Solvable models of metals with interactions and disorder, and their transport properties

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A. A. Patel, J. McGreevy, D. P. Arovas and S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. X 8, 021049 (2018)

> A. A. Patel and S. Sachdev, arXiv:1807.04754 (Phys. Rev. B, In press)



Strange metals



- Resistivity is linear over a large range of temperatures.
- Exceeds the Mott-Ioffe-Regel "limit" at high enough *T*, where the semiclassical mean-free-path becomes smaller than a lattice spacing, no signs of saturation even at highest possible *T*.

Strange metals: Theoretically challenging



- The strange metal is not a weakly interacting Landau Fermi liquid.
- Metals with strong interactions in 2+1 dimensions and a finite density of electron states are usually not amenable to controlled field-theoretic calculations, due to the large number of gapless modes on a Fermi surface.
- Even if controlled, a continuum field-theoretic description is not good enough for transport, need to consider how momentum is relaxed as well.
- Field-theoretic situation has so far been nearly hopeless when disorder is added on top of the mess.

SYK Model: Solvable Non-Fermi liquid at a point

$$H = \sum_{i,j,k,l=1}^{N \to \infty} J_{ijkl} f_i^{\dagger} f_j^{\dagger} f_k f_l, \quad \{f_i^{\dagger}, f_j\} = \delta_{ij}$$
$$\ll J_{ijkl} \gg = 0, \quad \ll |J_{ijkl}|^2 \gg = J^2/(8N^3)$$



- Consists of large-N number of sites on a single "quantum dot", with random all-to-all interactions.
- The hamiltonian has no quadratic kinetic terms.
- The randomness self-averages in the large-*N* limit, leading to a gapless non-Fermi liquid ground state.



 $\Sigma(\tau) = -J^2 G^2(\tau) G(-\tau),$ $G(i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n - \Sigma(i\omega_n)}.$

S. Sachdev and J. Ye, PRL 70, 3339 (1993) S. Sachdev, PRX 041025 (2015) A. Kitaev, Unpublished

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G





$$\Sigma(\tau) = -J^2 \left[\int_k G(k,\tau) \right]^2 \int_k G(k,-\tau),$$

$$G(k,i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n - \xi_k - \Sigma(i\omega_n)}.$$



$$t \gg J, \quad \int_k G(k,\tau) = -\frac{i}{2}\nu(0)\mathrm{sgn}(\omega_n),$$

 $\mathrm{Im}[\Sigma^R(\omega,T=0)] \propto \omega^2,$ Fermi liquid.

$$\rho(T) \sim T^2 \quad L \equiv \kappa/(\sigma T) = L_0 \equiv \pi^2/3$$

SYK interaction is irrelevant in the lowenergy limit. Resistance comes from weak inelastic, momentum non-conserving scattering of plane-wave states.



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$$\rho(T) \sim T^2 \quad L = L_0$$

Renormalized Fermi liquid at low temperatures, with Z < 1.



 $t \ll J, T \gg t^2/J$

Independent SYK dots coupled by weak hopping. Conductance occurs through weak tunneling between localized states.

$$\begin{split} G(k,\omega) &\sim \omega^{-1/2} + \text{Kubo formula} \\ &\to \rho(T) \sim T(J/t^2)(h/e^2) \gg \rho_{MIR} \sim h/e^2. \\ & L < L_0 \end{split}$$

But this "incoherent metal" is not a good model for the linear-in-*T* resistivity observed at low temperatures, which is smaller than the MIR limit...



$$\begin{split} H &= -t \sum_{\langle xy \rangle, i=1}^{N \to \infty} \left(c_{ix}^{\dagger} c_{iy} + \text{h.c.} \right) \\ &+ \sum_{x, ijkl=1}^{N \to \infty} U_{ijkl}^{x} c_{ix}^{\dagger} c_{jx}^{\dagger} c_{kx} c_{lx} \\ &+ \sum_{\langle xy \rangle, ijkl=1}^{N \to \infty} g_{ijkl}^{\langle xy \rangle} c_{ix}^{\dagger} c_{jx} c_{ky}^{\dagger} c_{ly} \end{split}$$

Add "exchange" interaction between sites. In the Fermi liquid regime, this doesn't affect the previous result qualitatively.

$$t \gg \max(J,g) \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \rho(T) \sim T^2 \\ L = L_0 \end{array}$$

A. A. Patel et. al., Unpublished



But now we can cut /weaken hopping bonds on some dilute, evenly distributed, set of sites. These sites become isolated SYK models (feedback of the other electrons on these sites is sub-leading).

