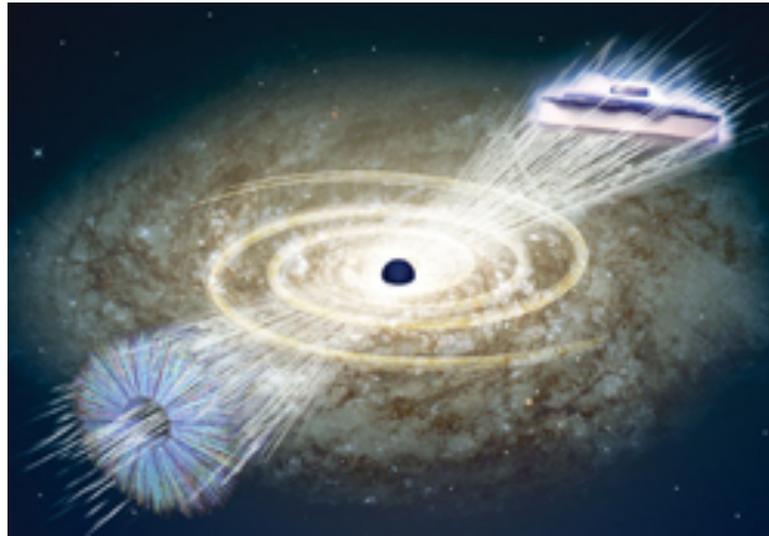


Beyond the Standard Model: Historical-Critical Perspectives, GGI, Oct. 21 2019.

# The Holographic Correspondence



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# Plan

- What is it ?
- *Historical interlude*
- How does it work ?
- What is it for ?

# Plan

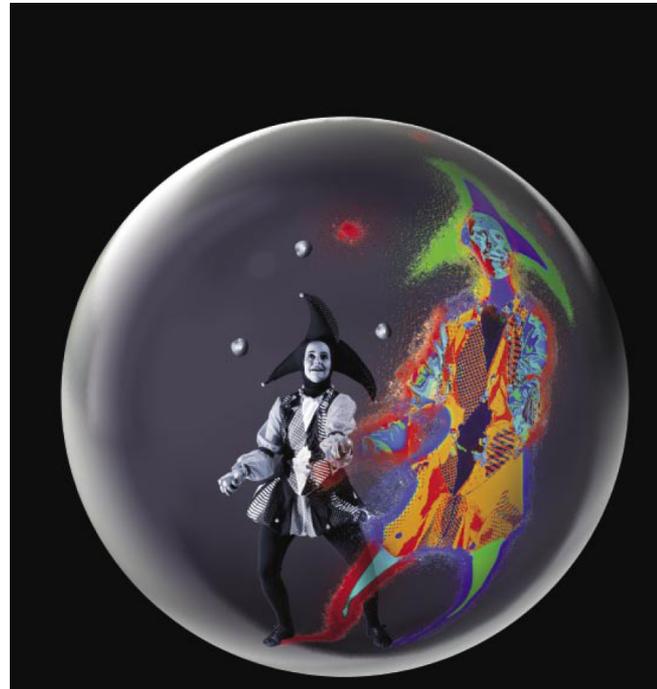
- What is it ?
- *Historical interlude*
- How does it work ?
- What is it for ?

# The statement

Quantum Gravity  
in  $D+1$  dimensions

=

Quantum Field Theory  
in  $D$  dimensions



## The statement

Quantum Gravity  
in  $D+1$  dimensions

=

Quantum Field Theory  
in  $D$  dimensions

Is this reasonable?

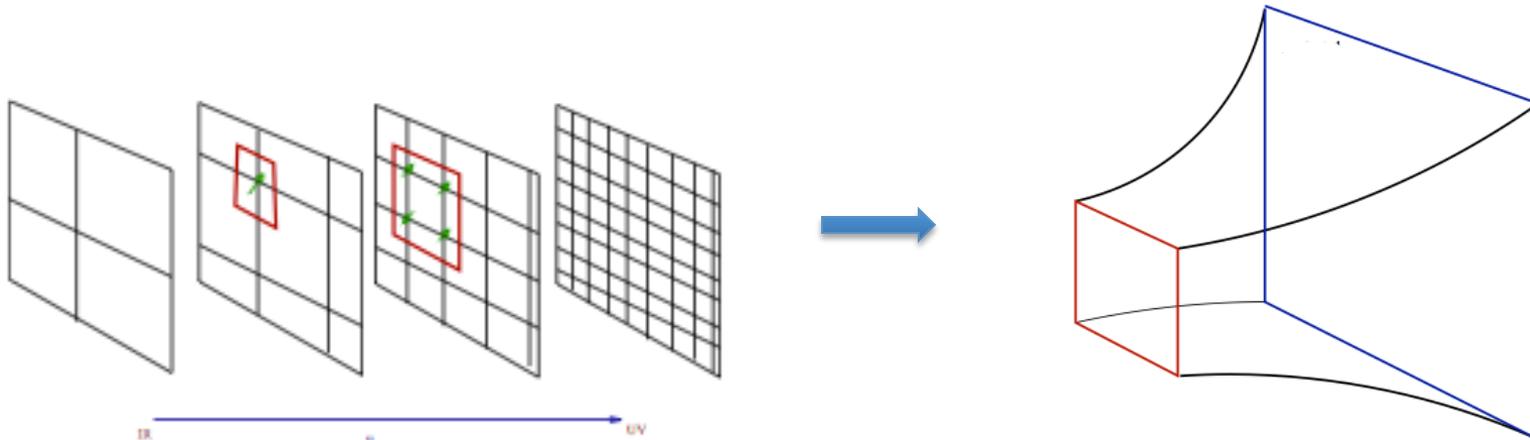
It is not, but...

# Heuristic Hint 1: RG flow

- Renormalization Group equations in QFT are **local** in the energy scale  $u$

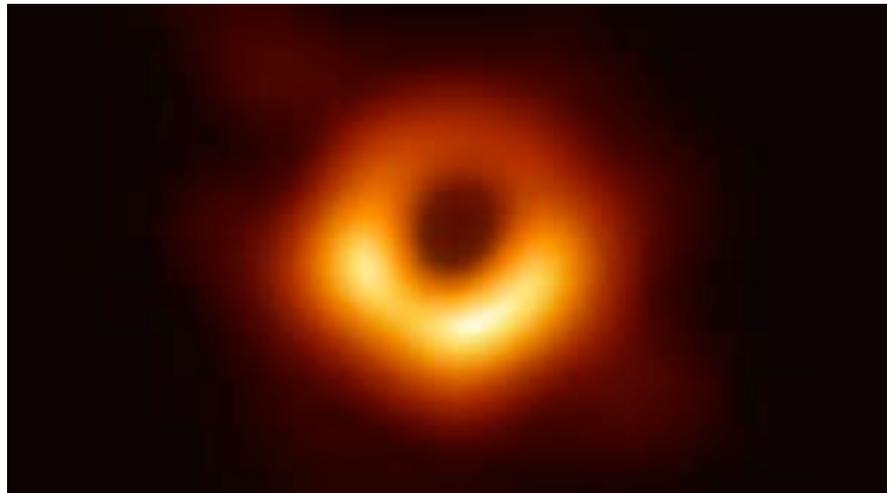
$$u \frac{dg}{du} = \beta(g)$$

- Idea: RG flow of a  $D$ -dim QFT as “foliation” **in  $D+1$  dims** .
- RG scale  $u$  = Extra dimension

