

# INCOHERENCE and DIFFUSION

## *The Incoherence of the Incoherence*

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***The Incoherence of the Incoherence*** (Arabic: تهافت التهافت *Tahāfut al-Tahāfut*) by Andalusian Muslim polymath and philosopher Ibn Rushd (Averroes) (1126–1198) is an important Islamic philosophical treatise,<sup>[1]</sup> in which the author defends the use of Aristotelian philosophy within Islamic thought.

It was written in the style of a dialogue against Al-Ghazali's claims in *The Incoherence of the Philosophers* (*Tahāfut al-Falasifa*), which criticized Islamic Neoplatonic thought. Originally written in Arabic, *The Incoherence of the Incoherence* was subsequently translated into many other languages. The book is considered Averroes' landmark; in it, he tries to create harmony between faith and philosophy.



**Daniele Musso**

*based upon:*

[A. Amoretti, A. Braggio, N. Magnoli, D. Musso hep-th/1411.6631]



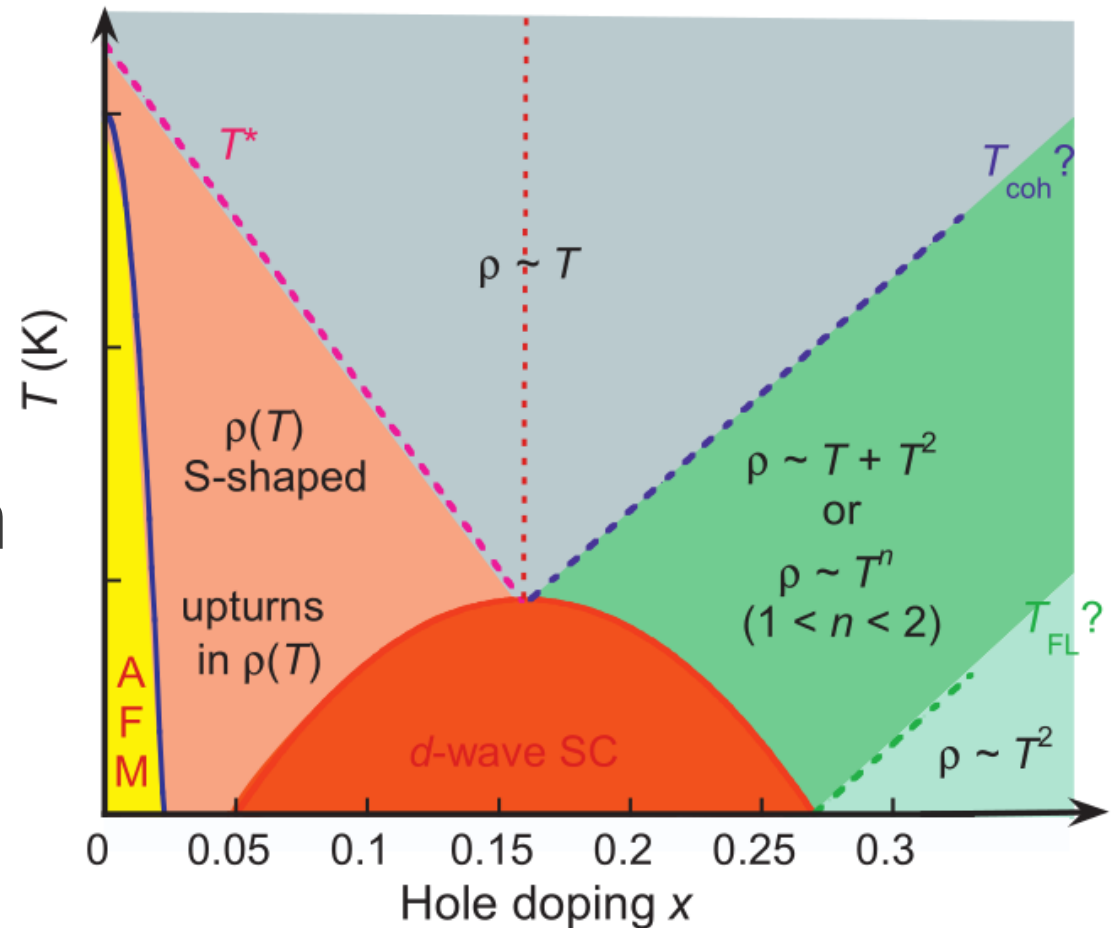
The Abdus Salam  
**International Centre  
for Theoretical Physics**

# Outline

- **Motivations**  
*(both theoretical and experimental)*
- **Diffusion of charge and heat**  
*(framework to study circumstances beyond quasi-particle)*
- **Holography without translation invariance**  
*(specifically, massive gravity)*
- **Coherent/Incoherent transport**
- **Looking for bounds on diffusivity**

