

Schwinger-Keldysh holography: hydrodynamics and beyond

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Based on [2012.08362](#), [2506.00926](#), [2503.03374](#)

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BGU (Israel): M. Lublinsky, T. Demircik (now at Utrecht)

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SJTU (上海交大): Y. Ahn, M. Baggioli, M. Matsumoto (now at Chuo U.)

HIT (哈工大): X. Sun, Z. Yang

Outline

- Background & Motivation: hydrodynamics and AdS/CFT
- SK holography: from charge diffusion to Maxwell-Cattaneo
- SK holography: dissipative neutral fluid
- Summary & Discussion

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Hydro is applied in many fields: astrophysics, biology, engineering, ...

The past two decades witnessed entry of hydro in new century physics

---Hydro flows observed in exotic quantum many-body systems
(quark-gluon plasma, unitary fermi gas, graphene)

---Theoretical foundations of hydro pushed forward: anomalous hydro,
higher gradient extension and resurgence, hydro as an EFT, ...

“AdS/CFT”: an important role in understanding aspects of hydro [large
 N limit: quantum dynamics on the boundary is captured by “classical”
dynamics of AdS gravity]

Basically, two approaches for “studying hydro via AdS/CFT”

From AdS / CFT correspondence to hydrodynamics

Giuseppe Policastro (Pisa, Scuola Normale Superiore), Dam T. Son (Washington U., Seattle), Andrei O. Starinets (Washington U., Seattle) (May, 2002)

Published in: *JHEP* 09 (2002) 043 • e-Print: [hep-th/0205052](#) [hep-th]

Viscosity in strongly interacting quantum field theories from black hole physics

P. Kovtun (Washington U., Seattle), Dan T. Son (Washington U., Seattle), Andrei O. Starinets (Washington U., Seattle) (Mar, 2004)

Published in: *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 94 (2005) 111601 • e-Print: [hep-th/0405231](#) [hep-th]

Assume long-time long wavelength limit of boundary system is governed by the following viscous hydro:

$$\nabla_\mu T_{\text{hydro}}^{\mu\nu} = 0 \qquad T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{hydro}} = (\epsilon + P)u_\mu u_\nu + P g_{\mu\nu} + \eta_0 \nabla_{\langle\mu} u_{\nu\rangle} + \dots$$

Derive the Kubo formulas and calculate them via AdS/CFT

solve classical Einstein equations in AdS $\langle T_{\mu\nu} T_{\rho\sigma} \rangle \rightarrow \eta_0$

$$\frac{\eta_0}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\hbar}{k_B}$$

A more systematic approach: fluid-gravity correspondence

Nonlinear Fluid Dynamics from Gravity

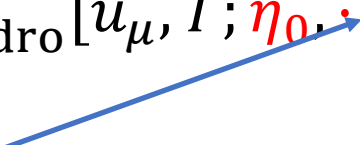
#1

Sayantani Bhattacharyya (Tata Inst.), Veronika E Hubeny (Durham U. and Durham U., Dept. of Math.), Shiraz Minwalla (Tata Inst.), Mukund Rangamani (Durham U. and Durham U., Dept. of Math.) (Dec, 2007)

Published in: *JHEP* 02 (2008) 045 • e-Print: 0712.2456 [hep-th]

