

# On the effective action in hydrodynamics

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# Outline

Introduction

Effective action: Phenomenology

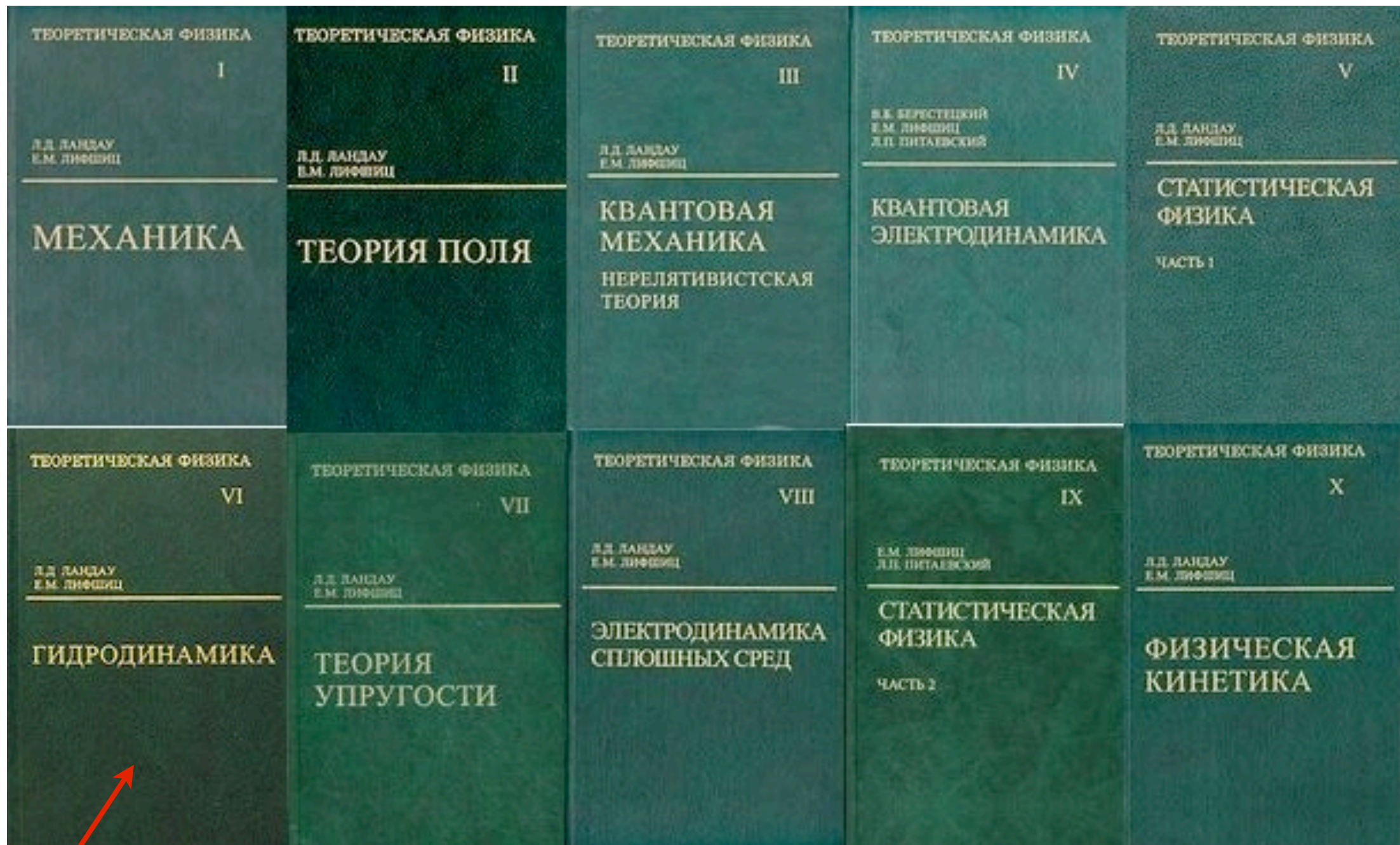
Effective action: Bottom-up

Effective action: Top-down

Questions



# What is hydrodynamics?



all here

# Basic hydrodynamics

Symmetry  $\Rightarrow$  conservation laws

conserved density

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}$$

spatial current

$\rho$  = number density, momentum density, energy density

# Cooking ingredients

Variables: velocity, temperature, B fields, superfluids, liquid crystals, ...

Symmetries: Galilean, Lorentz, anomalies, external sources...

Derivative expansion:  $J=J(u, \partial u, \partial^2 u, \dots)$

Constraints: Onsager relations, entropy current, ...

# Predictions of hydro can be tested

PHYSICAL REVIEW A

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1970

## Decay of the Velocity Autocorrelation Function\*

B. J. Alder and T. E. Wainwright

*Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Livermore, California 94550*

(Received 10 July 1969)

Molecular-dynamic studies of the behavior of the diffusion coefficient after a long time  $s$  have shown that the velocity autocorrelation function decays as  $s^{-1}$  for hard disks and as  $s^{-3/2}$  for hard spheres, at least at intermediate fluid densities. A hydrodynamic similarity solution

$$\langle v(t)v(0) \rangle \sim \frac{1}{t^{d/2}} \quad \leftarrow \text{hydrodynamics fails at long times}$$

