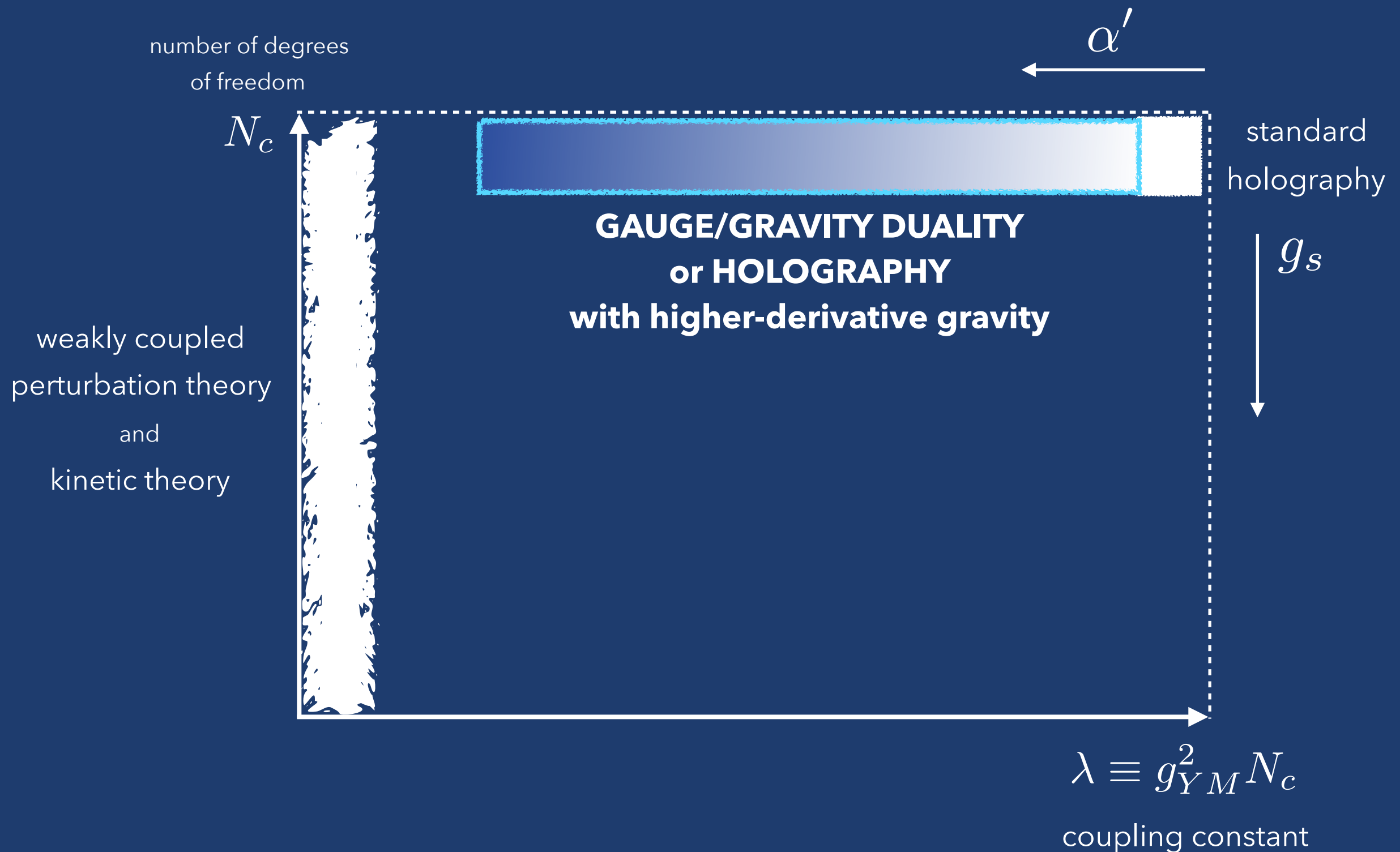


SAŠO GROZDANOV  
MIT

# STRONG AND WEAK COUPLING APPROACHES

NEW YORK, 27.6.2019

problem: understand the transition of transport, relaxation, ... from strong to weak coupling in non-Abelian gauge theories, *like QCD*



- an example of an exact interpolation from strong to weak coupling (extremely rare, even at zero temperature):

expectation value of a circular Wilson loop in  $SU(N_c)$ ,  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supersymmetric Yang-Mills (SYM) theory in the limit  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ , as a function of the 't Hooft coupling  $\lambda \equiv g_{YM}^2 N_c$   
[Erickson, Semenoff, Zarembo (2000)]

exact:

$$\langle W_C \rangle = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} I_1(\sqrt{\lambda})$$

perturbative in the coupling:  $\lambda \ll 1$  :

$$\langle W_C \rangle = 1 + \frac{\lambda}{8} + \frac{\lambda^2}{192} + \dots$$

QFT-type  
result

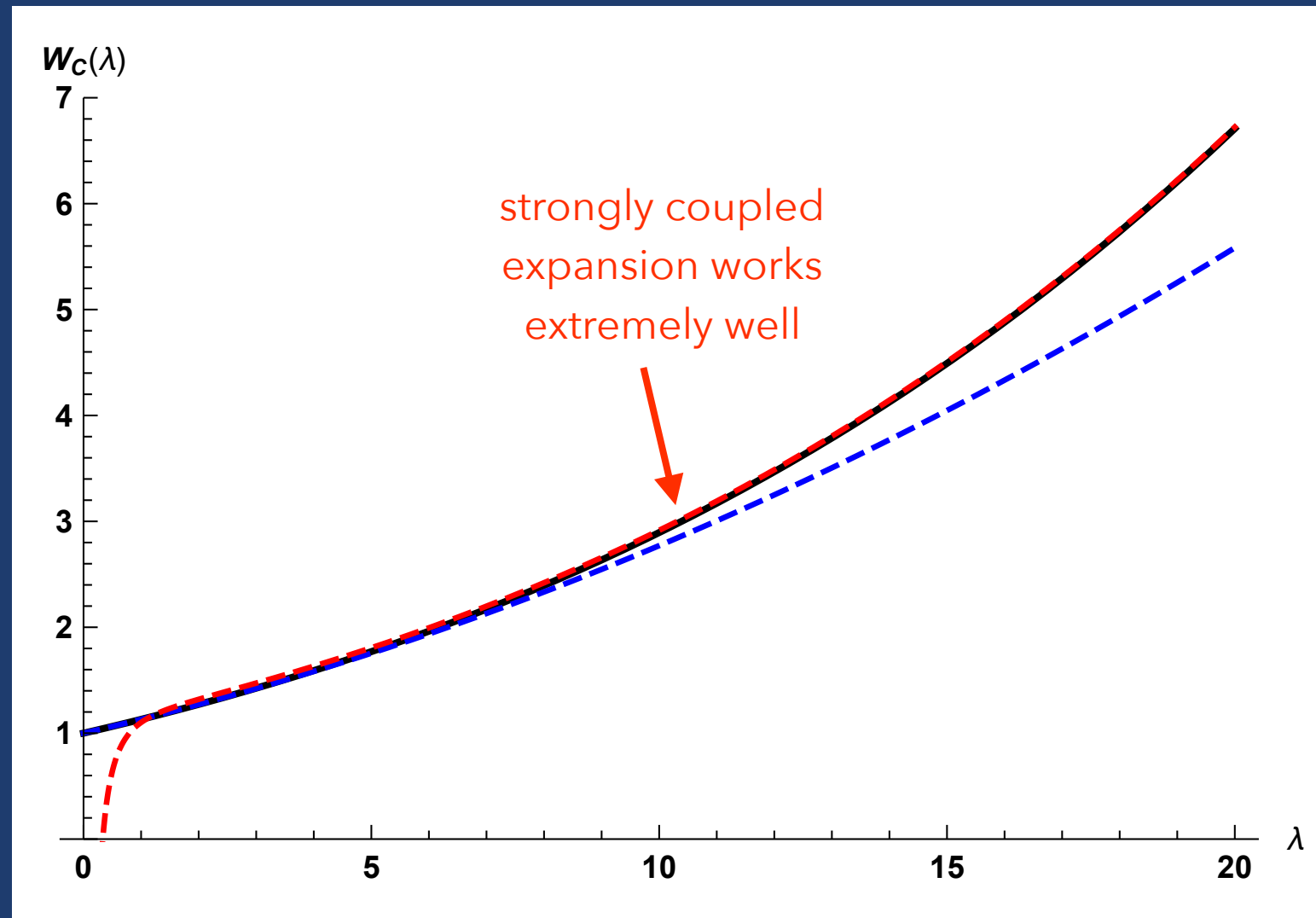
perturbative in the inverse coupling:  $\lambda \gg 1$  :

$$\langle W_C \rangle \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{e^{\sqrt{\lambda}}}{\lambda^{3/4}} \left( 1 - \frac{3}{8\sqrt{\lambda}} - \frac{15}{128\lambda} + \dots \right)$$

holography-type  
result

exact:

$$\langle W_C \rangle = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} I_1(\sqrt{\lambda})$$



perturbative in the coupling:  $\lambda \ll 1$  :

$$\langle W_C \rangle = 1 + \frac{\lambda}{8} + \frac{\lambda^2}{192} + \dots$$

QFT-type result

perturbative in the inverse coupling:  $\lambda \gg 1$  :

$$\langle W_C \rangle \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{e^{\sqrt{\lambda}}}{\lambda^{3/4}} \left( 1 - \frac{3}{8\sqrt{\lambda}} - \frac{15}{128\lambda} + \dots \right)$$

holography-type result

- entropy density (from free energy) in  $SU(N_c)$ ,  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM theory in the limit  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ , as a function of the 't Hooft coupling at **finite temperature**

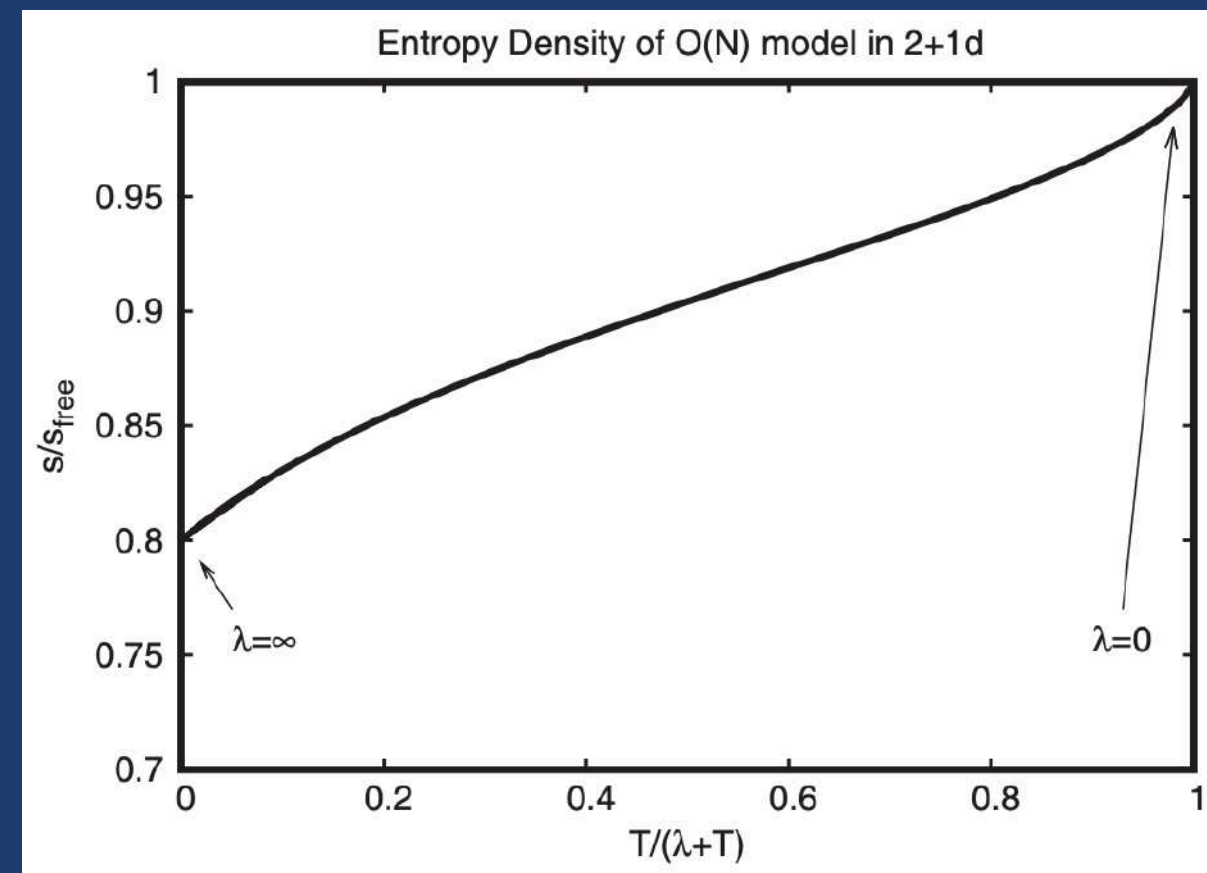
perturbative in the coupling:  $\lambda \ll 1$ :  $s/s_0 = 1 - \frac{3}{2\pi^2}\lambda + \frac{\sqrt{2}+3}{\pi^3}\lambda^{3/2} + \dots$  [Fotopoulos, Taylor (1998)] QFT result  
 perturbative in the inverse coupling:  $\lambda \gg 1$ :  $s/s_0 = \frac{3}{4} + \frac{45\zeta(3)}{32} \frac{1}{\lambda^{3/2}} + \dots$  [Gubser, Klebanov, Tseytlin (1998)] holography result  
 $s_0 = \frac{2\pi^2}{3} N_c^2 T^3$

“3/4 problem”

