

Axial anomalies in hydrodynamics:

Dam T. Son (INT, University of Washington)

Ref.: DTS, Piotr Surówka, [arXiv:0906.5044](https://arxiv.org/abs/0906.5044)

Plan of the talk

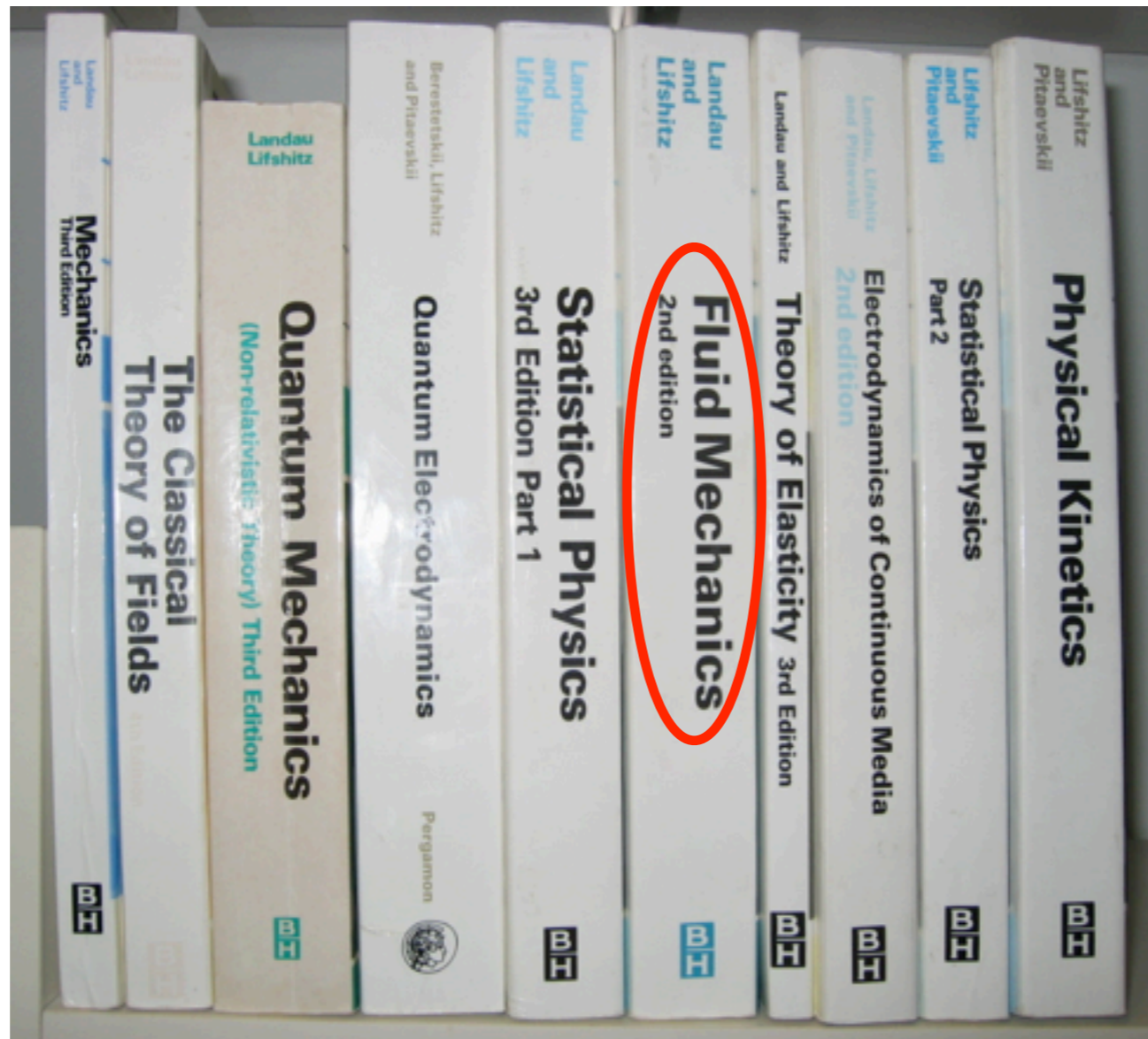
- Hydrodynamics as a low-energy effective theory
- Relativistic hydrodynamics
- Triangle anomaly: a new hydrodynamic effect

Place of hydrodynamics in theoretical physics

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Place of hydrodynamics in theoretical physics



A low-energy effective theory

Consider a thermal system:

$$T \neq 0$$

Dynamics at large distances

$$\ell \gg \lambda_{\text{mfp}}$$

governed by hydrodynamics

Degrees of freedom in hydrodynamics

D.o.f. that relax arbitrarily slowly in the long-wavelength limit:

- Conserved densities
- Goldstone modes (**superfluids**)
- Massless U(1) gauge field (**magnetohydrodynamics**)

Relativistic hydrodynamics

Conservation laws: $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$
 $\partial_\mu j^\mu = 0$ (if \exists conserved charge)

Constitutive equations: local thermal equilibrium

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu + P g^{\mu\nu}$$

$$j^\mu = n u^\mu$$

Total: 5 equations, 5 unknowns

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$$j^\mu = n u^\mu + \nu^\mu$$

Total: 5 equations, 5 unknowns

Dissipative terms

$$\tau^{ij} = -\eta(\partial^i u^j + \partial^j u^i - \frac{2}{3}\delta^{ij}\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u}) - \zeta\delta^{ij}\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} \quad \nu^i = -\sigma T \partial^i \left(\frac{\mu}{T}\right)$$

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shear viscosity

bulk viscosity

$$\nu^i = -\sigma T \partial^i \left(\frac{\mu}{T} \right)$$

conductivity
(diffusion)

Parity-odd effects?

- QFT: may have *chiral fermions*
 - example: QCD with massless quarks
- Parity invariance does not forbid

$$j^{5\mu} = n^5 u^\mu + \xi(T, \mu) \omega^\mu$$

$$\omega^\mu = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} u_\nu \partial_\alpha u_\beta \quad \text{vorticity}$$

- The same order in derivatives as dissipative terms (viscosity, diffusion)

Landau-Lifshitz frame

- We can also have correction to the stress-energy tensor

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu + Pg^{\mu\nu} + \xi'(u^\mu \omega^\nu + \omega^\mu u^\nu)$$

- Can be eliminated by redefinition of u^μ

$$u^\mu \rightarrow u^\mu - \frac{\xi'}{\epsilon + P}\omega^\mu$$

Only a linear combination $\xi - \frac{n}{\epsilon + P}\xi'$
has physical meaning

Let us set $\xi' = 0$

New effect: chiral separation

- Rotating piece of quark matter
- Initially only vector charge density $\neq 0$
- Rotation: lead to j^5 : chiral charge density develops
- Can be thought of as chiral separation: left- and right-handed quarks move differently in rotation fluid
- Similar effect in nonrelativistic fluids?

