

A Striped Holographic Superconductor

based on

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Outline

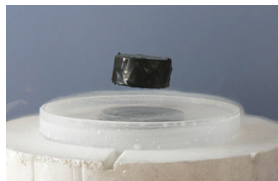
- 1 Motivations
- 2 Holographic superconductor from AdS/CFT
- 3 A striped holographic superconductor
- 4 Conclusions

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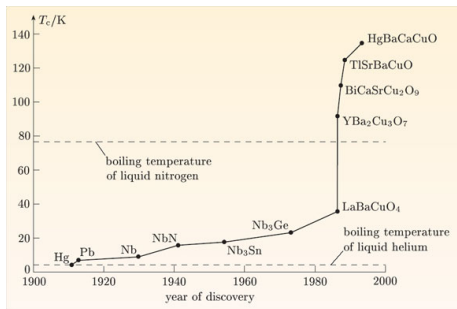
99 years of superconductivity

A century of history, **six** Nobel prizes, uncountable technological applications and still a lot to discover



- 1911, H. K. Onnes (Nobel '13) discovers SC in Hg at 4.2K
- 1933, W. Meissner, expulsion of magnetic field
- 1950, Landau-Ginzburg (Nobel '62 & '03) phenomenological theory
- 1957, Bardeen Cooper and Schrieffer (Nobel '72) microscopic theory
- 1962, B.D. Josephson (Nobel '73) effect
- 1986, Bednorz & Müller (Nobel '87) discover high- T_c in LBCO

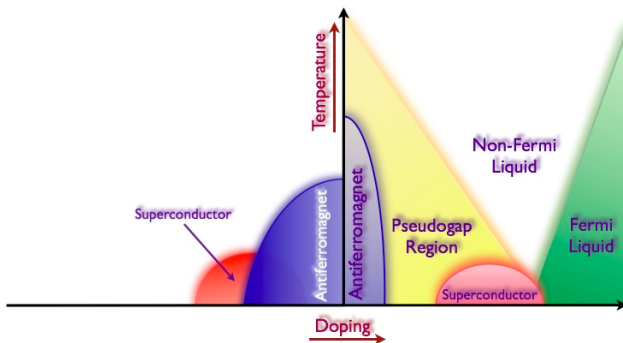
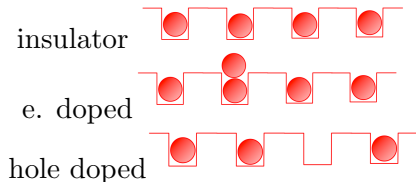
High T_c superconductors



- T_c above liquid N and above the T_c allowed by BCS.
- The biggest family are the **cuprates**. Highest T_c is 135K.
- Other recently discovered families are iron-based and organic SC.
- Probably the most studied materials after the semiconductors.

Doping a Mott insulator

Cuprates are doped Mott insulators. Insulation is due to the **strong Coulomb repulsion** between electrons.



Ingredients of high T_c SC

- There are many peculiarities of the phase diagram of cuprates: pseudogap, strange metal, glassy phase . . .
- We do not know which are crucial for high T_c and which are accidental.
- I will give a biased review of physical properties characterizing the cuprates.

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I will stress three ingredients

- Strong coupling
- Quantum criticality
- Inhomogeneity

The goal is to construct and study a simple computable model that accounts for these ingredients.

Strong coupling

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$$H = - \sum_{i,j,\alpha} t_{ij} c_{i\alpha}^\dagger c_{j\alpha} + \sum_i U_i c_{i\uparrow}^\dagger c_{i\uparrow} c_{i\downarrow}^\dagger c_{i\downarrow} - \mu \sum_{i,\alpha} c_{i\alpha}^\dagger c_{i\alpha}$$

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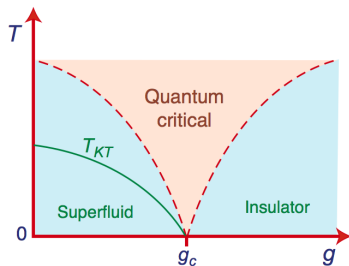
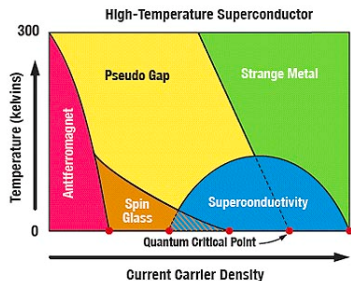
- Small doping: insulating and antiferromagnetic. The potential U wins over the kinetic term t .
- Large doping: Fermi liquid. The kinetic term t wins over the potential U .
- SC takes place in between, so **no perturbation theory** is possible.

