Detecting the fractionalized Fermi liquid in the cuprate superconductors

University of Oxford

February 10, 2026

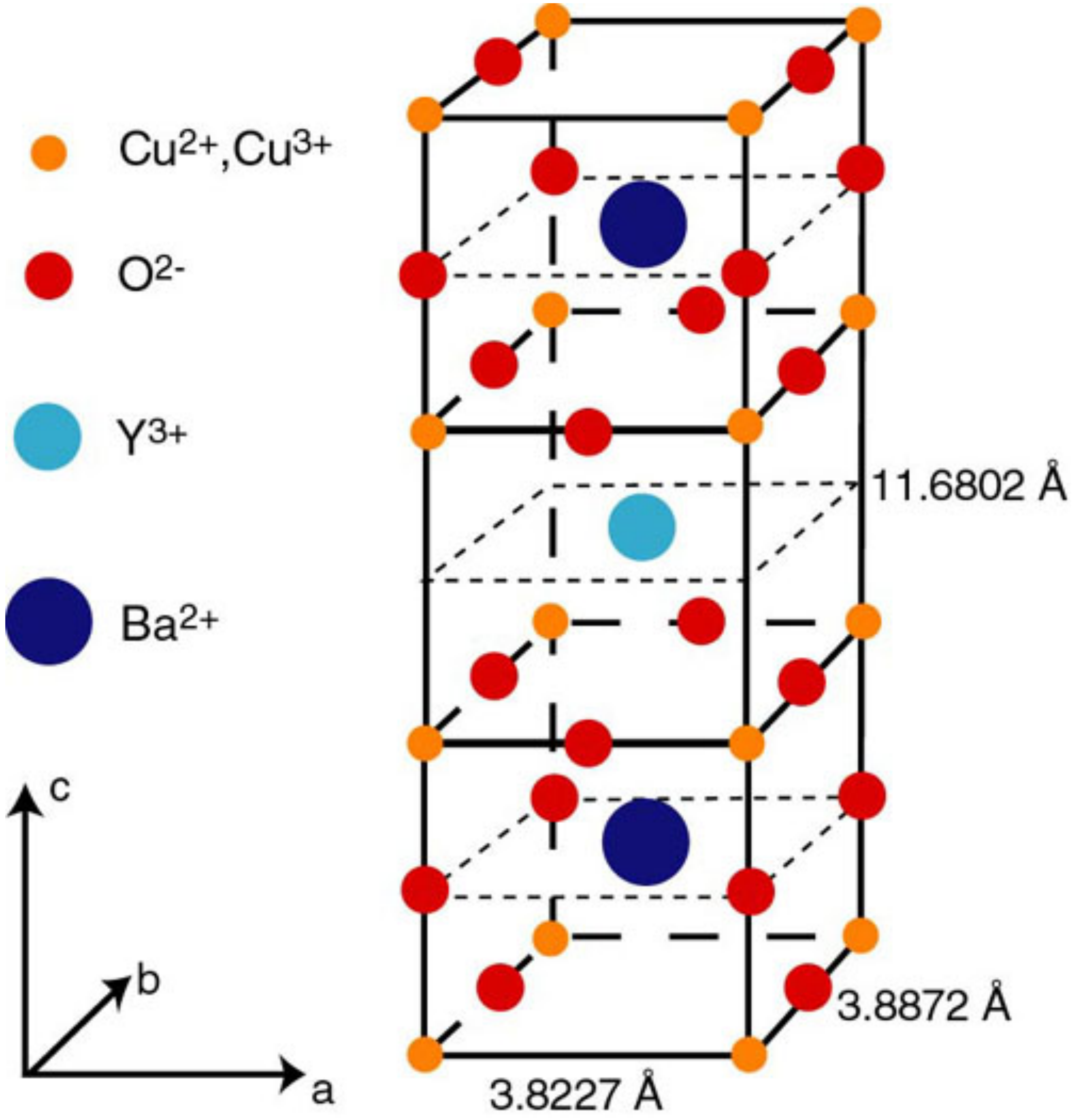
Subir Sachdev

PHYSICS

VE RI TAS

HARVARD

Cuprate high temperature superconductors



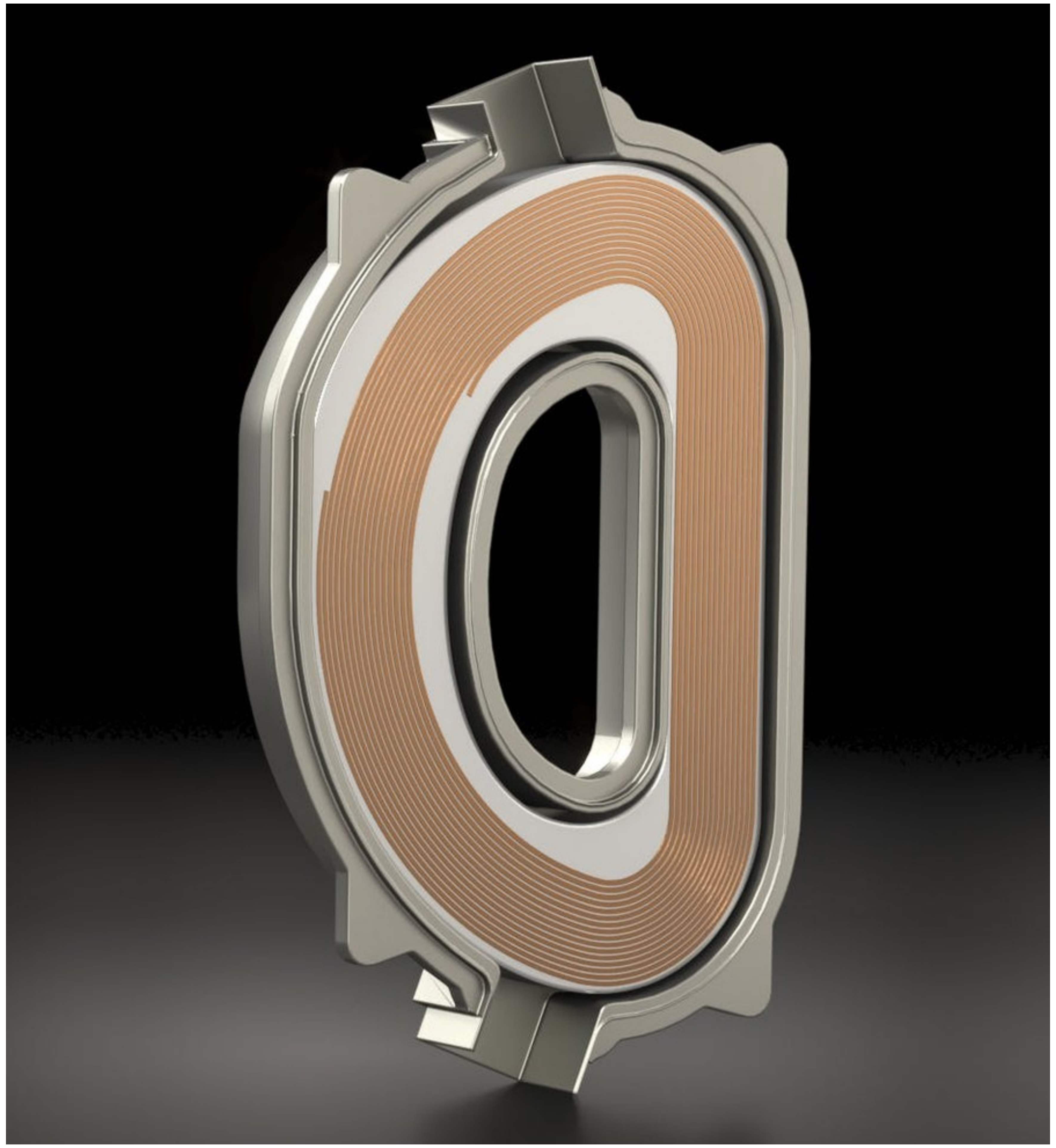
$YBa_2Cu_3O_{6+x}$

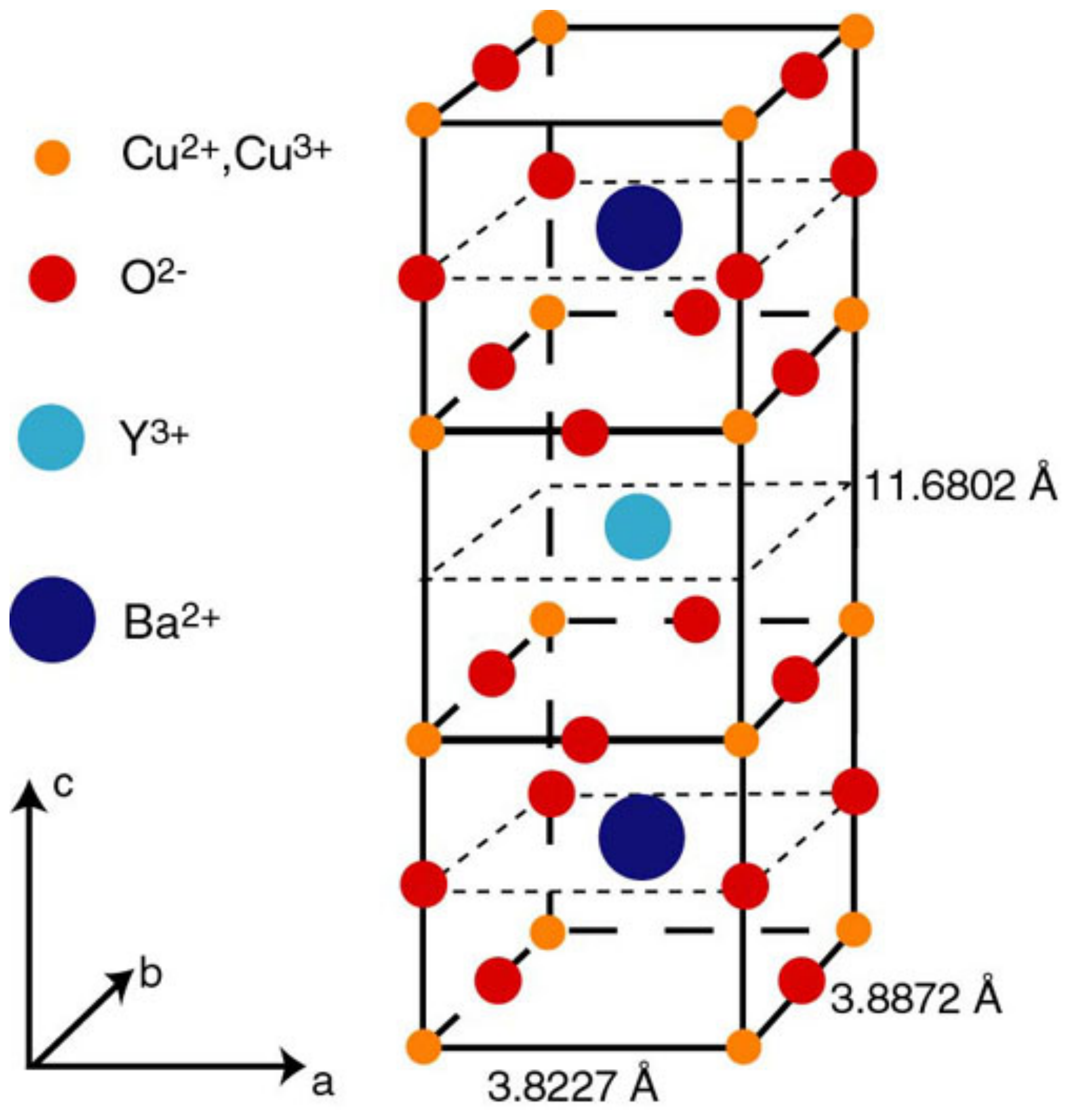
HTS Magnets: Enabling Technology

The surest path to limitless, clean, fusion energy

YBCO magnets allow for smaller, faster, and less expensive tokamaks for plasma fusion

Commonwealth Fusion Systems





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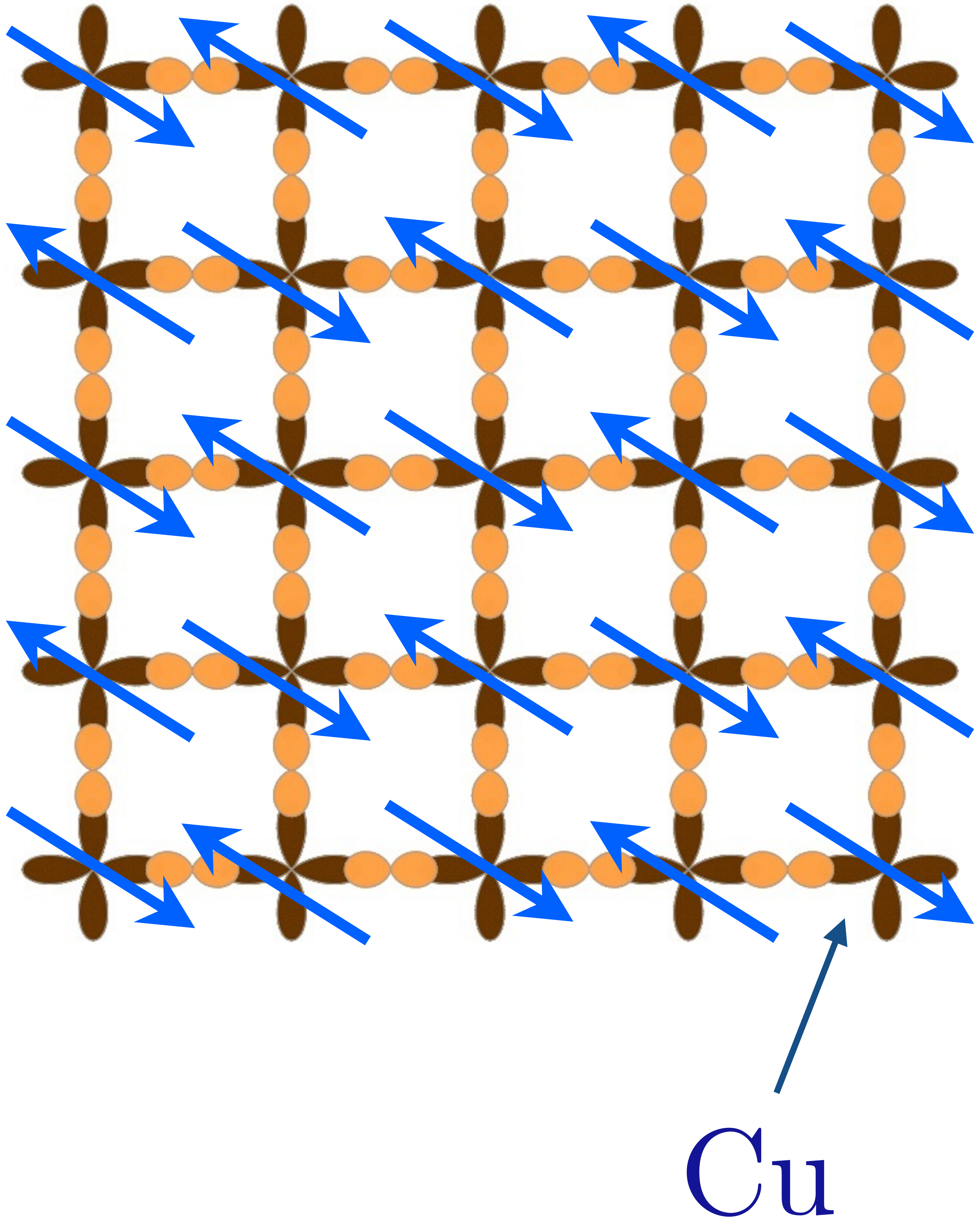
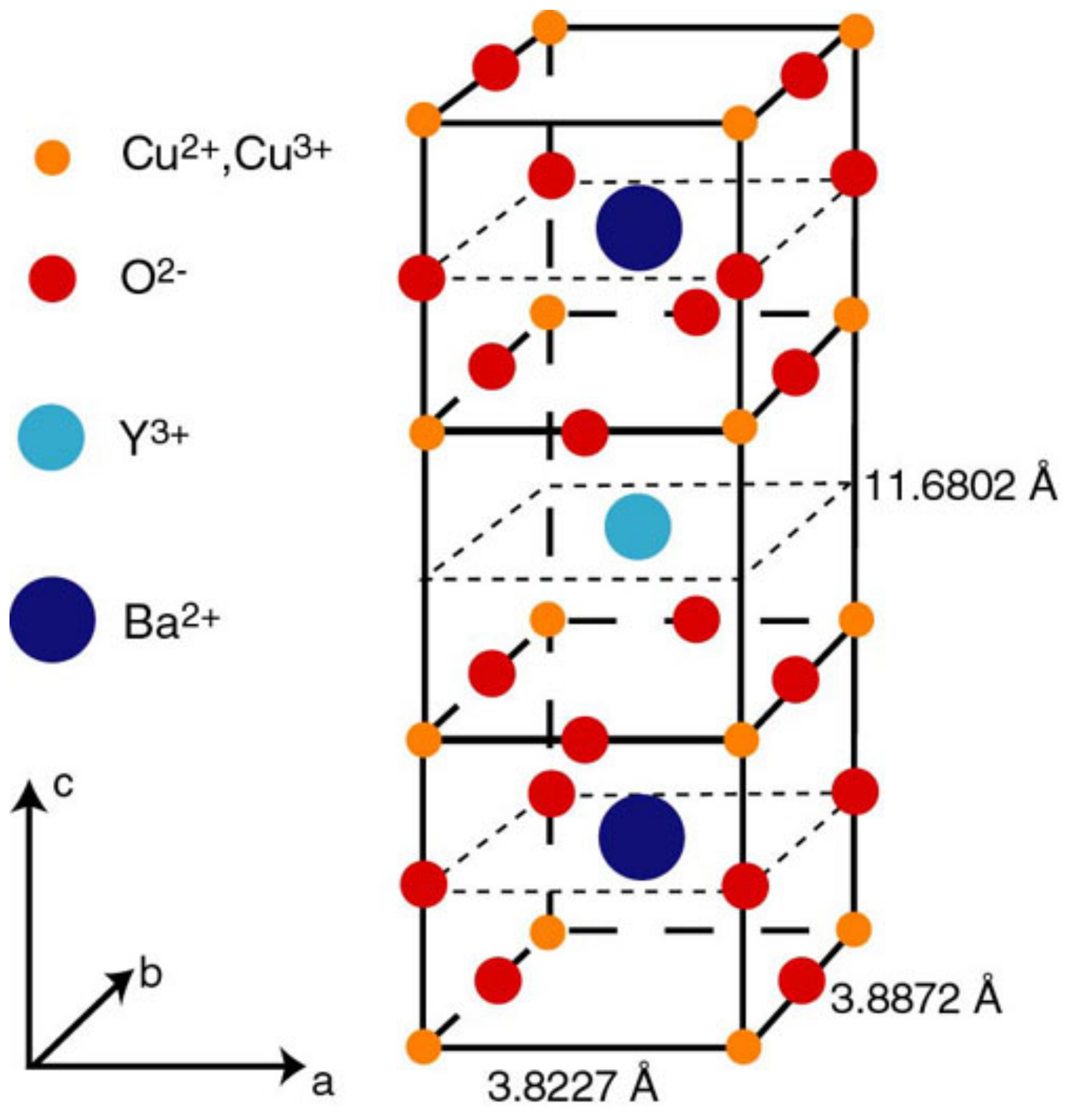


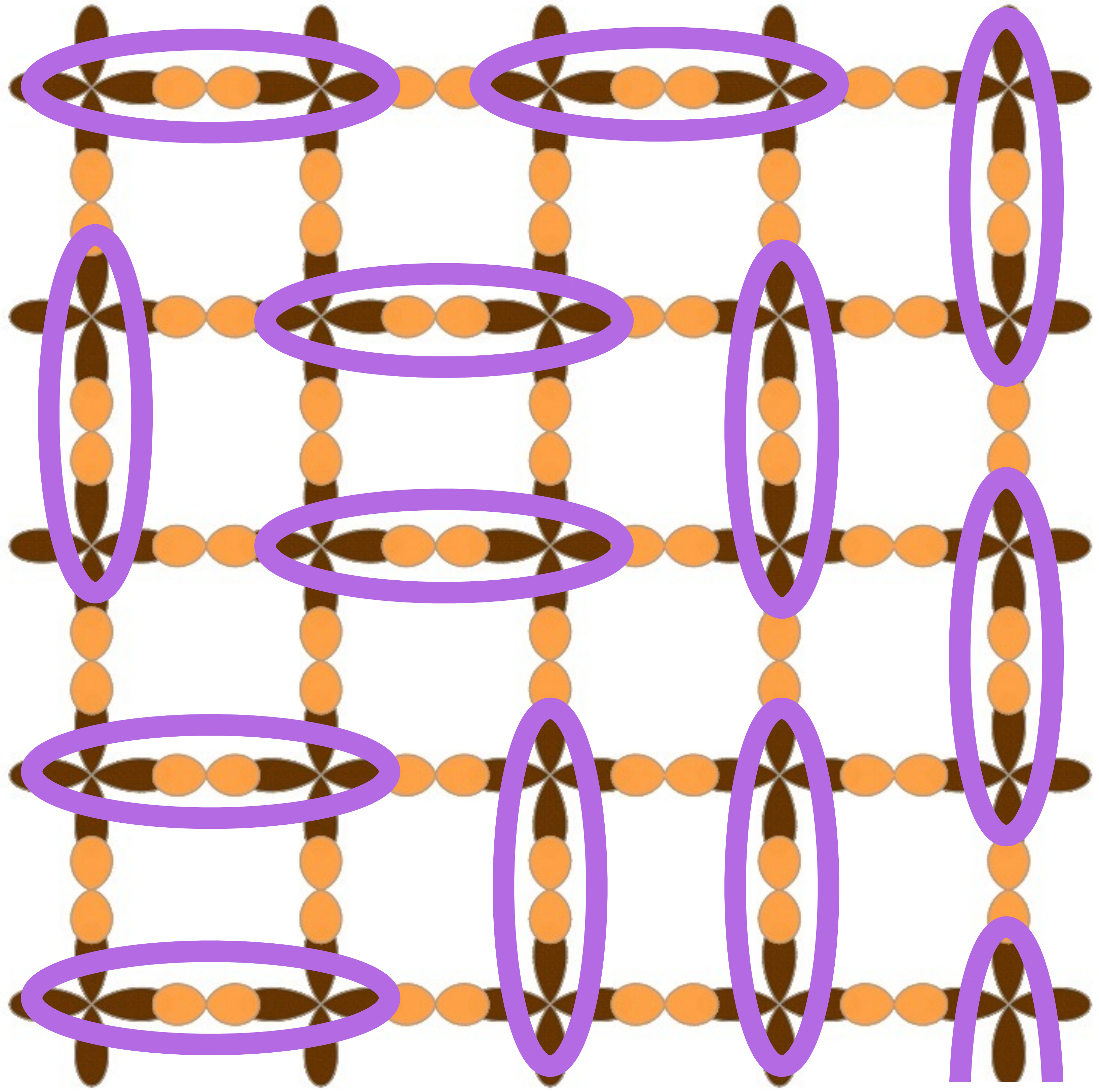
$$\mathcal{H} = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \boldsymbol{S}_i \cdot \boldsymbol{S}_j$$

$S = 1/2$ on each site

$$|\uparrow\rangle, \ |\uparrow\rangle$$
$$S_z \, |\uparrow\rangle = (1/2) \, |\uparrow\rangle$$
$$S_z \, |\downarrow\rangle = -(1/2) \, |\downarrow\rangle$$
$$(S_x + i S_y) \, |\downarrow\rangle = |\uparrow\rangle$$
$$(S_x - i S_y) \, |\uparrow\rangle = |\downarrow\rangle$$

Insulating antiferromagnet with one electron per site

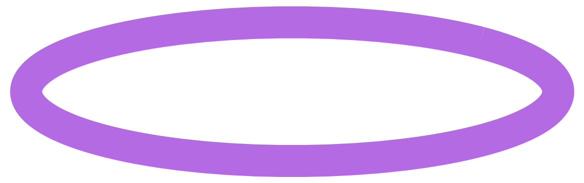




$$|G\rangle = \sum_{\mathcal{D}} c_{\mathcal{D}} \, |\mathcal{D}\rangle$$

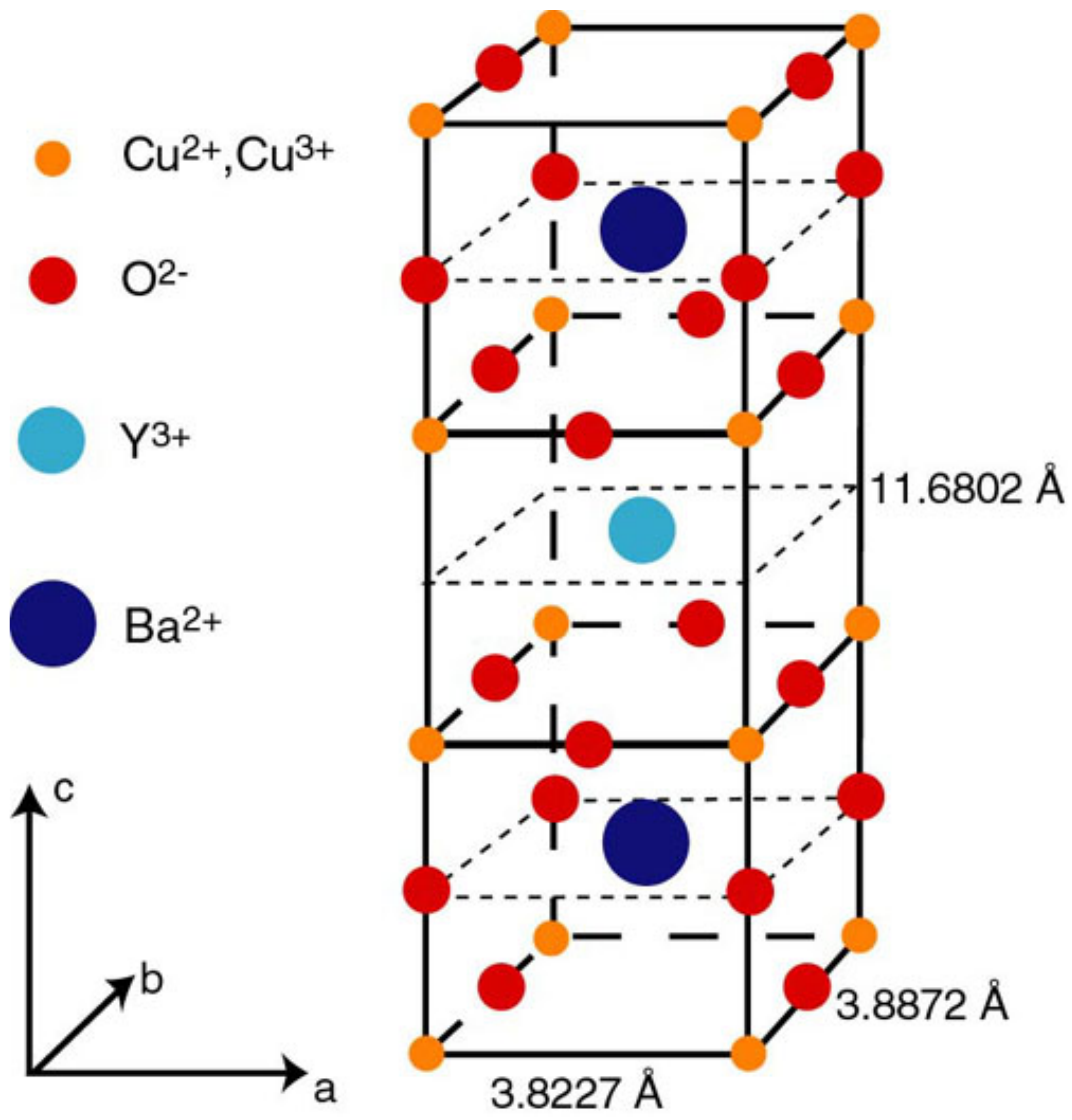
$\mathcal{D} \rightarrow$ dimer covering of lattice

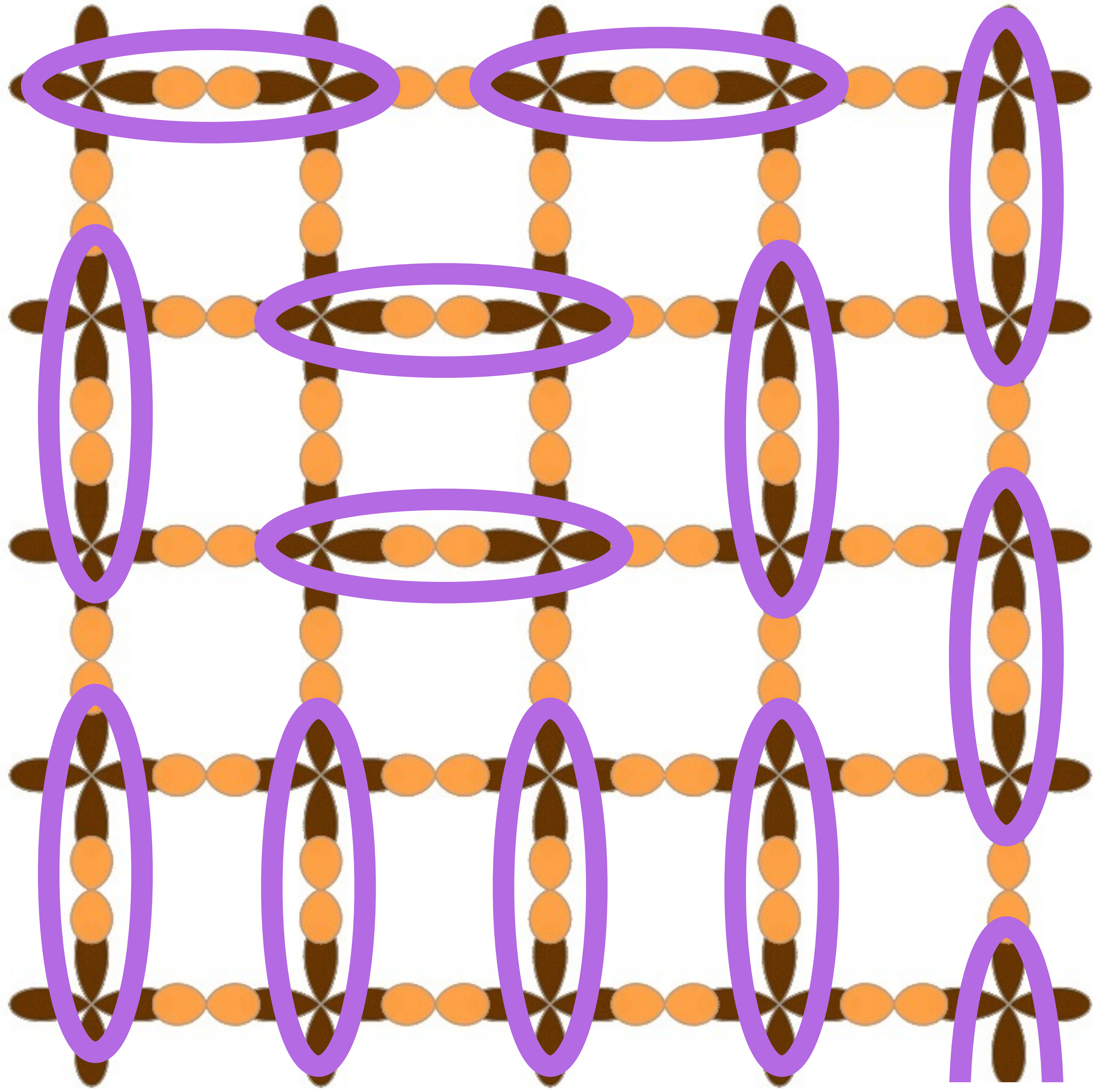
$$YBa_2Cu_3O_{6+x}$$

 $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$

P.W. Anderson (1987): The key to high temperature superconductivity is the formation of a "resonating valence bond state".