Chiral separation by rotation

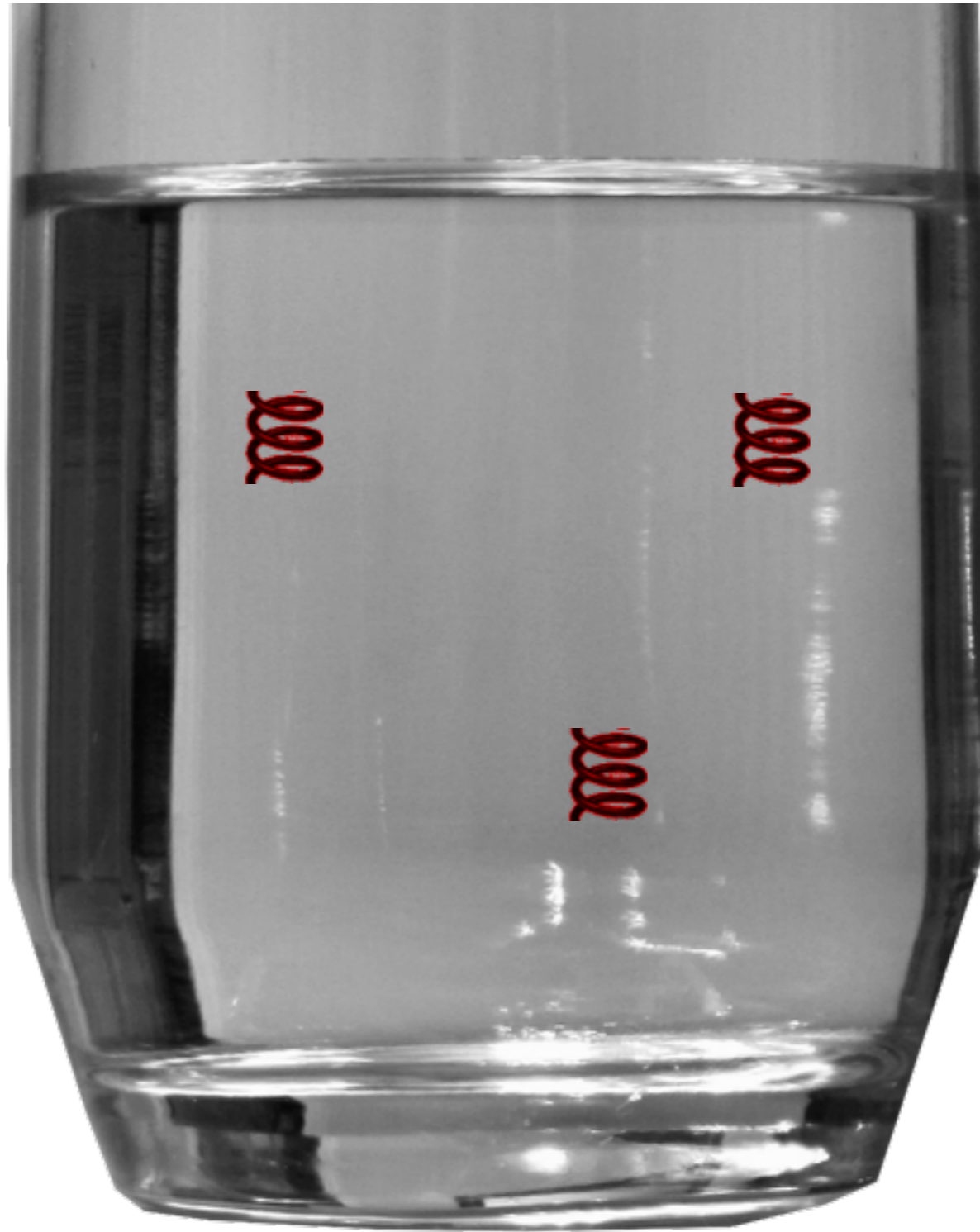
Chiral separation by rotation



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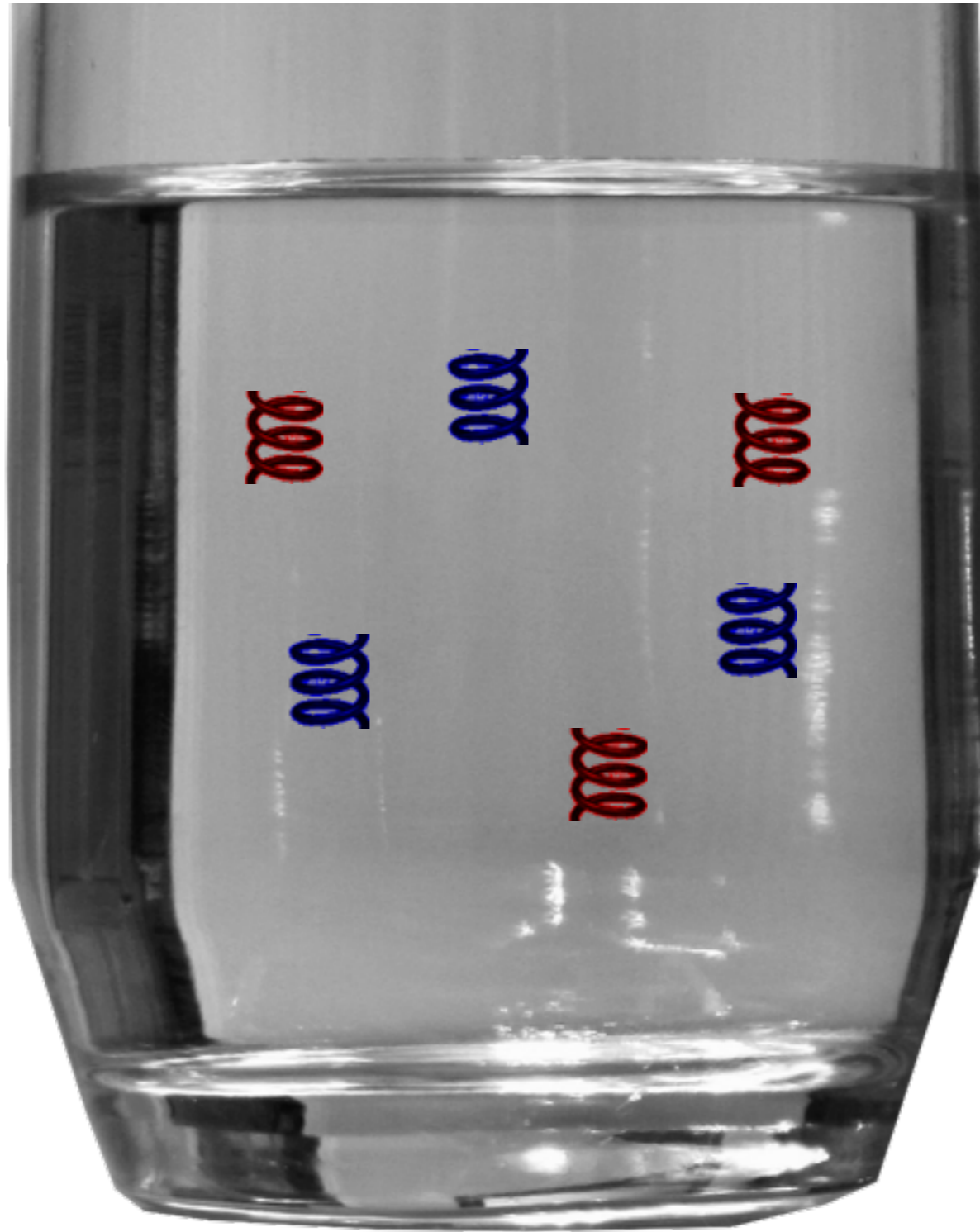
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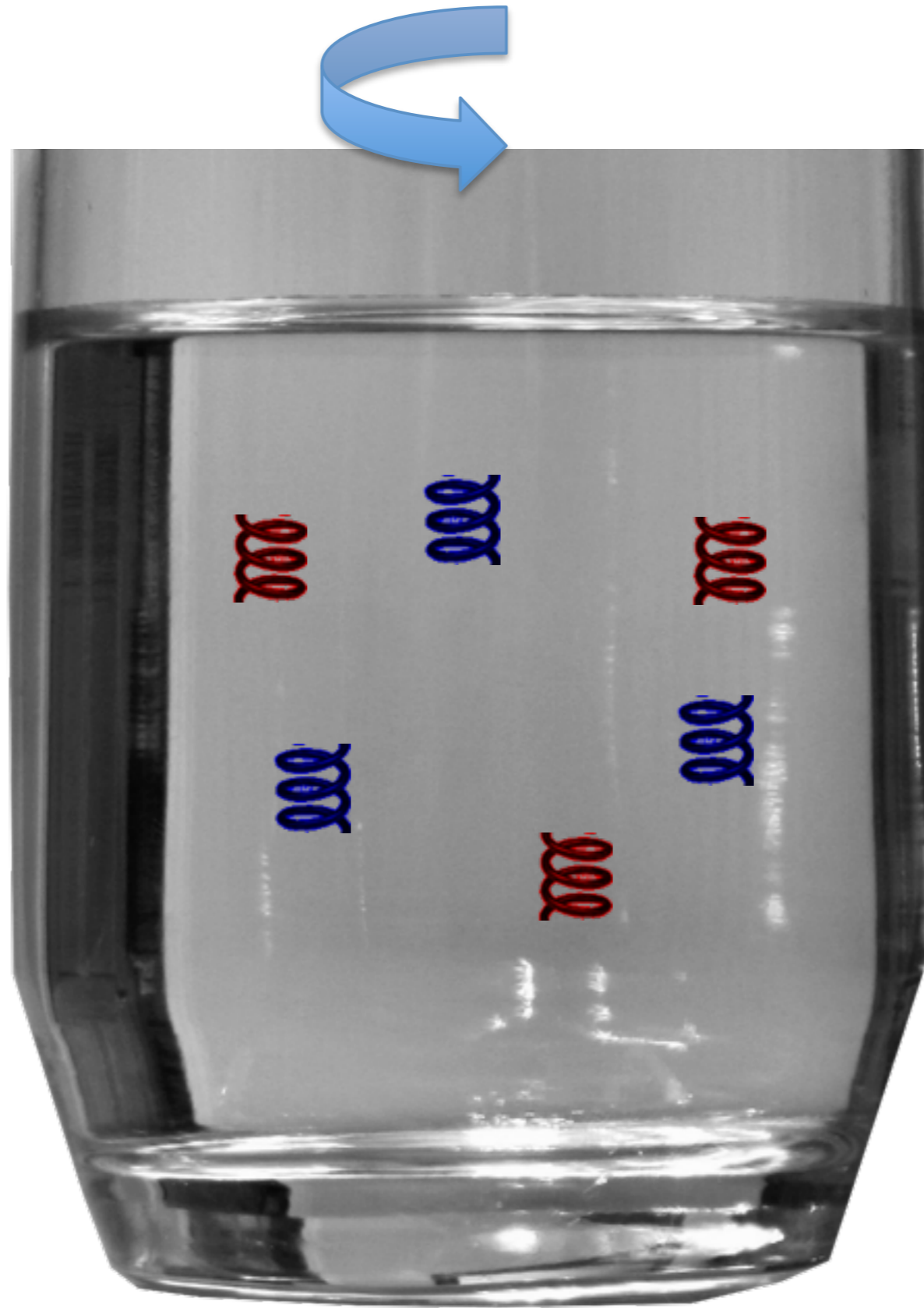
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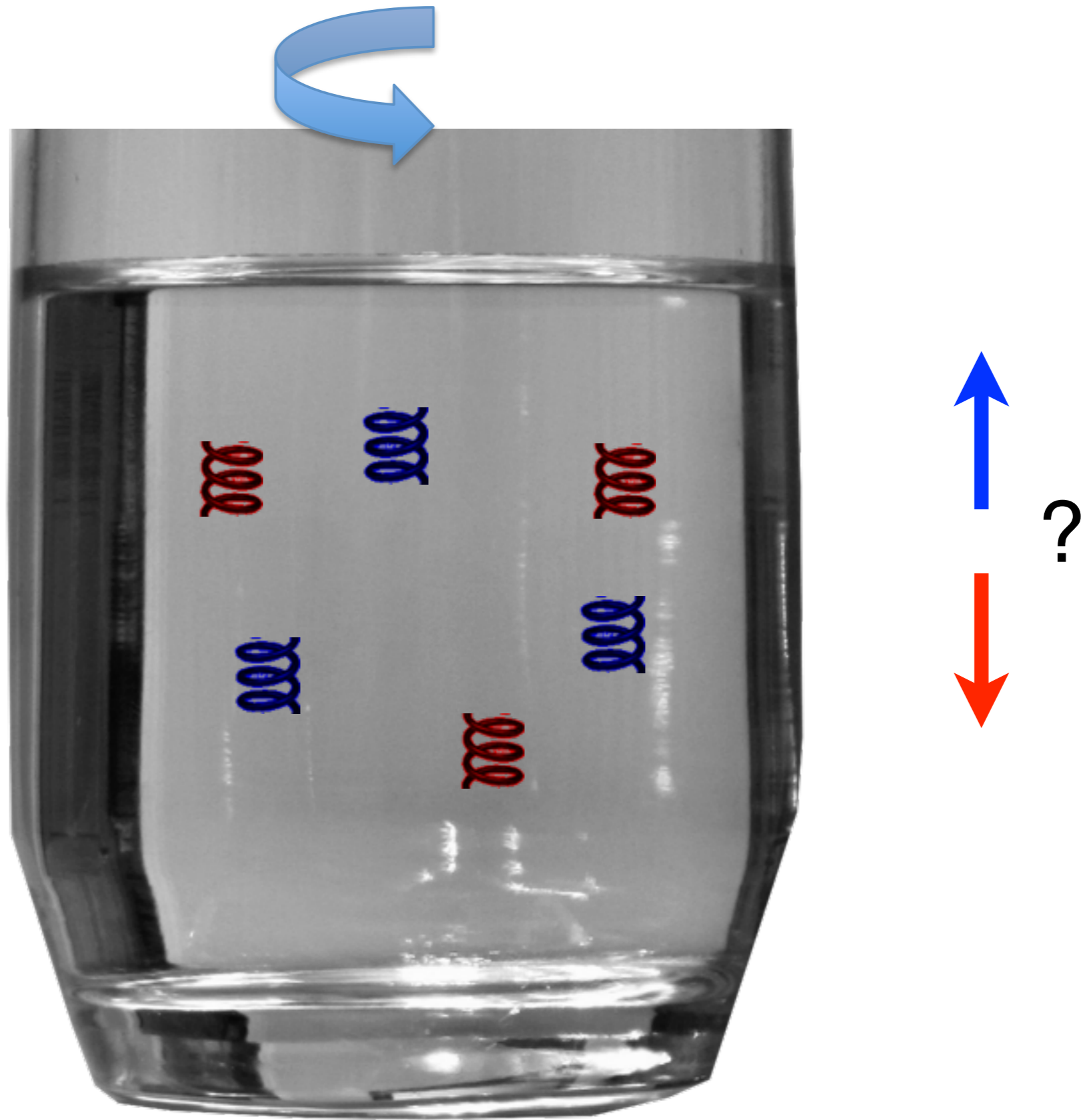
Chiral separation by rotation



