# <u>Non-Fermi Liquid Quantum</u> <u>Critical Points in 2+1 d</u>

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### Quantum Critical Points and Quantum Critical Regions

[Quantum Phase Transitions, S. Sachdev, 2011, Cambridge Univ. Press]

- Quantum Critical Points (QCP) are associated to transitions between phases of matter at zero temperature.
- Occur when one (or several) coupling takes a particular **critical value**, which can in turn be tuned by varying certain external parameters (e.g. magnetic field, doping, pressure, etc...)
- At this particular locus, the Ground State dramatically changes (usually associated to some **Symmetry Breaking Pattern**).
- Hence, they depend exclusively on the properties of the GS, and thermal fluctuations don't play any role !

(For instance, don't confuse with magnetic orders destroyed by thermal fluctuations upon heating up the system (Curie transition at finite T))

• Prototypical example: Quantum Ising model

$$H = -J\sum_{\langle i,j\rangle}\sigma_i^z\sigma_j^z - Jg\sum_i\sigma_i^x$$



• What are the relevant degrees of freedom at the QCP?

#### Interested on **2<sup>nd</sup> order phase transitions**:

Typical energy scale vanish (gap, scale of fluctuations, stiffness, masses, etc)

Divergent correlation length (exponential to power law)

$$\Delta \sim |g - g_c|^{z\nu}$$

$$\xi^{-1} \sim |g - g_c|^{\nu}$$

Scale invariant theory of gapless degrees of freedom

**Dispersion relation determined by the critical exponent** 

 $\Delta \sim \xi^{-z} \sim p^z$   $z \equiv Dynamical Critical Exponent$ 

But experiments are at finite temperature so... is this useful at all?

• Yes! At finite T, there's a **Quantum Critical Region (QCR)** 



- Quantum fluctuations still dominate over thermal fluctuations on the QCR.
- Scaling behavior dictated by the QCP extends over the QCR, up to a given (dynamically generated) scale
- This affect thermodynamic properties, transport coefficients, etc. Experiments
   detect the QCR !

Crossover:  $T \sim \xi^{-z} \sim p^z$ 

So far we haven't talked about **FERMIONS**...

- In metallic systems, there are FERMIONIC degrees of freedom, whose ground state is characterized by the presence of a FERMI SURFACE (FS)
- Strong constraints associated to the FS lead to a dramatic simplification of the dynamics of fermions at low energies: Fermi Liquid Theory [Landau]



- Pauli's exclusion principle strongly suppress the phase space of allowed states participating on scattering processes at low energies
- It may involve large renormalizations, but they do not change drastically the analytic structure of the physical observables:

Decay rate 
$$\sim \left(\frac{\epsilon}{E_F}\right)^2 \qquad \epsilon = E - E_F$$

• Adiabatic Continuity: most metallic systems are described in the IR by a theory of **weakly coupled fermionic quasiparticles**.



• There's a MARGINALLY RELEVANT interaction, usually induced by phonons : BCS



- Fermi Liquid Th + BCS mechanism : successful description of many observed metallic samples. One of the biggest achievements of the Wilsonian RG!
  - How does it breaks?
  - Is it possible for a metallic system to present different scaling behavior?
  - Alternative dissipation dynamics, scaling for the resistivity?
  - Are there alternatives to the BCS mechanism for superconductivity? Nonexponentially suppressed critical temperatures?

But, first of all, do we actually need to find an alternative? Why should we look for Non-Fermi Liquids?



- Usual phenomenology observed in High Tc Superconductors, e.g. Cuprates at optimal doping.
- Strange Metal behavior above the SC dome signals the presence of a QCP at T=0. Planckian dissipation!
- Generically, a superconducting phase takes on before reaching T=0
- Underlying metallic state is a key ingredient for the onset of SC at high critical temperatures.
- Moreover, in some cases the SC dome can be shrunk by applying external magnetic fields, so uncovering more of the QCR. (Observation of a naked QCP?)