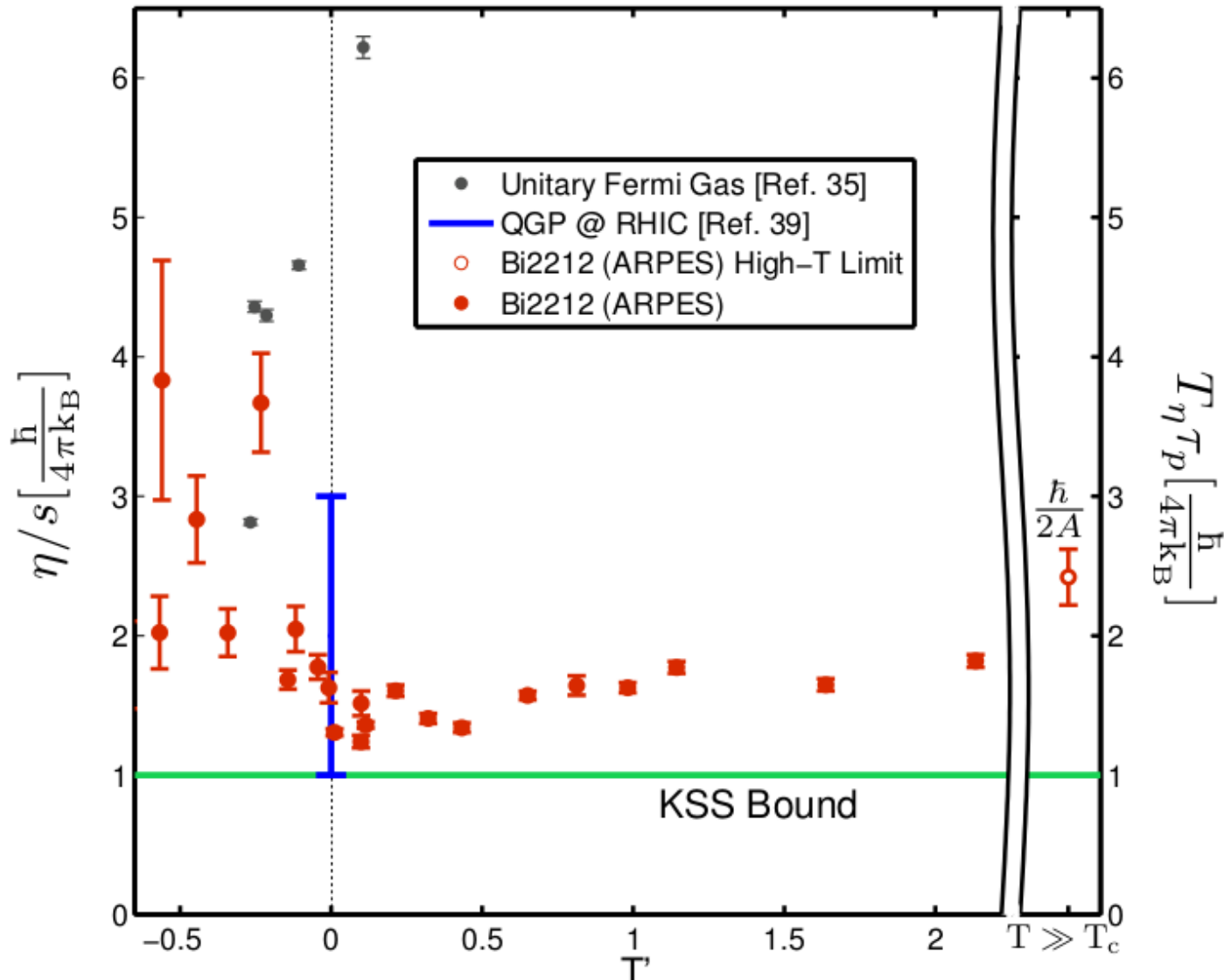
# Motivations from Condensed Matter

- High-Tc SUCO's
- Normal phase:  
*strange metal & critical "valley"*
- **Robustness**, both in *(high) T* and in the sense of *universality*



[Hussey, J. Phys: Condens. Matter 20 (2008) 123201]

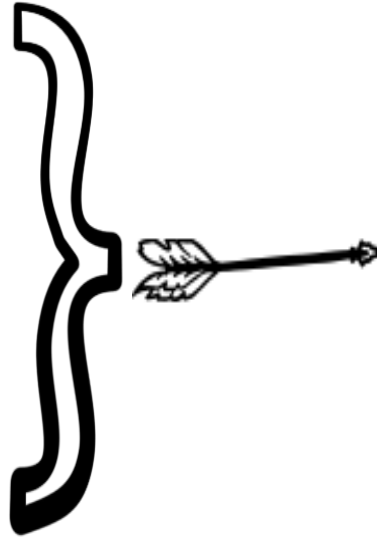
# More widely, strongly coupled systems



[Rameu, Reber, Yang, Akhanjee, Gu, Jonson, cond-mat.str-el/1409.5820]

# Diffusion

- Conserved charges
- Thermodynamics
- Low frequency and wave number
- Linear response



**Diffusion**

$$\frac{d}{dt}n_A = D_{AB}\nabla^2 n_B$$

*overdamped modes*

*Considering a system conserving charge and energy density...*

*Einstein's relations connecting the thermodynamical and transport quantities to the thermo-electric diffusivities*

$$D_+ D_- = \frac{\sigma}{\chi} \frac{\kappa}{c_\rho}$$

$$D_+ + D_- = \frac{\sigma}{\chi} + \frac{\kappa}{c_\rho} + \frac{T(\zeta\sigma - \chi\alpha)^2}{c_\rho\chi^2\sigma}$$