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- A quantum phase transition is a phase transition at $T = 0$.
- Competition between potential and quantum fluctuations.
- The quantum critical point (QCP) has a **scaling symmetry**.

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Is there a QCP beneath the SC dome leading to the strange metal phase?

Inhomogeneity

- Vast subject, I will present
 - ▶ theoretical
 - ▶ experimental
 - ▶ intuitive

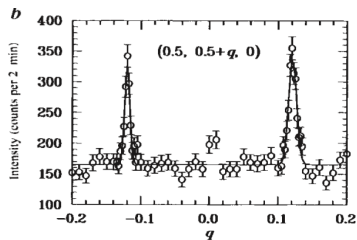
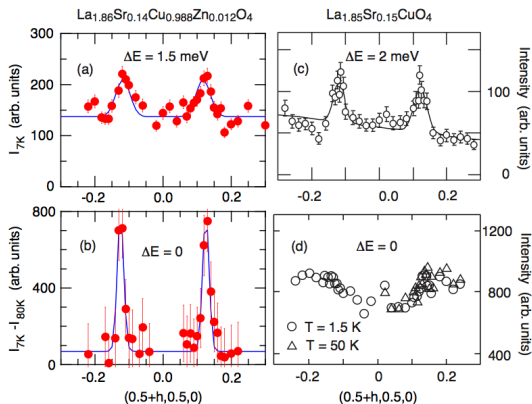
evidence that inhomogeneity plays an important role in the cuprates.

- I focus on stripes (smectic order), but also other types of order exist (e.g. nematic).
- Charge density wave (CDW)

$$\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) \rangle \equiv \bar{\rho} + \text{Re} [e^{i\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{r}} \phi_{CDW}(\mathbf{r}, t)] \quad (1)$$

- Analogously SDW for spin modulations.

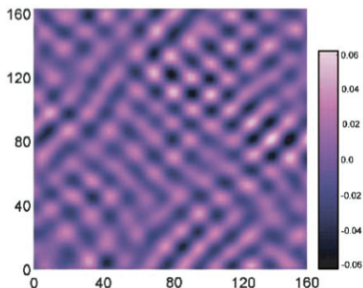
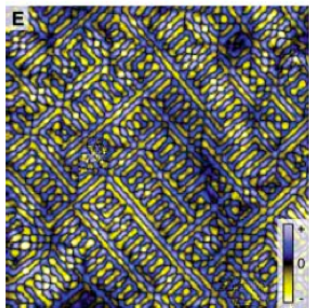
Experimental evidence I



- Neutron scattering with varying momentum on the CuO plane
[Kivelson et al] .
- The peaks indicate charge stripes.

- Neutron scattering on LaNdSrCuO at 11 K .

Experimental evidence II

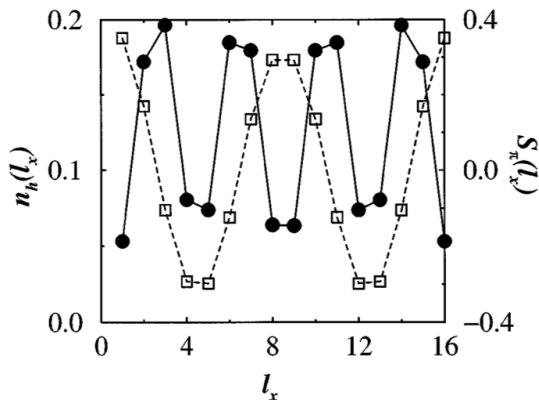


- Atomic-resolution tunneling-asymmetry imaging on CaNaCuOCl and BiSrDyCaCuO [Kohsaka et al]

- Local density of states in BiSrCaCuO at 8K via scanning tunneling spectroscopy [Howal et al '03]

Hubbard model

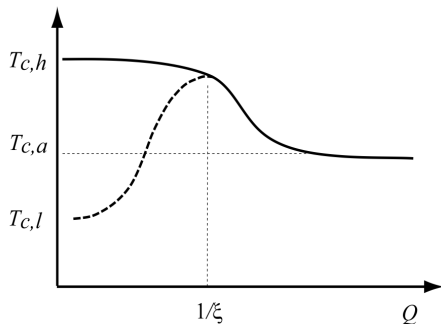
- Large number of numerical studies of Hubbard or t-J model.
- Stripes emerge [e.g. White & Scalapino] . Oscillating electron density.