“**Derive**” constitutive relations and hydro equations from AdS gravity

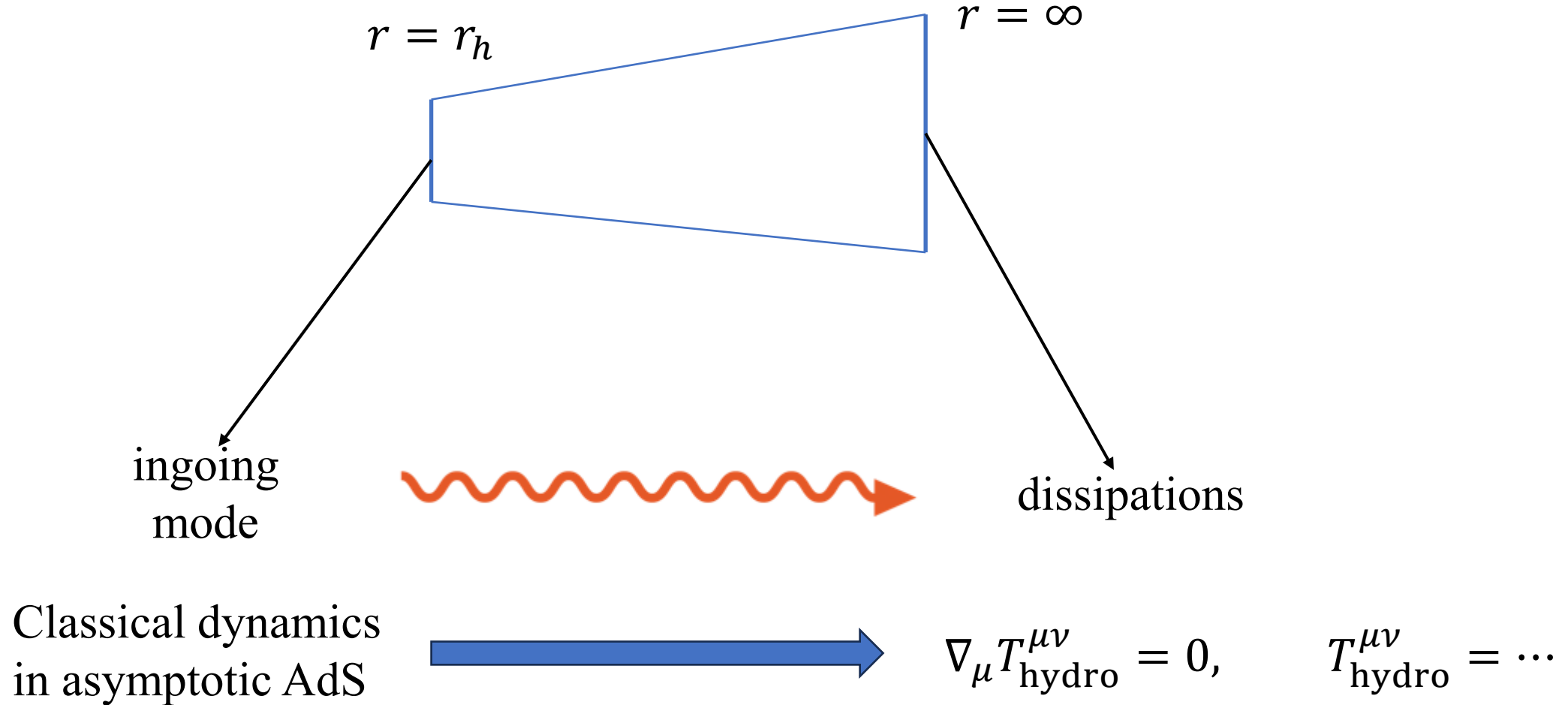
Dynamics of AdS gravity 

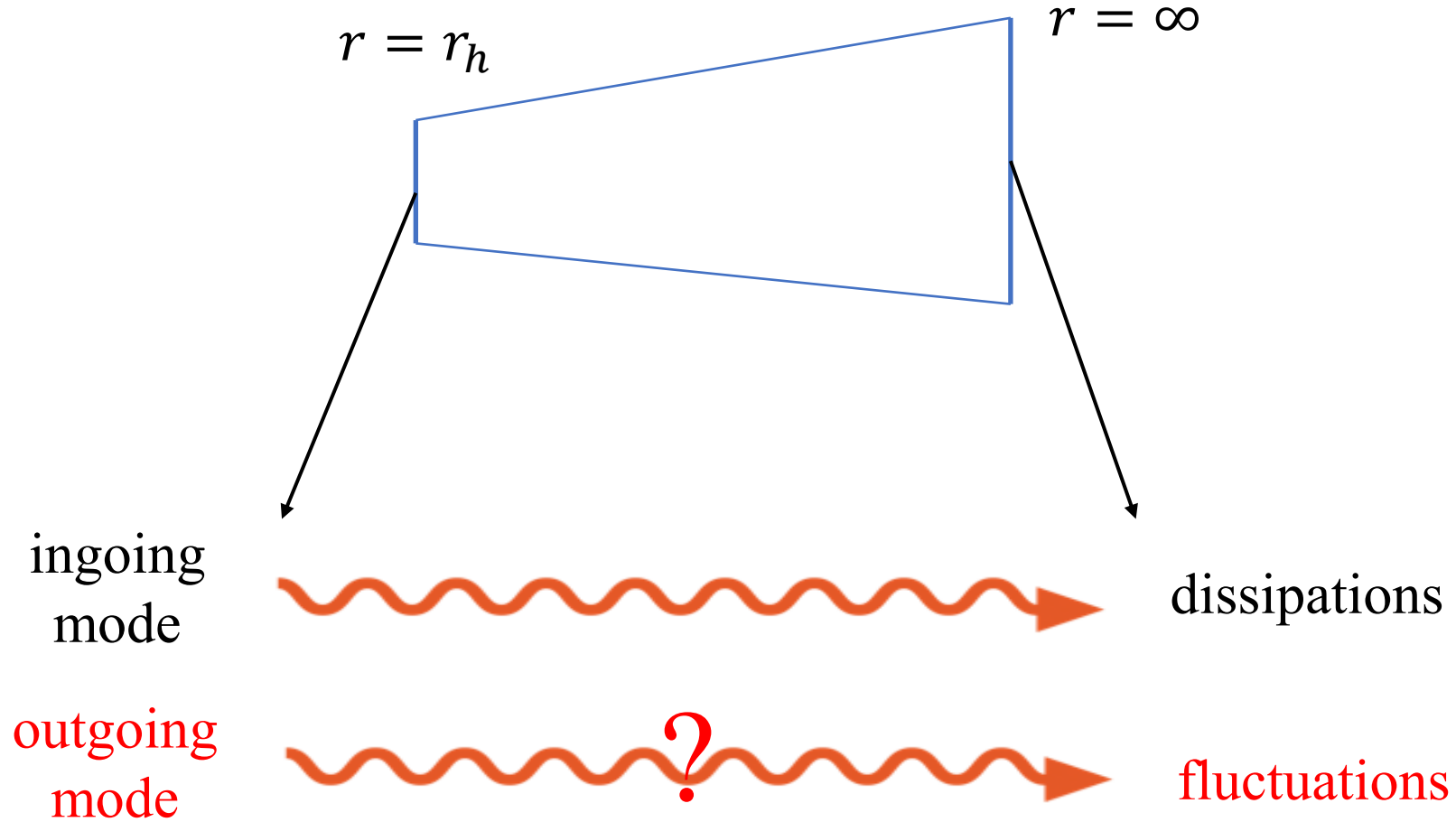
$$\nabla_\mu T_{\text{hydro}}^{\mu\nu} = 0$$
$$T_{\text{hydro}}^{\mu\nu} = T_{\text{hydro}}^{\mu\nu}[u_\mu, T; \eta_0, \dots]$$


This provides a systematic way of getting **higher derivative terms**

Essentially, in this approach one perturbs a system in **local** equilibrium (the first approach starts with a **global** equilibrium state, and perturb it)

A crucial issue for **horizon behavior** of bulk field:





we expect “**stochastic hydro**” on the boundary $\nabla_\mu T_{\text{hydro}}^{\mu\nu} = \zeta^\nu$

Can we do better ???

