

# Anisotropic Holography

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Based on works with:

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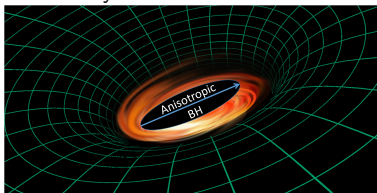
Talk given for VideoConference: Frontiers of holographic duality,  
Steklov Mathematical Institute, Russia, April 27 – May 8, 2020

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Anisotropic Theories
- 3 Phase Transitions
- 4 Universal Properties
- 5 Monotonic functions along the RG
- 6 Conclusions

# Motivation I.

- Strongly anisotropic systems have significantly **richer** structure compared to isotropic ones.
  - Transport coefficients, Diffusion, Brownian Heavy Quark Motion...
  - **Characteristic Example:** Shear viscosity  $\eta$  over entropy density  $s$ : takes **parametrically** low values wrt degree of anisotropy  $\frac{\eta}{s} < \frac{1}{4\pi}$ .  
(Rebhan,Steineder 2011; D.G. 2012; Jain, Samanta Trivedy 2015;... D.G., Gursoy, Pedraza, 2017;...)
  - **Universalities** are very **rare**!



# Motivation II.

- Existence of **strongly coupled anisotropic systems**.
  - Quark - Gluon Plasma.
  - Anisotropic Materials: Multilayer nanostructures, Topological Insulators...  
*eg: (Pardo, Pickett 2009; Kobayashi, Suzumura, Piechon, Montambaux 2011; Fang, Fu 2015...)*
- Strong **(Magnetic) Fields** in strongly coupled theories.
  - New interesting phenomena in presence on such fields, i.e. **inverse magnetic catalysis**.  
*eg: (Bali, Bruckmann, Endrodi, Fodor, Katz, Krieg et al. 2011)*

# Reminding-Example Slide: A Fixed Anisotropic Point

- The anisotropic **hyperscaling violation** metric in IR:

$$ds_{d+2}^2 = u^{-\frac{2\theta}{d}} \left( -u^{2z} (f(u) dt^2 + dy_i^2) + u^2 dx_i^2 + \frac{du^2}{f(u)u^2} \right)$$

exhibits a **critical exponent**  $z$  and a **hyperscaling violation exponent**  $\theta$ .

$$t \rightarrow \lambda^z t, \quad y \rightarrow \lambda^z y, \quad x \rightarrow \lambda x, \quad u \rightarrow \frac{u}{\lambda}, \quad ds \rightarrow \lambda^{\frac{\theta}{d}} ds.$$

- Thermodynamically** it behaves as receiving contributions from a theory in  $k - \theta$  dimensions with scaling  $z$  and from a  $d - k$  dimensions conformal theory.

$$S \sim T^{\frac{k-\theta}{z} + d - k}$$

- Effective Space dimensionality** for the dual theory!

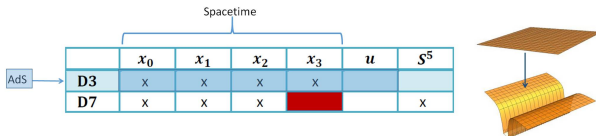
# How is Anisotropy introduced? A Pictorial Representation:

- For the Lifshitz-like IIB Supergravity solutions

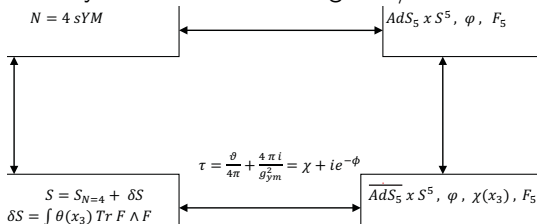
$$ds^2 = u^{2z}(dx_0^2 + dx_i^2) + u^2 dx_3^2 + \frac{du^2}{u^2} + ds_{S^5}^2.$$

Introduction of additional branes:

(Azeyanagi, Li, Takayanagi, 2009)



- Which equivalently leads to the following AdS/CFT deformation.



- $dC_8 \sim \star d\chi$  with the non-zero component  $C_{x_0 x_1 x_2 S^5}$ .

# A Theory with Phase Transitions in One Page:

- How the Field Theory looks like?
  - ✓ 4d  $SU(N)$  Strongly coupled anisotropic gauge theory.
  - ✓ Its dynamics are affected by a scalar operator  $\mathcal{O}_\Delta$ .
  - ✓ Anisotropy is introduced by another operator  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}} \sim \theta(x_3) \text{Tr} F \wedge F$  with a space dependent coupling.
- The gravity dual theory is an Einstein-Axion-Dilaton theory in 5 dimensions with a non-trivial potential.
  - ✓ A "backreacting" scalar field depending on spatial directions, the axion; and a non-trivial dilaton.
  - ✓ Solutions are non-trivial RG flows:  
Conformal fixed point in the UV  $\Rightarrow$  Anisotropic (Hyperscaling Lifshitz-like) in IR.
- The vacuum state confines color and there exists a phase transition at finite  $T_c$  above which a deconfined plasma state arises.

(D.G., Gursoy, Pedraza, 2017)

# An Anisotropic Theory

The generalized **Einstein-Axion-Dilaton action** with a **potential** for the dilaton and an **arbitrary coupling** between the axion and the dilaton:

$$S = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[ R - \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi, \gamma, \sigma, \Delta) - \frac{1}{2}Z(\phi, \gamma)(\partial\chi)^2 \right].$$

- For  $\sigma = 0, \gamma = 1, m(\Delta) = 0$  the action and the solution of eoms, are **reduced of IIB supergravity**.

*(Mateos, Trancanelli, 2011)*

- $V(\phi)$ : **Asymptotically AdS** for small dilaton in the UV.

*((Gubser, Nellore), Pufu, Rocha 2008a,b;Gursoy, Kiritsis, Nitti, 2007;...)*

- **Anisotropy**:  $\frac{\partial\chi}{\partial x_3} = \alpha$ .

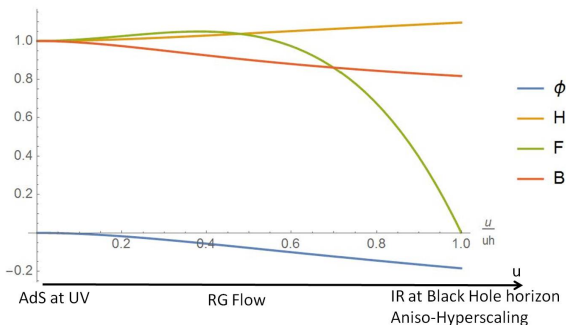
$\alpha$ : Uniform **D7-brane charge density** per unit length  $\sim$  **strength** of Anisotropy.



# A Solution : The RG Flow

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{u^2} \left( -\mathcal{F}(u)\mathcal{B}(u) dt^2 + dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + \mathcal{H}(u)dx_3^2 + \frac{du^2}{\mathcal{F}(u)} \right),$$

$$\chi = \alpha x_3, \quad \phi = \phi(u), \quad \mathcal{F}(u_h) = 0.$$



$$ds^2 = u^{-\frac{2\theta}{3}} \left( -u^{2z} (f(u)dt^2 + dx_{1,2}^2) + \tilde{\alpha} u^2 dx_3^2 + \frac{du^2}{f(u)u^2} \right)$$

Are the theories **physical** and **stable**?



✓ **Energy Conditions Analysis:**  $T_{\mu\nu} N^\mu N^\nu \geq 0$  ,  $N^\mu N_\mu = 0$  .

AND

✓ **Local Thermodynamical Stability Analysis**



YES!

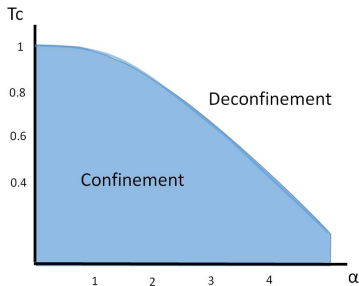
# Phase Diagram

Properties of Heavy Quark Observables depend strongly on the Anisotropy.

*(D.G. ; Chernicoff, Fernandez, Mateos, Trancanelli; Rebhan, Steineder 2012...)*

## Confinement/Deconfinement Phase Transitions?

- The **Critical Temperature** of the theories vs the **anisotropy**:



- Anisotropic strongly coupled systems have **lower** critical temperature.
- New phenomenon: **Inverse Anisotropic Catalysis**.

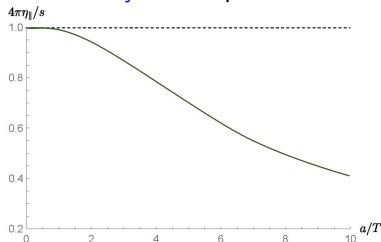
*( DG, Gursoy, Pedraza 2018; related Aref'eva, Rannu 2018)*

# Universal Results: $\eta/s$ in Theories with Broken Symmetry

Consider a finite  $T$  theory in the **deconfined phase**:

$$ds^2 = g_{tt}(u)dt^2 + g_{11}(u)(dx_1^2 + dx_2^2) + g_{33}(u)dx_3^2 + g_{uu}(u)du^2$$

- The **anisotropic "shear viscosity"** takes parametrical low values:



- The Ratio:

$$4\pi \frac{\eta_{||}}{s} = \frac{g_{11}}{g_{33}} \Big|_{u=u_h} \sim \left( \frac{T}{\alpha} \right)^p, \quad p = 2 - \frac{2}{z} \sim [0, \infty), \quad \alpha \gg T.$$

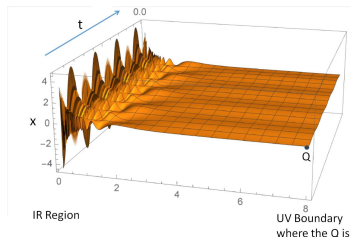
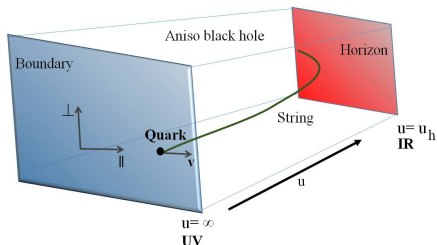
(Jain, Samanta Trivedy 2015; D.G., Gursoy, Pedraza, 2017)

- New Universalities?**

$$4\pi \frac{\eta_{||}}{s} \frac{\sigma_{\perp}}{\sigma_{||}} \geq 1$$

(Rebhan,Steineder 2011;Inkof, Gouteraux, Kiselev, Kuppers, Link, Narozhny, Schmalian 2018, 2019)

# Langevin Dynamics and Brownian Motion



$$\frac{\kappa_{\parallel}}{\kappa_{\perp}} = \frac{(g_{00}g_{\parallel\parallel})'}{g_{\perp\perp}g_{\parallel\parallel}\left(\frac{g_{00}}{g_{\parallel\parallel}}\right)'} \bigg|_{u=u_{wh}}, \quad \langle p_{\parallel,\perp}^2 \rangle \sim \kappa_{\parallel,\perp} \mathcal{T}$$

**A Universal Inequality for Isotropic Theory:**

$\kappa_{\parallel} \geq \kappa_{\perp}$  for **any isotropic** strongly coupled plasma!

Can be inverted in the **anisotropic theories**:  $\kappa_{\parallel} \geq < \kappa_{\perp}$ .

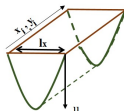
(Gursoy, Kiritsis, Mazzanti, Nitti, 2010; D.G. Soltanpanahi, 2013a,b; D.G. 2018)

# Anisotropic candidate of c-function

- A proposed **c-function**

((aniso) Chu, D.G., 2019; (nrcft) Cremonini, Dong 2014; Myers, Singh 2012;  
(iso 2d+) Ryu, Takayanagi 2006; (2d) Casini, Huerta 2006 )

$$c_x := \beta_x \frac{l_x^{d_x-1}}{H_x^{d_1-1} H_y^{d_2}} \frac{\partial S_x}{\partial \ln l_x} , \quad d_x := d_1 + d_2 \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$



$H$  is the infrared regulator,  $d_1 (x_i)$ ,  $d_2 (y_i)$  are the spatial dimensions and  $n_1$ ,  $n_2$  are defined at the fixed point:

$$[t] = L^{n_t}, \quad [x_i] = L^{n_1}, \quad [y_j] = L^{n_2} .$$

- A relativistic "c-theorem" is **guaranteed** as long as the **NEC**:

$T_u^u - T_0^0 \geq 0$  is satisfied ( $u \rightarrow \infty \sim \text{UV}$ ):

$$\frac{dc}{du} \propto \int_0^l dx A'^{-2} (T_u^u - T_0^0) \geq 0 .$$

## How about the Anisotropic Theories?

- Not a one-to-one correspondence between NEC and c-function monotonicity, but not surprising!

(Chu, D.G. 2019; Aref'eva, Patrushev, Slepov ; Hoyos, Jokela, Penín, Ramallo 2020)

- The NEC can be written as  $f'_i(u) > 0$ , where  $f_i(u)$  are functions of metric elements.
- It is possible to impose boundary conditions: e.g.  $f_i|_{UV, u=\infty} \leq 0$  that guarantee the right monotonicity for only one of the c-functions along the RG flow

$$\frac{dc_x}{du} \sim - \int f_i(u) .$$

# Conclusions

- ✓ **Observation:** In strongly coupled theories many phenomena are more sensitive to **the presence of the anisotropy** than **the source that triggers it**.
- ✓ The phase transitions occur at **lower** critical **Temperature** as the anisotropy is **increased** = **Inverse Anisotropic Catalysis!**
- ✓ Several **Universal Isotropic** relations are **anisotropically violated**. Look for **new** Universalities!
- ✓ **Holographic monotonic functions** and conditions of monotonicity for (anisotropic) RG flows.
  - Are there any **other observables** that form functions, such that to have **monotonic behavior** along the (anisotropic) RG flow?  
(Chu, Derendinger, DG in progress)



