

**Three tales on boundary  
action in AdS/CFT  
correspondence**

**Berry phases, gauge fields and non-  
canonical Hamiltonian systems**

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# AdS/CFT in a nutshell



J. Maldacena



S. Gubser



I. Klebanov



E. Witten

- Second superstring revolution: a web of dualities (Maldacena 1997, Gubser, Klebanov & Polyakov 1998, Witten 1998)
- Stack of  $N$  parallel D3 branes: open vs. closed string description
- Open strings:  $N=4$   $U(N)$  super Yang-Mills
- Closed strings: type IIB supergravity on anti-de Sitter space

$$\text{AdS}_{D+1} \sim \text{CFT}_D$$

gravity in  $D+1$  dimensions = field theory in  $D$  dimensions



# Top-down and bottom-up

## ***Top-down***

- Original 1997 papers
- Start from consistent string theory action
- Know the Lagrangian and degrees of freedom on both sides
- Parameters generally fixed
- Harder to modify, add matter fields, play around

## ***Bottom-up***

- Most applied holography (cond-mat, QCD, fluids)
- Phenomenological theory in AdS, no string action
- In general don't know the field theory Lagrangian
- Free parameters

# Anti-de-Sitter space: a reminder

- $\text{AdS}_{D+1}$  – maximally symmetric with constant curvature  $< 0$
- Immerse as a hyperboloid in  $R^{D,2}$ :  $X_0^2 + X_{D+1}^2 - X_i X^i = L^2$
- Isometry group:  $SO(2, D) \sim$  conformal group in  $R^{D-1,1}$
- Global coordinates:

$$ds^2 = - \frac{dt^2}{\cos^2 \theta} + \frac{d\theta^2}{\cos^2 \theta} + \tan^2 \theta d\Omega_{D-1}^2 \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$$

- Poincare patch (blow-up around the boundary):

$$ds^2 = \frac{-dt^2 + dx_i dx^i + dz^2}{z^2}, \quad 0 \leq z \leq \infty$$



# Holographic dictionary I

- GKPW prescription for correlation functions (Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov, Witten):

$$\langle e^{\int d^D x \varphi_0(x) O(x)} \rangle_{CFT} = Z_{AdS}(\varphi(x; z=0) = \varphi_0(x))$$

Generating function for the correlation functions in CFT is the partition function in AdS with appropriate boundary conditions

$\varphi(x, z)$  - bulk field;  $O(x)$  - CFT field

- On-shell action  $\leftrightarrow$  free energy:  $e^{-\beta F} = \langle e^{-S_{bulk} - S_{bnd}} \rangle_{AdS}$

Boundary values of fields in AdS = sources of fields in CFT

# Outline

- *The idea:*

**Bottom-up construction leaves the surface term of the AdS action non-unique. What does it mean?**

- Dirac fermion in global AdS and the holographic Berry phase
- Phase diagram – strongly coupled Dirac cones and beyond
- Non-canonical Hamiltonian systems
- Dynamical gauge fields in bottom-up setups



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# Action principle in AdS

- Example: scalar in AdS

$$S = \int d^{D+1}x \sqrt{g} (R - \Lambda - \nabla \Phi^2 - m^2 \Phi^2) + S_{bnd}$$

- Boundary term  $S_{bnd}$ :

- regularize the bulk action

- ensure that total variation vanishes on-shell:  $\delta S = 0$

- $S_{bnd} = \oint d^{Dx} \sqrt{h} (K - \lambda) + S_{bnd}^\Phi$  - Hawking-Gibbons term for gravity

- Variation of the scalar term:

$$\delta S(\Phi) = \int d^{D+1}x \sqrt{g} \Phi (\nabla^2 + m^2) \Phi + \oint d^{Dx} \sqrt{h} \frac{z}{2} \Phi \nabla \Phi + \delta S_{bnd}^\Phi$$

- Boundary term:  $S_{bnd}^\Phi = - \oint d^{Dx} \sqrt{h} \frac{z}{2} \Phi \nabla \Phi$

- Cancels out the variation from the bulk



# Action freedom in AdS

- ***I – change boundary conditions***

$$\Phi(z \rightarrow 0) = \varphi_+ z^\alpha + \varphi_- z^{D-\alpha} + \dots, \quad \varphi_+ = \varphi_0, \quad \varphi_- = 0$$

- Double-trace deformation in QFT (Witten 2001):

$$S \rightarrow S + \oint d^D x \sqrt{h} \kappa \varphi_+ \hat{K} \varphi_- \Rightarrow \varphi_+ = \varphi_0, \quad \varphi_+ + \kappa \varphi_- = 0$$

- ***II – add terms with zero variation***

$$\varphi_+ = \varphi_0, \quad \varphi_- = 0, \quad S \rightarrow S + \oint d^D x \sqrt{h} F(\varphi_-) \Rightarrow \delta F = 0$$

- Change  $S$  without changing  $\delta S$

- ***III – add boundary DOF decoupled from the bulk***

- Singleton representation of AdS group (Flato&Fronsdal, 80s)

