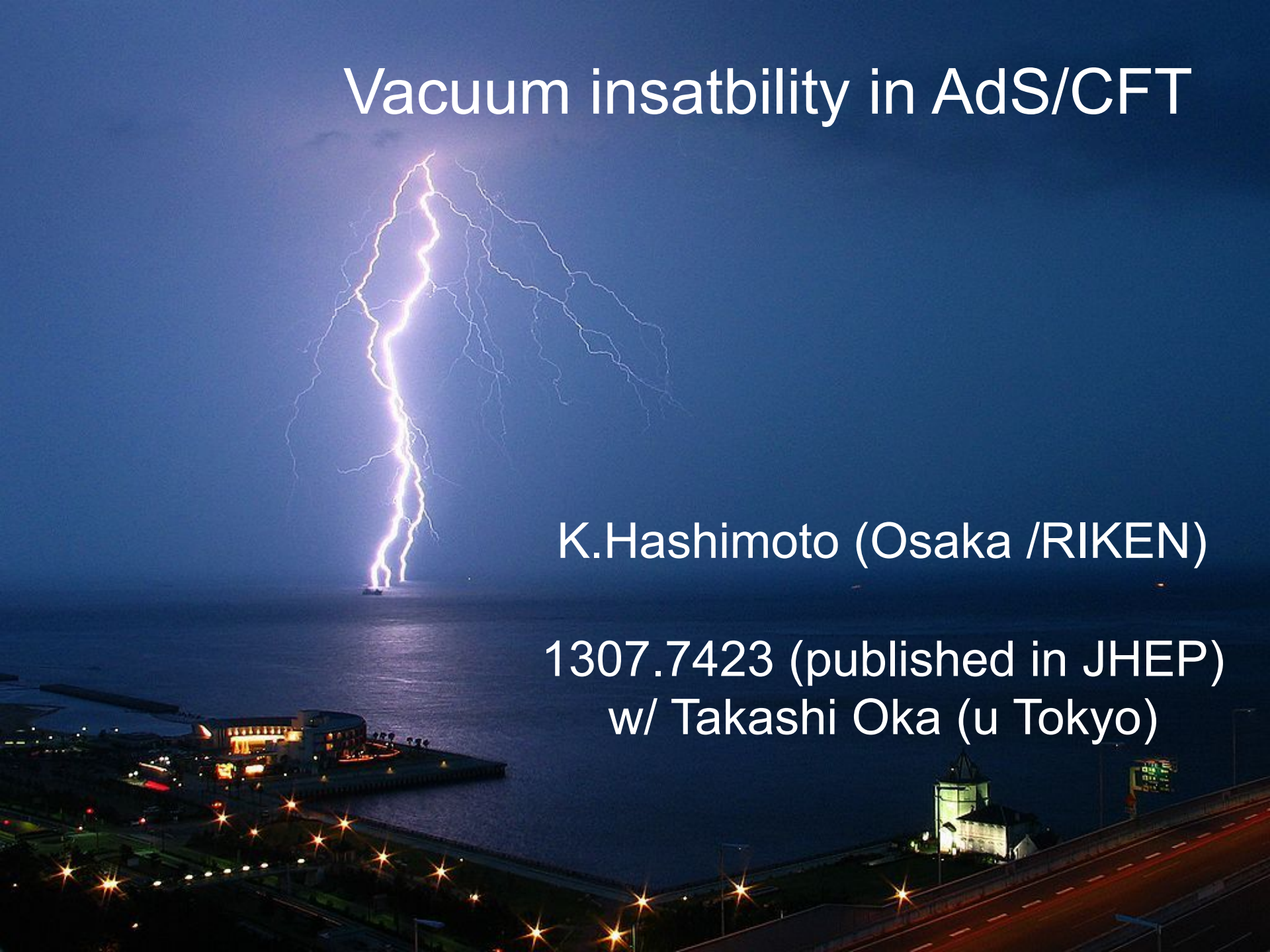


# Vacuum instability in AdS/CFT

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1307.7423 (published in JHEP)  
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Problem

1

How can electric field break confinement?