- monotonicity? [note: historically, an obsession of theorists]
- a new analytic result in the large- $N$  vector model [Romatschke, PRL (2019)]

$$\frac{s(\lambda \rightarrow \infty)}{s_0} = \frac{4}{5}$$

4/5 instead  
of 3/4



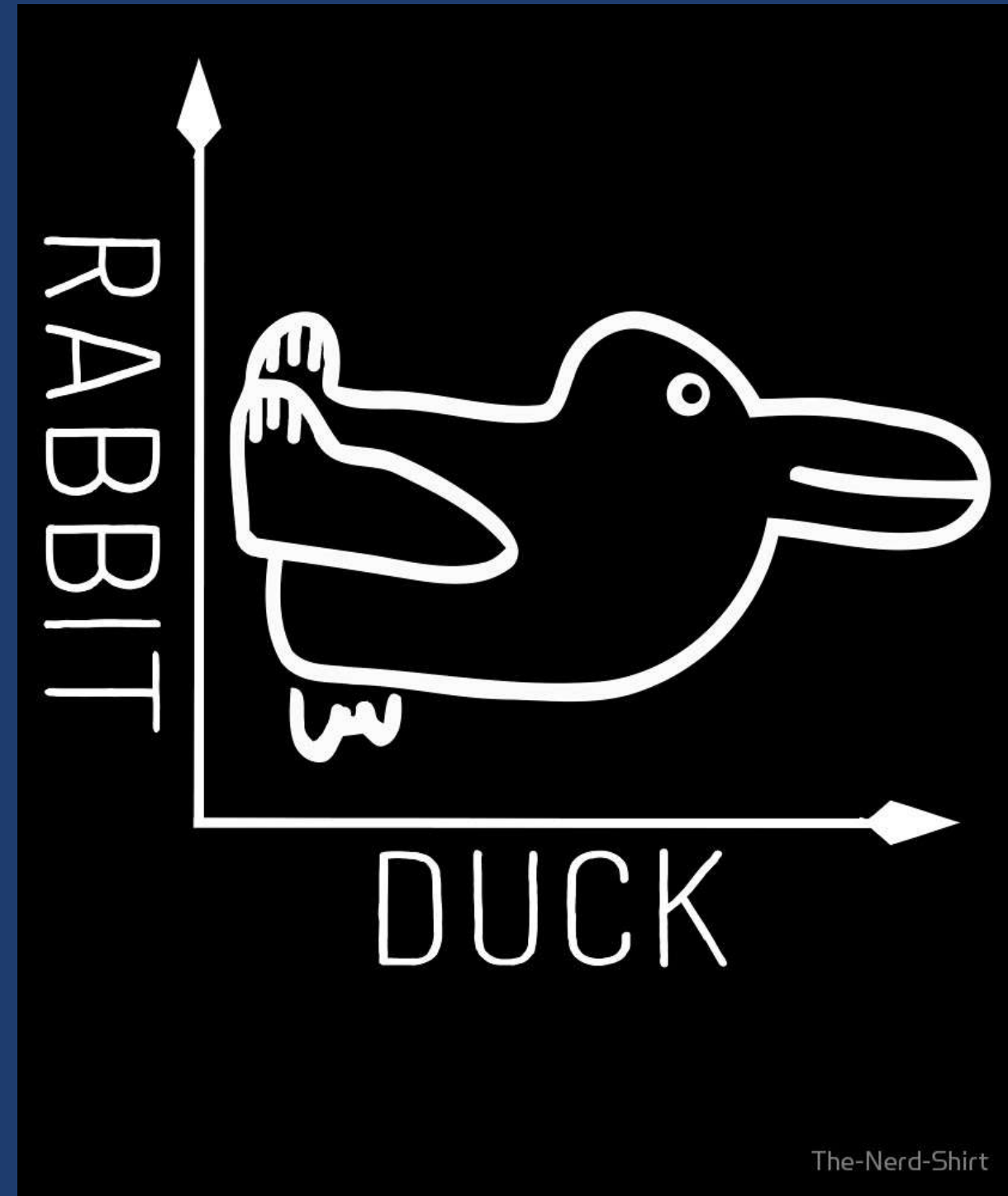
# THE REST OF THE TALK

- holographic duality at finite coupling
- hydrodynamics
- hydrodynamics, thermalisation and gapped modes
- holographic models of far-from-equilibrium heavy ion collisions
- future directions

# HOLOGRAPHIC DUALITY AT FINITE COUPLING

# DUALITY

- duality means having two “different” descriptions of the same object (theory)
- Wittgenstein’s view of duality (1953); after Jastrow (1892)
- *duck = rabbit*
- by knowing everything about a duck, we can determine everything about a rabbit, and vice-versa
- extremely useful when, e.g., analysing a duck is difficult, but studying a rabbit is easy

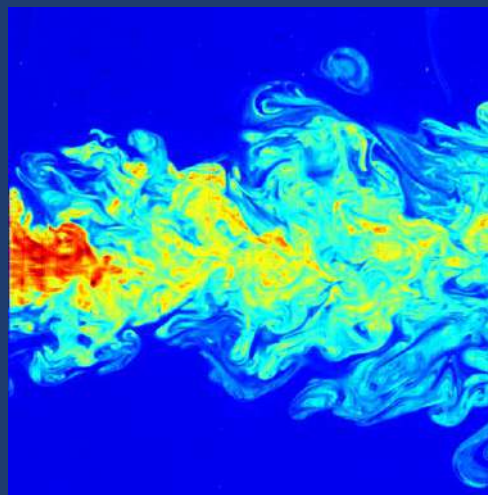




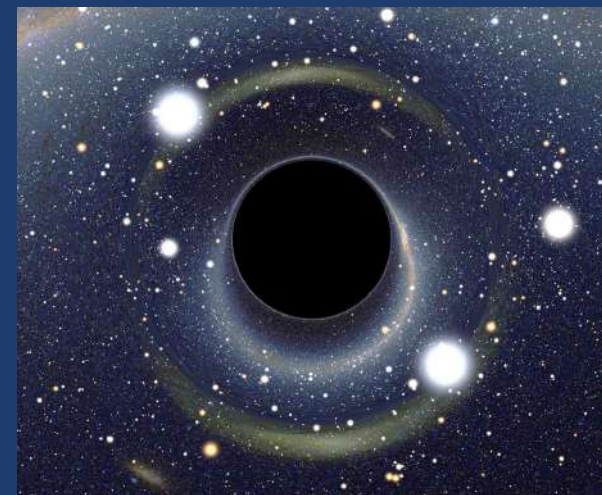
# HOLOGRAPHIC DUALITY

- holographic or gauge/gravity duality is a result of string theory, which is a quantum theory of gravity [Maldacena (1997)]

<i>strongly coupled quantum theory</i>	=	<i>weakly coupled gravity</i>
(extremely hard)	=	(much easier)



=



- weakly interacting gravity allows to analyse strongly coupled microscopic QFTs
- it is not known how to construct exact duals of realistic QFTs
- we hope to learn general properties of physics in strongly coupled states

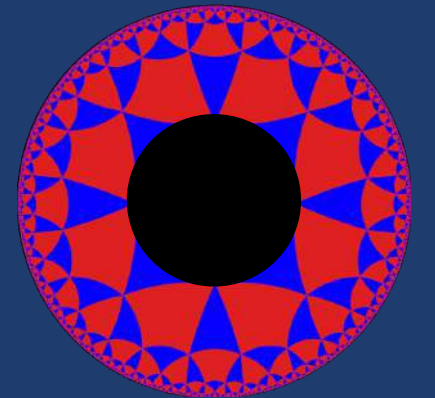
# COUPLING DEPENDENT HOLOGRAPHY

- $SU(N_c)$ ,  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supersymmetric Yang-Mills (SYM) theory is dual to type IIB string theory on  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  – **a toy model for deconfined QCD**
- the energy-momentum dynamics with  $\lambda \equiv g_{YM}^2 N_c \gg 1$ ,  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$  from  $R^4$  theory

$$S = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} (R - 2\Lambda + \gamma \mathcal{W})$$

$$\Lambda = -6/L^2, \quad \kappa_5 = 2\pi/N_c, \quad \gamma = \alpha'^3 \zeta(3)/8, \quad \alpha'/L^2 = 1/\sqrt{\lambda}$$

$$\mathcal{W} = C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} C_{\mu\beta\gamma\nu} C_{\alpha}^{\rho\sigma\mu} C_{\rho\sigma\delta}^{\nu} + \frac{1}{2} C^{\alpha\delta\beta\gamma} C_{\mu\nu\beta\gamma} C_{\alpha}^{\rho\sigma\mu} C_{\rho\sigma\delta}^{\nu}$$



- perturbative  $R^2$  theory and non-perturbative Einstein-Gauss-Bonnet theory

$$S_{R^2} = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} (R + 12 + \alpha_1 R^2 + \alpha_2 R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + \alpha_3 R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}) \quad |\alpha_i| \ll 1$$

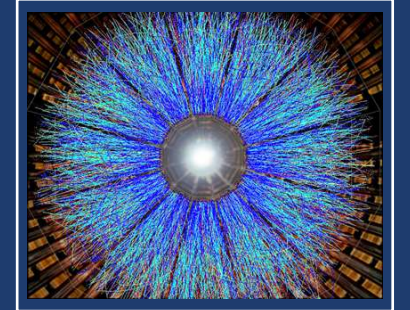
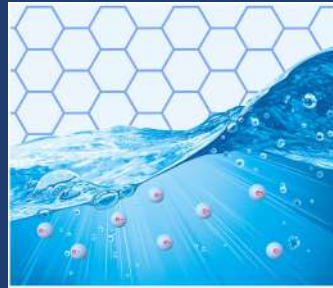
↓ field-redefinition at perturbative level

$$S_{GB} = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[ R + 12 + \frac{\lambda_{GB}}{2} (R^2 - 4R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}) \right] \quad \lambda_{GB} \in [-1/4, \infty)$$

# HYDRODYNAMICS

# HYDRODYNAMICS

- collective dynamics: liquids, graphene, neutron stars, **quark-gluon plasma**



- low-energy limit of QFTs—a Schwinger-Keldysh effective field theory  
[Grozdanov, Polonyi, PRD 91 (2015) 10, 105031, arXiv:1305.3670; Crossley, Glorioso, Liu, arXiv: 1511.03646; Haehl, Loganayagam, Rangamani. arXiv:1511.07809; ...]
- conservation laws (equations of motion) of globally conserved operators

$$\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \nabla_\mu J^\mu = 0 \quad \dots \quad \nabla_\mu J^{\mu\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} = 0$$

- tensor structures (symmetries and phenomenological gradient expansions) with transport coefficients (microscopic)

$$\begin{aligned} \partial u^\mu &\sim \partial T \sim \\ &\sim \partial \mu \sim \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T^{\mu\nu}(u^\lambda, T, \mu) &= (\varepsilon + P) u^\mu u^\nu + P g^{\mu\nu} - \eta \sigma^{\mu\nu} - \zeta \nabla \cdot u \Delta^{\mu\nu} + \dots \\ J^\mu(u^\lambda, T, \mu) &= n u^\mu - \sigma T \Delta^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\nu (\mu/T) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

# ALL-ORDER HYDRODYNAMICS

- infinite, all-order hydrodynamic expansion

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[ \sum_i^N \lambda_i^{(n)} \mathcal{T}_{(n)}^{\mu\nu} \right] \quad \xrightarrow[u^\mu \sim T \sim e^{-i\omega t + i q z}]{\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0} \quad \boxed{\omega(q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha_{n+1} q^{n+1}}$$

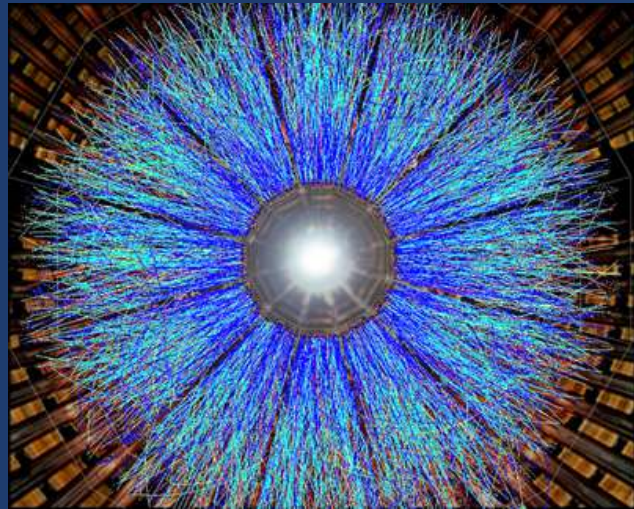
- conformal symmetry (scale invariance)  
constrains the series
- state of the art for relativistic neutral hydrodynamics

CFT:  
Weyl covariance  
 $T^\mu_{\mu} = 0$

	max $N$	max $N$ in CFT	
first order	2	1	Navier-Stokes (1821)
second order	15	5	BRSSS (2007)
third order	68	20	Grozdanov, Kaplis, PRD 93 (2016) 6, 066012



# INTERLUDE: UNREASONABLE EFFECTIVENESS OF HYDRODYNAMICS



**“unreasonable”**: hydro works for large  $\partial$

hydrodynamic modes are complex spectral curves;  
dispersion relations are infinite Puiseux series with a  
finite radius of convergence

[Grozdanov, Kovtun, Starinets, Tadić, PRL (2019)]

$$\omega(q) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \alpha_n q^n$$

radius of  
convergence in  
 $N=4$  SYM at  
infinite coupling

$$q/T \sim O(10)$$

orders of magnitude larger radius of convergence than naive  $q/T \ll 1$  – if this  
fact is generically true in neutral hydrodynamic theories, this could provide an  
explanation for the **“unreasonable effectiveness of hydrodynamics”**

# ALL-ORDER HYDRODYNAMICS

- holography is extremely useful for studying all-order (*precision*) hydrodynamics
- in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory at  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$  :

first order (1/1):	$\eta = \lambda_1^{(1)} = \# + \#/\lambda^{3/2} + \dots$	Buchel, Liu, Starinets (2004)
second order (5/5):	$\lambda_i^{(2)} = \#_i + \#_i/\lambda^{3/2} + \dots, \quad i = \{1, \dots, 5\}$	Grozdanov, Starinets (2014)
third order (5/20):	$\lambda_i^{(3)} = \#_i + \dots, \quad i = \{1, \dots, 5\}$	Grozdanov, Kaplis (2016)

- universality of 1st-order hydro (2-pt functions)