# Outline

- *The idea:*

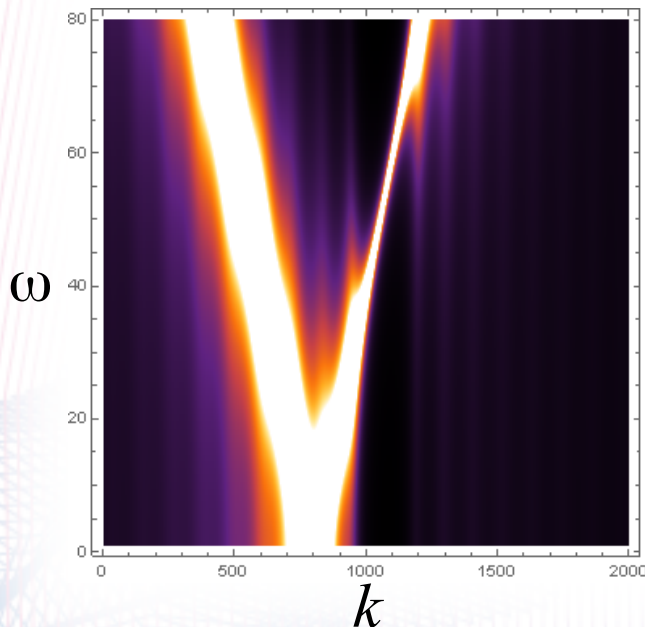
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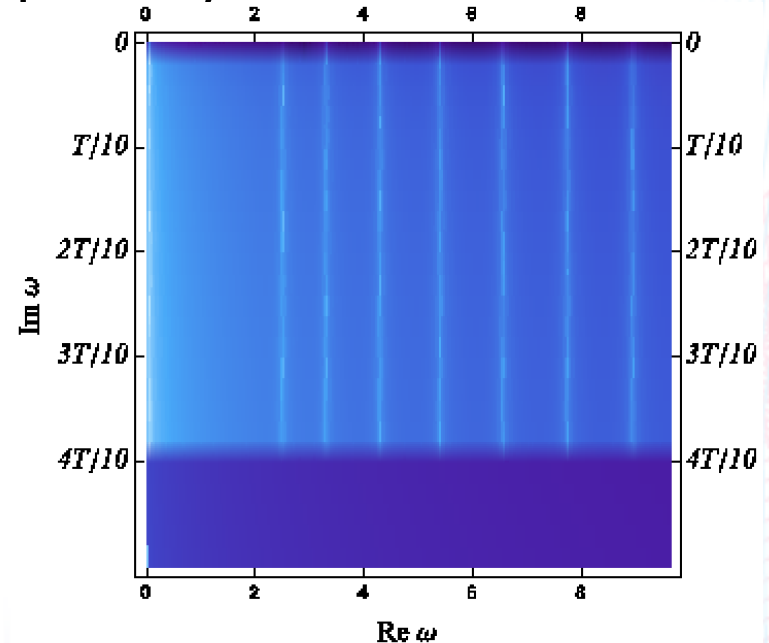


# Holography for fermions

- Top-down: confinement in AdS/QCD
- Bottom-up: Dirac fermion on Poincare patch  $\rightarrow$  strongly coupled fermionic system
- Applications: strange metals and other cond-mat systems
- No Hamiltonian (bottom-up!) but spectra, conductivities...



Spectrum of heavy fermion metal



AC conductivity, 1605.07849

# Fermions on global AdS



M. Milovanović



M. Dimitrijević-Ćirić

- Work in progress with M. Milovanović and M. Dimitrijević-Ćirić
- Poincare patch  $\rightarrow$  global AdS: from planar QFT to a QFT on the sphere
- Sphere – compact manifold:
  - Gapped system: gap  $\sim 1/L$  (radius of the sphere = AdS radius)  $\Rightarrow$  regularity ensured
  - Extra parameter  $\Rightarrow$  nontrivial planar limit
  - Compactness  $\Rightarrow$  nontrivial topology



# Fermions on global AdS

- Dirac spinor in the bulk:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} [R - \Lambda - \bar{\Psi} (D_a \Gamma^a - m) \Psi] + S_{bnd}$$

- Strongly coupled QFT on the sphere:  $\partial(AdS_4) = S^3$
- Angular momentum quantum numbers  $\kappa, m_\kappa$

- Solution to Dirac equation:  $f_\pm(z)$

$$\Psi(z) = \left( f_+(z) + \frac{\Gamma^i r_i}{r} f_-(z) \right) \chi_+, \quad \chi_+ \text{ - spherical spinor}$$

- Two linearly independent branches:  $f_\pm(z), g_\pm(z)$
- Boundary conditions:
  - IR: require finite branch only for stability
  - UV: leading term equals the source in QFT

