Quantum matter and gauge-gravity duality

2013 Arnold Sommerfeld School, Munich, August 5-9, 2013

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Phase diagram at non-zero temperatures



Phase diagram at non-zero temperatures



Phase diagram at non-zero temperatures



Non-zero temperatures

At the quantum-critical point at one-loop order, we can set m = 0, and then repeat the computation in Eq. (2) at T > 0. This only requires replacing the integral over the loop frequency by a summation over the Matsubara frequencies, which are quantized by odd multiples of πT . Such a computation, via Eq. (4) leads to the conductivity

$$\operatorname{Re}[\sigma(\omega)] = (2T \ln 2) \,\delta(\omega) + \frac{1}{4} \tanh\left(\frac{|\omega|}{4T}\right); \quad (7)$$

the imaginary part of $\sigma(\omega)$ is the Hilbert transform of $\operatorname{Re}[\sigma(\omega)] - 1/4$. Note that this reduces to Eq. (5) in the limit $\omega \gg T$. However, the most important new feature of Eq. (7) arises for $\omega \ll T$, where we find a delta function at zero frequency in the real part. Thus the d.c. conductivity is infinite at this order, arising from the collisionless transport of thermally excited carriers.

Electrical transport in a free CFT3 for T > 0











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).

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Zaanen: Planckian dissipation

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 particle)

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)

AdS/CFT correspondence



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Consider a CFT in D space-time dimensions with a scalar operator $O(\mathbf{x})$ with scaling dimension Δ . This is presumed to be equivalent to a dual gravity theory on AdS_{D+1} with action S_{bulk} . The CFT and the bulk theory are related by the GKPW ansatz

$$\int \mathcal{D}\phi \exp\left(-\mathcal{S}_{\text{bulk}}\right) \bigg|_{\text{bdy}} = \left\langle \exp\left(\int d^D x \,\phi_0(\boldsymbol{x}) O(\boldsymbol{x})\right) \right\rangle_{\text{CFT}}$$

where the boundary condition is

$$\lim_{r \to 0} \phi(\boldsymbol{x}, r) = r^{D - \Delta} \phi_0(\boldsymbol{x}).$$

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$$\lim_{r\to 0}\phi(\boldsymbol{x},r)=r^{D-\Delta}\phi_0(\boldsymbol{x}).$$

We consider the simplest case of a single scalar field, where the bulk action is

$$S_{\text{bulk}} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^{D+1}x \sqrt{g} \left[g^{ab} \partial_a \phi \partial_b \phi + m^2 \phi^2 \right]$$

where g_{ab} is the AdS_{D+1} metric (we are working with a Euclidean signature, and a, b extend over D + 1 dimensions) and $g = \det(g_{ab})$. After Fourier transforming space-time co-ordinates to momenta \mathbf{k} , the saddle-point equation for $\phi(\mathbf{k}, r)$ is

$$-r^{D-1}\frac{d}{dr}\left(\frac{1}{r^{D-1}}\frac{d\phi}{dr}\right) + \left(k^2 + \frac{m^2}{r^2}\right)\phi = 0.$$

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This equation has two solutions as $r \to 0$, with $\phi \sim r^{\Delta}$ or $\phi \sim r^{D-\Delta}$ where

$$\Delta = \frac{D}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{D^2}{4}} + m^2.$$

We will choose the positive sign in the manipulations below, but the final results hold for both signs. The complete solution of the saddle-point equation with the needed boundary condition can be written as

$$\phi(\mathbf{k}, r) = G_{\text{bulk}-\text{bdy}}(k, r)\phi_0(\mathbf{k})$$

where

$$G_{\text{bulk-bdy}}(k,r) = \frac{2^{1-\Delta+D/2}}{\Gamma(\Delta-D/2)} k^{\Delta-D/2} r^{D/2} K_{\Delta-D/2}(kr)$$

where $K_{\Delta-D/2}$ is a modified Bessel function.