- A recipe to cook a Non-Fermi Liquid:
  - Add singular interactions, such that quantum corrections modify the analytic structure of the fermionic quasiparticles
  - Find a way to get singular (at low energies) contributions to pairing, which may enhance the critical scales



• Presence of a given QCR stands as a plausible explanation for the anomalous scaling observed in Strange Metallic States (e.g. anomalous scaling of the resistivity with T)

### Our Task:

- Find a NFL critical point by coupling the FS to gapless bosons in the vicinity of a QCP. [JAD, Kachru, Raghu, Torroba]
- Characterize the QCR (finite T). In particular, it will demand to develop a mechanism for solving certain IR divergencies associated with the presence of gapless bosonic modes [JAD, Torroba, Solis]
- Explore the implications for Superconductivity? [JAD, Torroba, Solis]

## The model at T=0: The QCP

- We will concern about models in d=2 spatial dimensions
- Spherical Fermi surface of radius k<sub>F</sub> (Fermi momentum). This is usually the largest scale in the game.
- Near the FS, the quasiparticle energy only depends on the perpendicular component of the momentum

$$\mathbf{p} = (k_F + p_\perp)\mathbf{n}$$

$$\varepsilon_p = \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu_F \approx vp_\perp \implies \int_{\omega,p} \psi^{\dagger} (i\omega - vp_\perp) \psi$$

$$\mu_F = \frac{k_F^2}{2m} \quad v = \frac{k_F}{m}$$



• Gapless boson:

• Yukawa Interaction:

$$\int_{\Omega,q} \phi(\Omega^2 + q^2)\phi$$

$$\int \phi \, \psi^{\dagger} \, \psi$$

Is the relativistic boson dispersion relation robust at low energies?

#### Moral:

At low energies, dynamics of the relevant modes is governed by Landau Damping Consider overdamped bosons right from the outset of the problem • Introduce the so-called **Debye Mass** 

 $M_D$  = Debye Mass  $\int_{\Omega,q} \phi \left(q^2 + M_D^2 \frac{\Omega}{q}\right) \phi$ 

- This scale will act as the natural UV cutoff in our Effective Field Theory
- As the model is **tuned to criticality**, there is no mass term

$$\begin{split} \Omega \sim q^{z} & \text{Relativistic boson} \quad : \int_{\Omega,q} \phi(\Omega^{2} + q^{2})\phi \; \Rightarrow \; z = 1 \\ \textbf{z} = \text{Dynamical exponent} & \text{Overdamped boson} & : \int_{\Omega,q} \phi\left(\frac{\Omega}{q} + q^{2}\right)\phi \; \Rightarrow \; z = 3 \end{split}$$

### **Our Model:** FS interacting with a (gapless) **z=3** boson

(Quite common! Bosons associated to order parameters tend to display non-relativistic dispersions )

- Yukawa interaction is **RELEVANT** in d=2. The model is **STRONGLY COUPLED**
- Final ingredient: allow the fields to transform in a non-trivial representation of a flavor **SU(N)**, in order to solve the theory within a large **N** expansion

$$\begin{split} S_{f} &= -\int_{\omega,p} \psi_{i}^{\dagger} \left( i\omega - vp_{\perp} \right) \psi^{i} & \text{Fermionic excitations, transforming in the} \\ S_{b} &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega,q} \phi_{i}^{j} \left( q^{2} + M_{D}^{2} \frac{|\Omega|}{q} \right) \phi_{j}^{i} & \text{Overdamped adjoint scalars with} \\ \mathbf{z=3} \text{ dynamical exponent} \end{split}$$

Relevant coupling **g** is kept fixed as **N** goes large

P

$$S_Y = \frac{g}{\sqrt{N}} \int_{\omega,p} \int_{\Omega,q} \phi_j^i(\Omega,q) \psi_i^{\dagger}(\omega,p) \psi^j(\omega-\Omega,p-q)$$

Solve the associated large-N Schwinger-Dyson equations

• At leading order in N, the (1-loop exact) solution of the Schwinger-Dyson equations is



 $\omega < \Lambda \implies \Sigma(\omega) > \omega$ 

 Dynamically generated scale below which the system flows to a non-trivial fixed point with NFL scaling

$$\left(\int_{\omega,p}\psi^{\dagger}\left(i\Lambda^{1/3}|\omega|^{2/3}-vp_{\perp}\right)\psi \Rightarrow z_{f}=3/2\right)$$