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Chiral separation by rotation



Can chiral separation occur in rigid rotation?

- If a chiral molecule rotates with respect to the liquid, it will move
- In rigid rotation, molecules rotate with liquid
- \Rightarrow no current in rigid rotation.
- Chiral separation occurs at higher orders in derivative expansion [Andreev DTS Spivak](#)

$$j_i^{\text{chiral}} \sim (\partial_i v_j + \partial_j v_i) \omega_j + \dots$$

but NOT

~~$$\mathbf{j}^{\text{chiral}} \sim \boldsymbol{\omega} = \nabla \times \mathbf{v}$$~~

Relativistic theories are different

- There can be current \sim vorticity
- It is related to triangle anomalies

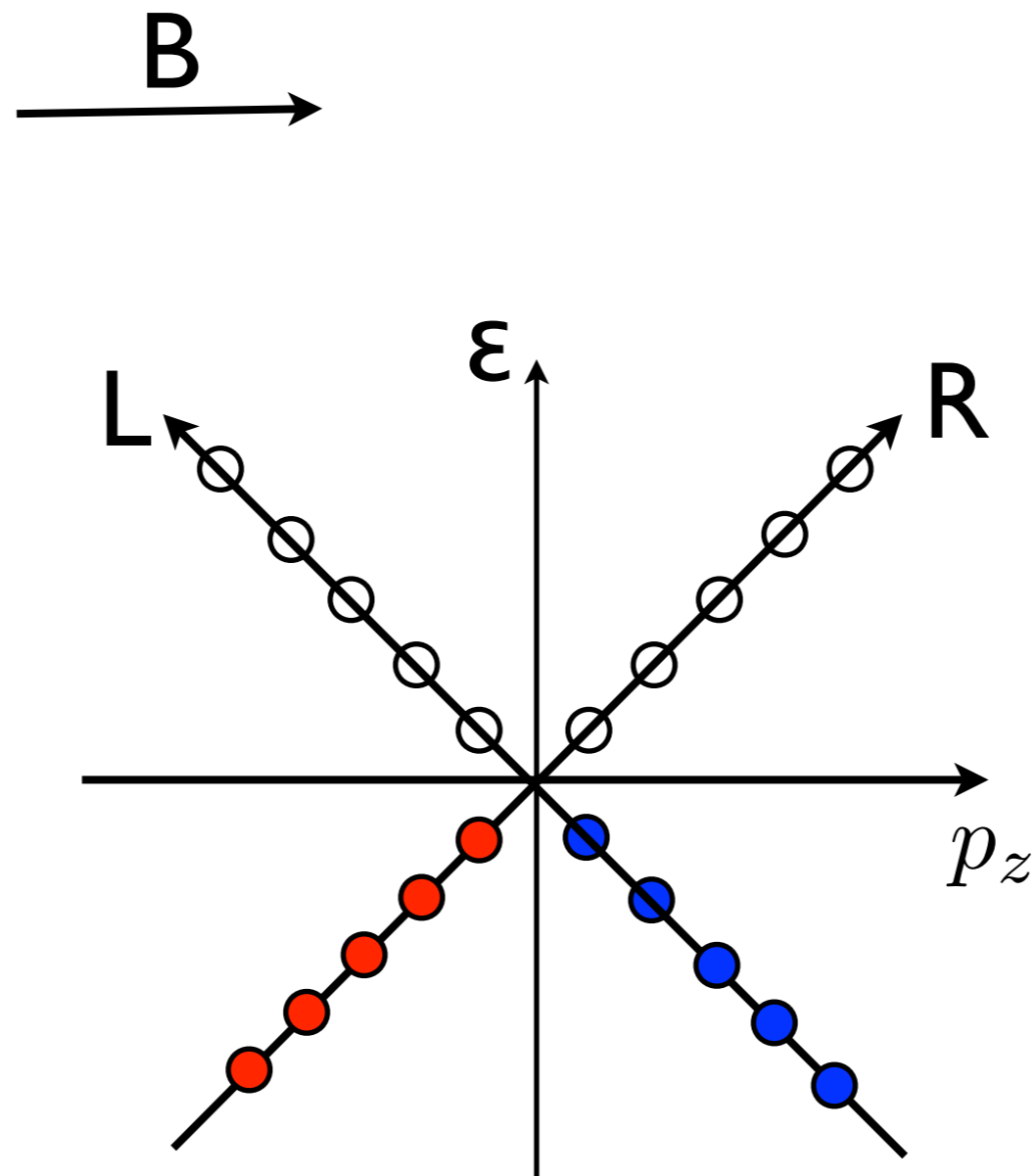
$$\partial_{\mu} j^{5\mu} = \# E \cdot B$$

but the effect is there even in the absence of external field

- The kinetic coefficient ξ is determined completely by anomalies and equation of state