1 page

Cause

2

Non-linear elemag and strong coupling

1 page

Our solution

3

$N=2$  superQCD

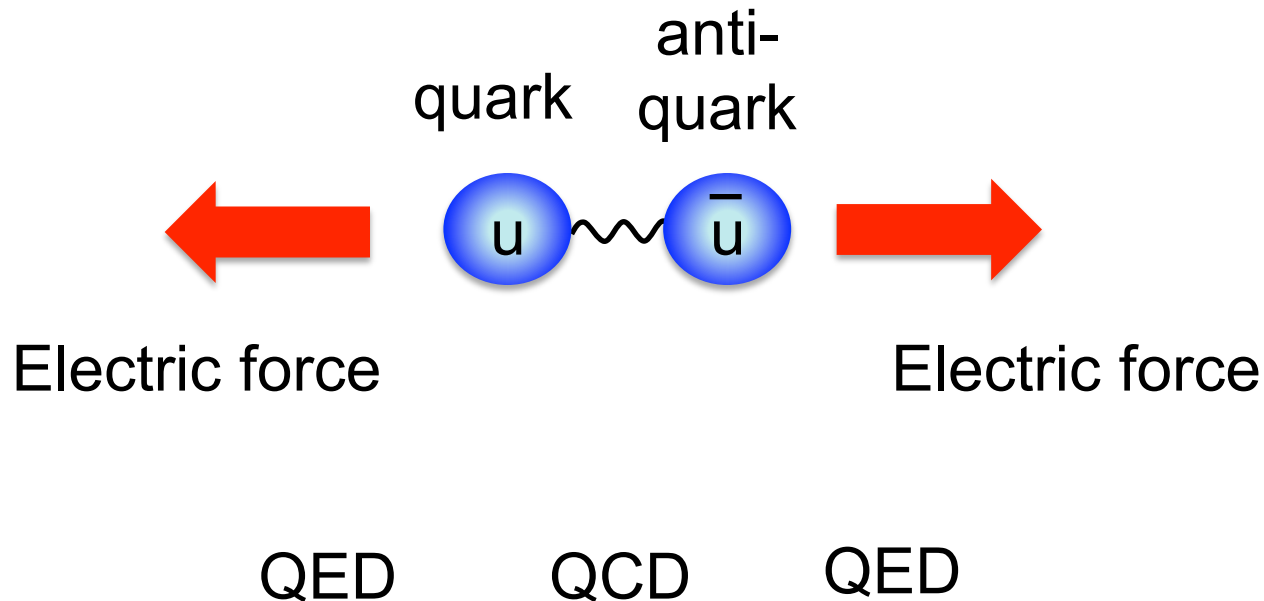
4 pages

Gauge/Gravity duality

Schwinger effect, Rapid thermalization

# 1 How can electric field break confinement?

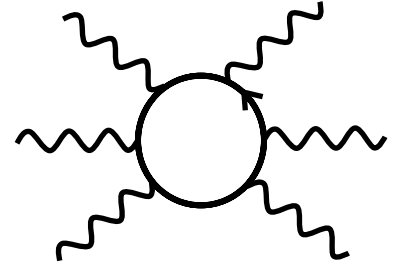
Strong electric field can make confined quarks separate?



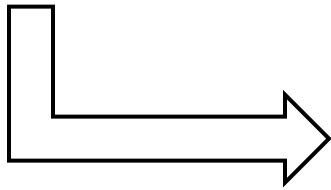
# 2 Non-linear electromagnetism and strong coupling?

Perturbation: “Nonlinear electromagnetism”

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}E^2 - \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{ds}{s^3} \left[ eEs \cot(eEs) - 1 + \frac{1}{3}(eEs)^2 \right]$$



[Heisenberg, Euler 1936]



From poles...

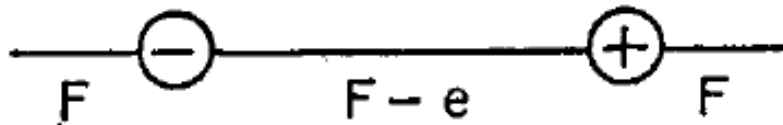
[Schwinger 1951]

$$\text{Im } \mathcal{L} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^2 E^2}{4\pi^3} \frac{1}{n^2} \exp \left[ -\frac{n\pi m_e^2}{eE} \right]$$

pair-creation of electron positron

At strong coupling? Expect :

Decay possible only with  $E$  stronger than confining force.