**Also when there are no quasi-particles and regardless of the speed of momentum dissipation**

[Hartnoll, JHEP 1502 (2015) 100]

# Diffusivity bound

$$D = \frac{\eta}{\mathcal{E} + P}$$

$$\frac{\eta}{s} \geq \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\hbar}{k_B}$$

[Policastro, Son, Starinets, JHEP 0209 (2002) 043;  
Kovtun, Son, Starinets, Phys. Rev. Lett. 94 (2005) 111601]

*Are we secretly  
introducing model  
dependence?*

## LOGICAL LEAP

- Dependence on the “Fermi velocity”
- Clarification about the models to which it could be applied

$$D \geq C \frac{\hbar \bar{v}^2}{k_B T}$$

*Incoherent regime?*

[Hartnoll, JHEP 1502 (2015) 100]

# Hints

- **AdS/CFT** → Viscosity bound and universality (*within holography*) of dual Einstein gravity
- **Plank and Heisenberg** → Existence of a minimal length scale set by the (*high*) temperature  
(*Exp. on equilibration time*) [Bruin, Sakai, Perry, Mackenzie, Science 339, 804 (2013)]
- **Unitary Fermi Gas** → Quantum Mechanical Limitations to Spin Diffusion in the Unitary Fermi Gas  
(*computations & experiments*) [Sommer, Ku, Roati, Zwierlein, Nature 472, 201–204]  
[Tilman Enss and Rudolf Haussmann Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 195303]

## Tension between Particular and Universal

**Robustness** calls for *universal* mechanisms *however momentum dissipation* (which is essential to define the DC transport coefficients) appears to be intimately *model dependent*...

→ **Can a proper definition of incoherence provide the correct setup?**

→ **“insensitivity to details”**

# Context

Conjectural nature of holographic bounds and limitations thereof

[Kovtun, cond-mat.stat-mech/1407.0690;  
Cremonini Mod.Phys.Lett. B25 (2011) 1867-1888]



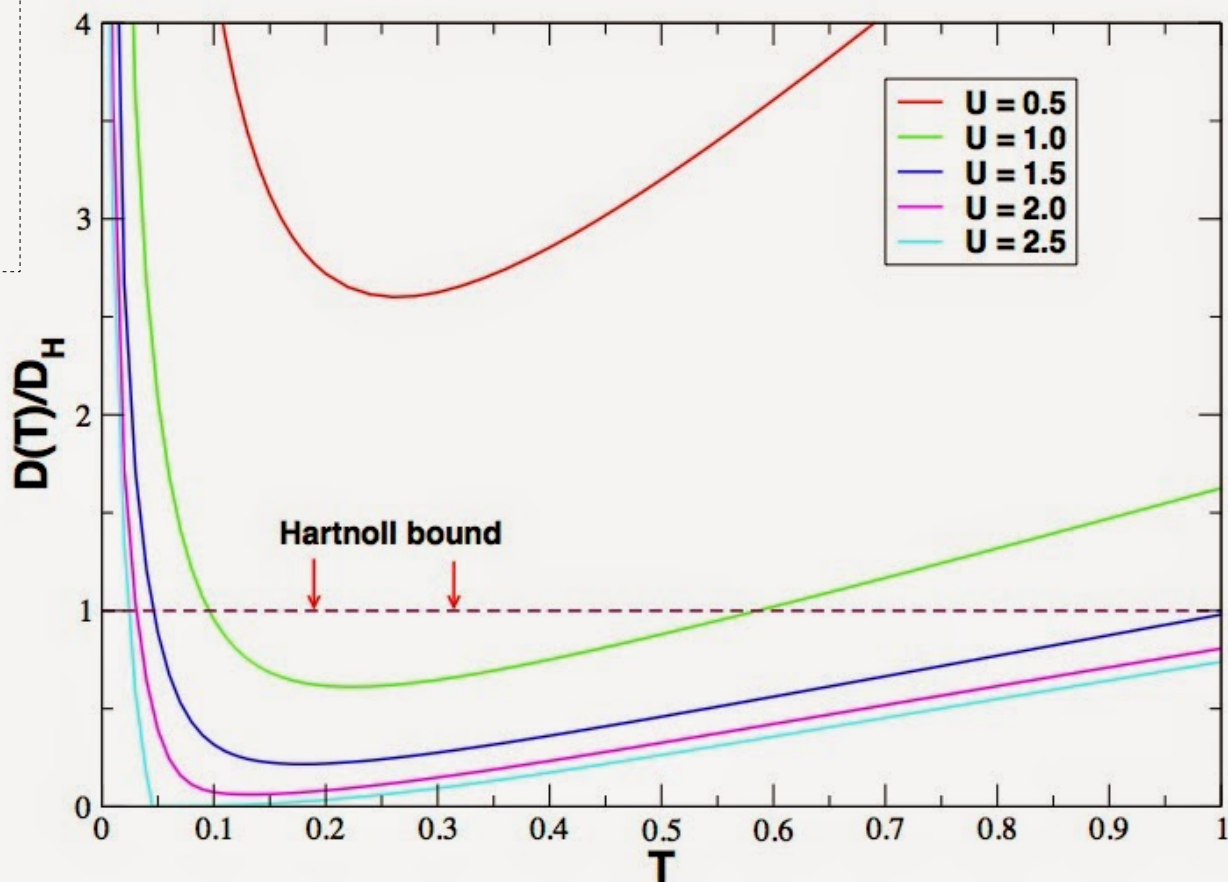
$\eta/s$  story...