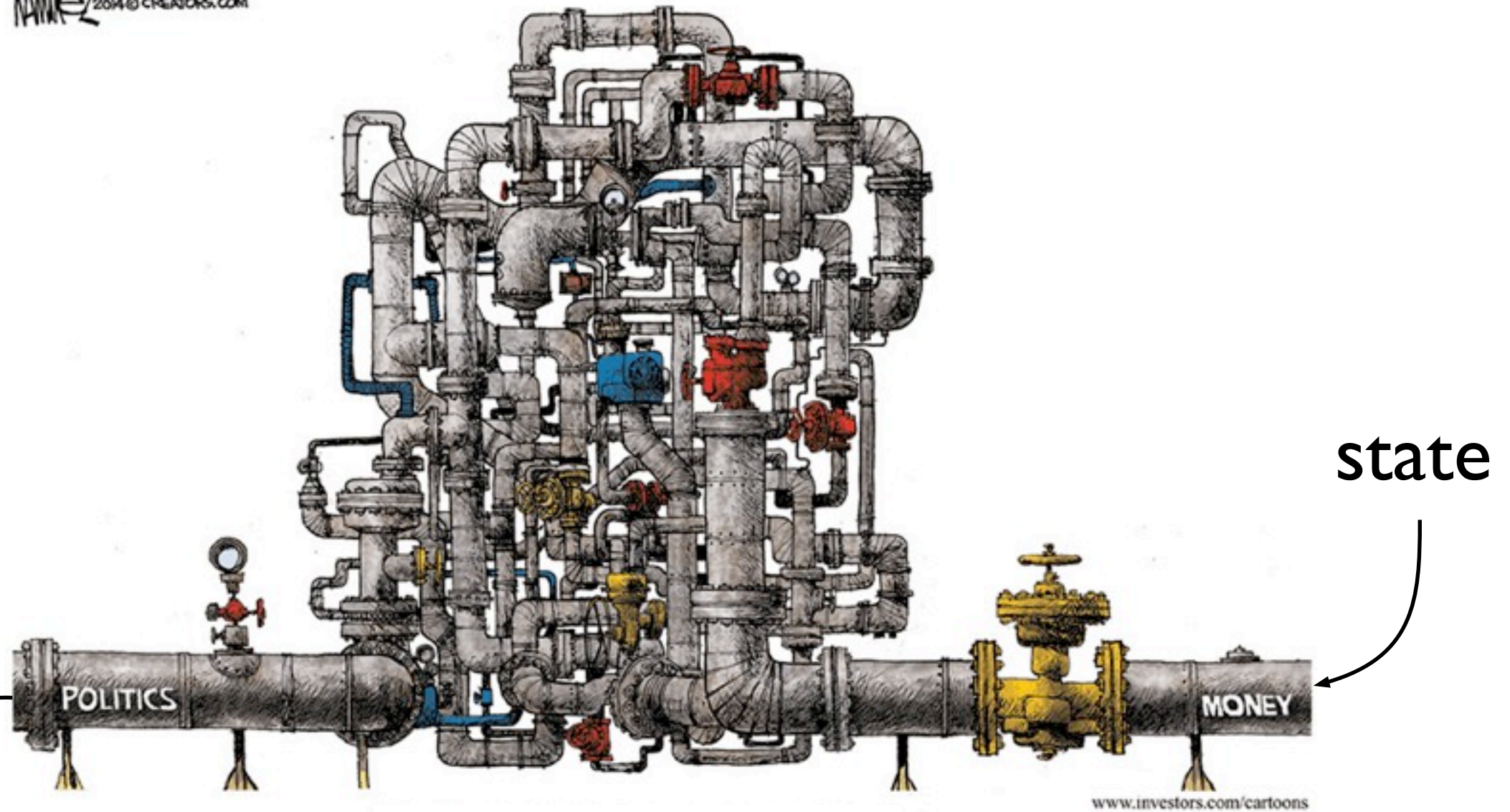
$$D = \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} (D_0 + \text{const } \omega^{1/2}), \quad d = 3$$

$$D = \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} (D_0 + \text{const } \ln \omega), \quad d = 2$$



# Want an incredible machine

RAVIERO WEEKLY STANDARD  
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$$\langle T_{ab}(x_1) T_{cd}(x_2) \dots \rangle$$

- all orderings: partially retarded etc
- knows about FDT
- good for  $\omega, k \rightarrow 0$

knows about long-time tails

# Want an incredible machine

$$W[g] = \int D\Phi \exp(iS_{\text{eff}}[\Phi, g])$$

Q: what are  $\Phi$ ,  $g$ , and  $S_{\text{eff}}$  ?

state

$$\langle T_{ab}(x_1) T_{cd}(x_2) \dots \rangle$$

all orderings: partially retarded etc

knows about FDT

good for  $\omega, k \rightarrow 0$

knows about long-time tails



# Main question

How do you build the incredible machine?

The point of the action is to provide a weight in the path integral.

The point of the path integral is to build the generating functional.

In a classical thermal system, path integral = thermal fluctuations.

What is the action for that path integral?

# Main question

How do you do low-energy effective field theory  
in a thermal state?