# Fermions in pure AdS

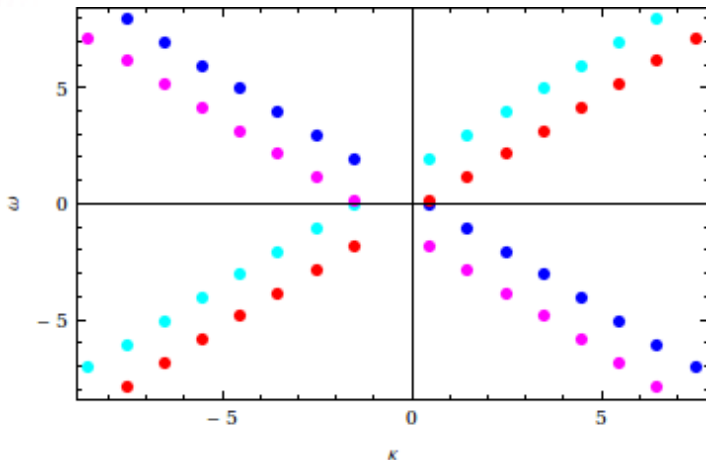
- Exact solution in pure AdS:

$$f_{\pm}^1(\theta) = (\sin \theta)^{\frac{D-1}{2} + \alpha} (\cos \theta)^{\frac{D}{2} + \beta} {}_2F_1\left(\alpha + \beta - \frac{\tilde{\omega}}{2}, \alpha + \beta + \frac{\tilde{\omega}}{2}, 2\alpha + \frac{1}{2}, \sin^2 \theta\right)$$

$$f_{\pm}^2(\theta) = (\sin \theta)^{\frac{D+1}{2} - \alpha} (\cos \theta)^{\frac{D}{2} + \beta} {}_2F_1\left(\beta - \alpha - \frac{\tilde{\omega}}{2}, \beta - \alpha + \frac{\tilde{\omega}}{2}, \frac{3}{2} - 2\alpha, \sin^2 \theta\right)$$

$$\alpha_{\pm} = \frac{\kappa}{2}, \frac{1 + \kappa}{2}, \quad \beta_{\pm} = \frac{1 - m}{2}, -\frac{m}{2}, \quad \tilde{\omega} = \omega - \frac{1}{2}$$

- "Supersymmetric" Hamiltonian:  $H^2 f = \tilde{\omega}^2 f$  (Gibbons 1990s)
- Energy quantization: finiteness of wavefunction everywhere



$D=3$

- Fermion doubling (sanity check: expected in field theory)



# Finite chemical potential

- Reissner-Nordstrom metric  $ds^2 = -\frac{dt^2 f(\theta)}{\cos^2 \theta} + \frac{d\theta^2 / f(\theta)}{\cos^2 \theta} + \tan^2 \theta d\Omega^2$
- Still supersymmetric Hamiltonian:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \nu & -\partial_\theta + W \\ \partial_\theta + W & -\nu \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\nu} & -\partial_\theta + W_- \\ \partial_\theta + W_+ & -\tilde{\nu} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \nu, \tilde{\nu} = \text{const.}$$

- Amazingly – analytically solvable through Whittaker functions:

$$f_\pm^1(\theta) = (\sin \theta)^{\frac{D-1}{2} + \tilde{\gamma}} (\cos \theta)^{\frac{D}{2} + \tilde{\beta}} M_{\gamma, \mu q}(a, b, c, \sin^2(\theta - \theta_h)^2)$$

$$f_\pm^2(\theta) = (\sin \theta)^{\frac{D-1}{2} - \tilde{\gamma}} (\cos \theta)^{\frac{D}{2} + \tilde{\beta}} W_{\gamma, \mu q}(a, b, c, \sin^2(\theta - \theta_h)^2)$$

$$a(\kappa, m, \mu), b(\kappa, m, \mu), c(\kappa, m, \mu), \quad \tilde{\gamma}_\pm = \sqrt{(\mu + \kappa/2)^2 \pm \kappa^2/4}, \quad \tilde{\beta}_\pm = \beta_\pm \mp M_{\%ell}$$

- Propagator (analytical without backreaction):

$$\langle \psi \bar{\psi} \rangle = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{(f_+^1(\theta))^2 - \frac{(\kappa - m - \omega + 1)^2}{(2\kappa - 1)^2} (f_-^1(\theta))^2}{(b_-)^2}$$

# AdS action for a fermion

- Dirac spinor in the bulk:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} [R - \Lambda - \bar{\Psi} (D_a \Gamma^a - m) \Psi] + S_{bnd}$$

- Radial projections (single spinors)  $\Psi_{\pm}, \bar{\Psi}_{\pm} : \Gamma^z \Psi_{\pm} = \pm \Psi_{\pm}$
- Boundary action for on-shell stationarity (Henneaux 1997, Sfetsos 1997):

$$\delta S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} [\delta \bar{\Psi} (D_a \Gamma^a - m) \Psi] - \frac{1}{2} \oint d^3x \sqrt{h} \delta \bar{\Psi} \Psi + h.c. + \delta S_{bnd}$$



$$S_{bnd} = \frac{1}{2} \oint d^3x \sqrt{h} \bar{\Psi} \Psi$$

- Dirac equation leaves only two independent components:

$$\Psi_+ \propto \Psi_-, \quad \bar{\Psi}_- \propto \bar{\Psi}_+$$

- Hamiltonian formalism:  $\Psi_+, \bar{\Psi}_-$  canonical momenta for  $\Psi_-, \bar{\Psi}_+$



