

Nonequilibrium quantum criticality of interacting Dirac fermions

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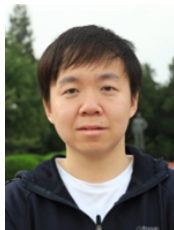
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Collaborators



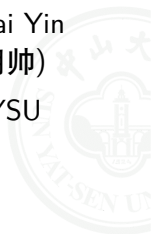
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IOP, CAS



Shuai Yin
(阴帅)
SYSU

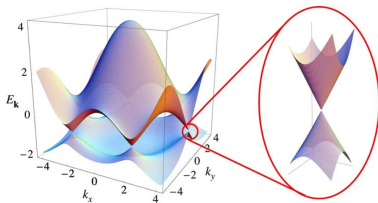
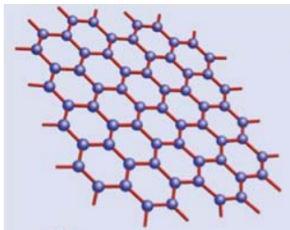


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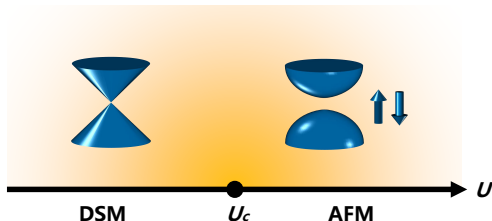
Dirac fermion



Dirac fermions, while being fundamentally significant in relativistic quantum field theories, are also prevalent as low-energy excitation quasi-particles in a diverse range of condensed-matter systems, including graphene, d-wave superconductors, Weyl/Dirac semimetals, and the surface of topological insulators.¹

¹Castro Neto, Guinea, Peres, Novoselov, and Geim, RMP, (2009).

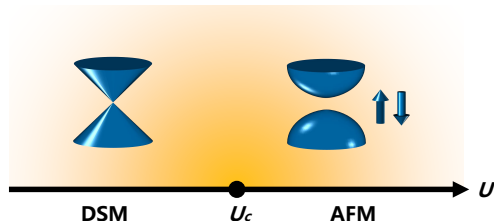
Interacting Dirac fermions



- The interactions between fermions cause a phase transition from Dirac semimetal to insulator.
- It's described by the **Gross-Neveu-Yukawa field theory**².
- Spontaneous symmetry breakings: \mathbb{Z}_2 , $O(2)$, $SU(2)$.
- Due to the gapless fermionic fluctuations, universality classes: Wilson-Fisher \Rightarrow chiral Ising, chiral XY and chiral Heisenberg.

²Gross and Neveu, PRD, (1974)
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Nonequilibrium dynamics

For the critical phenomena, **nonequilibrium dynamics** is

- **fundamental: critical slowing down near the critical points.**
 - At the critical point, it takes an infinitely long time for the system to reach equilibrium. Therefore, what is actually observed as critical behavior is dynamic critical behavior.
- **useful: imaginary-time evolution recently finds its application in quantum computers.**³
 - Operating a quantum computer always involves non-equilibrium processes.

³Motta, Sun, Tan, ORourke, Ye, Minnich, Brandao, and Chan, Nat. Phys., (2020)
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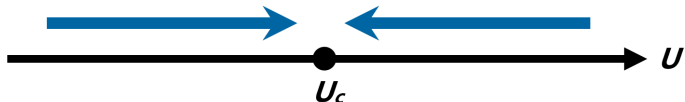
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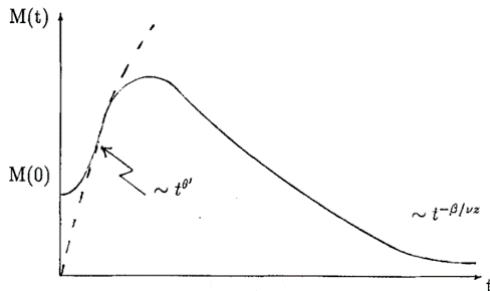
Relaxation

Relaxation is a most common approach to studying nonequilibrium dynamics.

- ① Prepare a uncorrelated initial state.
- ② Quench it to the critical point.
- ③ Explore the time evolution.



Relaxation in classical systems at the critical point



Relaxation in classical systems — real-time evolution

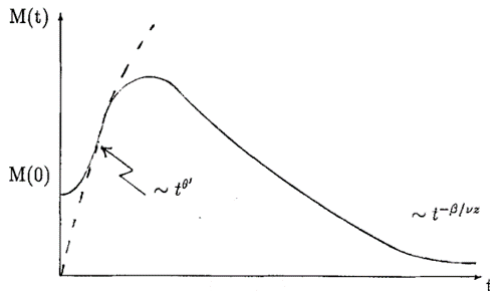
It is worth noting, **short time critical dynamics**⁴:

- **Critical initial slip** behavior — memory effects.
- Critical initial slip exponents θ .