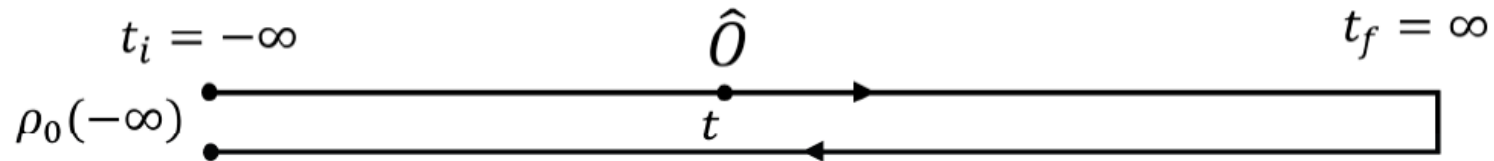
Schwinger-Keldysh holography

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Holographic SK contour

to address both fluctuations and dissipations, we need **Schwinger-Keldysh (SK) closed time path**



Gravity dual of SK closed time path

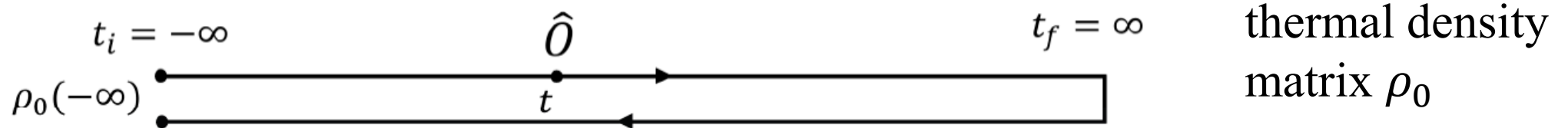
P. Glorioso, M. Crossley and H. Liu, A prescription for holographic Schwinger-Keldysh contour in non-equilibrium systems, 1812.08785



Basically, we shall study **double** Dirichlet problem in the bulk
(**alternative approaches**: Herzog-Son 2002, van Rees-Skenderis 2008/9)

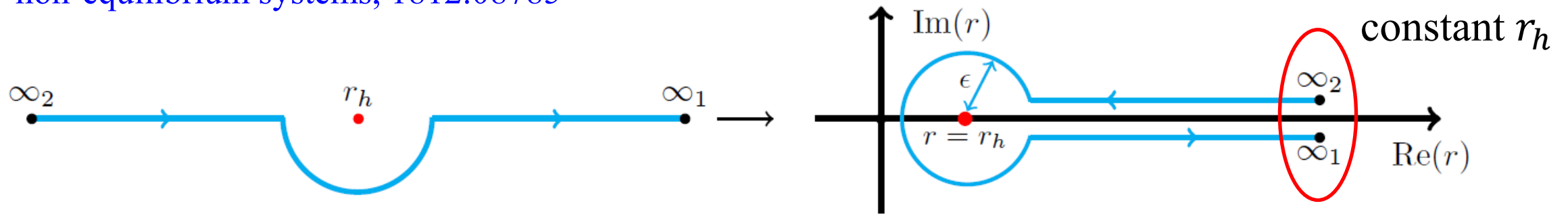
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Basic idea: holographic renormalization group (RG)

$$\int [D\Phi] e^{iS_{\text{bulk}}[\Phi]} = \boxed{Z_{\text{AdS}} = Z_{\text{CFT}}} = \int [D\psi] e^{iS_{\text{micro}}[\psi]}$$

Holographic
RG

gravity duals of heavy modes
and hydro fields ϕ ???

resolved by exploring bulk
gauge & diffeo. symmetry

partially on-shell AdS/CFT in
the saddle approx.: un-integrate
out bulk components dual to ϕ

integrate out heavy modes

$$= \int [D\phi] e^{iS_{\text{eff}}[\phi]}$$

$S_{\text{eff}}[\phi] \supset$ (hydro eom., constitutive
relations, constraints, ...)

Hydro EFT machinery

P. Glorioso, H. Liu, PoS TASI 2017 (2018) 008

Diffusion EFT: Maxwell in double AdS

P. Glorioso, M. Crossley, H. Liu, 1812.08785

J. de Boer, M. P. Heller, N. Pinzani-Fokeeva, 1812.06093

[J. K. Ghosh, et al., 2012.03999]