• The Yukawa coupling flows to a finite (O(1)) value given by the zero of the beta function. Therefore the model flows to an **interacting fixed point with NFL dynamics** 

• The QCP just described is scale invariant. In particular, for the bosonic variables, the scale transformation is

$$\Omega \to e^s \Omega \ , \ q \to e^{\frac{s}{3}} q \ , \ \phi \to e^{-\frac{7}{6}s} \phi$$

• Note we haven't considered boson self-interactions. In particular, a quartic interaction is allowed by symmetries, so there is no reason to not include it in our effective action.

$$\lambda_{\phi} \int_{\{\Omega_i, q_i\}} \phi_i^4$$

- However, under the scale transformation,  $\lambda_{\phi} \rightarrow e^{-\frac{s}{3}} \lambda_{\phi}$
- The interaction is IRRELEVANT at the fixed point thus being consistently ignored in the description of the QCP. We will come back to it at finite temperatures!

## Heating up the QCP

- So far we have found the fixed point at T=0, describing the QCP. It displays NFL scaling by means of a fermionic dynamical exponent  $z_f = 3/2$
- This occurs below a dynamically generated scale  $\Lambda$
- The naïve intuition about the finite T physics is that a QCR displaying the same anomalous scaling should extend above the QCP. As there are no additional scales in play, one would expect the crossover to occur at temperatures of the same order

Crossover :  $T \sim \Lambda$ 



Q: Is the naïve intuition actually accurate?
A: NO
Q: Why is that? You said there's no additional scales in the game!
A: Because, once turning on T, the model is plagued of IR divergencies.

- Of course, these divergencies compromise the perturbative expansion of the theory
- So one has to find a mechanism to resolve them. On doing that, a new scale is generated, thus drastically changing the naïve picture just described

 $\int_{\Omega} \phi \left(\frac{\Omega}{q} + q^2\right) \phi$ 

 $\Omega = 0$ 

- No damping
- Eff. 2d : IR divergent
- Destroy **z**<sub>f</sub> = **3/2**
- Dominate at high T



$$\Omega = 2\pi nT$$

 $\Omega \neq 0$ 

- Landau damping
- Regular
- Induce **z**<sub>f</sub> = **3/2**
- Dominate at low T

This will lead to a richer structure for the QCR!

### IR divergencies and its resolution

• In these sort of models, IR divergent amplitudes arise from the exchange of static (zero frequency) bosonic modes

$$i\Sigma(\omega_n) = i\frac{g^2}{2\pi}T\sum_m \int qdq \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\omega_m)}{\sqrt{\omega_m^2 + (vq)^2}} D(i\omega_n - i\omega_m, q) = \begin{pmatrix} m = n \\ \Sigma_T(\omega_n) \end{pmatrix} + \sum_{\operatorname{NFL}}(\omega_n)$$

$$D(q, i\Omega) = \frac{1}{q^2 + M_D^2 \frac{|\Omega|}{q}}$$

$$D(q, 0) = \frac{1}{q^2}$$

$$\Sigma(\omega_n) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{g^2}{2\pi}T\left\{\int \frac{dq}{q} \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\omega_n)}{\sqrt{\omega_n^2 + (vq)^2}} \right\} \xrightarrow{\operatorname{LOG Divergent AS}} q \to 0$$

$$+ \sum_{m \neq n} \int qdq \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\omega_m)}{\sqrt{\omega_m^2 + (vq)^2}} D(i\omega_n - i\omega_m, q) \right\}$$

- IR divergences of this kind appear also at any higher loop diagram involving running static modes, so plaguing the whole perturbative series.
- For the model to be sensible, we need to resolve them:

#### **<u>1st</u>** attempt : A perturbative mass (FAILED)

It is a possibility for a mass term to be generated by fermions running in a loop, that would solve our problem already at 1-loop. We know it does not happen at T=0, but maybe there's a chance at finite T...

#### However...

It is just a correction to the Landau damping (already present at tree level), so it doesn't do the job

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt : Non-perturbative resolution (FAILED)

- It is not new that, in many cases, one could get rid of the divergencies by resuming an infinite set of diagrams. It usually leads to a finite result with non-analytic dependence on the coupling
- This mechanism proved to be useful for similar models in higher dimensions. So it is a natural choice here.