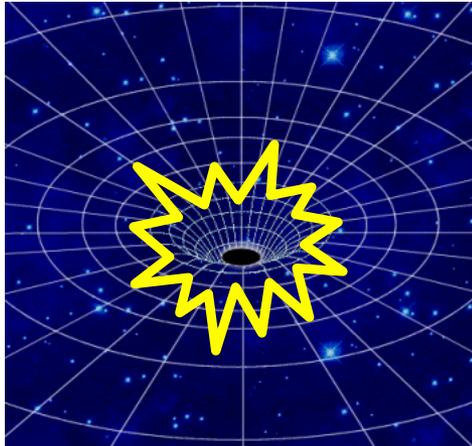


## Heuristic Hint 2: black holes

- Model in  $D+1$  must have same number of d.o.f. as the QFT in  $D$ -dims
- Gravity is a good candidate: it is “**holographic**”
- See **black hole** physics



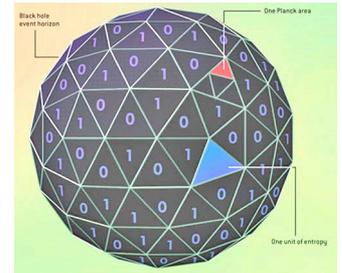
# Black holes... are not so black



- Quantum effects: emit thermal radiation.
- Obey laws of thermodynamics
- Entropy scales like horizon area [Bekenstein, Hawking 1974]

$$S_{BH} = \frac{k_B c^3}{\hbar} \frac{A_H}{4G}$$

- The holographic “principle” [’t Hooft, Susskind 1994]
- *Quantum gravity, whatever it is, is holographic.*



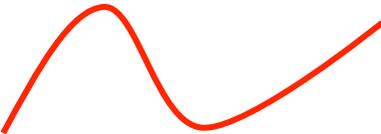
Degrees of freedom of QG  
in D+1 dim. spacetime volume

=

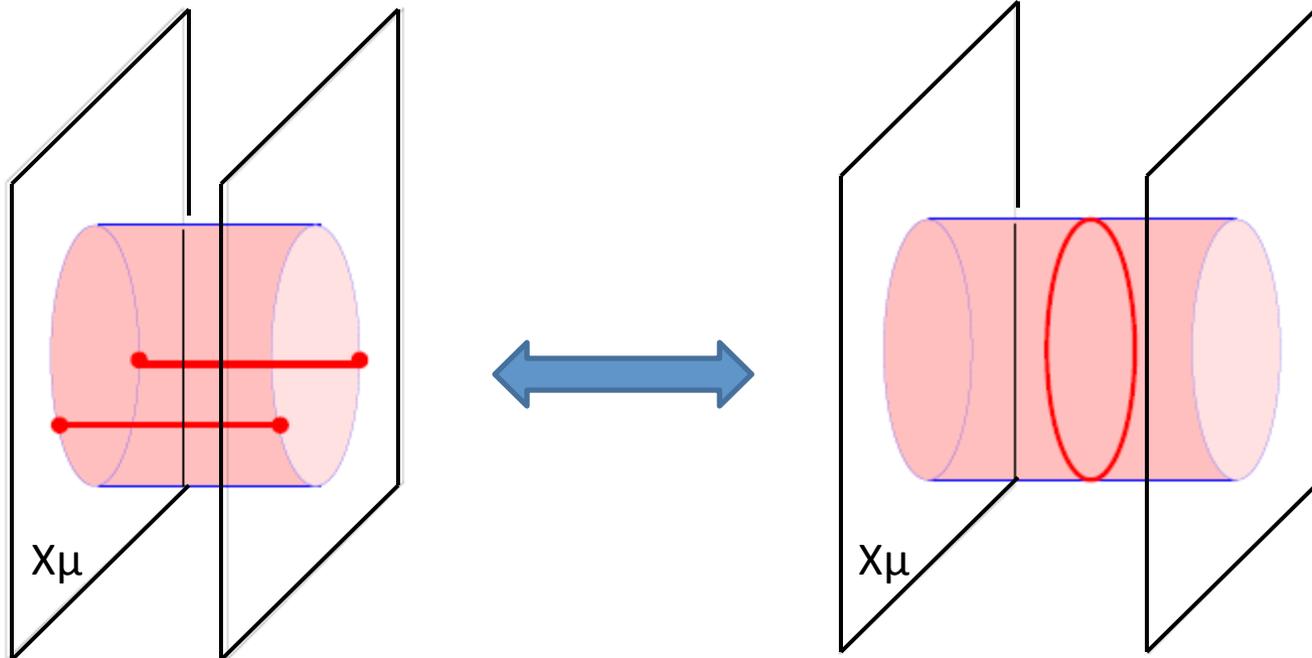
Degrees of freedom of QFT  
in D dim. boundary

## Heuristic Hint 3: String theory

- Assumption: fundamental constituents are string-like
- Point particles are different modes of a vibrating string

String		Particle
Open		photon (gluon) + ...
Closed		graviton + .....

- Open/closed string duality (or: 2 ways of drawing a cylinder)

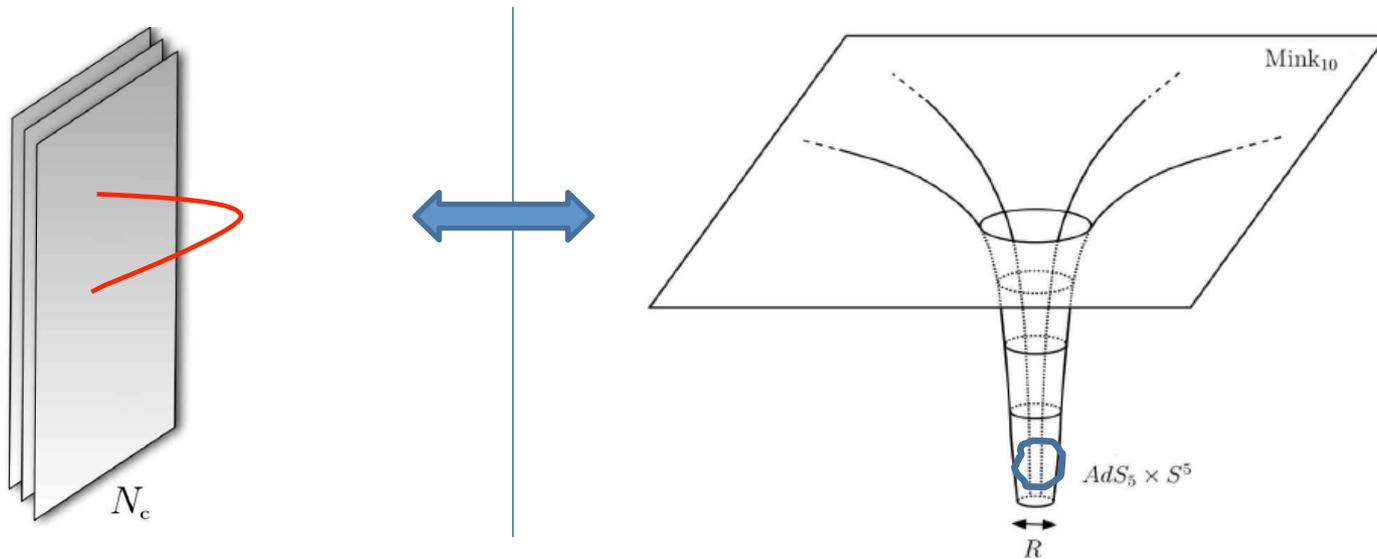


Open string loop (**quantum**)  
 Quantum Field Theory  
 $X_\mu, u$  (RG **scale**)