Ex. 1+1 dim. QED

[Coleman, Jackiw, Susskind 1975]

[Coleman 1976]

Euler-Heisenberg action = D7-brane in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{T}_{D7} 2\pi^2 R^2 \int_0^\infty dr r^3 \sqrt{1 - (2\pi\alpha' E)^2 \frac{R^4}{((2\pi\alpha' m)^2 + r^2)^2}}$$

Result 1. Critical  $E$  field  
= confinement force

$$E_{\text{cr}} = \frac{2\pi\alpha' m^2}{R^2} = \frac{\sqrt{2}\pi m^2}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$$

Result 2. “Automatic Schwinger”

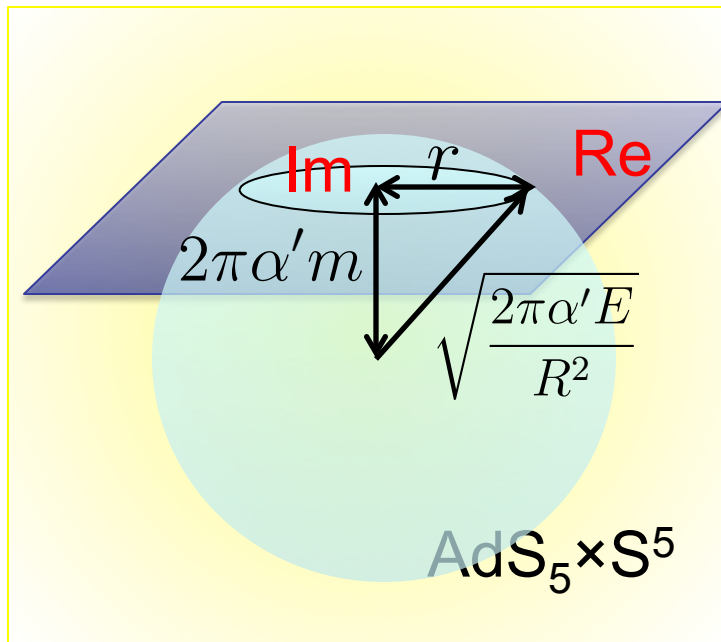
$$\text{Im } \mathcal{L} = \frac{N_c}{2^5 \pi} e^2 E^2 \left( 1 + 2^{5/2} \frac{m^2}{\sqrt{\lambda} e E} \log \frac{m^2}{\sqrt{\lambda} e E} + \text{higher} \right)$$

Result 3. Rapid thermalization

Result 1. Critical  $E$  field = confinement force

Full nonlinear elemag is obtained, easy

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{T}_{D7} 2\pi^2 R^2 \int_0^\infty dr r^3 \sqrt{1 - (2\pi\alpha' E)^2 \frac{R^4}{((2\pi\alpha' m)^2 + r^2)^2}}$$



Positivity inside the sq root

$$\Leftrightarrow (2\pi\alpha' m)^2 + r^2 > 2\pi\alpha' E R^2$$

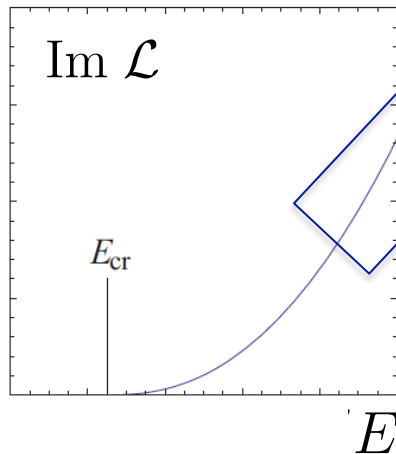
Imaginary action

above critical electric field

$$E_{\text{cr}} = \frac{2\pi\alpha' m^2}{R^2} = \frac{\sqrt{2}\pi m^2}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$$

[Erdmenger, Meyer, Shock (07)]

## Result 2. “Automatic Schwinger”



Expand the imaginary part of DBI for large  $E$

$$\text{Im } \mathcal{L} = \frac{N_c}{2^5 \pi} e^2 E^2 \left( 1 + 2^{5/2} \frac{m^2}{\sqrt{\lambda} e E} \log \frac{m^2}{\sqrt{\lambda} e E} + \text{higher} \right)$$

