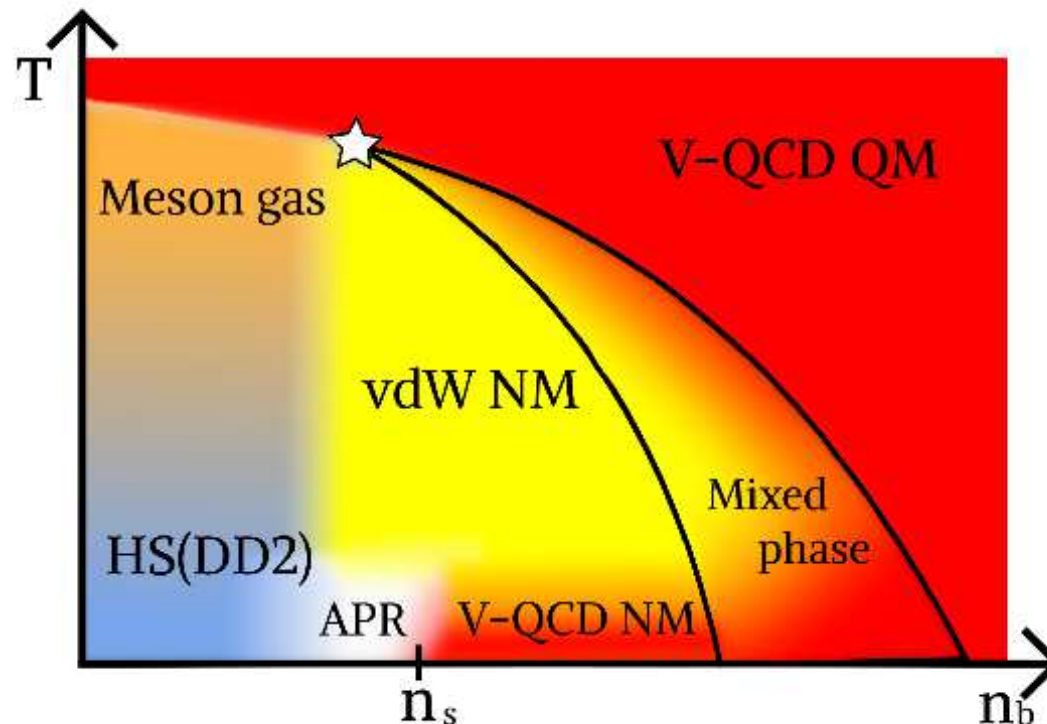
Ishii, Järvinen, Nijs, '19.



Baryon distribution realized in the bulk as a homogeneous thin layer.

# Effective/hybrid models

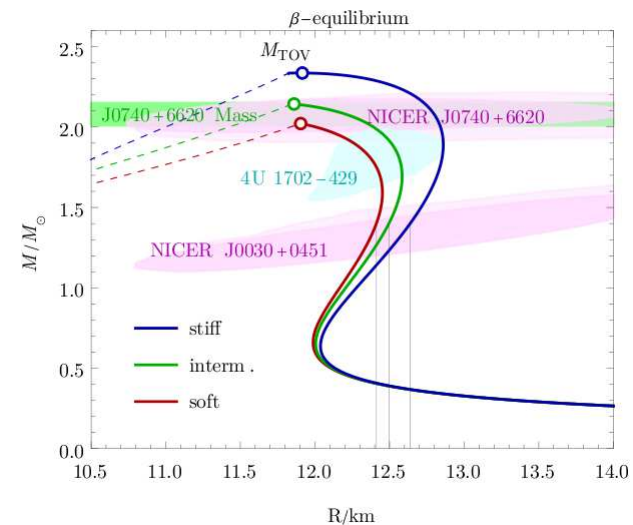
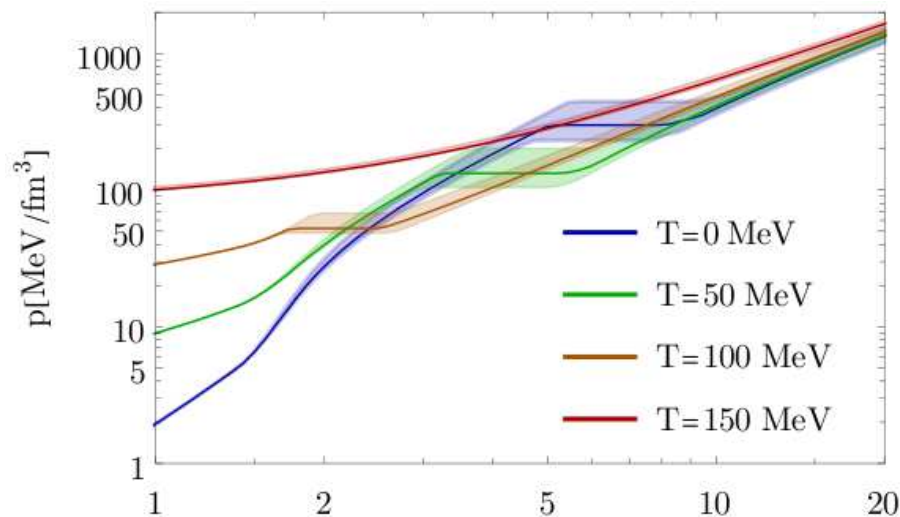
- State of the art **Hybrid model** Demircik, Ecker, Järvinen, '21



Baryonic phase EoS at finite  $T$  described by a VdW model

# Neutron Star EoS

- Zero and finite temperature EoS from low to high density (hadronic to deconfined) [Demircik, Ecker, Järvinen, '21](#).



- Static EoS too stiff to support deconfined core. However...