Closed string propagation (**classical**)  
 Theory of gravity  
 $X_\mu, r$  (**extra dimension**)

- The dual nature of Dp-branes [Polchinski, 95]



- Taking low energy limit on both sides, **two interacting theories** [J.M. Maldacena, 97]:
- Left: **4d  $SU(N_c)$  susy Yang-Mills**. Low energy limit of open strings on  $N_c$  D3-branes
- Right: **closed strings (gravity)** on **Anti-de-Sitter 5d** background (times  $S^5$ )

- String theory provided the **first explicit realization** of the holographic correspondence [Maldacena 1997] a.k.a. AdS/CFT

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{3+1 dim } N=4 \text{ SU}(N) \text{ Yang-Mills} \quad = \quad \text{IIB string on AdS}_5 \times \text{S}_5 \\
 \text{(Conformal Field Theory)} \quad \quad \quad \text{(Quantum gravity on Anti de Sitter)}
 \end{array}$$

- ...and a very **detailed map** between observables of the corresponding theories [Witten; Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov, 1998]
- This has produced both **extensions** and an enormous amount of **quantitative validity checks** of the correspondence...and **concrete applications**.
- Holography is changing our way of understanding gravity and quantum field theories. It does not come out from nowhere: the connections between **strings** and gauge theories (like **QCD**) have a **long history**.

# Plan

- What is it ?
- *Historical interlude (oversimplified)*
- How does it work ?
- What is it for ?

# From Gabriele to Juan Martin (and back again)



# 1968

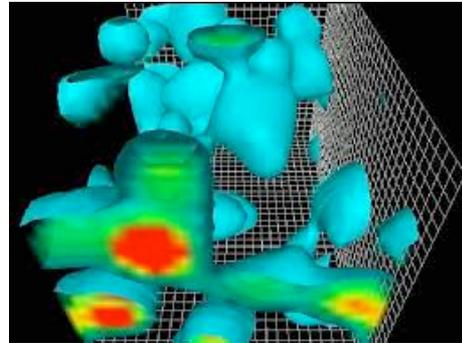
- **Gabriele Veneziano** was born and grew up in Florence.
- He got his M.Sc. in Physics **right in this place**, in 1965.
- In 1968 he is 26 years old. His paper containing the famous “Veneziano Amplitude” will contribute to the **birth of string theory**, see e.g. [Cappelli, Castellani, Colomo, Di Vecchia, 2012].
- **Juan Martin Maldacena**, Italian-Argentinian nationality, was born in Buenos Aires

- In the '50s everything looked clear: electron, proton, neutron and few other particles (muon, pion, positron)
- In the '60s however, a plethora of other hadrons: kaons, rho mesons, Delta and Omega baryons, Lambda, Sigma, Eta, Nu, Upsilon...
- Difficult to believe they were all elementary.
- 1964. Murray Gell-Mann, Zweig: quarks as building blocks.
  - Neutron, proton and all other baryons: three quarks
  - Pion, rho and other mesons: quark-antiquark pairs.
- The new hadrons posed new problems for theoretical physics. If a strong interaction happens through an exchange of some of them, the scattering amplitude increases as the energy increases.

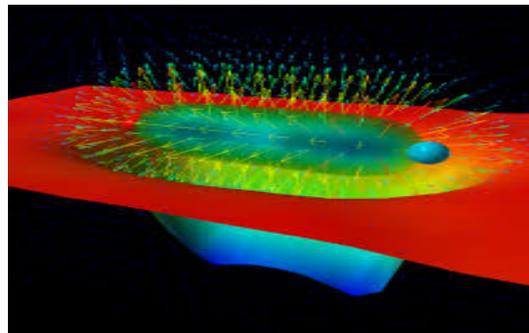
- **1968. Veneziano**: if an infinite number of particles is exchanged, the scattering amplitude does not diverge with energy anymore.
- This goes with the name of **Veneziano amplitude**.
- **1970. Nambu, Nielsen e Susskind**: Veneziano amplitude can be interpreted in terms of a theory of **strings**.
- **Regge trajectories**  $M^2 \sim J$  : mesons as rotating strings with quark endpoints?
- **However** string theory gave other predictions which turned out to be in conflict with experimental data.

- 1973. Gross, Wilczek, Politzer: Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD).
- A SU(3) Yang-Mills gauge theory coupled to quarks.
- QCD revealed to be the correct theory of strong interactions.
  
- String theory almost abandoned
- In the first '70s only very few scientists, among which Green and Schwartz, kept working on it.
  
- By the way: QCD is hard.
  - Asymptotic freedom: gauge coupling is small at high energies
  - Low energy limit (hadron spectra, confinement, chiral symmetry breaking...) cannot be studied using perturbation theory.

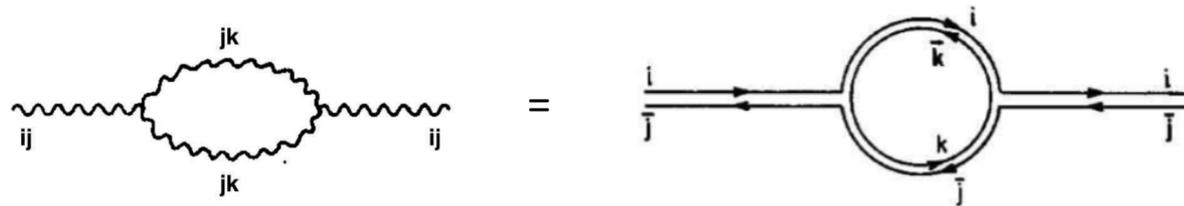
- Even understanding QCD **vacuum** is really very challenging.
- Can get a lot of info studying QCD on a Euclidean **Lattice** [Wilson 1974]
- and using Monte Carlo numerical simulations



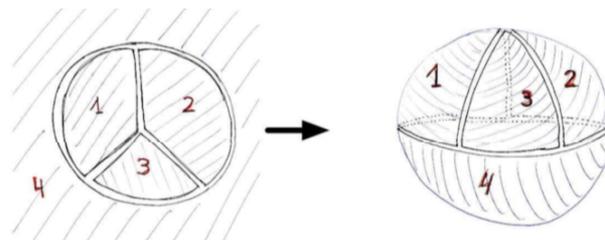
- Moreover: are we so sure that strings do not enter into the game at all?
- In SU(3) Yang-Mills the flux tubes are **confined**.
- Potential energy between external quarks scales linearly with the distance.



- 't Hooft [1974]: consider  $SU(N)$ .
- Take large  $N$  limit with  $\lambda = g^2_{YM} N$  fixed
- Double line notation



- At large  $N$  planar diagrams are leading, non-planar diagrams subleading
- Perturbative expansion = sum over topologies
- Planar diagrams = spheres; non planar: higher genus surfaces (torus, etc)



- Same as perturbative expansion of string amplitudes with  $g_s \sim 1/N$

- **1974.** Scherk and Schwarz realize that string theory contains a massless spin 2 particle which corresponds to the graviton.
- String theory = quantum gravity?
- Not so many people interested, since the theory had various inconsistencies (anomalies)
  
- **1984.** Green and Schwarz discover that actually these inconsistencies are not there.
- Since then, the interest in string theory grew up enormously

- 1995. Witten suggests that the 5 different consistent string theories are just different manifestations of a mother theory, M-theory
- 1995. Polchinski: D-branes and their double nature.
- 1996. Strominger, Vafa: black hole entropy from D-branes.
- 1997. Maldacena: holographic conjecture
- String theories (and thus quantum gravity) can be equivalent to quantum field theories (like QCD) with no gravity, in at least one dimensions less.
- This raises the hope to find a string theory model which is equivalent to QCD, coming back to the origins in a sense.
- (It is fair to say that we do not have found a string dual to QCD, yet)

# Plan

- What is it ?
- *Historical interlude*
- How does it work ?
- What is it for ?