[Kovtun, Son, Starinets (2004)]

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{15\zeta(3)}{\lambda^{3/2}} + \dots \right)$$

weak coupling:

$$\frac{\eta}{s} \sim \frac{T^3}{\lambda^4 \ln(1/\lambda)}$$

[Huot, Jeon, Moore (2006)]

- 2nd-order hydro and its, more general, universality (3-pt functions)

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_\Pi &= \frac{2 - \ln 2}{2\pi T} + \frac{375\zeta(3)}{32\pi T \lambda^{3/2}} + \dots \\ \lambda_1 &= \frac{N_c^2 T^2}{16} \left( 1 + \frac{175\zeta(3)}{4\lambda^{3/2}} + \dots \right) \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

weak coupling:

$$\lambda_1 \sim \frac{T^2}{\lambda^4 \ln^2(1/\lambda)}$$

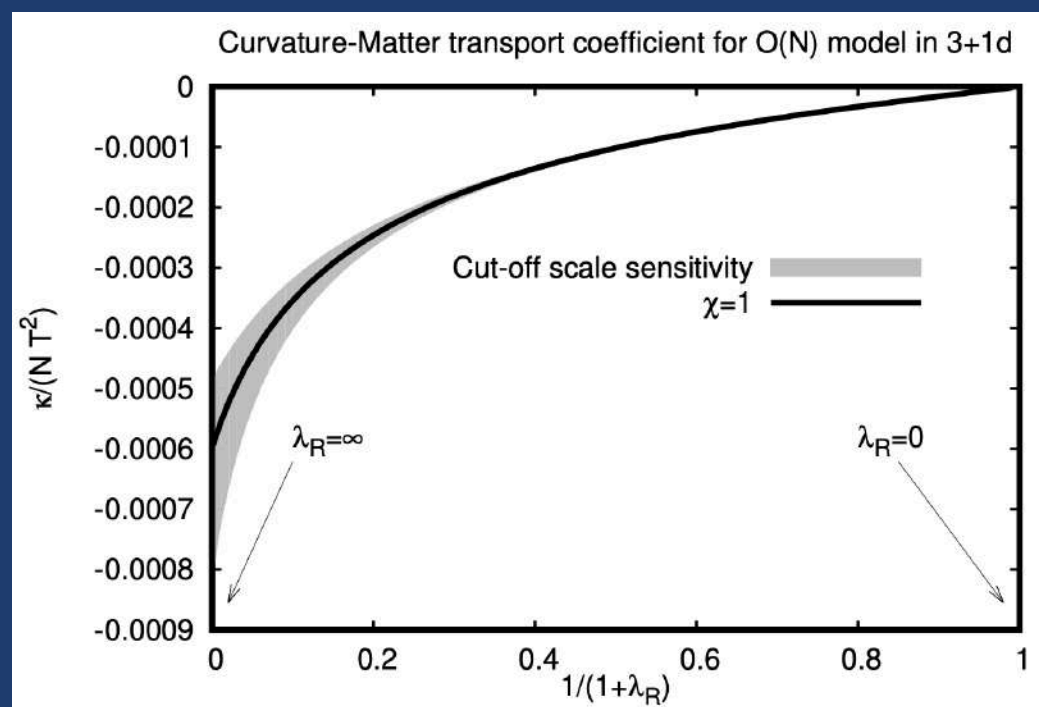
[York, Moore (2009)]

$$2\eta\tau_\Pi - 4\lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0 + \frac{0}{\lambda^{3/2}} + O(1/\lambda^2)$$

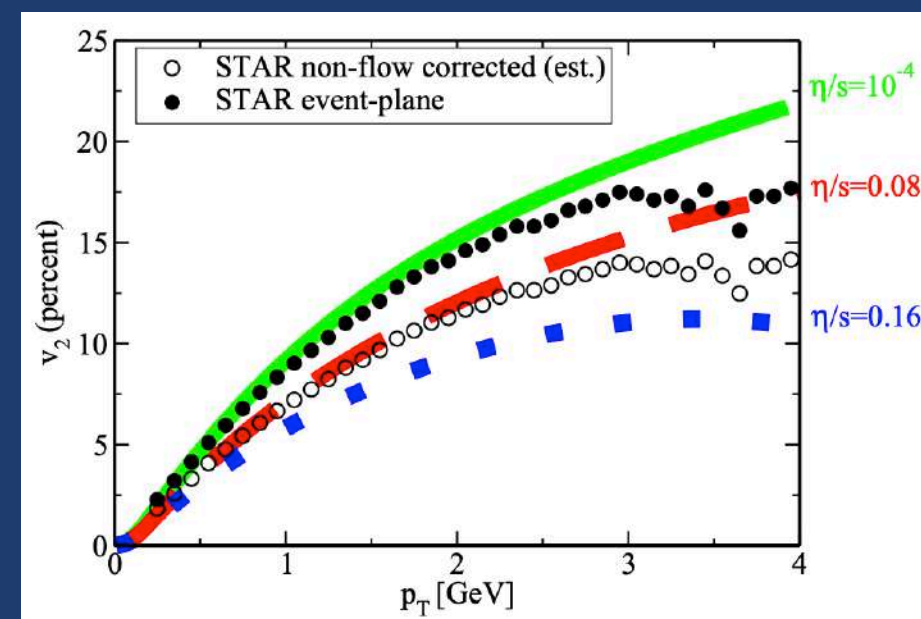
[Haack, Yarom (2008); Grozdanov, Starinets (2014)]

# ALL-ORDER HYDRODYNAMICS

- a recent calculation of the *2nd*-order transport coefficient  $\kappa$  in the  $O(N)$  vector model for all values of the coupling [Romatschke, arXiv:1905.09290]



- can 2nd-order transport coefficients be measured or estimated in QGP, like  $\eta/s$ ?



[from Luzum, Romatschke, PRC (2018)]



# HYDRODYNAMICS, THERMALISATION AND GAPPED MODES

# WEAK COUPLING, KINETIC THEORY AND PERTURBATIVE SPECTRUM

- coupling constant dependence of non-hydrodynamic transport

[Grozdanov, Kaplis, Starinets, JHEP (2016)]

- weakly coupled kinetic theory and the concept of quasi-particles
- Boltzmann equation (truncated BBGKY)
- close to equilibrium
- assuming homogeneous eq. distribution gives a spectrum with a hierarchy of relaxation times

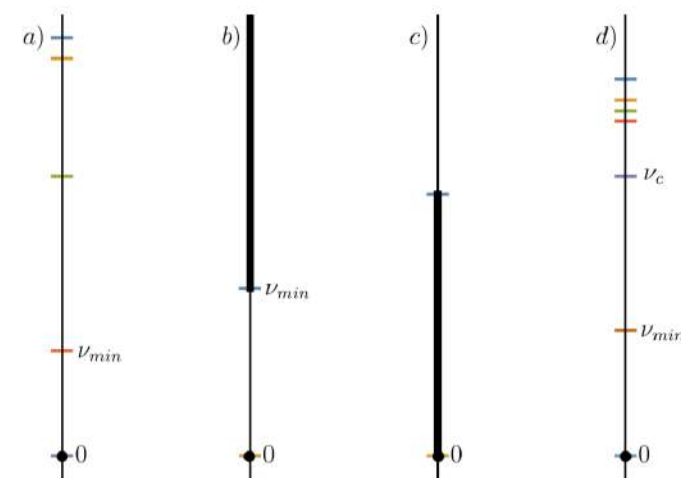
$$\varphi(t, \mathbf{p}) = \sum_n C_n e^{-\nu_n t} h_n(\mathbf{p})$$

dominant:  $\tau_R = 1/\nu_{min}$

1-particle distribution      the collision integral

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \frac{p_i}{m} \frac{\partial F}{\partial r^i} - \frac{\partial U(r)}{\partial r^i} \frac{\partial F}{\partial p_i} = C[F]$$

$$F(t, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = F_0(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) [1 + \varphi(t, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})]$$



**Figure 1:** The spectrum of a linear collision operator: a) discrete spectrum, b) continuous spectrum with a gap, realized for the interaction potential  $U = \alpha/r^n$ ,  $n > 4$ , c) gapless continuous spectrum, realized for the interaction potential  $U = \alpha/r^n$ ,  $n < 4$ , d) Hod spectrum (see text):  $0 \leq \nu_{min} \leq \nu_c$ . In all cases,  $\nu = 0$  is a degenerate eigenvalue corresponding to hydrodynamic modes (at zero spatial momentum).

# WEAK COUPLING, KINETIC THEORY AND PERTURBATIVE SPECTRUM

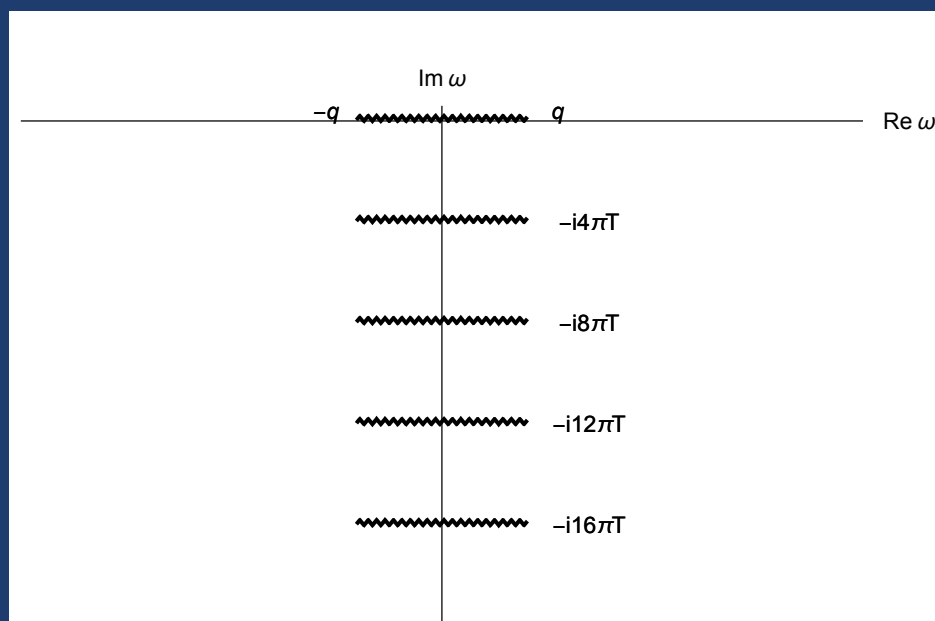
- RTA equation
- kinetic theory predicts
- relaxation time bound [Sachdev]
- full QFT spectrum of  $\langle T_{\mu\nu}(\omega), T_{\rho\sigma}(-\omega) \rangle_R$  at extreme coupling [Hartnoll, Kumar (2005)]

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \frac{p_i}{m} \frac{\partial F}{\partial r^i} - \frac{\partial U(r)}{\partial r^i} \frac{\partial F}{\partial p_i} = -\frac{F - F_0}{\tau_R}$$

$$\eta = \text{const.} \times \tau_R s T$$

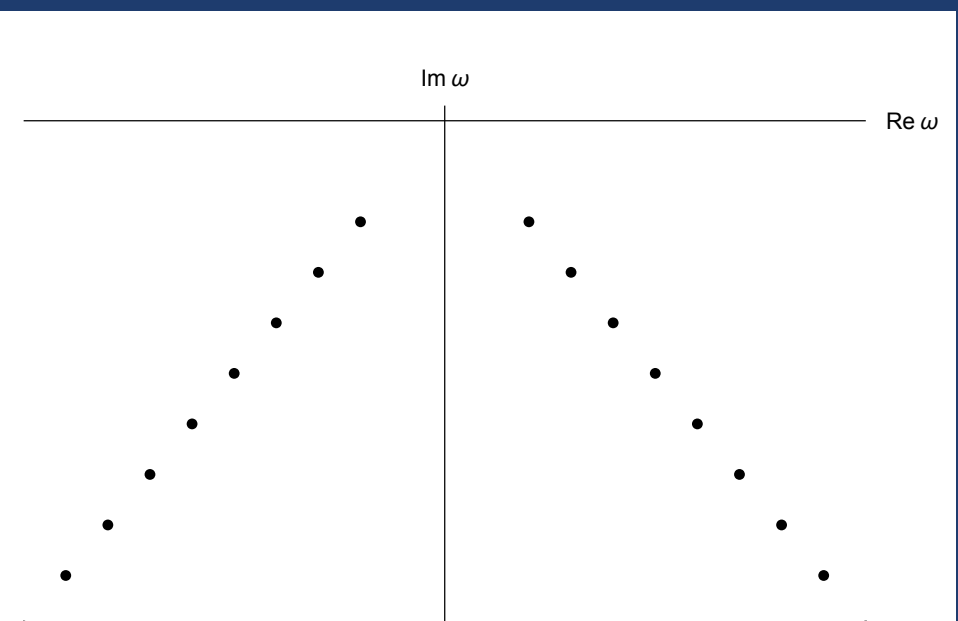
$$\tau_R \geq \mathcal{C} \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$$