Next, it is useful to obtain the bulk-bulk Green's function by inverting the operator in the equation of motion. A standard computation yields

$$G_{\text{bulk-bulk}}(k, r_1, r_2) = (r_1 r_2)^{D/2} I_{\Delta - D/2}(kr_{<}) K_{\Delta - D/2}(kr_{>})$$

where $r_{<}(r_{>})$ is the smaller (larger) or $r_{1,2}$. This bulk-bulk Green's function is evaluated in the absence of any sources on the boundary, and so we have to impose

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the boundary condition $\phi(\mathbf{k}, r) \sim r^{\Delta}$ as $r \to 0$ in solving the saddle-point equation. The utility of this bulk-bulk Green's function is that it now allows us to extend our results to include interactions in S_{bulk} by the usual Feynman graph expansion. We can account for the presence of the boundary source $\phi_0(\mathbf{k})$ in the CFT by imagining there is a corresponding bulk source field $J_0(\mathbf{k}, r)$ which is localized at very small values of r. Then this bulk source field will generate a bulk $\phi(\mathbf{k}, r)$ via the propagator $G_{\text{bulk-bulk}}$. We now note that

$$\lim_{r_2 \to 0} G_{\text{bulk-bulk}}(k, r_1, r_2) = \frac{r_2^{\Delta}}{(2\Delta - D)} G_{\text{bulk-bdy}}(k, r_1).$$

This is a key relation which shows us that functional derivatives of the full action w.r.t. $J_0(\mathbf{k}, r)$ (which yield bulk-bulk correlation functions) are the *same* as functional derivatives w.r.t. $\phi_0(\mathbf{k})$ (which yield correlators of the CFT). This yields the second statement of the equivalence between the bulk and boundary theories

$$\langle O(\boldsymbol{x}_1) \dots O(\boldsymbol{x}_n) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} = Z^n \lim_{r \to 0} r_1^{-\Delta} \dots r_n^{-\Delta} \langle \phi(\boldsymbol{x}_1, r_1) \dots \phi(\boldsymbol{x}_n, r_n) \rangle_{\text{bulk}}$$

where the "wave function renormalization" factor $Z = (2\Delta - D)$. Note that this relationship holds for arbitrary bulk actions, and permits full quantum fluctuations in the bulk theory. Also, both correlators are evaluated in the absence of external sources; for the bulk theory this means that we have the boundary condition

 $\phi(\mathbf{k}, r) \sim r^{\Delta}$ as $r \to 0$. From this general relation we can evaluate the two-point correlator of the CFT for the case of a bulk Gaussian action:

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$$\langle O(\boldsymbol{k})O(-\boldsymbol{k})\rangle_{\rm CFT} = Z^2 \lim_{r \to 0} (r)^{-2\Delta} G_{\rm bulk-bulk}(k,r,r)$$

=
$$\lim_{r \to 0} (2\Delta - D)r^{-(2\Delta - D)} - (2\Delta - D)\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)^{2\Delta - D} \frac{\Gamma(1 - \Delta + D/2)}{\Gamma(1 + \Delta - D/2)}$$

The first term is divergent, but it is independent of k: so it does not contribute to the long-distance correlations of the CFT, and can be dropped. The second term has the singular dependence $\sim k^{2\Delta-D}$, which is just as expected for a field with scaling dimension Δ , for the Fourier transformation yields

$$\langle O(\boldsymbol{x}_1)O(\boldsymbol{x}_2)
angle_{\mathrm{CFT}}\sim |\boldsymbol{x}_1-\boldsymbol{x}_2|^{-2\Delta}.$$

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The final formulation of the bulk-boundary correspondence appears by using the above relations for arbitrary multi-point correlators in the absence of a source, to make a statement for the one-point function in the presence of a source, working to all orders in the source and all bulk interactions. As we noted earlier, the CFT source $\phi_0(\mathbf{k})$ can be simulated by a source $J_0(\mathbf{k}, r)$ which is localized near the boundary but acts on the bulk theory. Because of the identity above between the source-free correlators, we can conclude that $\langle O(\mathbf{x}) \rangle$ equals $Z \lim_{r \to 0} r^{-\Delta} \langle \phi(\mathbf{x}, r) \rangle$. However, we have to remember that the source $J_0(\mathbf{k}, r)$ is actually realized by a boundary condition on $\phi(\mathbf{x}, r)$, and so the complete statement is

$$\lim_{r \to 0} \langle \phi(\boldsymbol{x}, r) \rangle = r^{D-\Delta} \phi_0(\boldsymbol{x}) + \frac{r^{\Delta}}{Z} \langle O(\boldsymbol{x}) \rangle,$$

in the presence of the source $\phi_0(\boldsymbol{x})$. Note that this result is not just linear response, and holds to all orders in the source; it also allows for arbitrary bulk interactions and quantum fluctuations. It can be checked that it is indeed obeyed by the correlators above of the Gaussian theory. This relationship is frequently used in practice, because it is often straightforward to implement, especially when we are using the classical saddle-point approximation for the bulk theory. Then we simply have to extract the subleading behavior in $\phi(\boldsymbol{x}, r)$ as $r \to 0$ to extract the full non-linear response function to the perturbation $\phi_0(\boldsymbol{x})$ to the CFT.

