

**Lev Petrovich Gor'kov**  
**a Pioneer of the Modern Condensed Matter Theory**





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# Thermal transport in disordered electron liquid

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**ENERGY**

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Science

# Heat transport in a non-trivial interacting system

- **How to generalize the RG approach to thermal transport?**
- **Wiedemann-Franz law in disordered interacting conductors**

# The Wiedemann-Franz law (WFL)

1853.

ANNALEN No. 8.  
DER PHYSIK UND CHEMIE.  
BAND LXXXIX.

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I. *Ueber die Wärme-Leitungsfähigkeit der Metalle;*  
*von G. Wiedemann und R. Franz.*

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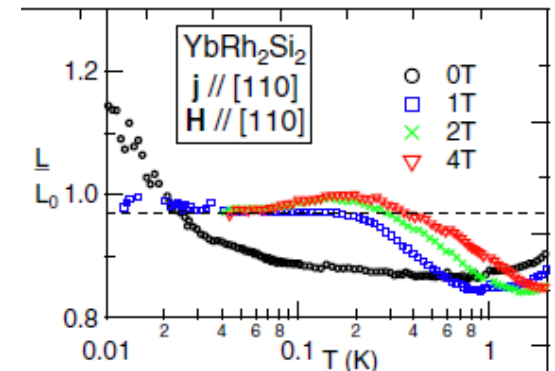
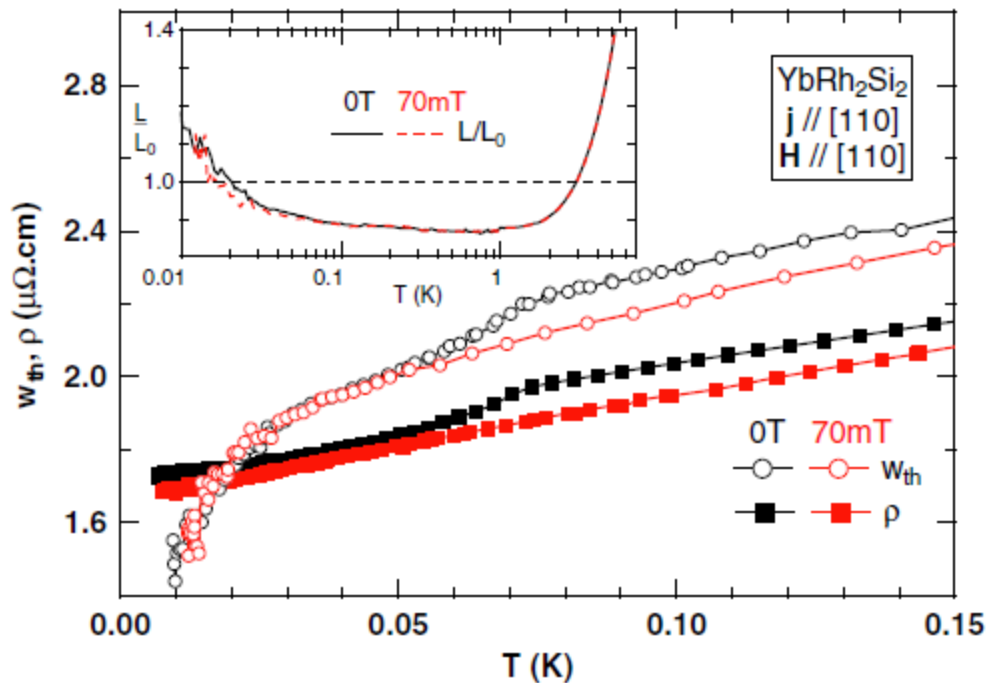
G. Wiedemann