# Action ambiguity

- On-shell variation:  $\delta \Psi_- , \delta \bar{\Psi}_+$  arbitrary and independent,  $\delta \Psi_+ = \delta \bar{\Psi}_- = 0$  as  $\Psi_- , \bar{\Psi}_+$  fix  $\Psi_+ , \bar{\Psi}_-$
- Off-shell variation: all arbitrary, no Dirac equation  $\Rightarrow S_{bnd}$  is non-unique:  $S_{bnd} \rightarrow S_{bnd} + \oint d^3x \sqrt{h} F(\Psi_+ , \bar{\Psi}_-)$
- Bulk equation of motion unchanged by definition. What is different?
- Action changes even on-shell (solution  $\psi(z_0)$ ):

$$S(\psi(z), \bar{\psi}(z)) = \underbrace{S_{bulk}(\psi(z), \bar{\psi}(z))}_{=0} + z_0^3 \left( \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi}(z_0) \psi(z_0) + F(\psi(z_0), \bar{\psi}(z_0)) \right)$$

- Surface interaction term in the equation of motion:

$$D_a \Gamma^a \Psi_- - m \Psi_- = \sqrt{h} \frac{\delta F}{\delta \bar{\psi}_-} \delta(z) \quad \boxed{F \text{ depends on } \Psi \Rightarrow \text{not a source}}$$

# Adiabatic perturbation

- Idea: non-canonical term in the action only affects the subleading term in the bulk solution
- Standard AdS/CFT lore (Balasubramanian & Kraus 1999, Freedmann et al 1999):  
non-normalizable mode in AdS – source in CFT  
normalizable mode in AdS – state in CFT
- Additional term in  $S \implies$  modify field theory Lagrangian
- Dirac equation determines  $\Psi_+$ ,  $\bar{\Psi}_-$  as a function of  $\Psi_-$ ,  $\bar{\Psi}_+$ :  
$$\Psi_+ = \left( e^\theta \Gamma^\theta \partial_\theta + e^i \Gamma_i \partial_i \right) \Psi_-$$
- Modify only at a single radial slice  $\theta = \pi/2 - \epsilon$ : consistency of the bulk Dirac equation?



# Adiabatic perturbation

- Source at radial slice  $\theta_0 = \pi/2 - \epsilon$  in EOM:

$$D_a \Gamma^a \Psi_- - m \Psi_- = \sqrt{\hbar} \frac{\delta F}{\delta \bar{\Psi}_-} \delta(\theta - \theta_0)$$

- Regularity condition on  $F$ :  $\frac{\delta F}{\delta \bar{\Psi}_-} \leq (\cos \theta_0)^m$

- For regular perturbations  $F$  the bulk Dirac equation conserved up to terms of order  $(\cos \theta_0)^{2m}$ :

$$\Psi_+ - (e^\theta \Gamma^\theta \partial_\theta + e^i \Gamma_i \partial_i) \Psi_- = \cos^{2m} \theta_0 (1 + c_1 \cos \theta_0 + c_2 \cos^2 \theta_0 + \dots)$$

Can be absorbed in regularization

- Sources in field theory: normed by  $b_- (\cos \theta_0)^{-m}$  – don't change
- States in field theory – quantized energies, behave as  $(\cos \theta_0)^{2m}$ :

$$|n \kappa\rangle = \frac{1}{b_- (\cos \theta_0)^{-m}} \left( f_- (\theta; \kappa, n) + \frac{\gamma^i k_i}{k} f_+ (\theta; \kappa, n) \right)$$

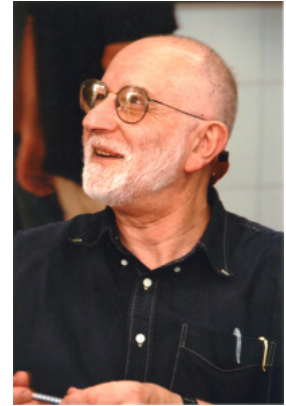
# "Spin" Berry phase

- Remember the definition:

Change the system adiabatically, stays in the same state  $|n\kappa\rangle$  but the state changes

Along a closed path:

$$\gamma = i \oint \langle n\kappa | \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} | n\kappa \rangle d\varphi$$



M. Berry

- Ansatz for  $F$ :  $F(\Psi_+, \bar{\Psi}_-) = \bar{\Psi}_- e^{\frac{i\varphi\Gamma^z}{2}} \Psi_+ - \bar{\Psi}_- \Psi_+$
- Rotated by  $\Gamma^z$ , comes back to itself after a rotation by  $4\pi$
- On the sphere, the states  $|n\kappa\rangle$  transform simply under  $\partial_\varphi$ , no regularization needed
- On Poincare patch we would need to introduce a regulator