QFT



$\lambda \rightarrow 0$

holography

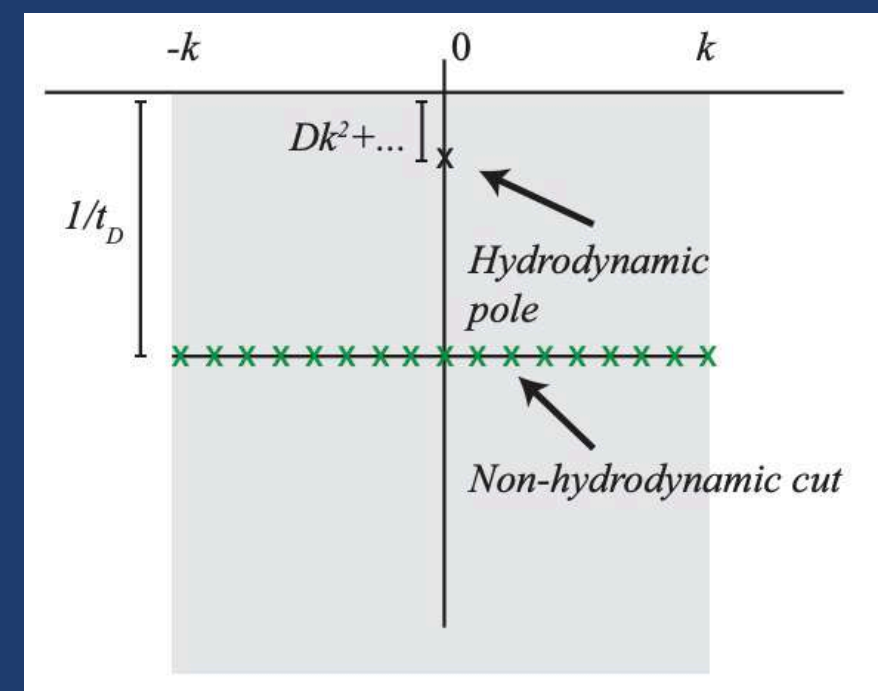


$\lambda \rightarrow \infty$

# WEAK COUPLING, KINETIC THEORY AND PERTURBATIVE SPECTRUM

- what happens in between these two extreme regimes? cuts vs. poles?
- resummations of the type of Arnold-Moore-Yaffe (AMY) exist, which determine transport from the spectrum of the kinetic operator
- perturbation theory at zero momentum creates a cut at one loop  
[Moore (2018); Grozdanov, Schalm, Scopelliti, (2018)]
- at non-zero momentum, structure depends on truncation of kinetic theory, resummations (choice of relaxation time), but cuts seem to be preferred  
[Romatschke (2015); Kurkela, Wiedemann (2017) Kurkela, Wiedemann, Wu (2019)]

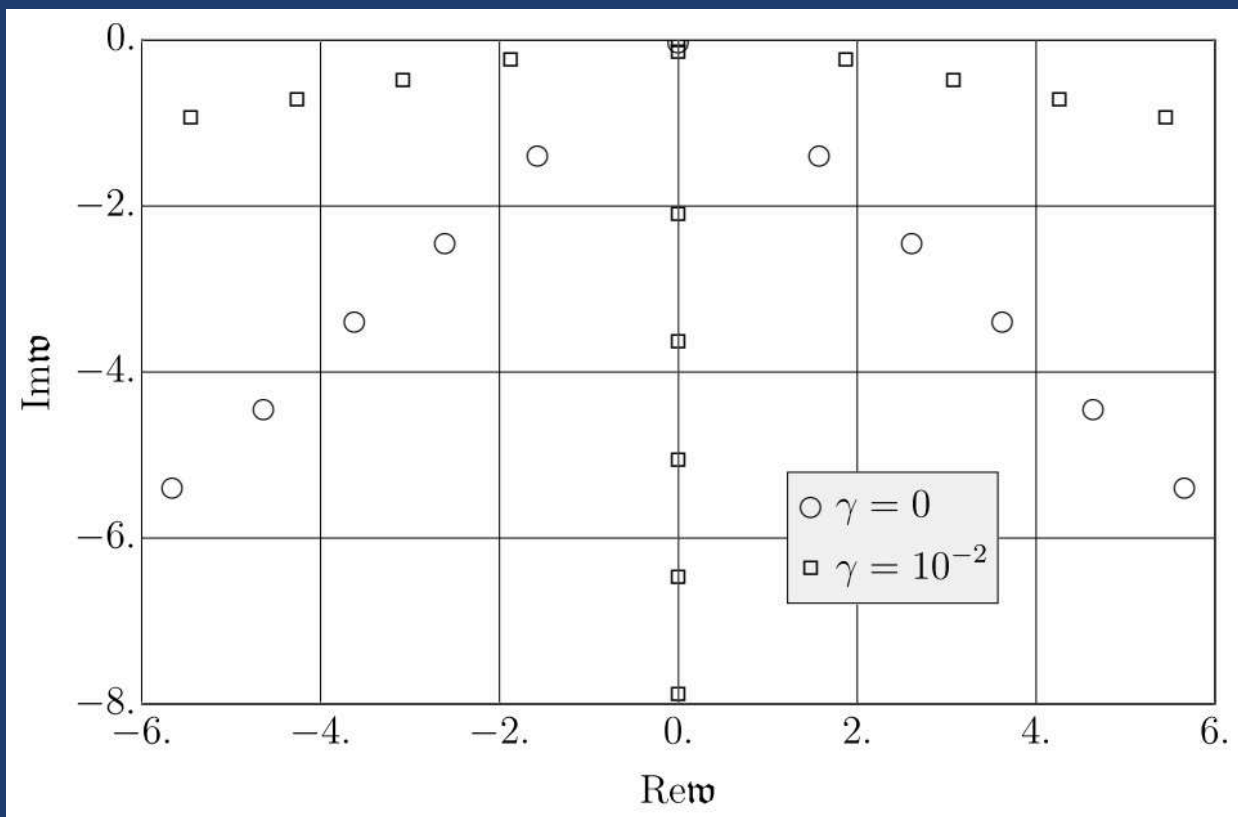
[see talks by [Wiedemann \(Wednesday\)](#)  
and [Wu \(Thursday\)](#)]



# APPROACH TO WEAK COUPLING FROM HOLOGRAPHY

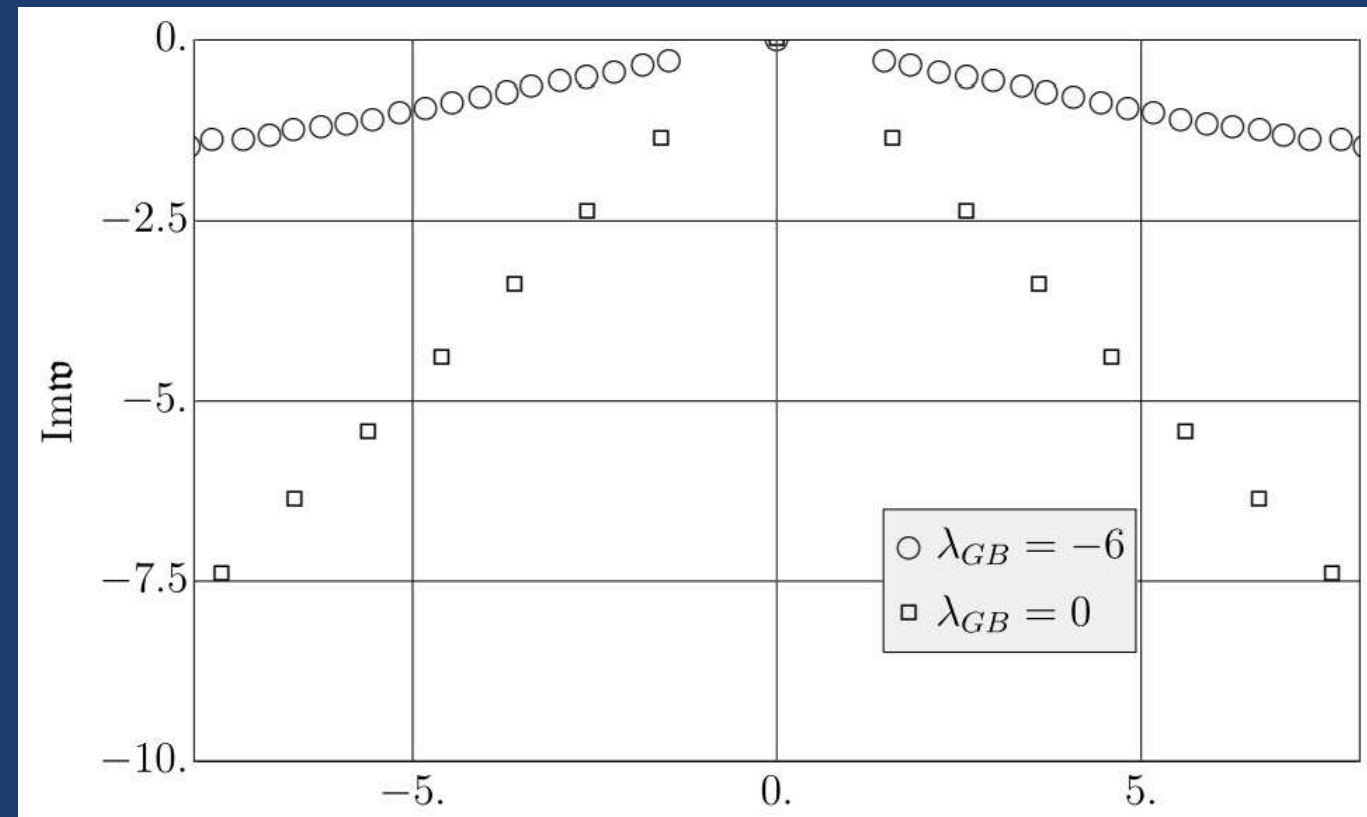
- universal behaviour across different higher-derivative gravities  
[Grozdanov, Kaplis, Starinets, JHEP (2016)]
- as the coupling increases,  $\eta/s > \hbar/4\pi k_B$
- poles become denser, forming a branch cut which starts at  $\omega = \pm q$
- new gapped excitations on imaginary axis

$N=4$  SYM /  $R^4$  gravity

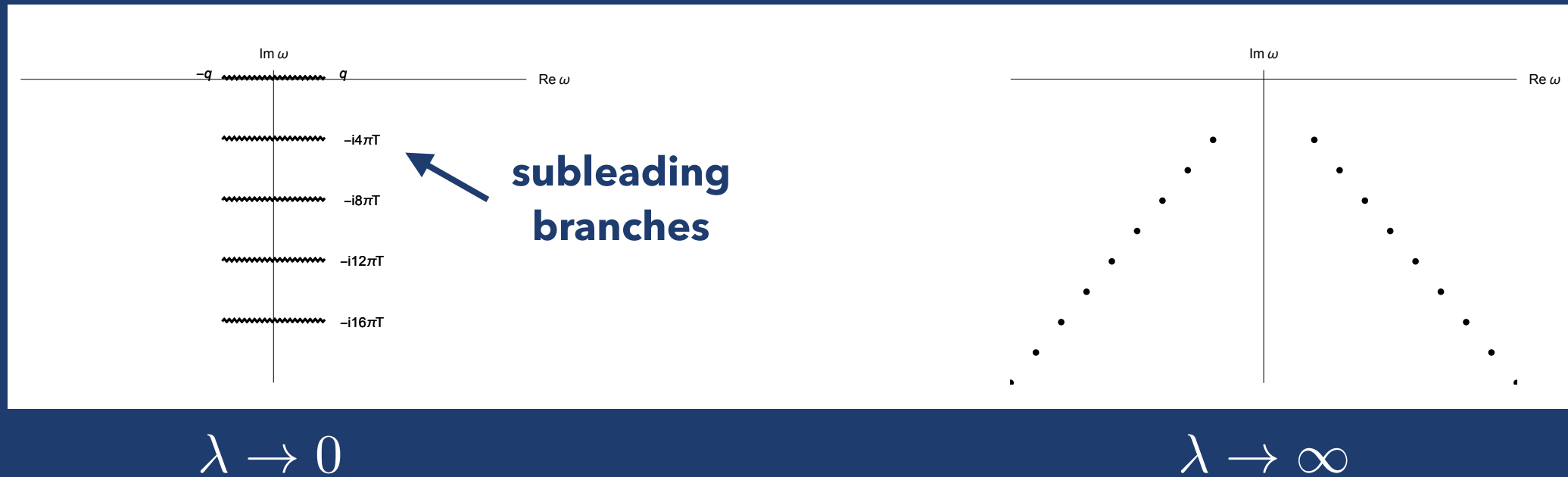


$$\gamma \sim 1/\lambda^{3/2}$$

$R^2$  (Gauss-Bonnet) gravity

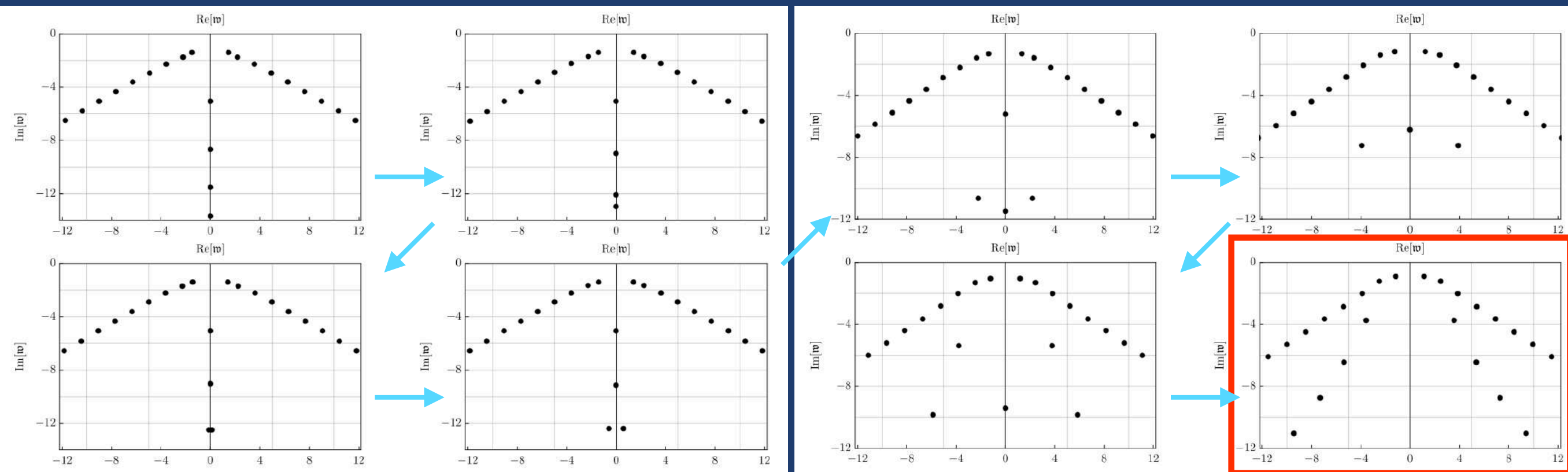


# APPROACH TO WEAK COUPLING FROM HOLOGRAPHY



$$S = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[ R - 2\Lambda - \alpha\gamma_1 R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - \alpha^2\gamma_2 (R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma})^2 \right]$$