Similar topic but different formalism

YB, T. Demircik, M. Lublinsky, 2012.08362

bulk model:
$$S_0 = -\frac{1}{4} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} F_{MN} F^{MN}, \quad S_{\text{ct}} = \dots$$

$$F_{MN} = \nabla_M C_N - \nabla_N C_M \quad C_M: \text{bulk Maxwell field}$$

Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$C_\mu(r = \infty_s, x^\alpha) = \underline{B_{s\mu}(x^\alpha)} \quad C_r \text{ fixed by gauge choice}$$

boundary gauge potential + diffusive field

This is different from the treatment in usual “on-shell” AdS/CFT, in which $B_{s\mu}$ would have been external gauge potential for boundary theory

diffusive field & boundary gauge symmetry

Crossley-Glorioso-Liu, 1511.03646

couple the boundary current J^μ to an external gauge potential $\mathcal{A}_\mu$

$$Z[\mathcal{A}_\mu] = \int_{\rho_0} [D\psi] e^{i \int d^4x \mathcal{L}[\psi, \mathcal{A}_\mu]}$$

current conservation guaranteed by background gauge symmetry

$$Z[\mathcal{A}'_\mu] = Z[\mathcal{A}_\mu], \quad \mathcal{A}'_\mu = \mathcal{A}_\mu + \partial_\mu \lambda \implies \partial_\mu J^\mu = 0$$

non-locality of Z: shear mode is **integrated out**

imagine an “**integrate-in**” procedure $Z[\mathcal{A}_\mu] = \int [D\underline{\varphi}] e^{iS_{eff}[\varphi, \mathcal{A}_\mu]}$

φ emerges from promoting gauge-transformation parameter λ into dynamical ones

$$\lambda \rightarrow \varphi(x)$$

Stuekelberg-like fields

$$C_\mu(r = \infty_s, x^\alpha) = \underline{B_{s\mu}(x^\alpha) \equiv \mathcal{A}_{s\mu} + \partial_\mu \varphi_s}$$

Dynamical components of Maxwell equations: $C_\mu = C_\mu[r; B_{s\mu}(x^\alpha)]$

Effective action for diffusion $S_0 + S_{\text{ct}}|_{C_\mu \rightarrow C_\mu[r; B_{s\mu}]} = S_{\text{eff}}[\mathcal{A}_{s\mu}, \varphi_s]$

To first order in derivative of $B_{s\mu} \equiv \mathcal{A}_{s\mu} + \partial_\mu \varphi_s$

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \int d^4x \left(2r_h^2 B_{a0} B_{r0} - r_h B_{ai} \partial_0 B_{ri} + \frac{i r_h^2}{\pi} B_{ai}^2 + \dots \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} B_{r\mu} &\equiv (B_{1\mu} + B_{2\mu})/2, \\ B_{a\mu} &\equiv B_{1\mu} - B_{2\mu} \end{aligned}$$

[recover diffusive hydro]

$$J_r^\mu \equiv \delta S_{\text{eff}} / \delta \mathcal{A}_{a\mu}, \quad \delta S_{\text{eff}} / \delta \varphi_a = 0 \implies \partial_\mu J_r^\mu = 0$$

$$J_r^0 = \underline{2r_h^2 B_{r0}}, \quad J_r^i = \underline{-r_h \partial_i B_{r0} + r_h (\partial_i B_{r0} - \partial_0 B_{ri})} + \underline{\frac{i}{\pi} 2r_h^2 B_{ai}}$$

hydro current (mean field part)

noise current

$$\partial_\mu J_r^\mu = 0 \implies \partial_\mu J_{\text{hydro}}^\mu = \xi$$

Causal diffusion EFT: nonlinear Maxwell in double AdS

[Y. Ahn, M. Baggioli, YB, M. Matsumoto, X. Sun, 2506.00926](#)

(See also [Y. Liu, Y.-W. Sun and X.-M. Wu, 2411.16306](#))

$$S = \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[-\frac{1}{4} F_{MN} F^{MN} + \alpha \left(\frac{1}{4} F_{MN} F^{MN} \right)^2 \right]$$

Consider a bulk ansatz $A_M(r, x^\mu) = \underbrace{\delta_0^M \bar{A}_M(r)}_{\text{background charge density } \rho} + \underbrace{\delta A_M(r, x^\mu)}_{\text{dynamics of density fluctuation } n}$

background
charge density ρ

dynamics of density
fluctuation n

We confirmed n obeys Maxwell-Cattaneo model (for large enough ρ)

$$\tau \partial_0^2 n + \partial_0 n = D \vec{\nabla}^2 n$$

[Inspired by [Grozdanov-Lucas-Poovuttikul 1810.10016](#), [Ke-Yin 2208.01046](#), [Jain-Kovtun 2309.00511](#), ...]