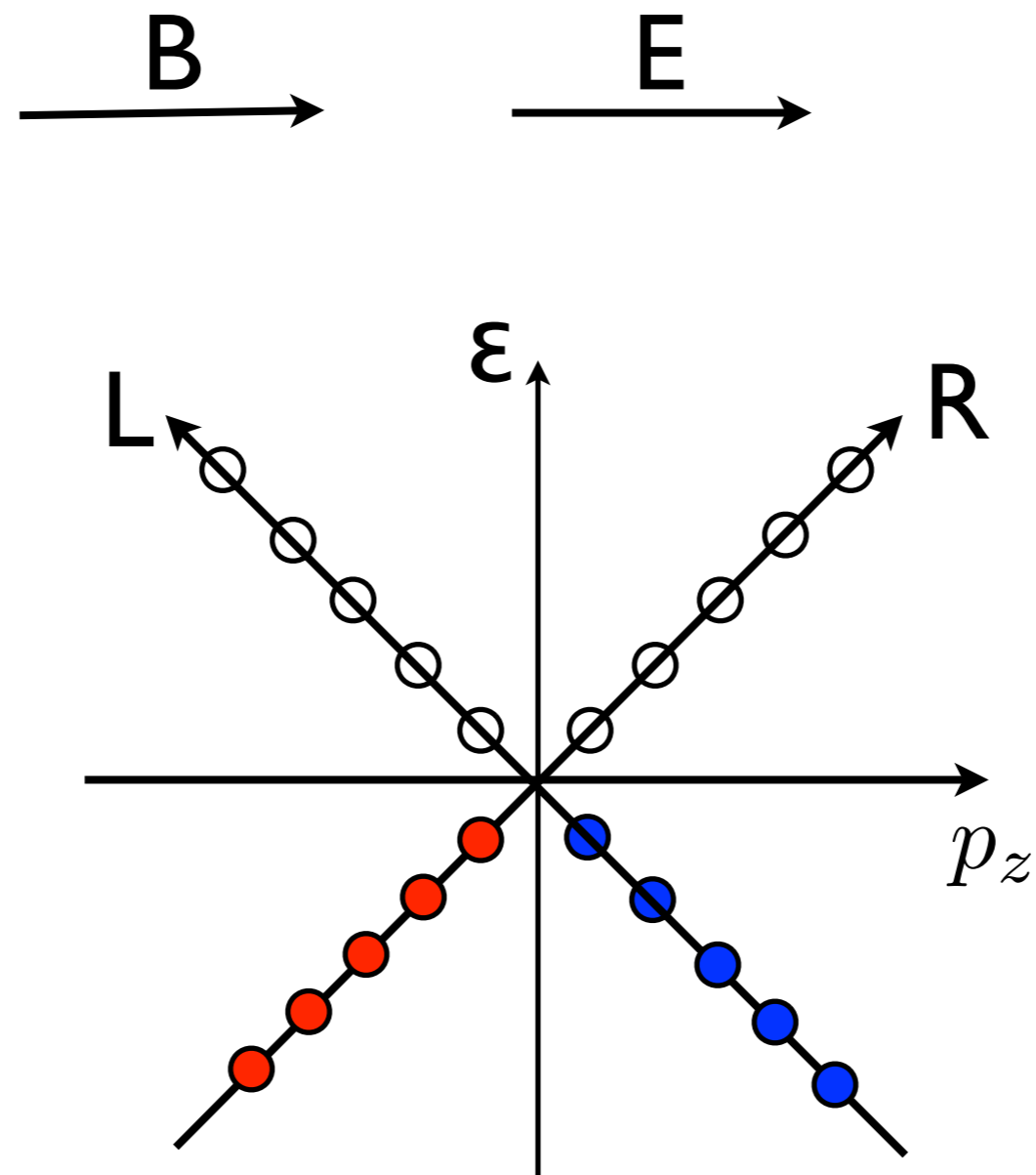
Anomalies

Massless fermions: lowest Landau level is chiral



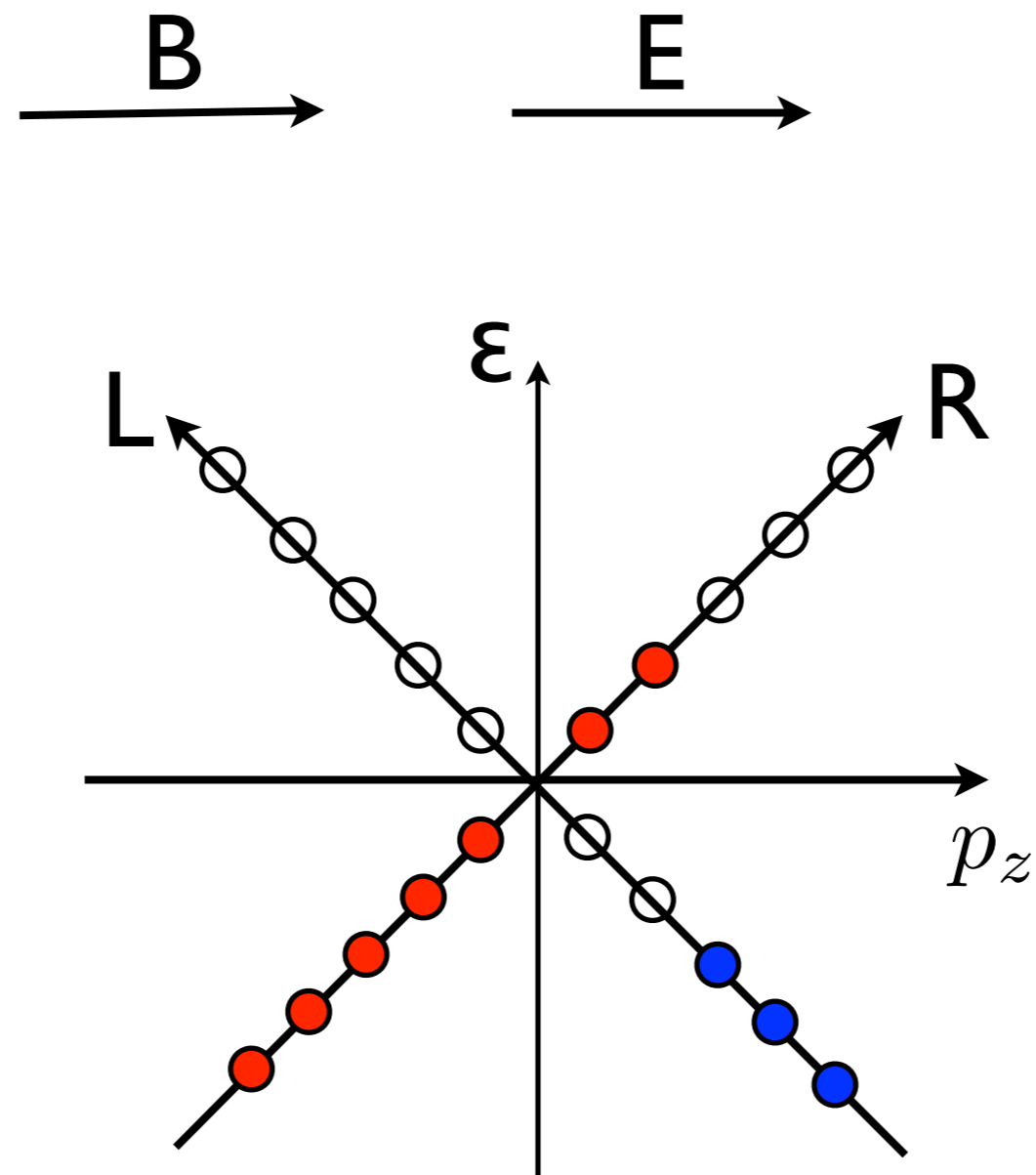
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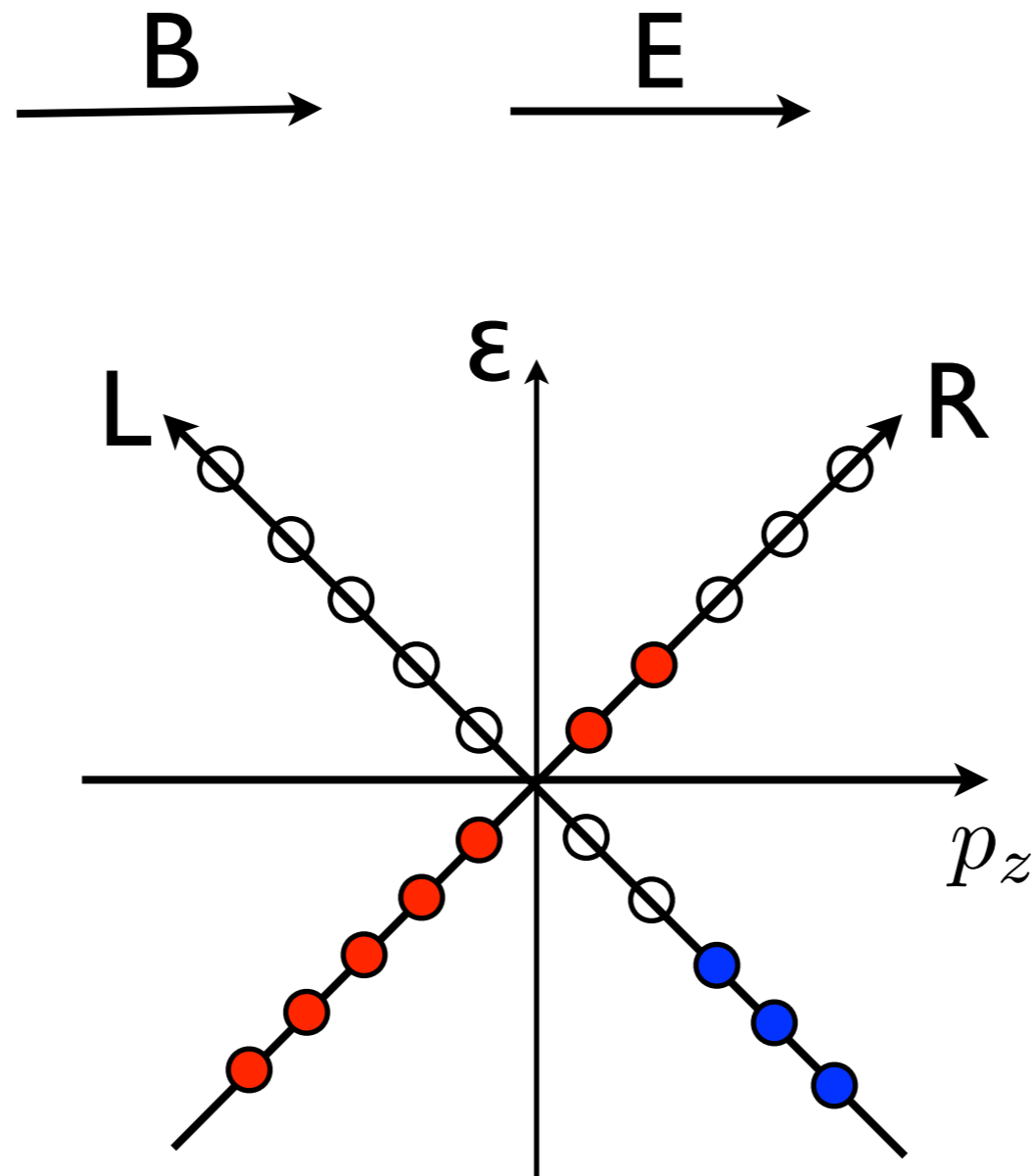
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$$\frac{d}{dt} (N_R - N_L) \sim E \cdot B$$