#### <u>RECIPE</u>

Regulate the integrals, for instance by working in dimensional regularization

 $d = 2 + \epsilon$ 

- Write down the SD equation by summing the rainbow diagrams and solve it
- $\circ~$  Cross fingers and take the limit  $~\epsilon
  ightarrow 0$

• Is the result finite???



$$\Sigma_T(\omega_n) \approx \operatorname{sgn}(\omega_n) \left(\frac{v^{\epsilon}}{2\pi\epsilon}g^2T\right)^{\frac{1}{2-\epsilon}} \sim \frac{1}{\epsilon^{1/2}} \quad !!!$$

This method is not suitable . IR divergencies on **d=2** are too strong to be cured this way...

#### <u>**3**rd</u> attempt : Thermal mass generated by self-interactions

- So far we've been neglecting the 4-boson self-interaction. That is just fine as long as the bosonic dynamics are governed by the **z=3** scaling, for which this is an irrelevant term in the EFT.
- However, at finite T , one has to be more careful, as the effective action for the static mode does not have this property!
- At low energies and momenta, there's a large gap between the zero frequency mode and the remaining ones. So we can focus on the effective theory for this mode, now including the quartic interaction

$$E \ll T, q \ll (2\pi T M_D^2)^{1/3} \qquad \tilde{\phi}(q) \equiv T^{1/2} \phi(\Omega_n = 0, q)$$

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \int \frac{d^2 q}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr} \left( \tilde{\phi}_q q^2 \tilde{\phi}_{-q} \right) + \frac{\lambda_{\phi} T}{8N} \int \prod_{i=1}^3 \frac{d^2 q_i}{(2\pi)^2} \operatorname{tr} \left( \tilde{\phi}_{q_1} \tilde{\phi}_{q_2} \tilde{\phi}_{q_3} \tilde{\phi}_{-q_1-q_2-q_3} \right)$$

• Now, under a scale transformation which leaves the kinetic term invariant

- This is the case of "dangerously irrelevant" interaction becoming relevant in a particular situation. Physically, one could understand this as a consequence of the effective theory for the first mode being on one less dimension.
- Being now relevant, we can no longer ignore its effects. Moreover, this interactions generate a mass term which is enough to render the model finite!

• The self-consistent Thermal Mass:



$$\label{eq:mb} m_b^2 \approx \frac{\lambda_\phi T}{4\pi} \; \log\left(4\pi \frac{(2\pi T M_D^2)^{2/3}}{\lambda_\phi T}\right)$$





### Solving the model at finite T

- By including the thermal mass, the integral SD equations are now finite
- We are thus in place to solve the model, that is, computing the fermionic self-energy

$$\Sigma(\omega_n) = \Sigma_T(\omega_n) + \Sigma_{\text{NFL}}(\omega_n)$$

#### Thermal component:

- Contribution of static modes only
- Resolved by the thermal mass
- This is the new feature which arises at finite T
- Introduces a new scale together with new scaling behavior!
- Vanishes at T = 0

"Quantum" NFL component:

- Comprises quantum effects inherited from the QCP
- Preserves the QCP scaling (z<sub>f</sub> = 3/2)
- Limits continuously to its T=0 counterpart

#### The "Quantum" Self-Energy:

$$\frac{\Sigma_{\rm NFL}(\omega_n)}{{\rm sgn}(\omega_n)} \approx \Lambda^{1/3} (2\pi T)^{2/3} \frac{2}{3} \left( \zeta(\frac{1}{3}) - \zeta(\frac{1}{3}, |n + \frac{1}{2}| + \frac{1}{2}) \right)$$

• Goes continuously to the QCP at T=0

$$T \to 0 \ n \to \infty \quad nT \sim \omega \qquad \to \Sigma(\omega) = \Lambda^{1/3} |\omega|^{2/3}$$