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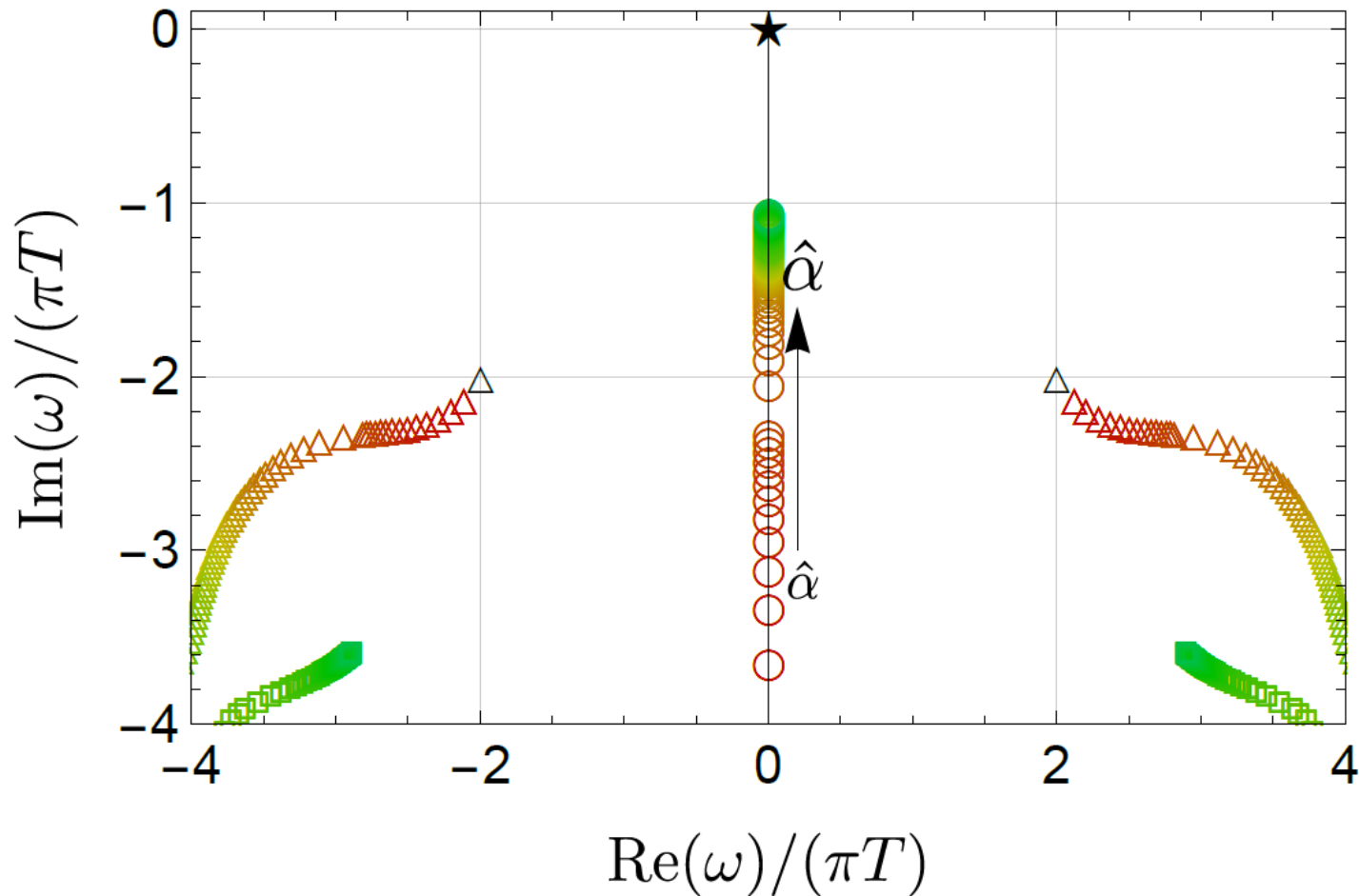
UV completion

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QNMs as increasing $\hat{\alpha} = \alpha \rho^2$ (at $k = 0$)