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# Linear hydro fluctuations



all here

$$T_{ij} = T_{ij}^{\text{cl}} + \tau_{ij} \quad \leftarrow \text{Gaussian noise } \langle \tau_{ij}(x) \tau_{kl}(y) \rangle = 2T G_{ijkl} \delta(x-y)$$

$$\text{Solve } \partial_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \delta v^i = \delta v^i[\tau], \quad \delta T = \delta T[\tau]$$

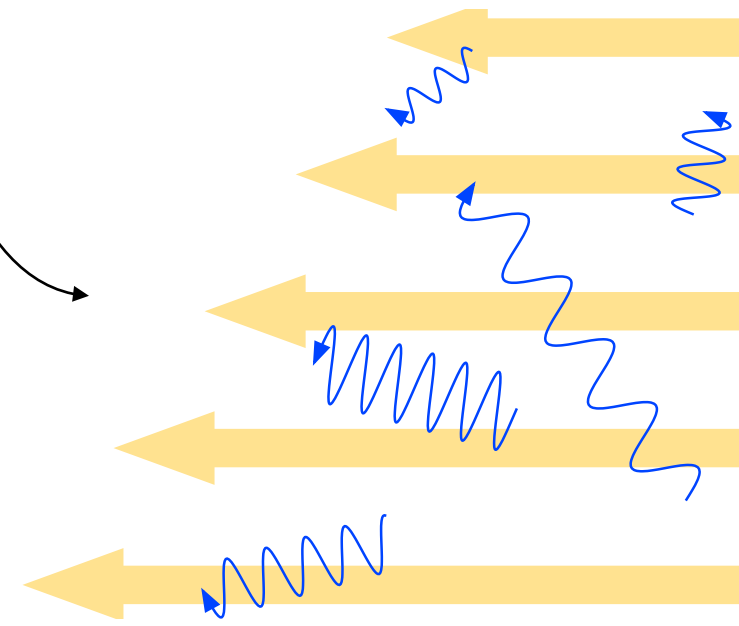
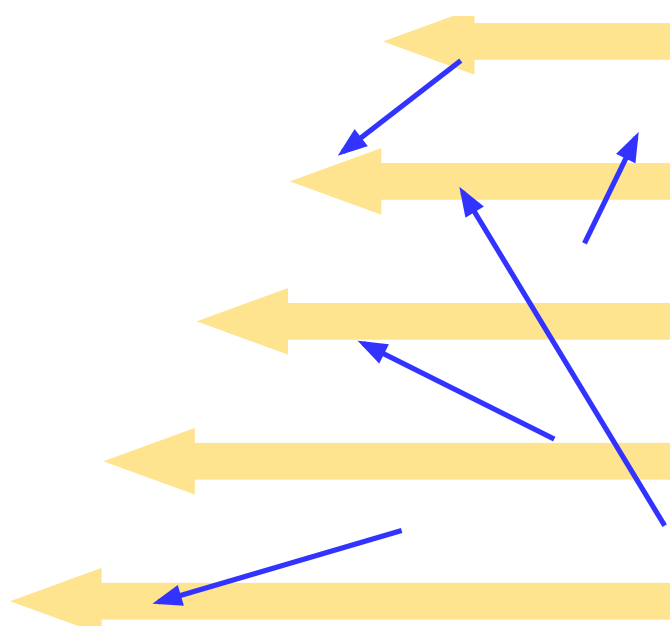
Get  $\langle \delta T \delta T \rangle$ ,  $\langle \delta v^i \delta v^j \rangle$ ,  $\langle T^{ij} T^{kl} \rangle$ , Kubo formulas...

# Non-linear hydro fluctuations

$$T^{ij} = \dots + (\epsilon + p)v^i v^j + \dots + \tau^{ij}$$

linear leading non-linear,  
no derivatives term higher order

$$\langle T_{xy} T_{xy} \rangle = 2T\eta + (\epsilon + p) \langle \delta v \delta v \rangle$$



# Example: viscosity in 3+1 dim

$$\langle T_{xy} T_{xy} \rangle^R = p + O(\Lambda^3 T) - i\omega \left( \eta + \frac{17T^2 \Lambda}{120\pi^2 \eta/s} \right) + O\left( \frac{\omega^{3/2}}{(\eta/s)^{3/2}} \right) + O(\omega^2)$$

0-th order classical      1-st order classical      2-nd order classical

correction to p      correction to  $\eta$       cutoff-independent

Total physical viscosity includes all such corrections

Function  $\eta + 1/\eta$  has a minimum, lower bound on  $\eta_{\text{tot}}$ ?



Small viscosity implies large corrections

Quark-gluon plasma at  $T \gtrsim T_c$  : corrections are large for  $\eta/s=0.08$

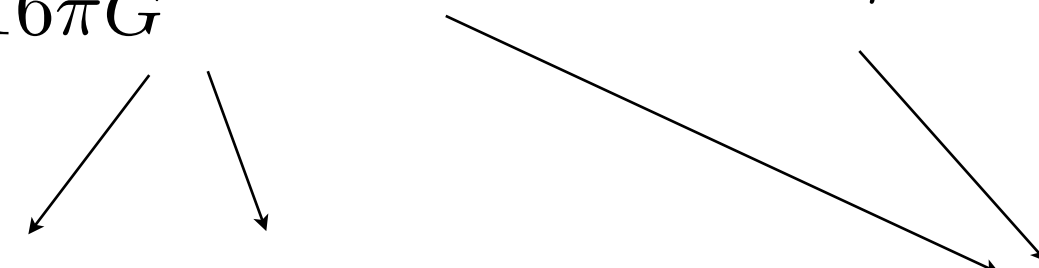


# Analogy with gravity

Classical hydro:  $T_{\text{cl}}^{\mu\nu} = T_{(0)}^{\mu\nu} + T_{(1)}^{\mu\nu} + T_{(2)}^{\mu\nu} + \dots$


$$G_{xy,xy}(\omega) = O(1) + O(\omega) + O(\omega^{3/2}) + O(\omega^2) + \dots$$


Classical gravity:  $S = \int d^4x \left[ \frac{1}{16\pi G} R + c_1 R^2 + c_2 R^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu} + \dots \right]$


$$V(r) = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{r} \left[ 1 + O\left(\frac{Gm}{r}\right) + O\left(\frac{G\hbar}{r^2}\right) + O(e^{-m_0 r}) \right]$$

$$m_0 \sim (c_i G)^{-1/2}$$

Classical: [Stelle 1978](#)