Forbidden by Landau?

- Terms with epsilon tensor do not appear in the standard Landau-Lifshitz treatment of hydrodynamics
- Was it deliberate?

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- Was it deliberate?

Possible reason: 2nd law of thermodynamics

Dissipative terms

Standard textbook manipulations (single U(1) charge)

$$\partial_\mu [(\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu] + \partial^\nu P + \partial_\mu \tau^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

$$\partial_\mu (nu^\mu) + \partial_\mu \nu^\mu = 0$$

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$$\partial_\mu (su^\mu) = \frac{\mu}{T} \partial_\mu \nu^\mu + \frac{1}{T} u_\nu \partial_\mu \tau^{\mu\nu}$$

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↑
entropy current s^μ

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\uparrow
 entropy current s^μ

Positivity of entropy production constrains the dissipation terms: only three kinetic coefficients η , ζ , and σ (right hand side positive-definite)

Is there a place for a new kinetic coefficient?

$$\partial_\mu \left(s u^\mu - \frac{\mu}{T} \nu^\mu \right) = -\frac{1}{T} \tau^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu u_\nu - \nu^\mu \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\mu}{T} \right)$$

Consider a theory with a single conserved chiral charge

Can we add to the current: $\nu^\mu = \dots + \xi \omega^\mu$?

Problem: Extra term in current would lead to

$$\partial_\mu s^\mu = \dots - \xi \omega^\mu \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\mu}{T} \right) \quad \text{not manifestly zero}$$

This can have either sign, and can overwhelm other terms

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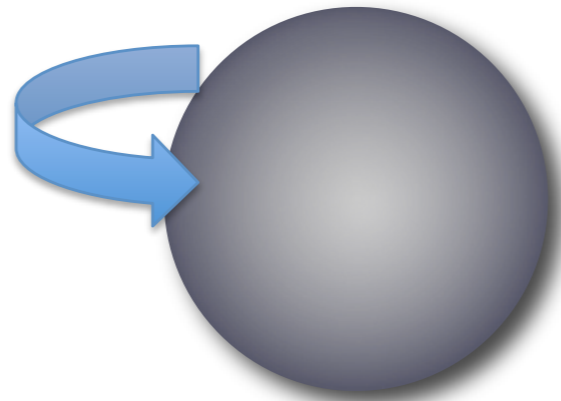
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Forbidden by 2nd law of thermodynamics?

Holography

The first indication that standard hydrodynamic equations are not complete comes from considering



rotating 3-sphere of $N=4$ SYM plasma \leftrightarrow rotating BH

If the sphere is large: hydrodynamics should work

no shear flow: corrections $\sim 1/R^2$

Instead: corrections $\sim 1/R$

Bhattacharyya, Lahiri, Loganayagam, Minwalla

Holography (II)

[Erdmenger et al. arXiv:0809.2488](#)

[Banerjee et al. arXiv:0809.2596](#)

considered N=4 super Yang Mills at strong coupling
finite T and μ


should be described by a hydrodynamic theory

discovered that there is a current \sim vorticity

Found the kinetic coefficient $\xi(T, \mu)$

$$\xi = \frac{N^2}{4\sqrt{3}\pi^2} \mu^2 \left(\sqrt{1 + \frac{2}{3} \frac{\mu^2}{\pi^2 T^2}} + 1 \right) \left(3\sqrt{1 + \frac{2}{3} \frac{\mu^2}{\pi^2 T^2}} - 1 \right)^{-1}$$

Fluid-gravity correspondence

- Long-distance dynamics of black-brane horizons (in AdS) are described by hydrodynamic equations
 - finite-T field theory \leftrightarrow AdS black holes
- described by hydrodynamics 
- Charged black branes in Einstein-Maxwell theory: hydrodynamics with conserved charges
- Anomalies: Chern-Simons term in 5D action of gauge fields

A holographic fluid

$$S = \frac{1}{8\pi G} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left(R - 12 - \frac{1}{4} F_{AB}^2 + \frac{4\kappa}{3} \epsilon^{LABCD} A_L F_{AB} F_{CD} \right)$$

↑
encodes anomalies

Black brane solution (Eddington coordinates)

$$ds^2 = 2dvdr - r^2 f(r, m, q) dv^2 + r^2 d\vec{x}^2 \quad f(m, q, r) = 1 - \frac{m^4}{r^4} + \frac{q^2}{r^6}$$

$$A_0(r) = \# \frac{q}{r^2}$$

Boosted black brane: also a solution

$$ds^2 = -2u_\mu dx^\mu dr + r^2 (P_{\mu\nu} - f u_\mu u_\nu) dx^\mu dx^\nu$$

$$A_\mu(r) = -u_\mu \# \frac{q}{r^2}$$

Promoting parameters into variables

$$u_\mu \rightarrow u_\mu(x) \quad m \rightarrow m(x) \quad q \rightarrow q(x)$$

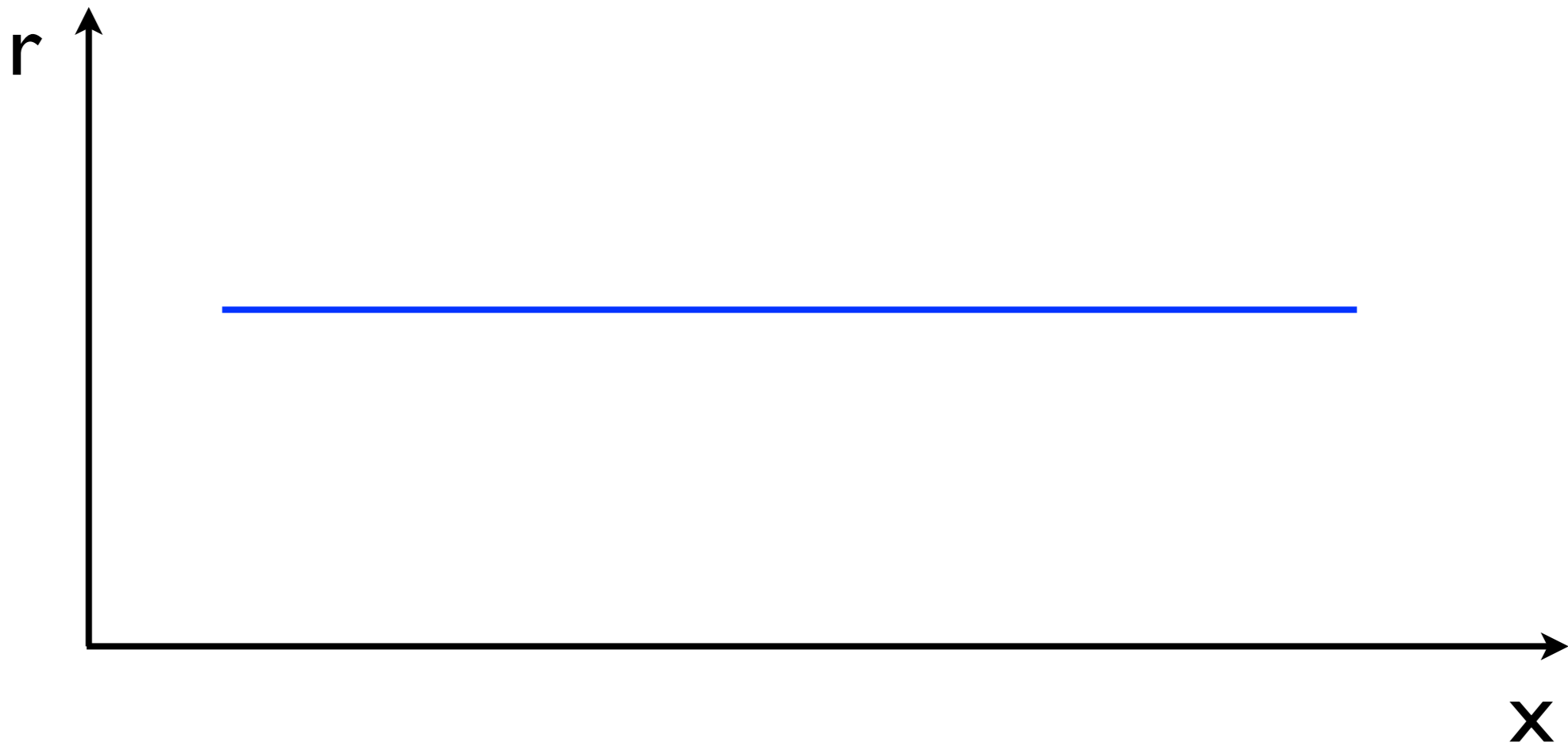
$$g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}(m, q, u) + g_{\mu\nu}^1$$