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A similar analysis can be applied to operators of the CFT with non-zero Lorentz spin. Of particular interest to are correlators of a conserved current, J_{μ} , associated with a global 'flavor' symmetry, and the conserved stress energy tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$.

We couple the conserved current to a source a_{μ} and so are interested in evaluating

$$\mathcal{Z}(a_{\mu}) = \left\langle \exp\left(\int d^{D}x \, a_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}) J_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x})\right) \right\rangle_{\text{CFT}}$$

The conservation law $\partial_{\mu} J_{\mu} = 0$ now implies that this partition function is invariant under the gauge transformation $a_{\mu} \rightarrow a_{\mu} + \partial_{\mu} \alpha$. So the bulk field dual to a (say) U(1) conserved current J_{μ} is a U(1) gauge field, which we denote $A_a(\boldsymbol{x}, r)$. We assume the gauge field has a Maxwell action

$$\mathcal{S}_M = \frac{1}{4g_M^2} \int d^{D+1}x \sqrt{g} F_{ab} F^{ab}$$

plus other possible gauge couplings to the bulk fields. By an analysis very similar to the scalar field, we can establish the following bulk-boundary correspondences

$$\begin{split} \lim_{r \to 0} \langle A_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}, r) \rangle &= a_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}) + \frac{r^{D-2}}{Zg_{M}^{-2}} \langle J_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}) \rangle \\ \lim_{r \to 0} \langle A_{r}(\boldsymbol{x}, r) \rangle &= 0 \\ \langle J_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}_{1}) \dots J_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{x}_{n}) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} &= (Zg_{M}^{-2})^{n} \lim_{r \to 0} r_{1}^{2-D} \dots r_{n}^{2-D} \langle A_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}_{1}, r_{1}) \dots A_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{x}_{n}, r_{n}) \rangle_{\text{bulk}} \end{split}$$

with Z = D - 2. Working with only the Maxwell action these relations yield

$$\left\langle J_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{k}) J_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{k}) \right\rangle_{\rm CFT} = \frac{(D-2)}{g_M^2} \frac{\Gamma(2-D/2)}{\Gamma(D/2)} \left(\frac{k}{2}\right)^{D-2} \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{k_{\mu}k_{\nu}}{k^2}\right)$$

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This is precisely the expected form for the correlator of a conserved current in a CFT in D space-time dimensions. For the case D = 3 it has the expected form

$$\langle J_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{k}) J_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{k}) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} = \mathcal{K} k \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{k_{\mu}k_{\nu}}{k^2} \right)$$

with

$$\mathcal{K} = \frac{1}{g_M^2}.$$

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A similar analysis can be applied to the stress-energy tensor of the CFT, $T_{\mu\nu}$. Its conjugate field must be a spin-2 field which is invariant under gauge transformations: it is natural to identify this with the metric of the bulk theory. Now the needed partition function is

$$\mathcal{Z}(\chi_{\mu\nu}) = \left\langle \exp\left(\int d^D x \,\chi_{\mu\nu}(\boldsymbol{x}) T_{\mu\nu}(\boldsymbol{x})\right) \right\rangle_{\rm CFT}$$

and the source is related to the metric g_{ab} via

$$\lim_{r \to 0} g_{rr} = \frac{L^2}{r^2}$$
$$\lim_{r \to 0} g_{r\mu} = 0$$
$$\lim_{r \to 0} g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{L^2}{r^2} \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} + \chi_{\mu\nu} \right)$$
The bulk-boundary correspondence is now given by
$$T_{\mu\nu}(\boldsymbol{x}_1) \dots T_{\rho\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x}_n) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} = \left(\frac{ZL^2}{\kappa^2} \right)^n \lim_{r \to 0} r_1^{-D} \dots r_n^{-D} \left\langle \chi_{\mu\nu}(\boldsymbol{x}_1, r_1) \dots \chi_{\rho\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x}_n, r_n) \right\rangle_{\text{bu}}$$

with Z = D. Applying this prescription to the Einstein action, we obtain in D = 3