*Charge diff. const. in the  
metallic phase of a single-  
band Hubbard model with  
DMFT*

*Absence of a quantum  
limit to charge diffusion  
in bad metals?*

## ATTENTION:

- Incoherence as MIR violation
- Violation of Hartnoll's bound at coherent/incoherent crossover
- Bound satisfied for strongly correlated systems in the high temperature region where the resistivity is close to linear in temperature



[Pakhira, McKenzie, cond-mat/1409.5662]



# Holographic massive gravity\*

[de Rham, Gabadadze, Phys. Rev. D 82, 044020 (2010);  
de Rham, Gabadadze, Tolley, Phys. Rev. Lett. 106:231101 (2011)]

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ R + 6 + \mathcal{M}(g) - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \right] + S_{\text{c.t.}}$$

[Vegh, hep-th/1301.0537]

$$\mathcal{M}(g) = \alpha \text{tr}(\mathcal{K}) + \beta [\text{tr}(\mathcal{K})^2 - \text{tr}(\mathcal{K}^2)]$$

Theories of massive gravity **inevitably** include an auxiliary reference metric

↓ [Hassan, Rosen, Schmidt-May, JHEP 1202 (2012) 026]

$$\mathcal{K}^{\mu}_{\nu} = g^{\mu\alpha} f_{\alpha\nu}$$

$$\mathcal{K} \equiv (\sqrt{\mathcal{K}^2})^{\mu}_{\nu}$$

$$f_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(0, 0, 1, 1)$$

**The auxiliary metric is spatially isotropic and homogeneous but breaks spatial diffeomorphisms**

\* Use responsibly, it may induce instabilities. In case of ghost contact your physicist immediately.

# Bulk

Effective mass of the bulk graviton  
(two parameters)

$$m^2(z) = -2\beta - \frac{\alpha}{z}$$

[Vegh, hep-th/1301.0537; Blake, Tong, Phys.Rev. D88 (2013) 10, 106004 ]

**ANSATZ:**  
homogeneous and  
isotropic

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} ds^2 = \frac{1}{z^2} \left[ -f(z)dt^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + \frac{1}{f(z)}dz^2 \right] \\ A = a(z) dt \end{array} \right.$$

**SOLUTION**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} f(z) = 1 - \frac{z^3}{z_h^3} + \frac{z\alpha}{2} - \frac{z^3\alpha}{2z_h^2} + z^2\beta - \frac{z^3\beta}{z_h} + \frac{z^4\mu^2}{4z_h} - \frac{z^3\mu^2}{4z_h} \\ a(z) = \mu \left( 1 - \frac{z}{z_h} \right) \end{array} \right.$$

$$L = 1, \quad q = 1, \quad \kappa = 1/\sqrt{2}$$

# The dual Physics

Thermodynamics

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} T = -\frac{f'(z_h)}{4\pi} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left( \frac{3}{z_h} + \alpha + z_h\beta - \frac{1}{2}z_h\mu^2 \right) \\ S = \frac{4\pi}{z_h^2} \quad \rho = \frac{\mu}{z_h} \end{array} \right.$$

**Momentum  
dissipation rate**

$$\tau^{-1} = -\frac{4(\alpha + 2z_h\beta)}{12 + 4z_h\alpha + z_h^2(4\beta + 3\mu^2)}$$

- A thorough thermodynamic and linear response analysis is essential for consistency reasons (*possible pathology of massive gravity...*)  
[Davison, Phys.Rev. D88 (2013) 086003; Blake, Tong, Phys.Rev. D88 (2013) 10, 106004; Amoretti, Braggio, Maggiore, Magnoli, Musso, JHEP 1409 (2014) 160]
- DC transport coefficients are efficiently and analytically computed (*in various circumstances... see Amoretti's talk*)  
[Donos, Gauntlett JHEP 1411 (2014) 081; Amoretti, Braggio, Maggiore, Magnoli, Musso, Phys.Rev. D91 (2015) 2, 025002]

# Diffusion at high $T$

$$\mu = 0$$

Simplifies the analysis  
without spoiling the  
important features

- Is it possible to do distill *intrinsic* momentum conserving contributions?
- Naive limit of big **beta** leads to possibly pathological consequences (for both the dual viewpoints)
- **alpha** crucial to make sense of the high  $T$  behavior?