# "Spin" Berry phase

- Surface interaction term:  $\oint d^D x \sqrt{\hbar} \left( \bar{\Psi}_- e^{\frac{i\varphi\Gamma\varphi}{2}} \Psi_+ - \bar{\Psi}_- \Psi_+ \right)$
- Extra surface interaction term in the Hamiltonian:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} v & -\partial_\theta + W \\ \partial_\theta + W & -v \end{pmatrix} \quad H_\varphi = H + \hat{s} \times \delta(\theta - \theta_0)$$

$$\hat{s} = \sin \frac{\varphi}{4} \left( \cos \frac{\varphi}{4} + \sin \frac{\varphi}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\gamma^\varphi \\ \gamma^\varphi & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right), \quad \gamma^\varphi \chi_\pm = \pm i m_\kappa \chi_\pm$$

- Calculate the normalizable solution using the bulk-to-boundary propagator  $G_0(\theta; \vec{x}, \vec{x}')$ :

$$|n\kappa\rangle \rightarrow |n\kappa\rangle^\varphi \equiv |n\kappa\rangle + \oint d^D x' \sqrt{\hbar} \hat{s}(\vec{x}') G_0(\theta_0; \vec{x}, \vec{x}')$$

- Compute the Berry phase by definition
- If  $m > m_c$  the terms with  $\sin \frac{\varphi}{4} \cos \frac{\varphi}{4}$  give  $\gamma = 0$
- If  $m < m_c$  the terms with  $\sin^2 \frac{\varphi}{4}$  survive giving  $\gamma = \pi$

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# Planar limit

- From angular momentum to momentum basis

- Non-commutativity of limits:

$\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \gamma = \pi$  from global AdS to Poincare patch

- Ambiguity for normalizable modes on Poincare patch:

$$f_{\pm}^1(z) = z^{\frac{D}{2}} J_{\nu_{\pm}}(kz), \quad f_{\pm}^2(z) = z^{\frac{D}{2}} J_{-\nu_{\pm}}(kz), \quad J_{\nu_{\pm}} \text{ - Bessel 1st kind}$$

- Non-normalizable modes on Poincare patch:

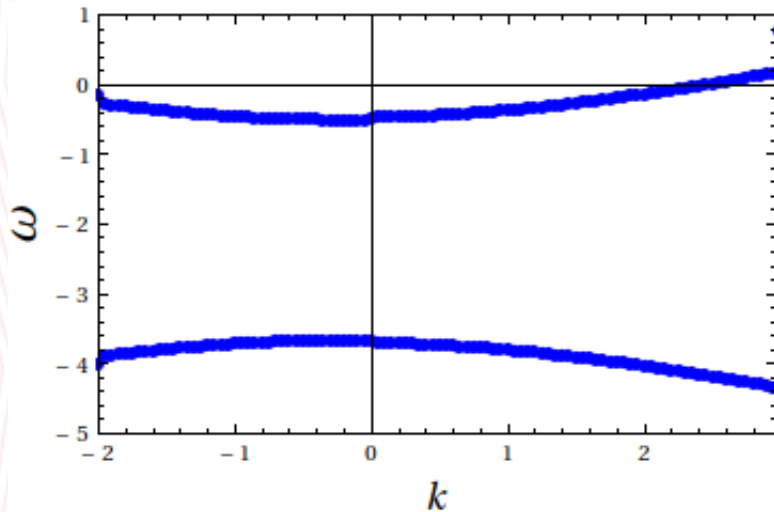
$$g_{\pm}(z) = z^{\frac{D}{2}} K_{\nu_{\pm}}(kz), \quad K_{\nu_{\pm}} \text{ - modified Bessel 1st kind}$$

- On Poincare patch  $\gamma$  is regularization dependent

- Similar situation in field-theoretical derivation: at least 7 different results for the coefficient of the Chern-Simons term in literature (K. Landsteiner)