Nowadays: the WFL is used as a criterion for non-Fermi Liquid systems

# The WFL as a criterion for non-Fermi Liquid systems:

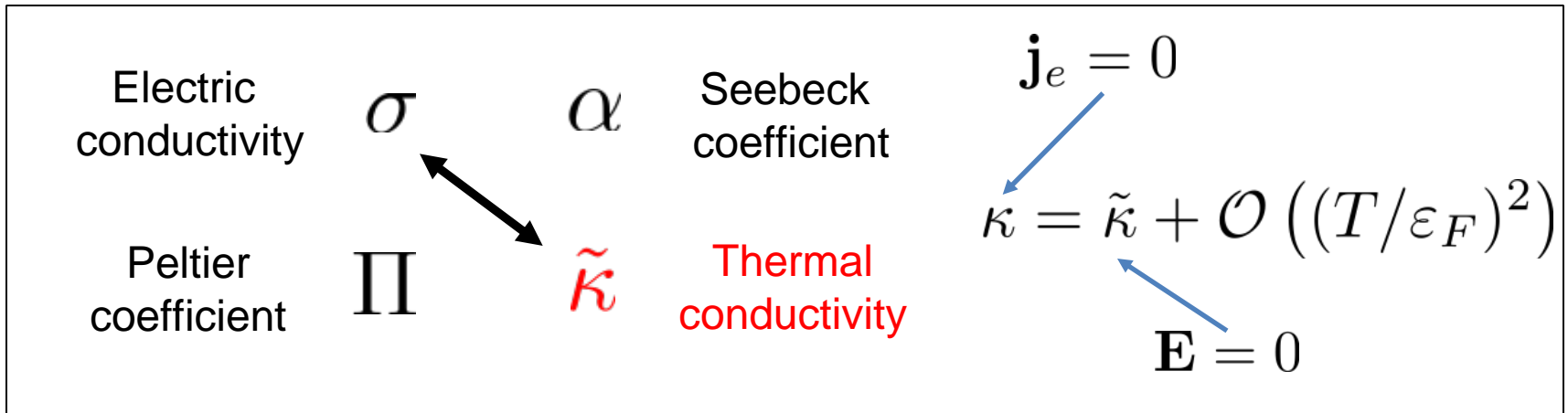
Thermal Conductivity through the Quantum Critical Point in  
YbRh<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub> at Very Low Temperature

M. Taupin...J. Flouquet PRL 115, 046402 (2015)



Electrons with or without  
magnons at  
very low temperature  
L/L<sub>0</sub>=0.97 ??

# The Wiedemann-Franz law (for heat transport, electron channel only)



The Wiedemann-Franz “law”

$$\kappa = \mathcal{L}_0 \sigma T$$

Lorenz number

$$\mathcal{L}_0 = \frac{\pi^2}{3} \frac{k_B^2}{e^2} = \frac{c_{FL}}{2\nu e^2 T}$$

**Unlike the Onsager relation, the Wiedemann Franz law is an approximate relation for itinerant electron systems.**

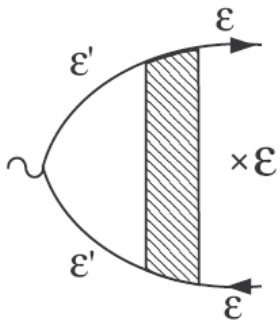
**What is the range of validity?**

**Naïve arguments: heat and charge are transported together by the same carriers. Hence, the WFL**

However, energy current is a not conserving quantity, while momentum is. Inelasticity? **Nernst theorem?**

Technical complications:  
how to get from the “entrance” to actual transporting with effective velocity multiplied by energy.

**Langer (1962)-Fermi Liquid at  $T \rightarrow 0$ ; Karen Michaeli and AF (2009)**



Energy is carried by the renormalized velocity;

$$\mathbf{j}_e^{con}, \mathbf{h} = -i \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} \left[ \hat{\mathbf{v}}(\varepsilon) \chi_{e,h}(\varepsilon) \hat{G}(\varepsilon) \right] <$$

The renormalized velocity  
For the Fermi Liquid  
the WF law automatically fulfills

$$\chi_h(\varepsilon) = \varepsilon$$

$$\chi_e(\varepsilon) = -e \quad ,$$

# Heat transport in a non-trivial interacting system (2D electron liquid)

At low temperatures the Wiedemann-Franz Law is violated:  
there are additional corrections to the heat conductivity  
Can one construct a comprehensive theory (including RG and  
additional log-corrections) ?

What is the ultimate fate of the WFL in  
a 2D metallic system at low temperatures?

i.e. in the presence of strong quantum corrections....



# RG with a temperature gradient

## How to approach the problem?

**Kinetic equation approach?** Including a temperature gradient is straightforward, but how to do RG?

**NL $\sigma$ M?** how to account for a temperature gradient?

$$\text{NL}\sigma\text{M} \xrightarrow{\text{source } \varphi} \langle nn \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{Einstein}} \sigma$$

renormalize the **NL $\sigma$ M** with “gravitational potentials”

$$\text{NL}\sigma\text{M} \xrightarrow{\text{source } ??} \langle kk \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{Einstein}} \kappa$$

Luttinger's „**gravitational potential(s)**“ mimics/induces temperature variation;

# Tolman - Ehrenfest effect (1930)

## Tolman:

“On the weight of heat and thermal equilibrium in general relativity”, PR 35 (1930)

## Idea:

the gravitational potential couples not only to masses, but also to energy;  
in the presence of gravity, temperature is not constant in equilibrium

In the Newtonian limit

$$\frac{\nabla T}{T} = \frac{\mathbf{g}}{c^2}$$

gravitational  
acceleration

Very large masses are needed  
for observable effects.