“ It works in a very subtle way,  
as a strong/weak coupling duality.”

“ Certain regimes where QFT is strongly interacting,  
mapped into **classical (i.e. weakly interacting) gravity!** ”  
(and the other way around)

- For the master example [Maldacena 1997]:

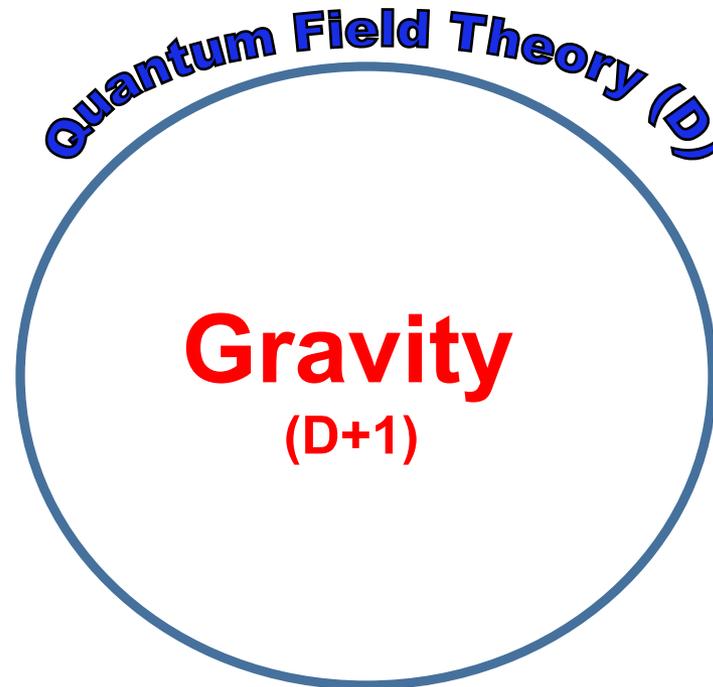
$\mathcal{N} = 4$   $SU(N_c)$  SYM in  $D = 4$  dual to gravity on  $AdS_5 \times S^5$ .

Classical gravity regime:  $N_c \gg 1$ ,  $\lambda = g_{YM}^2 N_c \gg 1$ .

- Large number of d.o.f. (large N)
- Strong coupling
- Non-perturbative QFT problems can be solved by classical gravity!
- Quantum gravity from a dual perturbative QFT!

# How to compute?

QFT vacuum  $\rightarrow$  Gravity background

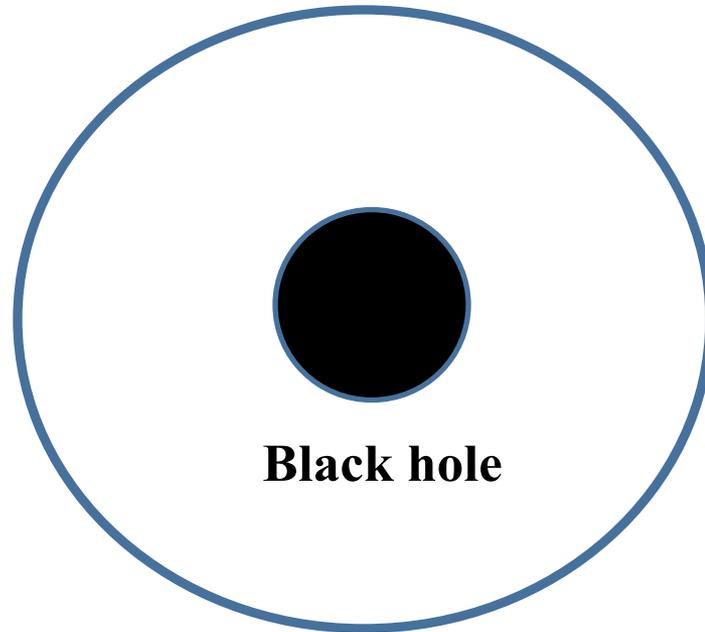


$$Z_{QFT} = Z_{QG(String)} \approx e^{-S_{\text{gravity}}(\text{on-shell})}$$

[Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov; Witten, 1998]

QFT vacuum  $\rightarrow$  Gravity background

QFT at finite temperature  $Z = \text{Tr} e^{-\frac{H}{T}}$

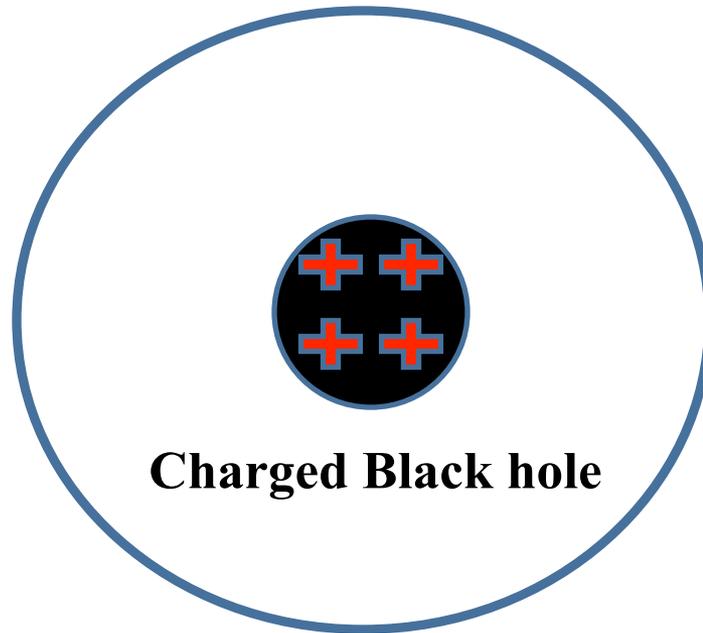


[Witten, 98]

$\text{Log } Z \approx -S[\text{gravity on shell}]$

QFT vacuum  $\rightarrow$  Gravity background

QFT at finite temperature and density  $Z = \text{Tr} e^{-\frac{H - \mu N}{T}}$



QFT charge density = electric flux on the boundary

$$\text{Log } Z \approx -S[\text{gravity on shell}]$$

CFT d

$$\begin{aligned} x_\mu &\rightarrow \lambda x_\mu \\ E &\rightarrow \lambda^{-1} E \end{aligned}$$



$$E \approx r$$

???

$$ds^2 = dx_\mu dx^\mu + dr^2$$

CFT  $d$

$$\begin{aligned} x_\mu &\rightarrow \lambda x_\mu \\ E &\rightarrow \lambda^{-1} E \end{aligned}$$



$$E \approx r$$

AdS  $d+1$

$$ds^2 = \frac{r^2}{R^2} dx_\mu dx^\mu + \frac{R^2}{r^2} dr^2$$

( $R$ =AdS radius)

CFT d

$$\begin{aligned} x_\mu &\rightarrow \lambda x_\mu \\ E &\rightarrow \lambda^{-1} E \end{aligned}$$



$$E \approx r$$

AdS d+1

$$ds^2 = \frac{r^2}{R^2} dx_\mu dx^\mu + \frac{R^2}{r^2} dr^2$$

(R=AdS radius)