Quantum: [Bjerrum-Bohr, Donoghue, Holstein, 2002](#)

# Example: charge conductivity in 2+1 dim

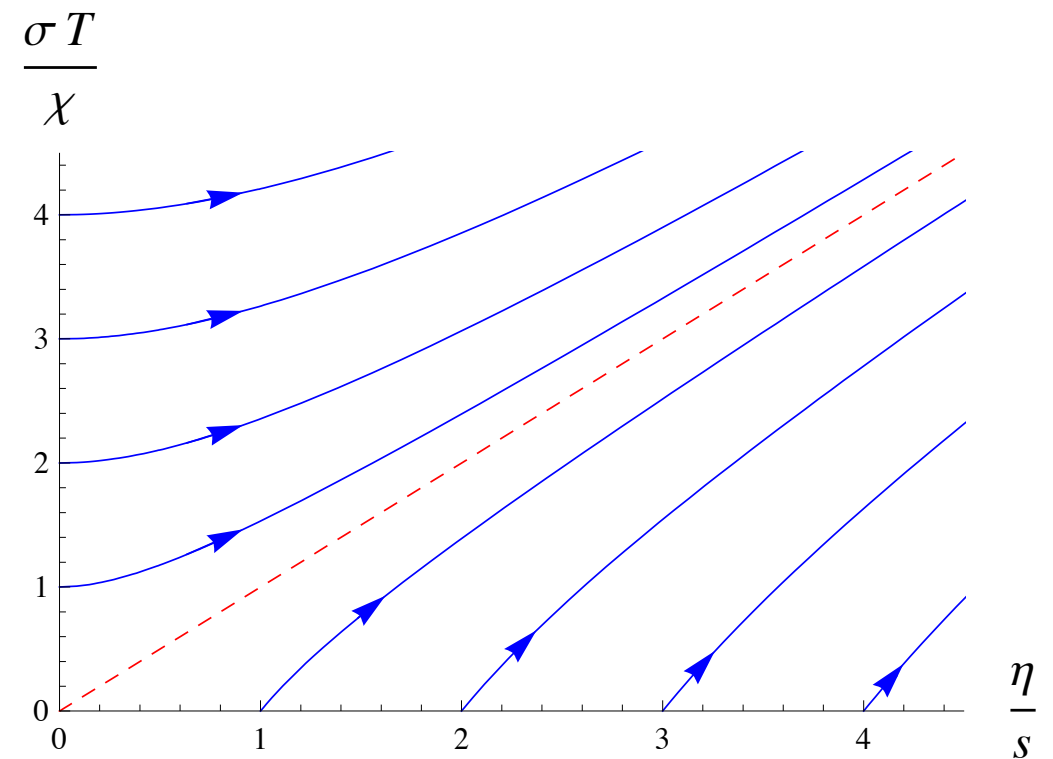
2+1 dim:  $\eta = \eta_0 + O(\ln \omega)$ ,  $\sigma = \sigma_0 + O(\ln \omega)$

Running viscosity:  $\eta(\lambda) \equiv \eta(\omega = \lambda)$ ,  $\sigma(\lambda) \equiv \sigma(\omega = \lambda)$ ,  $g_\eta \equiv \eta/s$ ,  $g_\sigma \equiv \sigma T/\chi$

$$\lambda \frac{\partial g_\eta}{\partial \lambda} = -\frac{1}{16\pi c} \frac{1}{g_\eta},$$

$$\lambda \frac{\partial g_\sigma}{\partial \lambda} = -\frac{1}{8\pi c} \frac{1}{g_\sigma + g_\eta}$$

$s/T^2$ , counts d.o.f.



IR “fixed line” as  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  :

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{\sigma T}{\chi}$$

These were bits and pieces of the machine

How do we build the full incredible machine?



# Building machine: just add the noise

$$\partial_\mu (T_{\text{cl}}^{\mu\nu} + \tau^{\mu\nu}) = 0$$

$$T_{\text{cl}}^{\mu\nu} = \epsilon u^\mu u^\nu + p \Delta^{\mu\nu} - G^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha u_\beta$$

viscosities & projectors,  
standard Landau-Lifshitz hydro

$$\langle \tau_{\mu\nu}(x) \tau_{\alpha\beta}(y) \rangle = 2T G_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \delta(x-y)$$

same  $G_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}$  for FDT in equilibrium

Get stochastic differential eq-s with multiplicative noise

Discretization ambiguities...

# Effective action for dissipative relativistic fluids

Integrate out the noise:

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \int dt d^d x \left[ i \partial_\mu \tilde{\phi}_\nu T_{\text{cl}}^{\mu\nu} + T \partial_\mu \tilde{\phi}_\nu G^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \partial_\lambda \tilde{\phi}_\sigma + \text{ghost} \right]$$

exponentiating the Jacobian

Where is the derivative expansion?

Where is the “frame” invariance?

How to get all types of correlation functions?

Why is the noise Gaussian?

UV divergences?