On the surface of the earth:

$$\frac{\nabla T}{T} = 10^{-16} \text{cm}^{-1}$$

This idea inspired **Luttinger** to introduce an (artificial) gravitational potential in condensed matter physics to describe temperature variations.

# The gravitation potentials (GPs): source fields for the heat density correlation function

**hint:**  $e^{-\frac{H}{T+\delta T}}$

$$= e^{-\frac{H}{T(1+\delta T/T)}}$$

$$\approx e^{-\frac{H(1-\delta T/T)}{T}}$$

$$= e^{-\frac{H(1+\eta)}{T}}$$

$$\chi_{kk} = \frac{i}{2} \frac{\delta^2 Z}{\delta \eta^2}$$

Variation of the temperature can be considered as a gravitation potential. In equilibrium, the action of the gravitation potential can be compensated by the variation of temperature.

**Einstein's relation:  
response to the temperature variation  
can be found from the response to the gravitation potential**

# Unlike electric field, the gravitational potentials act on everything

**Action:**

$$S[\psi^*, \psi] = \int_{\mathbf{r}, t} (\psi^* i \partial_t \psi - k[\psi^*, \psi])$$

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int D(\psi, \psi^*) e^{iS} \quad k = h_0 + h_{int} - \mu n$$



$$S[\psi^*, \psi] = \int_{\mathbf{r}, t} (\psi^* i \partial_t \psi - (1 + \eta)k[\psi^*, \psi])$$

$$\chi_{kk} = \frac{i}{2} \frac{\delta^2 \mathcal{Z}}{\delta \eta_{\mathbf{r}_1 t_1} \delta \eta_{\mathbf{r}_2 t_2}}$$

**Gravitational  
potential**

# Source fields for the heat-density correlation function

$$S[\psi^*, \psi] = \int_{\mathbf{r}, t} (\psi^* i\partial_t \psi - (1 + \eta)k[\psi^*, \psi])$$

*Problem:*  $S_{dis} = - \int_{\mathbf{r}, t} (1 + \eta)\psi^* u_{dis}\psi$

$$\psi \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \eta}}\psi \quad \psi^* \rightarrow \psi^* \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \eta}}$$

After this transformation, the derivation of the NL $\sigma$ M is straightforward:

$$S[Q] \sim \int d\mathbf{r} \operatorname{tr} [D(\nabla Q)^2 + 2iz\{\hat{\epsilon}, \lambda\}Q] + Q\lambda(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)Q$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{1 + \eta} \approx 1 - \eta + \eta^2 + \dots$$

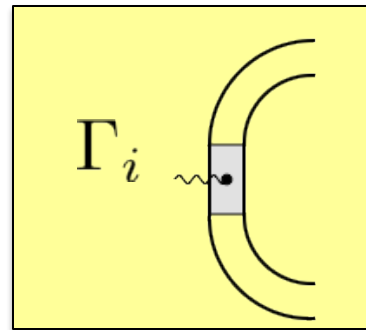
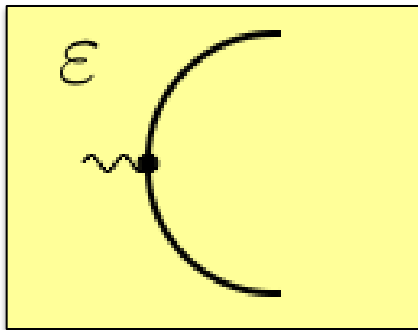
**nonlinear in  $\eta$  !**