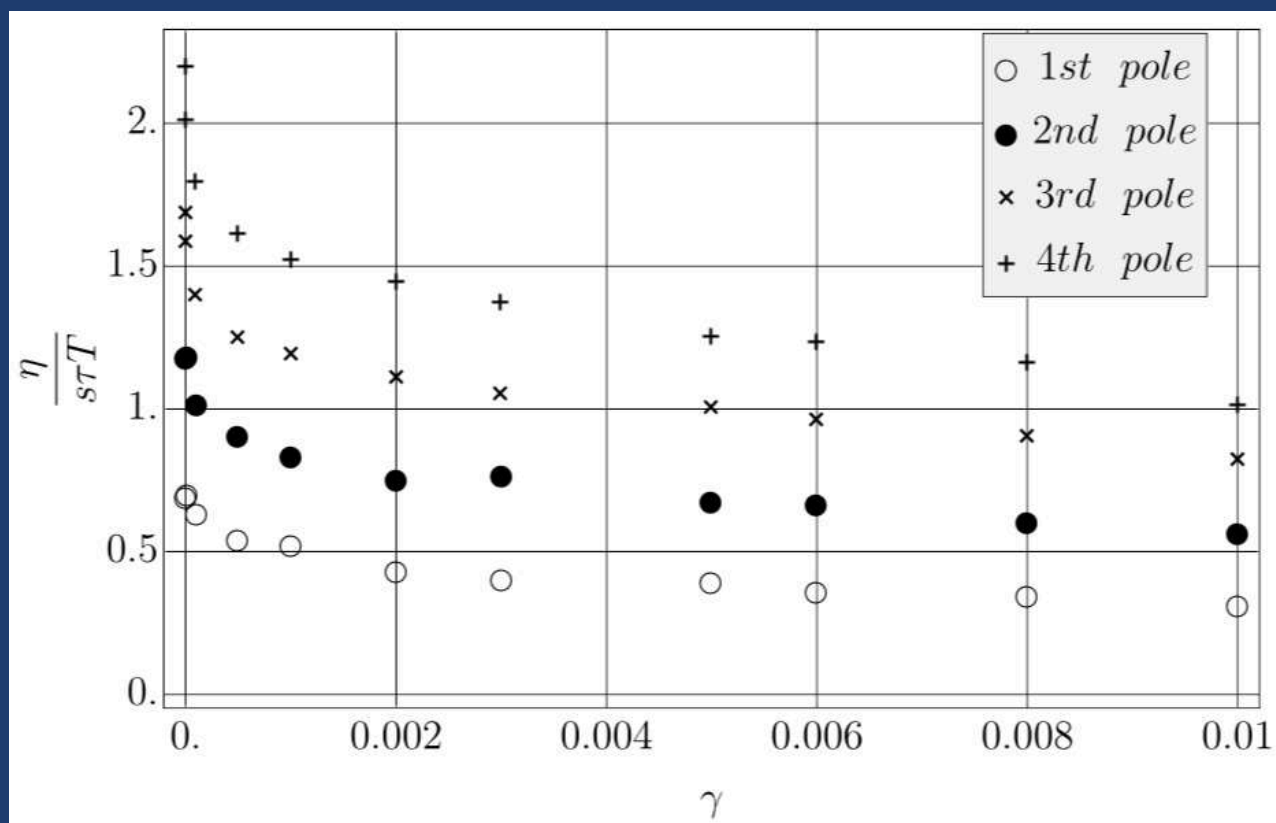
[Grozdanov, Starinets, JHEP (2019)]



# APPROACH TO WEAK COUPLING FROM HOLOGRAPHY

- kinetic theory prediction of  $\eta/s \sim \text{const.} \times \tau_R T$  at weak coupling is recovered,  
where  $\tau_R^{(n)} = -\frac{1}{\text{Im} \omega_n}$

$N=4$  SYM /  $R^4$  gravity

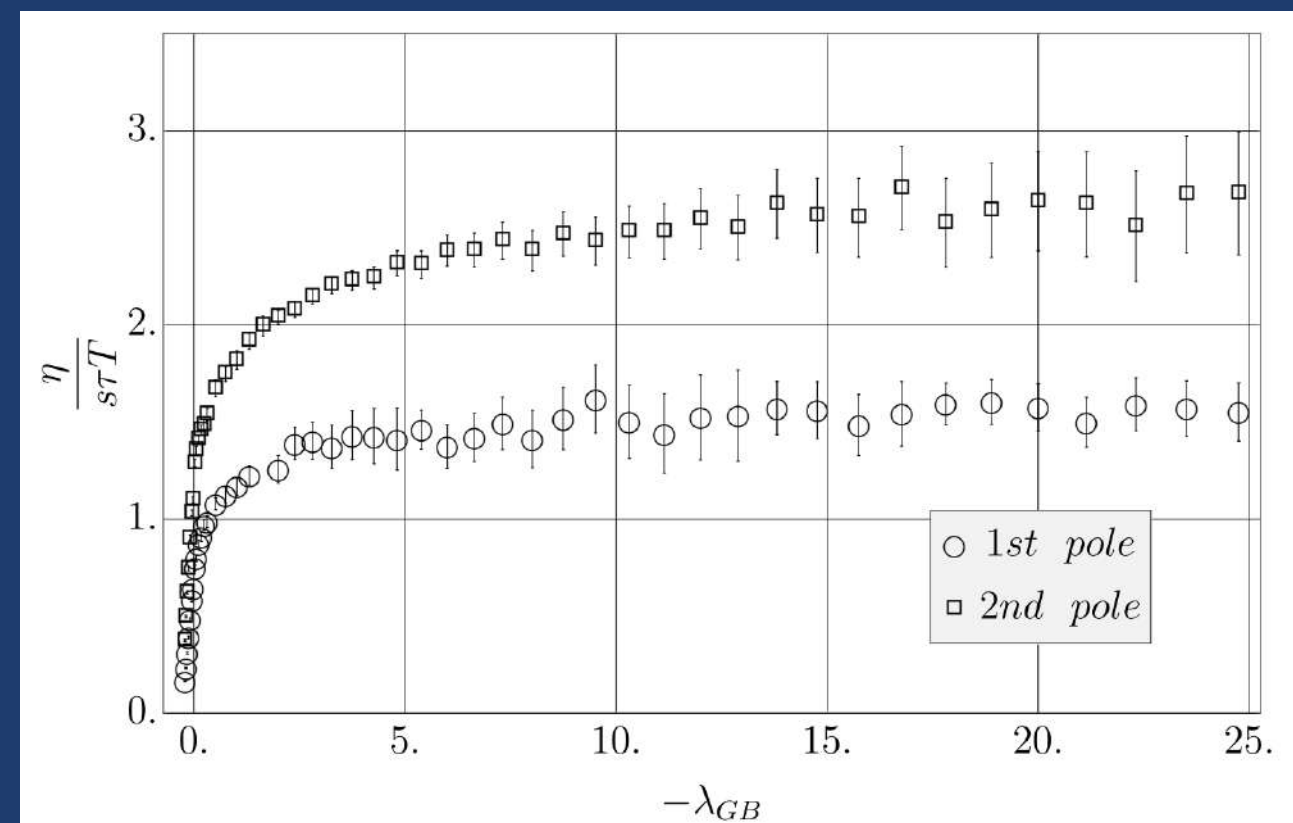


$$\gamma \sim 1/\lambda^{3/2}$$

strong  
coupling

weak  
coupling

$R^2$  (Gauss-Bonnet) gravity



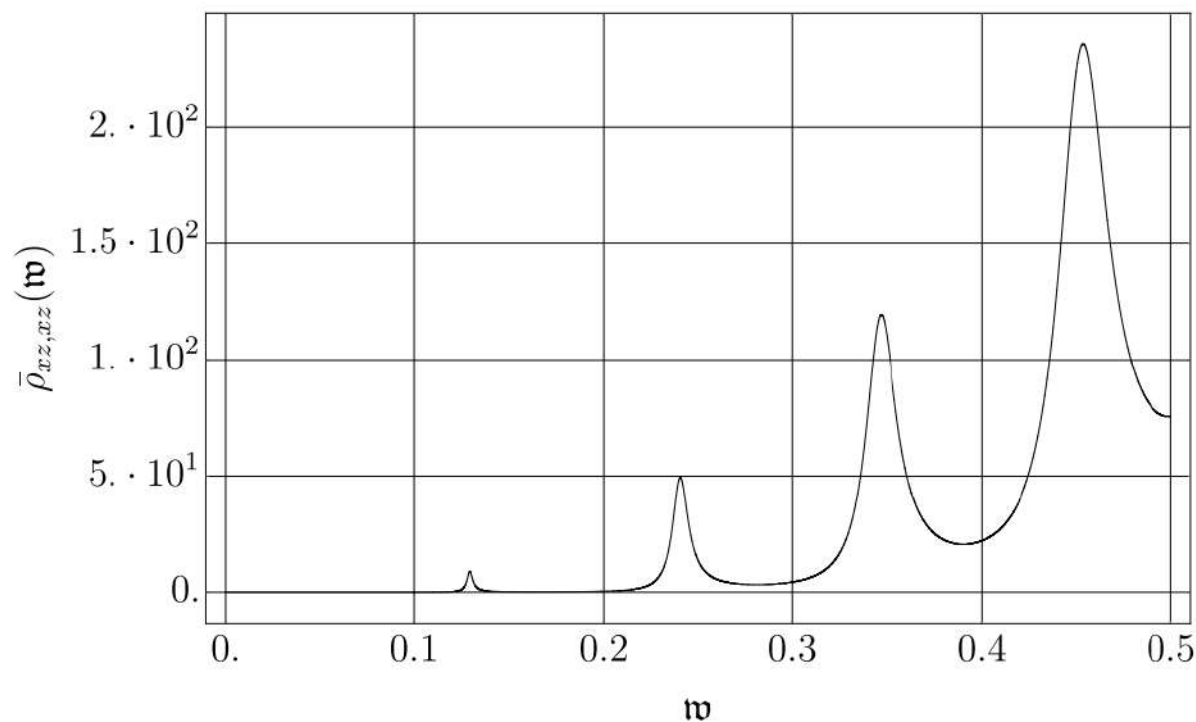
strong  
coupling

weak  
coupling

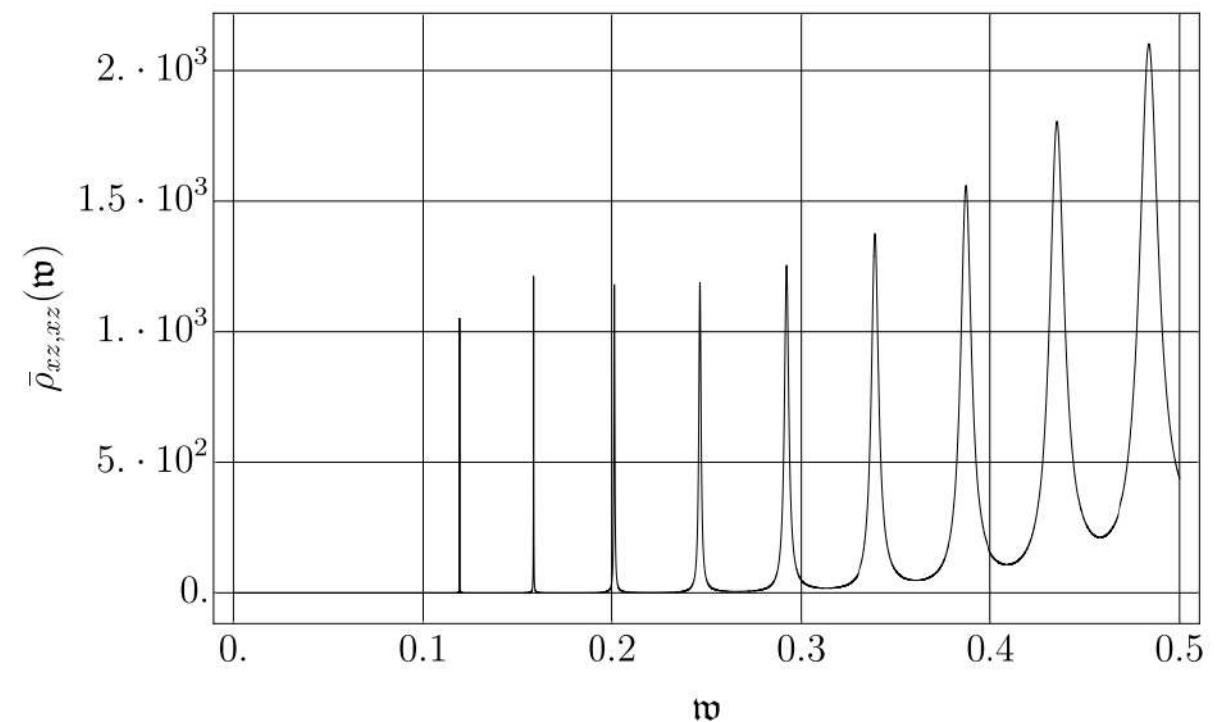
# APPROACH TO WEAK COUPLING FROM HOLOGRAPHY