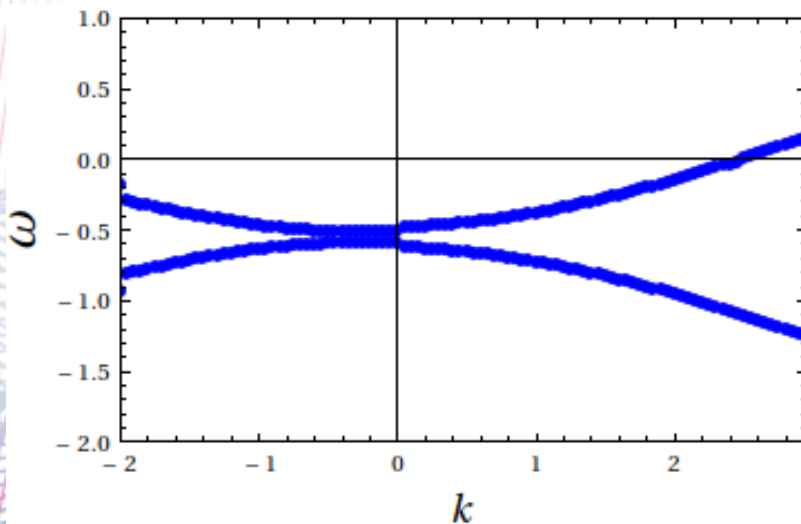
# Berry phase quantization

- **Berry phase**  $\gamma = \pi$  for  $\Delta < \Delta_c$ ,  $\mu < 1/L$



Gap survives

- **Berry phase**  $\gamma = \pi$  for  $\Delta < \Delta_c$ ,  $\mu > 1/L$



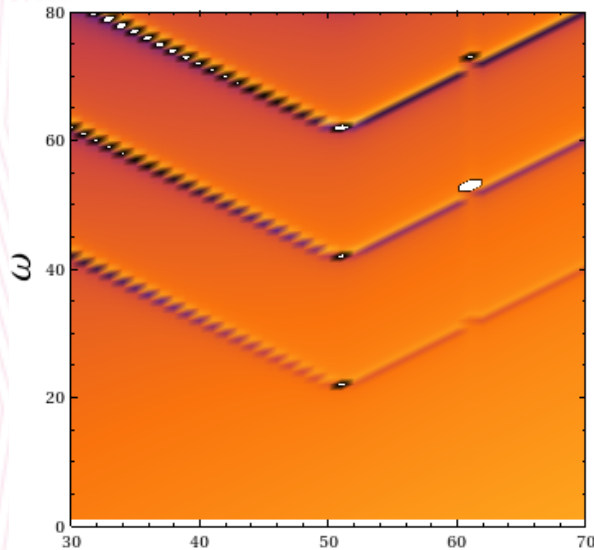
No conical singularity!

Gap closes but no singularity



# Berry phase quantization

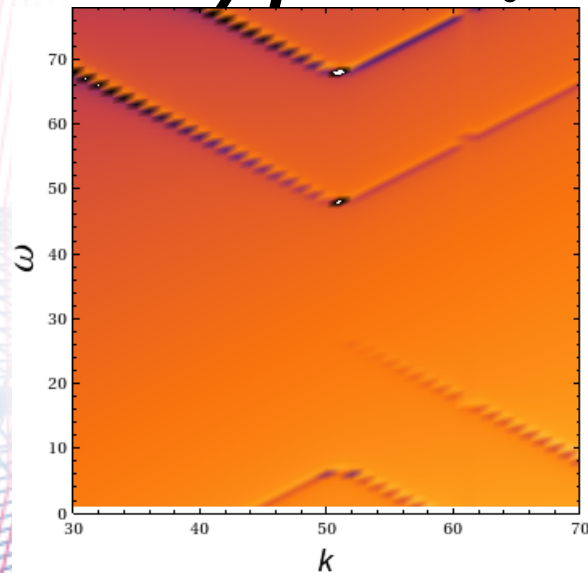
- **Berry phase**  $\gamma=0$  **for**  $\Delta > \Delta_c$ ,  $\mu < 1/L$



"conformal" phase:  
quantum critical cones

No exact conformal  
invariance at finite  $\mu$

- **Berry phase**  $\gamma=0$  **for**  $\Delta > \Delta_c$ ,  $\mu > 1/L$



# Strongly coupled Dirac liquid

- Universal Dirac cones at intermediate energies but non-universal IR physics

- Even if gapless the singularity in dispersion generically vanishes:

$$G(\omega \rightarrow 0) = \frac{1}{\omega^\gamma - v|k| + \dots}$$

- Novel phase on the sphere: instability in IR transforms AdS into a horizon-less geometry
- Analogous to boson star solution (Gentle, Rangamani & Withers 2012)