Weakly coupled BCS analysis of inhomogeneous Hubbard model

$$H = - \sum_{i,j,\alpha} t_{ij} c_{i\alpha}^\dagger c_{j\alpha} + \sum_i U_i c_{i\uparrow}^\dagger c_{i\uparrow} c_{i\downarrow}^\dagger c_{i\downarrow} - \mu \sum_{i,\alpha} c_{i\alpha}^\dagger c_{i\alpha}$$

with $U_i = \bar{U} + U_Q \cos(Qr_i)$.



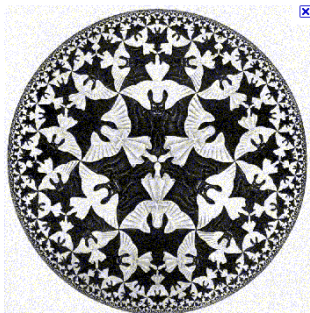
- Can one check this in a strongly coupled model?

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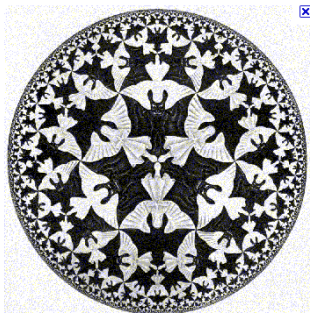
The correspondence

The AdS/CFT correspondence [Maldacena 97] relates certain strongly coupled CFT's to gravitational theories in one higher dimension on a weakly curved asymptotically AdS background (and vice versa).



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- The CFT lives on the boundary while gravity is in the bulk.
- The RG flow is geometrised by the bulk eom. Conformal symmetry is realized geometrically.

The AdS/CFT dictionary

$$Z[\phi_0] = \langle e^{-\int \phi_0 \mathcal{O}} \rangle_{CFT} = Z_{AdS} \sim e^{-S_{AdS}} \Big|_{b.c. \phi = \phi_0}$$

CFT	Gravity
Local operator \mathcal{O}_Δ	field ϕ
dimension Δ	mass of ϕ
Source $\delta\mathcal{L} = \int \mathcal{O}_\Delta \phi_0$	non-normalizable profile $\phi_0 \neq 0$
vev $\langle \mathcal{O}_\Delta \rangle$	normalizable profile $\phi_1 \neq 0$

Solving the classical bulk eom one finds the relation between perturbation ϕ_0 and response ϕ_1

$$\phi(z \rightarrow 0) \simeq z^{d-\Delta} \phi_0 + z^\Delta \phi_1 + \dots$$

Ingredients of a holographic superconductor [Hartnoll et al 08]

Why	CFT	Gravity
QCP	Scaling	AdS
Temperature	Temperature	Black hole
Transport properties	Current J_μ	Gauge field A_μ
Phase transition	Order parameter	Charged scalar field Ψ
Cuprates	2+1	3+1



Einstein-Maxwell-scalar theory in 3+1

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \left(R + \frac{6}{L^2} \right) - \frac{1}{4} F^{ab} F_{ab} - g^{ab} (D_a \Psi)^* D_b \Psi - V(|\Psi|) \right],$$

A simple concrete choice

$$V(|\Psi|) = -\frac{2}{L^2} |\Psi|^2,$$

above BF bound.

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	x^a	L	q	$A_a dx^a$	Ψ	ds^2	G_N
α_1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
α_2	0	1	-1	1	0	2	0
α_3	0	0	-1	1	1	0	-2

Probe limit and Schwarzschild AdS

Einstein equations are

$$G_{ab} - \frac{3}{L^2}g_{ab} = \frac{G_N}{q^2}T_{ab}(qA, q\Psi) .$$

The backreaction can be neglected in the **probe limit**

$$\frac{G_N}{q^2} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{with} \quad qA, q\Psi \text{ constant}$$

EE are solved by

$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2}{z^2} \left[-h(z)dt^2 + \frac{dz^2}{h(z)} + dx^2 + dy^2 \right] \quad \text{with} \quad h(z) = 1 - \frac{z^3}{z_0^3} ,$$

with **temperature** $T = 3/(4\pi z_0)$.