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$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(\boldsymbol{k})T_{\rho\sigma}(-\boldsymbol{k})\rangle_{\rm CFT} = C_T |k|^3 \left(\delta_{\mu\rho}\delta_{\nu\sigma} + \delta_{\nu\rho}\delta_{\mu\sigma} - \delta_{\mu\nu}\delta_{\rho\sigma} + \delta_{\mu\nu}\frac{k_\rho k_\sigma}{k^2} + \delta_{\rho\sigma}\frac{k_\mu k_\nu}{k^2} - \delta_{\mu\rho}\frac{k_\nu k_\sigma}{k^2} - \delta_{\mu\sigma}\frac{k_\nu k_\rho}{k^2} - \delta_{\nu\sigma}\frac{k_\mu k_\rho}{k^2} - \delta_{\nu\sigma}\frac{k_\mu k_\rho}{k^2} - \delta_{\nu\sigma}\frac{k_\mu k_\rho}{k^2} + \frac{k_\mu k_\nu k_\rho k_\sigma}{k^4} \right)$$

This is the most-general form expected for any CFT, and the "central charge" is related to a dimensionless combination of the gravitational constant and the AdS radius

$$\mathcal{C}_T \propto rac{L^2}{2\kappa^2}.$$

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So, to recapitulate, we have equated the correlators of the CFT3 to a bulk theory on AdS_4 with the Einstein-Hilbert action

$$\mathcal{S} = \frac{1}{4g_M^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} F_{ab} F^{ab} + \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left[-\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \left(R + \frac{6}{L^2} \right) \right]$$

This action is characterized by two dimensionless parameters: g_M and L^2/κ^2 . These parameters determine, respectively, the two-point correlators of a conserved U(1) current J_{μ} and the stress-energy tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$.

However, this action is non-linear, and it also implies non-zero multipoint correlators of these operators, even at tree-level in the bulk theory. For the simplest 3-point correlator, a lengthy computation from the bulk theory yields

$$\langle J_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{k}_{1}) J_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{k}_{2}) T_{\rho\sigma}(-\boldsymbol{k}_{1}-\boldsymbol{k}_{2}) \rangle \sim \frac{k_{1}k_{2}}{(k_{1}+k_{2})^{5}} k_{1\mu}k_{1\nu}k_{1\rho}k_{1\sigma} + 175 \text{ terms}$$

with co-efficients determined by g_M and L^2/κ^2 .

We can now compare this 3-point correlator with that obtained by direct computation on a CFT3. A general analysis of the constraints from conformal invariance (Osborn and Petkou, 1993) shows that this 3-point correlator is fully determined by the values \mathcal{K} , C_T , and *one* additional dimensionless constant which is characteristic of the CFT3.

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To fix this additional constant by the bulk theory, we have to go beyond the Einstein-Maxwell action. This action is the simplest action with up to 2 derivatives of the bulk fields. So, in the spirit of effectively field theory, let us now include all terms up to 4 derivatives. We want to work in linear response for the conserved current, and so we exclude terms which have more than 2 powers of F_{ab} . Then, up to some field redefinitions, there turns out to be a unique 4 derivative term, and the extend action of the bulk theory now becomes

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{bulk}} = \frac{1}{g_M^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left[\frac{1}{4} F_{ab} F^{ab} + \gamma L^2 C_{abcd} F^{ab} F^{cd} \right] + \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left[-\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \left(R + \frac{6}{L^2} \right) \right]$$

where C_{abcd} is the Weyl tensor. Now we have a new dimensionless parameter, γ ; stability constraints on this action restrict $|\gamma| < 1/12$. The Weyl tensor vanishes on the AdS metric, and consequently γ does not modify the previous results on the 2point correlators of J_{μ} and $T_{\mu\nu}$. However, γ does change the structure of the 3-point correlator. We computed γ in a large-flavor-number expansion for a class of CFT3s (D. Chowdhury, S. Raju, S. Sachdev, A Singh, and P. Strack, arXiv:1210.5247), and found $\gamma = 1/12$ for free fermions, $\gamma = -1/12$ for free scalars, and $\gamma = 1/12$ for the topological current of the U(1) gauge field in the Abelian Higgs model.

It is clear that similar results apply at higher orders: matching higher multipoint correlators of the CFT requires higher derivative terms in the effective bulk theory.

AdS₄-Schwarzschild black-brane



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A 2+1 dimensional system at its quantum critical point: $k_B T = \frac{3\hbar}{4\pi R}$.