● $\hat{\alpha} = 0$

$$\omega_{\star} = 0, \quad \omega_{\Delta} = -(i \pm 1)2\pi T,$$

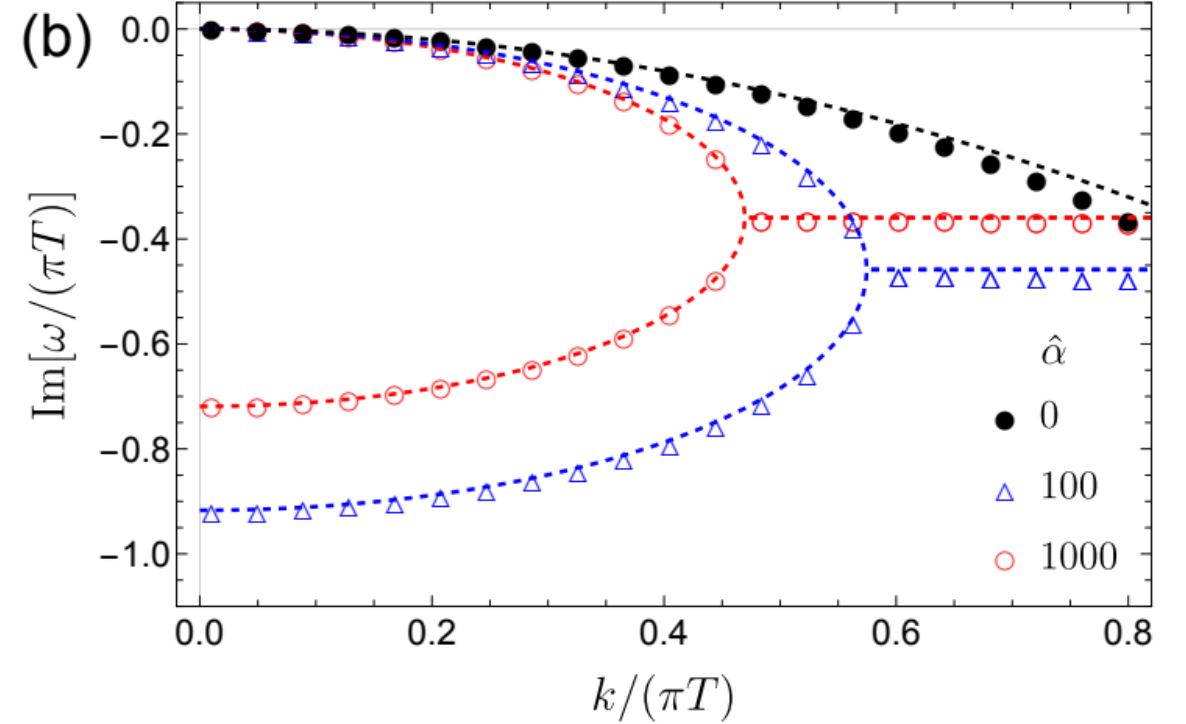
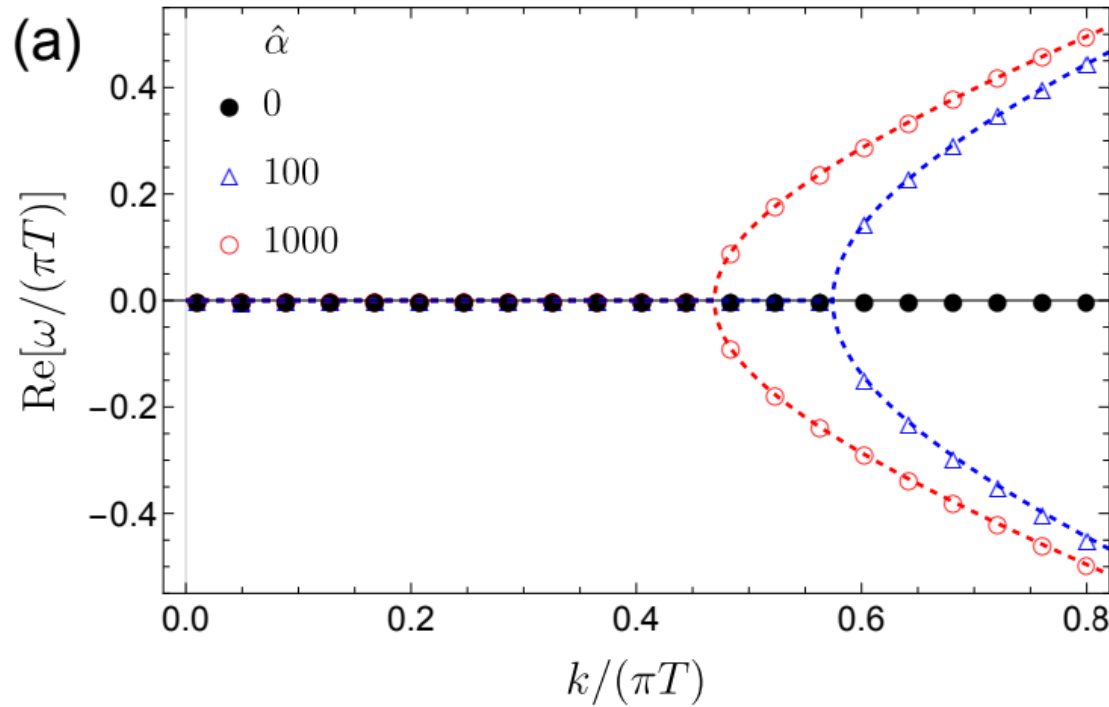
● $\hat{\alpha}$ increased (towards green color)

the pair ω_{Δ} moves down into complex plane; a purely imaginary mode $\omega_1 = -i/\tau$ climbs along the imaginary axes

Quasi-hydro regime:

for large enough $\hat{\alpha}$, ω_1 gets closer to $\omega_{\star}$ but well separated from all the rest non-hydro modes

QNMs at $k \neq 0$ for several representative $\hat{\alpha}$



For large enough $\hat{\alpha}$, the first two QNMs are well fitted by telegrapher equation

$$\omega^2 + i\omega/\tau = v_0^2 k^2, \quad v_0^2 = D/\tau,$$

Derivation of boundary EFT in the quasi-hydro regime

$$\delta A_\mu(r, x^\alpha) = \underbrace{\delta A_\mu^{\text{h}}(r, x^\alpha)}_{\text{hydro mode}} + \underbrace{\delta A_\mu^{\text{nh}}(r, x^\alpha)}_{\text{non-hydro mode}} + \dots$$

Sakai-Sugimoto
hep-th/0412141

$$\delta A_\mu^{\text{h}}(r \rightarrow \infty_s, x^\alpha) = B_{s\mu}(x^\alpha) + \dots + \frac{\mathfrak{J}_{s\mu}^{\text{h}}(x^\alpha)}{r^2} + \dots \quad \mathfrak{J}_{s\mu}^{\text{h}} = \mathfrak{J}_{s\mu}^{\text{h}}[B_{s\mu}(x)]$$

$$\delta A_\mu^{\text{nh}}(r \rightarrow \infty_s, x^\alpha) = \mathcal{V}_{s\mu}(x^\alpha) + \dots + \frac{\mathfrak{J}_{s\mu}^{\text{nh}}(x^\alpha)}{r^2} + \dots \quad \mathcal{V}_{s\mu} = \mathcal{V}_{s\mu}[\mathfrak{J}_{s\mu}^{\text{nh}}(x)]$$

We solve equations for δA_μ^{h} in the hydro regime, i.e., assume $\partial_\mu \sim 0$

We solve equations for δA_μ^{nh} in the non-hydro regime, i.e., assume $\partial_\mu \rightarrow (\omega \sim \omega_1 \equiv -i/\tau, k \sim 0)$

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{\text{h}} = \int d^4x \left(\chi B_{a0} B_{r0} - \sigma_0 B_{ai} \partial_0 B_{ri} + \text{i} \beta^{-1} \sigma B_{ai}^2 \right),$$