Homogeneous ansatz

- Homogeneous and static $\Rightarrow A_{x,y,z} = 0$ and $\Psi = \psi z / \sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R}$.
- Can use three symmetries to fix e.g. $L = z_0 = q = 1$.
- Only two d.o.f. $A \equiv A_t$ and ψ :

$$\begin{aligned} hA_{zz} - \psi^2 A &= 0, \\ -h^2\psi_{zz} + 3z^2h\psi_z + (hz - A^2)\psi &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

AdS boundary $z = 0$	Black hole horizon $z = z_0$
chemical potential: $A(0) = \mu$	regular: $A(z_0) = 0$
normalizable: $\psi(0) = 0$	regular: $\psi'(z_0) = -\psi(z_0)/3$

$\mu \neq 0$ breaks conformal invariance. The solution determines

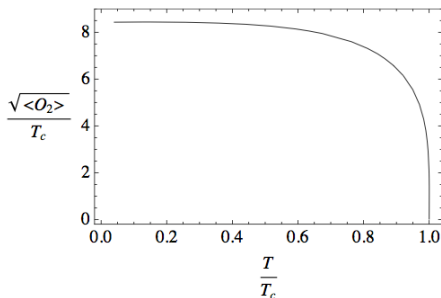
$$\begin{aligned} \partial_z A(0) &= \langle J_0 \rangle \equiv \rho \quad \text{charge density} \\ \partial_z \psi(0) &= \langle \mathcal{O}_2 \rangle \quad \text{order parameter} \end{aligned}$$

Normal state and instability

For high T , a simple stable solution is $\psi = 0$. The eom linearizes

$$\partial_z^2 A = 0 \Rightarrow A(z) = \mu(1 - z) .$$

- For low temperatures $\psi = 0$ is **unstable** [Gubser 08] .
- There is another solution $\psi \neq 0$, which is thermodynamically favored.
- The system is non-linear, we have mostly numerical solutions.



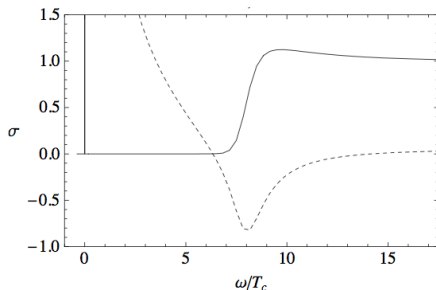
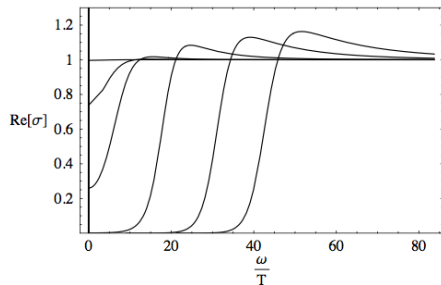
Conductivity

Perturb with a small electric field

$$h\partial_z (h\partial_z A_y) + (\omega^2 - \psi^2 h) A_y = 0,$$

and read the linear response. The **optical conductivity**

$$\sigma_y(\omega) \equiv \frac{J_y(\omega)}{E_y(\omega)} = -i \frac{A_y^{(1)}}{\omega A_y^{(0)}},$$



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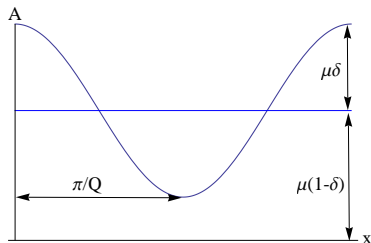
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- Same boundary conditions as before: regularity at the horizon and normalizable ψ .
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- This directly sources a charge density wave (CDW).
- We study superconductivity in the presence of a CDW. In principle one could generate the inhomogeneity spontaneously.

Modulated chemical potential



$$A(0, x) = \mu [(1 - \delta) + \delta \cos(Qx)]$$

- μ is the maximum chemical potential.
- δ controls the amplitude of the modulation.
- Q is the wavevector of the modulation.