CFT at finite T

$$Z = \text{Tr} e^{-\frac{H}{T}}$$



$$ds^2 = \frac{r^2}{R^2} [-b[r] dt^2 + dx_i dx_i] + \frac{R^2}{r^2} \frac{dr^2}{b[r]}$$

$$b[r] = 1 - \frac{r_h^d}{r^d}$$

$$T_{CFT} = T_{BH} = \frac{r_h}{4\pi R^2};$$

$$S_{CFT} = S_{BH} = \frac{A_h}{4G_N} \sim V_{d-1} T^{d-1}$$

CFT at finite T and  $\mu$

$$Z = \text{Tr} e^{-\frac{H - \mu N}{T}}$$



Charged RN-AdS black hole

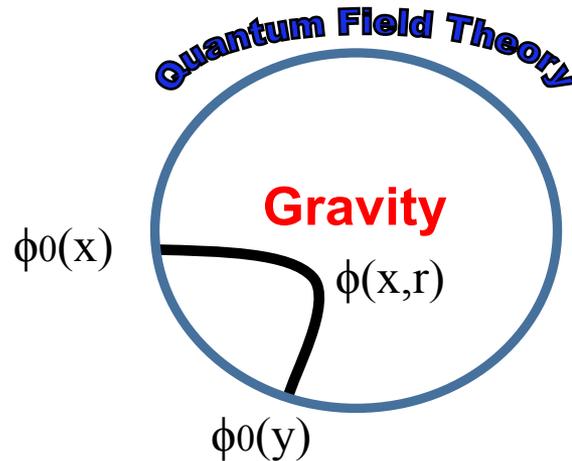
$$A_t \sim \mu - \frac{\rho}{r^{d-2}}$$

# Correlators

- In a D dim. QFT we compute the **generating functional**

$$Z_{QFT}[\phi_0] = \int D\Psi \exp \left( i[S_{QFT} + \int d^D x \phi_0(x) \mathcal{O}[\Psi](x)] \right)$$

- N-point correlators of  $\mathcal{O}[x]$ : from n-th derivatives of  $\text{Log } Z$  w.r.t. **external source**  $\phi_0(x)$ .
- **Holography**: treat **external source**  $\phi_0(x)$  as **boundary value** of a gravity field  $\phi(x,r)$  which is “dual” to the operator  $\mathcal{O}[x]$



# Correlators

- Then: [Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov; Witten; 1998]

$$Z_{QFT}[\phi_0] = Z_{QG/String} \approx e^{iS_{gravity}[\phi_0]} \Big|_{\text{“}\phi(x,r) \rightarrow \phi_0(x)\text{”}}$$

- So that for example:  $\langle \mathcal{O}(x)\mathcal{O}(y) \rangle \sim \frac{\delta^2 S_{grav}[\phi_0]}{\delta\phi_0(x)\delta\phi_0(y)} \Big|_{\phi_0=0}$ 
  - Can compute correlators, just solving equation of motion for  $\phi(x,r)$  !
  - Retarded correlators at finite temperature: incoming b. c. at horizon

Operator  $\mathcal{O}(x)$   $\rightarrow$  Gravity field  $\phi(x,r)$

- Example 1 (stress tensor):  $T^{\mu\nu}(x) \rightarrow g_{\mu\nu}(x, r)$

- Example 2 (conserved current):  $J^\mu(x) \rightarrow A_\mu(x, r)$

- Example 3 (scalar operator):  $Tr F^2(x) \rightarrow \Phi(x, r)$

- Global symmetries in QFT are mapped into local symmetries in the gravity side

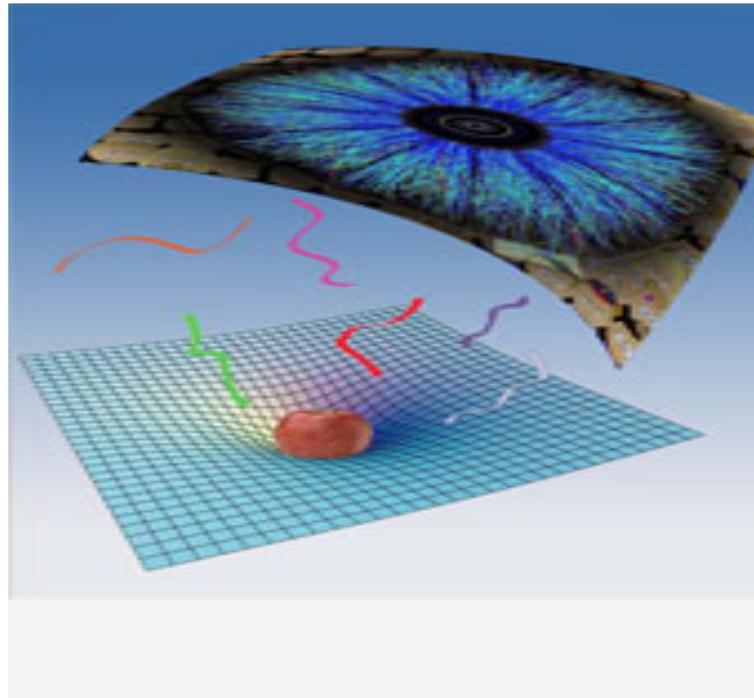
# Plan

- What is it ?
- *Historical interlude*
- How does it work ?
- What is it for ?

## Strongly correlated QFTs arise in many places:

- QCD: confinement, mass gap, quark-gluon plasma phase, neutron star core...
- Quantum critical regions in condensed matter: high  $T_c$  superconductors, strange metals ...
- Often non-equilibrium, finite density challenging: need novel tools .
- Holography is emerging as a promising one.
- Often analytic control on the models. Novel intuitions.
- Can deal with both static and real-time dynamical properties.
- Still limited to toy models.
- Provide benchmarks and info on universal behavior at strong coupling.

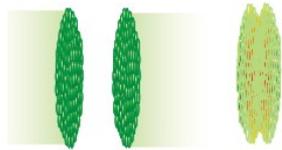
# Example 1: Holography, black holes and the Quark-Gluon Plasma



# The Quark-Gluon-Plasma

Au+Au collisions at STAR (RHIC). 200 GeV/nucleon pair.  
 Pb + Pb collisions at ALICE (LHC). 3 TeV/nucleon pair

Two colliding ions

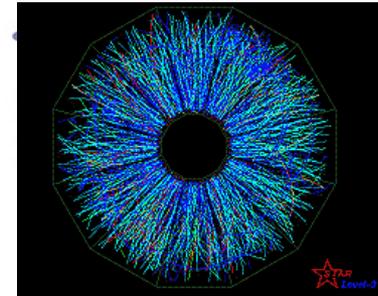
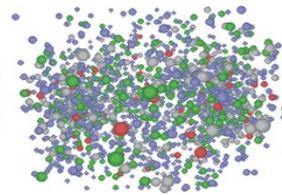
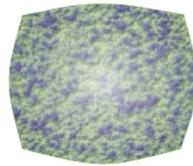