- before the branch cut is formed, well-pronounced quasiparticle excitations appear in the spectrum

$$\rho = -2 \operatorname{Im} \langle T_{\mu\nu}(\omega, q), T_{\rho\sigma}(-\omega, -q) \rangle_R$$



strong  
coupling



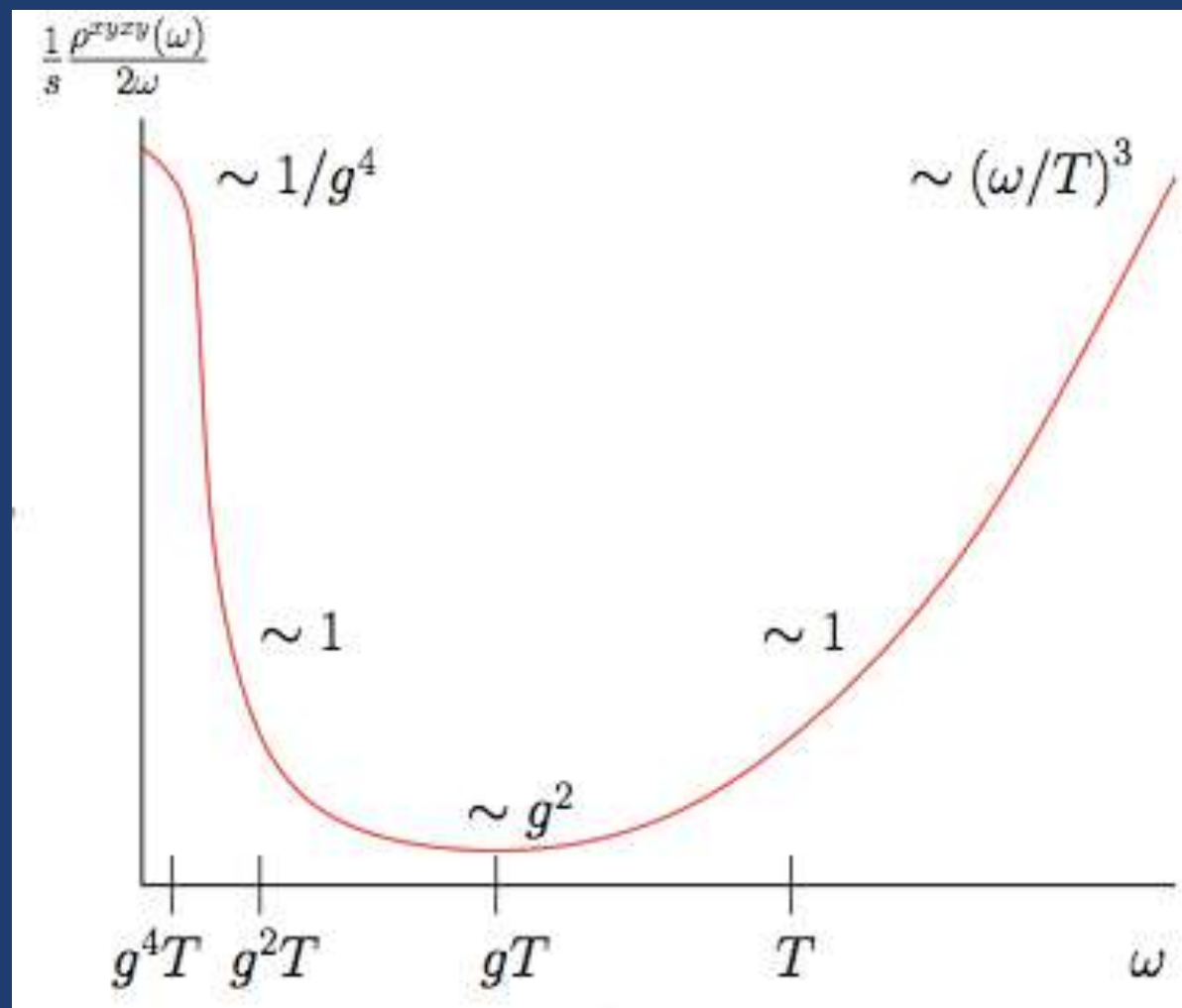
weak  
coupling



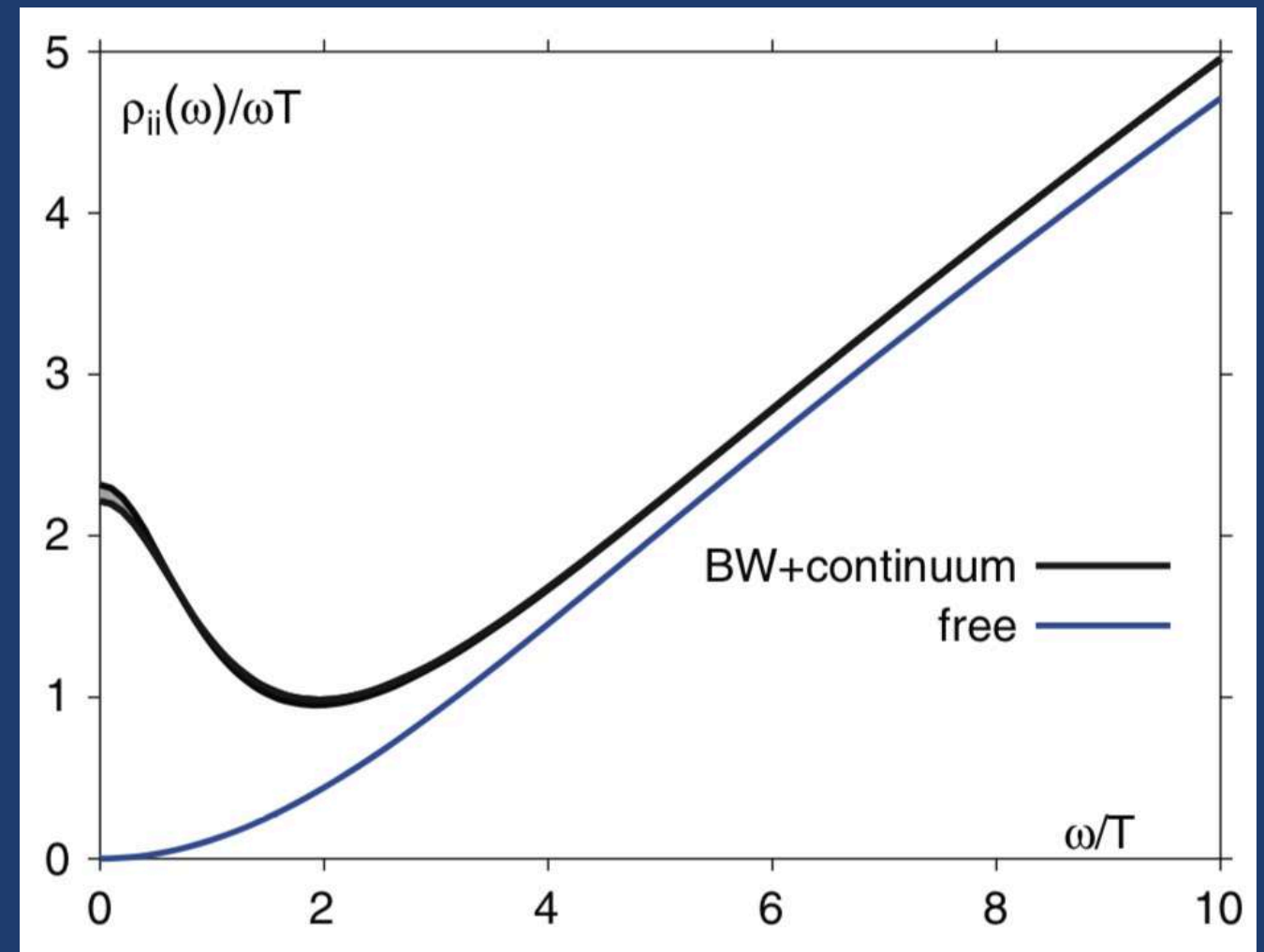


# APPROACH TO WEAK COUPLING FROM HOLOGRAPHY

- as a result of quasiparticles, a transport peak appears in the spectral functions computed from kinetic theory



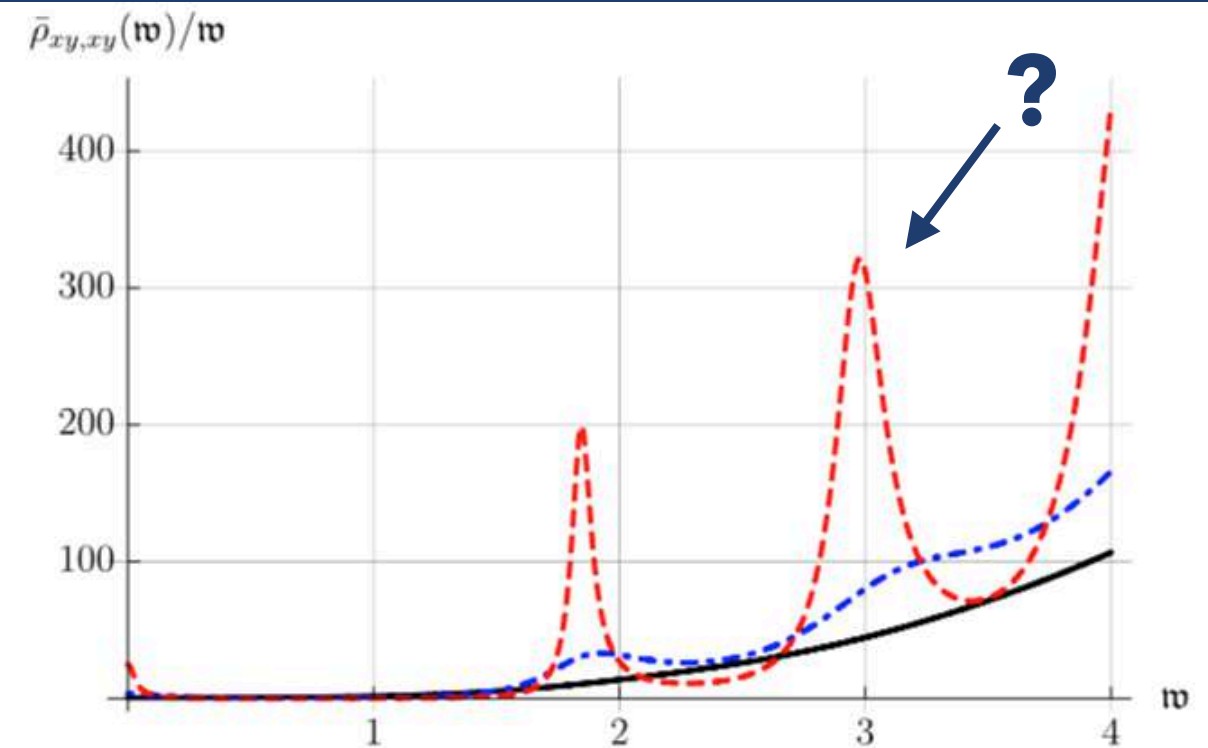
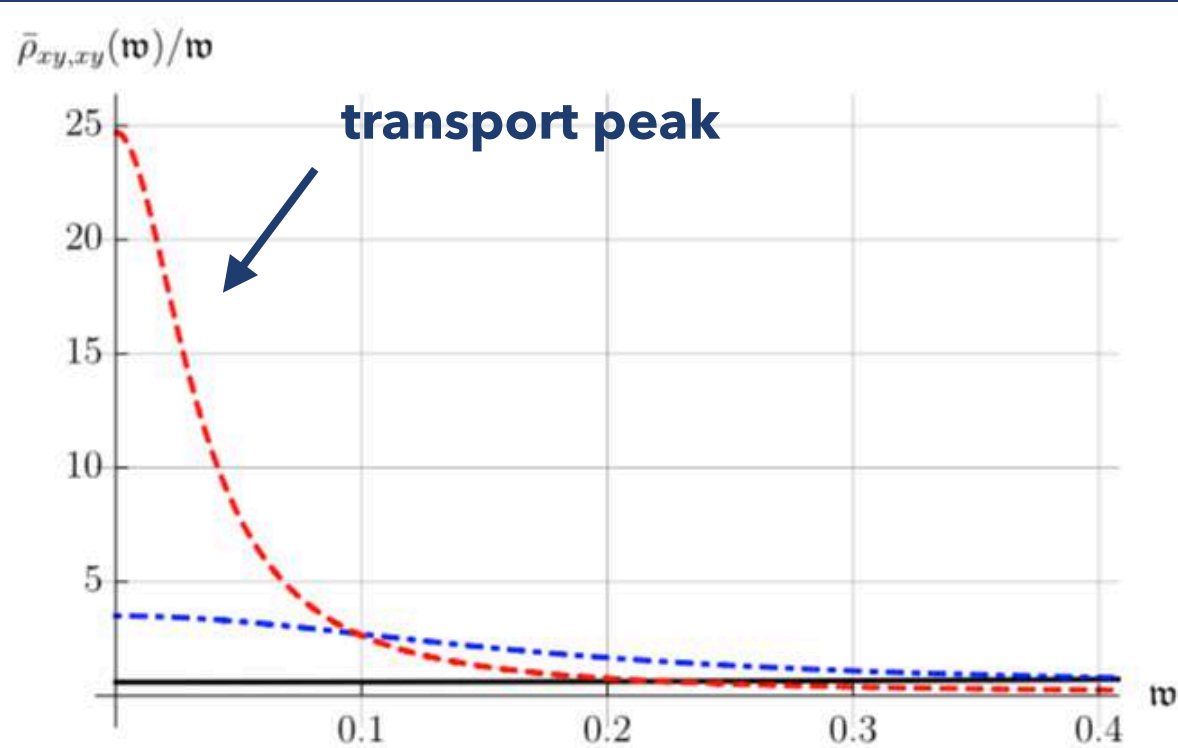
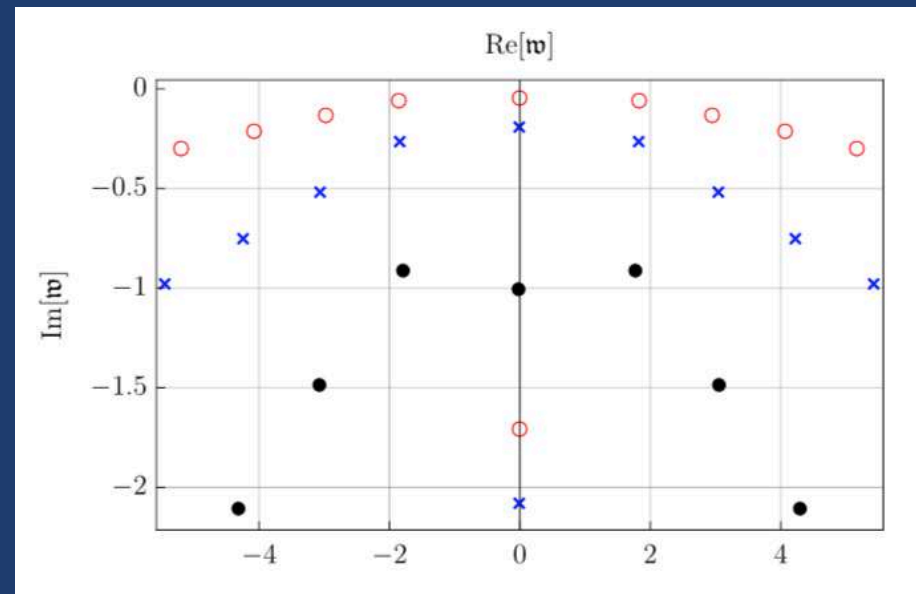
expectation from QCD—a sketch;  
see Casalderrey-Solana, Liu, Mateos, Rajagopal,  
Wiedemann, “Gauge/String Duality, Hot QCD  
and Heavy Ion Collisions”, CUP (2014)



electromagnetic current-current spectral  
function in QCD at  $T=1.45T_c$  from lattice data of  
Ding, Francis, Kaczmarek, Karsch, et. al.,  
PRD (2011)