But, exchange interaction with these sites leads to non-trivial self energy for the rest of the electrons.

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$$\begin{split} \Sigma &= \underbrace{g}_{G} \underbrace{g}_{SYK} \underbrace{g}_{G} \underbrace{g}_{G} \\ G_{SYK} \sim \operatorname{sgn}(\omega_{n}) |\omega_{n}|^{-1/2}, \quad \int_{k} G \sim \operatorname{sgn}(\omega), \\ \Sigma(\omega_{n}) - \Sigma(0) \sim \omega_{n} \ln |\omega_{n}| \\ \operatorname{Kubo \ formula} &\to \rho(T) \sim (\operatorname{const.} + (g^{2}T/(t^{2}J)))(h/e^{2}) \\ L < L_{0} \end{split}$$

"Marginal Fermi liquid" (MFL) with momentum dissipation. $C_V \sim T \ln T$.

Resistivity is linear-in-T down to T = 0, and smaller than the MIR value. Conduction occurs due to non-quasiparticle plane wave states. A true non-Fermi liquid.

• Idealization where the logic on the previous slide works exactly, without any residual resistivity at T = 0. No weak localization at large-N.

$$\begin{split} H &= -t \sum_{\langle xy \rangle, i=1}^{M \to \infty} \left(c_{xi}^{\dagger} c_{yi} + \text{h.c.} \right) + \frac{1}{NM^{1/2}} \sum_{x,ij=1}^{N \to \infty} \sum_{kl=1}^{M \to \infty} g_{ijkl}^{x} f_{xi}^{\dagger} f_{xj} c_{xk}^{\dagger} c_{xl} \\ &+ \frac{1}{N^{3/2}} \sum_{x,ijkl=1}^{N \to \infty} J_{ijkl}^{x} f_{xi}^{\dagger} f_{xj}^{\dagger} f_{xk} f_{xl}. \end{split}$$



Locally and randomly couple a sea of itinerant electrons to a lattice of SYK "islands". Realizes MFL of itinerant electrons.

A. A. Patel, J. McGreevy, D. P. Arovas and S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. X 8, 021049 (2018)

Strange metals just got stranger...

B-linear transverse magnetoresistance and scaling between B and T!?



Magnetotransport: Marginal-Fermi liquid

 Thanks to large N, M, we can also exactly derive the linear-response Boltzmann equation for non-quantizing magnetic fields in the "idealized" MFL model...

$$(1 - \partial_{\omega} \operatorname{Re}[\Sigma_{R}^{c}(\omega)])\partial_{t}\delta n(t,k,\omega) + v_{F}\hat{k} \cdot \mathbf{E}(t) \ n_{f}'(\omega) + v_{F}(\hat{k} \times \mathcal{B}\hat{z}) \cdot \nabla_{k}\delta n(t,k,\omega) = 2\delta n(t,k,\omega)\operatorname{Im}[\Sigma_{R}^{c}(\omega)],$$
$$(\mathcal{B} = eBa^{2}/\hbar) \text{ (i.e. flux per unit cell)}$$

$$\sigma_L^{\rm MFL} = M \frac{v_F^2 \nu(0)}{16T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dE_1}{2\pi} \operatorname{sech}^2 \left(\frac{E_1}{2T}\right) \frac{-\operatorname{Im}[\Sigma_R^c(E_1)]}{\operatorname{Im}[\Sigma_R^c(E_1)]^2 + (v_F/(2k_F))^2 \mathcal{B}^2},$$

$$\sigma_H^{\rm MFL} = -M \frac{v_F^2 \nu(0)}{16T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dE_1}{2\pi} \operatorname{sech}^2 \left(\frac{E_1}{2T}\right) \frac{(v_F/(2k_F))\mathcal{B}}{\operatorname{Im}[\Sigma_R^c(E_1)]^2 + (v_F/(2k_F))^2 \mathcal{B}^2}.$$

$$\sigma_L^{\text{MFL}} \sim T^{-1} s_L((v_F/k_F)(\mathcal{B}/T)), \quad \sigma_H^{\text{MFL}} \sim -\mathcal{B}T^{-2} s_H((v_F/k_F)(\mathcal{B}/T)).$$
$$s_{L,H}(x \to \infty) \propto 1/x^2, \quad s_{L,H}(x \to 0) \propto x^0.$$

Scaling between magnetic field and temperature in **orbital** magnetotransport!

Macroscopic magnetotransport in the MFL

• Let us consider the MFL with additional **macroscopic** disorder (charge puddles etc.)