# Keldysh NL $\sigma$ M extended by the “gravitation potentials”

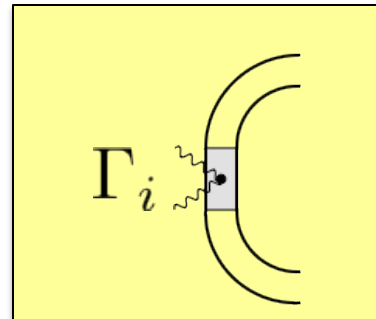
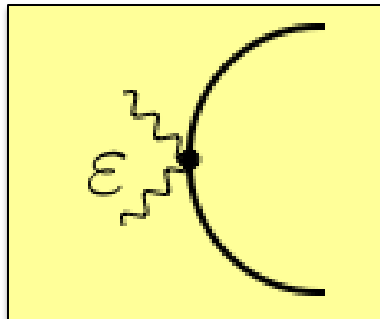
$$S[Q] \sim \int d\mathbf{r} \operatorname{tr} [D(\nabla Q)^2 + 2iz\{\hat{\epsilon}, \lambda\}Q] + Q\lambda(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)Q$$

$$\lambda \approx 1 - \eta + \eta^2$$

$\eta$



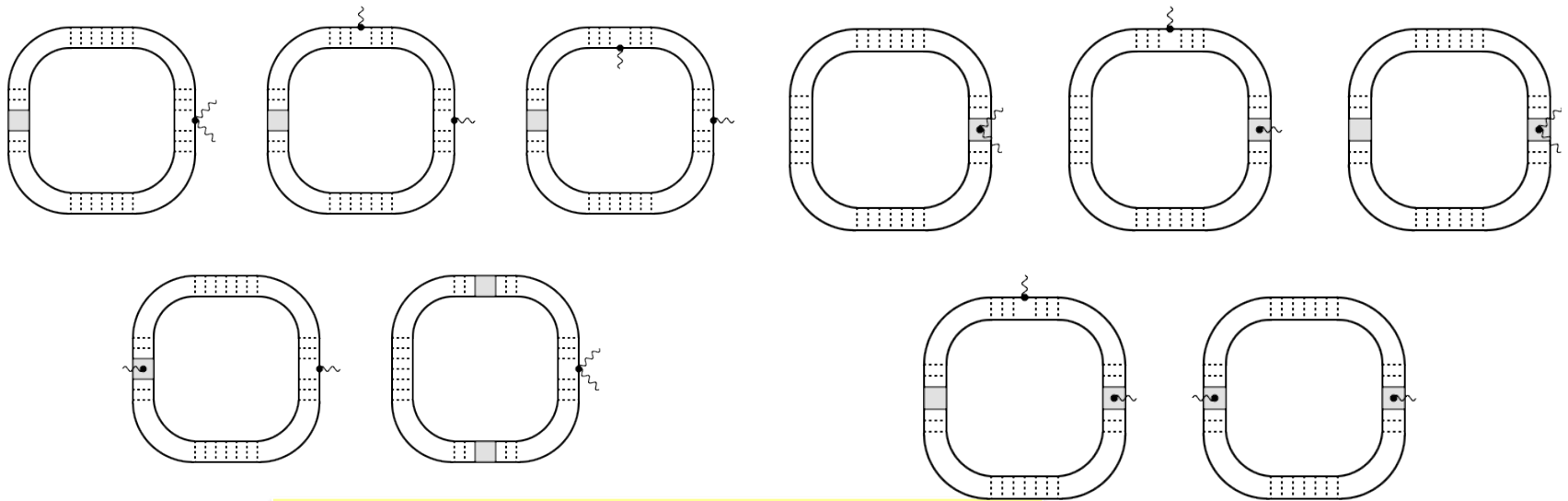
$\eta^2$



$$\chi_{kk} = \frac{i}{2} \frac{\delta^2 \mathcal{Z}}{\delta \eta_{\mathbf{r}_1 t_1} \delta \eta_{\mathbf{r}_2 t_2}}$$

# The heat-density correlation function and the specific heats

**Crosscheck:** The terms linear and quadratic in the gravitational potentials  $\eta$  are consistent with each other and also with thermodynamics



$$\chi_{kk}^{st} = \frac{i}{2} \frac{\delta^2 \mathcal{Z}}{\delta \eta^2} = -Tc$$