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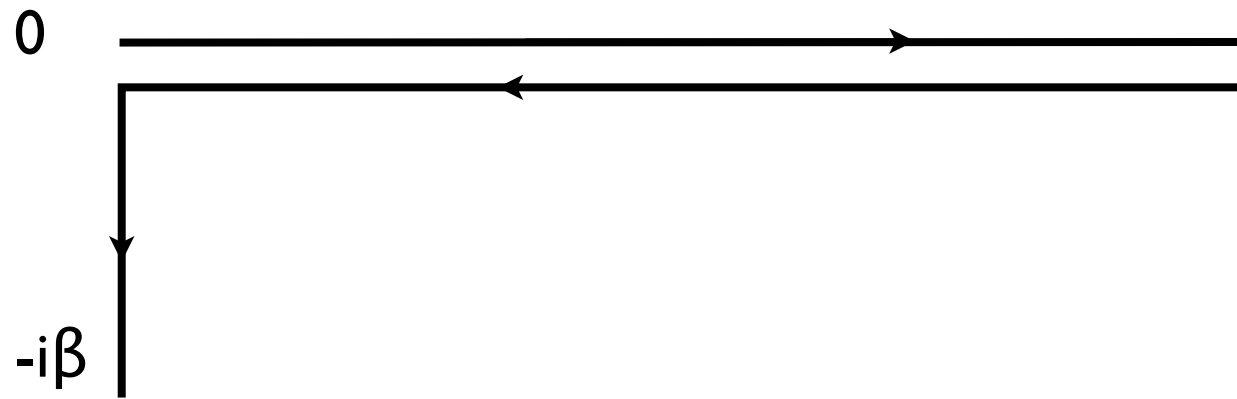
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# Finite-temperature field theory



$$\varphi_r = \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2)$$

$$\varphi_a = \varphi_1 - \varphi_2$$

$$G^{\text{Ret}} = -i\langle\varphi_r\varphi_a\rangle$$

$$G^{\text{Adv}} = -i\langle\varphi_a\varphi_r\rangle$$

$$G^{\text{Symm}} = 2\langle\varphi_r\varphi_r\rangle$$

# Example: diffusion

$$G_{nn}^{\text{Ret}} = \frac{D\chi\mathbf{k}^2}{i\omega - D\mathbf{k}^2}, \quad G_{nn}^{\text{Adv}} = \frac{-D\chi\mathbf{k}^2}{i\omega + D\mathbf{k}^2}, \quad G_{nn}^{\text{Symm}} = \frac{4TD\chi\mathbf{k}^2}{\omega^2 + (D\mathbf{k}^2)^2}$$

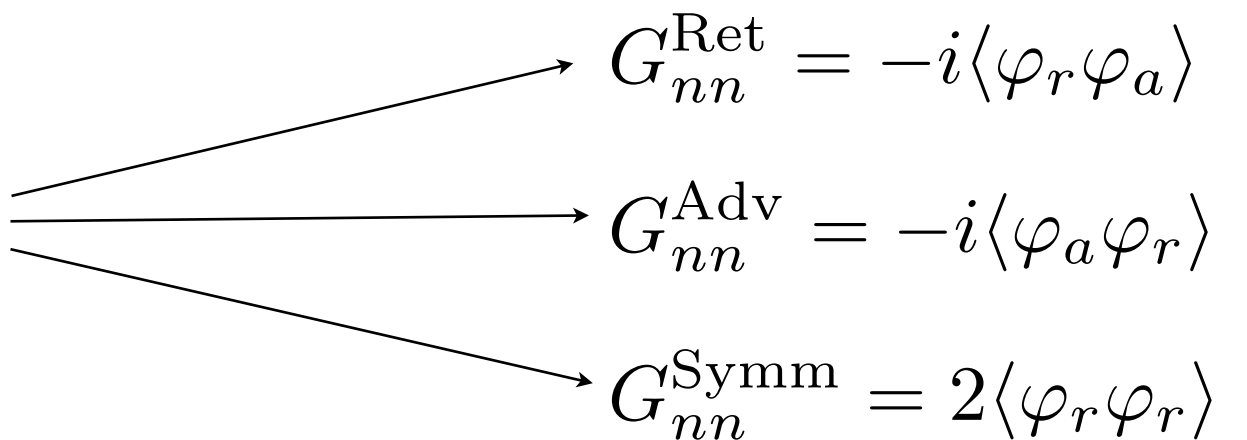
$i\omega - D\mathbf{k}^2$  from diffusion eqn  $\partial_t n - D\nabla^2 n = 0$

$\chi = (\partial n / \partial \mu)_{\mu=0}$  susceptibility, from coupling to the source

$T = \text{temperature}$ , from FDT

Q: What is  $S_{\text{eff}}[\varphi_r, \varphi_a]$  which gives

in  $\int D\varphi_r D\varphi_a \exp[iS_{\text{eff}}] \dots?$


$$G_{nn}^{\text{Ret}} = -i\langle \varphi_r \varphi_a \rangle$$
$$G_{nn}^{\text{Adv}} = -i\langle \varphi_a \varphi_r \rangle$$
$$G_{nn}^{\text{Symm}} = 2\langle \varphi_r \varphi_r \rangle$$

A: Such  $S_{\text{eff}}$  is easy to find, but it is non-local.