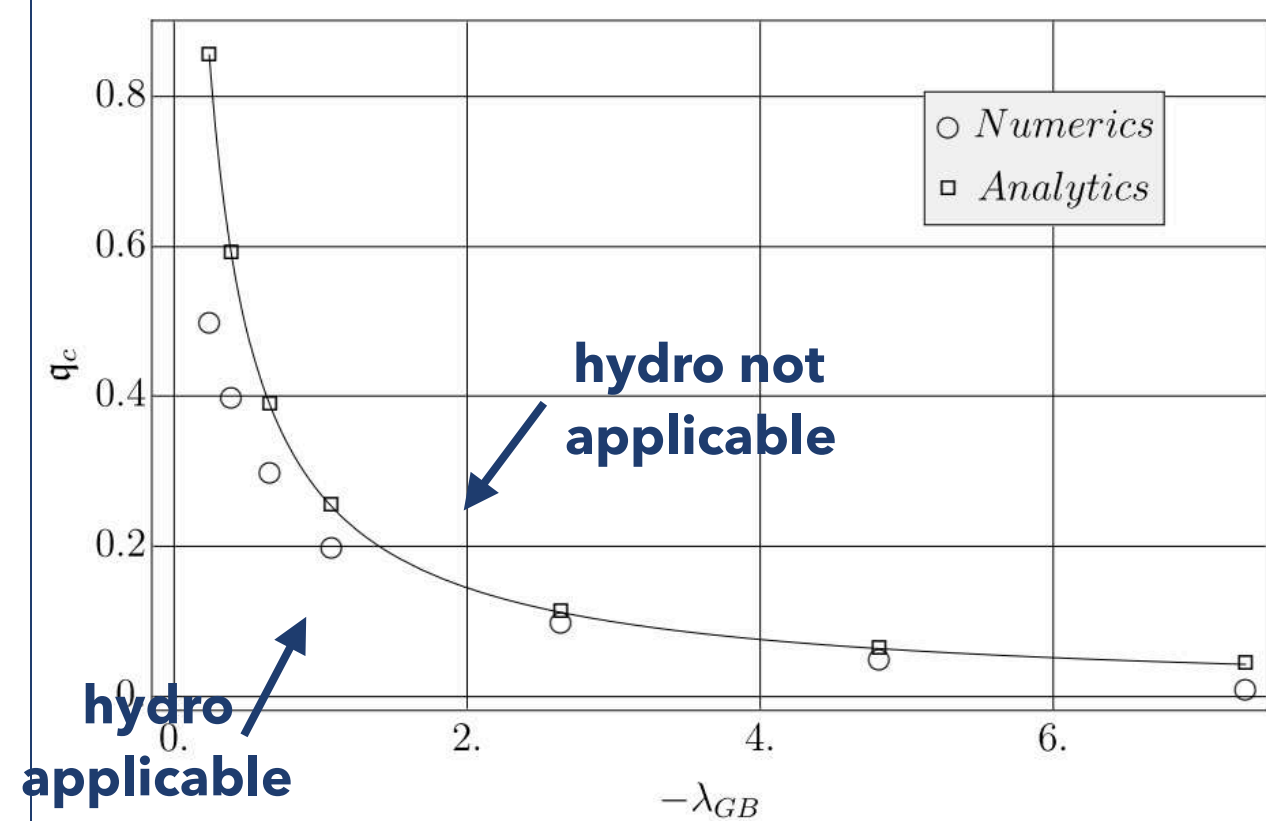
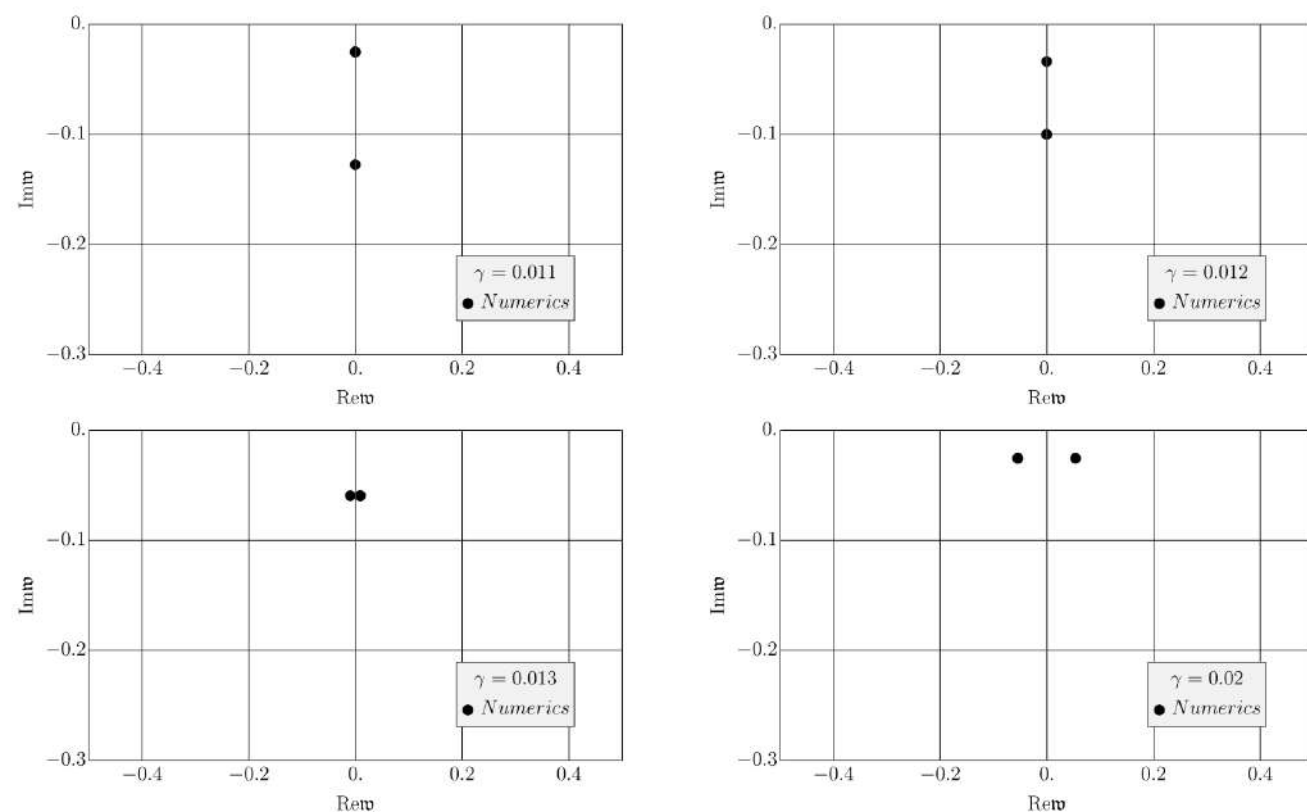
# APPROACH TO WEAK COUPLING FROM HOLOGRAPHY

- in  $N=4$  SYM, holography explicitly reproduces the transport peak ( $q = 0$ )  
[Casalderey-Solana, Grozdanov, Starinets, PRL (2018)]



# APPROACH TO WEAK COUPLING FROM HOLOGRAPHY

- as weak coupling is approached, in spectra with hydro modes, the lowest imaginary mode (the one responsible for the transport peak) becomes long-lived and enters the hydro regime
- the mode collides with the hydro mode—explicit mechanism for destruction of hydrodynamics: hydrodynamics is worse at weak coupling



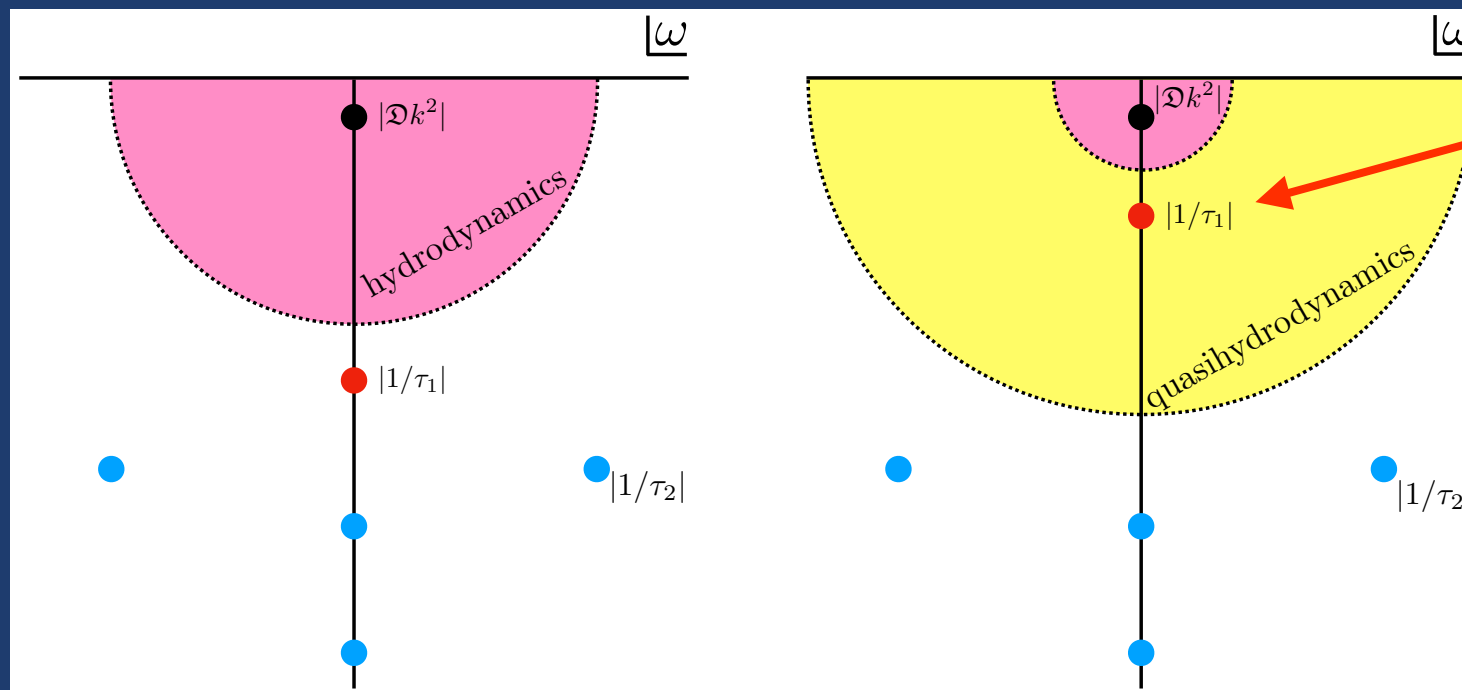
$$q_c/T \sim \lambda^{3/2}$$

strong  
coupling

weak  
coupling

# APPROACH TO WEAK COUPLING FROM HOLOGRAPHY

- **quasihydrodynamics**—hydrodynamics with approximately conserved symmetries [Grozdanov, Lucas, Poovuttikul, PRD (2019)]
- a systematic way to derive such theories from holography
- linearised (phenomenological) **Müller-Israel-Stewart theory**, used to cure causality problems by introducing extra degrees of freedom, can be derived systematically from higher-derivative holographic theories



MIS theory's  $\Pi^{\mu\nu}$  correctly describes the leading extra gapped mode in all 3 channels at linear order in the fluctuations

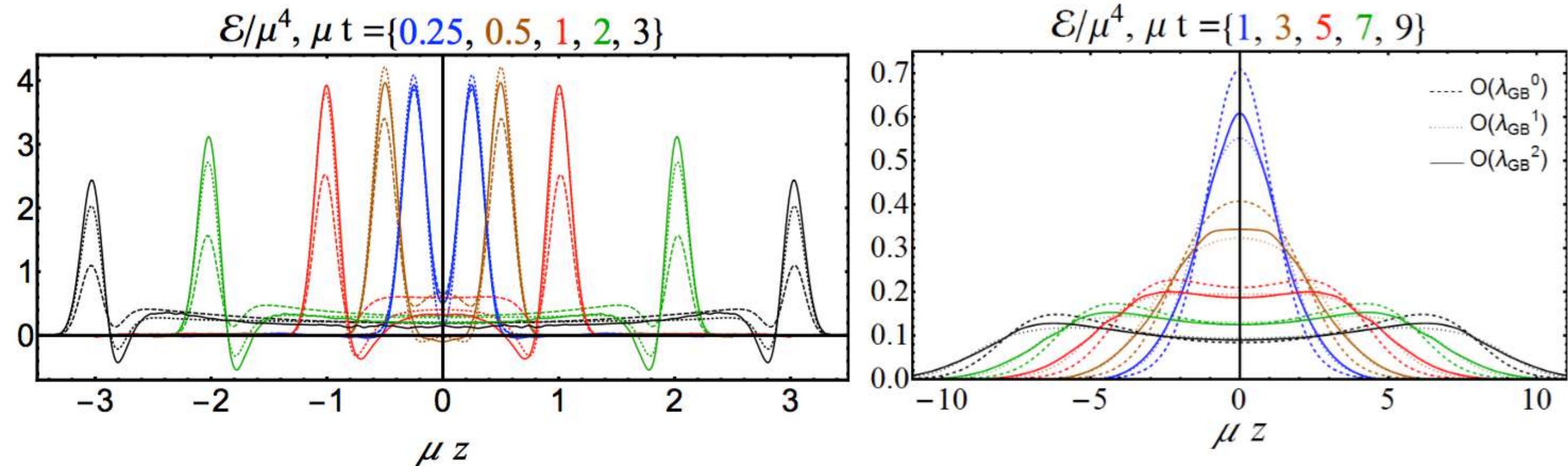
$$\tau_1 \approx \frac{373\zeta(3)}{32\pi T\lambda^{3/2}} \approx \frac{4.5}{T\lambda^{3/2}}$$

leading-order analytical approximation to the “relaxation time” in  $N=4$  SYM  
[Grozdanov, Kaplis, Starinets, JHEP (2016)]