Figure: N. Ramakrishnan et. al., PRB 96, 224203 (2017)

• No macroscopic momentum, due to momentum relaxation at the microscopic level, so equations describing charge transport are just

 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{I}(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad \mathbf{I}(\mathbf{x}) = \sigma(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) = -\nabla \Phi(\mathbf{x}).$

• Very weak thermoelectricity for large FS, so charge effectively decoupled from heat transport.

Random-resistor network: physical picture



Figure 3 Visualization of currents and voltages at large magnetic field in a 10×10 random network of disks with radii 1 (arbitrary units), where the potential difference U = -1 V. The black arrows represent the currents, and arrow size depicts the magnitude of the current. The major current path is perpendicular to the applied voltage for a significant proportion of the time, which implies that the magnetoresistance is provided internally by the Hall effect, which is therefore linear in *H*.

- Due to disorder in the local conductivity tensor, the global Hall electric field does not cancel Hall current uniformly throughout the sample.
- Hence, fluctuations in the local Hall resistance lead to a distortion of the current path due to charge conservation, which contributes the local Hall resistance, which is linear in *B* to the global longitudinal resistance.

Exact numerical solution of charge-transport equations in a random-resistor network. (M. M. Parish and P. Littlewood, Nature 426, 162 (2003))

Solvable toy model: two types of resistors



Two types of domains *a,b* with different carrier densities and lifetimes randomly distributed in approximately equal fractions over sample.

Effective medium equations can be solved exactly (A. M. Dykhne, JETP 32, 348 (1971))
(V. Guttal and D. Stroud, PRB 71, 201304 (2005))

$$\left(\mathbb{I} + \frac{\sigma^a - \sigma^e}{2\sigma_L^e}\right)^{-1} \cdot (\sigma^a - \sigma^e) + \left(\mathbb{I} + \frac{\sigma^b - \sigma^e}{2\sigma_L^e}\right)^{-1} \cdot (\sigma^b - \sigma^e) = 0.$$

$$\rho_L^e \equiv \frac{\sigma_L^e}{\sigma_L^{e2} + \sigma_H^{e2}} = \frac{\sqrt{(\mathcal{B}/m)^2 \left(\gamma_a \sigma_{0a}^{\mathrm{MFL}} - \gamma_b \sigma_{0b}^{\mathrm{MFL}}\right)^2 + \gamma_a^2 \gamma_b^2 \left(\sigma_{0a}^{\mathrm{MFL}} + \sigma_{0b}^{\mathrm{MFL}}\right)^2}}{\gamma_a \gamma_b (\sigma_{0a}^{\mathrm{MFL}} \sigma_{0b}^{\mathrm{MFL}})^{1/2} \left(\sigma_{0a}^{\mathrm{MFL}} + \sigma_{0b}^{\mathrm{MFL}}\right)}$$
$$\rho_H^e \equiv -\frac{\sigma_H^e/\mathcal{B}}{\sigma_L^{e2} + \sigma_H^{e2}} = \frac{\gamma_a + \gamma_b}{m \gamma_a \gamma_b \left(\sigma_{0a}^{\mathrm{MFL}} + \sigma_{0b}^{\mathrm{MFL}}\right)} \cdot \left(m = k_F/v_F \sim 1/t\right)$$

 $\gamma_{a,b} \sim T$ (i.e. effective transport scattering rates)

$$ho_L^e \sim \sqrt{c_1 T^2 + c_2 B^2}~~$$
 (Hayes et. al.'s result!)

Scaling between *B* and *T* at microscopic orbital level has been transferred to global MR!

Strange metals with dynamic gauge fields



- Pseudogap Fermi surface looks like it's reconstructed by long-range antiferromagnetism (AFM) in ARPES, but no AFM is measured by neutron scattering.
- <u>S. Sachdev</u>: Electrons are fractionalized into gapped bosonic spinons and gapless fermionic chargons. An SU(2) gauge redundancy in this description, and the suppression of 2π vortices in the AFM landscape, allows the chargons to be subject to an effective long-range AFM order that shows up only as short-range fluctuating AFM for the electrons. However, the electron spectral function tracks that of the chargons, and they look like they have AFM, without having any actual AFM.

S. Sachdev, arXiv:1801.01125 (Review).

Strange metals with dynamic gauge fields



- The strange metal in this description is an "Algebraic charge liquid" (ACL) with a finite density of chargons coupled to fluctuating SU(2) gauge fields. It doesn't have any controlled field-theoretic description.
- "Higgs transitions" that involve condensing the equivalent of the AFM order parameters for the chargons break the SU(2) eventually down to Z₂ and form the pseudogap, which is a weakly-interacting Fermi liquid without any singular gauge fluctuations.