pre-equilibrium

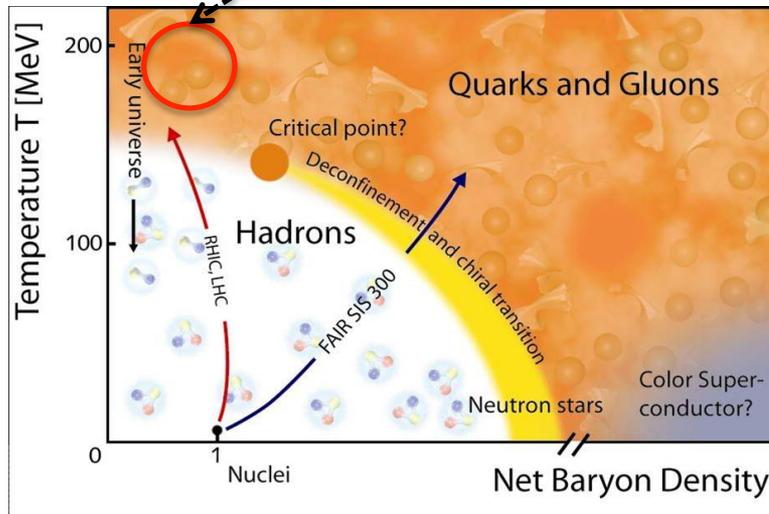
Quark-gluon plasma



Hadronization



t



A novel state of matter where QCD is deconfined

# The Quark-Gluon-Plasma

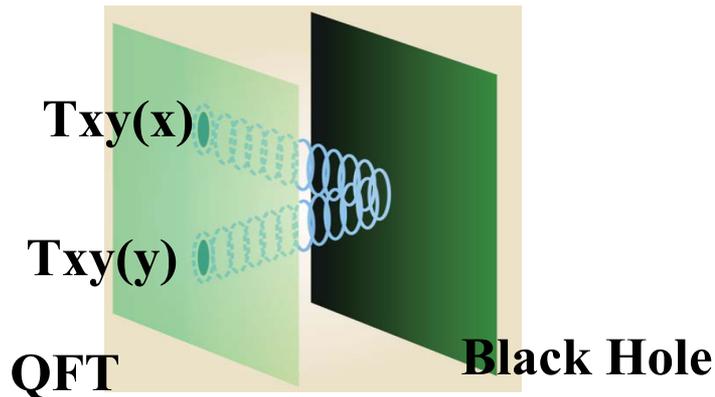
- **Heavy ion collisions** at **RHIC** and **LHC** indicate that QGP:
  - behaves like **liquid**
  - **Very small shear viscosity over entropy density ratio**
  - **Hence: strongly coupled**
  - Nearly scale invariant
  - Very opaque (**large jet quenching**)
- Challenging, dynamical system. Try with holography
- **Strongly coupled thermal QFT** → **Black Hole in higher dim.**
- **QFT Thermodynamics** → **Black Hole thermodynamics.**
- **Hydrodynamics** → **Fluctuations around black hole background**

## Shear viscosity from holography

$$\eta = -\text{Lim}_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\omega} \text{Im} G_{xy,xy}^R(\omega, \mathbf{0})$$

$$G_{xy,xy}^R(\omega, \mathbf{0}) = \int dt d\mathbf{x} e^{i\omega t} \theta(t) \langle [T_{xy}(t, \mathbf{x}), T_{xy}(0, \mathbf{0})] \rangle$$

- Compute using holography:  $T_{xy}(\mathbf{x})$  dual to  $g_{xy}(\mathbf{x}, r)$



QFT correlator = classical scattering of gravitons from black hole

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\hbar}{K_B}$$

[T. Damour, Ph.D. Thesis 1979;  
Policastro, Son, Starinets, 2001;  
Kovtun, Son, Starinets 2004]

- **Universal:** for any isotropic fluid with classical gravity dual
- **Surprisingly close** to the measured value for **QGP**

# Second order hydrodynamics from holography

[Romatschke 2009; F.B., Cotrone, Tarrío; F.B., Cotrone, 2010]

Model: conformality broken by marginally relevant operator

$$\Delta \equiv (1 - 3c_s^2)$$

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 \frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi} & T\tau_\pi = \frac{2 - \log 2}{2\pi} + \frac{3(16 - \pi^2)}{64\pi} \Delta & \frac{T\kappa}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left(1 - \frac{3}{4}\Delta\right) \\
 \frac{T\lambda_1}{s} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \left(1 + \frac{3}{4}\Delta\right) & \frac{T\lambda_2}{s} = -\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left(\log 2 + \frac{3\pi^2}{32}\Delta\right) & \frac{T\lambda_3}{s} = 0 \\
 \frac{T\lambda_4}{s} = 0 & \frac{T\kappa^*}{s} = -\frac{3}{8\pi^2} \Delta & T\tau_\pi^* = -\frac{2 - \log 2}{2\pi} \Delta \\
 \frac{\zeta}{\eta} = \frac{2}{3} \Delta & T\tau_\Pi = \frac{2 - \log 2}{2\pi} & \frac{T\xi_1}{s} = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \Delta \\
 \frac{T\xi_2}{s} = \frac{2 - \log 2}{36\pi^2} \Delta & \frac{T\xi_3}{s} = \frac{T\xi_4}{s} = 0 & \frac{T\xi_5}{s} = \frac{1}{12\pi^2} \Delta \\
 & & \frac{T\xi_6}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \Delta
 \end{array}$$

Note: QCD fireball nearly conformal and strongly coupled for  $1.5T_c \lesssim T \lesssim 4T_c$  (RHIC, LHC).

## Jet quenching parameter

- Transport coefficient characterizing probe **parton energy loss**
- Evaluated holographically in  $N=4$  SYM [Liu, Rajagopal, Wiedemann 06]
- Adding  $N_f$  dynamical flavors [Bigazzi, Cotrone, Mas, Paredes, Ramallo, Tarrío 2009]

$$\hat{q} = \frac{\pi^{3/2} \Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}{\Gamma(\frac{5}{4})} \sqrt{\lambda} T^3 \left[ 1 + \frac{2 + \pi}{64\pi^2} \lambda \frac{N_f}{N_c} + \dots \right]$$