$$m^2(z) = -2\beta - \frac{\alpha}{z}$$

$$\frac{k_B}{\hbar\bar{v}^2} D_c = \frac{3}{4\pi T} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{T^3}\right)$$

$$\frac{k_B}{\hbar\bar{v}^2} D_h = -\frac{\pi T}{\beta} + \frac{3}{8\pi T} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{T^3}\right)$$

$$\alpha = 0$$

**Unpleasant!**

**Pleasant!** As in the momentum conserving holographic plasma

[e.g. Kovtun, Ritz, Phys. Rev. D 78 (2008) 066009]

$$\frac{k_B}{\hbar\bar{v}^2} D_c = \frac{3}{4\pi T} + \frac{3\alpha}{16\pi^2 T^2} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{T^3}\right)$$

$$\frac{k_B}{\hbar\bar{v}^2} D_h = -\frac{3}{2\alpha} + \frac{9\beta}{4\pi\alpha^2 T} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{T^2}\right)$$

$$\alpha \neq 0$$

**Positive** (positivity of graviton mass) and “**UV finite**”

# Puzzle?

- **Coherence:** Drude-like pole dominating the long-time dynamics (*over other poles and analytic contributions*).  
**Momentum is quasi conserved**

- **Incoherence: otherwise**

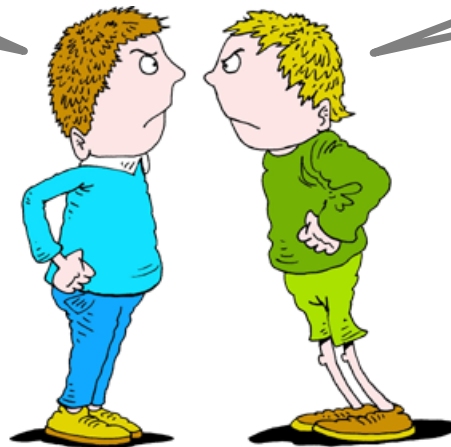
[Hartnoll, JHEP 1502 (2015) 100]

[Davison, Goutéraux, JHEP 1501 (2015) 039]

*Momentum must be quickly degraded!  
Momentum dissipation scale must be at minimum of the order of  $T$ !*

*Criticality is encountered at high  $T$ ! We want to saturate diffusion bounds in the high  $T$  limit!*

$$\Gamma \geq k_B T$$



$$\Gamma \ll k_B T$$

# *Discussion*

**We should probably not think of the momentum dissipation scale and T as unrelated**

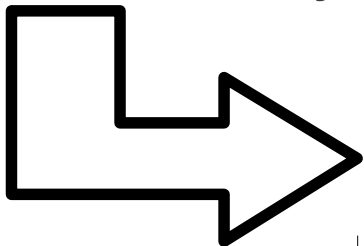
**But this seems a feature of massive gravity where momentum dissipation is controlled by the parameters *alpha* and *beta* setting the graviton mass**

- Massive gravity is too rigid
- There is a way of *phenomenologically* tune the graviton mass and relate it to T
- **Our real focus is on the possibility of saturating a T-dependent diffusivity bound and we want the system to be governed by temperature alone** (*being even agnostic about taking large or small momentum dissipation rate!*)

# Incoherence (*stricter version!*)

The extrinsic (*momentum dissipating*) processes **do not** introduce features associated to scales other than the temperature

If massive gravity was rigid by itself, we are making the analysis even stiffer (*i.e. adding a constraint*). However, we can hope of being able to grasp the essential features of a system governed by temperature alone



- *Nice relation with optical transport coefficients*
- *Nice relation with symmetry enhancement*

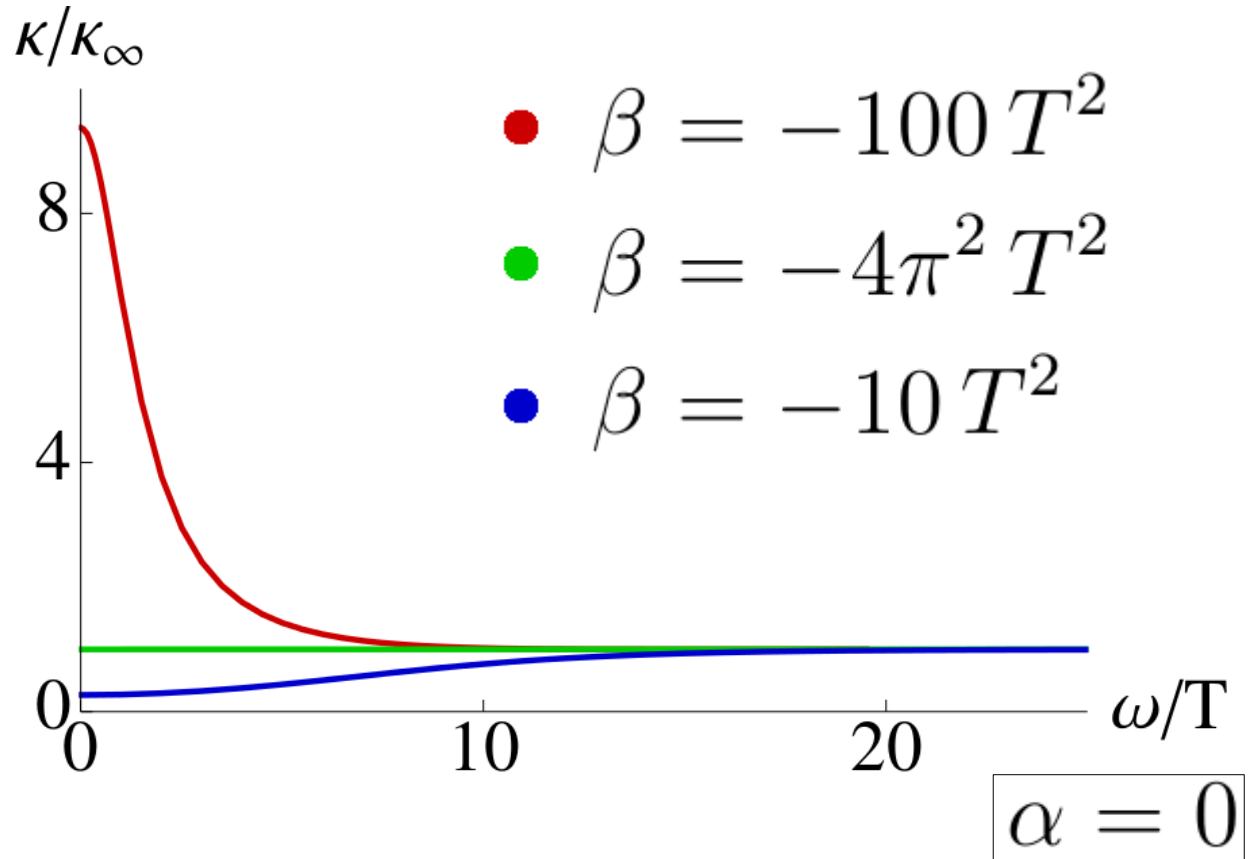
# Incoherence in holographic massive gravity: **spectral standpoint**