# Diffusion: effective action

Add auxiliary fields

Add external sources

Make Lorentz-invariant

Make r- and a-gauge invariant

$$Z[A_r, A_a] = \int D\phi_r D\phi_a e^{iS[\phi_r, \phi_a, A_r, A_a]}$$

$$S = \int dt d^d x \left( J_{\text{cl}}^\mu[\phi_r, A_r] D_\mu \phi_a + iT\sigma \Delta^{\mu\nu} D_\mu \phi_a D_\nu \phi_a \right)$$

hydro current  
n or  $\mu$

physical gauge field

$\partial_\mu \phi_a + A_\mu^a$   
set to zero at the end

This gives all  $\langle J_\mu J_\nu \rangle^{R, A, S}$  in equilibrium

# Linear hydro: effective action

$$Z[h_r, h_a] = \int D\phi_\mu^r D\phi_\mu^a e^{iS[\phi^r, \phi^a, h_r, h_a]}$$

$$S = \int dt d^d x \sqrt{-g_r} \left( T_{\text{cl}}^{\mu\nu}[\phi_r, g_r] \mathcal{D}_\mu \phi_\nu^a + iT \mathcal{D}_\mu \phi_\nu^a G^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \mathcal{D}_\alpha \phi_\beta^a \right)$$

hydro E-M tensor

$\beta_\mu$

physical metric

$\frac{1}{2} (h_{\mu\nu}^a - \nabla_\mu^r \phi_\nu^a - \nabla_\nu^r \phi_\mu^a)$

set to zero at the end

This gives all  $\langle T_{\mu\nu} T_{\alpha\beta} \rangle^{R,A,S}$  in equilibrium

Whatever  $S_{\text{eff}}$  is, it must reduce to this near equilibrium



# Full hydro effective action?

$$S = \int dt d^d x \sqrt{-g_r} \left( T_{\text{cl}}^{\mu\nu} [\phi_r, g_r] \mathcal{D}_\mu \phi_\nu^a + iT \mathcal{D}_\mu \phi_\nu^a G^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \mathcal{D}_\alpha \phi_\beta^a \right)$$

Small fluctuations only (2-point functions)

Derivative expansion not obvious

Need to understand the symmetries

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# Effective action: first pass

Near equilibrium  $\beta^\mu = \bar{\beta}^\mu + \beta'^\mu$

Choose  $T=1/(-\beta\cdot\beta)^{1/2}$ ,  $u^\mu=T\beta^\mu$  as variables

Derivative expansion:

$$\Gamma = \int dt d^d x \sqrt{-g} \left( p(T) + a(T) \nabla \cdot u + b(T) \dot{T} + \dots \right)$$

Vary w.r.t.  $g$ , keep  $\beta$  fixed:

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \underbrace{p g^{\mu\nu} + T p' u^\mu u^\nu}_{\text{normal perfect fluid}} + \underbrace{(b-a') \left( \Delta^{\mu\nu} \dot{T} - T u^\mu u^\nu \nabla \cdot u \right)}_{\text{can be set to zero by a frame choice}}$$

No dissipation here

# Symmetries

CTP generating functional:

$$Z_\rho[j_1, j_2] = \int d\tilde{q}_1 d\tilde{q}_2 dq_f \langle \tilde{q}_1 | \rho | \tilde{q}_2 \rangle \int_{\tilde{q}_1}^{q_f} Dq_1 \int_{\tilde{q}_2}^{q_f} Dq_2 e^{i \int_{t_0}^{t_f} L(q_1, j_1) - i \int_{t_0}^{t_f} L(q_2, j_2)}$$

1. Local symmetries:

$$Z_\rho[j_1, j_2] = Z_{\rho'}[j_1 + \delta_{\xi_1} j_1, j_2 + \delta_{\xi_2} j_2]$$

2. Can use r,a variables:  $q_r = (q_1 + q_2)/2$ ,  $q_a = q_1 - q_2$

$$S[q_1, j_1] - S[q_2, j_2] = \int q_a EOM(q_r, j_r) + O(j_a, q_a^2)$$

3. Normalization:

$$Z_\rho[j_1, j_1] = 1$$

# Conservation laws: 1 and 2

$$\delta_g W[g^1, g^2] = \int \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{-g^1} \langle T_1^{\mu\nu} \rangle \delta g_{\mu\nu}^1 - \int \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{-g^2} \langle T_2^{\mu\nu} \rangle \delta g_{\mu\nu}^2$$

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu}^1 = g_{\mu\lambda}^1 \partial_\nu \xi_1^\lambda + g_{\nu\lambda}^1 \partial_\mu \xi_1^\lambda + \partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu}^1 \xi_1^\lambda, \quad \delta g_{\mu\nu}^2 = g_{\mu\lambda}^2 \partial_\nu \xi_2^\lambda + g_{\nu\lambda}^2 \partial_\mu \xi_2^\lambda + \partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu}^2 \xi_2^\lambda$$

Diffeo invariance of  $W[g^1, g^2]$  gives

$$\nabla_\mu^1 \langle T_1^{\mu\nu} \rangle = 0, \quad \nabla_\mu^2 \langle T_2^{\mu\nu} \rangle = 0$$

not useful b/c hydro variables are r-fields



# Conservation laws: r and a

Define r- and a-sources:  $g^r \equiv \frac{1}{2} (g^1 + g^2)$ ,  $g^a \equiv g^1 - g^2$   
 physical metric                      set to zero at the end

$$\sqrt{-g^r} \langle T_r^{\mu\nu} \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{-g^1} \langle T_1^{\mu\nu} \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{-g^2} \langle T_2^{\mu\nu} \rangle \quad \text{physical stress tensor}$$

$$\sqrt{-g^r} \langle T_a^{\mu\nu} \rangle \equiv \sqrt{-g^1} \langle T_1^{\mu\nu} \rangle - \sqrt{-g^2} \langle T_2^{\mu\nu} \rangle$$