proportional to $\nabla m, \nabla q, \nabla u$

Solve for g^1 perturbatively in derivatives

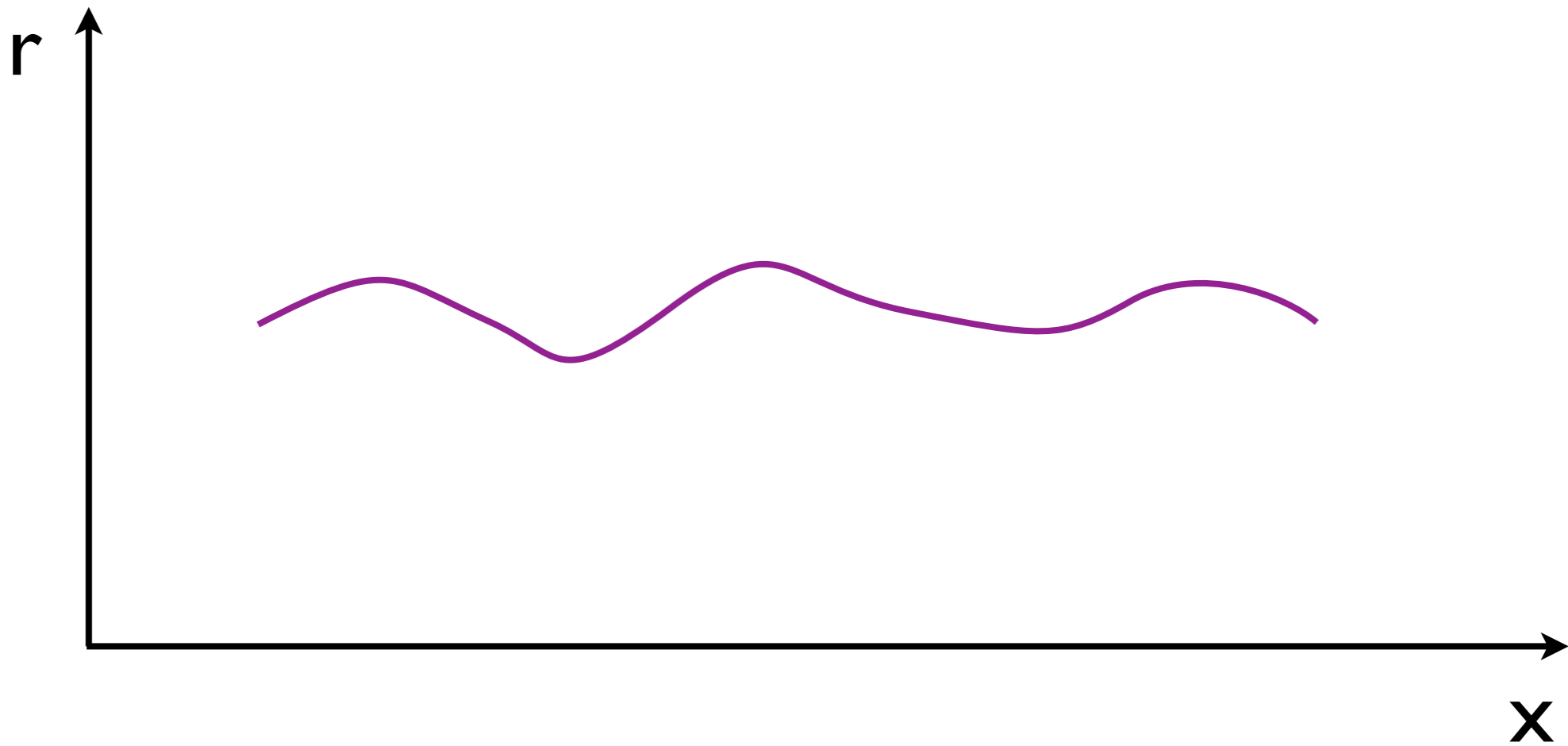
Condition: no singularity outside the horizon

In picture



BH horizon in equilibrium

In picture



BH horizon out of equilibrium

Learning from holography

- Chern-Simons term enters the equation of motion

$$\square A^\mu \sim \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\alpha\beta} F_{\nu\lambda} F_{\alpha\beta}$$

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\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow
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$A_i \sim u_i$

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\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow
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$A_i \sim u_i$

- This lead to correction to the gauge field
 - $\delta A_i \sim \epsilon_{ijk} \partial_j u_k$
- Current is read out from asymptotics of A near the boundary: $j \sim \omega$

Back to hydrodynamics

- How can the argument based on 2nd law of thermodynamics fail?
 - 2nd law not valid? unlikely...
 - Maybe we were not careful enough?

$$\partial_\mu s^\mu = \dots - \xi \omega^\mu \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\mu}{T} \right)$$

Can this be a total derivative?

If yes, then all we need to do is to modify s^μ

$$s^\mu \rightarrow s^\mu + D(T, \mu) \omega^\mu$$

so our task is to find D so that

$$\partial_{\mu}[D(T, \mu)\omega^{\mu}] = \xi(T, \mu)\omega^{\mu}\partial_{\mu}\left(\frac{\mu}{T}\right)$$

for all solutions to hydrodynamic equations

This is possible for a special class of $\xi(T, \mu)$ (expressible in terms of a function of 1 variable: μ/T)

but we are still not able to relate ξ to anomalies

Turning on external fields

- To see where anomalies enter, we turn on external background U(1) field A_μ
- Theory still makes sense if A_μ is non dynamical
- Now the energy-momentum and charge are not conserved

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = F^{\nu\lambda} j_\lambda$$

$$\partial_\mu j^\mu = -\frac{C}{8} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} F^{\mu\nu} F^{\lambda\rho}$$

- Power counting: $A \sim 1$, $F \sim O(p)$: right hand side has to be taken into account

Anomalous hydrodynamics

- These equations have to be supplemented by the constitutive relations:

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu + P g^{\mu\nu} \text{ +viscosities}$$

$$j^\mu = nu^\mu + \xi\omega^\mu + \xi_B B^\mu \quad B^\mu = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}u_\nu F_{\alpha\beta}$$