Normal state CDW and instabilities

Again a simple solution at high T is $\psi = 0$. This gives a normal state with a CDW

$$\rho(x) = \mu [(1 - \delta) + \delta Q \coth(Q) \cos(Qx)] .$$

As T decreases (equivalently μ increases) there are various instabilities toward $\psi \neq 0$.

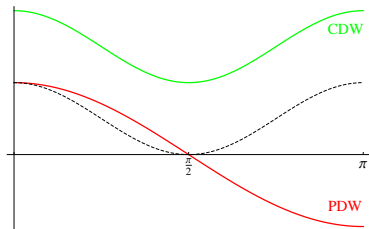
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 $\psi(z, 0) = -\psi(2\pi/Q) \Rightarrow$ **pair density wave PDW**, i.e. the order parameter averages to zero.



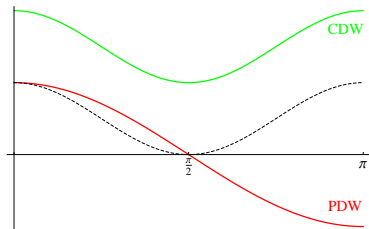
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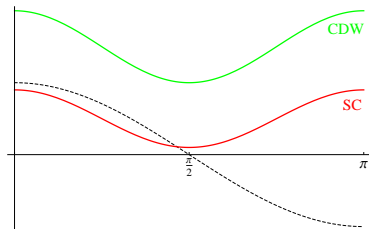
- Antiperiodic boundary conditions
 $\psi(z, 0) = -\psi(2\pi/Q) \Rightarrow$ **pair density wave PDW**, i.e. the order parameter averages to zero.
- **PDW** has been argued to explain LBCO and to be relevant for other cuprates [Berg et al 09]



Superconducting instability

Let us focus on periodic boundary conditions

$$\psi(z, 0) = \psi(z, 2\pi/Q)$$

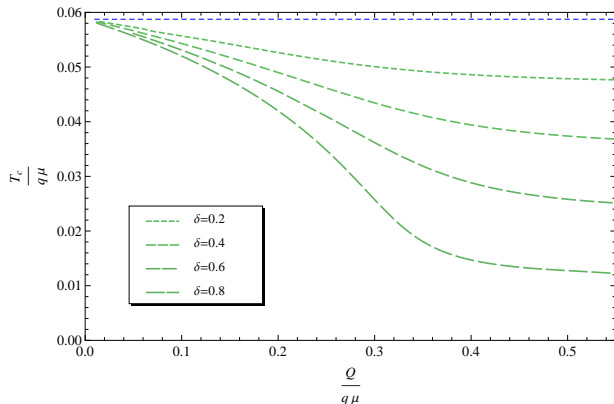


- The instability can be studied analytically in the limits $Q \rightarrow 0$ and $Q \rightarrow \infty$
- Or numerically by Fourier expanding

$$\psi(x, z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \psi_n(z) \cos(nQx)$$

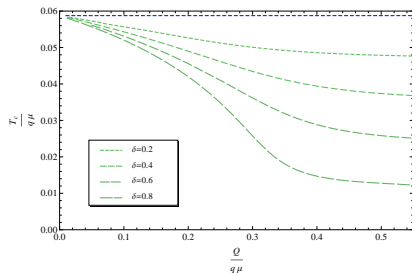
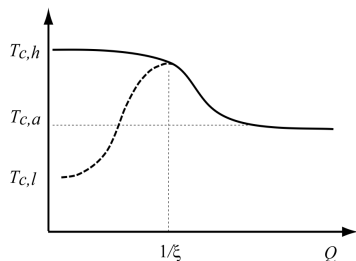
and truncating for large n .

T_c of Q



- $T_c(0)$ is the same as a homogeneous system with $\mu_h = \mu$ because derivatives do not cost energy, so different x 's decouple.
- $T_c(0)$ is the same as a homogeneous system with $\mu_h = \mu(1 - \delta)$ because the oscillation is too fast.

A comparison with weakly coupled BCS



- Same qualitative behavior: asymptotics, inflection point.
- Quantitative different behavior for $q \rightarrow \infty$

$$\text{BCS : } T_c(Q) - T_c(\infty) \sim \frac{1}{\log Q}$$

$$\text{holography : } T_c(Q) - T_c(\infty) \sim e^{-Q}$$

- What happens with [phase fluctuation](#)?