⁴Janssen, Schaub, and Schmittmann, Z. Phys. B, (1989)
Li, Schülke, and Zheng, PRL, (1995)
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Relaxation in classical systems at the critical point



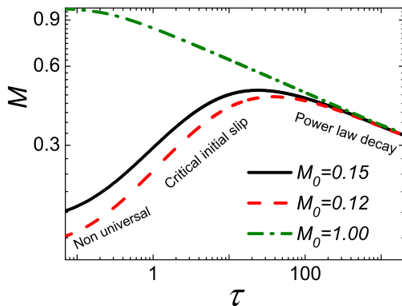
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Relaxation in quantum systems at the critical point



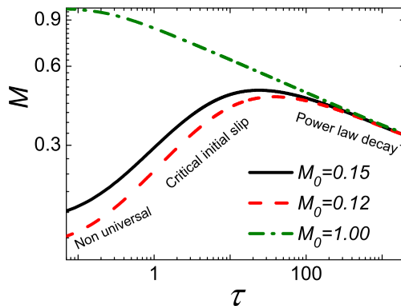
Relaxation in quantum systems — **imaginary-time evolution**

- amenability to large scale quantum Monte Carlo simulations
- is used to search for ground state in quantum computers⁵
- **short imaginary-time dynamics** at quantum critical point⁶

⁵Motta, Sun, Tan, O'Rourke, Ye, Minnich, Brandao, and Chan, Nat. Phys., (2020).

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Our motivation

Current status in this field:

- Quantum phase transitions in Dirac systems have attracted extensive attentions.
- The nonequilibrium dynamics has rarely been studied in fermionic systems.

Questions:

- What is the nonequilibrium dynamic behavior of interacting Dirac fermions near the critical point?
- How to determine the critical point and critical exponents of the Gross-Neveu-Yukawa universality classes using dynamical methods?
- How do gapless fermionic fluctuations affect short time scaling?

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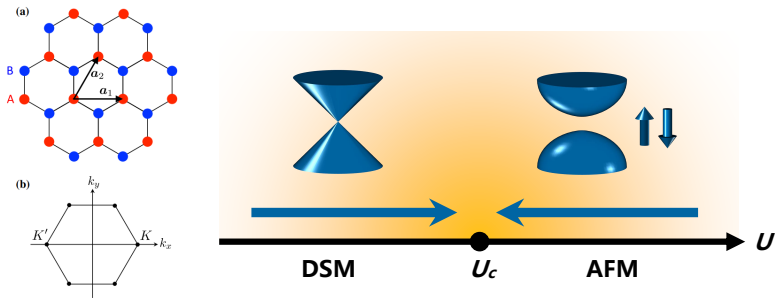
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Model



2D spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ Hubbard model on a half-filled honeycomb lattice⁷

$$H = -t \sum_{\langle ij \rangle, \sigma} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} + U \sum_i \left(n_{i\uparrow} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left(n_{i\downarrow} - \frac{1}{2} \right). \quad (1)$$

⁷Boyack, Yerzhakov, and Maciejko, Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top, (2021).

Previous results in equilibrium research

model	method	U_c/t	ν	β
honeycomb	QMC ⁸	3.85(2)	1.02(1)	0.76(2)
honeycomb	QMC ⁹	3.77(4)	0.84(4)	0.71(8)
Gross-Neveu	$4 - \epsilon$ (1st order) ¹⁰	-	0.851	0.804
Gross-Neveu	$4 - \epsilon$ (2nd order) ¹⁰	-	1.01	0.995
Gross-Neveu	FRG ¹¹	-	1.31	1.31

Cannot reach a consensus within errorbar: U_c, ν .

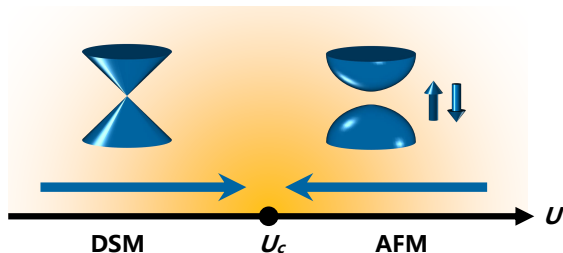
⁸Sorella, Otsuka, and Yunoki, PRX, (2016).

⁹Assaad, Parisen Toldin, Hohenadler, and Herbut, PRL, (2015).

¹⁰Rosenstein, Hoi-Lai Yu, and Kovner, Phys. Lett. B, (1993).

¹¹Janssen and Herbut, PRL, (2014).

Protocol



Explore the imaginary-time relaxation near the critical point by determinant quantum Monte Carlo¹².

¹²Assaad, Quantum Simulations of Complex Many-Body Systems: From Theory to Algorithms, (2002).