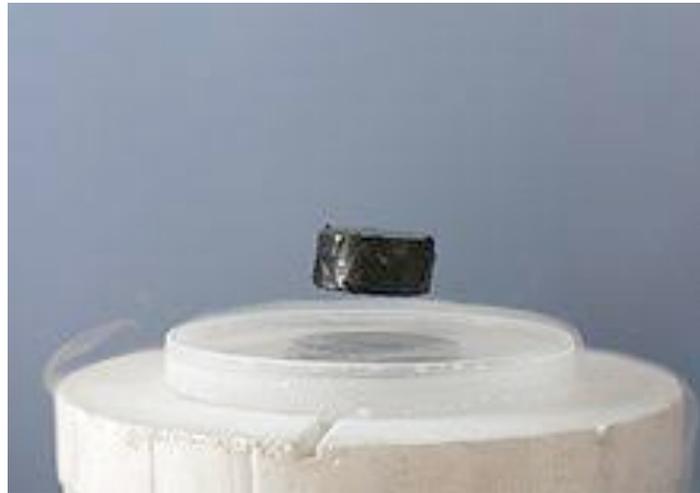
Quarks enhance jet quenching

**Extrapolating to QGP:**  $N_c=N_f=3$ ,  $\lambda=6\pi$ ,  $T=300$  MeV, get

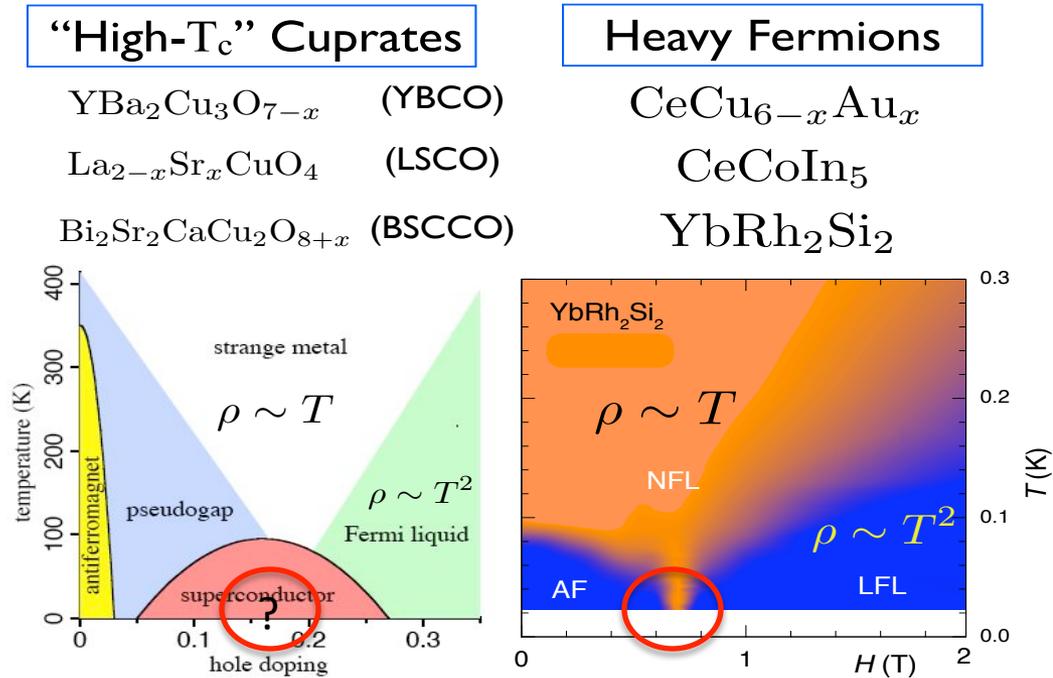
$$q \approx 4 \div 5 \text{ GeV}^2/\text{fm}$$

**right in the ballpark of data**

## Example 2: Holography and condensed matter



- Strongly correlated electrons (Condensed Matter) (often layered, 2+1)



- Quantum phase transitions ( $T=0$ ). **Scale invariant** QFT. Very large correlations

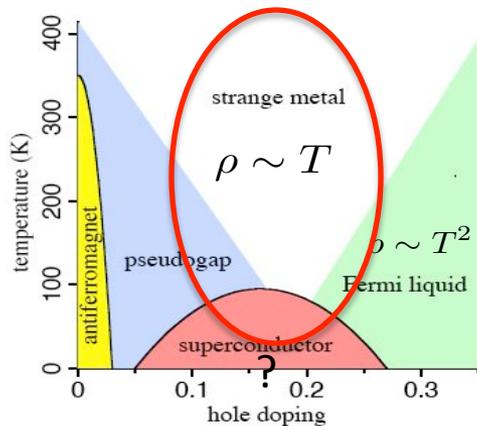
## 2. Strongly correlated electrons (Condensed Matter) (often layered, 2+1)

### “High- $T_c$ ” Cuprates

$\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-x}$  (YBCO)

$\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CuO}_4$  (LSCO)

$\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+x}$  (BSCCO)

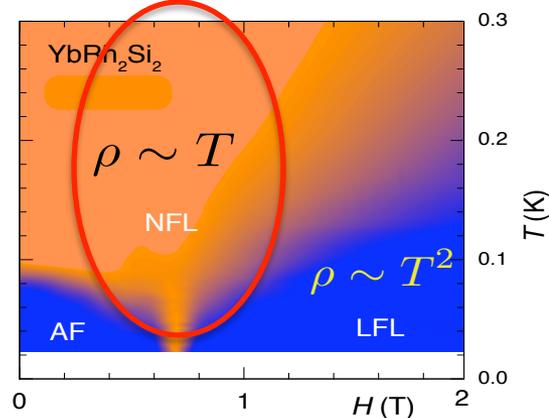


### Heavy Fermions

$\text{CeCu}_{6-x}\text{Au}_x$

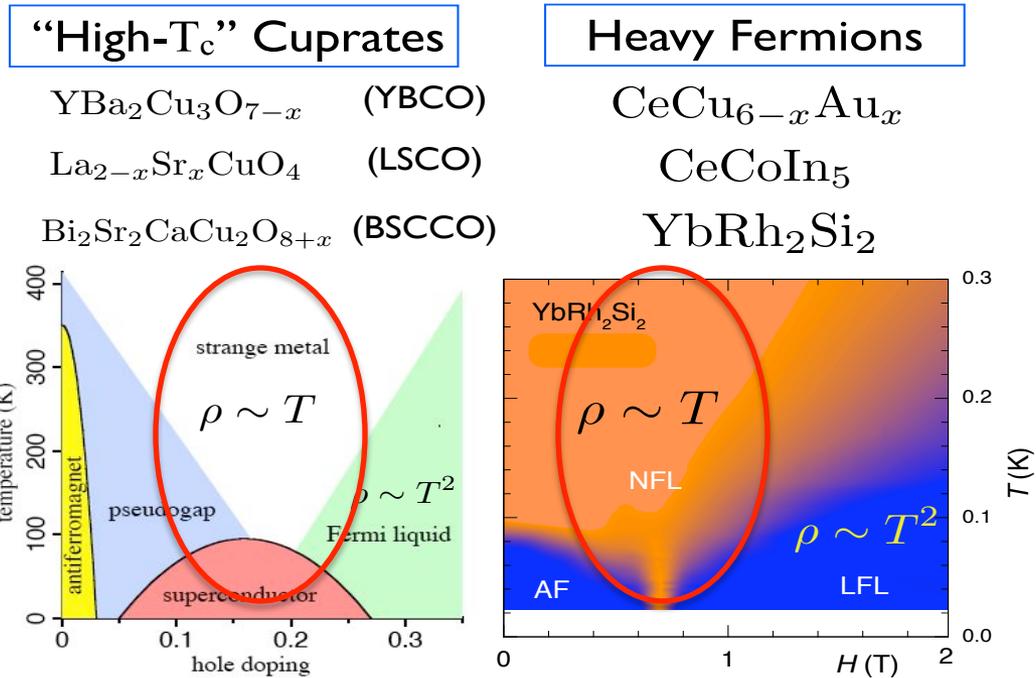
$\text{CeCoIn}_5$

$\text{YbRh}_2\text{Si}_2$



- Quantum phase transitions ( $T=0$ ). **Scale invariant** QFT. Very large correlations
- Quantum critical region. Affected by quantum critical point at  $T=0$  [Sachdev]
- Exhibit phases which escape standard paradigms based on quasi-particle description
- E.g. strange metallic phase with **linear (in  $T$ ) resistivity**
- No satisfactory theoretical understanding

## - 2. Strongly correlated electrons (Condensed Matter)



- Example of challenging observable at strong coupling: (optical) conductivity
- Ohm's law:  $\mathbf{J} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{E}$ .  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ : retarded correlator of U(1) current  $\mathbf{J}$ ; ( $\rho = 1/\text{Re}[\boldsymbol{\sigma}(0)]$ )