A quantum spin liquid with many-boson (spins on Cu) **entanglement**





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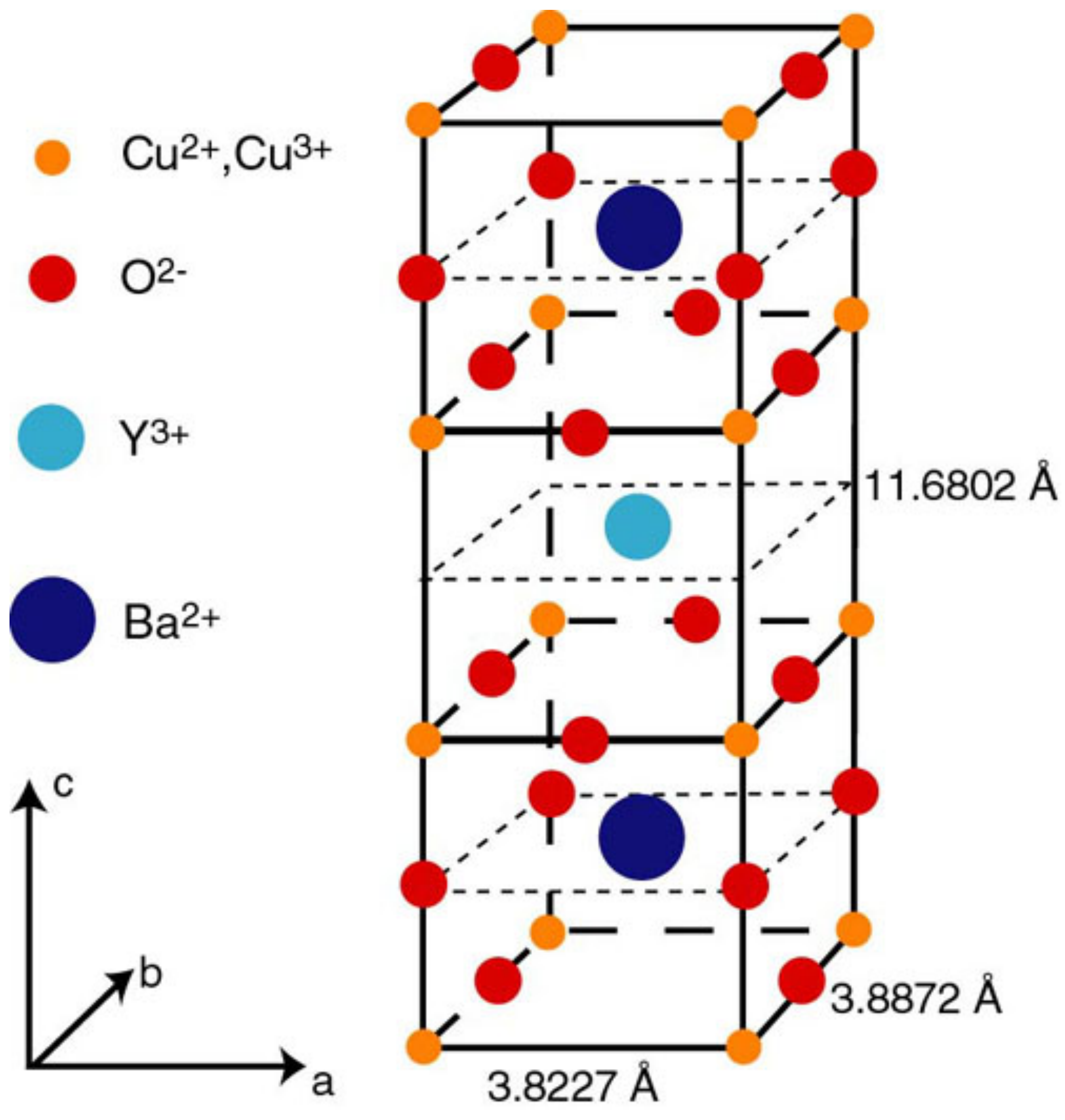

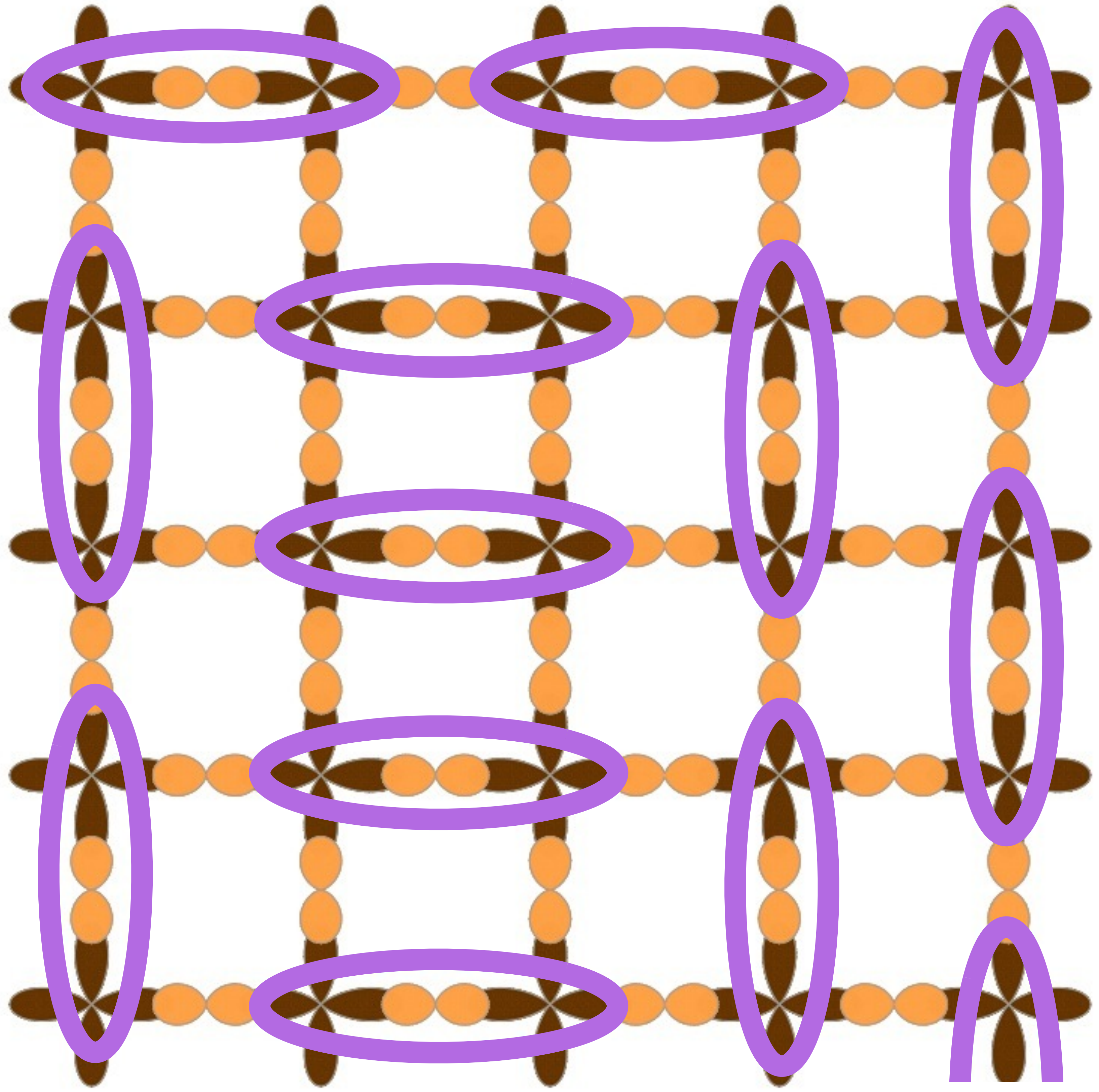

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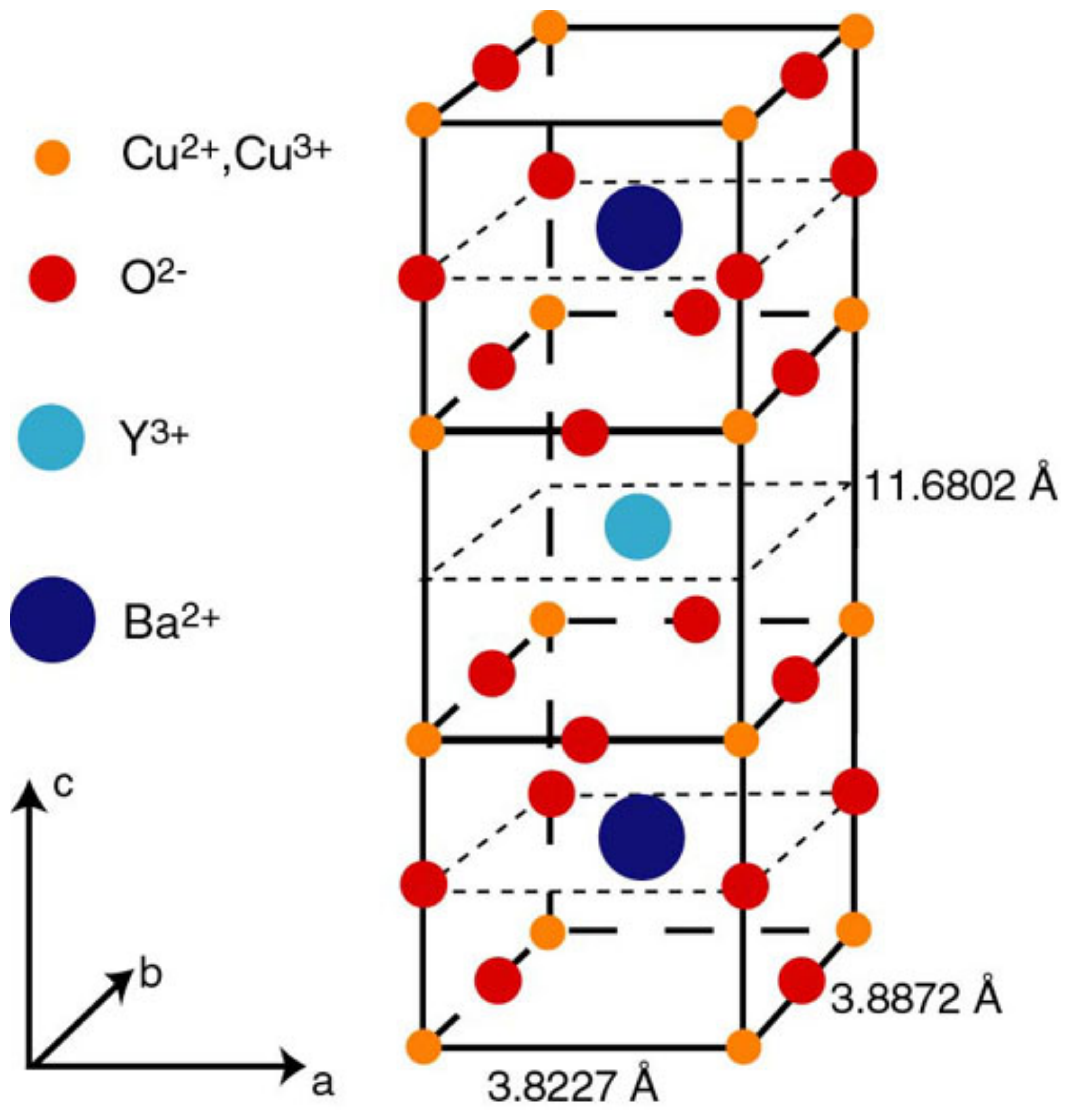

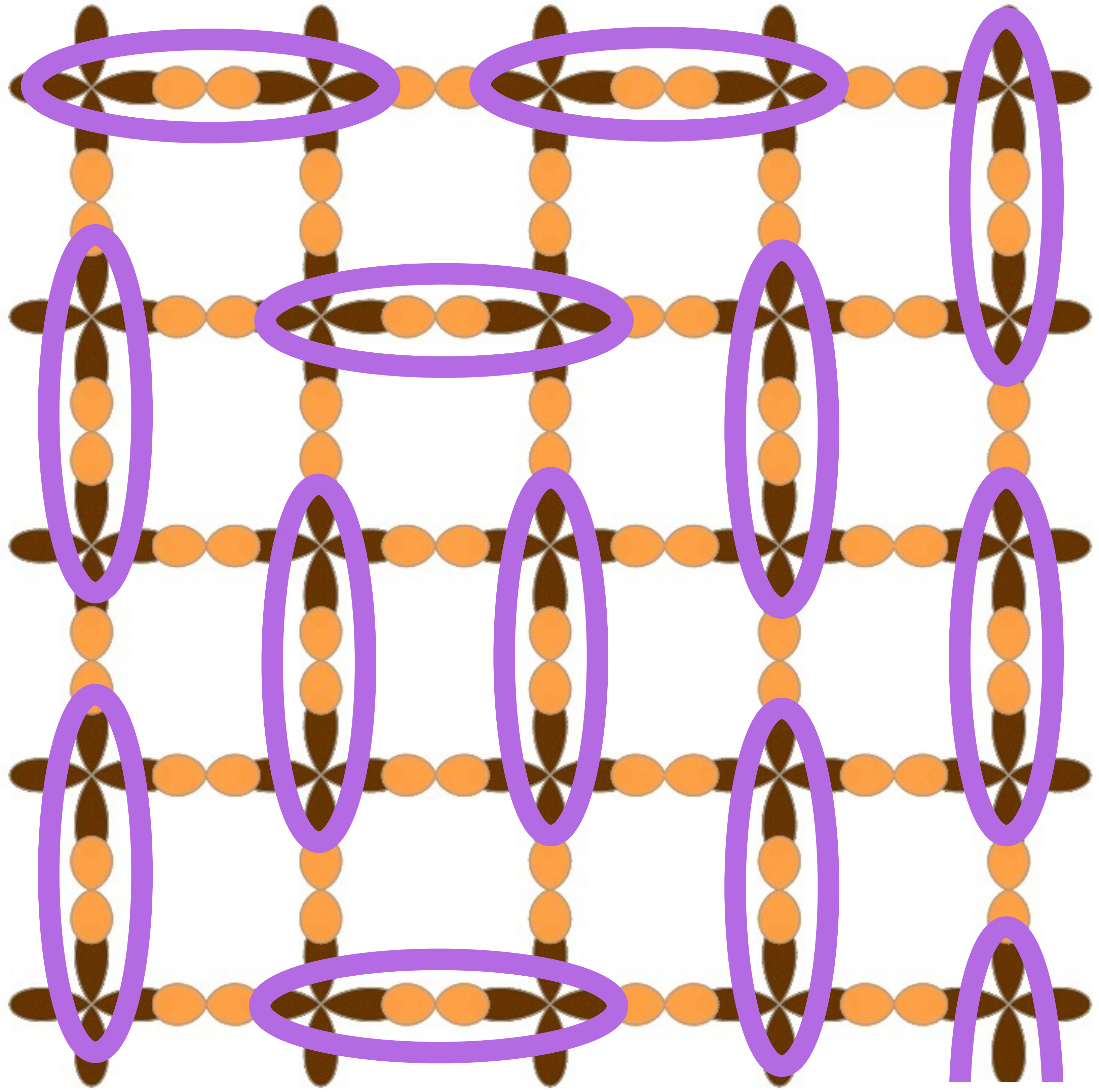

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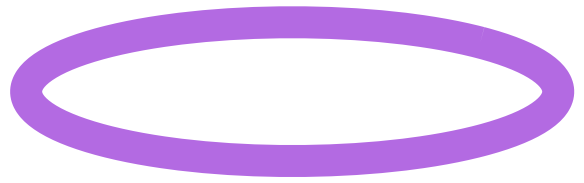 $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$

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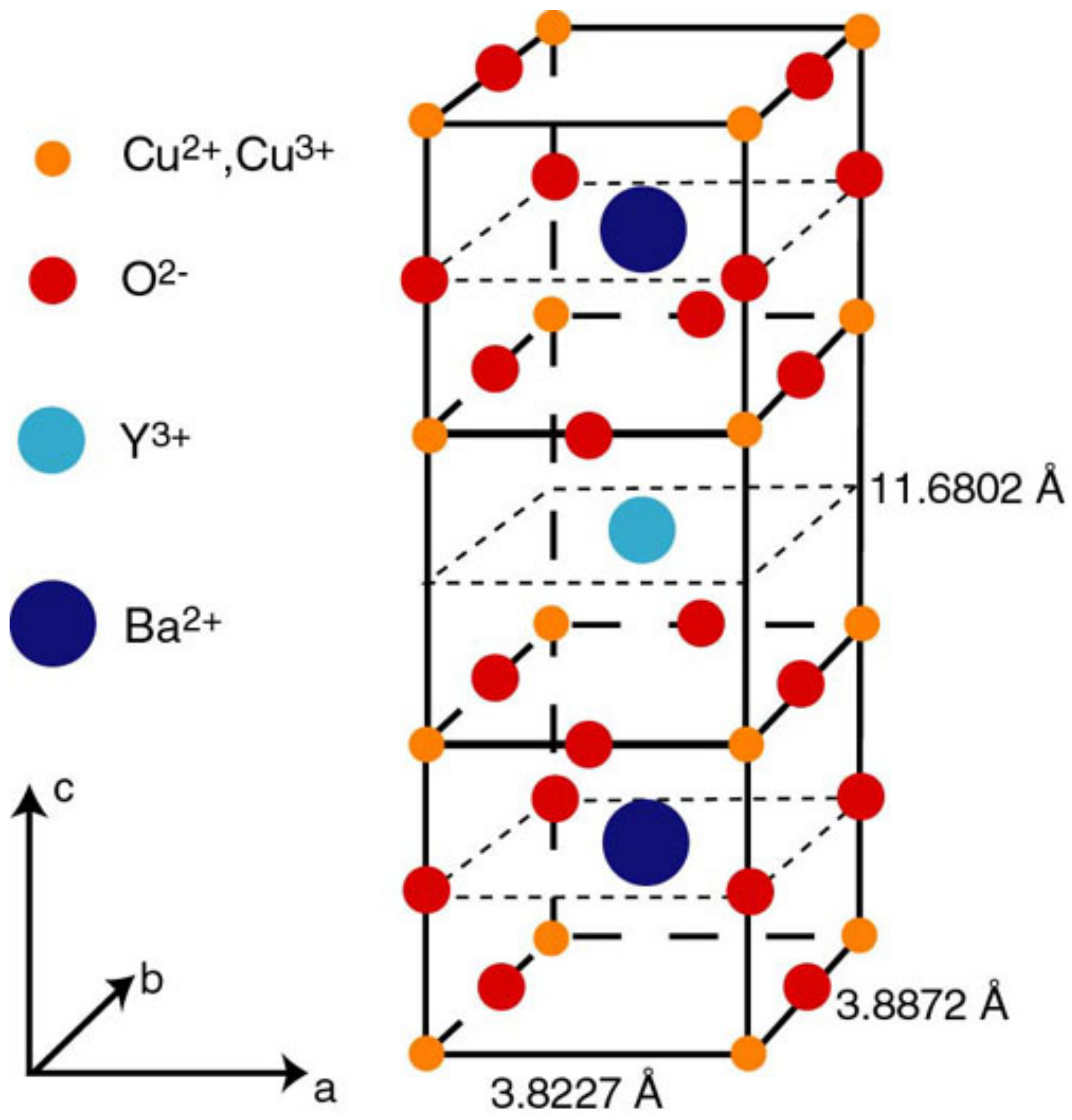
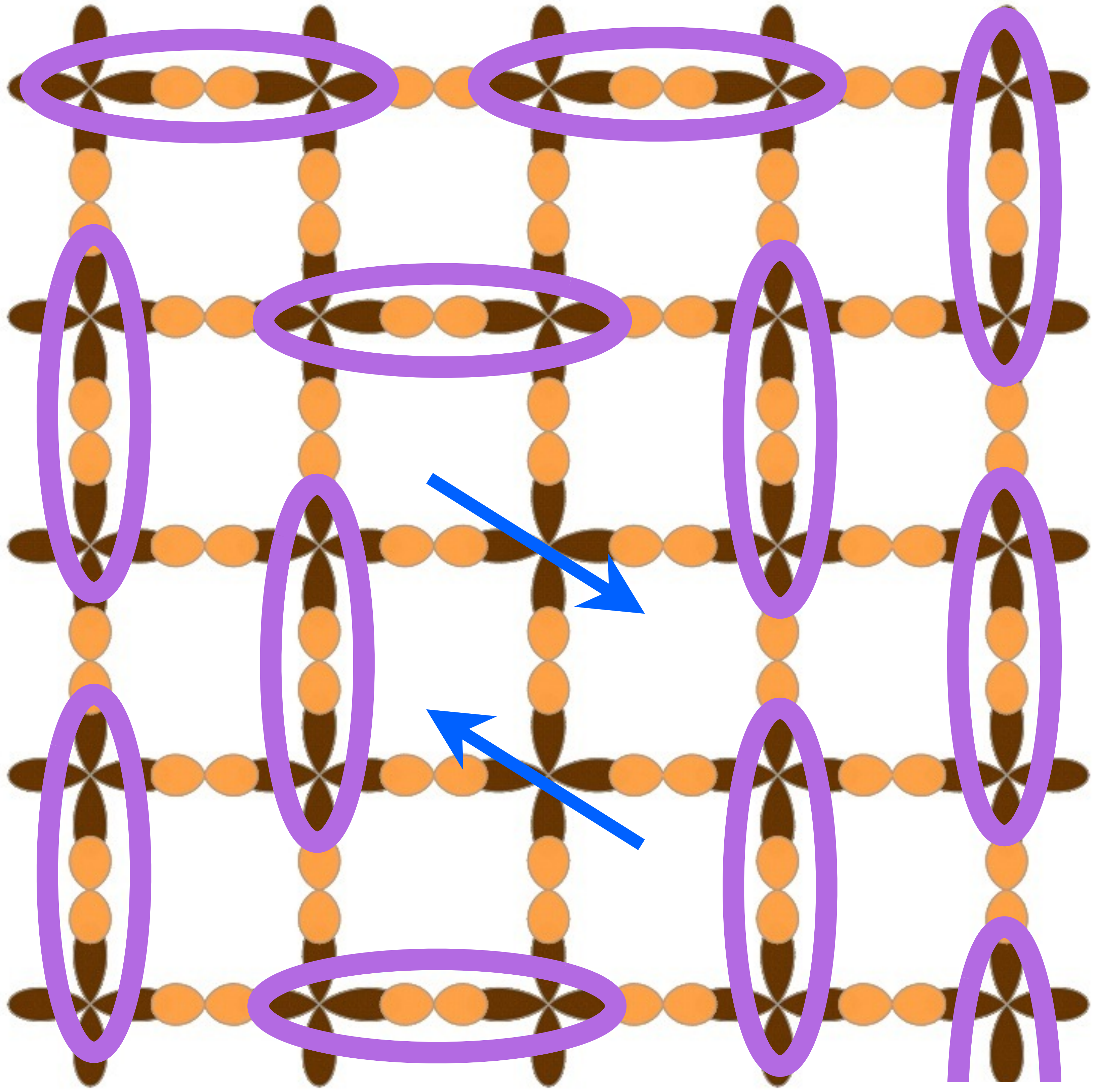
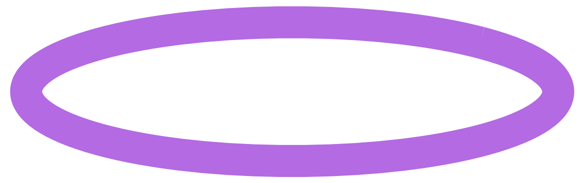
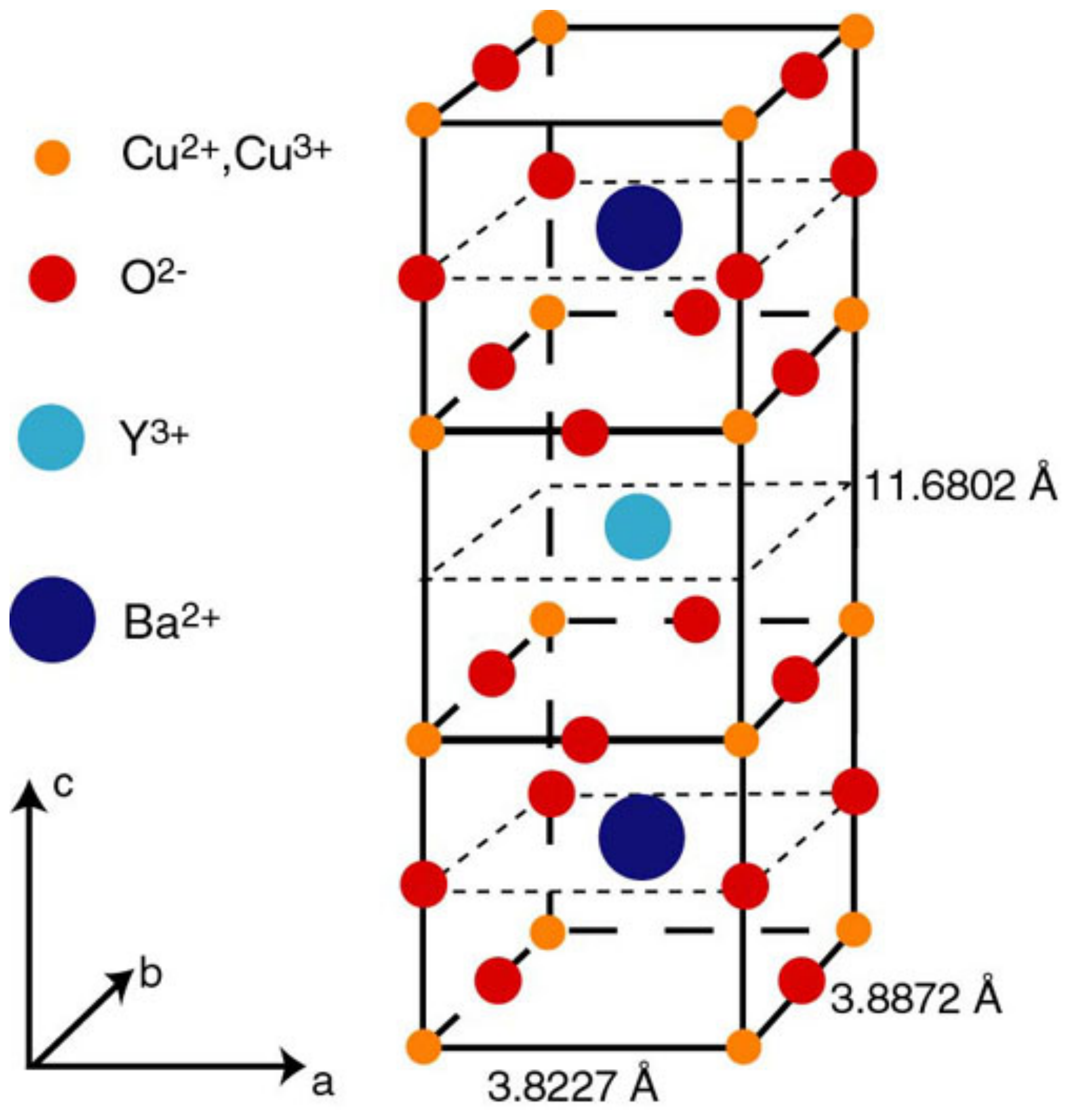


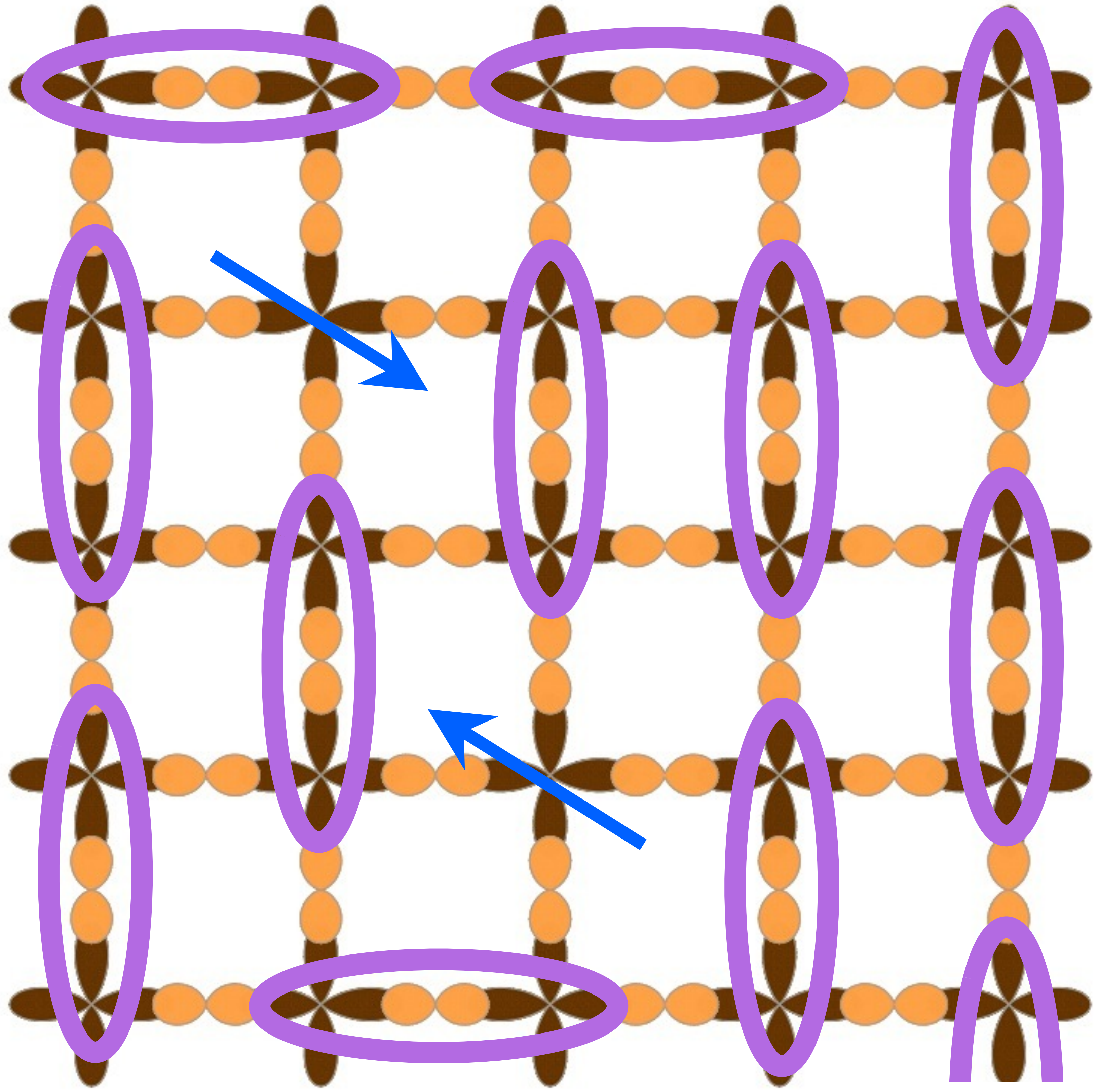


$$\mathrm{YBa_2Cu_3O_{6+x}}$$

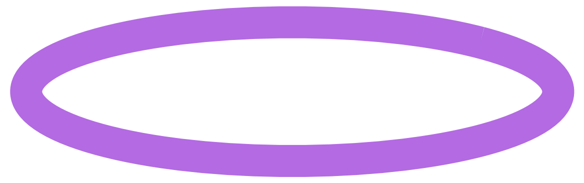
 $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)$

Key feature: fractionalization. Excitations are particle-like, but cannot be created by local operators: they are classified under distinct superselection/anyon sectors.





$YBa_2Cu_3O_{6+x}$

 $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$

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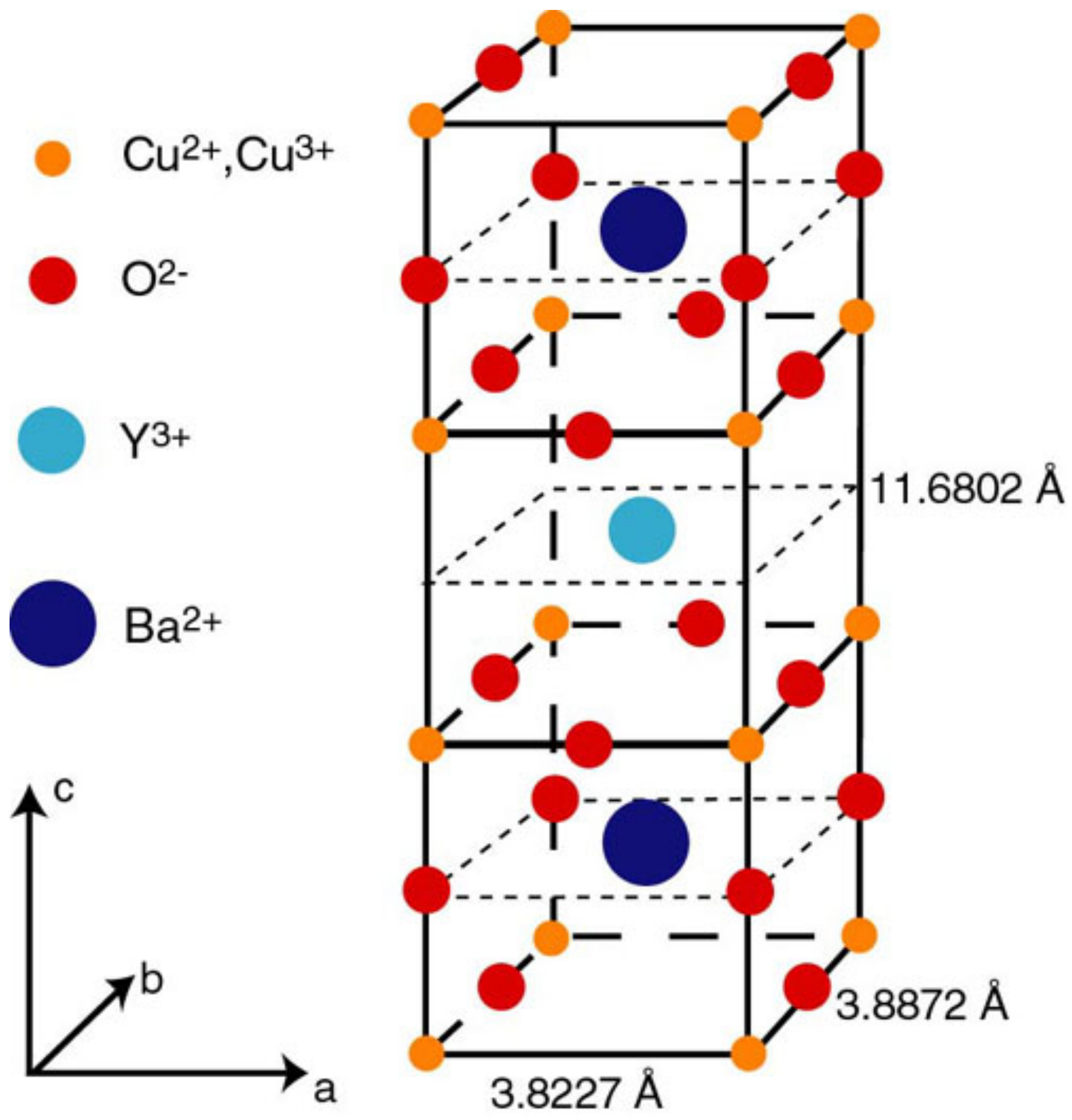

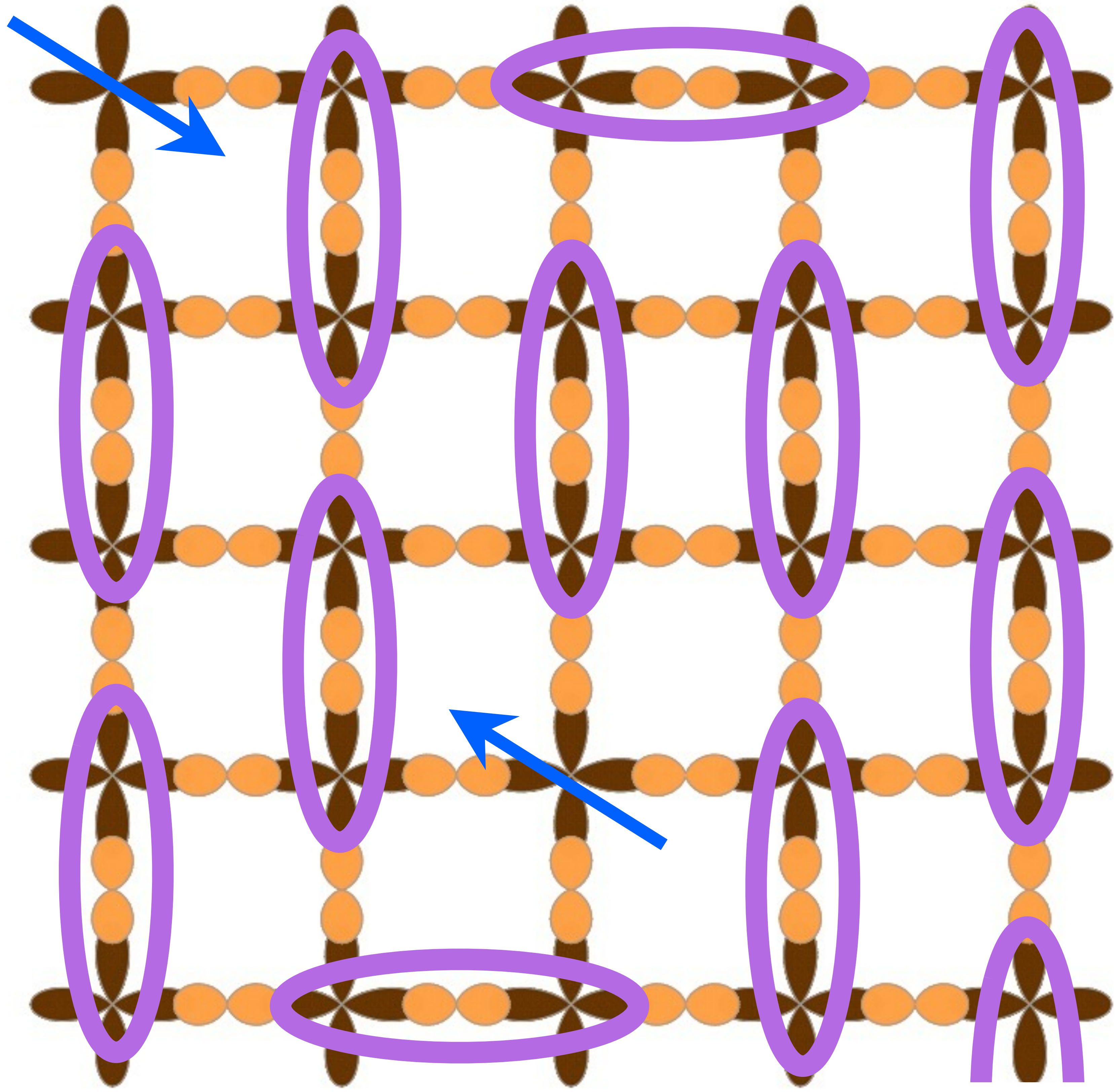

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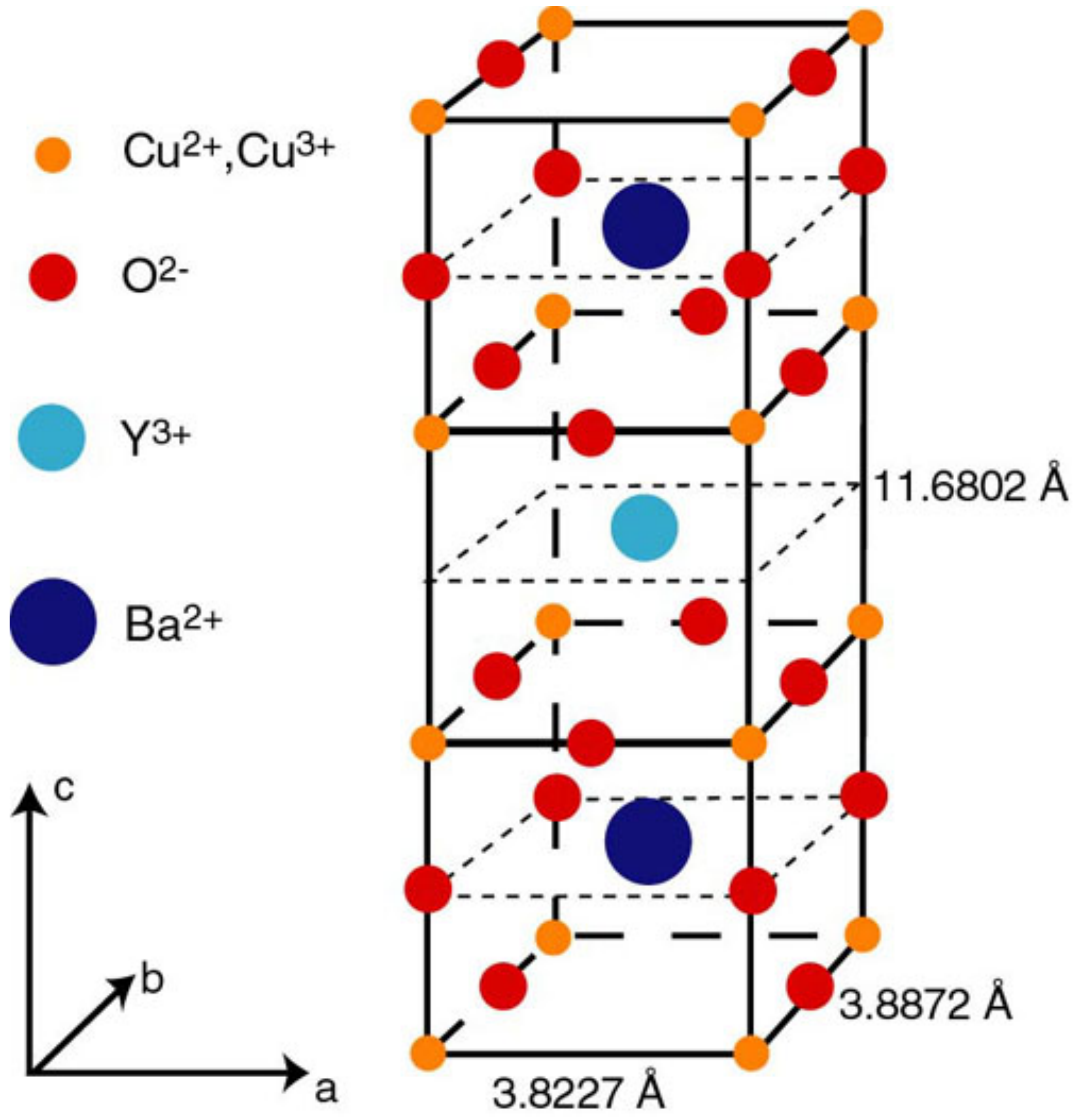
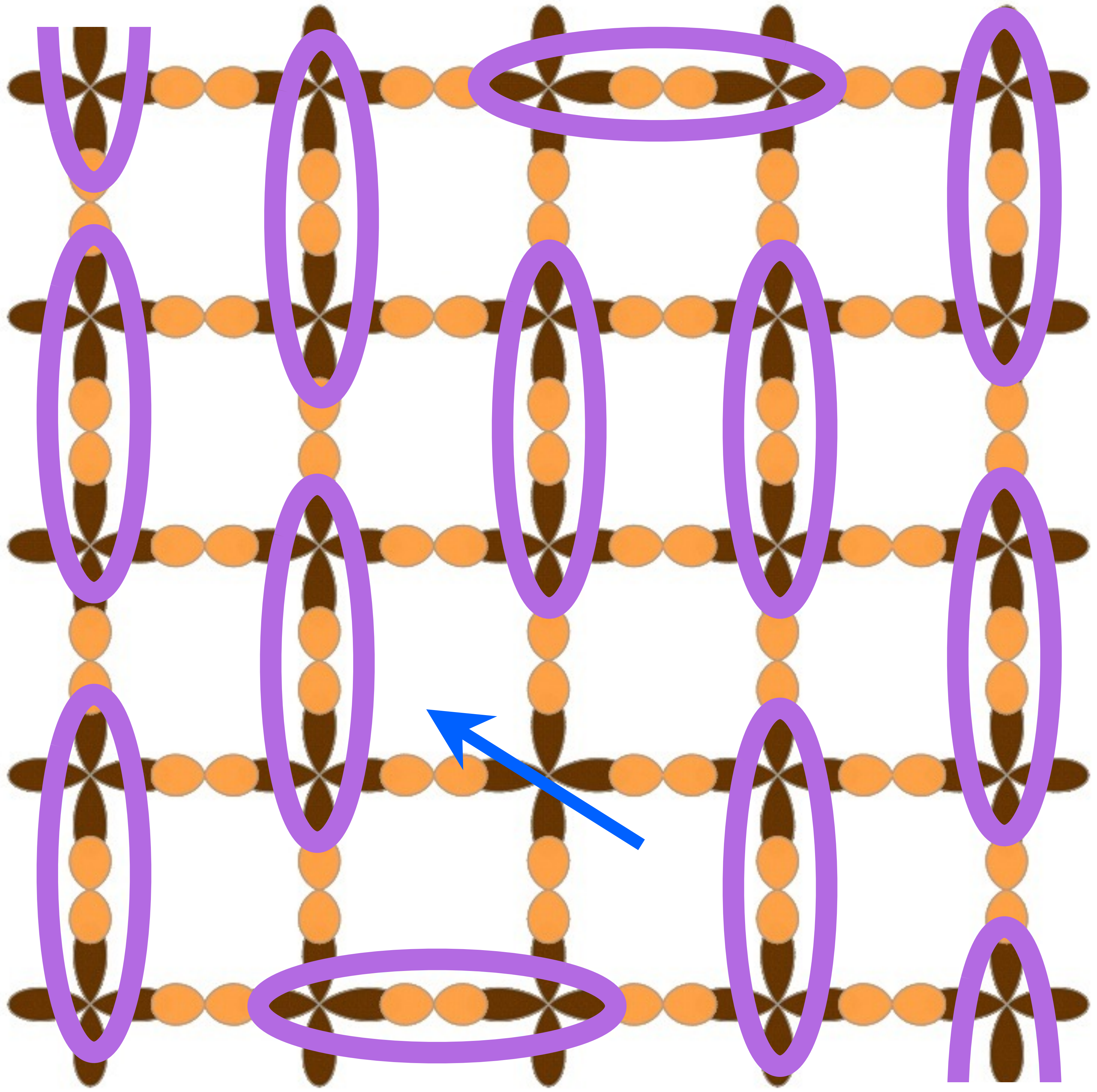
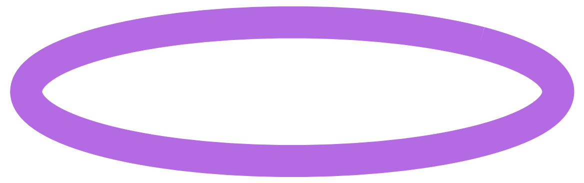




Spin S=1/2, charge neutral spinon

$$\mathrm{YBa_2Cu_3O}_{6+x}$$

 $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)$

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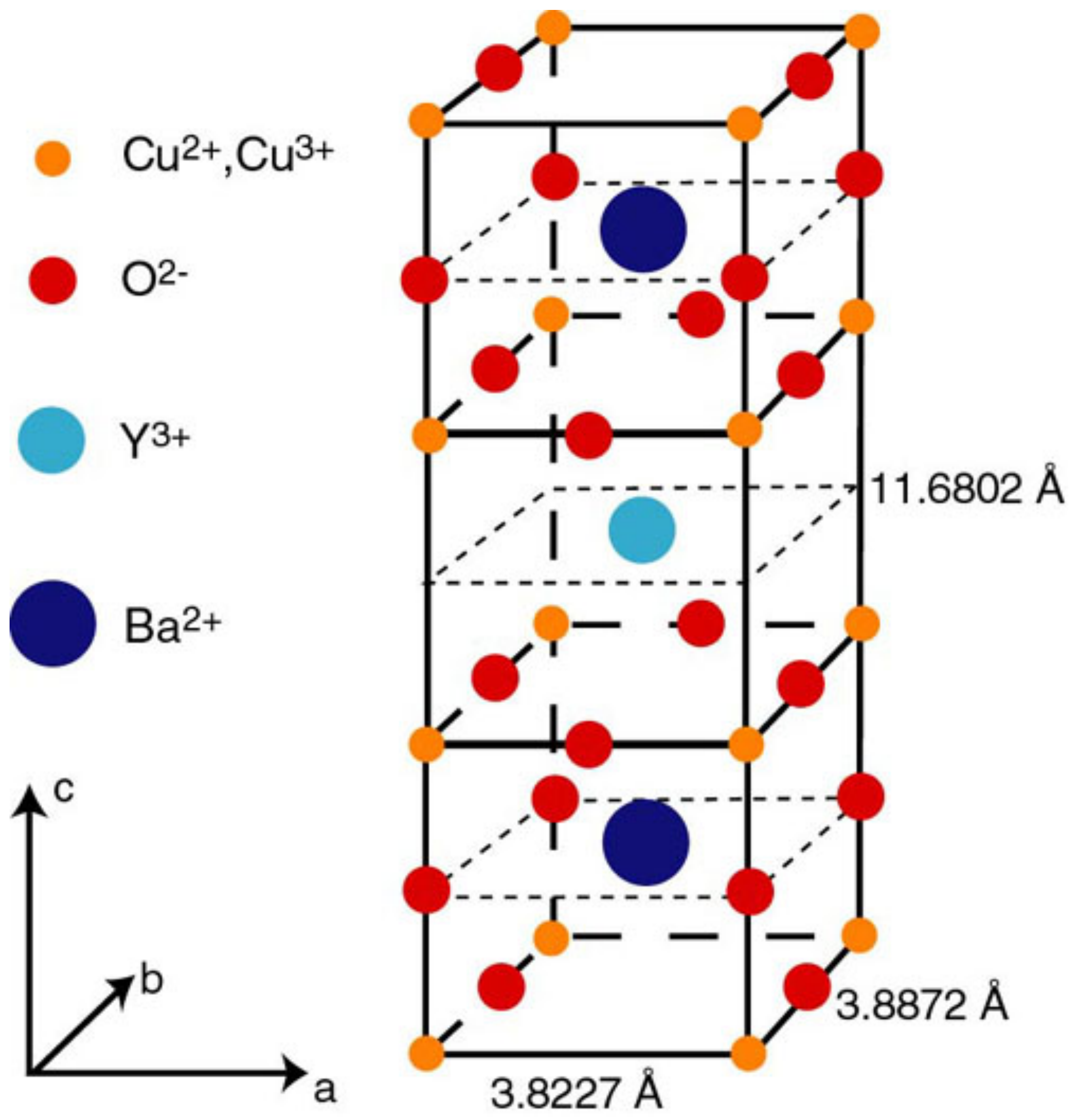

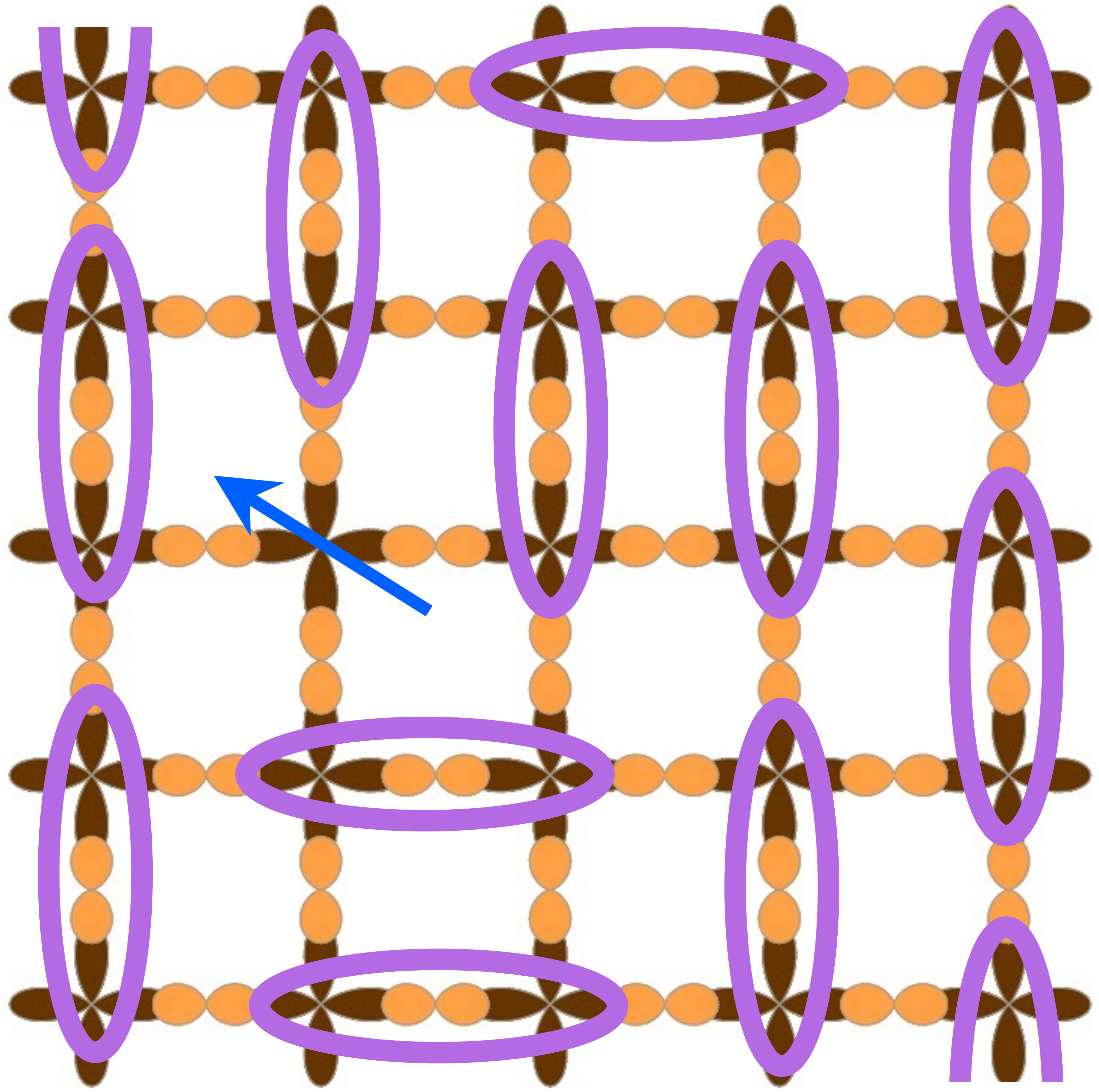

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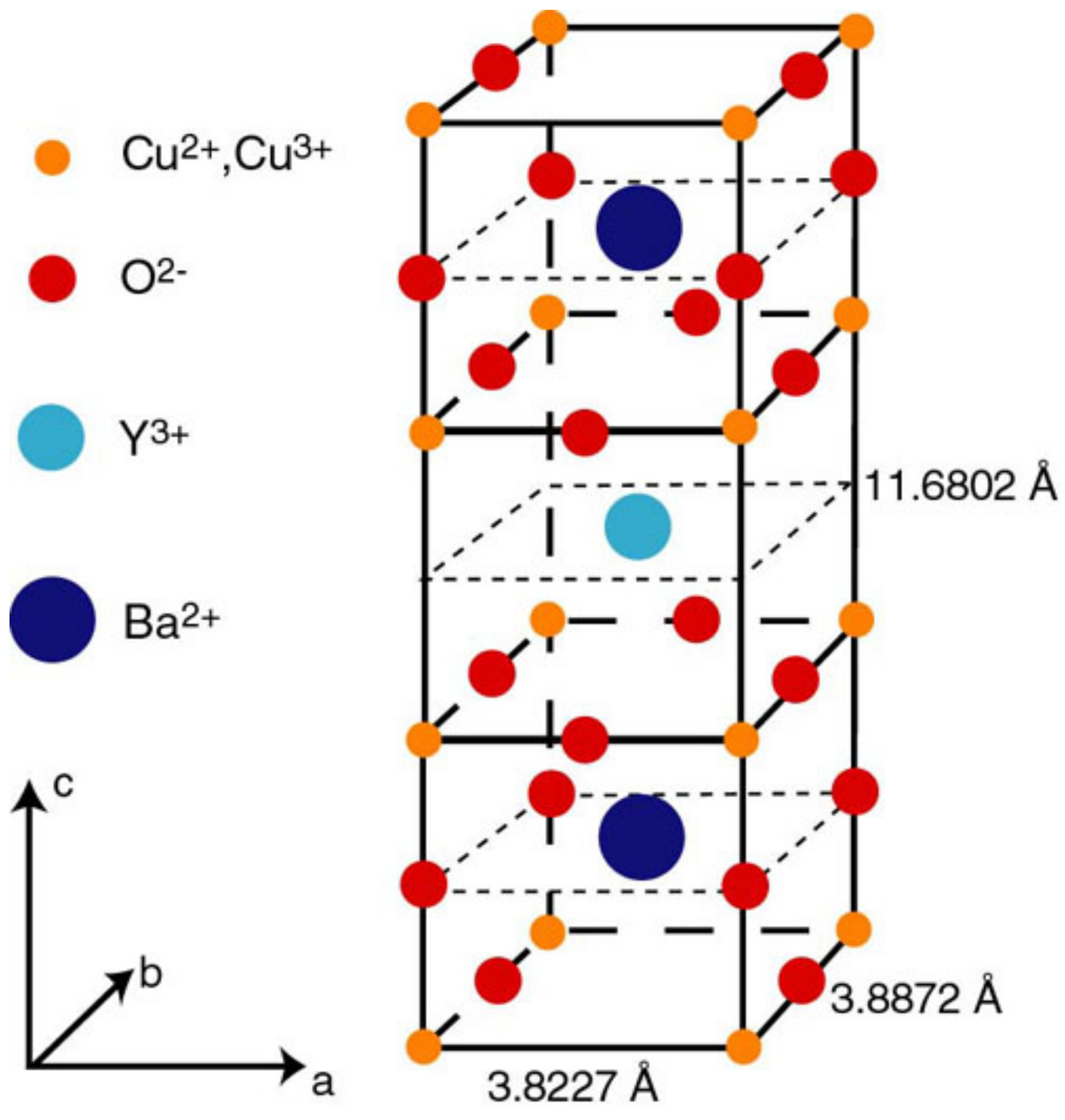

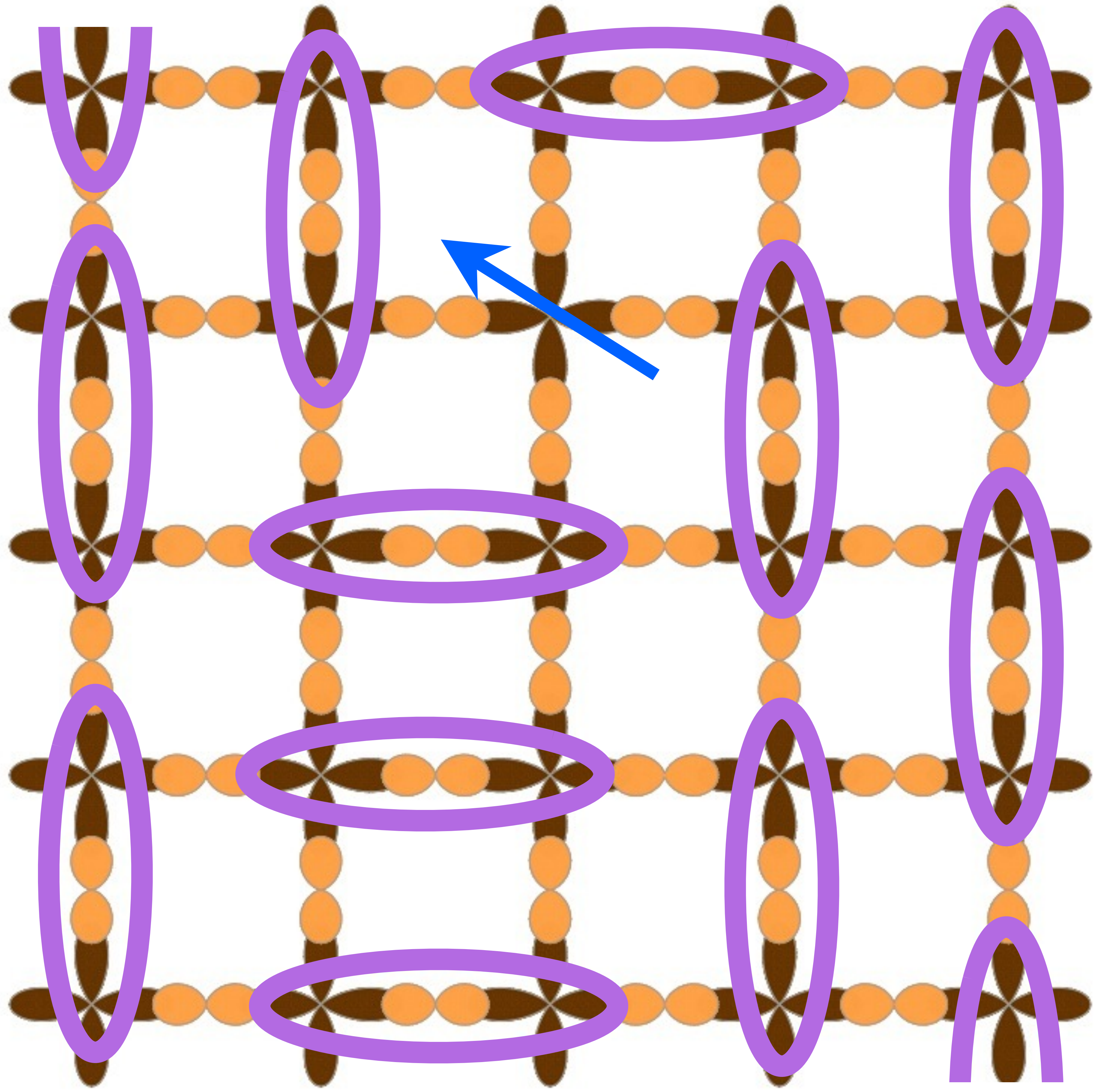

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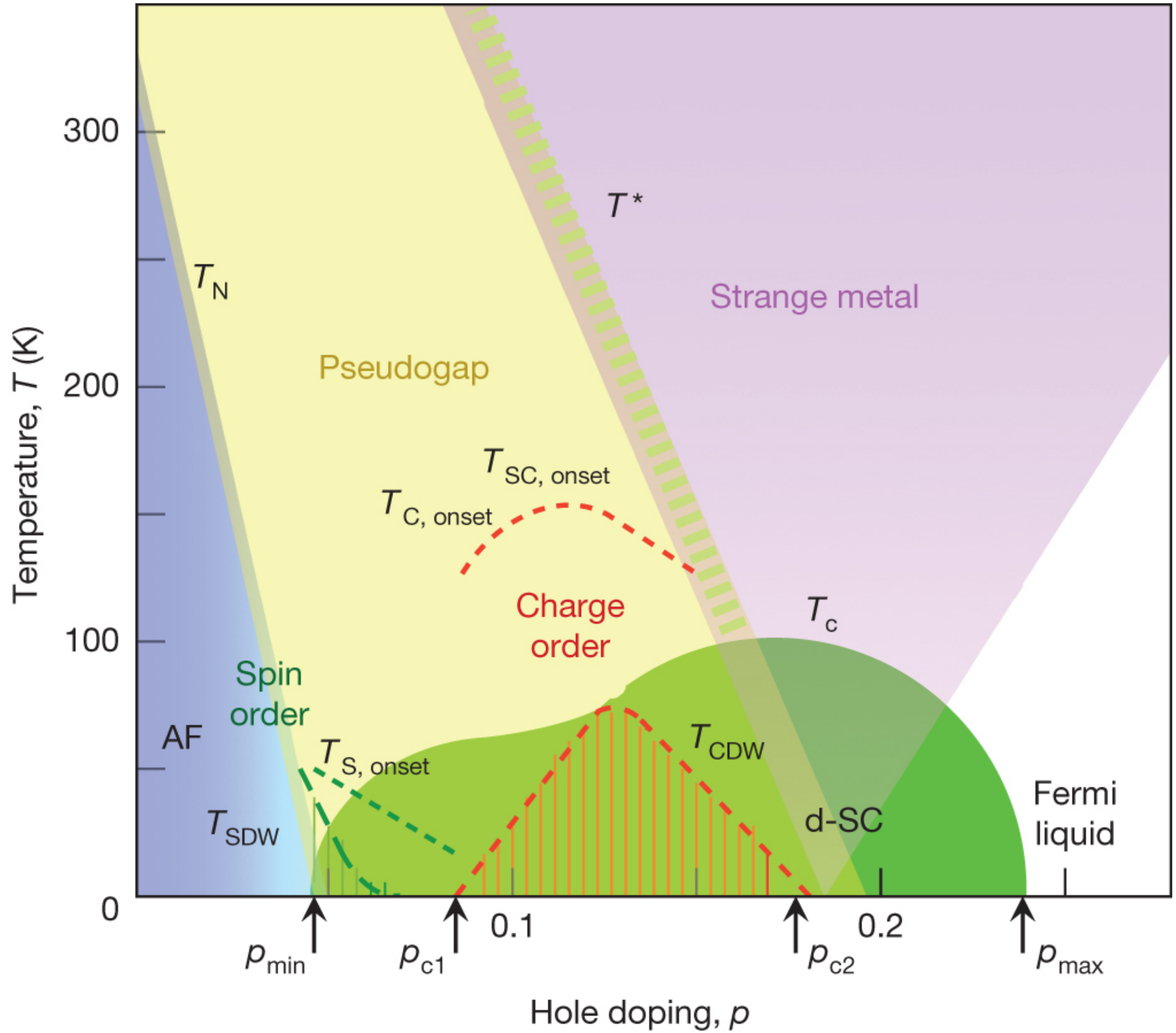
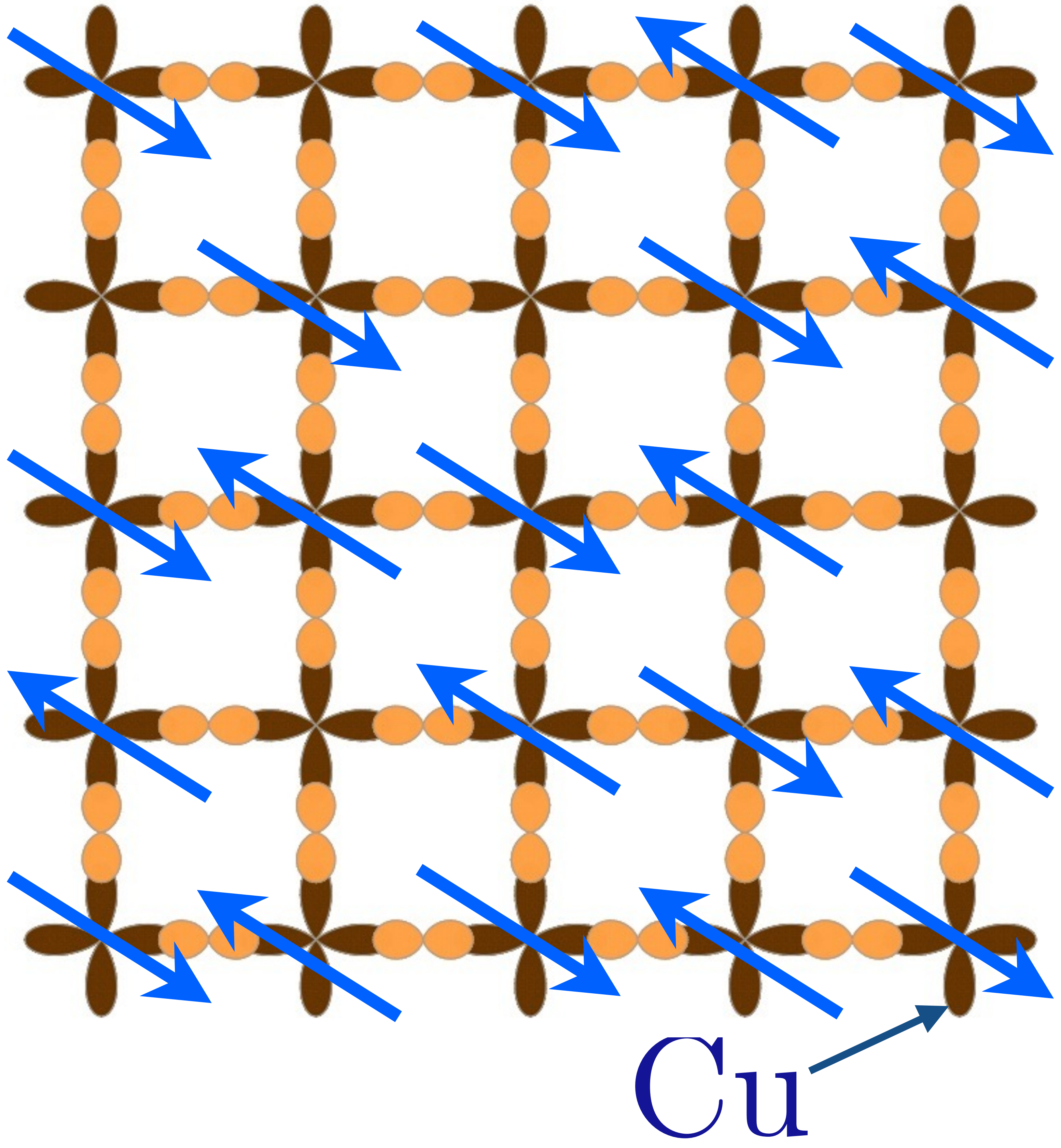
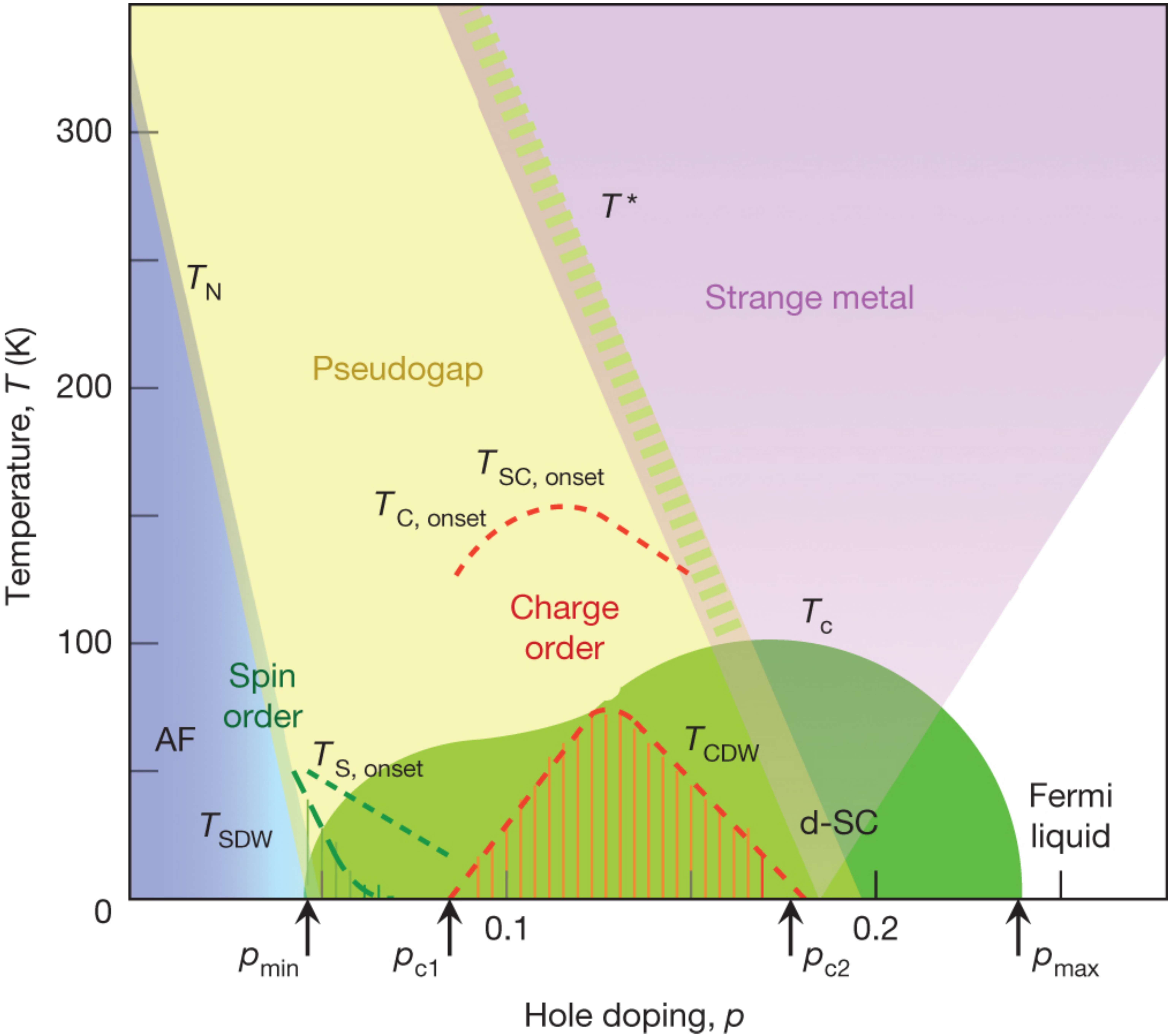
Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)

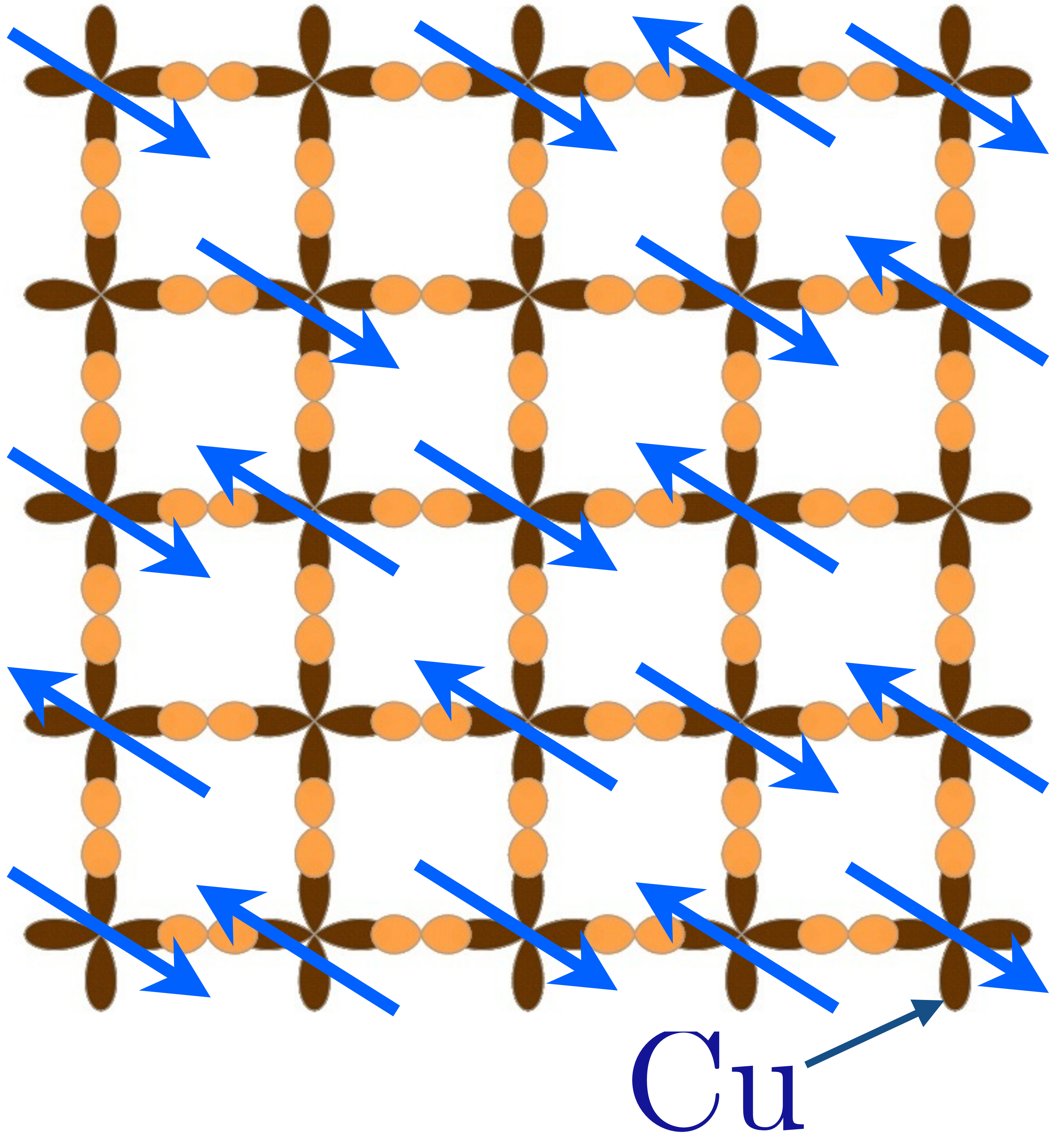




d-SC obtained upon doping AF with density p holes.

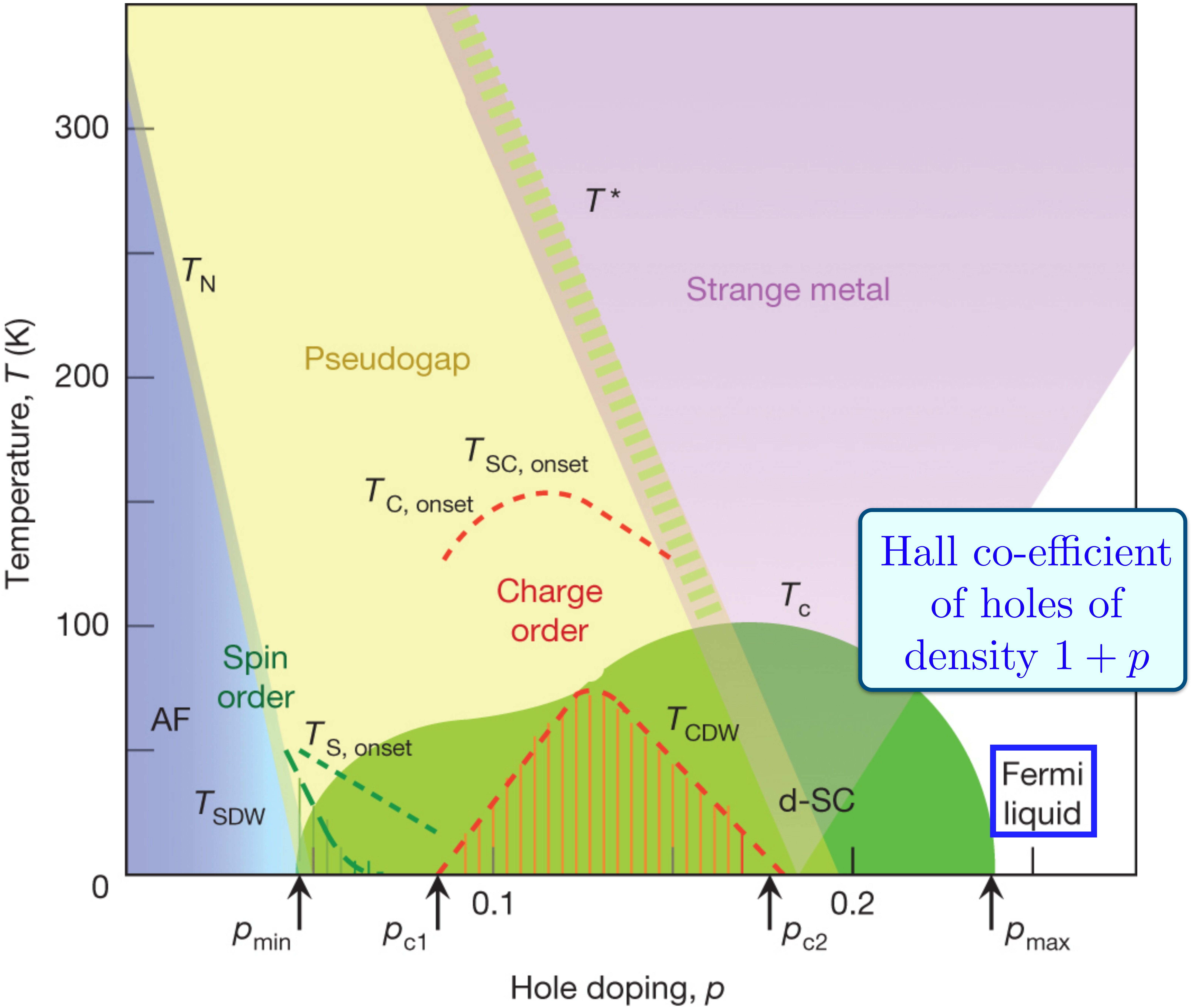
Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)





d-SC obtained upon doping AF with density p holes. Hole density relative to the filled band $\rho = 1 + p$. Electron density relative to the empty band $\rho_e = 1 - p$.

Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)



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M. Platé *et al.*, PRL **95**, 077001 (2005)

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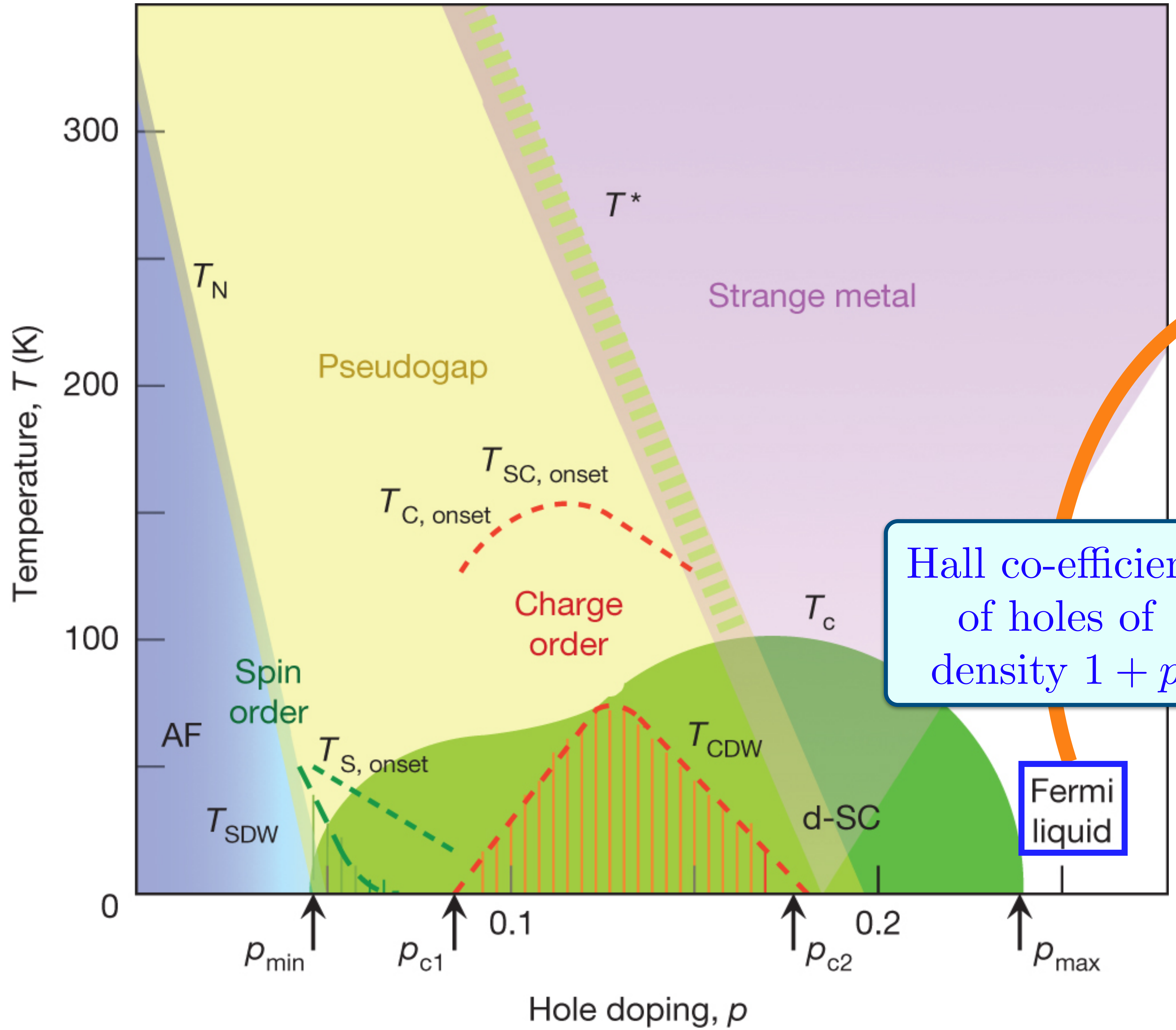
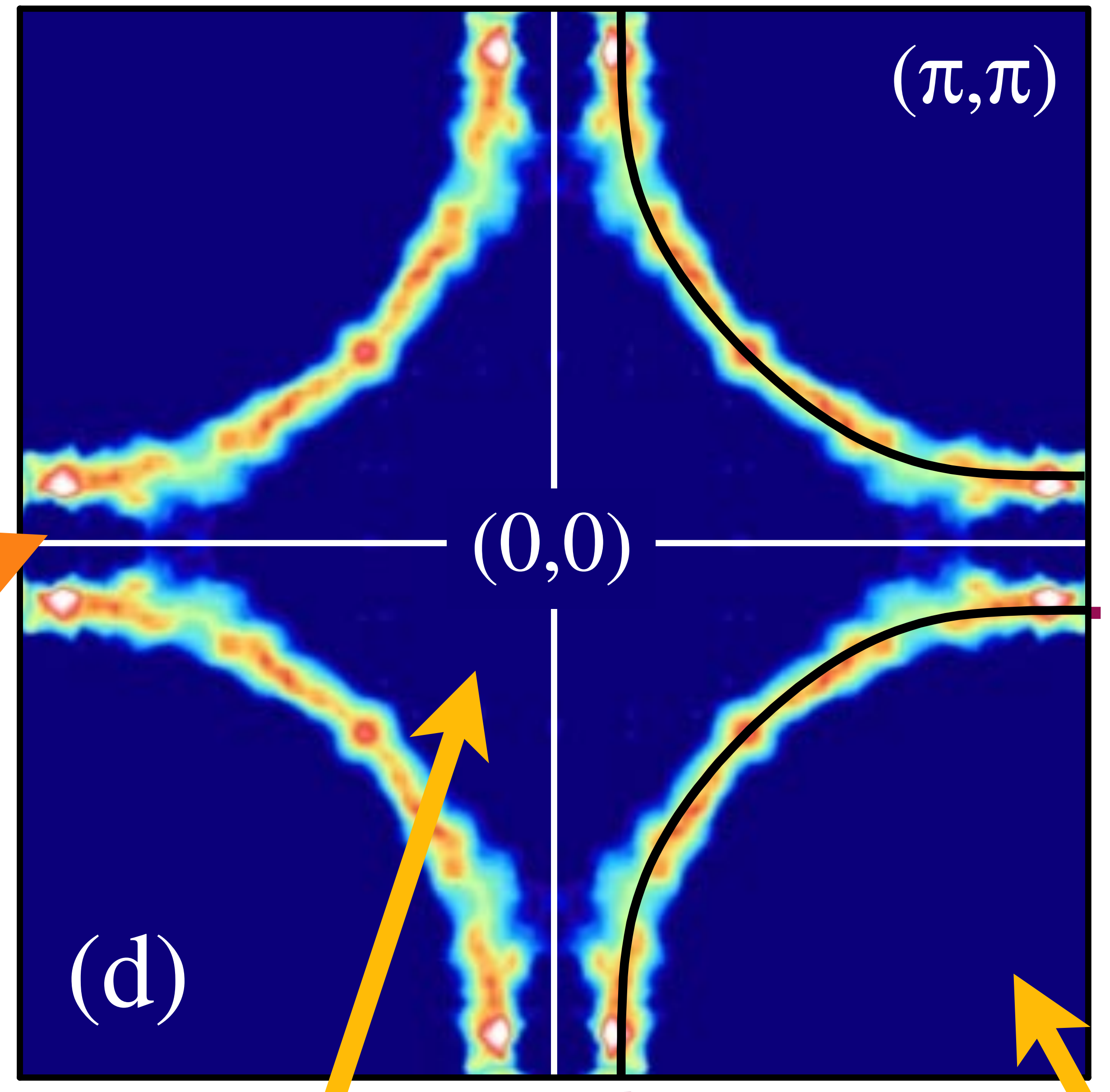




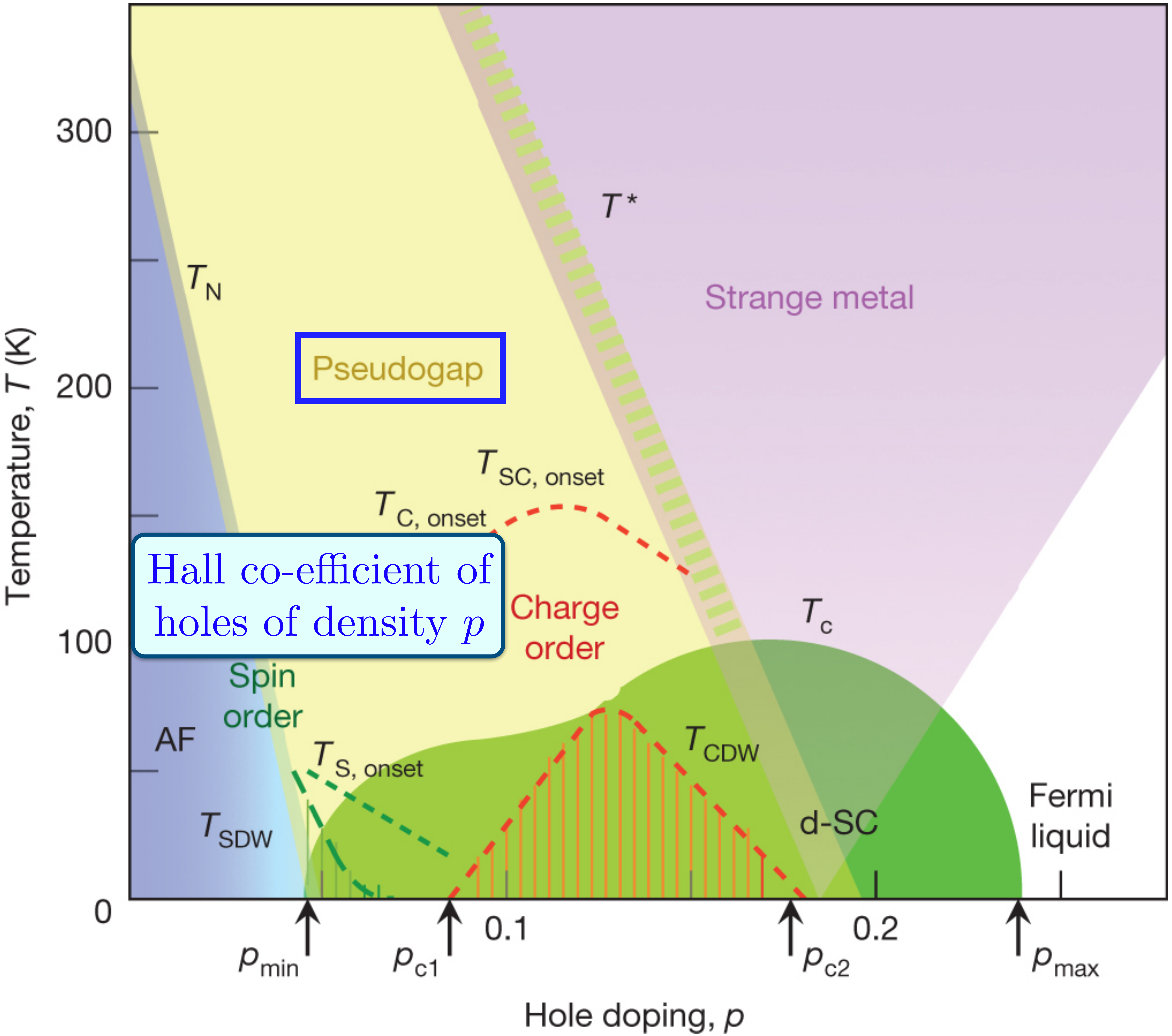
Hall co-efficient of holes of density $1 + p$

1-p electrons

1+p holes

Luttinger, 1960: Area enclosed by the Fermi surface is the same as that for free fermions *with the same symmetry.*

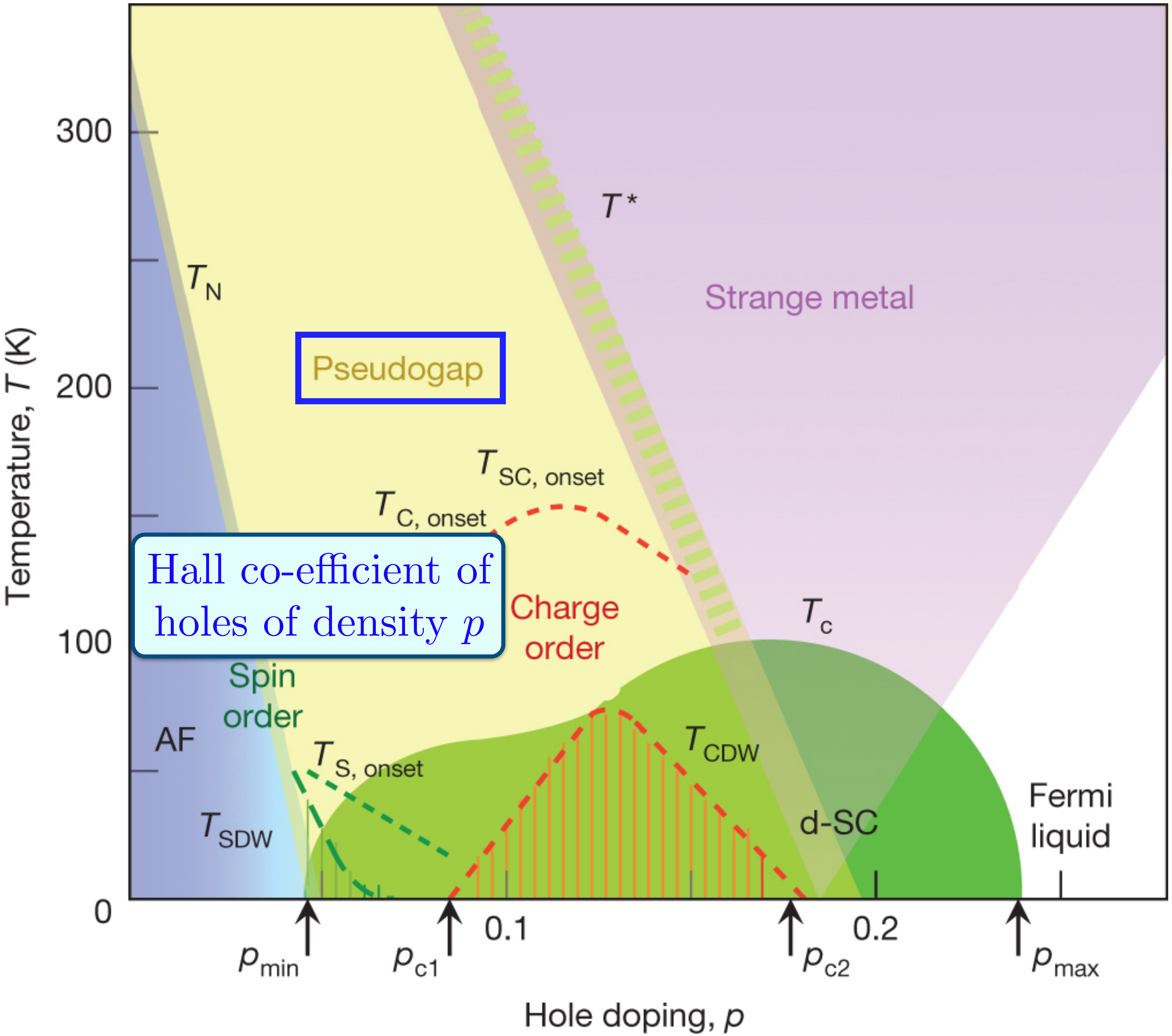
Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)



But there is no antiferromagnetic order to justify carrier density p

Many theories with fluctuating AFM, d-SC and charge orders.

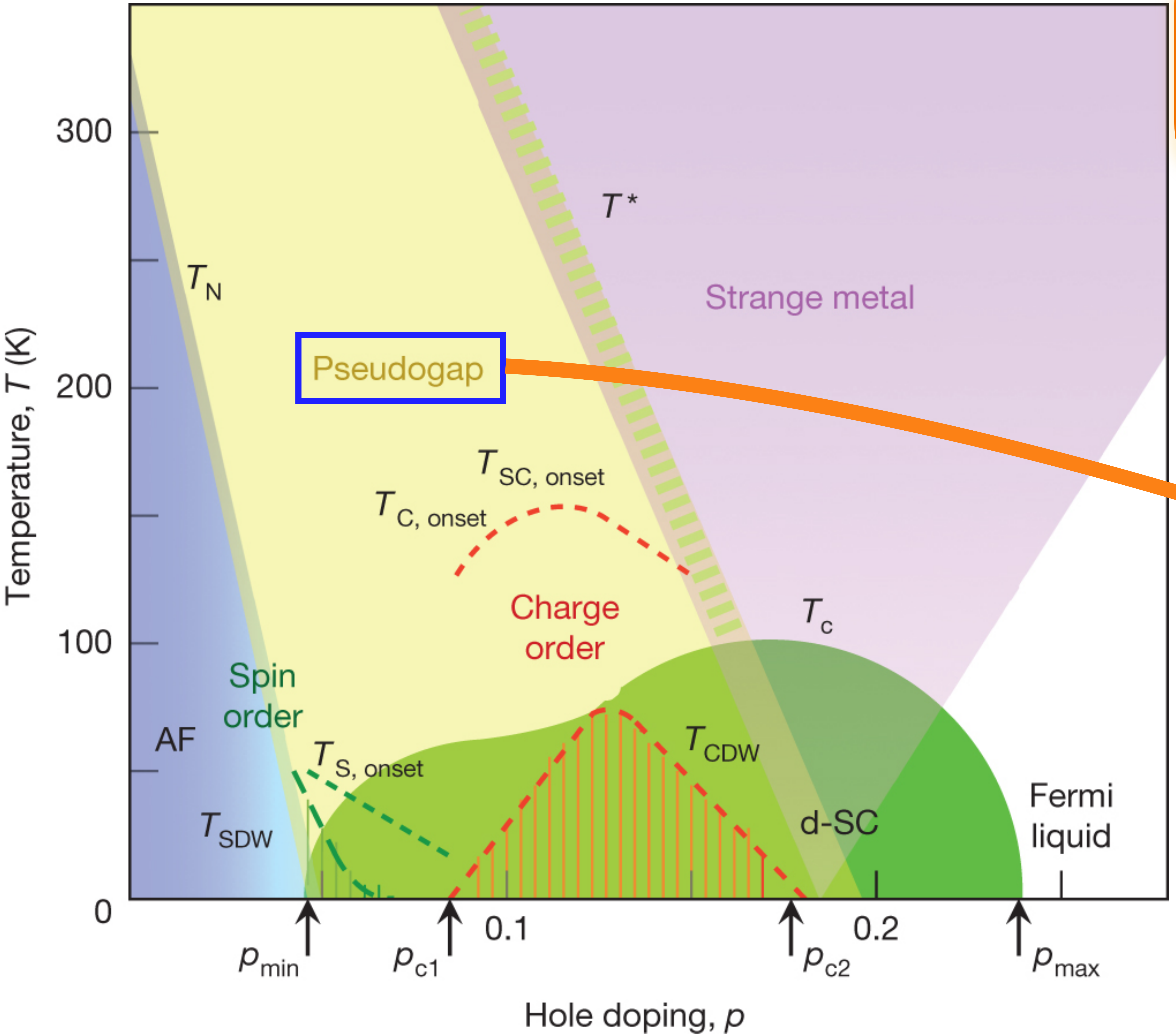
Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)



Quantum entanglement of mobile fermions

I argue that a better starting point is a novel quantum ground state with no broken symmetry.

Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)

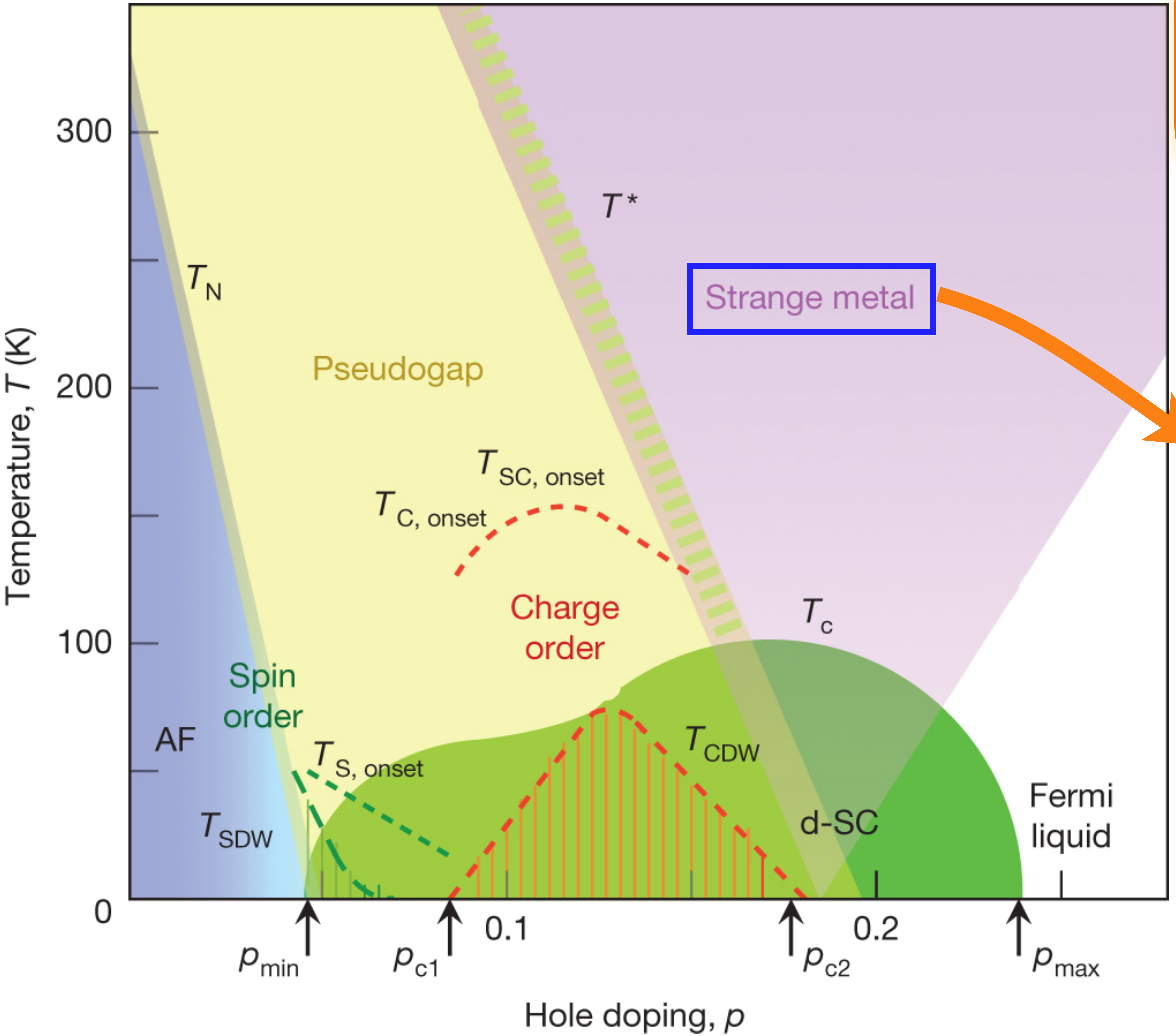


Quantum entanglement of mobile fermions

Fractionalized Fermi Liquid (FL*)

Entanglement of a (critical or gapped) quantum spin liquid coexisting with electronic Landau quasiparticles. Charge is carried by ordinary electrons, but there are also fractionalized (anyonic) spinon excitations.

Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)

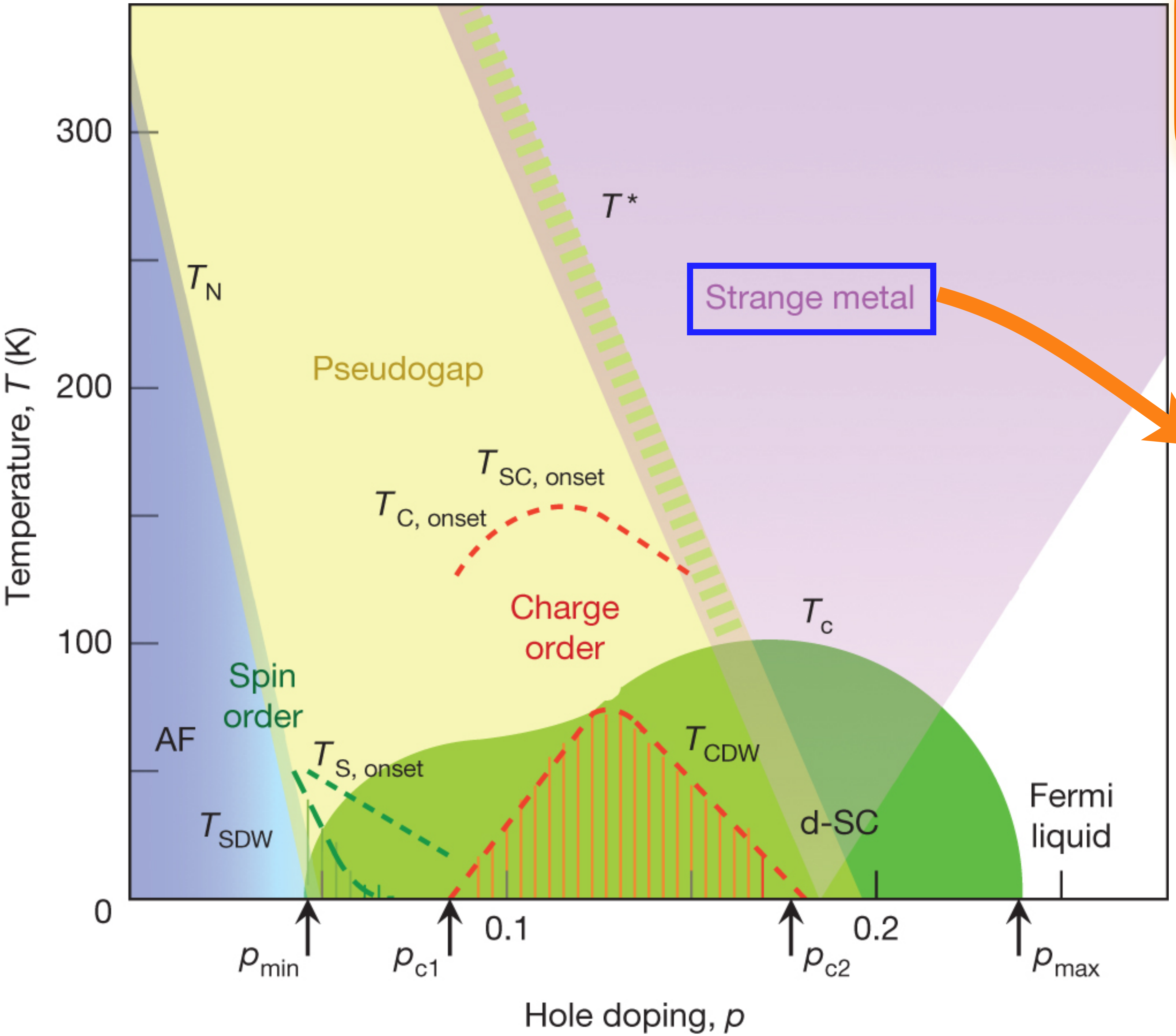


Quantum entanglement of mobile fermions

Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) liquid

- Compressible state with no quasiparticles.

Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)



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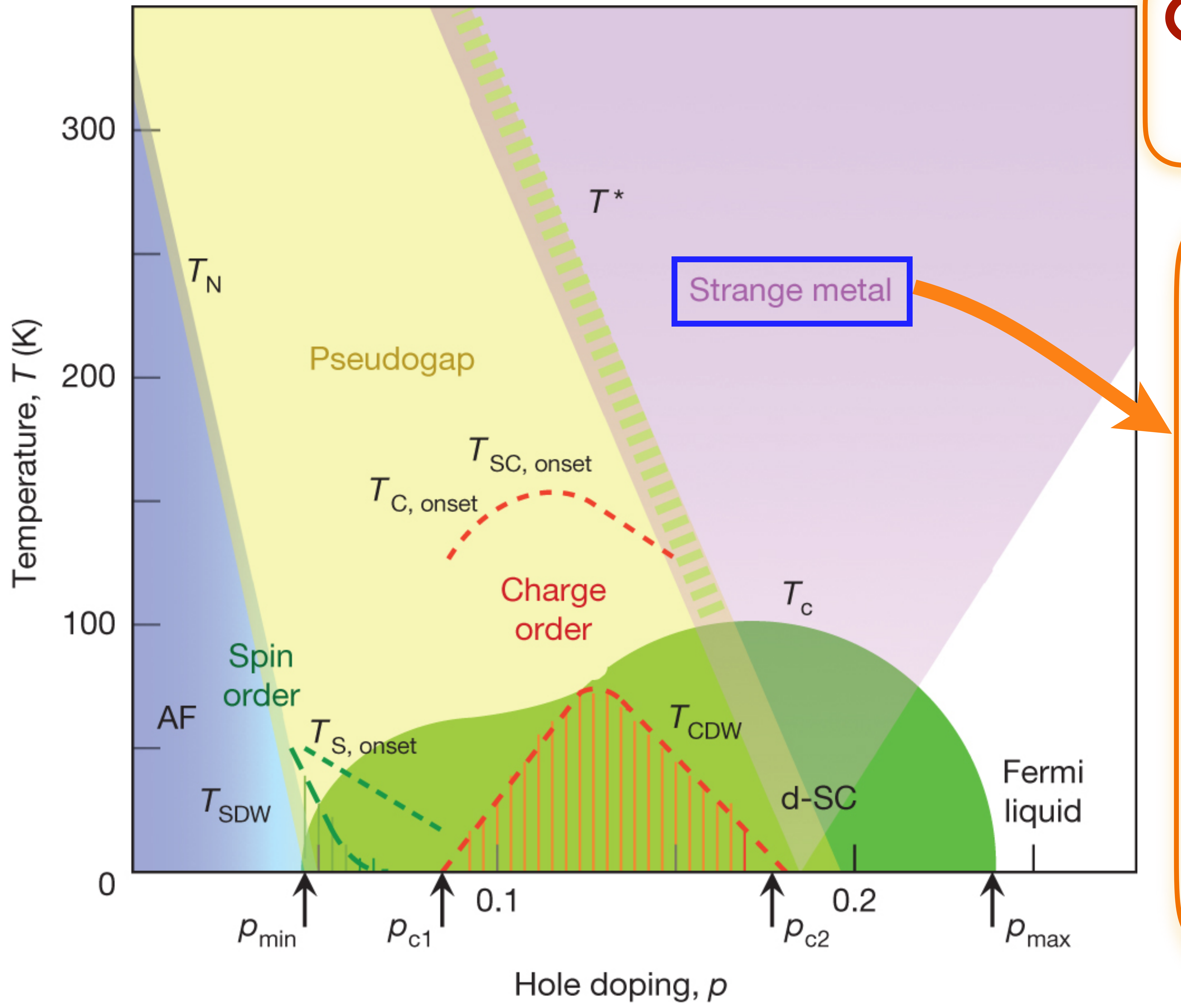


Quantum entanglement of mobile fermions

Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) liquid

- Compressible state with no quasiparticles.
- 2D-YSYK: universal theory of strange metals
- SYK: low energy theory of generic charged black holes in asymptotically flat 3+1 dimensional space.

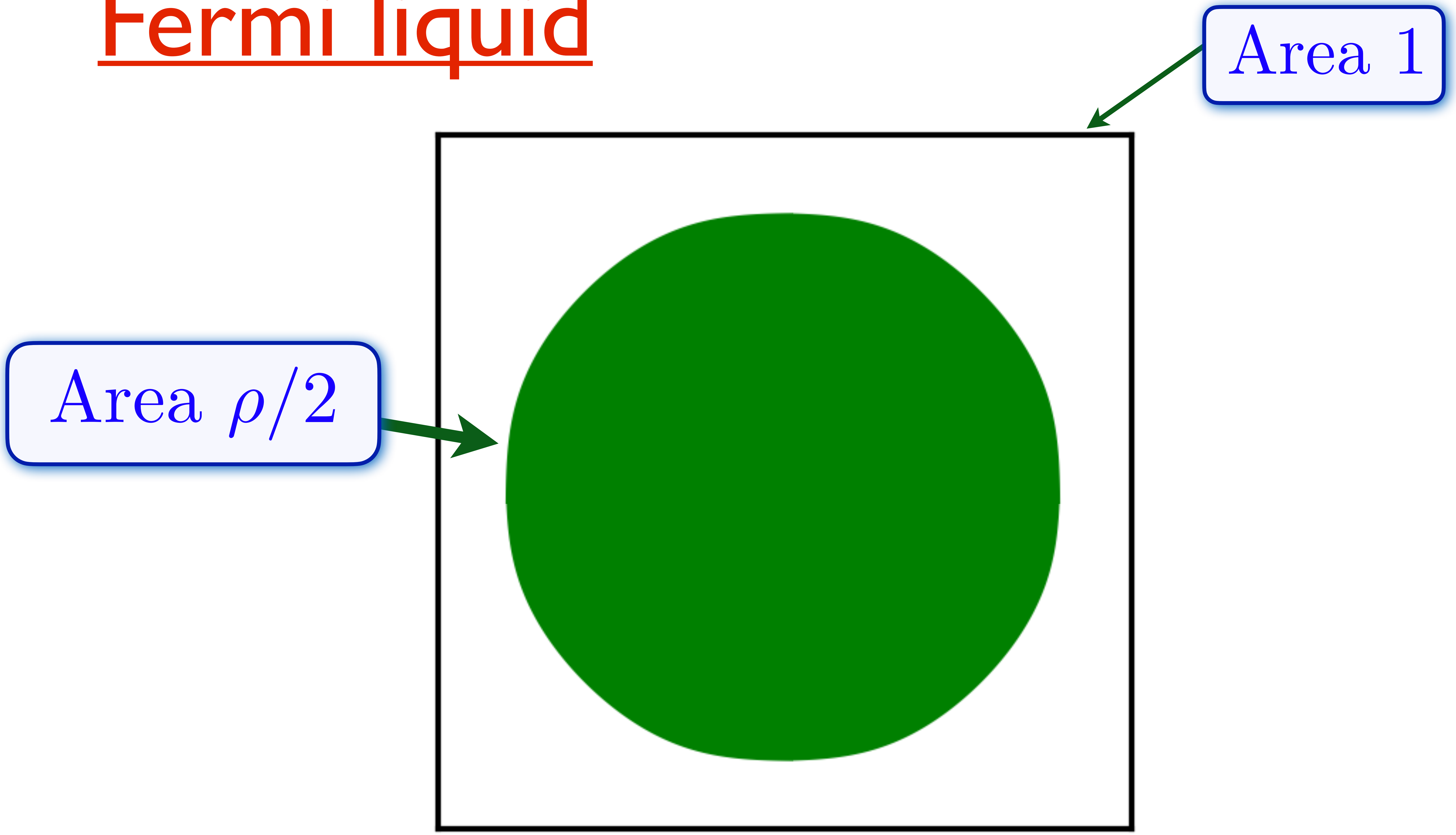
Fractionalized Fermi liquids (FL*)

Fermi liquid

Spin-1/2 holes of density

$$\rho = 1 + p$$

Positive Hall coefficient of carrier density ρ



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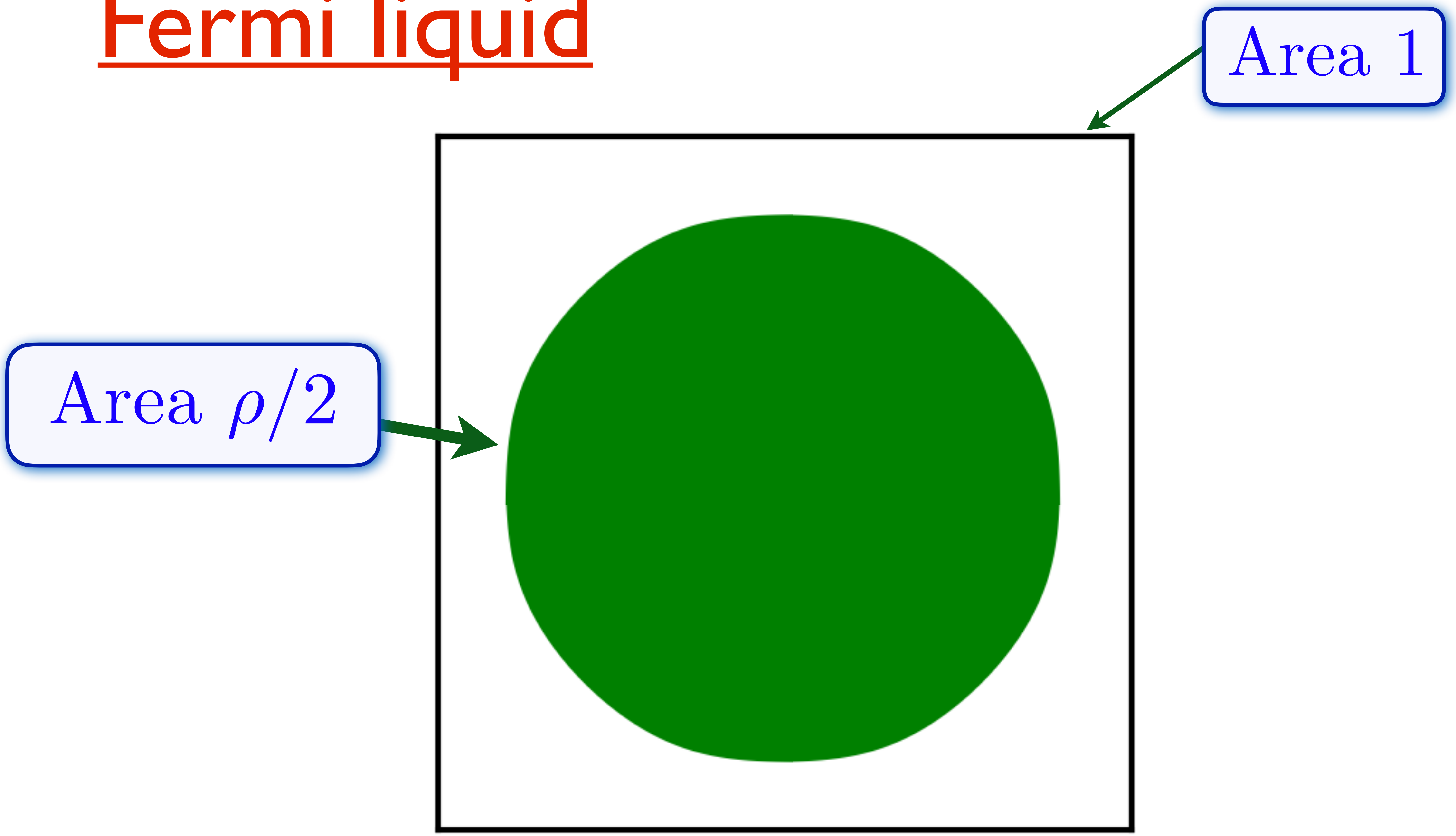


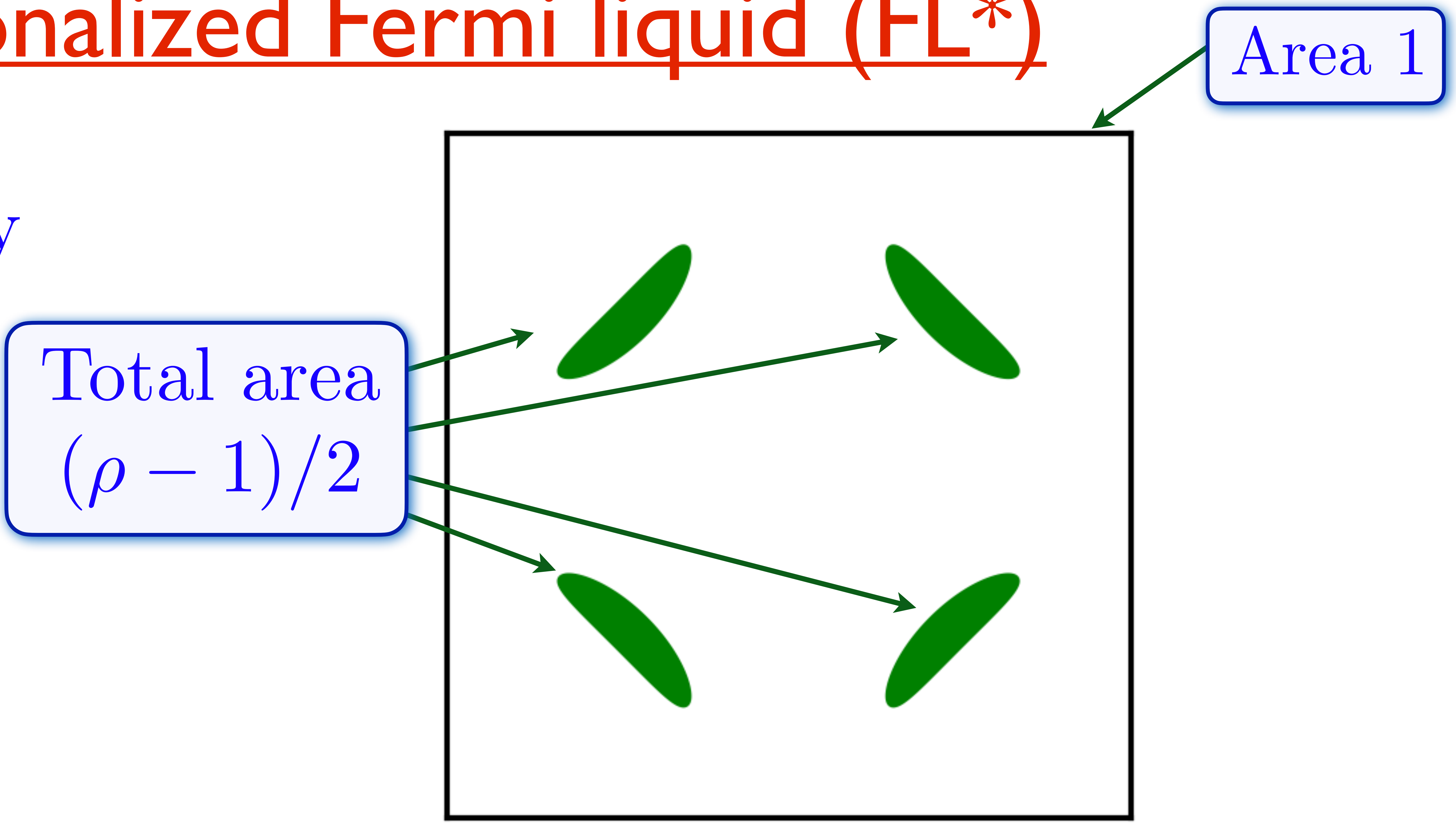
Luttinger, 1960: Area enclosed by the Fermi surface is the same as that for free fermions *with the same symmetry.*

Oshikawa, 2000: Area constrained by an anomaly-argument of global U(1) and translations

Fractionalized Fermi liquid (FL*)

Spin-1/2 holes of density
$$\rho = 1 + p$$

Positive Hall coefficient
of carrier density $\rho - 1$



No broken symmetry

T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003); T. Senthil, M. Vojta, and S. S., PRB **69**, 035111 (2004)

Fractionalized Fermi liquid (FL*)

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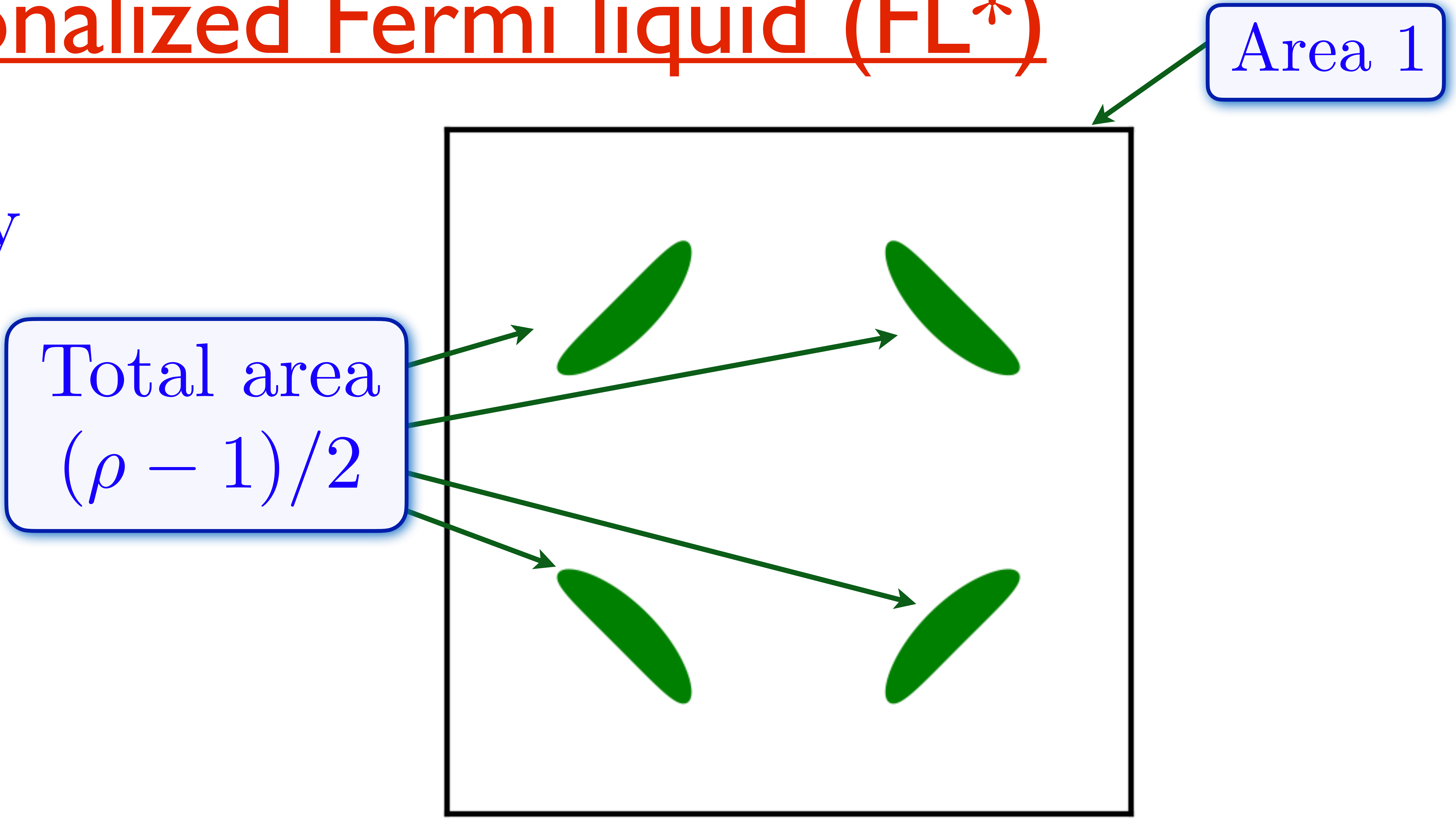


Oshikawa anomaly-argument is satisfied by
the sum of spin liquid (1) and
Fermi surface anomalies $(\rho - 1)$

T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003); T. Senthil, M. Vojta, and S. S., PRB **69**, 035111 (2004)

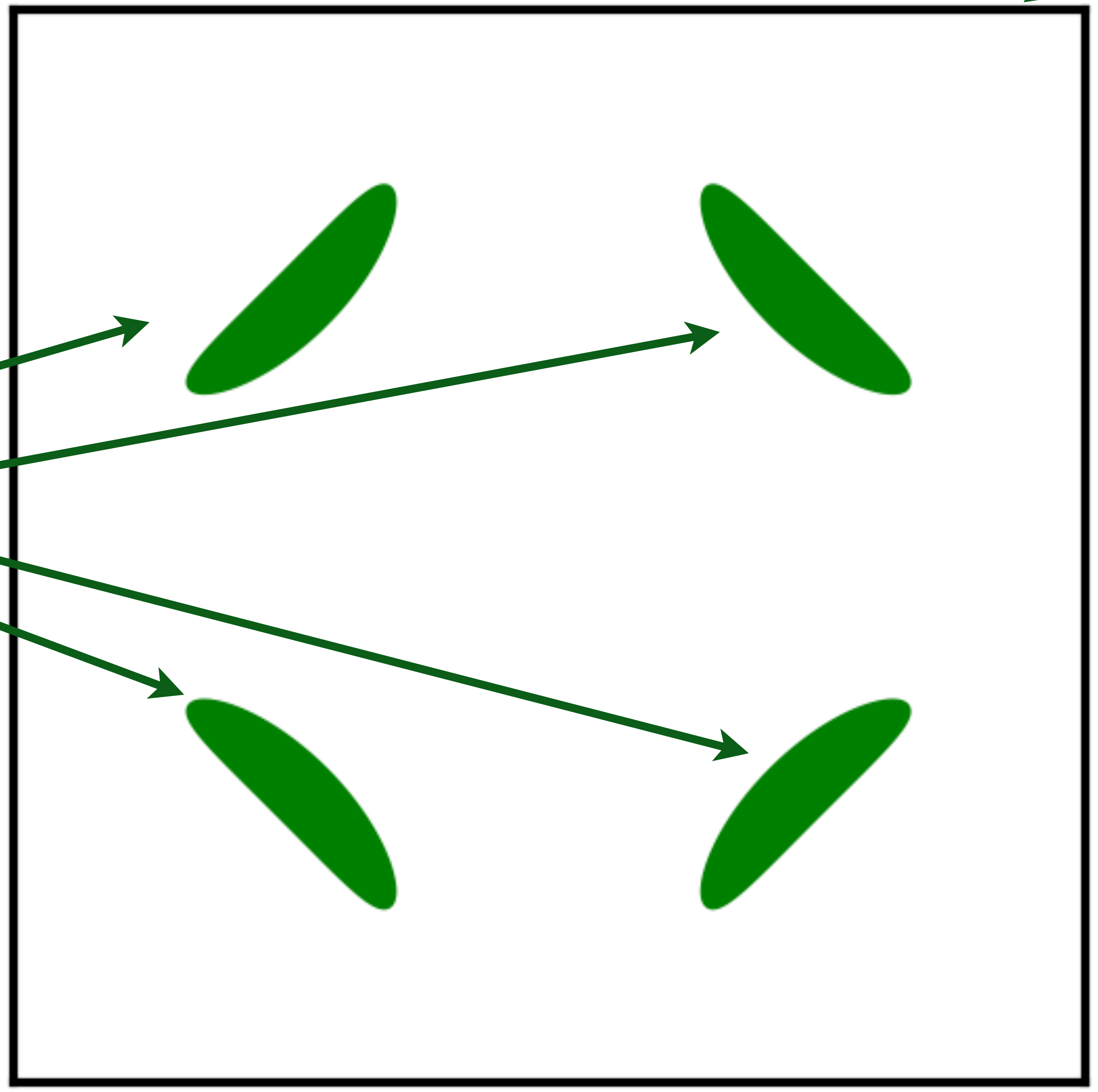
Fractionalized Fermi liquid (FL*)

Spin-1/2 holes of density
$\rho = 1 + p$

Positive Hall coefficient
of carrier density $\rho - 1$

Total area
$(\rho - 1)/2$

Area 1



The density deficit (1) in the area is **quantized** by rigid structure of the spin liquid.

Oshikawa anomaly-argument is satisfied by the sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies $(\rho - 1)$

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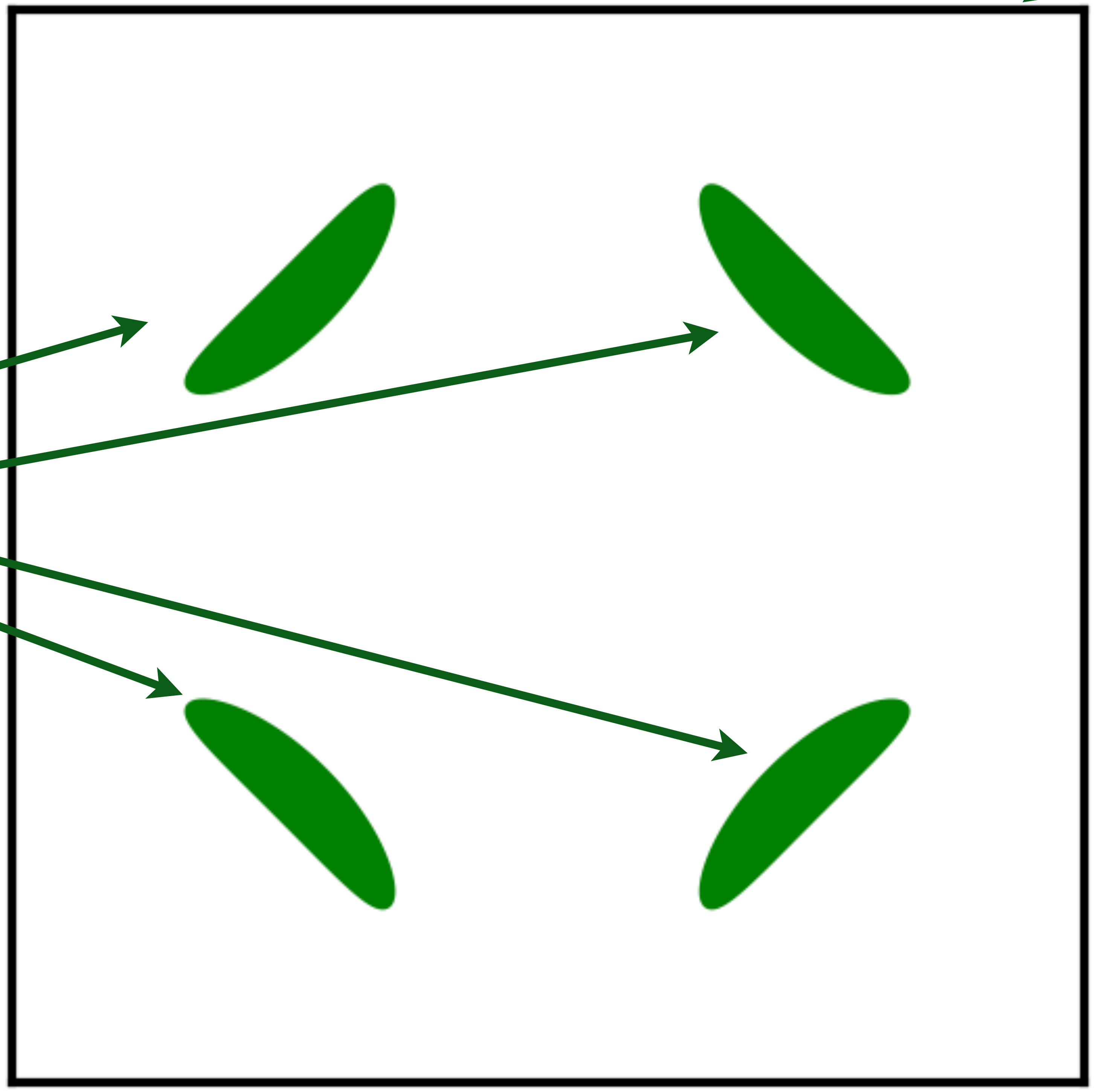

Spin-1/2 holes of density
$\rho = 1 + p$

Total area
$(\rho - 1)/2$

Positive Hall coefficient
of carrier density $\rho - 1$

Measuring non-Luttinger Fermi surface area is direct evidence for multi-fermion quantum entanglement.

Oshikawa anomaly-argument is satisfied by
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Fractionalized Fermi liquid (FL*)

Spin-1/2 holes of density
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Positive Hall coefficient
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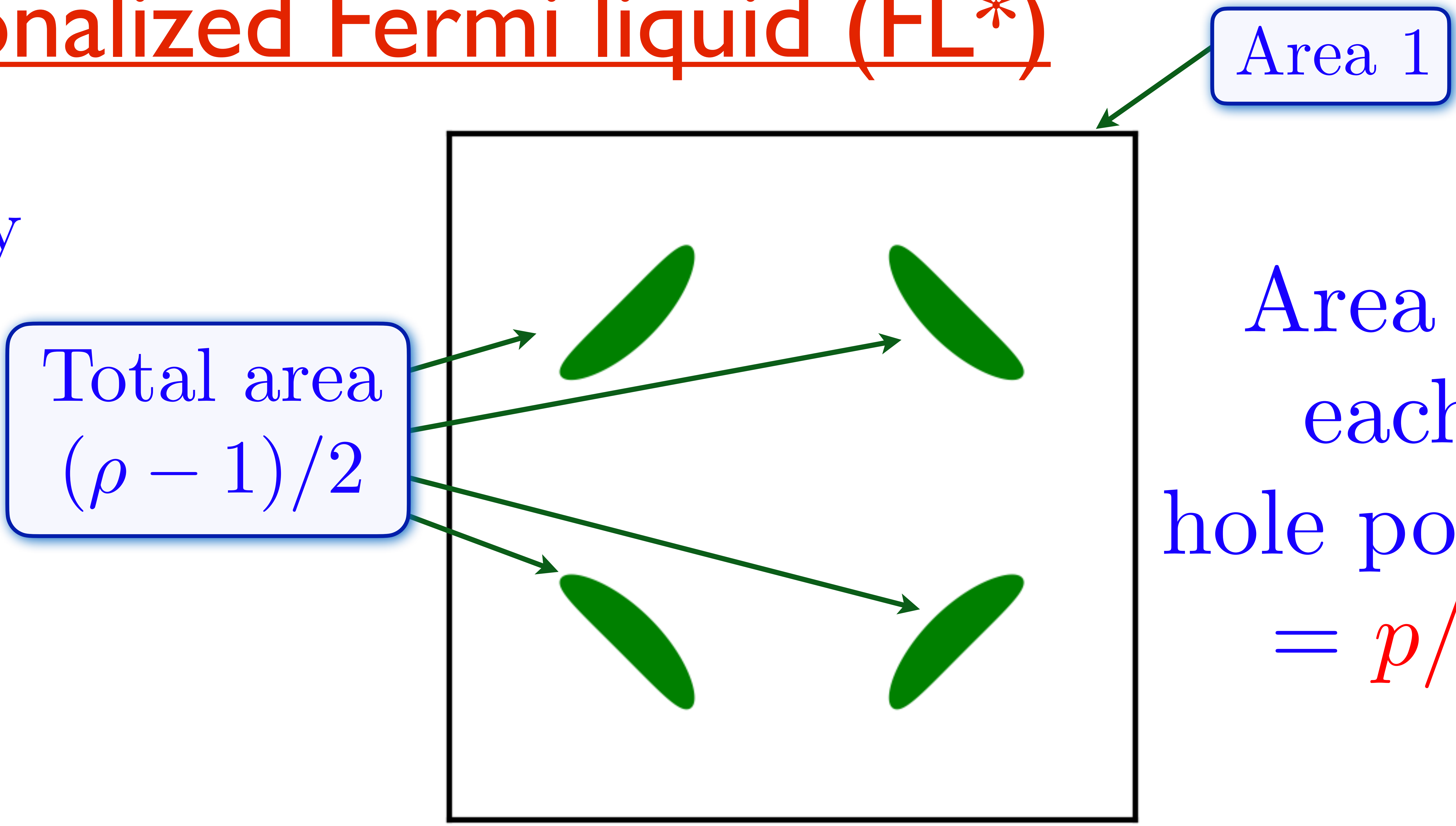

Area of
each
hole pocket
$= p/8$

Oshikawa anomaly-argument is satisfied by
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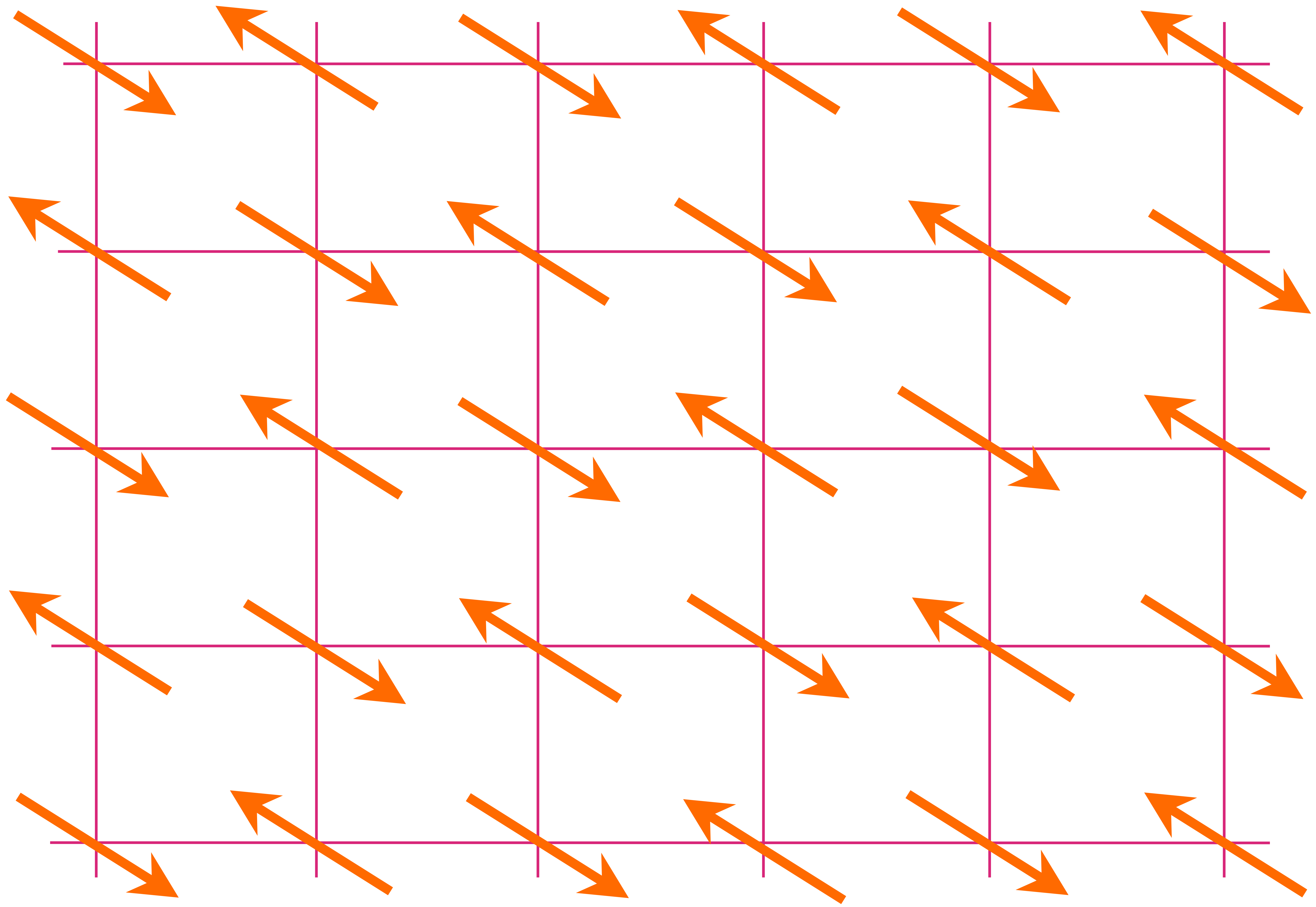
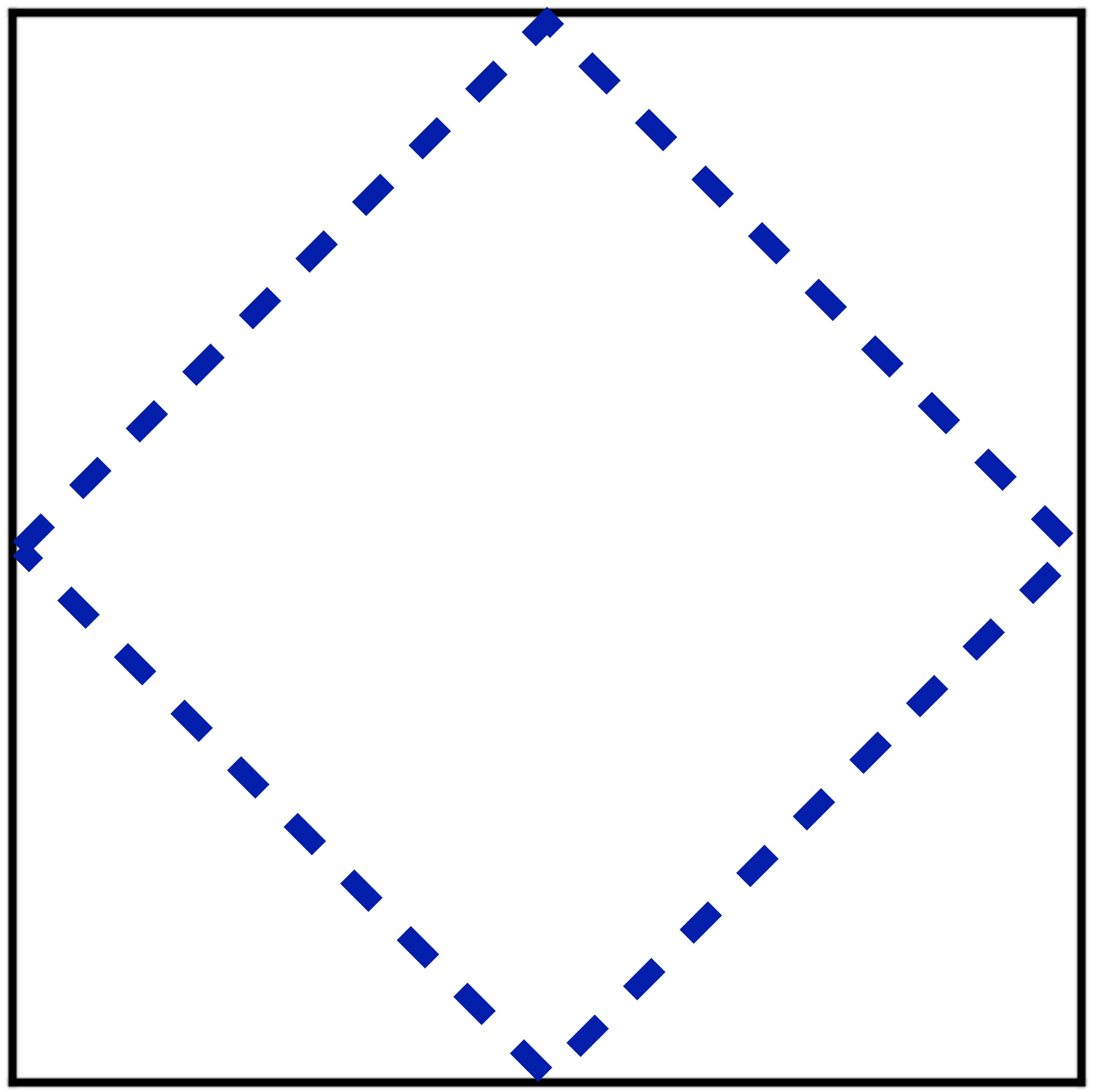
T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003); T. Senthil, M. Vojta, and S. S., PRB **69**, 035111 (2004)

Insulating antiferromagnet



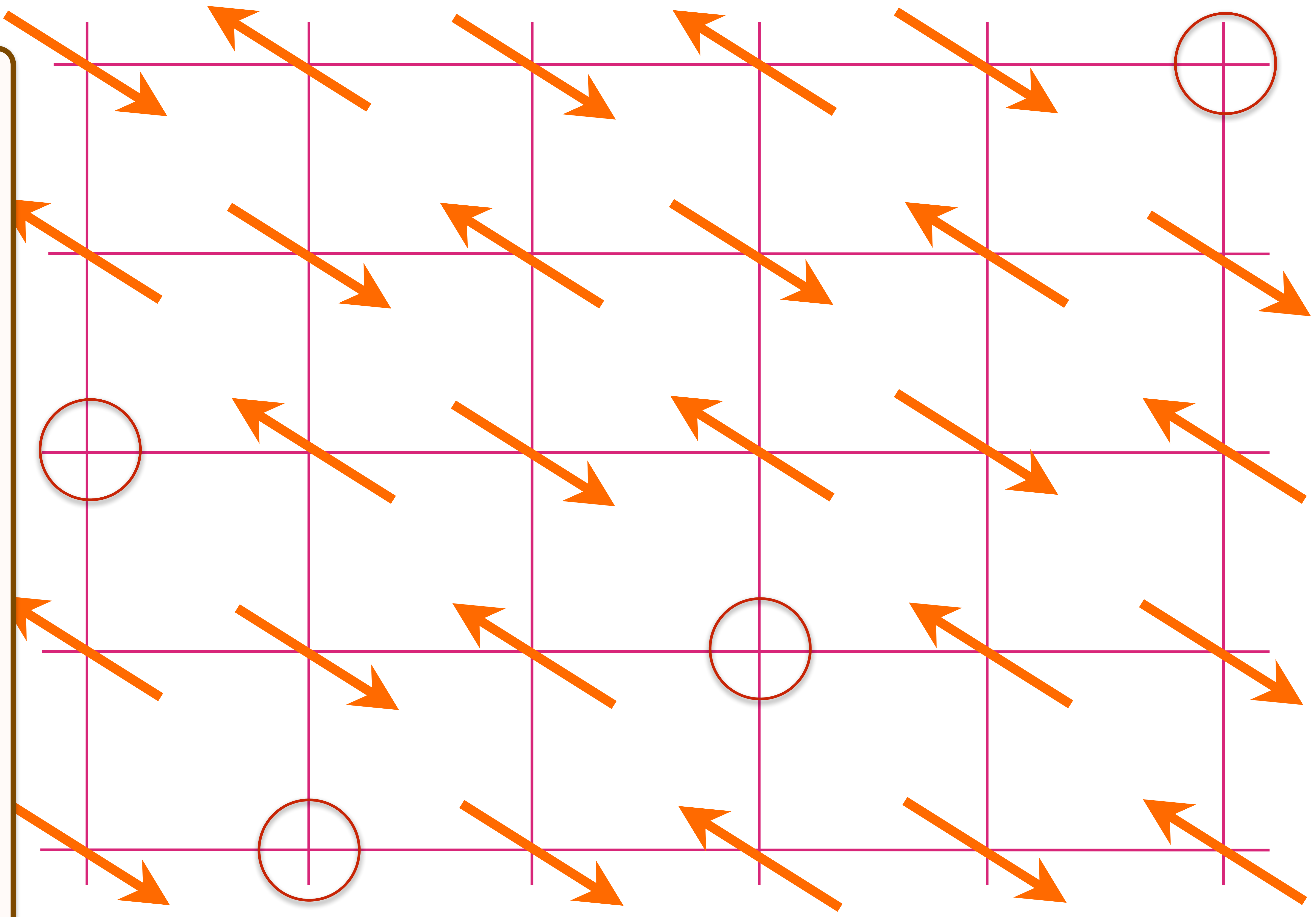
Reduced Brillouin
Zone.
Broken symmetry



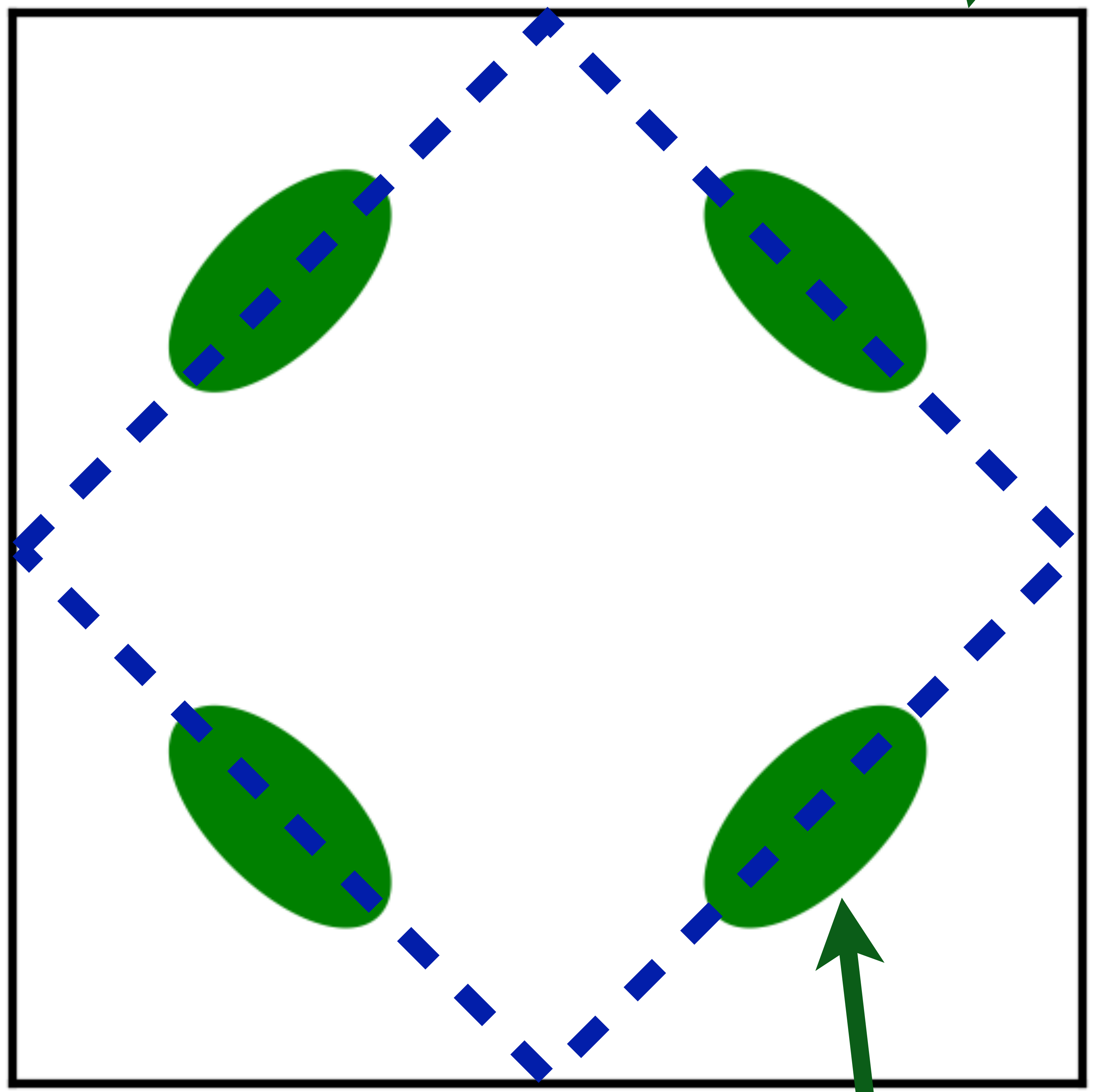
Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

AF metal

Fermi liquid with density p of spin 1/2, charge $+e$ holes. Coherent inter-layer transport requires inter-layer spin correlations.



Luttinger area. Broken symmetry

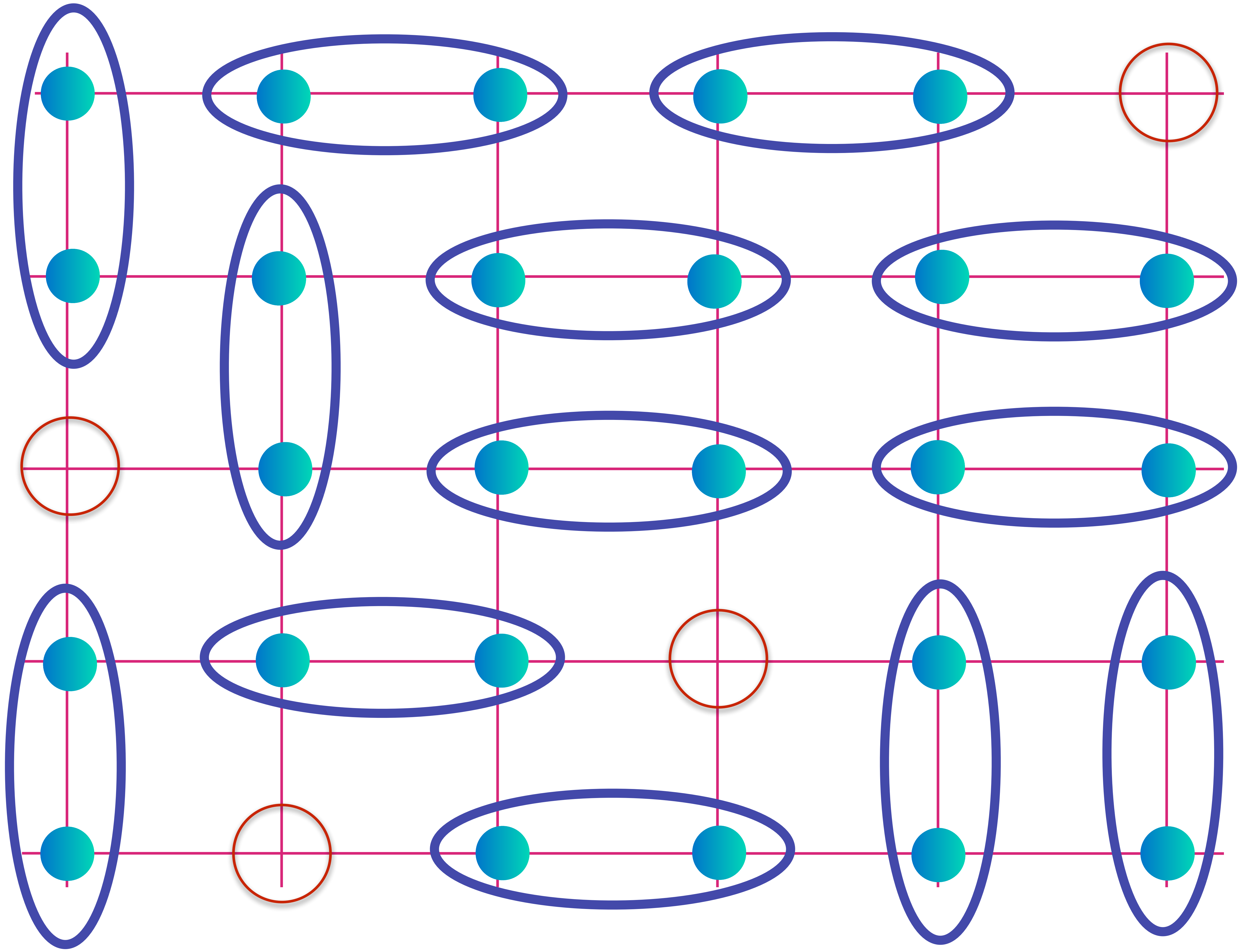


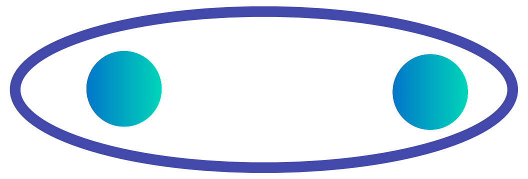
Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

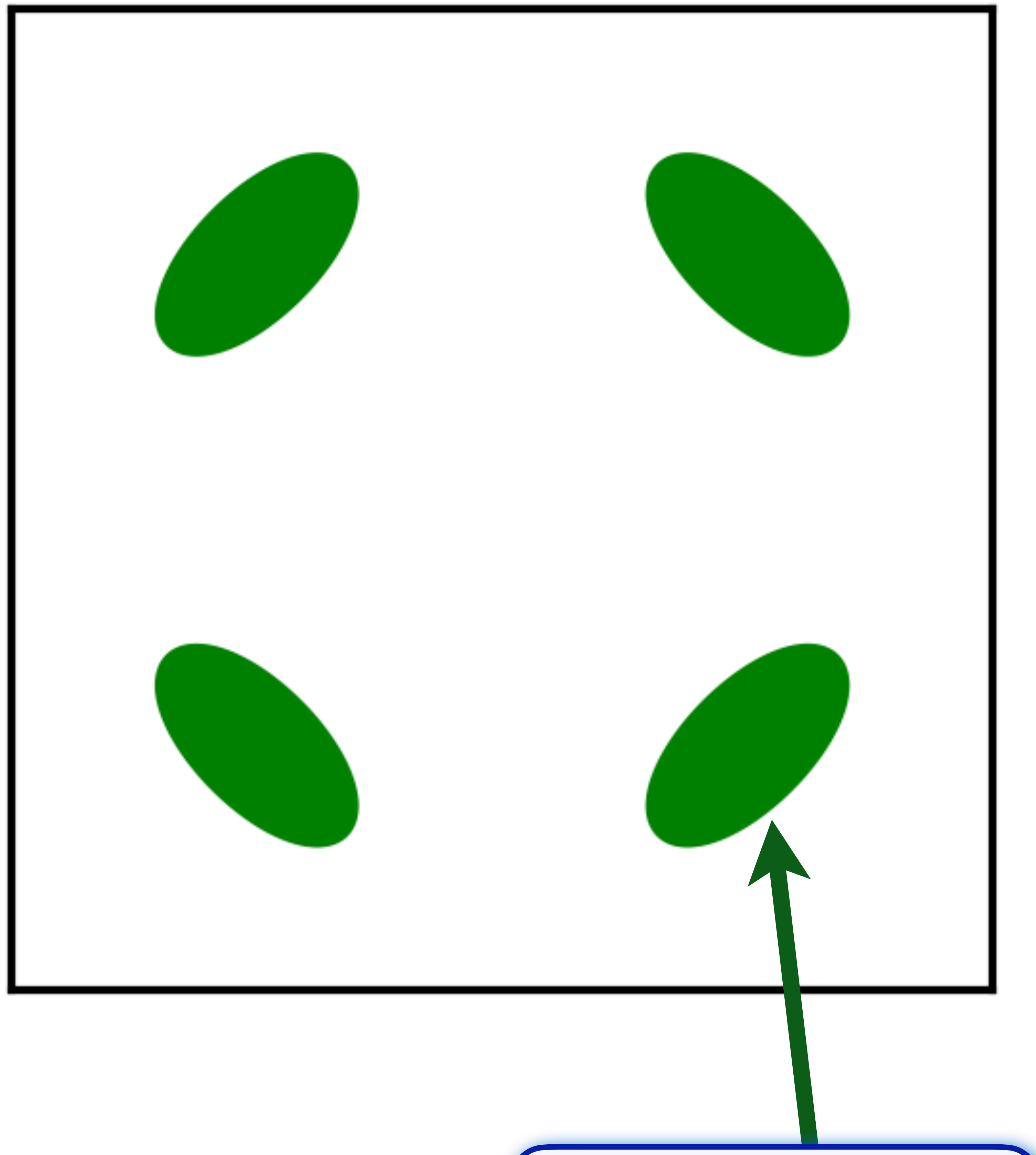
Holon metal

Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)

Spin liquid with density p of spinless, charge $+e$ holons.
No coherent inter-layer transport.



 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$



Area $p/4$

R. K. Kaul, Y. B. Kim, S. S., T. Senthil, Nature Physics **4**, 28 (2008); S.S. M.A. Metlitski, Y. Qi, and C. Xu, PRB **80**, 155129 (2009)

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

Holon metal

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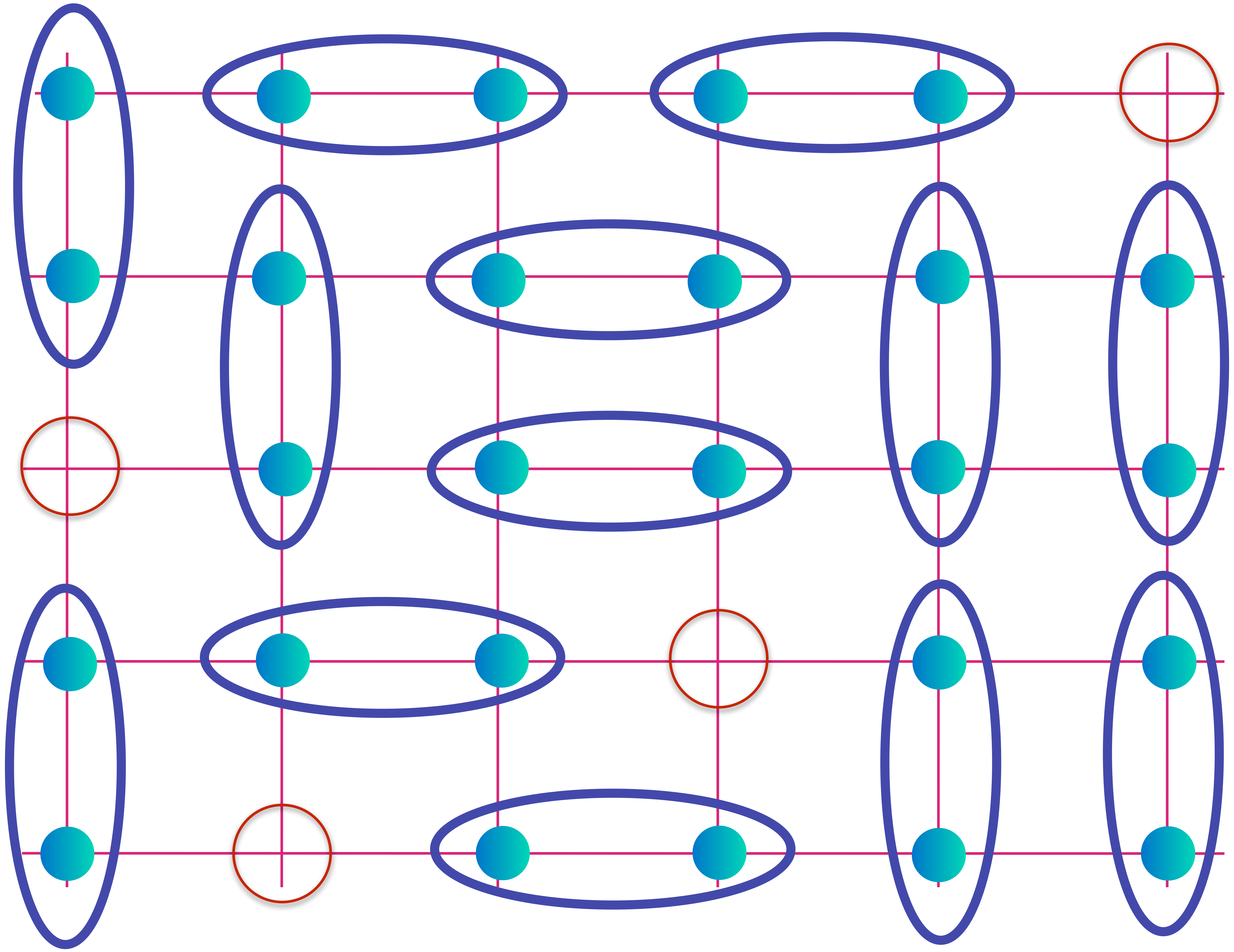
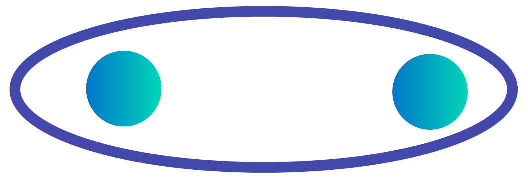
Spin liquid with density p of spinless, charge $+e$ holons. No coherent inter-layer transport.





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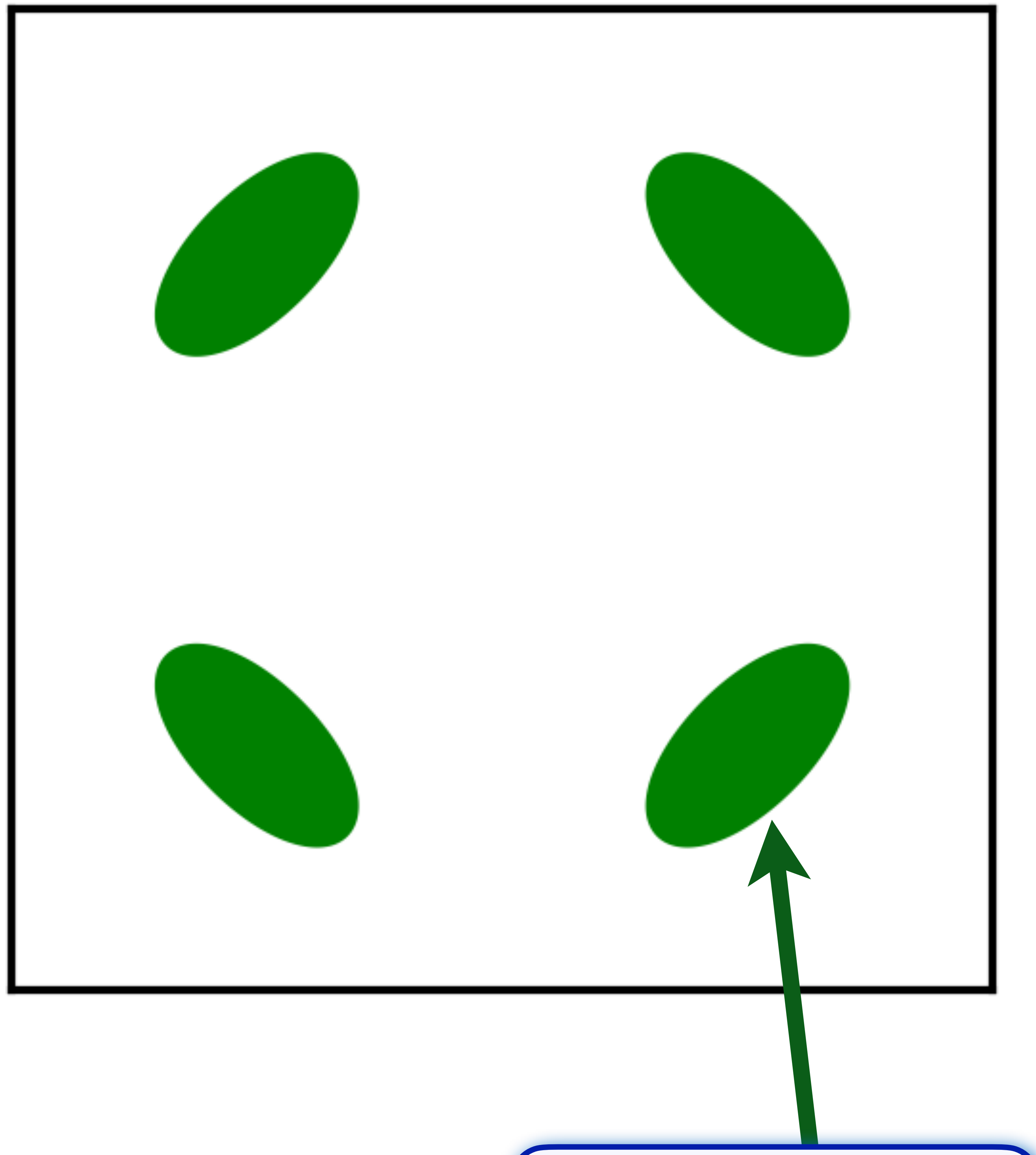