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{\text{nh}} = \int d^4x \left\{ -\frac{a_1}{2} \frac{\sigma_0}{\tau} \left(B_{ai} \partial_0 \mathfrak{J}_{ri}^{\text{nh}} + \mathfrak{J}_{ai}^{\text{nh}} \partial_0 B_{ri} - 2\text{i} \beta^{-1} B_{ai} \mathfrak{J}_{ai}^{\text{nh}} \right) + 2a_1 \mathfrak{J}_{ai}^{\text{nh}} (\partial_0 + \tau^{-1}) \mathfrak{J}_{ri}^{\text{nh}} \right. \\ \left. + \text{i} a_1 (\partial_0 + \tau^{-1}) \left[\cot \left(\frac{\beta}{2\tau} \right) + (\partial_0 + \tau^{-1}) \frac{\beta}{2\tau} \sin^{-2} \left(\frac{\beta}{2\tau} \right) \right] \underline{\mathfrak{J}_{ai}^{\text{nh}} \mathfrak{J}_{ai}^{\text{nh}}} \right\},$$

$$\chi = \left(\int_{r_h}^{\infty} \frac{dy}{y^3 [1 + 3\mathcal{C}(y)]} \right)^{-1}, \quad \sigma_0 = r_h [1 + \mathcal{C}(r_h)], \quad \tau = -\frac{\text{i}}{\omega_1}, \quad a_1 = \text{i} a'(\omega_1).$$

$$\mathcal{C}(r) \equiv \alpha (\bar{A}'_0(r))^2$$

extracted from ingoing
solution at $k = 0$

ra -terms: MC equation

$$\partial_0 n + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} = 0$$

$$\vec{j} + \tau \partial_0 \vec{j} = -D \vec{\nabla} n$$

$$\vec{j} \sim \mathfrak{J}_{ri}^{\text{nh}}$$

aa -terms: thermal fluctuations, non-hydro mode obeys a more generic KMS symmetry

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neutral fluid EFT: Einstein in double AdS

YB, X. Sun, Holographic derivation of effective action for a dissipative neutral fluid, 2503.03374
(early attempts: Crossley-Glorioso-Liu 1504.07611, de Boer-Heller-Pinzani-Fokeeva, 1504.07616)

Einstein gravity in 5D AdS space $S = S_0 + S_{\text{GH}} + S_{\text{ct}}$

Bulk metric ansatz (dual to boundary “thermal equilibrium + perturbations”)

$$ds^2 = \bar{G}_{MN} d\sigma^M d\sigma^N + H_{MN} d\sigma^M d\sigma^N$$
$$= \underbrace{2drd\sigma^0 - r^2 f(r) (d\sigma^0)^2 + r^2 \delta_{ij} d\sigma^i d\sigma^j}_{\text{thermal equilibrium state}} + \underbrace{H_{MN} d\sigma^M d\sigma^N}_{\text{dissipations \& fluctuations}}$$

thermal equilibrium state

dissipations & fluctuations

Dirichlet-type boundary conditions

$$H_{ab}(r \rightarrow \infty_s, \sigma^a) = r^2 [B_{sab}(\sigma) + \mathcal{O}(r^{-1})]$$

H_{Mr} gauge-fixed

???

boundary metric perturbations + hydro fields

hydrodynamic fields & boundary diffeomorphism

turn on a background curved metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ on the boundary

Crossley-Glorioso-Liu,
1511.03646

$$Z[g_{\mu\nu}(x)] = \int_{\rho_0} [D\psi] e^{i \int d^4x \mathcal{L}[\psi, g_{\mu\nu}]}$$

$$Z[\bar{g}_{\alpha\beta}(\bar{x})] = Z[g_{\mu\nu}(x)] \quad \longrightarrow \quad \nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

non-locality of Z : hydro modes are **integrated out**

imagine an “**integrate-in**” procedure $Z[g_{\mu\nu}] = \int [DX^\mu] e^{iS_{eff}[X^\mu; g_{\mu\nu}]}$

X^μ emerges from promoting diffeo-transformation parameters x^μ into dynamical ones

$$x^\mu \rightarrow X^\mu(\sigma^a) \quad \text{Stuekelberg-like fields}$$

This is in analogy with “diffusion EFT”

Accordingly, we have the following promotion:

$$\begin{aligned}
 dl_0^2 = g_{\mu\nu}(x)dx^\mu dx^\nu & \xrightarrow{\quad} dl^2 = g_{\mu\nu}(X)dX^\mu dX^\nu \\
 & \boxed{x^\mu \rightarrow X^\mu(\sigma^a)} \\
 & = g_{\mu\nu}(X^\mu(\sigma))\frac{\partial X^\mu}{\partial \sigma^a}\frac{\partial X^\nu}{\partial \sigma^b}d\sigma^a d\sigma^b \\
 & \equiv \underline{\mathcal{G}_{ab}(X^\mu(\sigma))d\sigma^a d\sigma^b} \simeq ds^2|_{\Sigma_{UV}} \\
 & \text{AdS boundary data}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$X_s^\mu(\sigma) = \delta_a^\mu \sigma^a + \pi_s^\mu(\sigma), \quad g_{s\mu\nu}(x) = \eta_{\mu\nu} + A_{s\mu\nu}(x).$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 B_{sab}(\sigma) = & A_{sab}(\sigma) + A_{sa\nu}(\sigma)\partial_b\pi_s^\nu(\sigma) + A_{s\mu b}(\sigma)\partial_a\pi_s^\mu(\sigma) + \pi_s^\alpha(\sigma)\partial_\alpha A_{sab}(\sigma) \\
 & + \partial_a\pi_{sb}(\sigma) + \partial_b\pi_{sa}(\sigma) + \partial_a\pi_s^\mu(\sigma)\partial_b\pi_{s\mu}(\sigma) + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
ds^2 &= \bar{G}_{MN} d\sigma^M d\sigma^N + H_{MN} d\sigma^M d\sigma^N \\
&= 2dr d\sigma^0 - r^2 f(r) (d\sigma^0)^2 + r^2 \delta_{ij} d\sigma^i d\sigma^j + H_{MN} d\sigma^M d\sigma^N
\end{aligned}$$