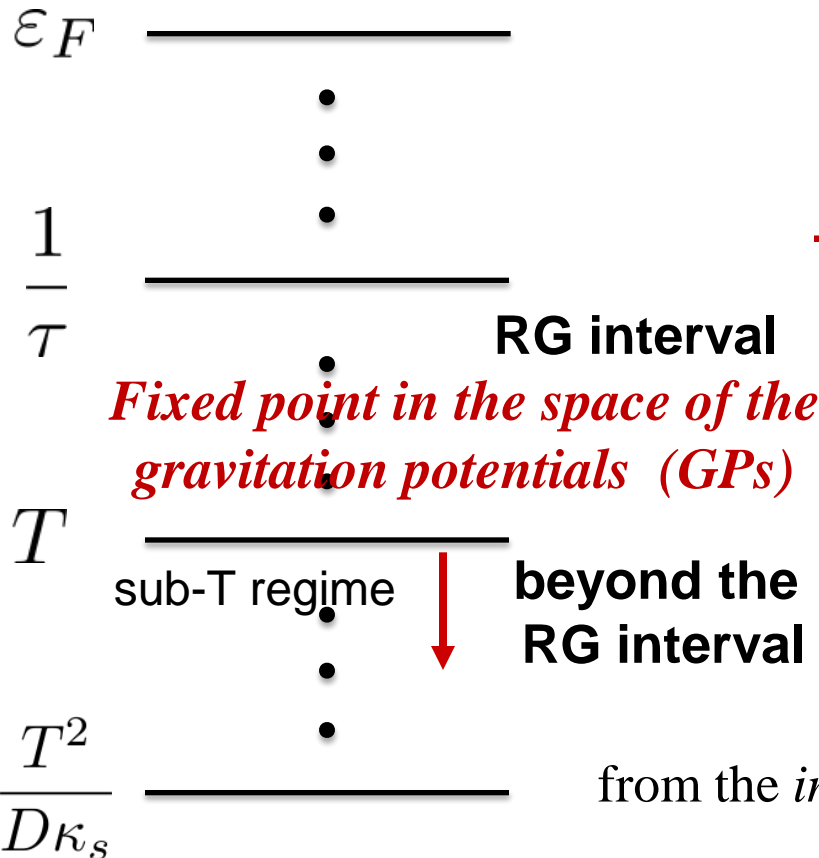
$$C = zC_{FL}$$

# RG and sub- $T$ region; the WFL and its violation

$$S[Q] \sim \int dr \operatorname{tr}[D(\nabla Q)^2 + 2iz\{\hat{\varepsilon}, \lambda\}Q] + \sum_i Q\lambda\Gamma_i Q$$

Energy scales

$$\lambda \approx 1 - \eta + \eta^2$$



## Two-stage calculation

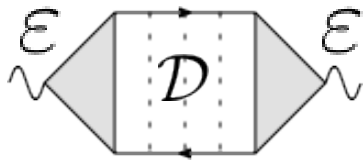
1) The WFL holds despite strong renormalizations  
**(Rome-Boston 1988)**

2) ~~WFL~~

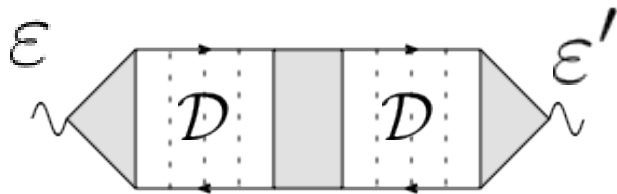
Additional logarithmic corrections from the *imaginary part* of the *Coulomb* interaction



# Dynamic part of the heat-density correlation function: illusion of simplicity (and the origin of the naive WFL)



$$\epsilon^2 \rightarrow T^2$$



$$\epsilon \Gamma \epsilon' \rightarrow 0$$

**Rescattering is  
ineffective for constant  
amplitudes  $\Gamma$  !**



$$\int_{\epsilon} \left[ \mathcal{F} \left( \epsilon + \frac{\omega}{2} \right) - \mathcal{F} \left( \epsilon - \frac{\omega}{2} \right) \right] = 0$$

**Finite result only for**

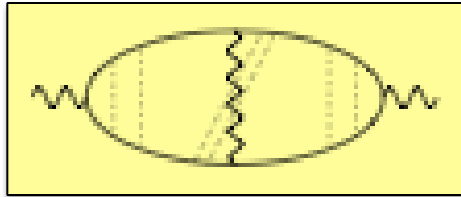
$$\Gamma = \Gamma(\epsilon, \epsilon')$$

**Such contributions are not considered  
in the Fermi Liquid and even in traditional RG scheme !  
(off-shell versus on-shell)**