+diffusion+Ohmic current

- We demand that there exist an entropy current with positive derivative: $\partial_\mu s^\mu \geq 0$
- The most general entropy current is

$$s^\mu = su^\mu - \frac{\mu}{T}v^\mu + D\omega^\mu + D_B B^\mu$$

Entropy production

- Positivity of entropy production completely fixes all functions ξ , ξ_B , D , D_B

$$\xi = C \left(\mu^2 - \frac{2}{3} \frac{n\mu^3}{\epsilon + P} \right)$$

anomaly coefficient

$$\xi_B = C \left(\mu - \frac{1}{2} \frac{n\mu^2}{\epsilon + P} \right)$$

$$j^\mu = \dots + \xi \omega^\mu + \xi_B B^\mu$$

These expressions have been checked for N=4 SYM

A more convenient “frame”

$$j^\mu = nu^\mu + C\mu^2\omega^\mu$$

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu + Pg^{\mu\nu} + \frac{2}{3}C\mu^3(u^\mu\omega^\nu + u^\nu\omega^\mu)$$

can be eliminated by redefinition of u



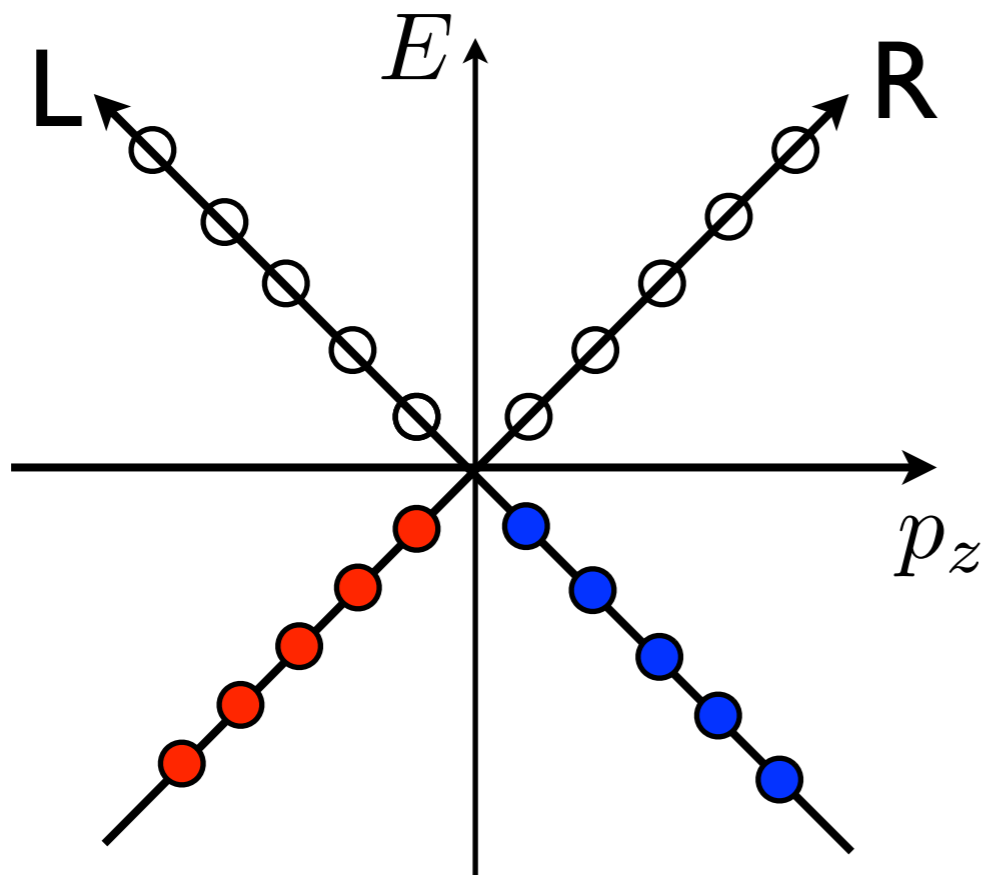
anomalous terms are “quantized”

Current induced by magnetic field

Spectrum of Dirac operator:

$$E^2 = 2nB + p_z^2$$

All states LR degenerate except for $n=0$



$$j_L \sim -C\mu B$$

$$j_R \sim C\mu B$$

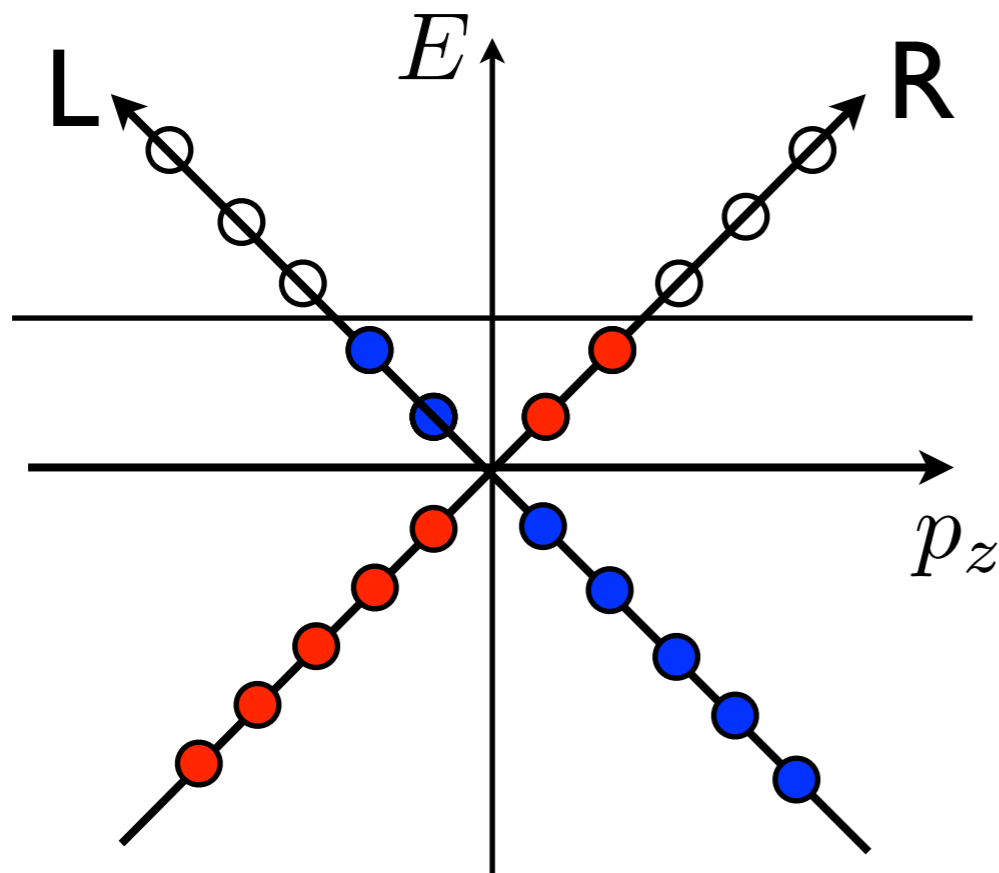
$$j_5 = j_R - j_L \sim C\mu B$$

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If there is only right-handed fermions:

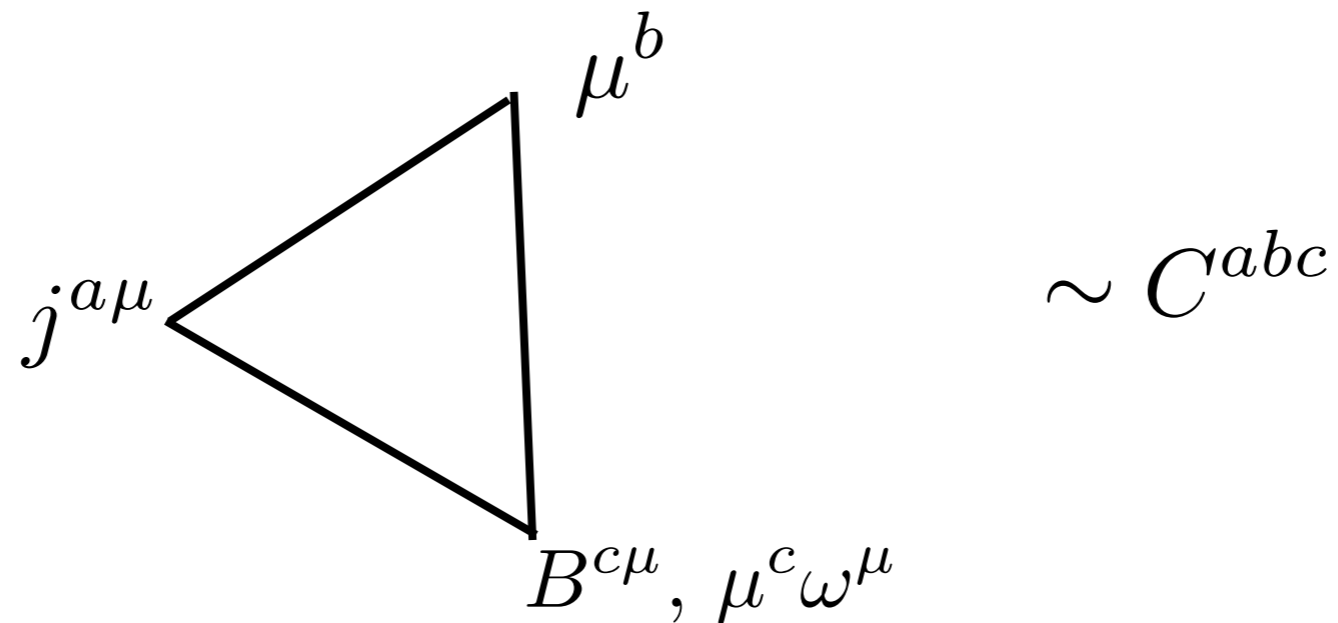
$$j^\mu = nu^\mu + C\mu B^\mu$$
$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu + \frac{C}{2}\mu^2(u^\mu B^\nu + u^\nu B^\mu)$$

going to the Landau-Lifshitz frame gives the correct ξ_B

No similar picture for vorticity induced current

Multiple charges

In the case when there are multiple conserved charges:
anomalous contribution to each current



$$j^{a\mu} = \dots + \#C^{abc} \mu^b \mu^c \omega^\mu + \#C^{abc} \mu^b B^{c\mu}$$

(these are gauge invariant, non-conserved currents)