Superconductivity in the presence of a CDW

We study numerically the full non-linear system

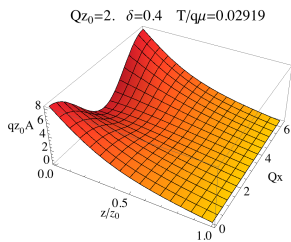
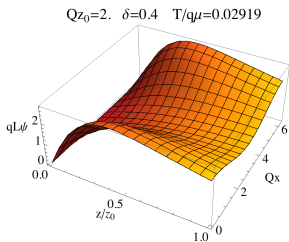
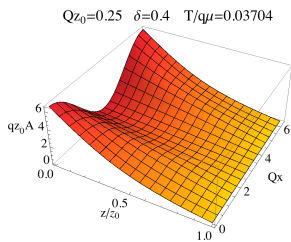
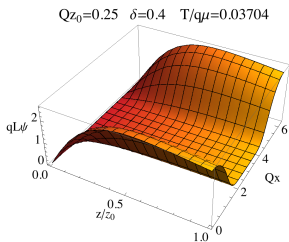
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by Fourier expanding

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(x, z) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \psi_n(z) \cos(nQx), \\ A(x, z) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n(z) \cos(nQx),\end{aligned}$$

and truncating at some n .

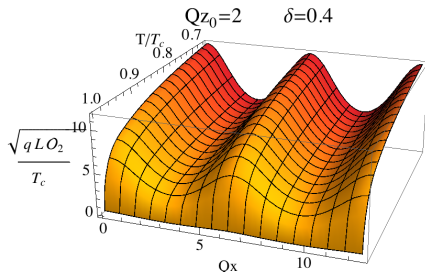
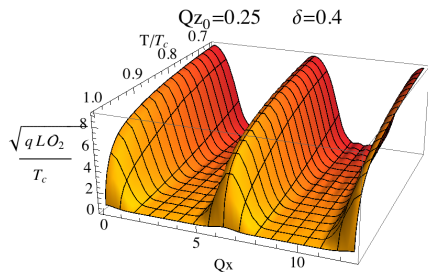
Bulk condensation with a CDW



- The stripes are more pronounced for $Q < 1$.
- For $Q < 1$ between the stripes ψ has not condensed yet.
- For $Q > 1$ the phase transition takes place almost everywhere at the same T .

Superconductivity with a CDW

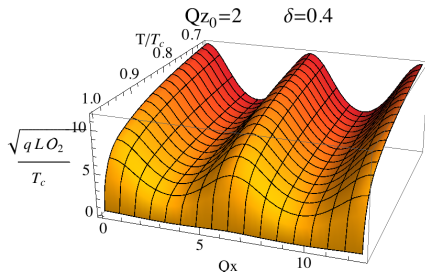
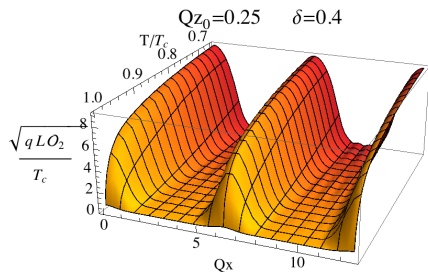
Read off the boundary order parameter:



- Superconducting stripes have emerged!

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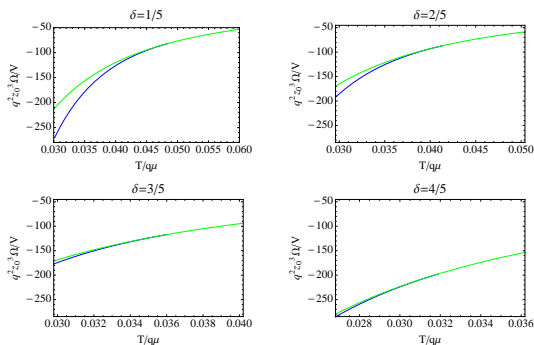
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- Superconducting stripes have emerged!
- Modulations persist for $Q > 1$ but the stripes are smoothed out.