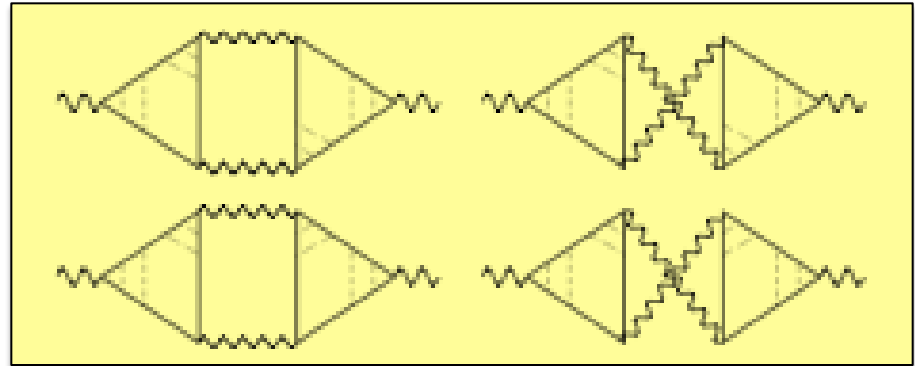


# Coulomb problem - Violation of the WFL

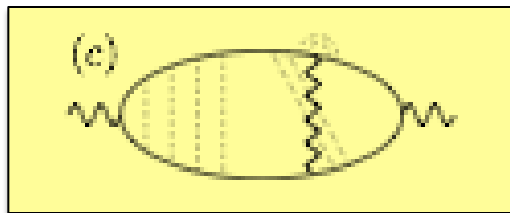
vertical diagrams



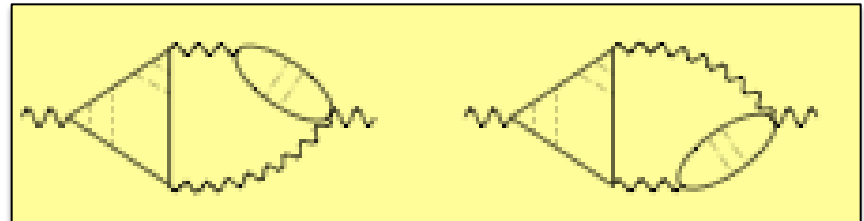
drag diagrams



regular vertex corrections



anomalous vertex corrections



why vertical?

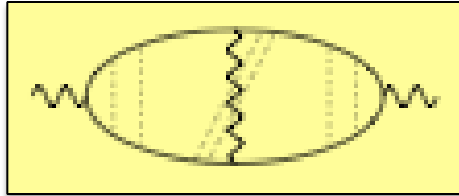
$$\varepsilon - \varepsilon \quad \text{WFL}$$

$$\varepsilon - \nu \quad \text{WFL}$$

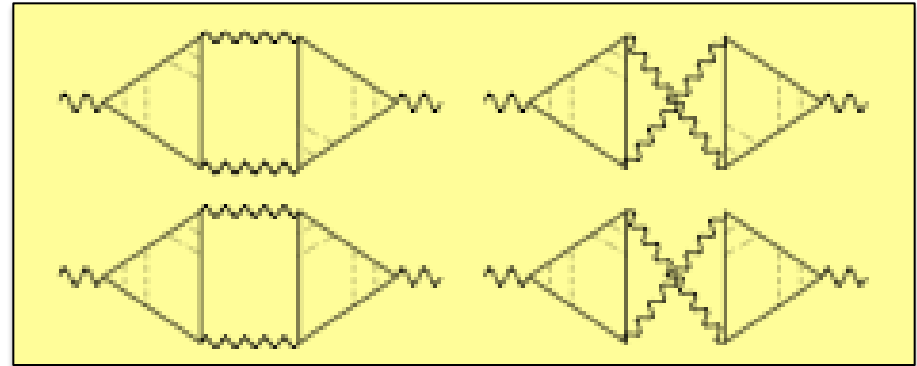


# Coulomb problem - Violation of the WFL

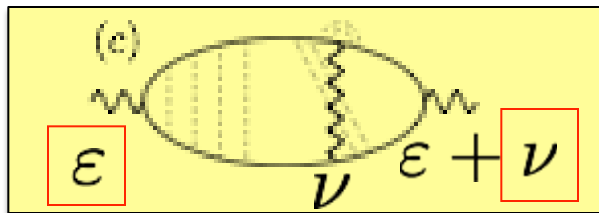
vertical diagrams



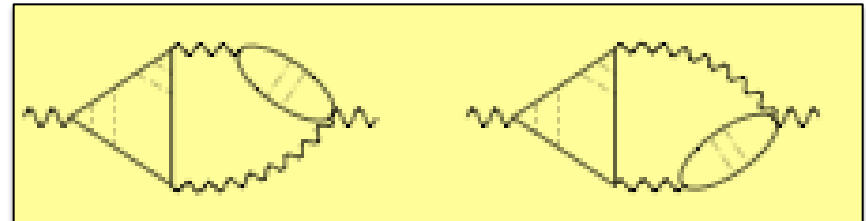
drag diagrams



regular vertex corrections



anomalous vertex corrections



## All additional contributions

are proportional to  $\text{Im}(U^R)$ : Decay into particle-hole pairs.