Black-brane at temperature of 2+1 dimensional quantum critical system

Friction of quantum criticality = waves falling into black brane

At non-zero temperatures, we consider a Euclidean metric with a horizon at r = R:

$$ds^{2} = \left(\frac{L}{r}\right)^{2} \left[\frac{dr^{2}}{f(r)} + f(r)d\tau^{2} + dx^{2} + dy^{2}\right]$$

with $f(r) = 1 - (r/R)^3$; note f(R) = 0. In the near horizon region we define z = R - r and write this metric as

$$ds^{2} = \left(\frac{L}{R}\right)^{2} \left[\frac{dz^{2}}{|f'(R)|z} + |f'(R)|z \, d\tau^{2} + dx^{2} + dy^{2}\right]$$

Now we introduce co-ordinates $\rho = 2\sqrt{z/|f'(R)|}$ and $\theta = 2\pi T\tau$, and then the metric is

$$ds^{2} = \left(\frac{L}{R}\right)^{2} \left[d\rho^{2} + \left(\frac{f'(R)}{4\pi T}\right)^{2}\rho^{2}d\theta^{2} + dx^{2} + dy^{2}\right]$$

Now if we choose the Hawking temperature

$$T = \frac{|f'(R)|}{4\pi}$$

then the spacetime is periodic under $\tau \to \tau + 1/T$, and there is no singularity at the horizon.

Computing conductivity at non-zero temperatures

In Euclidean signature, all the correspondences between the bulk and boundary correlators remain exactly the same as before. We need only add the additional requirement that the bulk solutions remain integrable at the horizon.

However, it is often convenient to work directly in real time and frequencies, and obtain the corresponding response functions directly, rather than by analytic continuation. It can be shown that the process of analytic continuation translates into the requirement of *in-going waves* at the horizon. The only other change in the equations is due to the change in the metric from AdS_4 to AdS_4 -Schwarzschild, via the factor f(r).

In terms of the co-ordinate u = r/R, the equation for $A_x(u)$ in the presence of a probe oscillating at frequency ω is

$$A''_{x} + \frac{f'(3 - 2u^{2}\gamma f'') - 2u\gamma f(2f'' + uf''')}{f(3 - 2u^{2}\gamma f'')}A'_{x} + \frac{L^{4}}{R^{2}}\frac{\omega^{2}}{f^{2}}A_{x} = 0,$$

where the primes are derivatives w.r.t u. Solution of this equation, subject to the boundary conditions discussed earlier yields the conductivity.

AdS4 theory of electrical transport in a strongly interacting CFT3 for T > 0



AdS4 theory of electrical transport in a strongly interacting CFT3 for T > 0



Electrical transport in a free CFT3 for T > 0





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



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The holographic solutions for the conductivity are found to satisfy two sum rules (W. Witzack-Krempa and S. Sachdev, arXiv:1210.4166)

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} d\omega \operatorname{Re} \left[\sigma(\omega) - \sigma(\infty) \right] = 0$$
$$\int_{0}^{\infty} d\omega \operatorname{Re} \left[\frac{1}{\sigma(\omega)} - \frac{1}{\sigma(\infty)} \right] = 0$$

These sum rules are expected to be obeyed by all CFT3s. The second sum rule follows from the existence of a S-dual CFT3, whose conductivity is the inverse of the conductivity of the original CFT3.

Traditional Boltzmann theory computations make a choice of a "particle" basis at the outset: consequently they satisfy only *one* sum rule but not the other.

The holographic computation is unique in that it satisfies *both* sum rules. It does not bias the theory to either the particle or vortex basis: it starts from the self-dual point, and is able to expand away from it using the small value of the parameter γ .

* Simulate O(2) QCP (via loop model & quant. rotors)

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Finite-T but imaginary time...

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Finite-T but imaginary time...

Analytic continuation difficult!



* Bose-Hubbard has particle-like transport

* Bose-Hubbard has particle-like transport

* $\tilde{\sigma}(0)/\sigma(\infty)$ in agreement with (naive) holographic bound

"Holographic continuation"

"Holographic continuation"

Physical conductivity

Before / After

Smakov & Sorensen PRL 05

Before / After

Smakov & Sorensen PRL 05 Using holography (b) 0.8 0.8 L₇ 32 L_{τ} 40 L_{τ} 48 0.6 0.6 $L_{\tau} 64$ 0.4 (L/m) $\sigma'(\omega)$ SSE 0.4 0.2 0.2 0.0 0 20 25 40 60 50 0 75 0 ω/T ω/T

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Compute scattering matrix elements of quasiparticles (or of collective modes)

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Solve Einsten-Maxwell-... equations, allowing for a horizon at non-zero temperatures.