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AFM order parameter m

AFM structure factor

$$S(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{L^2} \sum_{i,j} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)} \langle m_i^{(z)} m_j^{(z)} \rangle, \quad (2)$$

where staggered magnetization $m_i^{(z)}$ is $m_i^{(z)} = \vec{c}_{i,A}^\dagger \sigma^z \vec{c}_{i,A} - \vec{c}_{i,B}^\dagger \sigma^z \vec{c}_{i,B}$.
A and B represent different sublattices, $\vec{c} = (c_\uparrow, c_\downarrow)$.

AFM order parameter is

$$m^2 = S(0), \quad (3)$$

where $S(0)$ is the AFM structure factor at zero momentum.



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AFM order parameter is

$$m^2 = S(\mathbf{0}), \quad (3)$$

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Determine the QCP

Dimensionless **correlation ratio**

$$R = S(\mathbf{0}) / S(\Delta\mathbf{q}), \quad (4)$$

where $\Delta\mathbf{q} = (\frac{1}{L}\mathbf{b}_1 + \frac{1}{L}\mathbf{b}_2)$ is minimum lattice momentum.

Saturated AFM initial state , near the equilibrium QCP
universal scaling form

$$R(g, \tau, L) = f_R \left(gL^{1/\nu}, \tau L^{-z} \right), \quad (5)$$

where $g = (U - U_c) / t$, $z = 1$.



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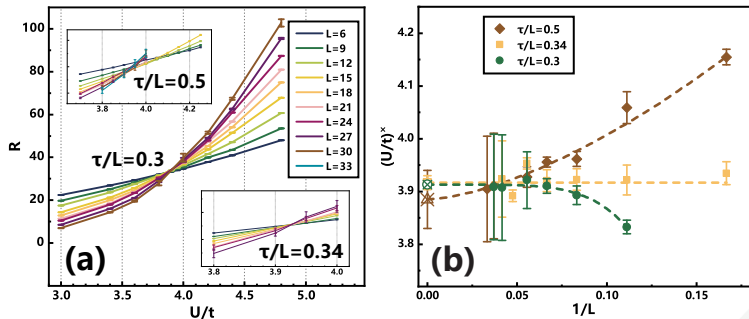
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Estimation of quantum critical point U_c

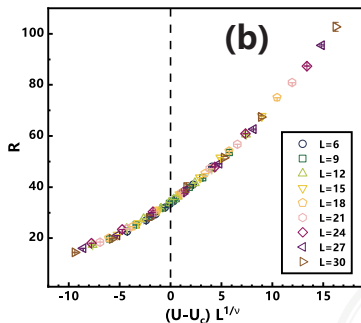
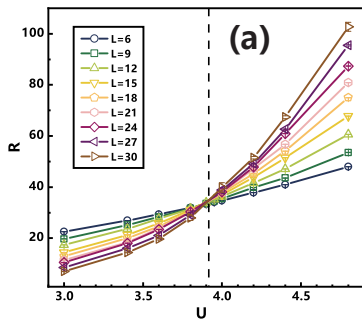


$$R(g, \tau, L) = f_R \left(gL^{1/\nu}, \tau L^{-z} \right) \quad (6)$$

Fixed τL^{-z} , curves intersect at $g = U - U_c = 0$.

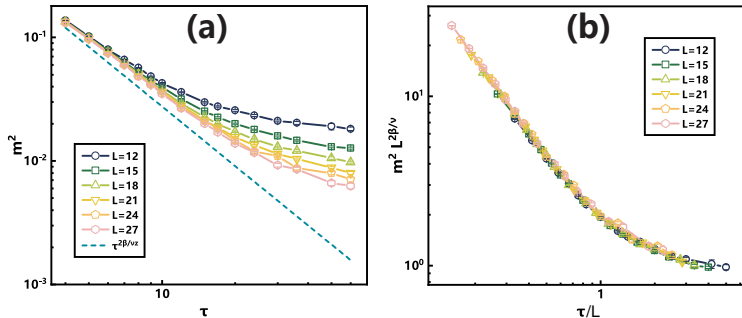
\Rightarrow QCP: $U_c = 3.91 \pm 0.03$ ($t = 1$).

Fitting for ν



Fixing $\tau L^{-z} = 0.3$, $R(g) = f_R(g L^{1/\nu})$,
 $\Rightarrow \nu = 1.17 \pm 0.07$.