- Drude-like peak
- Flat & featureless
- Depletion region

Strict incoherence is a “delicate” circumstance which seems to require *tuning!*



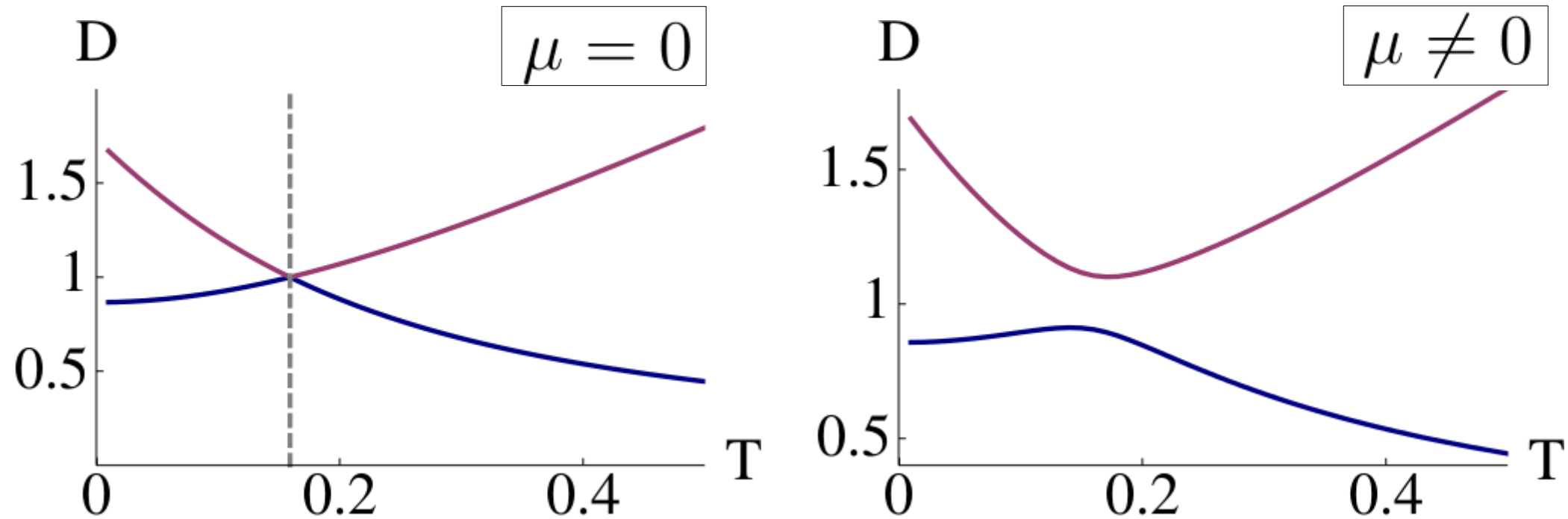
Undesirable because it contrasts the sought for robustness ...



We repeated the spectral analysis along the lines of  
[Davison, Goutéraux, JHEP 1501 (2015) 039]