Diffeo invariance of  $W[g^1, g^2]$  gives

$$g_{\nu\lambda}^r \nabla_\mu \langle T_r^{\mu\nu} \rangle + \frac{1}{4} (g_{\nu\lambda}^a \partial_\mu \langle T_a^{\mu\nu} \rangle + \Gamma_{\lambda\mu\nu}^a \langle T_a^{\mu\nu} \rangle + g_{\nu\lambda}^a \Gamma_{\rho\mu}^{\rho r} \langle T_a^{\mu\nu} \rangle) = 0,$$

$$g_{\nu\lambda}^r \nabla_\mu \langle T_a^{\mu\nu} \rangle + g_{\nu\lambda}^a \partial_\mu \langle T_r^{\mu\nu} \rangle + \Gamma_{\lambda\mu\nu}^a \langle T_r^{\mu\nu} \rangle + g_{\nu\lambda}^a \Gamma_{\rho\mu}^{\rho r} \langle T_r^{\mu\nu} \rangle = 0$$

$$\Gamma_{\lambda\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu g_{\nu\lambda} + \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda} - \partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu}), \quad \nabla_\mu \equiv \nabla_\mu^r$$

# Main problem

To manifest the symmetries, need 1- and 2-fields

To write down hydro e.o.m., need r- and a-fields

# A proposal

Realize the symmetries as if  $D_1 \times D_2 \rightarrow D_r$

$D_r$  manifest in hydro

$a$ -type d.o.f.  $\xi_a \rightarrow \varphi_a$  look like Goldstone bosons

# Structure of the effective action

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \mathcal{I}_r + \mathcal{J}_r \mathcal{D}\varphi_a + \mathcal{K}_r (\mathcal{D}\varphi_a)^2 + \dots$$

$\uparrow$   
 $O(a^0)$

$\uparrow$   
 $O(a)$

$\uparrow$   
 $O(a^2)$

$\mathcal{I}_r$ : contains thermodynamics

$\mathcal{J}_r$ : classical hydro equations

$\mathcal{K}_r$ : responsible for FDT

Different orders in the  $a$ -expansion are not independent

# Effective action for the neutral fluid

Up to  $O(a)$  can work with  $r$ - and  $a$ -diffeos instead of  $l$ - and  $2$ -diffeos

Variables:

$\beta^\mu$  vector under  $r$ , singlet under  $a$

$\varphi_a^\mu$  vector under  $r$ , shifts under  $a$

Data to construct  $S_{\text{eff}}$  :

$$T = 1/\sqrt{-\beta \cdot \beta}$$

$$u^\mu = \beta^\mu / \sqrt{-\beta \cdot \beta}$$

$$g_{\mu\nu}^r$$

$$\xi_{\mu\nu}^a \equiv g_{\mu\nu}^a - \nabla_\mu \varphi_\nu^a - \nabla_\nu \varphi_\mu^a$$

# Effective action for the neutral fluid

Scalars up to  $O(a)$  and  $O(\partial^0)$ :

$$\alpha_1 \equiv T, \quad \alpha_2 \equiv u^\mu u^\nu \xi_{\mu\nu}^a, \quad \alpha_3 \equiv g_r^{\mu\nu} \xi_{\mu\nu}^a$$

Scalars up to  $O(a)$  and  $O(\partial)$ :

$$\dot{\alpha}_i, \quad \nabla_\mu u^\mu, \quad u^\mu \xi_{\mu\nu}^a \nabla^\nu T, \quad \xi_{\mu\nu}^a \nabla^\mu u^\nu, \quad u^\mu \xi_{\mu\nu}^a \dot{u}^\nu, \quad u^\mu u^\nu \dot{\xi}_{\mu\nu}^a, \quad u^\mu \nabla^\nu \xi_{\mu\nu}^a$$

integrate by parts

Effective action up to  $O(a)$  and up to  $O(\partial)$ :

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g_r} \left[ F + f_1 \dot{T} + f_2 \nabla_\mu u^\mu + f_3 \xi_{\mu\nu}^a u^{(\mu} \nabla^{\nu)} T + f_4 \xi_{\mu\nu}^a \nabla^{(\mu} u^{\nu)} + f_5 \xi_{\mu\nu}^a u^{(\mu} \dot{u}^{\nu)} \right] + O(a^2)$$

 This does describe the most general dissipative fluid



# Energy-momentum tensor from the effective action

$$S_{\text{eff}} = O(a^0) + \int \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{-g_r} T_r^{\mu\nu} (g_{\mu\nu}^a - \nabla_\mu \varphi_\nu^a - \nabla_\nu \varphi_\mu^a) + O(a^2)$$

$$T_r^{\mu\nu} = \mathcal{E} u^\mu u^\nu + \mathcal{P} \Delta^{\mu\nu} + (q^\mu u^\nu + q^\nu u^\mu) + t^{\mu\nu}$$

$\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{P}, q^\mu, t^{\mu\nu}$  made out of  $F(\alpha_j), f_i(\alpha_j)$

This is the standard dissipative fluid in a general frame:

$$\epsilon(T) = 2 \frac{\partial F}{\partial \alpha_2} - 2 \frac{\partial F}{\partial \alpha_3}, \quad p(T) = 2 \frac{\partial F}{\partial \alpha_3}$$

$$\eta = -f_4, \quad \zeta = (\text{combination of } f_1', f_2', f_3, f_4)$$

# To sum up

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \mathcal{L}_r + \mathcal{J}_r \mathcal{D}\varphi_a + \mathcal{K}_r (\mathcal{D}\varphi_a)^2 + \dots$$