Fitting for β/ν



Saturated AFM initialized, $g = 0$ set,

$$m^2 = \tau^{-2\beta/\nu z} f_{m^2}(\tau L^{-z}),$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta/\nu = 0.80 \pm 0.03.$$

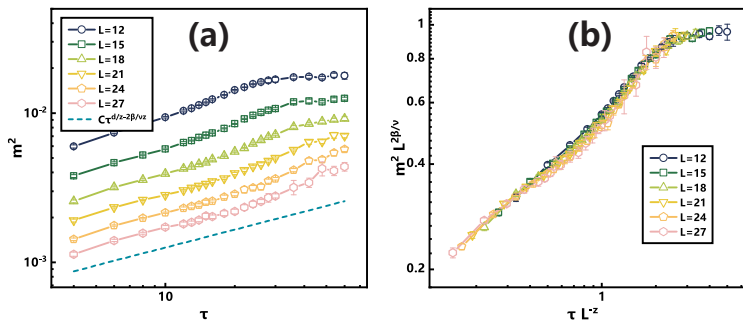
$$\text{Limit } \tau L^{-z} \rightarrow 0, m^2 \sim \tau^{-2\beta/\nu z} + \tau^{-2\beta/\nu z} \mathcal{O}(\tau L^{-z}).$$

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Examination for β/ν



Initial DSM at $g = 0$. Here we take $\beta/\nu = 0.80$,

$$m^2 = L^{-d} \tau^{d/z-2\beta/\nu z} f_{m^2}(\tau L^{-z}).$$

Compare with zero-order approximation $m^2 \sim \tau^{d/z-2\beta/\nu z}$.

Fitting for θ

For the disordered initial state with random spins up or down, the **autocorrelation function** is defined as

$$A = \frac{1}{L^2} \sum_i \overline{\langle m_i^{(z)}(0) m_i^{(z)}(\tau) \rangle}. \quad (7)$$

where overline represents the average over various random initial states, and bracket represents the expectation value in imaginary-time quantum mechanics.

Universal scaling at the critical point $g = 0$:

$$A = L^{\theta z - d} f_A(\tau^{-1} L^z). \quad (8)$$



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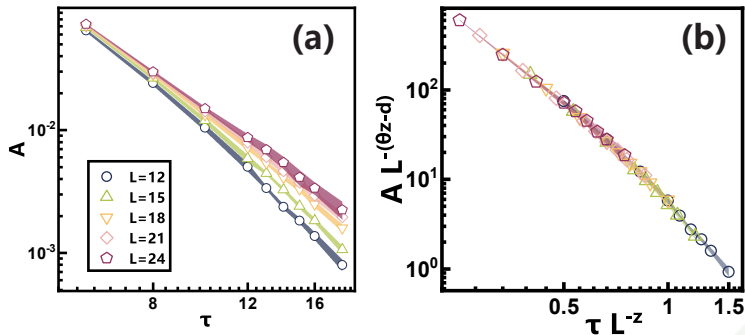
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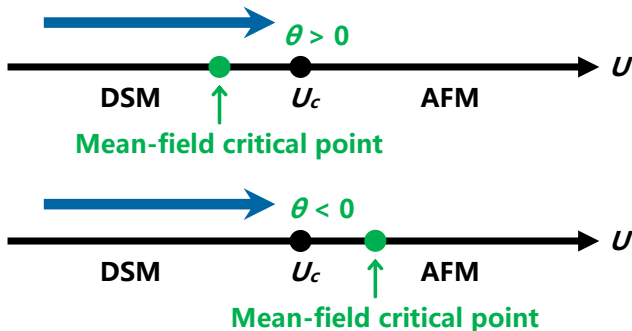
Random initial state at $g = 0$,

$$A = L^{\theta z - d} f_A(\tau^{-1} L^z).$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = -0.84 \pm 0.04.$$

Negative θ

Critical initial slip exponent θ is negative.



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Discussion

model	method	U_c/t	β/ν	θ
honeycomb	QMC (present)	3.91(3)	0.80(3)	-0.84(4)
honeycomb	QMC ¹³	3.85(2)	0.75(2)	-
honeycomb	QMC ¹⁴	3.77(4)	0.8(1)	-
Gross-Neveu	$4 - \epsilon$ (1st order) ¹⁵	-	0.945	-
Gross-Neveu	$4 - \epsilon$ (2nd order) ¹⁵	-	0.985	-
Gross-Neveu	FRG ¹⁶	-	1.008	-

Controversial ν : present 1.17(7), Sorella 1.02(1) and Assaad 0.84(4).

¹³Sorella, Otsuka, and Yunoki, PRX, (2016).

¹⁴Assaad, Parisen Toldin, Hohenadler, and Herbut, PRL, (2015).

¹⁵Rosenstein, Hoi-Lai Yu, and Kovner, Phys. Lett. B, (1993).

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Conclusion

- For the first time, we demonstrate the nonequilibrium dynamics of interacting Dirac fermions.
- We develop a dynamical methods to determine the critical point and critical exponents of the chiral Heisenberg universality class.
- Specifically, we obtain $U_c = 3.91(3)$ and $\nu = 1.17(7) > 1$ using the dynamic method.
- We find a negative critical initial slip exponent $\theta = -0.84(4)$.

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