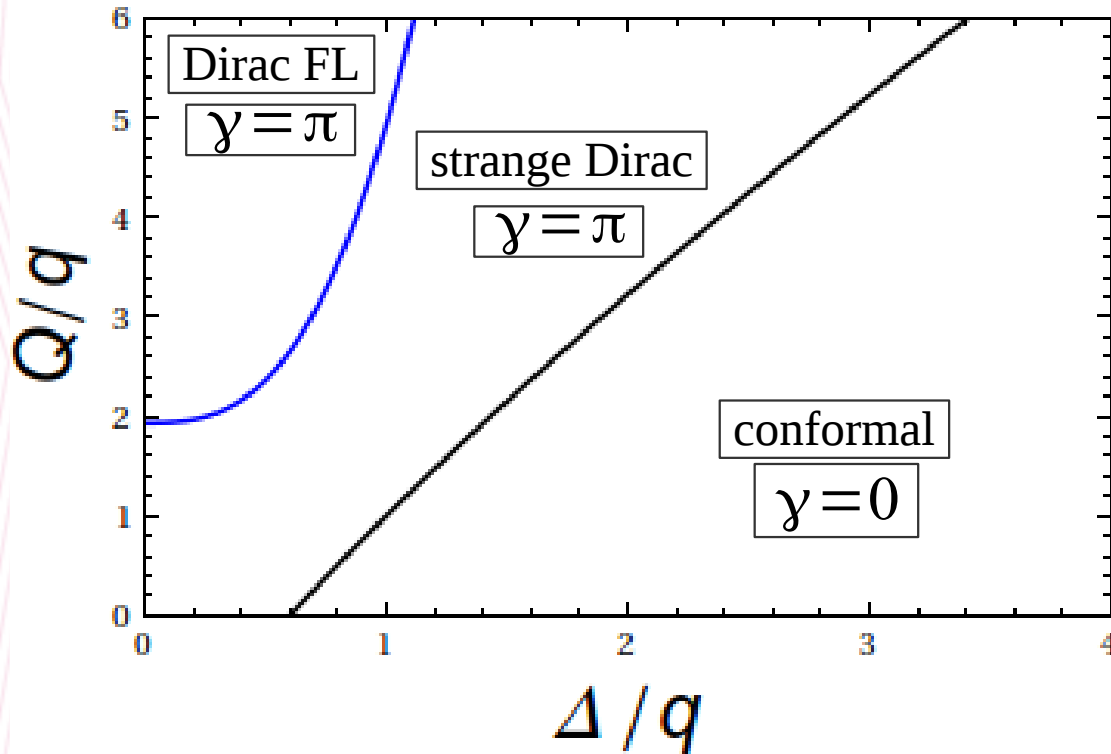
***Lesson:***

***Nontrivial Berry phase does not depend on Dirac singularity***



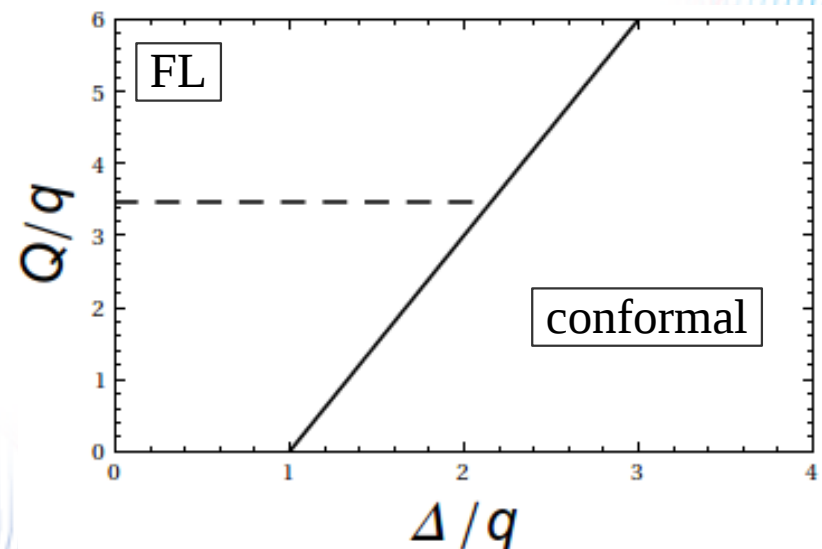
# Phase diagram – planar limit

- The strange Dirac phase survives the limit!



- Compare to the Poincare patch:

Trivial Berry phase in all phases:  
depends on regularization



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# Non-canonical Hamiltonians

- Remember how Berry phase modifies the Poisson structure:

$$\begin{pmatrix} [q_a, q_b] & [q_a, p_b] \\ [p_a, q_b] & [p_a, p_b] \end{pmatrix} = i \begin{pmatrix} i f_{ab} & \delta_{ab} \\ -\delta_{ab} & iq F_{ab} \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} f_{ab} \text{-- Berry connection} \\ F_{ab} \text{-- Berry connection} \end{array}$$

- Ask a more general question: is there a relation between the action ambiguity and non-canonical Poisson structures?
- In general:  $(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_n) \rightarrow (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{2n})$
- Poisson structure:  $\dot{\xi}_a = \omega_{ab} \frac{\partial H}{\partial \xi_b} \equiv \{\xi_a, H\}, \quad \omega^{ab} = \{\xi^a, \xi^b\}$
- Canonical momenta not related to spatial translations (don't even exist) but  $H$  is still the generator of time translations
- Idea: modify  $\omega^{ab}$  by modifying the commutator with the Hamiltonian

# Operators from bulk to boundary

- Don't know the Hamiltonian explicitly! What to do?
- Bulk  $so(d,2)$  symmetry algebra:  $D, P_a, K_a, M_{ab}$
- On  $AdS_3$  (2D QFTs) decouple left- and right-movers:  
$$K^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(K_1 \pm iK_2), \quad P^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(P_1 \mp iP_2), \quad L^\pm = D \mp M_{12}$$
- QFT Hamiltonian from  $L$  and  $D = -i\partial_t$
- Modify the generators but keep the conformal algebra at leading order:

$$(L, P, K) \rightarrow (L + L_1, P + P_1, K + K_1)$$

$$[K, L_1] + [K_1, L] = K_1$$

$$[K, P_1] + [K_1, P] = 2L_1$$

$$[L_1, P] + [L, P_1] = P_1$$



# Operators from bulk to boundary

- Restrict the action of  $K^\pm$ ,  $P^\pm$ ,  $L^\pm$  on the AdS boundary:

$$k^\pm = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \pi/2} K^\pm, \quad \text{etc.}$$

- Compensate for the action of  $L_1$  by  $S_1$ :

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta \Phi} = [S, L] = [S, L] + [S_1, L] + [S, L_1] \Leftrightarrow [S_1, L] + [S, L_1] = 0$$

- Drawback: need guesswork for  $S_1$
- For the Berry phase:  $S_1 = \oint d^D x \sqrt{h} \Pi_1 e^{i\hat{f}/2} \Pi_2$
- Canonical coordinates  $(q_1, q_2) = \Psi_-, \bar{\Psi}_+$ , canonical momenta  $(\Pi_1, \Pi_2) = \Psi_+, \bar{\Psi}_-$
- Still ambiguous what to pick for  $\hat{f}$  - need physical input?