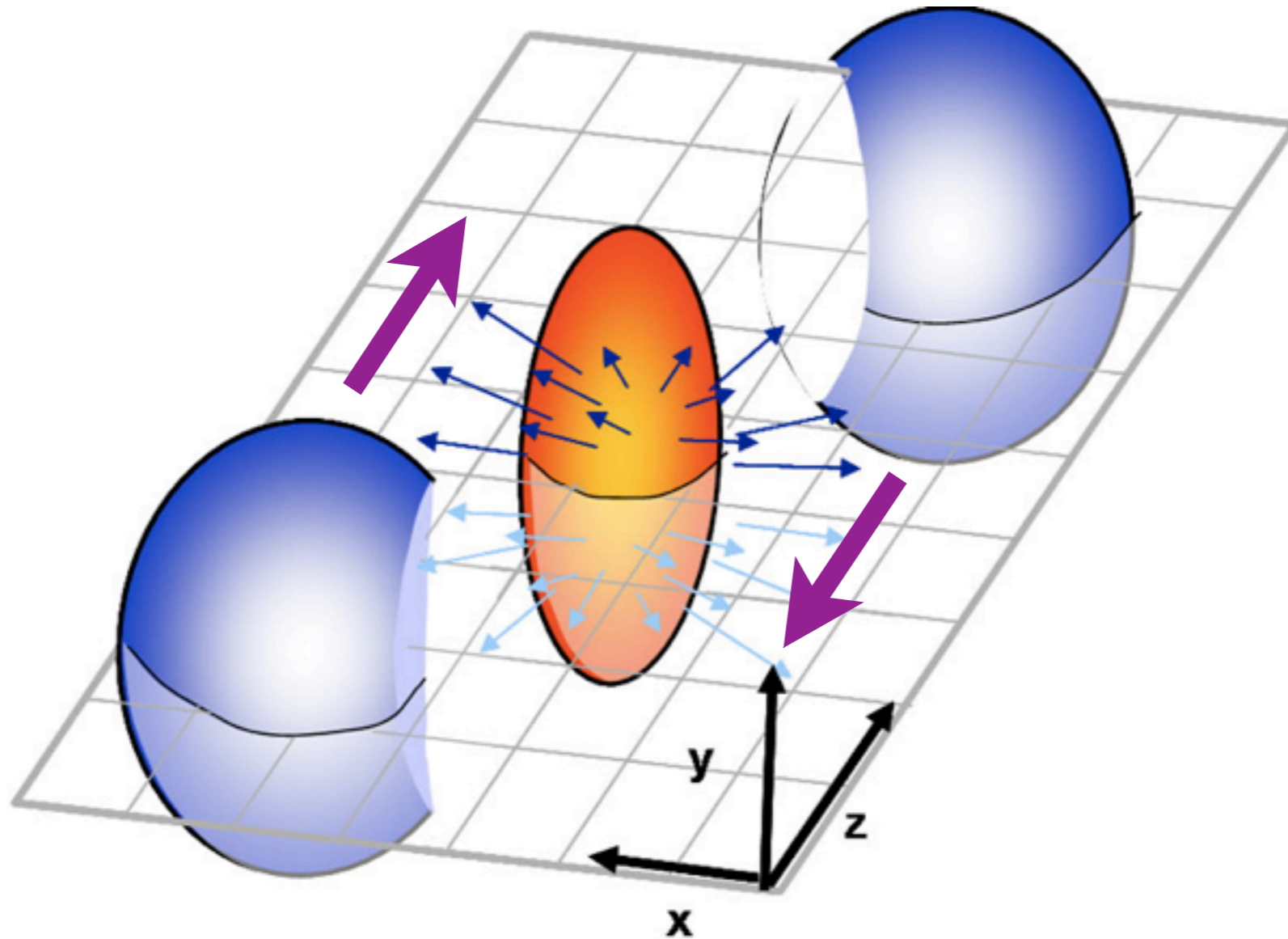
Multiple charges (II)

Example: theory with one massless Dirac fermion

$$j^\mu = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} (2\mu\mu_5\omega^\mu + \mu_5 B^\mu + \mu B_5^\mu)$$

$$j_5^\mu = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} ((\mu^2 + \mu_5^2)\omega^\mu + \mu B^\mu + \mu_5 B_5^\mu)$$

Observable effect on heavy-ion collisions?

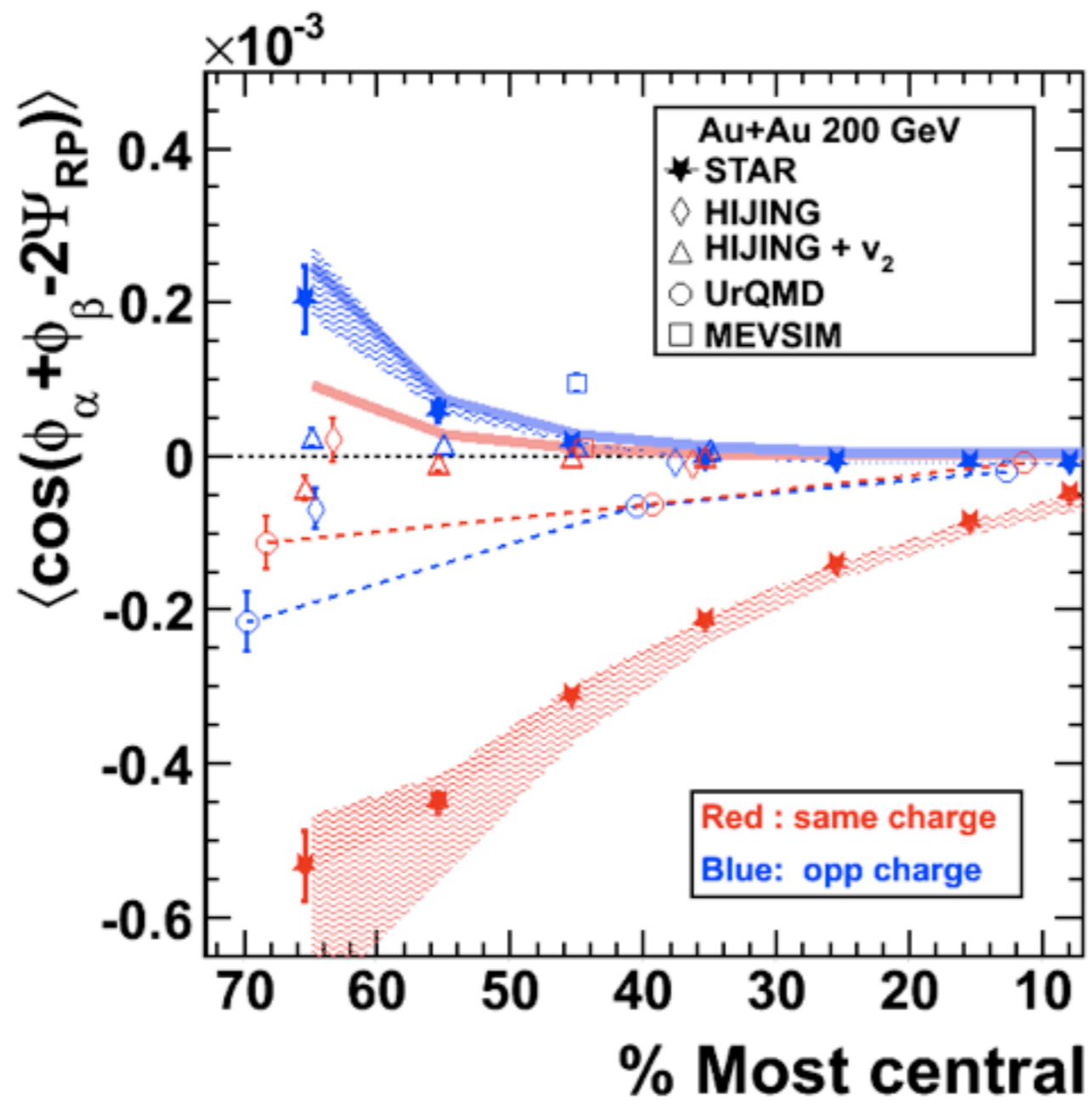


Chiral charges accumulate at the poles: what happens when they decay?

“Chiral magnetic effect”

- Large axial chemical potential μ_5 for some reason
- Leads to a vector current: charge separation
- π^+ and π^- would have anticorrelation in momenta
- Some experimental signal?
- Attempts to explain the signal by $j \sim \mu_5 \mathbf{B}$ [Kharzeev et al](#)

STAR result



Abelev et al. PRL 2009 (arxiv:0909.1739)

From kinetic theory?

- The anomalous hydrodynamics current also exists in weakly coupled theories
- Should be derivable from kinetic theory, for example from Landau's Fermi liquid theories
- which kind of corrections to Landau's Fermi liquid theory?
 - should distinguish left- and right-handed quarks
- Berry's curvature on the Fermi surface?

Conclusions

- Anomalies affect hydrodynamic behavior of relativistic fluids
- First seen in holographic models, but can be found by reconciling anomalies and 2nd law
- Further studies of experimental significance needed
- Anomalies in Landau's Fermi liquid theory?