Example:

$$\delta\chi_{kk} \propto \int_{\mathbf{k}, \varepsilon, \nu} \varepsilon \nu \partial_{\varepsilon} F_{\varepsilon} (F_{\varepsilon+\nu} + F_{\varepsilon-\nu}) \text{Re} D^2(\mathbf{k}, \nu) \text{Im} U^R(\mathbf{k}, \nu)$$

# Two stage RG procedure – how does the renormalization affect $\delta\kappa$ ?

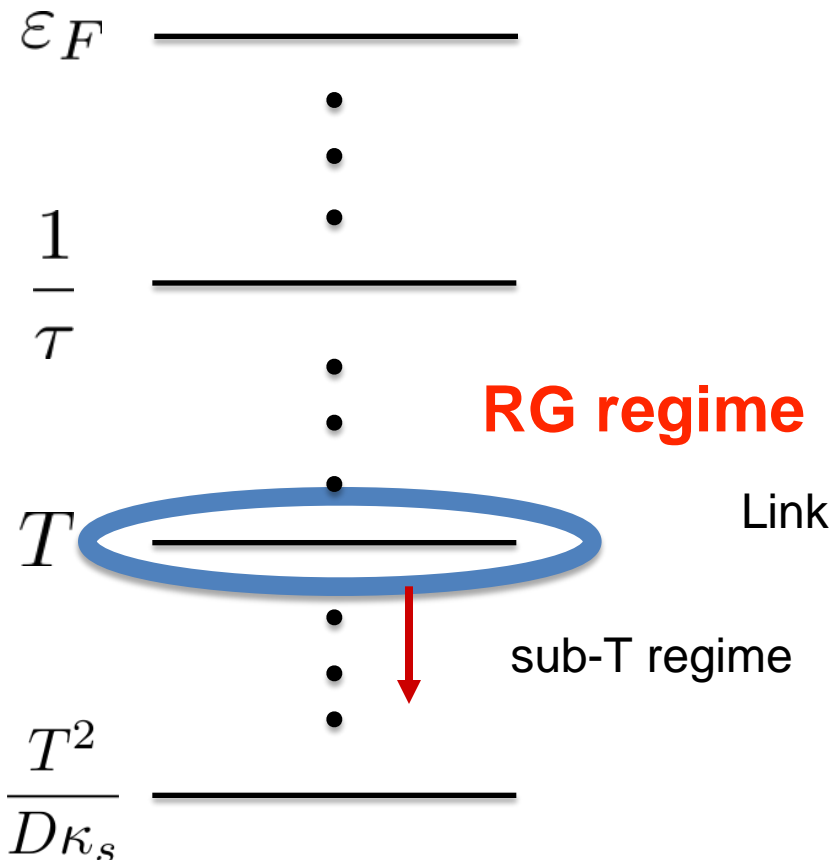
the correction is positive:

$$\delta\kappa = \frac{T}{12} \log \frac{D\kappa_s^2}{T}$$

$\kappa_s$ : screening radius

We checked that  
all Fermi-liquid renormalizations,  
the parameter  $z$  and all other  
RG renormalizations  
**drop out** when calculating  $\delta\kappa$ .