# *Incoherence in holographic massive gravity: diffusion standpoint*



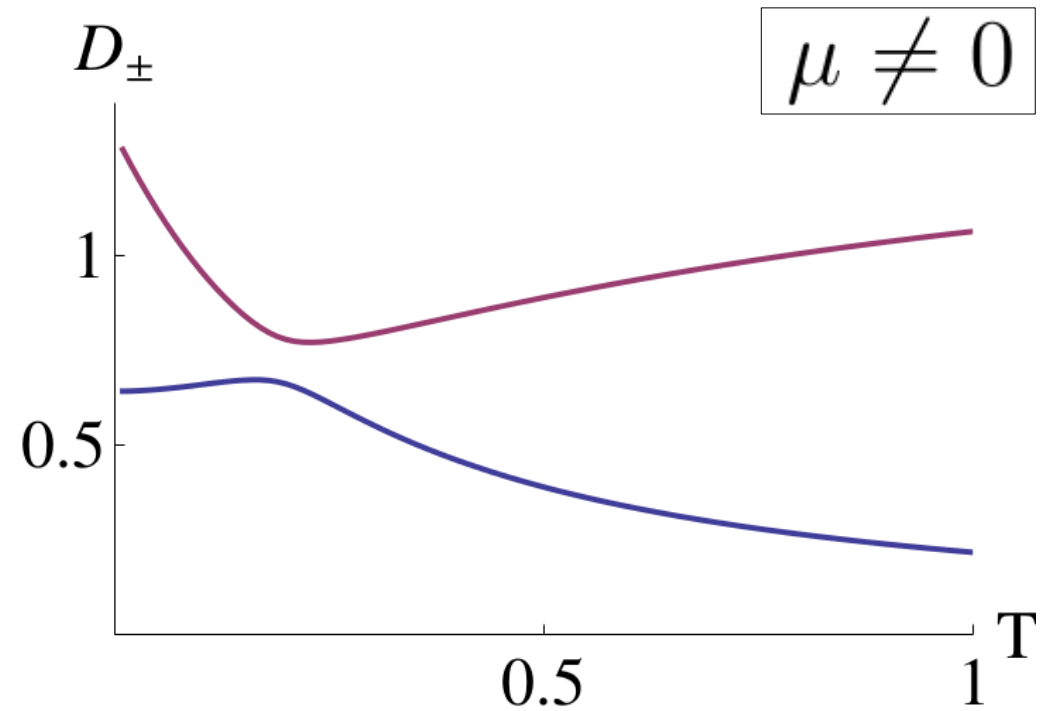
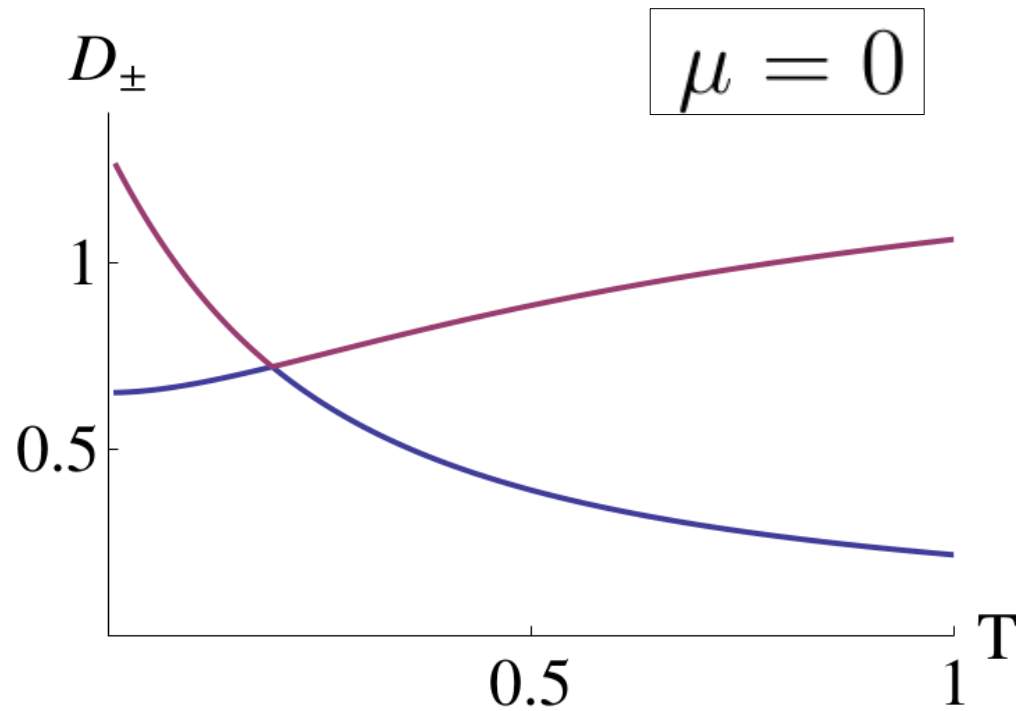
$$\alpha = 0$$

$\beta$  fixed

*Again, strict incoherence is a delicate circumstance. However...*

*...we possibly have direct and quantitative control of a genuinely incoherent state!*

... with *alpha* as well



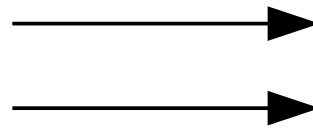
$$\alpha = -1$$
$$\beta = -1$$

- We notice the “regularizing” effect of *alpha* in the high- $T$  region
- Diffusion constants at zero temperature are finite
- Impossibility of having incoherence (*at least in its strict version*) at finite chemical potential

# Incoherence, a closer look



**No scales other than T  
(incoherence)**



Featureless optical response  
Equality of all diffusion const.