# HOLOGRAPHIC MODEL OF FAR- FROM-EQUILIBRIUM HEAVY ION COLLISIONS

# HOLOGRAPHIC HEAVY-ION COLLISIONS

- initial study of holographic heavy-ion collisions by Chesler and Yaffe in 2011
- coupling dependence from  $R^2$  (Einstein-Gauss-Bonnet) theory [Grozdanov, van der Schee, PRL (2016)]
- at intermediate coupling, “nuclei” experience less stopping and have more energy deposited near the light cone
- see also poster by Attems on collisions near a critical point



narrow  
shocks

wide  
shocks



# HOLOGRAPHIC HEAVY-ION COLLISIONS

- delayed hydrodynamisation—  
a quantifiable prediction of holography
- consistent with worse applicability of  
hydrodynamics at finite coupling

$$t_{\text{hyd}} T_{\text{hyd}} = \{0.41 - 0.52\lambda_{GB}, \\ 0.43 - 6.3\lambda_{GB}\}$$



at  $\lambda_{GB} = -0.2$  :

$\eta/s$  increases by 80%



$t_{\text{hyd}} T_{\text{hyd}}$  increases by

$\{25\%, 290\%\}$



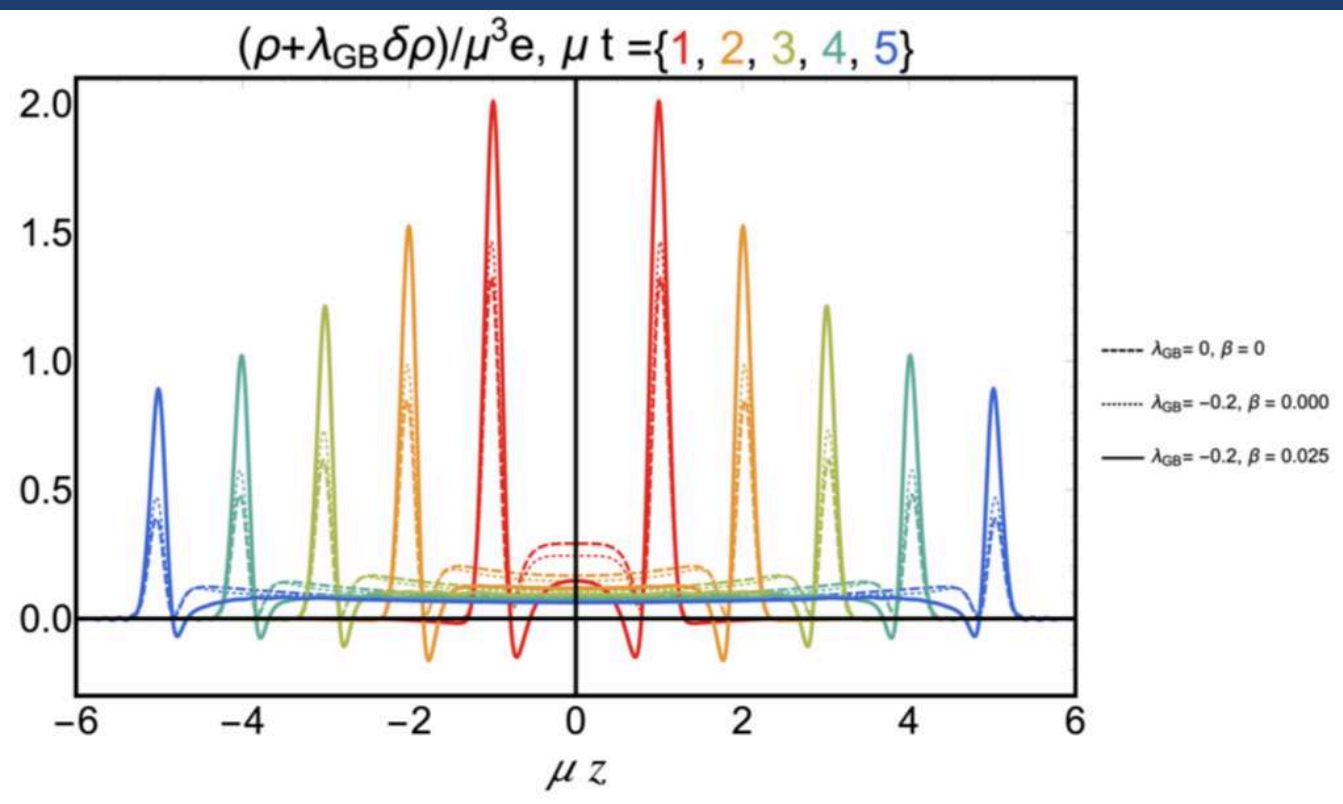
narrow  
shocks



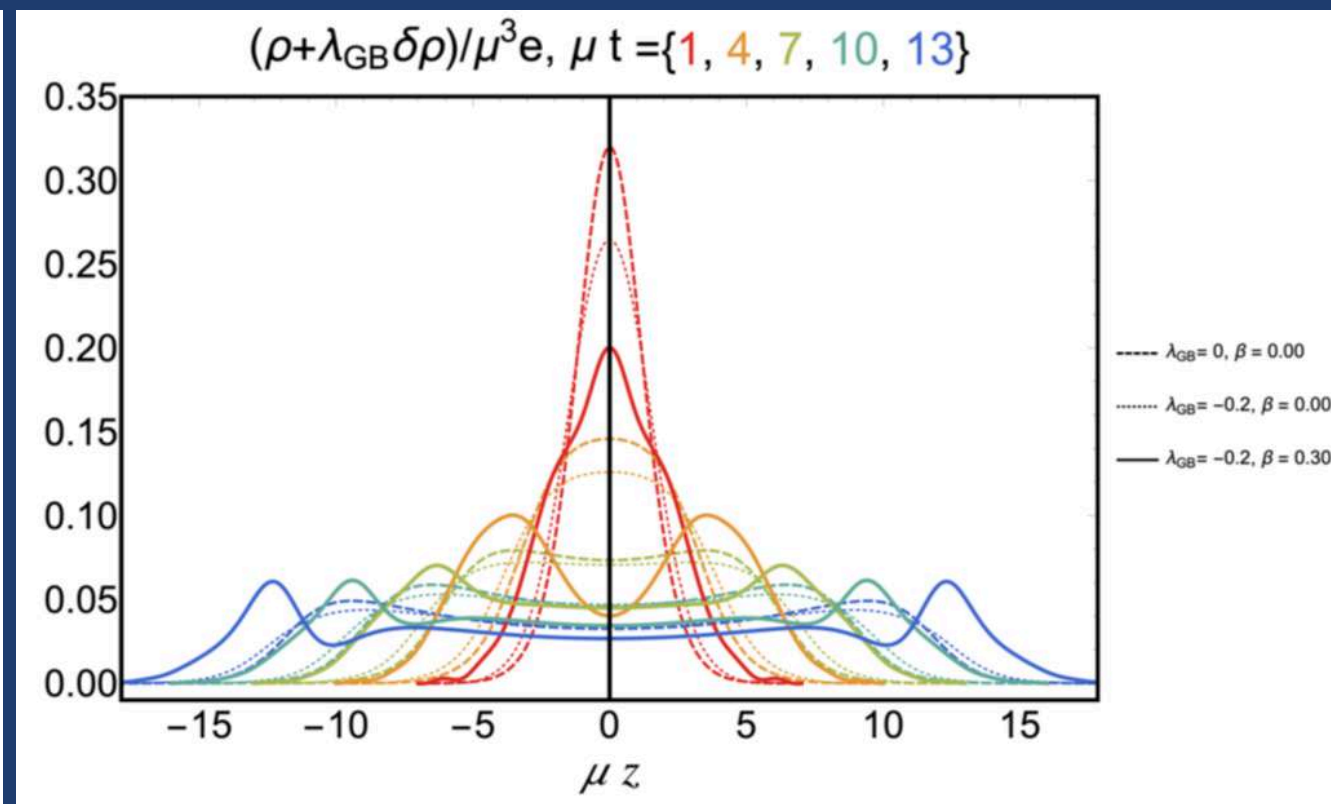
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# HOLOGRAPHIC HEAVY-ION COLLISIONS

- coupling dependence in holographic heavy-ion collisions in the presence of finite baryon number density from the most general Einstein-Maxwell  $R^2$ -type theory [Folkestad, Grozdanov, Rajagopal, van der Schee, *to appear.*, also, talk on Tuesday by van der Schee]
- at finite coupling, significantly less stopping of the baryon charge



narrow  
shocks



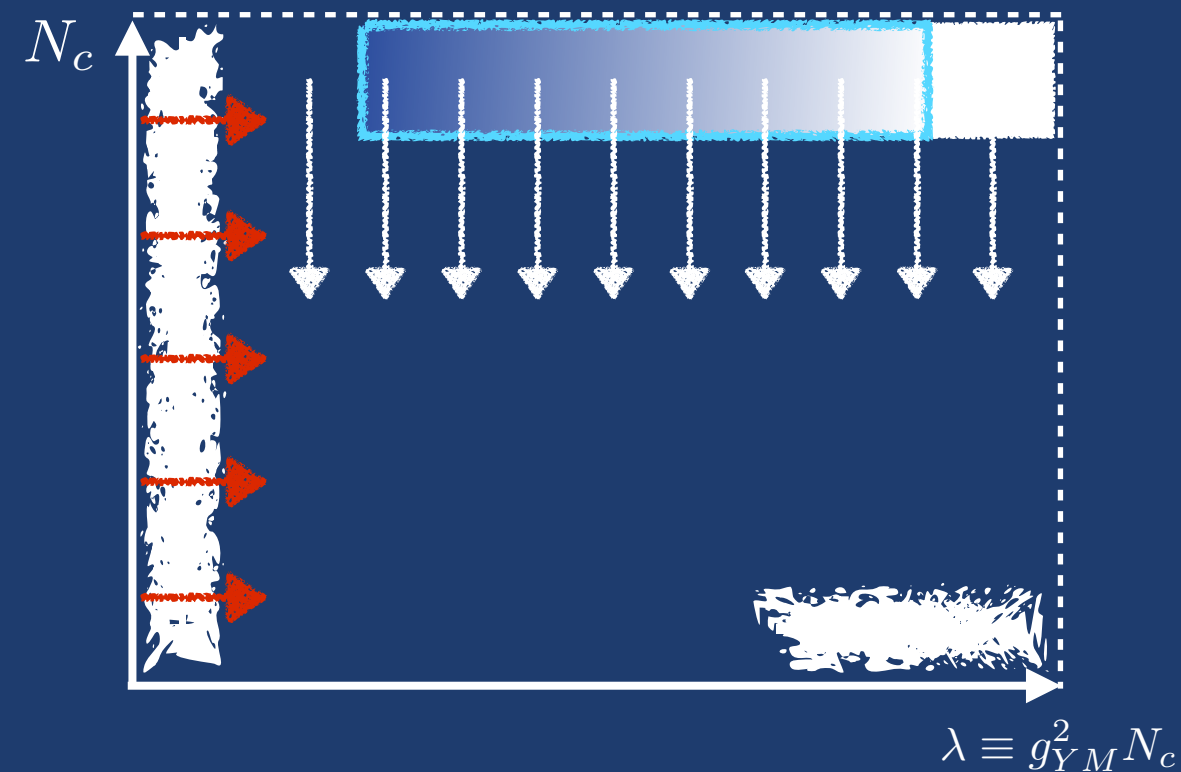
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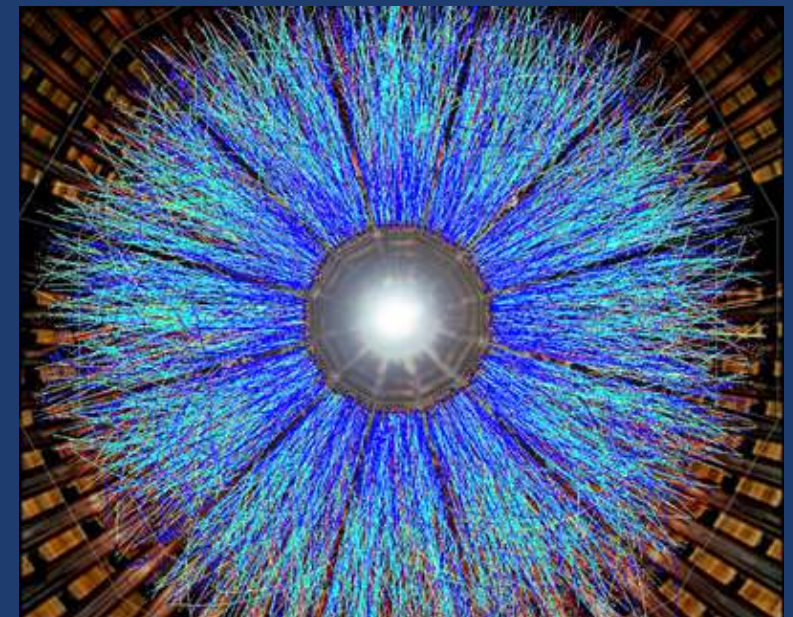
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

# SUMMARY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- holography is a useful tool for studying coupling constant dependence
- results are highly universal across different higher-derivative theories
- transition to “weakly coupled physics” is extremely quick!



- connection to perturbative, weakly coupled QFTs and kinetic theory
- away from the infinite  $N_c$  limit = quantum gravity
- experimental tests of **quantitative** holographic predictions in QGP



THANK YOU!