• Anomalous scaling with Temperature, dictated by the QCP

$$\Sigma_{\rm NFL}(\omega_n) \sim \omega_n^{2/3} \sim T^{2/3}$$

#### **The Thermal Self-Energy:**

$$\Sigma_T(\omega_n) \approx \begin{cases} \boxed{\sqrt{g^2 T}} &, \quad \omega_n < \Lambda_T \\ \frac{g^2 T}{\Sigma_{\text{NFL}}(\omega_n)} &, \quad \Lambda_T < \omega_n < \Lambda \\ \frac{g^2 T}{\omega_n} &, \quad \Lambda > \omega_n \end{cases}$$



• A new (T-dependent) scale:

$$\Lambda_T(T) \approx \frac{g^{3/2} T^{3/4}}{\Lambda^{1/2}}$$

• Violates the QCP scaling!

$$\Sigma_T(\omega_n) \sim T^{1/2}$$
,  $(\omega_n - \text{indep.})$ 

## This is the main point in this story!

- With the appearance of a new dynamically generated scale, one would expect a new crossover in the scaling behavior as a function of the temperature
- That might affect considerably the structure of the QCR, breaking our naïve intuition. In fact that's what happens!
- Some regions on parameter space will be governed by the new NFL scaling. It is no more caused by quantum effects, but thermal ones.
   So it is called Thermal NFL

• Lets establish some hierarchy of the relevant parameters

$$\Lambda \ll g^2 \ll M_D$$

#### • Then we get three well defined regimes as T increases

1) $T = 0$ :	$\omega + \Sigma(\omega) \approx \begin{cases} \Lambda^{1/3} \omega^{2/3} &,  \omega < \Lambda \\ \omega &,  \Lambda > \omega \end{cases}$	QC NFL + FL
2) $0 < T < (\Lambda/g^2)\Lambda$ : $(\Lambda_T \ll \Lambda)$	$\omega_n + \Sigma(\omega_n) \approx \begin{cases} \sqrt{g^2 T} &,  \omega_n < \Lambda_T \\ \Lambda^{1/3} \omega_n^{2/3} &,  \Lambda_T < \omega_n < \Lambda \\ \omega_n &,  \Lambda > \omega_n \end{cases}$	Th NFL + QC NFL + FL
3) $(\Lambda/g^2)\Lambda < T < g^2$ $(\Lambda_T = \Lambda)$	$\omega_n + \Sigma(\omega_n) \approx \begin{cases} \sqrt{g^2 T} &,  \omega_n < \sqrt{g^2 T} \\ \omega_n &,  \sqrt{g^2 T} > \omega_n \end{cases}$	Th. NFL + FL

• Now we can develop a better intuition about the QCR



• Recall our hierarchy  $\Lambda \ll g^2 \ll M_D$ 



- The QCR is smaller in comparison with the naïve intuition
- This occurs because IR singularities (or its consequences after being resolved) are strong enough to dominate over the QCP dynamics above a certain scale smaller than  $\Lambda$
- A new "phase" dominated by static boson exchange extends over the QCR
- It presents anomalous scaling with a different exponent

## What about Superconductivity?

- NFL superconductivity displays new features caused by both quantum and thermal effects
- **Quantum**: Dual effect of interactions mediated by gapless bosons



• Perturbative RG at zero temperature:





### Thermal effects:

- Static boson contributions are **usually excluded** by appealing to Anderson's theorem (disorder doesn't affect superconductivity)
- Not possible to do that in models with N>1
- Lead to additional suppression of SC, together with scale separation





Benchmark of NFL superconductivity!

Recall the BCS case: 
$$\frac{T_c}{\Delta_{sc}} \approx \mathcal{O}(1)$$
 )

 Numerical calculations confirmed the analytical expectations

 $\frac{T}{\Lambda}$ 





## Summary and conclusions:

- The theory of Non Fermi Liquid metals stands as a plausible theoretical approach to the phenomenology of both Strange Metallic normal states and the on-set of Superconductivity beyond BCS.
- We worked out a particular example under analytical control, so amenable to extract precise predictions for the anomalous scaling.
- Look for further examples of this kind may lead to a better understanding of the underlying physics and competing effects (maybe more realistic ones? Models with z=2 order parameter?)
- Besides SC: Strong incoherence may suppress SC completely. Engineering of materials with large N? Naked QCP's in the lab?

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH!