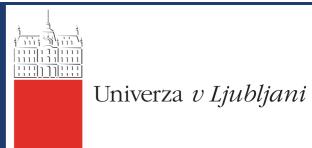


SAŠO GROZDANOV

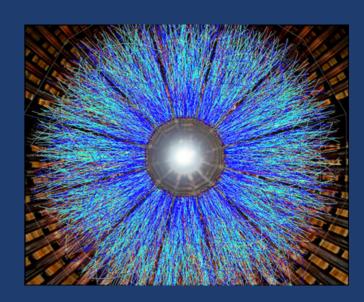


THE SPECTRA OF HOLOGRAPHIC THERMAL FIELD THEORIES, BLACK HOLES AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SPECTRAL DUALITY RELATION

THERMAL FIELD THEORY AND BLACK HOLES





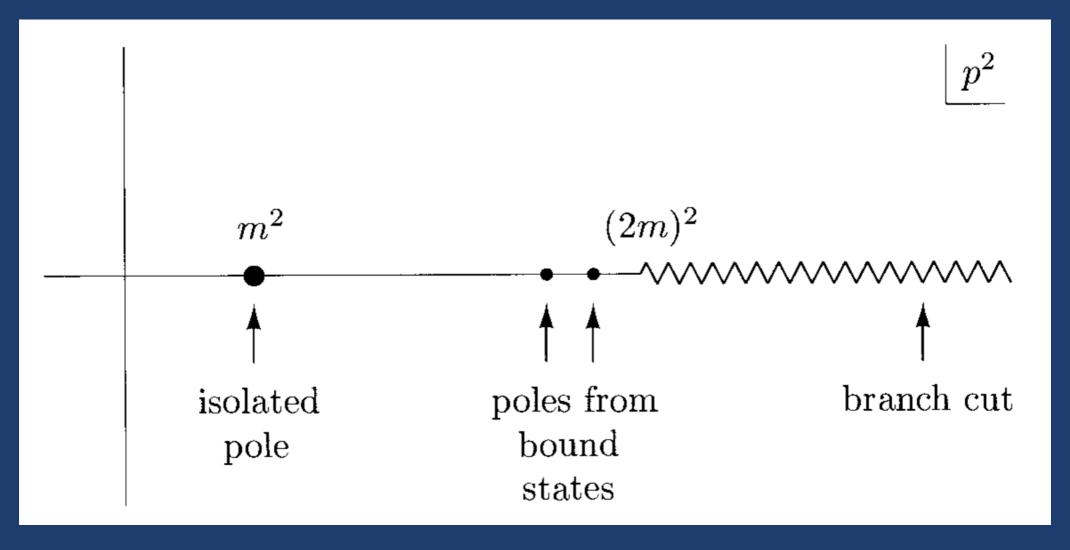


$$Z[\beta = 1/T] = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi \, e^{-\beta H} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int d^d x \, \mathcal{L}(\Phi, \lambda)}$$



SPECTRUM OF A SIMPLE T=0 CORRELATOR

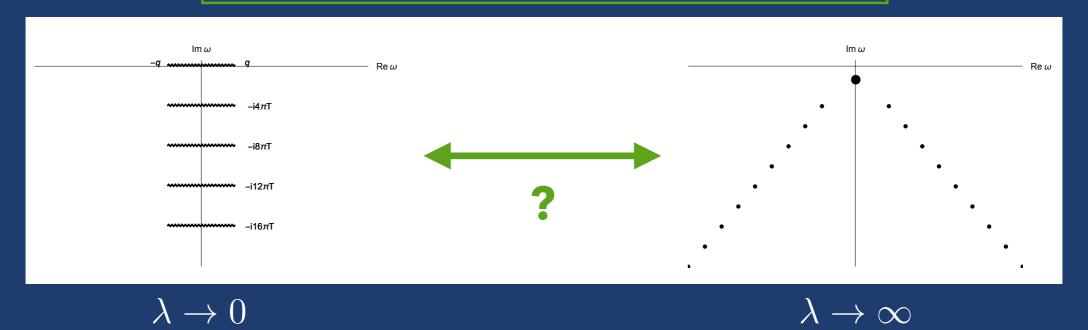
$$\langle \phi(p)\phi(-p)\rangle = \frac{Z(p^2)}{p^2 - m^2 + \Sigma(p^2)}$$



[from Peskin and Schroeder]

ANALYTIC STRUCTURE OF THERMAL CORRELATORS

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(-\omega, -q), T_{\rho\sigma}(\omega, q) \rangle_R \sim \frac{b(\omega, q)}{a(\omega, q)}$$



[Hartnoll, Kumar, (2005)]

holography (N=4 SYM-type theories)

meromorphic momentum space correlator

what is the structure of thermal correlators and black hole QNMs? what is the minimal information necessary to determine them completely?

methods:

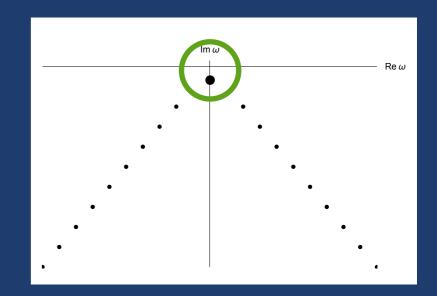
- kinetic theory: solving the collision integral
- perturbative QFT: calculation of Feynman diagrams
- holography: solving differential equations in black hole backgrounds

LOW-ENERGY SPECTRUM AND HYDRODYNAMICS

- low-energy limit of (some) thermal QFTs is described hydrodynamics
- conservation laws and global conserved operators

$$\nabla_{\mu}T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$





$$T^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[\sum_{i=1}^{N} \lambda_{i}^{(n)} \mathcal{T}_{(n)}^{\mu\nu} \right] \qquad \frac{\nabla_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0}{u^{\mu} \sim T \sim e^{-i\omega t + iqz}}$$

 $\partial u^{\mu} \sim \partial T \ll 1$

diffusion sound
$$\omega = -iDq^2 \qquad \omega = \pm v_s q - i\Gamma q^2$$

$$\omega/T \sim q/T \ll 1$$

equilibrium

temperature

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

LOW-ENERGY SPECTRUM AND HYDRODYNAMICS

- Schwinger-Keldysh effective field theory of diffusion to all loops: long time tails...
 [Chen-Lin, Delacretaz, Hartnoll (2019); Delacretaz (2020); SG, Lemut, Pelaič, Soloviev, PRD (2024)]
- tree-level result (classical hydrodynamics) has one diffusive pole at

$$\omega = -iDq^2$$

non-analytic dispersion relations:

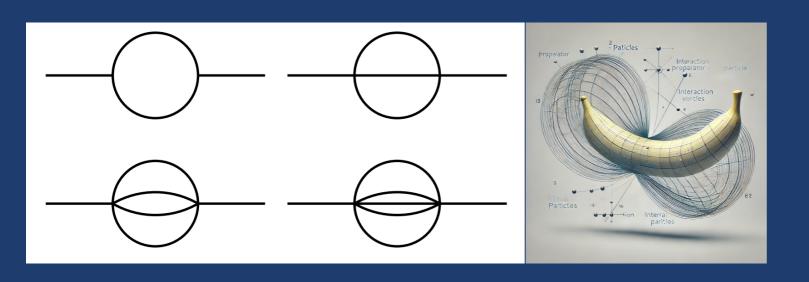
$$\omega = -iDq^2 \pm \delta\omega,$$

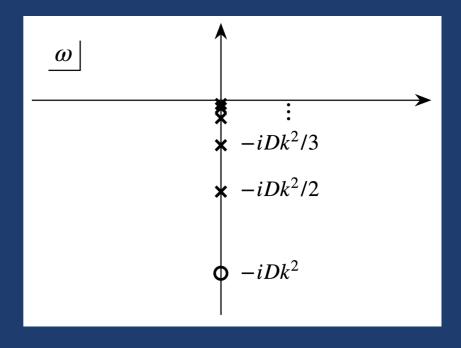
$$\delta\omega = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \gamma_n^{\frac{nd}{2} - 1} q^{2+nd} \begin{cases} 1, & nd \text{ odd,} \\ \ln(\gamma_n q^2), & nd \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

• *n*-loop result has a (pair) of diffusive pole(s) and branch point at

$$\omega = -\frac{iDq^2}{n+1}$$

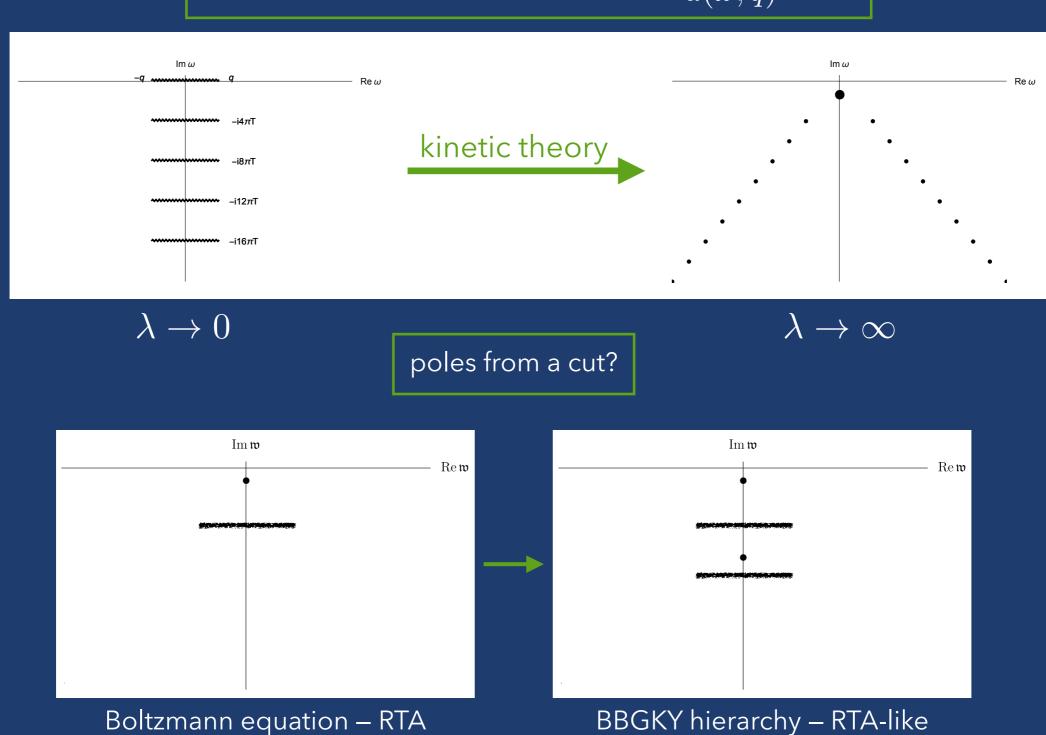
• go to *all* orders with 'bananas':





KINETIC THEORY AND THERMAL SPECTRUM

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(-\omega, -q), T_{\rho\sigma}(\omega, q) \rangle_R \sim \frac{b(\omega, q)}{a(\omega, q)}$$

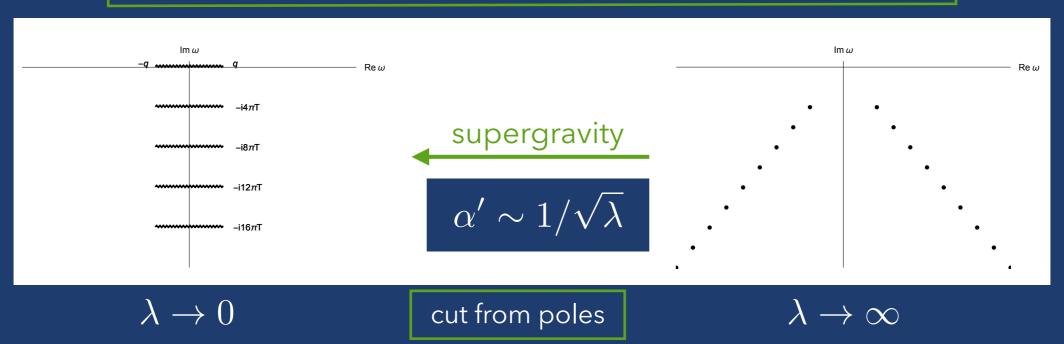


truncations [SG, Soloviev (2025)]

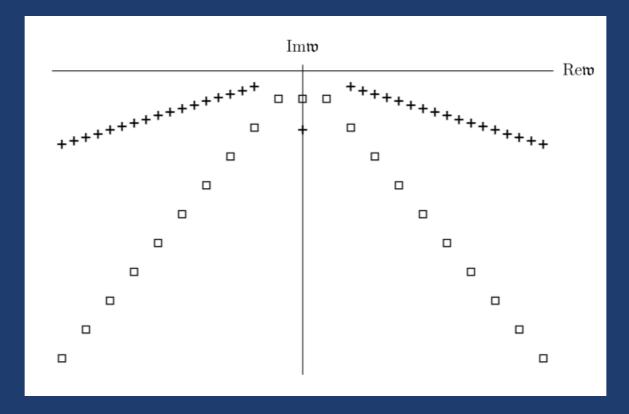
[Romatschke, (2016)]

HOLOGRAPHY AND THERMAL SPECTRUM

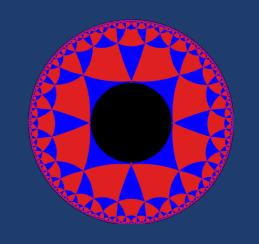
$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(-\omega, -q), T_{\rho\sigma}(\omega, q) \rangle_R \sim \frac{b(\omega, q)}{a(\omega, q)} = \frac{B(\omega, q)}{\prod_{i=0}^{\infty} (\omega - \omega_i(q))}$$



correlators remain meromorphic

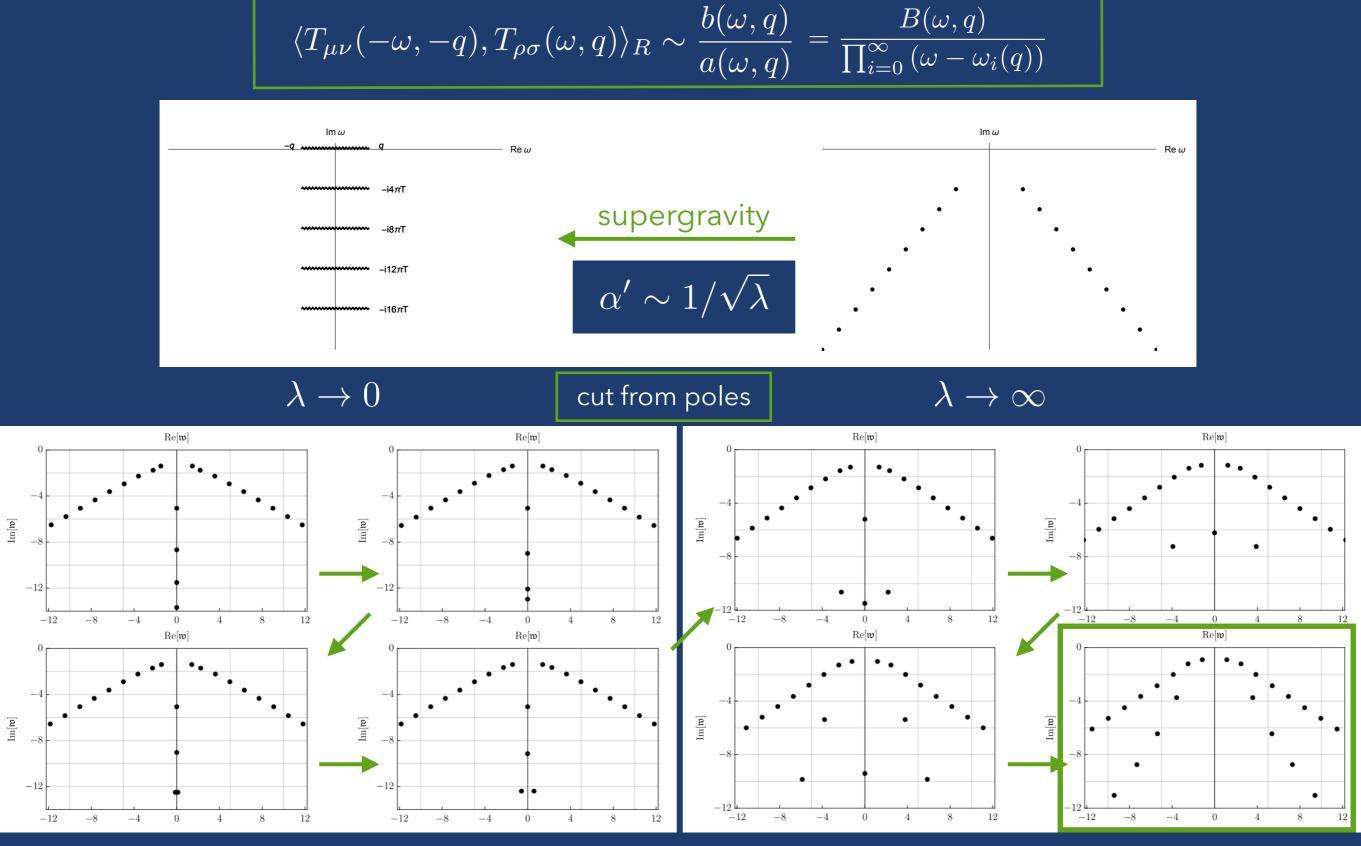


quasinormal modes of black holes



[SG, Starinets ..., several papers]

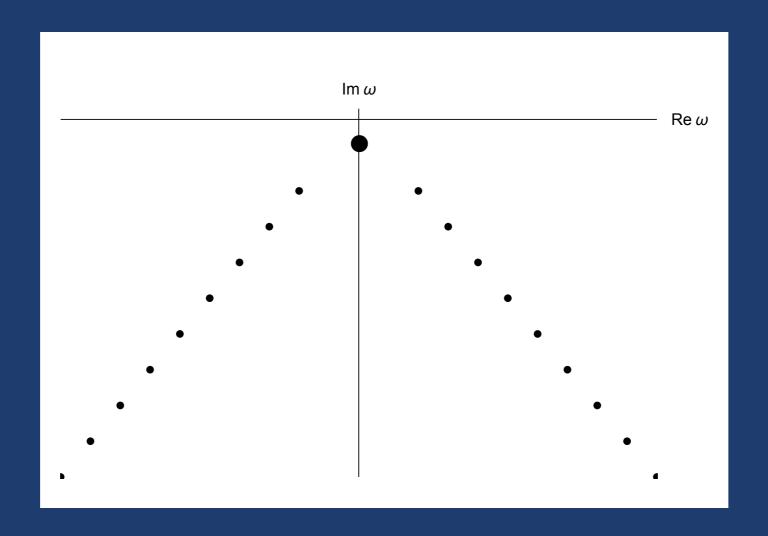
HOLOGRAPHY AND THERMAL SPECTRUM



[SG, Starinets ..., several papers; see also Dodelson on SYK (2025)]

HOLOGRAPHY AND THERMAL SPECTRUM

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(-\omega, -q), T_{\rho\sigma}(\omega, q) \rangle_R \sim \frac{b(\omega, q)}{a(\omega, q)} = \frac{B(\omega, q)}{\prod_{i=0}^{\infty} (\omega - \omega_i(q))}$$



for the rest of the talk: $\text{correlators are meromorphic in } \omega \in \mathbb{C}$

OUTLINE

- I. spectrum can be reconstructed from a single QNM
- II. spectrum can be reconstructed from pole skipping and hydrodynamics
- III. spectral duality relation

I. SPECTRUM CAN BE RECONSTRUCTED FROM A SINGLE QNM

[SG, Lemut, JHEP (2022)]

I. SPECTRAL RECONSTRUCTION FROM ONE QNM

• hydrodynamic series are convergent Puiseux series (shear p=1, sound p=2) [SG, Kovtun, Starinets, Tadić, PRL (2019); ...; Withers; JHEP (2018); Heller, et.al. (2020, ...)]

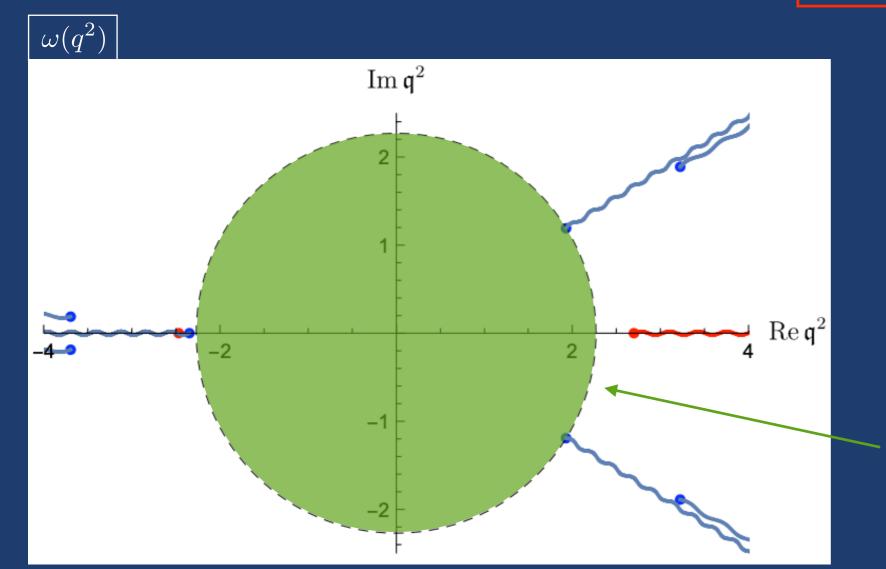
$$\mathfrak{w}_{\mathrm{shear}} = -i\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \left(\mathfrak{q}^2\right)^n = -i\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{q}^2 + \dots$$

$$\mathfrak{w}_{\text{sound}} = -i\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n e^{\pm \frac{i\pi n}{2}} \left(\mathfrak{q}^2\right)^{n/2} = \pm v_s \mathfrak{q} - \frac{i}{2}\mathfrak{G}\mathfrak{q}^2 + \dots$$

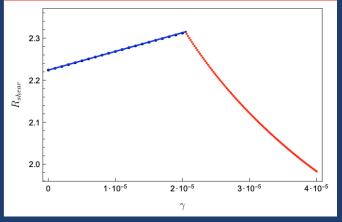
 dispersion relations are holomorphic in a disk

$$R_{\text{shear}}(\lambda) = 2.22 \left(1 + 674.15 \,\lambda^{-3/2} + \cdots \right)$$

 $R_{\text{sound}}(\lambda) = 2 \left(1 + 481.68 \,\lambda^{-3/2} + \cdots \right)$



N=4 SYM radius convergence [SG, Starinets, Tadić, JHEP (2021)]

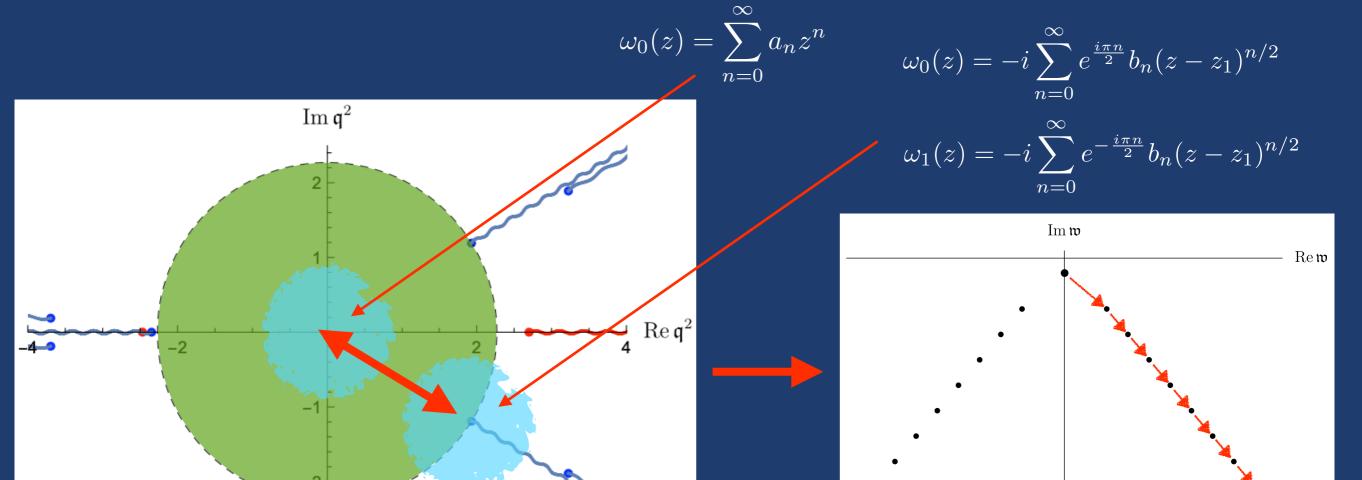


holomorphic disk

I. SPECTRAL RECONSTRUCTION FROM ONE QNM

claim: systematic reconstruction of *all* modes connected via *level-crossing* is possible by exploration (analytic continuations) of the Riemann surface connecting physical modes

- algorithm combining a theorem by Puiseux and a theorem by Darboux
- statement should hold for spectra that are 'sufficiently complicated' like the Heun function



all UV modes from one IR mode

EXAMPLE: DIFFUSION OF M2 BRANES (ADS4/CFT3)

- start from 300 hydrodynamic coefficients $\omega_0(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$
- use algorithm with 2 c.c. critical points, 'recover' 12 coefficients and compute the gap with analytic continuation on the same sheet (Padé approximant, ...)

$$\mathfrak{w}_1(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{(N_1=12)-1} b_n (z-z_1)^{n/2}$$



$$\mathfrak{w}_1^{\text{calc}}(0) = 1.23506 - 1.76338i$$

$$\mathfrak{w}(0) = 1.23455 - 1.77586i$$

(re)compute the first 300 coefficients, use algorithm with 2 general critical points,
 'recover' 12 coefficients and compute the gap

$$\mathfrak{w}_2(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{(N_2=12)-1} c_n (z-z_2)^{n/2}$$



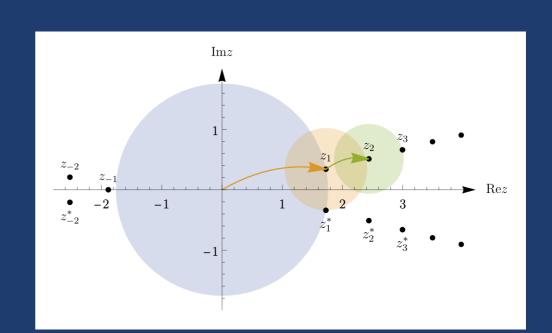
$$\mathfrak{w}_2^{\text{calc}}(0) = 2.16275 - 3.25341i$$

$$\mathfrak{w}_2(0) = 2.12981 - 3.28100i$$

... exploration continues ...



 conceptually useful and instructive, practically not (yet)...



II. SPECTRUM CAN BE RECONSTRUCTED FROM POLE SKIPPING

[SG, Lemut, Pedraza, PRD (2023)]

- pole skipping: ubiquitous feature of thermal correlators and black hole perturbations [SG, Schalm, Scopelliti, PRL (2017); Blake, Lee, Liu, JHEP (2018); Blake, Davison, SG, Liu, JHEP (2018); SG, JHEP (2019)]

originally: all-order hydrodynamic sound mode
$$\omega(q) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \alpha_n \left(T, \mu_i, \langle \mathcal{O}_j \rangle, \lambda \right) q^n$$

passes through a 'chaos point' at where the associated 2-pt function is '0/0':

$$\omega(q = i\lambda_L/v_B) = i\lambda_L = 2\pi Ti$$

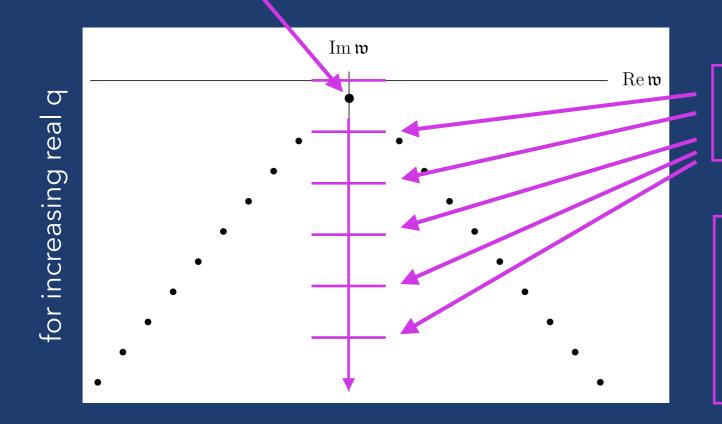
$$G_R = \frac{0}{0} = N(\delta\omega/\delta q)$$

- relation to maximal quantum chaos as measured by the out-of-time-ordered correlation functions and entanglement wedge [...; Chua, Hartman, Weng (2025)]
- triviality of the Einstein equation at the horizon
- infinite number of such '0/0' points at negative Matsubara frequencies for $q \in \mathbb{C}$ [SG, Kovtun, Starinets, Tadić, JHEP (2019); Blake, Davison, Vegh, JHEP (2019)]

$$\omega_n(q_n) = -2\pi T in \qquad n \ge 0$$

consider momentum diffusion in a neutral
 CFT dual to AdS-Schwarzschild black brane

$$\mathfrak{w}_{\mathrm{shear}} = -i\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \left(\mathfrak{q}^2\right)^n = -i\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{q}^2 + \dots$$



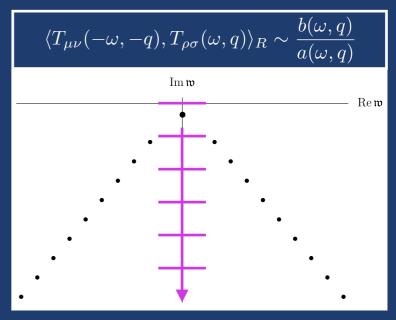
$$\omega_n(q_n) = -2\pi T i n$$

analytic result in AdS4/CFT3 [SG, PRL (2021)]

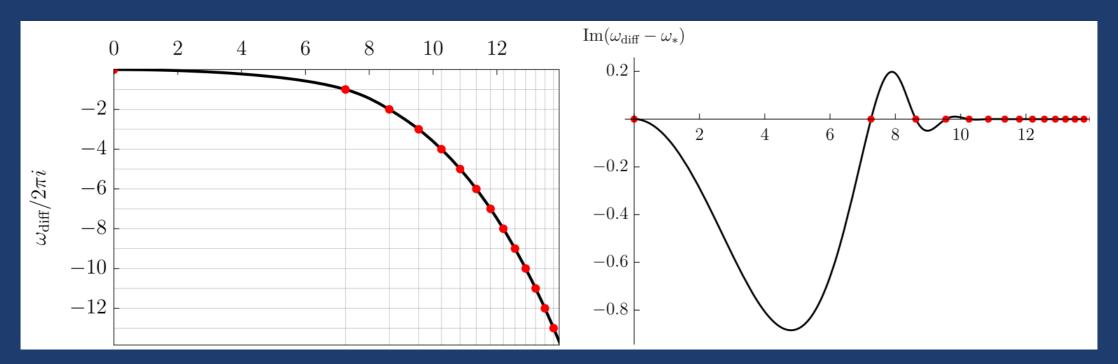
$$q_n = \frac{4\pi T}{\sqrt{3}} n^{1/4}, \ n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

consider momentum diffusion in a neutral
CFT dual to AdS-Schwarzschild black brane

$$\mathfrak{w}_{\mathrm{shear}} = -i\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \left(\mathfrak{q}^2\right)^n = -i\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{q}^2 + \dots$$



for increasing real q

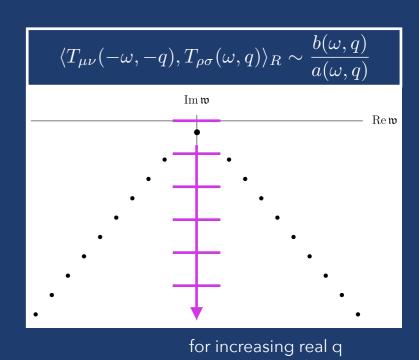


claim: in holographic theories of the type discussed here (N=4 SYM, M2, M5, ...), the entire spectrum can be computed from only a discrete set of pole-skipping points

interpolation problem:

$$\omega_n(q_n) = -2\pi Tin$$

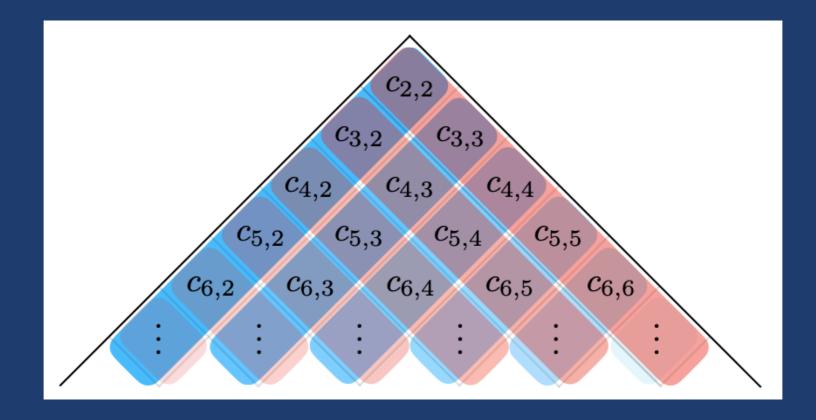
$$\downarrow$$
 $\mathfrak{w}_{\mathrm{shear}} = -i\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \left(\mathfrak{q}^2\right)^n = -i\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{q}^2 + \dots$



- unique solutions to interpolation problems are rare (Weierstrass-Hadamard, Nevanlinna-Pick)
- trick: 'analytic continuation' to d spacetime dimensions and expansion around infinite d
- ullet general relativity in large d drastically simplifies: $V\sim 1/r^d$
- recall: large-d limit of quantum mechanics is useful in atomic physics (e.g., for Helium)
- convergence of such series depends on the details

- interpolation: $\omega_n(q_n) = -2\pi Tin$ \longrightarrow $\mathfrak{w}_{\mathrm{shear}} = -i\sum_{n=1}^\infty c_n \left(\mathfrak{q}^2\right)^n = -i\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{q}^2 + \ldots$
- ullet 'analytic continuation' to d spacetime dimensions and expansion around infinite d

$$\omega_0(q = Q\sqrt{d}) = -iQ^2 - \frac{i}{d^2} \left(c_{2,2}Q^4 \right) - \frac{i}{d^3} \left(c_{3,2}Q^4 + c_{3,3}Q^6 \right) - \frac{i}{d^4} \left(c_{4,2}Q^4 + c_{4,3}Q^6 + c_{4,4}Q^8 \right) + \dots$$



interpolation: $\omega_n(q_n) = -2\pi Tin$ $\mathfrak{w}_{\mathrm{shear}} = -i\sum_{\mathbf{1}} c_n \left(\mathfrak{q}^2\right)^n = -i\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{q}^2 + \dots$

'analytic continuation' to d spacetime dimensions and expansion around infinite d

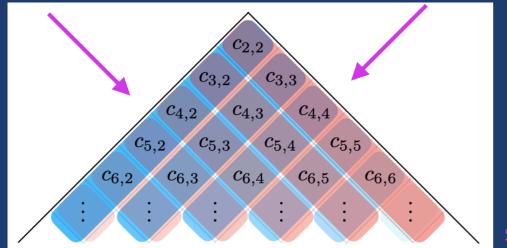
$$\omega_0(q) = -i\left(\frac{q}{\sqrt{d}}\right)^2 - i\sum_{m=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{d^m} \sum_{j=2}^m c_{m,j} \left(\frac{q}{\sqrt{d}}\right)^{2j} \qquad \frac{q_n}{\sqrt{d}} = \sqrt{\frac{nd}{2}} \left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{b_{n,m}}{d^m}\right)$$

$$b_{n,1}=-\sum_{m=2}^{\infty}\frac{n^{m-1}c_{m,m}}{2^m}$$

$$b_{n,2}=-\frac{b_{n,1}^2}{2}-\sum_{m=2}^{\infty}\frac{n^{m-1}\left(c_{m+1,m}+2mb_{n,1}c_{m,m}\right)}{2^m}$$
 second analytic continuation
$$n\in\mathbb{Z}\to x\in\mathbb{R}$$

hydrodynamics

pole skipping



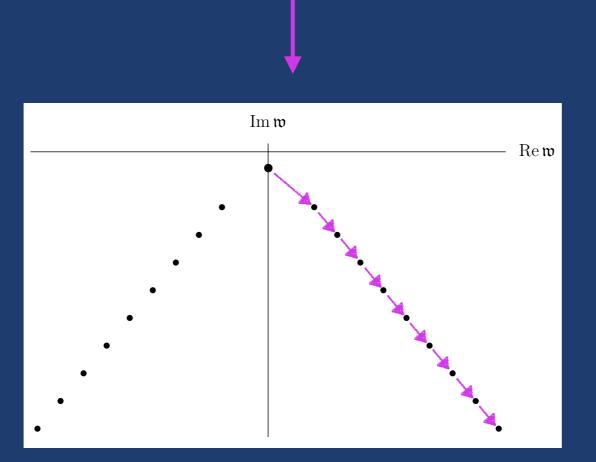
$$c_{m,m} = -\frac{2^m}{(m-1)!} \partial_x^{m-1} b_1(0)$$

$$c_{m+1,m} = -\frac{2^m \partial_x^{m-1} b_2(0)}{(m-1)!} + \sum_{j=2}^{m-1} \left(j - \frac{1}{4}\right) c_{j,j} c_{m-j+1,m-j+1}$$

generating functions

symmetry?

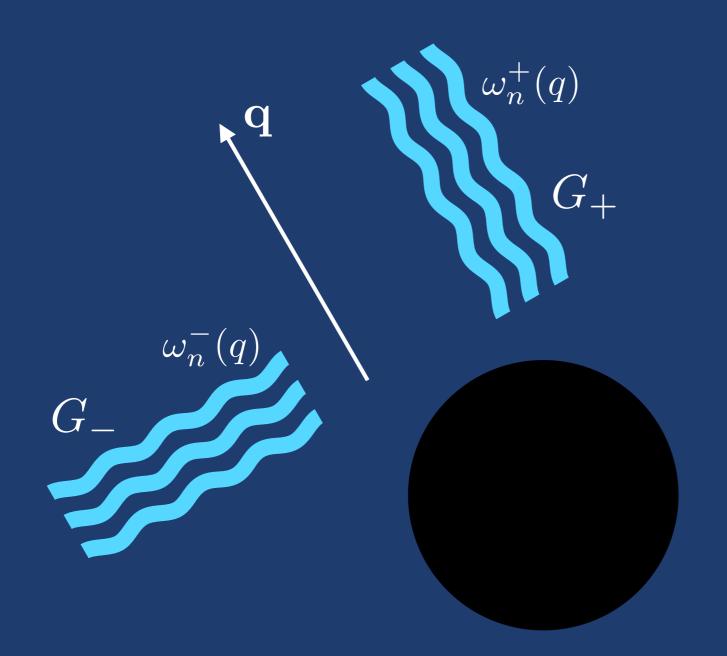
the rest of the spectrum follows from a reconstruction in Fact I.



- complete reconstruction of the spectrum using only algebraic 'near-horizon' manipulations (local instead of global (ODE/PDE) analysis)
- thermal product formula: meromorphic correlators follow from poles (QNMs) and a function of q [Dodelson, losso, Karlsson, Zhiboedov (2023)]

[SG, Vrbica, PRL (2024), 2505.14229 and another paper *very soon*]

- two channels of black hole perturbations in AdS4/CFT3 cases:
 even (or sound) and odd (or shear)
- in each channel, we have QNMs $\omega_n^\pm(q)$ with associated dual correlators $G_\pm(\omega,q)$



isospectrality

in asymptotically flat black holes [Chandrasekhar, Detweiler (1975)]

$$\omega_n^+(q) = \omega_n^-(q)$$

spectral duality relation in asymptotically AdS black holes

$$\omega_n^+(q) \leftrightarrow \omega_m^-(q)$$

- two channels of black hole perturbations in AdS4/CFT3 cases:
 even (or sound) and odd (or shear)
- ullet two meromorphic CFT retarded correlators $G_\pm(\omega,q)$ with QNMs $\omega_n^\pm(q)$ (e.g. of $T^{\mu
 u}$ or J^μ)
- CFT3s have S-duality or particle-vortex duality
 gravity in 4d has Chandrasekhar duality, Darboux duality, EM duality

duality: $G_+(\omega,q)G_-(\omega,q) = \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_*^2(q)} - 1$

self-duality:

$$\omega_*(q) \to \infty$$

 $G_{+}(\omega, q)G_{-}(\omega, q) = -1$

algebraically special frequencies

relation to pole skipping [SG, Vrbica, EPJC (2023)] easy to compute using the Robinson-Trautman ansatz

define infinite convergent product

$$S(\omega, q) \equiv \left(1 + \frac{\omega}{\omega_*(q)}\right) \prod_n \left[1 - \frac{\omega}{\omega_n^+(q)}\right] \left[1 + \frac{\omega}{\omega_n^-(q)}\right]$$

 duality relations, the thermal product formula and details about QNM and Greens function asymptotics give a 'universal' relation:

$$S(\omega, k) - S(-\omega, k) = 2i\lambda(k)\sinh\frac{\beta\omega}{2}$$

$$\lambda(k) = \frac{2}{i\beta} \left[\frac{1}{\omega_*(k)} + \sum_{n} \left(\frac{1}{\omega_n^-(k)} - \frac{1}{\omega_n^+(k)} \right) \right]$$

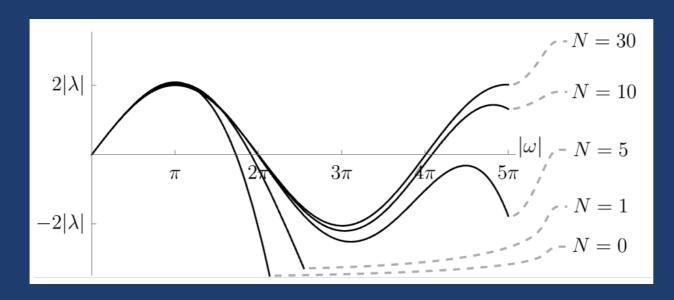
infinite towers of constraints

$$e_{2j+1}(\mathcal{W}) = \frac{i\lambda}{(2j+1)!} \left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)^{2j+1}$$
 elementary symmetric
$$\mathcal{W} = \{1/\omega_*, 1/\omega_1^-, \dots, 1/\omega_n^-, -1/\omega_1^+, \dots, -1/\omega_n^+\}$$

- AdS4-Schwarzschild black brane
 - $\langle J,J\rangle_R$ is self-dual poles must converge to Matsubara frequencies $\frac{iD_c\beta}{2}\lim_{q\to 0}k^2S(\omega)=\sinh\frac{\beta\omega}{2}$

$$\frac{iD_c\beta}{2}\lim_{q\to 0}k^2S(\omega) = \sinh\frac{\beta\omega}{2}$$

 $\langle T,T
angle_R$ has $\,\omega_*=irac{\gamma q^4}{6ar\epsilon}\,$ various hydro constraints follow, e.g.: $D/\Gamma = 2$



- AdS4-Reissner-Nordström black brane
 - channels are coupled with $\omega_*=irac{\gamma q^4}{6ar\epsilon}\left(rac{1}{2}\pm\sqrt{rac{1}{4}+\left(rac{2Q\gamma}{3ar\epsilon}
 ight)^2q^2}
 ight)^{-1}$

duality relation for any pair of meromorphic correlators:

$$G_{+}(\omega)G_{-}(\omega) = -1$$

$$S(\omega) = \prod_{n} \left(1 - \frac{\omega}{\omega_n^+} \right) \left(1 + \frac{\omega}{\omega_n^-} \right)$$

$$S(\omega) - S(-\omega) = 2i\lambda \sinh \frac{\beta \omega}{2}$$

knowing one spectrum is sufficient for determining the other spectrum!

spectral duality relation connects
 poles and zeros of a single correlator:

$$-G(\omega)G^{-1}(\omega) = -1$$

$$S(\omega) = \prod_{n} \left(1 - \frac{\omega}{\omega_{n}}\right) \left(1 + \frac{\omega}{z_{n}}\right)$$

$$r_{n} = \lambda G(0) \frac{\omega_{n} \sinh \frac{\beta \omega_{n}}{2}}{2 \prod_{\substack{m \\ m \neq n}} \left(1 - \frac{\omega_{n}^{2}}{\omega_{m}^{2}}\right)}$$

thermal product formula

large-N field theory and double-trace deformed RG flow

$$Z_f[J] = e^{\Gamma[J,f]} = \left\langle e^{\int \mathcal{O}J - \frac{f}{2} \int \mathcal{O}^2} \right\rangle \qquad G(f) = \frac{G_0}{1 + fG_0}$$

$$[G(f_1)(f_2 - f_1) + 1][G(f_2)(f_2 - f_1) - 1] = -1$$

using duality relations between UV and IR CFTs

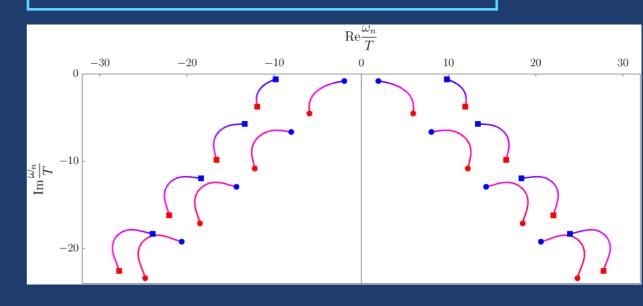
$$Z_{f_{-}}[J_{-}] = e^{\Gamma_{-}[J_{-},f_{-}]} = \left\langle e^{\int \mathcal{O}_{-}J_{-} - \frac{f_{-}}{2} \int \mathcal{O}_{-}^{2}} \right\rangle_{-}$$

$$Z_{f_{+}}[J_{+}] = e^{\Gamma_{+}[J_{+},f_{+}]} = \left\langle e^{\int \mathcal{O}_{+}J_{+} - \frac{f_{+}}{2} \int \mathcal{O}_{+}^{2}} \right\rangle_{+}$$

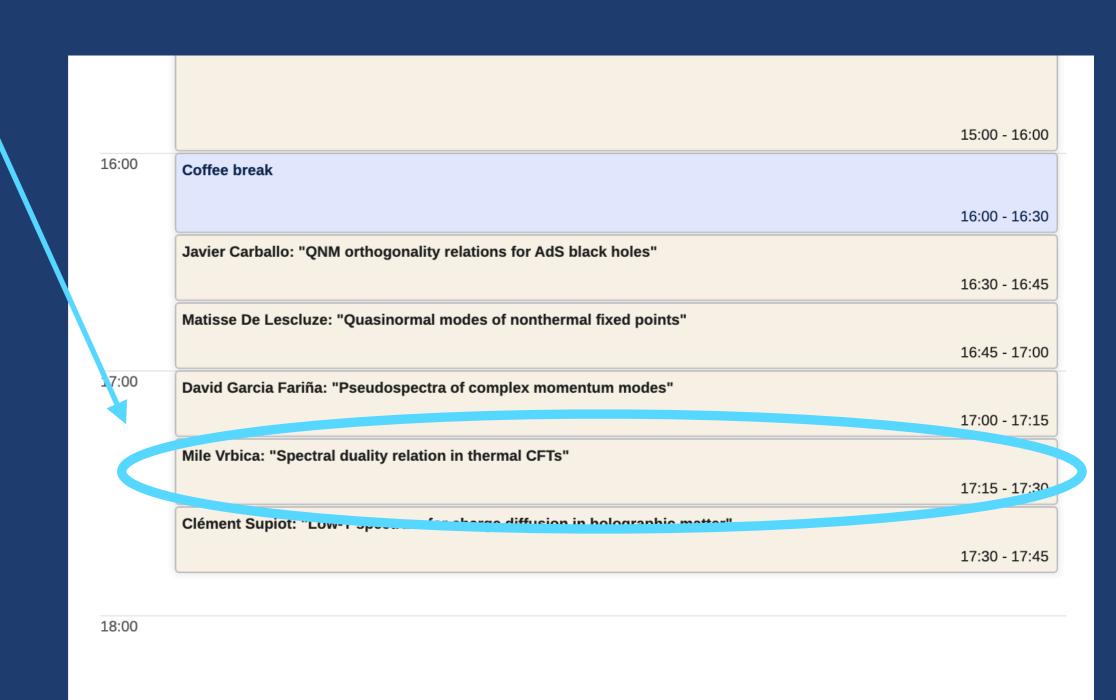
$$G_0^- G_0^+ = -1$$

 same statement applies to correlators in any pair of theories related by Legendre transform

$$\Delta_{+} + \Delta_{-} = d$$
 $f_{+}f_{-} = -1$
 $G_{-}(f_{-}) = f_{+} [f_{+}G_{+}(f_{+}) - 1]$



for more details, stay around for Mile Vrbica's talk today



SUMMARY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

SUMMARY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- QFTs and gravity exhibit extremely interesting and powerful (mathematical) structures
- large classes of large-N QFTs and black hole spectra exhibit stringent constraints
- results apply directly to gravity in AdS and the spectra of quasinormal modes
- keep exploring...
 - ... ideally in realistic QFTs

THANK YOU!



MORE DETAILS ON II. SPECTRUM FROM POLE SKIPPING

$$\omega_0(q) = -i\left(\frac{q}{\sqrt{d}}\right)^2 - i\sum_{m=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{d^m} \sum_{j=2}^m c_{m,n} \left(\frac{q}{\sqrt{d}}\right)^{2j} \qquad \frac{q_n}{\sqrt{d}} = \sqrt{\frac{nd}{2}} \left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{b_{n,m}}{d^m}\right)$$

• first level:
$$b_{n,1} = -\frac{1}{2}H_n = -\frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}$$
 $H_n \to H(x) = \sum_{k=1}^\infty \frac{x}{k(x+k)}$

$$c_{m,2} = c_{m,m} = (-1)^m 2^{m-1} \zeta(m) \qquad \omega_0(q) = -i\bar{q}^2 - i\frac{\bar{q}^2}{d} H_{2\bar{q}^2/d} + \dots$$

second level, ...

• results:
$$b_{n,1} \longrightarrow c_{m,2} = c_{m,m} = (-1)^m 2^{m-1} \zeta(m)$$

$$b_{n,3} \longrightarrow \begin{vmatrix} c_{4,2} \approx 1.000 \times 8\zeta(4), \\ c_{5,3} \approx -15.502 \times 16\zeta(5) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$b_{n,2}$$
 \longrightarrow

$$c_{3,2} \approx -1.000 \times 4\zeta(3),$$

 $c_{4,3} \approx 7.001 \times 8\zeta(4),$
 $c_{5,4} \approx -15.548 \times 16\zeta(5),$
 $c_{6,5} \approx 27.546 \times 32\zeta(6)$

hidden symmetry?