solve bulk Einstein eqns:

$$H_{MN} = H_{MN}[r, B_{sab}(\sigma)]$$

$$S = S_0 + S_{\text{GH}} + S_{\text{ct}} \quad \longrightarrow \quad S_{\text{eff}} = S_{\text{eff}}[B_{sab}(\sigma)]$$

We successfully obtained the action up to **cubic** order in B_{sab}

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(1)} = \int d^4\sigma \frac{r_h^4}{2} [3B_{a00} + B_{a ii}] \quad \text{ideal part}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{\text{eff}}^{(2)} = \int d^4\sigma \left\{ \right. & \underbrace{\frac{3r_h^4}{4} B_{a00} B_{r00} + r_h^4 B_{a0i} B_{r0i} - \frac{r_h^4}{4} B_{a ii} B_{r00} + \frac{3r_h^4}{4} B_{a00} B_{r ii}}_{\text{dissipative part}} \\
& + \frac{r_h^4}{4} B_{a ii} B_{rjj} - \frac{r_h^4}{2} B_{a ij} B_{rij} + \frac{i r_h^4}{6\pi} (3B_{a ij} B_{a ij} - B_{a ii} B_{a jj}) \\
& \left. + \frac{r_h^3}{6} (B_{a ii} \partial_0 B_{rjj} - 3B_{a ij} \partial_0 B_{rij}) - \frac{i\pi r_h^3}{8} B_{a00} \partial_0 B_{a ii} \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Recover classical hydrodynamics

$$S_{eff} = S_{eff}[B_{sab}(\underline{\sigma})]$$

From fluid spacetime to physical spacetime: $\sigma^a \rightarrow x^\mu$

$$X_s^\mu(\sigma) = \delta_a^\mu \sigma^a + \pi_s^\mu(\sigma), \quad g_{s\mu\nu}(x) = \eta_{\mu\nu} + A_{s\mu\nu}(x).$$

$$\delta_a^\mu \sigma^a = x^\mu - \pi_r^\mu(x) + \pi_r^\nu(x) \partial_\nu \pi_r^\mu(x) + \dots$$

$$S_{eff} = S_{eff}[\pi_s^\mu(x^\alpha), A_{s\mu\nu}(x^\alpha)]$$

$$\frac{\delta S_{eff}}{\delta \pi_{a\mu}} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{shear mode : } \tilde{\omega} = -\frac{1}{2}i\tilde{k}^2 + \dots, \\ \text{sound mode : } \tilde{\omega} = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\tilde{k} - \frac{2}{3}i\tilde{k}^2 + \dots \end{array}$$

Stochastic hydrodynamics

$$T_r^{\mu\nu}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-g_r}} \frac{\delta S_{eff}}{\delta g_{a\mu\nu}(x)} \quad \text{function of hydro field } X^\mu$$

We shall go from hydro fields X^μ to fluid velocity u^μ

$$u_s^\mu \equiv \frac{1}{b_s} \frac{\partial X_s^\mu}{\partial \sigma^0}, \quad \text{with } b_s \equiv \sqrt{-g_{s\mu\nu}(X_s^\mu) \frac{\partial X_s^\mu}{\partial \sigma^0} \frac{\partial X_s^\nu}{\partial \sigma^0}}$$

$$T_r^{\mu\nu} = T_{\text{hydro}}^{\mu\nu} + \underline{T_{\text{stoc}}^{\mu\nu}} \quad \partial_\mu T_r^{\mu\nu} = 0 \implies \partial_\mu T_{\text{hydro}}^{\mu\nu} = \underline{\zeta^\nu}$$

$$T_{\text{hydro}}^{\mu\nu} = \epsilon u^\mu u^\nu + P(g_r^{\mu\nu} + u^\mu u^\nu) - \eta_0 \sigma^{\mu\nu} \quad \eta_0 = r_h^3 = (\pi T)^3$$

$$\langle \zeta^\mu(x) \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \zeta^\mu(x) \zeta^\nu(x') \rangle = \mathcal{M}^{\mu\nu} \delta^{(4)}(x - x')$$

$$\mathcal{M}^{ij} = -\frac{2r_h^4}{3\pi} \partial_i \partial_j - \frac{2r_h^4}{\pi} \delta_{ij} \vec{\partial}^2$$

Summary & Discussion

With the SK holography, we derived the low energy EFT for hydro modes associated with conserved charge density or energy/momentum; achieved by solving Maxwell or Einstein equations in the double AdS black brane

In presence of a (large enough) background charge density, the nonlinear Maxwell in AdS is dual to Maxwell-Cattaneo model; With SK holography, we derived the boundary EFT action in the quasi-hydro regime

It would be interesting to start with a local equilibrium state (as in fluid-gravity), and derive more complete EFT for a holographic dissipative fluid

It would be interesting to understand aspects of SK EFT beyond hydro regime (e.g., a bulk Maxwell indeed contains infinitely many modes). This is supposed to be of relevance for studying far-from-equilibrium dynamics.

Thanks for listening!