S. Sachdev, arXiv:1801.01125 (Review).

$$\mathcal{H} = -\frac{1}{(MN)^{1/2}} \sum_{ij=1}^{N \to \infty} \sum_{\alpha\beta=1}^{M \to \infty} \left[t_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} e^{iA_{ij}} f_{i\alpha}^{\dagger} f_{j\beta} + (MN)^{1/2} \mu \delta_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} f_{i\alpha}^{\dagger} f_{i\alpha} \right],$$
$$\ll t_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} t_{ji}^{\beta\alpha} \gg = \ll |t_{ij}^{\alpha\beta}|^2 \gg = t^2,$$

 $A_{ji} = -A_{ij}.$

A. A. Patel and S. Sachdev, arXiv:1807.04754 (Phys. Rev. B, In press)

- Clustered random all-to-all hopping model of fermionic chargons coupled to dynamic U(1) gauge fields. Has a large-*N* number of clusters, with a large-*M* number of orbitals per cluster. The ratio *M*/*N* is an *O*(1) number.
- Unlike the SYK models, this model combines both hopping and interaction effects.

The model again self-averages in the large-M,N limits. Disorder averaged action after expanding $e^{iA_{ij}}$ to keep only IR-relevant terms:

$$S = \int d\tau \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{M} f_{i\alpha}^{\dagger}(\tau) (\partial_{\tau} + iA_{i}^{0}(\tau)) f_{i\alpha}(\tau) + t^{2} \frac{M}{N} \int d\tau d\tau' \sum_{ij=1,i\leq j}^{N} \left[1 + i(A_{ij}(\tau) - A_{ij}(\tau')) - \frac{1}{2}A_{ij}^{2}(\tau) - \frac{1}{2}A_{ij}^{2}(\tau') + A_{ij}(\tau)A_{ij}(\tau') \right] G_{j}(\tau - \tau')G_{i}(\tau' - \tau) - M \int d\tau d\tau' \sum_{i=1}^{N} \Sigma_{i}(\tau - \tau') \left[G_{i}(\tau' - \tau) - \frac{1}{M} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{M} f_{i\alpha}(\tau')f_{i\alpha}^{\dagger}(\tau) \right] \cdot + \text{``Maxwell'' terms.}$$

Varying w.r.t. G and \sum for each cluster *i* after integrating out A (which can be done easily in the large-N limit) and *f* yields SYK-like Dyson equations for the large-M,N saddle-point solution.



$$\Sigma(i\omega_n) = t^2 G(i\omega_n) + t^2 T \sum_{\Omega_m \neq 0} \frac{G(i\omega_n + i\Omega_m) - G(i\omega_n)}{\Omega_m^2/g^2 + \Pi(i\Omega_m) - \Pi(i\Omega_m = 0)},$$

$$\Pi(i\Omega_m) = t^2 T \frac{M}{N} \sum_{\omega_n} G(i\omega_n) G(i\omega_n + i\Omega_m), \quad G(i\omega_n) = \frac{1}{i\omega_n - \Sigma(i\omega_n)}.$$



No SL(2,R) invariance like SYK, but still possesses a *scaleinvariant* solution in the IR.

$$\begin{split} \Sigma(i\omega_n) &= t^2 G(i\omega_n) \left[1 - T \sum_{\Omega_m \neq 0} \frac{1}{\Omega_m^2/g^2 + \Pi(i\Omega_m) - \Pi(i\Omega_m = 0)} \right] & \longleftarrow \text{ This term cancels at } T = 0, \\ &+ t^2 T \sum_{\Omega_m \neq 0} \frac{G(i\omega_n + i\Omega_m)}{\Omega_m^2/g^2 + \Pi(i\Omega_m) - \Pi(i\Omega_m = 0)}, \end{split}$$

Power-law Green's function with tunable exponent at T = O.

$$G(\tau) = -C \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\tau)}{t^{1-x} |\tau|^{1-x}}, \quad G(i\omega_n) = -2iCt^{x-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{2}\right) \Gamma(x) \operatorname{sgn}(\omega_n) |\omega_n|^{-x}, \quad 0 < x < \frac{1}{2}, \quad C > 0.$$

$$\frac{1/x - 2}{1 + \sec(\pi x)} = \frac{2M}{N}$$

Scaling solution at finite *T*, but the scaling function is **not** the conformal SYK scaling function, and is determined numerically.