**We thereby expect that the  
answer obtained for  $\delta\kappa$  is final.**



## RG-calculations

**Result:** *Fixed point in the multi-parametric space of the gravitation potentials (a very special structure)*

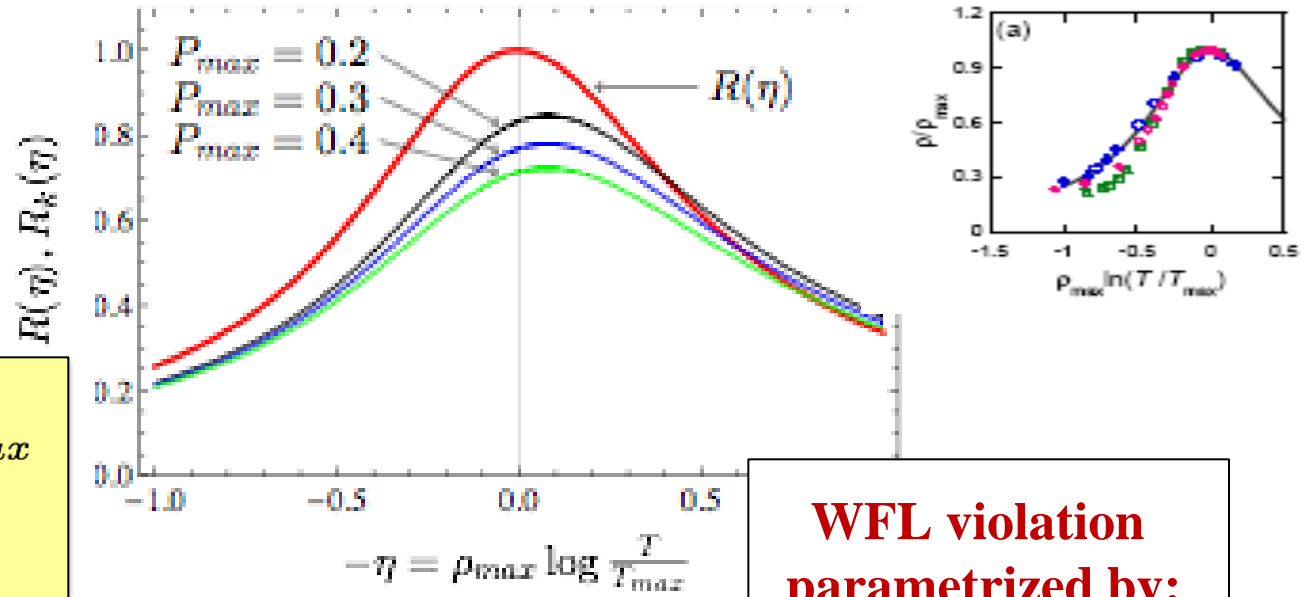
$$\Delta\zeta_D = \Delta\zeta_z = \Delta\zeta_{\Gamma_1} = \Delta\zeta_{\Gamma_2} = 0$$
$$\zeta_D = 0 \quad \zeta_z = \zeta_{\Gamma_1} = \zeta_{\Gamma_2} = -\eta$$

it holds only for the correct initial conditions

$$S = \int \text{tr}[D(1 + \zeta_D)(\nabla Q)^2 + 2iz\{\hat{\varepsilon}, 1 + \zeta_z\}Q] + \sum_{i=1,2} Q(1 + \zeta_{\Gamma_i})\Gamma_i Q$$

Conservation of energy, which is “encrypted” in the NLsM

# Application: Thermal transport on the metallic side of the metal-insulator transition in Si MOSFETs



$$R_k(\eta) = \rho_k(\eta) / \rho_{max}$$

$$\rho_k = \frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \frac{\mathcal{L}_0 T}{\kappa}$$

**WFL violation parametrized by:**

$$P_{max} = \frac{\rho_{max} - \rho_k(0)}{\rho_k(0)}$$

$R(\eta)$ : normalized resistance

$R_k(\eta)$ : normalized thermal resistance

**Maximum in  $R_k$  at universal  $\eta$  ( $P_{max}$  - independent):  $\eta_{max} = -0.0785$**

# Summary

- We developed a field theoretic model with „gravitational potentials“ suitable for the analysis of heat density correlation function in the disordered electron liquid;
- **For short range interactions the renormalization of  $\kappa$  and of  $\sigma$  are linked through the WF law. Fixed point for the gravitational potentials:**  
$$\Delta\zeta_D = \Delta\zeta_z = \Delta\zeta_{\Gamma_1} = \Delta\zeta_{\Gamma_2} = 0$$
- For long-range (Coulomb) interaction there are additional logarithmic corrections originating from energies smaller than of the RG-interval. They lead to a violation of the WF law.
- Additional corrections are not renormalized neither by Fermi Liquid, nor the RG corrections. An element of universality has been found for the thermal resistance

**Georg Schwiete & AF:**

Phys. Rev. B **93** (2016) **Coulomb interaction**;  
JETP (Keldysh issue) (2016) **Theory of Thermal Conductivity in the Disordered Electron Liquid**

## **Lev Petrovich Gor'kov**