Gran canonical potential

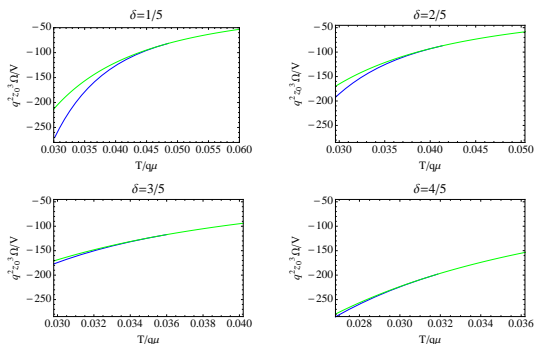
By the AdS/CFT dictionary: $\Omega = -TS_{\text{on-shell}}$



- Superconducting stripes have lower Ω than the normal state.

Gran canonical potential

By the AdS/CFT dictionary: $\Omega = -TS_{\text{on-shell}}$



- Superconducting stripes have lower Ω than the normal state.
- Striped superconductivity is thermodynamically favored. The more so for smaller δ .

Conductivity

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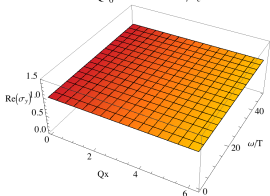
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- σ_x would tell us about **proximity effects**.
- Since $\partial_y = 0$, there is nothing to contract E_y with. σ_y , conductivity along the stripe, is **easy** to compute.

$$h\partial_z (h\partial_z A_y) + h\partial_x^2 A_y + (\omega^2 - \psi^2 h) A_y = 0,$$

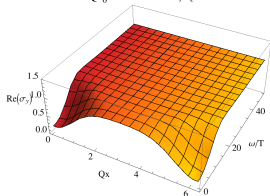
$$\sigma_y(\omega, x) \equiv \frac{J_y(\omega, x)}{E_y(\omega, x)} = -i \frac{A_y^{(1)}(x)}{\omega A_y^{(0)}(x)},$$

y-conductivity for $Q < 1$

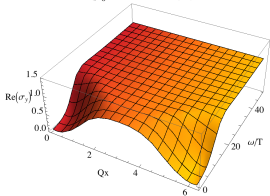
$Qz_0=0.5 \quad \delta=0.4 \quad T/T_c=1$



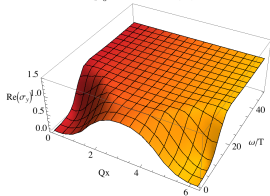
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$Qz_0=0.5 \quad \delta=0.4 \quad T/T_c=0.74$



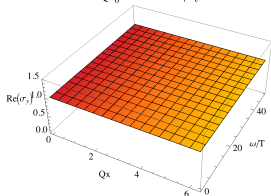
$Qz_0=0.5 \quad \delta=0.4 \quad T/T_c=0.65$



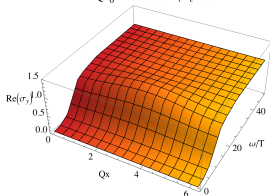
- On stripe conductivity $x = 0 + n2\pi/Q$ is like homogeneous conductivity. A gap opens up as T is decreased.
- In between stripes conductivity $x = \pi + n2\pi/Q$ is like normal state, i.e. constant.

y-conductivity for $Q > 1$

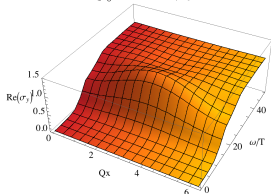
$Qz_0=4 \quad \delta=0.6 \quad T/T_c=1$



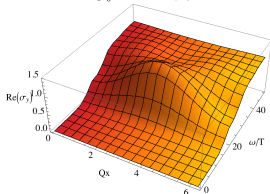
$Qz_0=4 \quad \delta=0.6 \quad T/T_c=0.7$



$Qz_0=4 \quad \delta=0.6 \quad T/T_c=0.53$



$Qz_0=4 \quad \delta=0.6 \quad T/T_c=0.43$



- Very different from the homogenous conductivity!
- A gap opens up everywhere at the same T .
- An interesting **resonant pattern** arises.

Outline

- 1 Motivations
- 2 Holographic superconductor from AdS/CFT
- 3 A striped holographic superconductor
- 4 Conclusions

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- **Superconducting stripes** are thermodynamically favored.
- We presented results for the conductivity along the stripes.

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