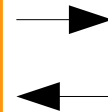
For any *fixed* T, constraint  
on the mass parameters:

$$D_c = D_h$$

$$12\beta = \alpha^2 - 8\pi T\alpha - 48\pi^2 T^2$$

*In agreement with the enhanced  
symmetry point of Davison, Goutéraux,  
JHEP 1501 (2015) 039*

$$D_c = D_h = \frac{6}{12\pi T - \alpha}$$

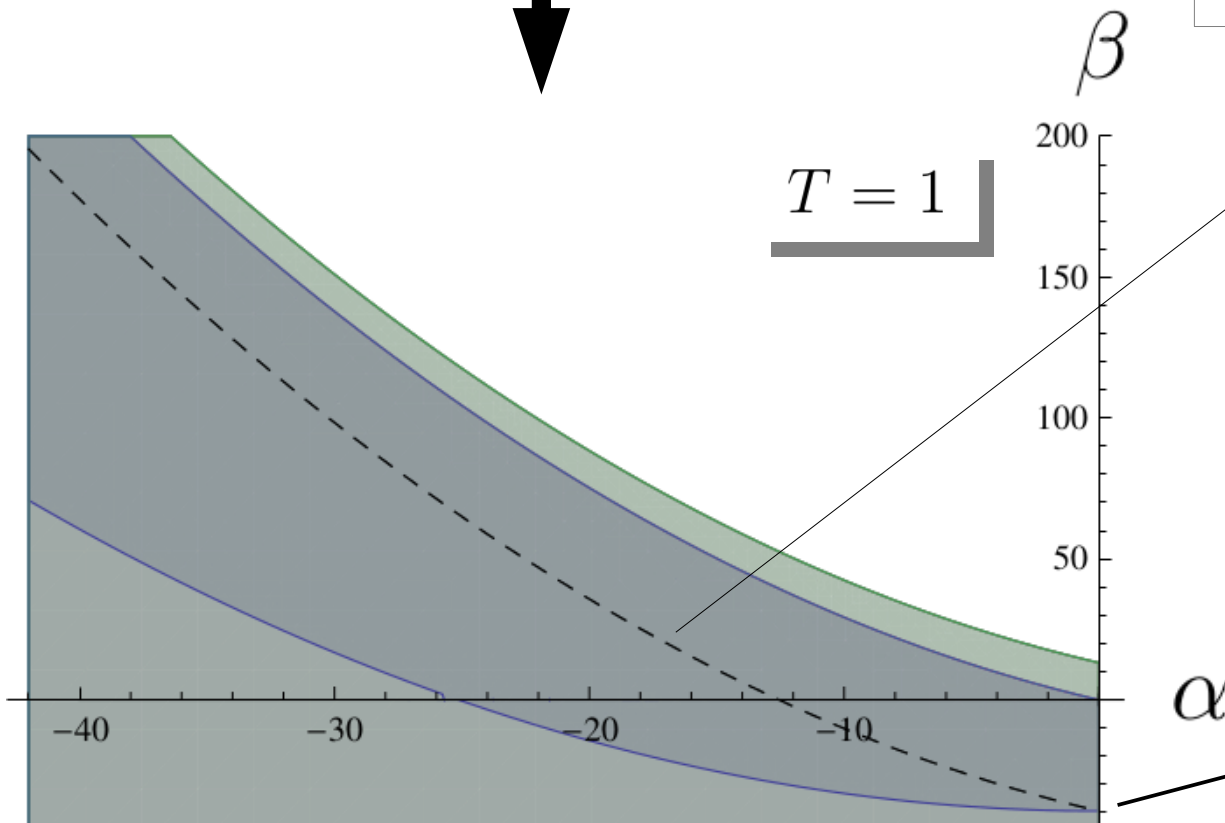


**Physical requirements  
can guide us in further  
constraining the mass  
parameters**

# Chasing bounds...



- **Reality and positivity** of the momentum dissipation rate
- **Positivity** of black hole and graviton masses



“incoherent line”  $D_c = D_h$

No minimal  
“physical” value  
of the incoherent  
diffusivity?

Special points:

- **$alpha = 0$  ?**
- **$beta = 0$  ?**

*The analysis is performed at fixed  $T$  but can be repeated for any value of  $T$*

# *Interesting questions*



- Could the simplest *heat transport* provide a diffusion bound?
- Necessity of ***alpha*** for both UV physics and IR bounds?
- Relation between boundary and bulk physical soundness (*bottom-up cure for massive gravity pathologies...*)?

[Alberte, Khmelnitsky, Phys.Rev. D91 (2015) 4, 046006]

- Possibility of playing phenomenologically with the radial profile of the fiducial metric?

[Blake, Tong, Phys.Rev. D88 (2013) 10, 106004;  
Marolf, Class.Quant.Grav. 31 (2014) 015008]

# *Future prospect*



- Analysis in other models (e.g Q-lattices); different renormalization for the momentum dissipating device

[Donos, Gauntlett, JHEP 1404 (2014) 040]

- Seeking for **robust** incoherence and check the “goodness” of the attained (*even though delicate*) incoherence
- Diffusivity and magnetic field (*many good theoretical and experimental reasons to do that... see **Amoretti's** talk*)

[Hayes, Breznay, Helm, Moll, cond-mat.str-el/1412.6484;  
Amoretti, Musso, hep-th/1502.02631]

***THANKS!***

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