$\uparrow$   
 $O(a^0)$

$\uparrow$   
 $O(a)$

$\uparrow$   
 $O(a^2)$

$S_{\text{eff}}$  up to  $O(a)$ , up to  $O(\partial)$  gives the standard dissipative hydro

Can generalize to charged fluids, with external gauge fields

Can presumably repeat up to  $O(\partial^2)$ , get 2<sup>nd</sup> order hydro



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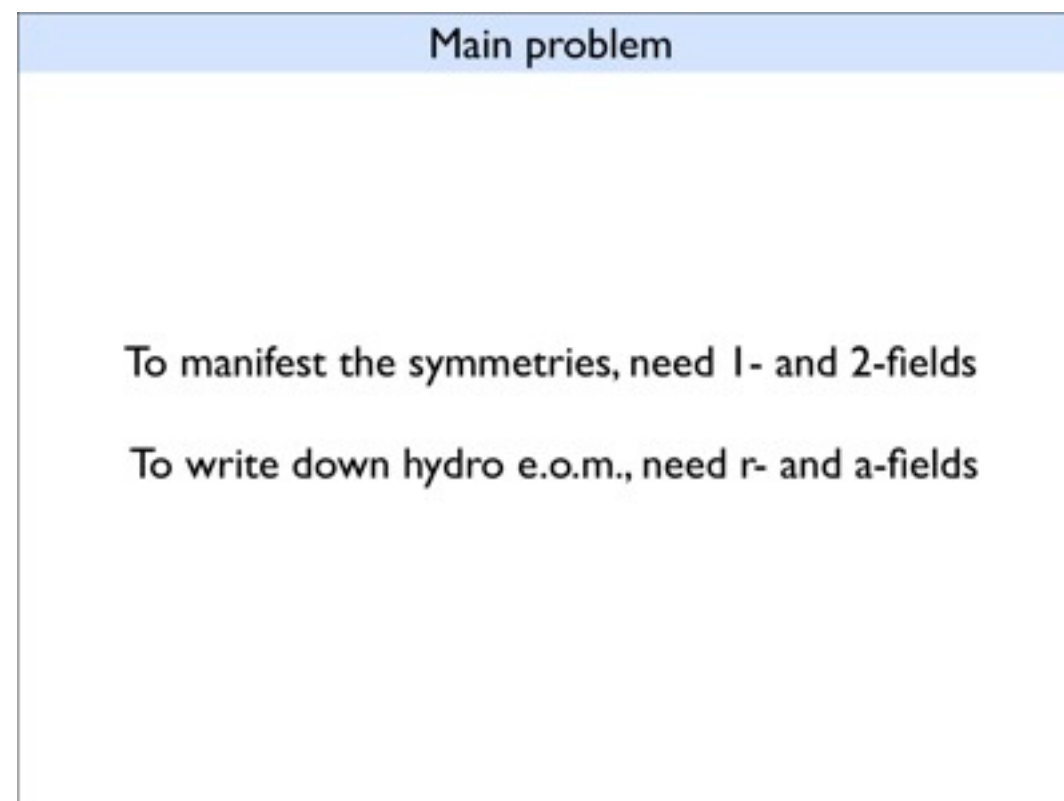
# Where is the FDT?

We only went to  $O(a)$ , using r- and a- diffeo invariance

FDT appears at  $O(a^2)$

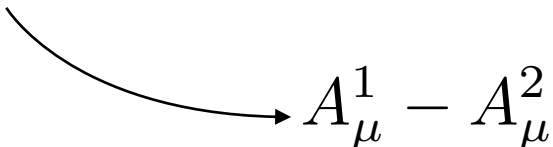
But it's not legit to use r- and a-diffeo invariance beyond  $O(a)$

So need  $S_{\text{eff}}$  in terms of 1- and 2-variables... what are they?



# Example: $U(1)_1 \times U(1)_2 \rightarrow U(1)_r$

Break to the diagonal subgroup, one Goldstone:

$$\mathcal{L} = v^2 (\partial_\mu \varphi + Z_\mu) (\partial^\mu \varphi + Z^\mu) + (\text{massive})$$


$A_\mu^1 - A_\mu^2$

Naive derivative expansion for  $\varphi$  does not know about  $U(1) \times U(1)$

Realizing  $U(1) \times U(1)$  requires the “Higgs”, a “non-hydro” mode

# Other questions

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \mathcal{I}_r + \mathcal{J}_r \mathcal{D}\varphi_a + \mathcal{K}_r (\mathcal{D}\varphi_a)^2 + \dots$$

$\mathcal{I}_r, \mathcal{J}_r, \mathcal{K}_r$  appear at different orders in the derivative expansion, but they are not independent

Constraints coming from the entropy current or from the existence of equilibrium are not obvious

Integration measure for r-fields is not clear: remember  ?



# Related work

The “eightfold” way

Haehl, Loganayagam, Rangamani, [arXiv:1502.00636](https://arxiv.org/abs/1502.00636)

Classify transport coefficients in *classical* hydro

Non-dissipative transport follows from an effective action

Impose extra  $U(1)_T$  gauge invariance for adiabaticity and 2nd law

Double the d.o.f. similar to the CTP formalism

Coupling between 1- and 2-sectors unclear

# Conclusions

Effective action for near-equilibrium states is not obvious: are thermal fluctuations really harder than quantum fluctuations?

Double the d.o.f.

Non-linear realization of the doubled symmetry

May need “high-energy” fields (1 and 2) in the effective theory

If you know how to construct the effective theory,  
please tell me!

**Thank you!**