Agrees with the Schwinger effect, identified as  $E_{\text{cr}} \leftrightarrow m_e^2$

$$\text{Im } \mathcal{L} = \frac{N_c}{2^5 \pi} e^2 E^2 \left( 1 + \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{m_e^2}{e E} \log \frac{m_e^2}{2e E} + \text{higher} \right)$$

$$\left( \text{Im } \mathcal{L}_{\text{spinor}} = \frac{e^2 E^2}{8\pi^3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \exp \left[ -\frac{m_e^2 \pi}{e E} n \right], \quad \text{Im } \mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}} = \frac{e^2 E^2}{16\pi^3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^2} \exp \left[ -\frac{m_e^2 \pi}{e E} n \right] \right)$$

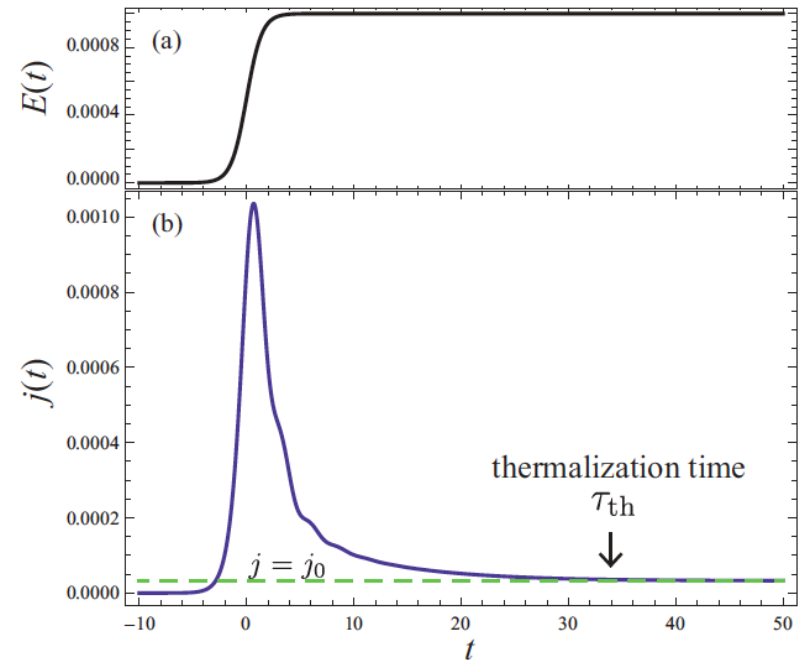
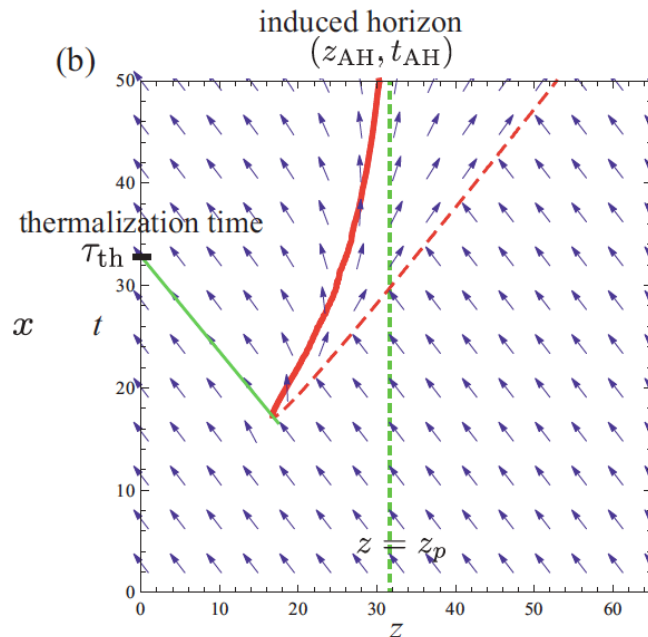
## 3-4

## Holography and D-brane action

Result 3. Time-dependence solved, thermalization.

$$E(t) = \frac{E}{2}(1 + \tanh(\omega t))$$

It relaxes and approaches the stationary current.



Thermalization?

Apparent horizon for the induced metric on the D7-brane, formed at a Planckian time.

$$\tau_{\text{th}} \sim a\pi \left( \frac{\lambda}{2\pi^2} \right)^{1/4} \frac{\hbar}{k_B} E^{-1/2} \sim 1 \text{ [fm/c]}$$



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