$$G(i\omega_n, T) = \frac{C}{t^{1-x}T^x} F_G\left(\frac{\omega_n}{T}\right), \quad F_G(y \to 0) \propto y^0, \quad F_G(y \to \infty) \propto \frac{1}{y^x}$$



- We can add spatial structure to the theory by defining each the clusters *i* to lie on the sites of a large-*N*-dimensional hypercubic lattice with nearest-neighbor hopping, without changing the saddle point.
- Then, splitting the chargons into two species ±, coupling to the internal gauge fields A with <u>opposite</u> charges, we can derive transport properties in linear response to an external gauge field Ξ, to which the chargons couple with <u>equal</u> charges. This is the structure of a U(1) ACL (See S. Sachdev, arXiv:1801.01125).

$$\mathcal{H}' = -\frac{1}{(2MN)^{1/2}} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \sum_{\alpha\beta=1}^{M} \sum_{ss'=\pm} t_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} f_{i\alpha s}^{\dagger} e^{iA_{ij}\sigma_{ss'}^{z}} f_{j\beta s'}$$

• We get non-Fermi liquid conductivities from linear response to Ξ

$$\sigma^{\rm DC}(T) \sim \frac{M}{N} \left(\frac{t}{T}\right)^{2x}, \quad \sigma(\Omega \gg T) = -2(M/N)C^2 \sin(\pi x)\Gamma(2x-1) \left(\frac{it}{\Omega}\right)^{2x}$$

 We can also couple the chargons and the gauge fields to charge-2 complex scalar Higgs fields

$$\mathcal{H}'' = -\frac{1}{(2MN)^{1/2}} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \sum_{\alpha\beta=1}^{M} \sum_{s=\pm} t_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} f_{i\alpha s}^{\dagger} e^{isA_{ij}} f_{j\beta s}$$
$$+ \sum_{i} \left[Mr |H_i|^2 + g_H \left(H_i \sum_{\alpha=1}^{M} f_{i\alpha+}^{\dagger} f_{i\alpha-} + \text{h.c.} \right) \right] - \frac{t_H}{2} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \left[H_i^* H_j e^{2iA_{ij}} + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

• The Dyson equations at the large-*M*,*N* saddle point are

$$\begin{split} \Sigma(i\omega_n) &= t^2 G(i\omega_n) + t^2 T \int \frac{d\Omega_m}{2\pi} \frac{G(i\omega_n + i\Omega_m) - G(i\omega_n)}{\Omega_m^2/g^2 + \tilde{\Pi}(i\Omega_m) + 4t_H |H|^2}, \quad G(i\omega_n) = \frac{i\omega_n - \Sigma(i\omega_n)}{(i\omega_n - \Sigma(i\omega_n))^2 - g_H^2 |H|^2} \\ H \left[r - \frac{N}{M} t_H + \int \frac{d\omega_n}{2\pi} \frac{g_H^2}{(i\omega_n - \Sigma(i\omega_n))^2 - g_H^2 |H|^2} + \frac{2N}{M} \int \frac{d\Omega_m}{2\pi} \frac{t_H}{\Omega_m^2/g^2 + \tilde{\Pi}(i\Omega_m) + 4t_H |H|^2} \right] = 0, \\ \tilde{\Pi}(i\Omega_m) &= 2t^2 \frac{M}{N} \int \frac{d\omega_n}{2\pi} G(i\omega_n) (G(i\omega_n + i\Omega_m) - G(i\omega_n)) \end{split}$$

• The parameter *r* tunes the Higgs transition. Condensing the Higgs field breaks the U(1) gauge invariance down to Z₂, and gaps out its singular low-energy fluctuations.



Transition exponent: $|H| \sim (r - r_c)^{1/2}$, $\nu = 1/2$. Mean-field behavior at large-*M*,*N*.

Future directions

- SYK-like large-*N* limit for fermions coupled to quantum critical order parameter? Obtain quantum critical strange metal "fan" in the cuprates phase diagram.
- 2+1 dimensional lattice-SYK like model of chargons coupled to gauge fields, with Higgs transition from a strange metal with a "large" Fermi surface to a pseudogap with a "small" Fermi surface.
- Model that can give linear-in-*T* resistivity at both high and low *T*, keeping a fixed slope corresponding to a single-particle scattering rate of $\hbar/(k_BT)$ on both sides of the MIR limit.
- Model anomalous features in the optical conductivity of strange metals using crossovers between different SYK-based non-Fermi liquids.
- Try to understand if SYK-like local criticality can emerge in rare regions in disordered Hubbard models, and the effects of the local critical regions on the rest of the system.