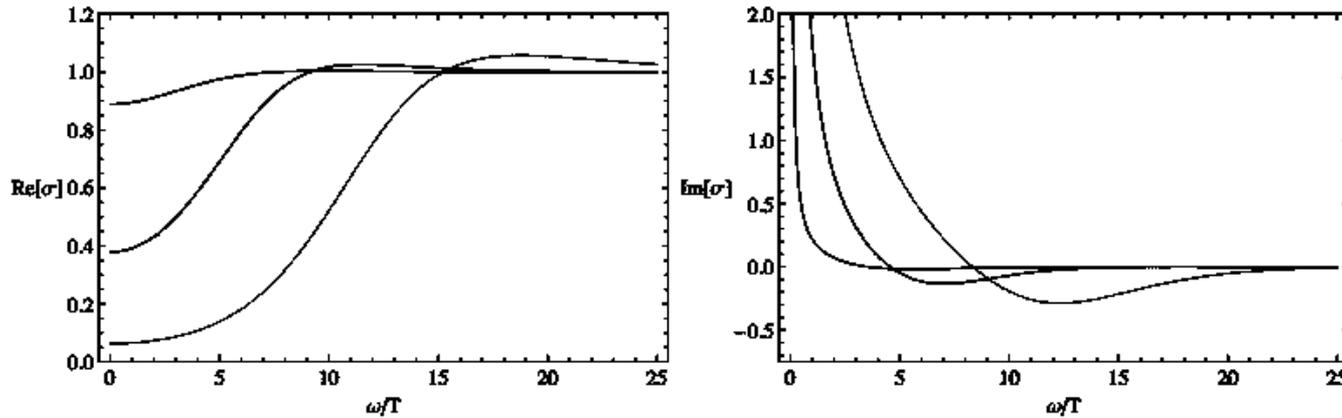
$$\sigma(\omega) = \text{Lim}_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{G_{JJ}^R(\omega, k)}{i\omega}$$

$$G_{JJ}^R(\omega, k) = -i \int d^{d-1}x dt e^{i\omega t - ikx} \theta(t) \langle [J(t, x), J(0, 0)] \rangle$$

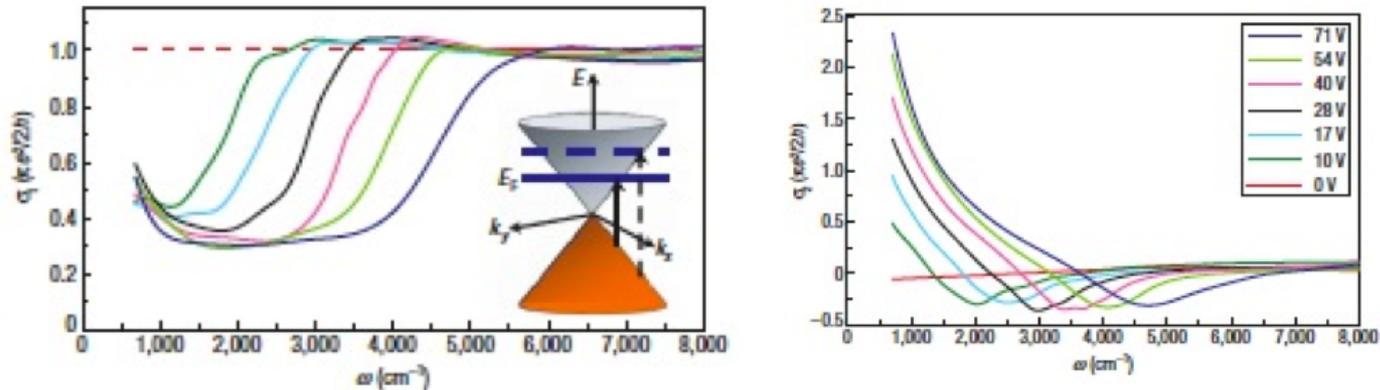
# Optical conductivity in d=2+1 from holography

From fluctuations around dual charged black hole [Herzog, Kovtun, Sachdev, Son, 07]

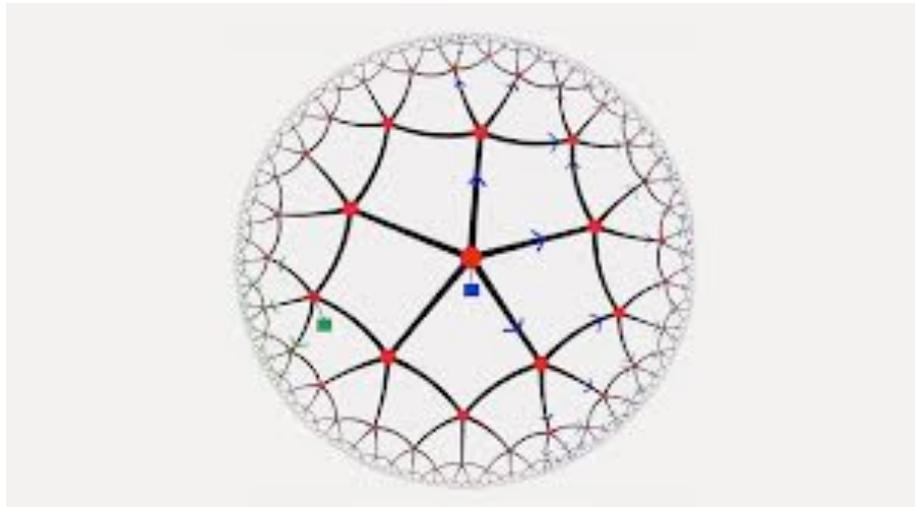
- $J_X = \sigma E_X = -i\omega \sigma A_X$



- Cfr with graphene (at low energy a relativistic theory in 2+1) [Li et al 2008]

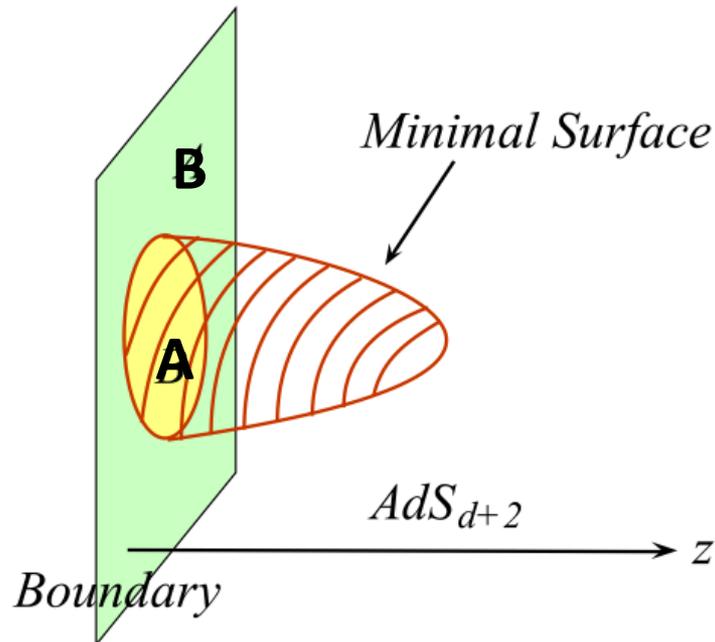


# Example 3: Holography, black holes and quantum information



# Holography and Entanglement Entropy

- Consider region A in a space A+B
- If ignorant on B, define reduced density matrix  $\rho_A = \text{tr}_B \rho$
- Entanglement entropy  $S_A = -\text{tr}_A \rho_A \log \rho_A$
- Holographically [Ryu, Takayanagi 2006]



$$S_A = \text{extremum}_{\partial M = \partial A} \frac{\text{area}(M)}{4G_N}$$

- For  $AdS_3$  this gives,

$$S_A = \frac{c}{3} \log \frac{l}{a}$$

- Same as in 2d CFT [Wilczek; Cardy, Calabrese]

# Concluding comments

- Holography: theory of strings (QG) = lower dim. QFT without gravity.
- In a sense this could provide a background independent definition of QG.
- An enormous amount of **quantitative checks**.
- **Many applications to strongly coupled QFT**, from hep to cond-mat
- **In recent years many efforts for going in the other direction:**
  - Gravity as an emergent quantum many-body phenomenon?
  - What role do quantum information concepts such as **entanglement** and **circuit complexity** play in this connection ?
- **A lot of fun!**

Thank you for your time