# Fluid advection

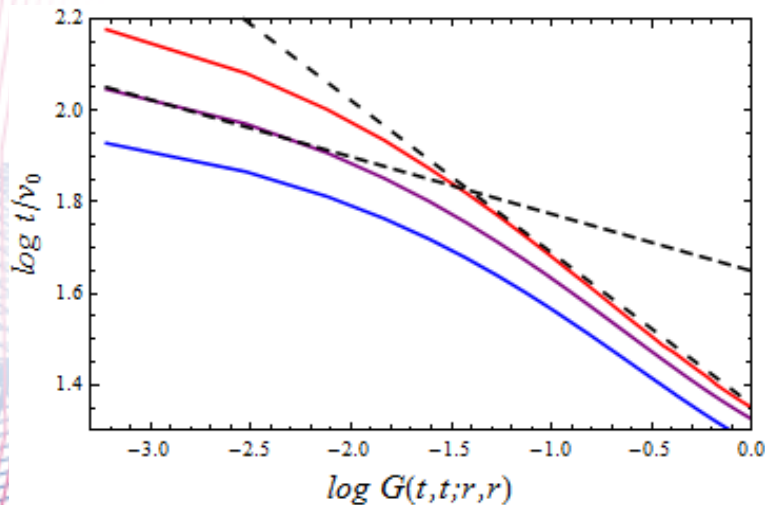
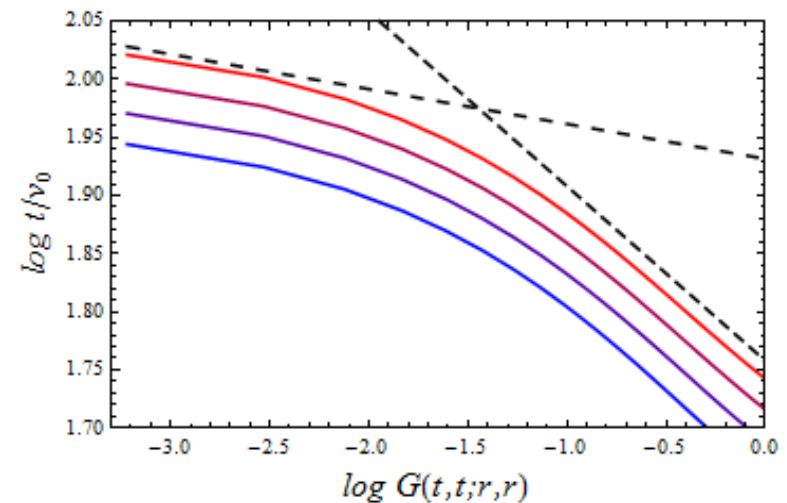
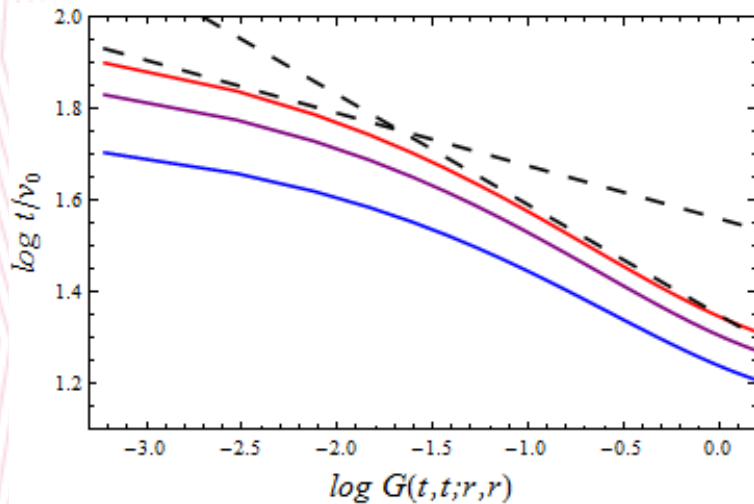
- Fluid dynamics – Eulerian vs. Lagrangian
- Lagrangian dynamics = passive scalar (tracer) advection
- Hamiltonian:  $H = \frac{1}{2} \rho u^2 + U \rho$
- More convenient than Eulerian approach for correlation decay etc
- Poisson bracket – add extra term  $F$  in the boundary action
- Now  $F$  is a complicated series in derivatives of the metric



# Correlation decay

- Inhomogeneous distributions, dynamics  $\Rightarrow$  numerics

- Initial local decay
- Long-time faster hydrodynamic tail



Slow non-universal decay:  
 $G \sim 1/t^\nu$ ,  $\nu \approx 0.2$

# Conclusions

## *Physical lesson*

- Divorce the Berry phase from Dirac fermion physics
- Dirac singularity generically absent in the presence of interaction but nontrivial Berry phase is there

## *Formal lesson*

- "Pen&paper" work still remains in phenomenological AdS/CFT
- Understand better the meaning of action ambiguity from top-down setups