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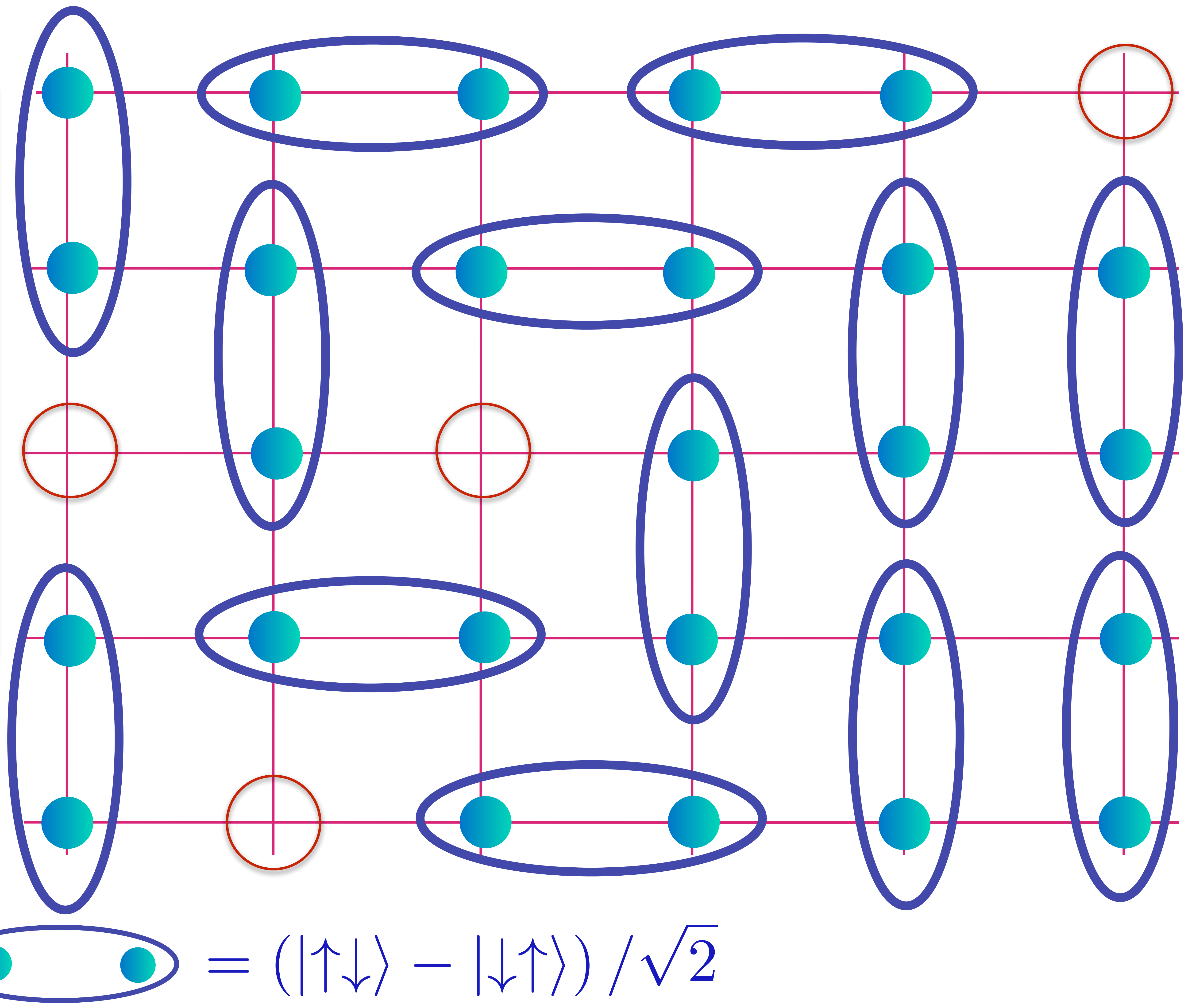
Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

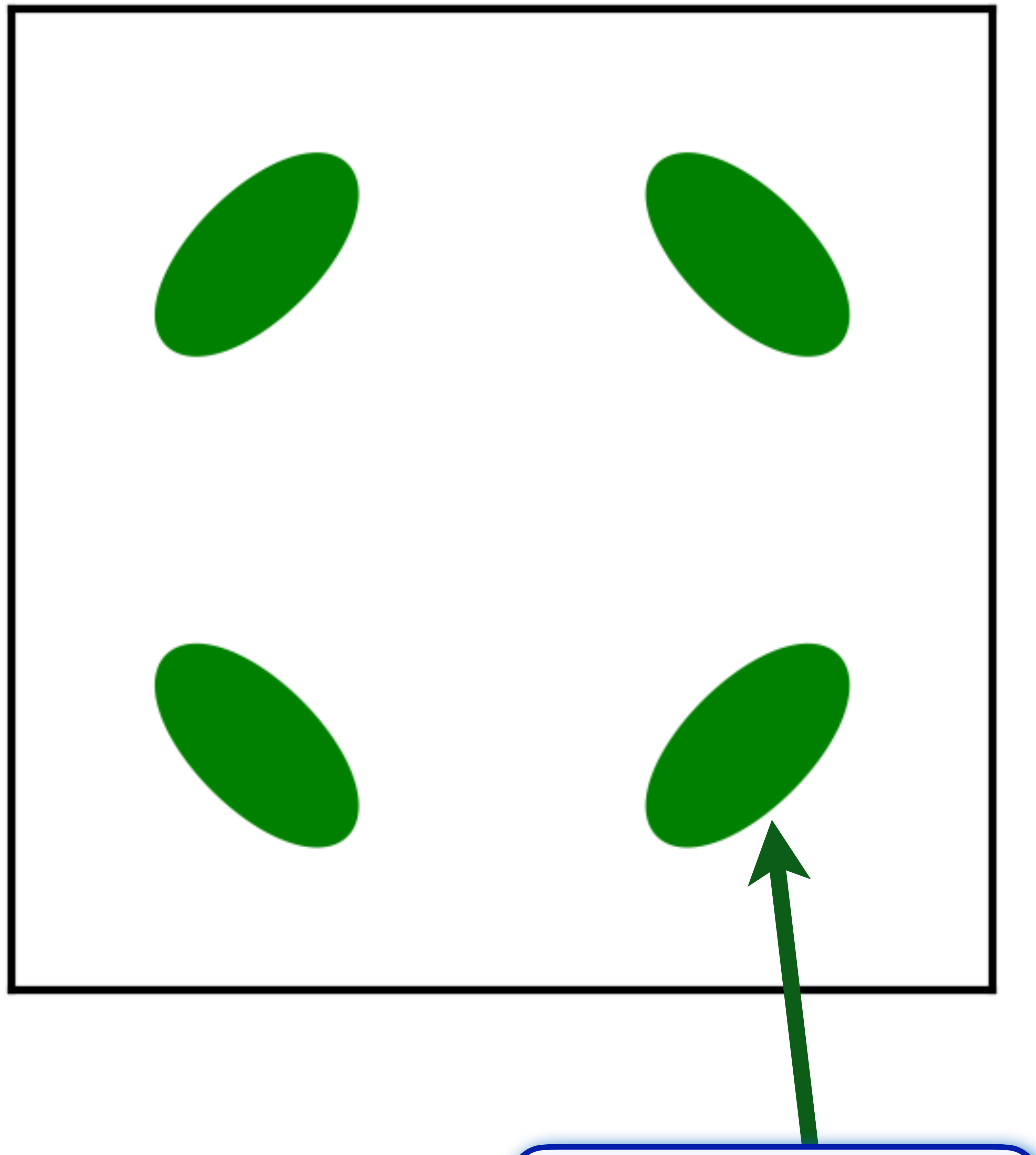
<u>Holon metal</u>

Spin liquid with density p of spinless, charge $+e$ <u>holons</u>. No coherent inter-layer transport.



$= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)



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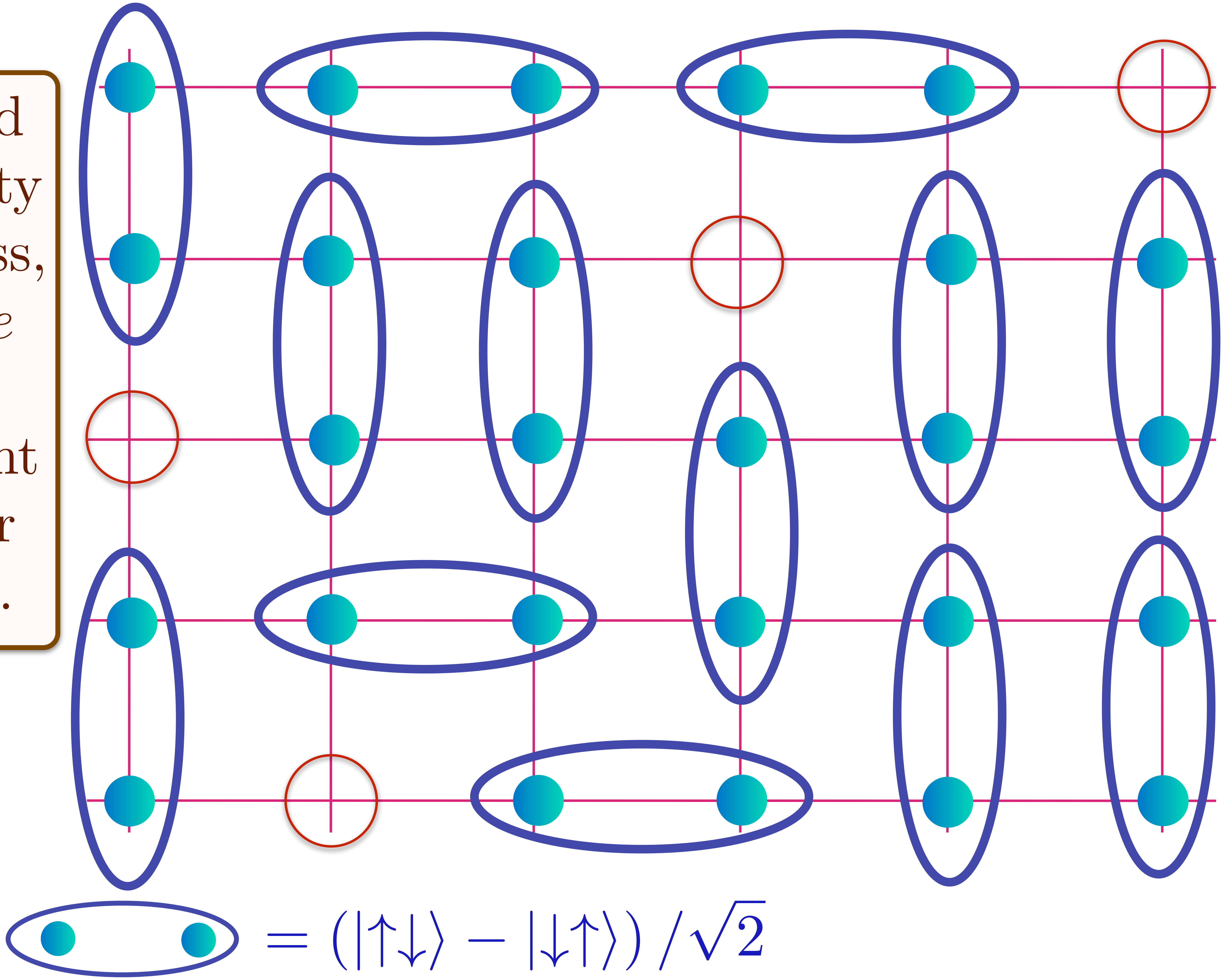
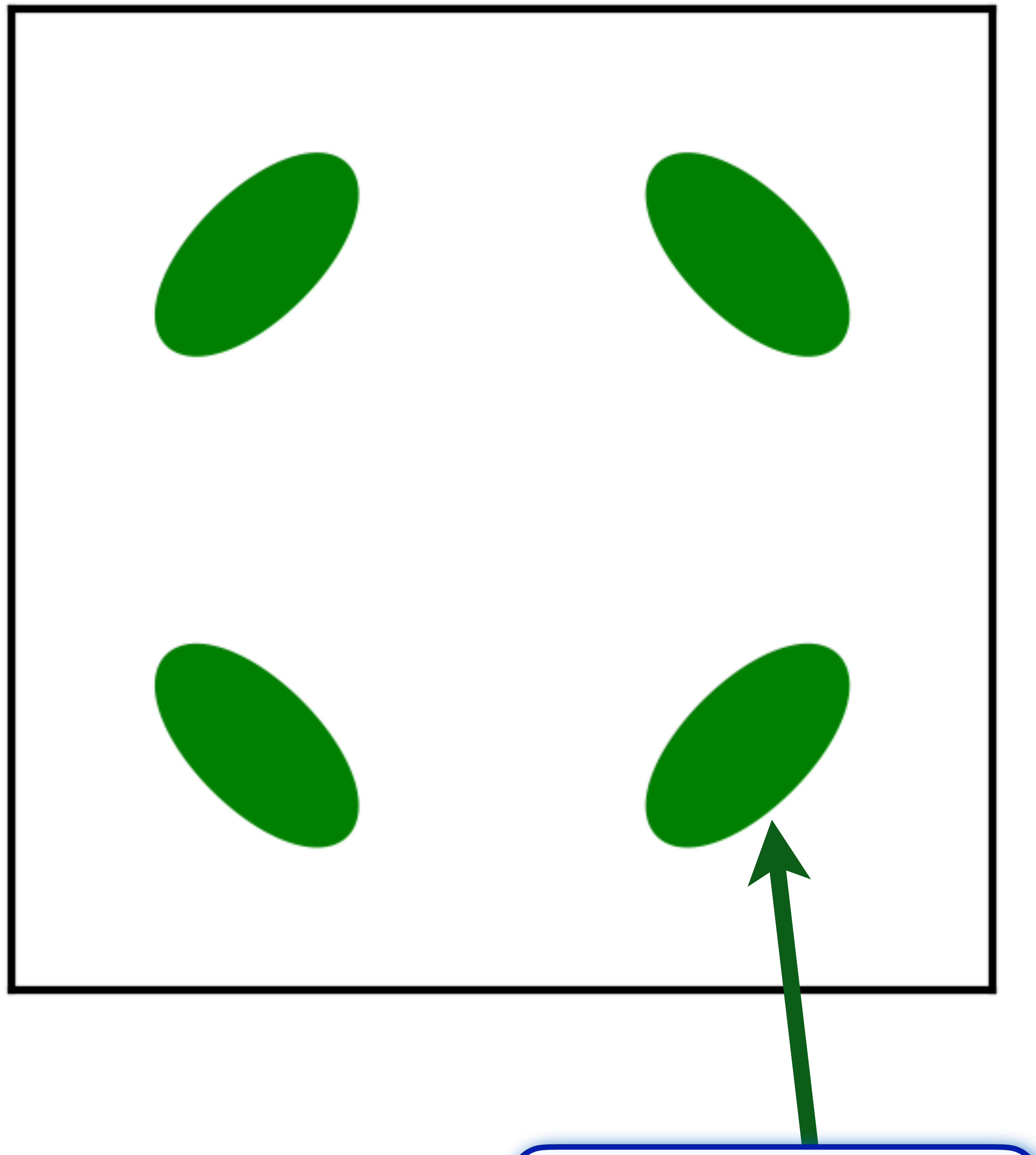


$= (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$



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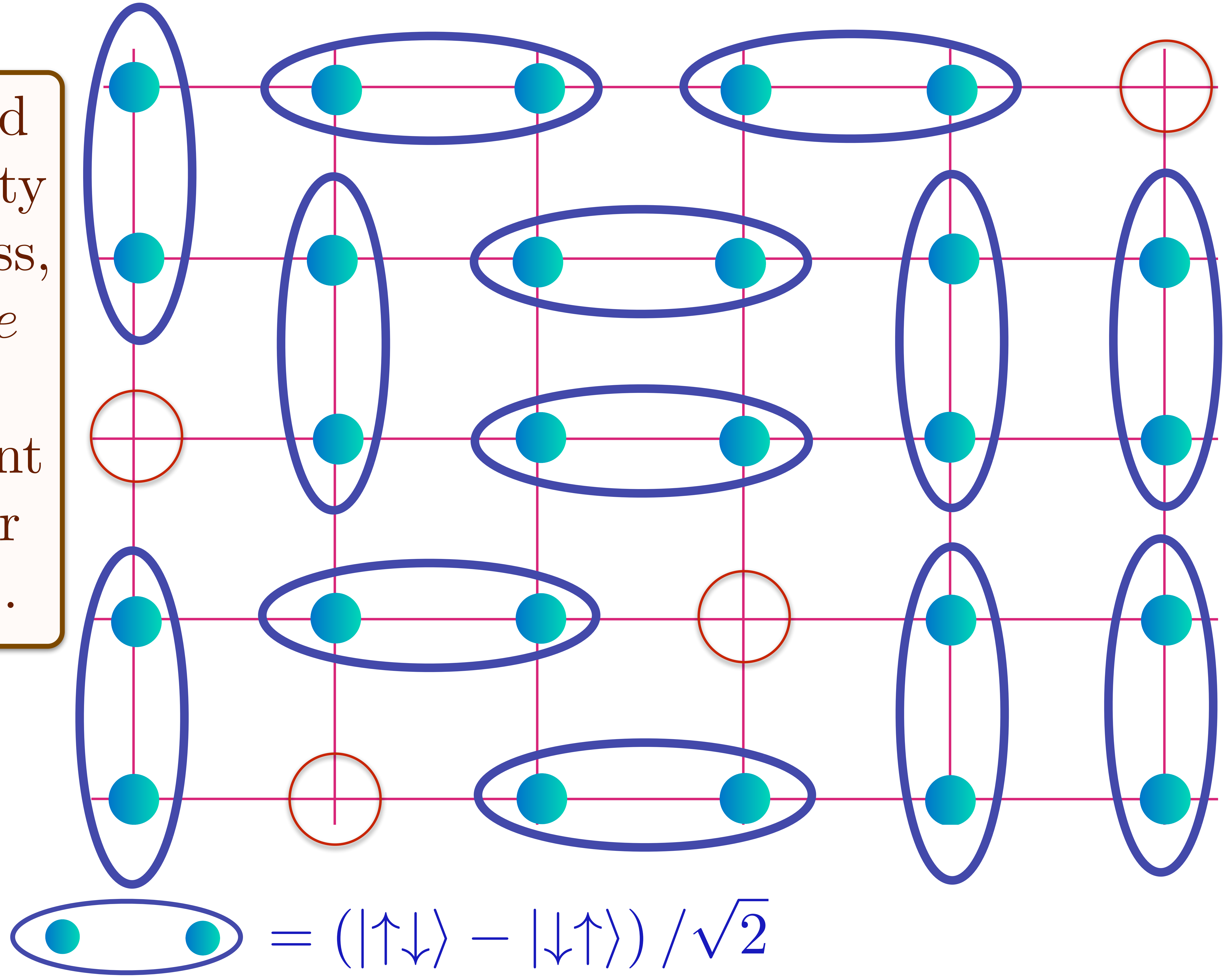
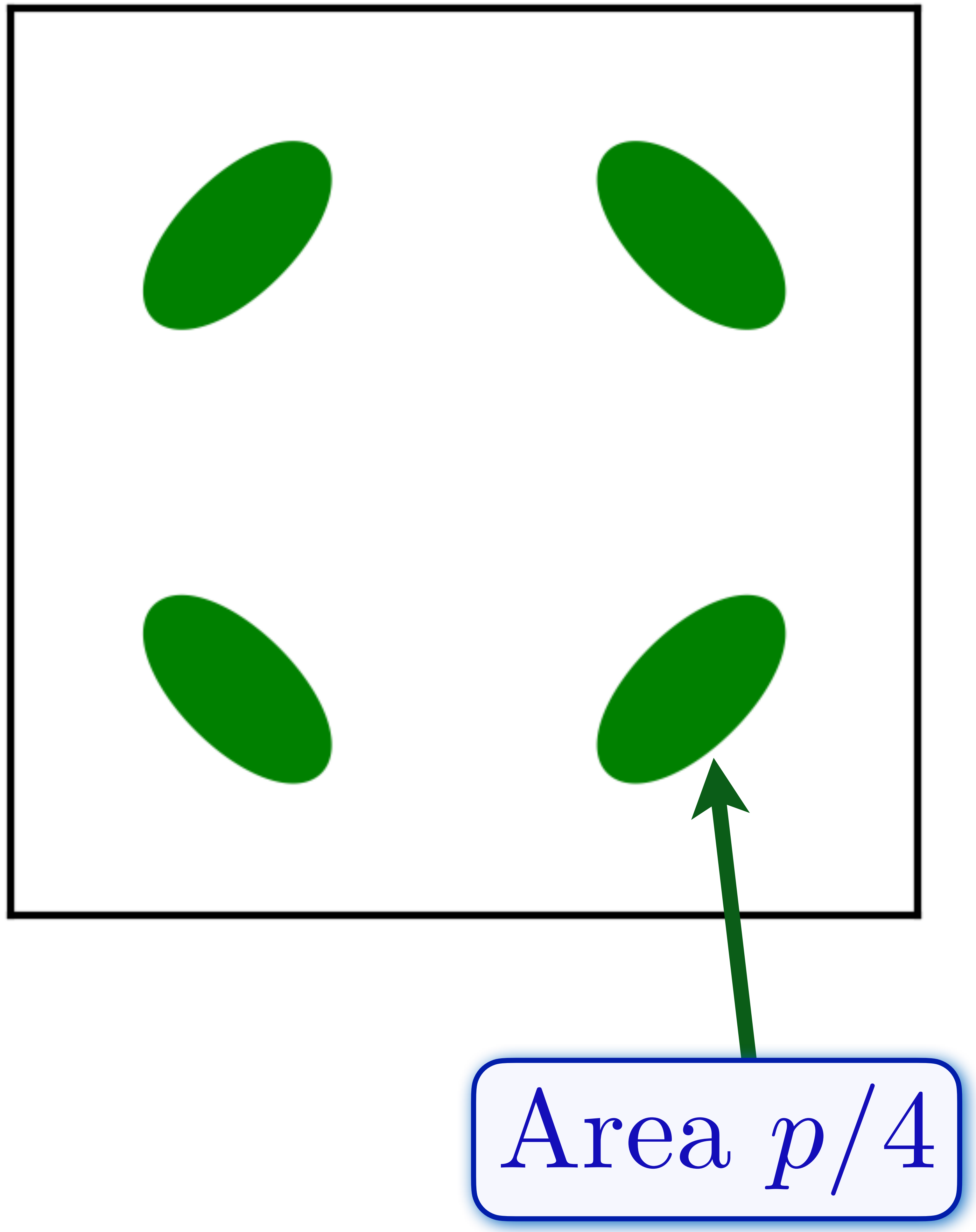




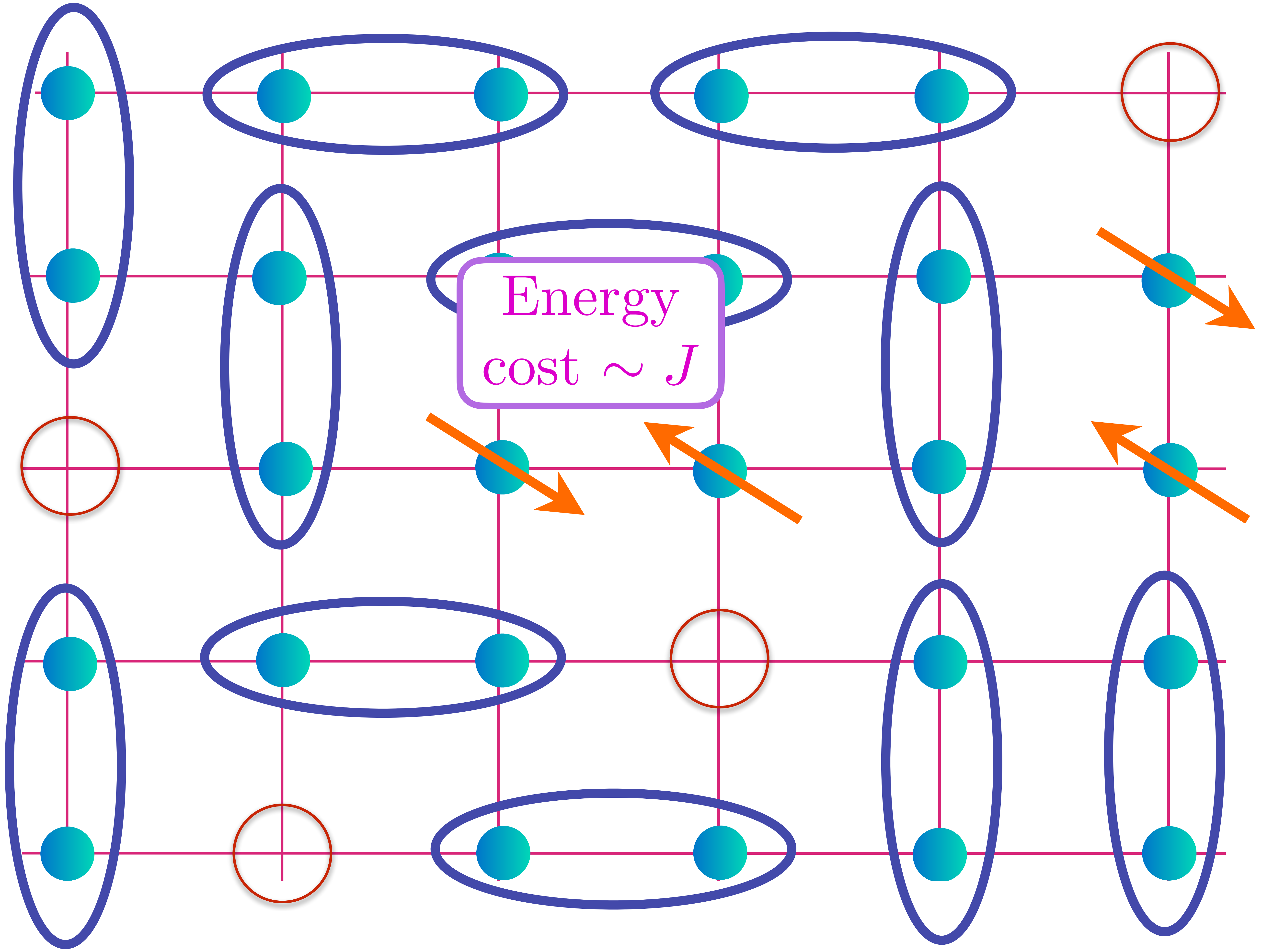
R. K. Kaul, Y. B. Kim, S. S., T. Senthil, Nature Physics **4**, 28 (2008); S.S. M.A. Metlitski, Y. Qi, and C. Xu, PRB **80**, 155129 (2009)

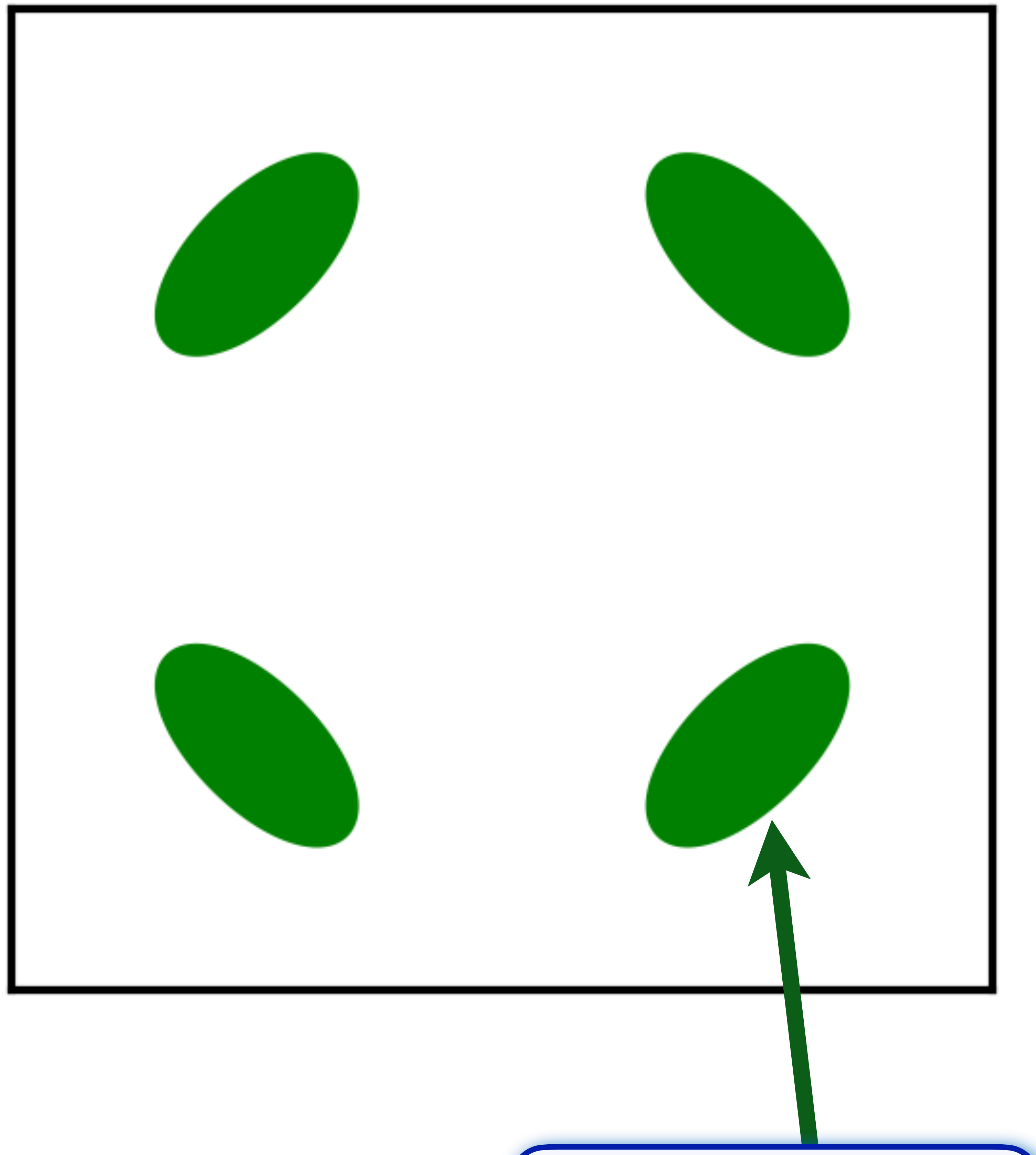
Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

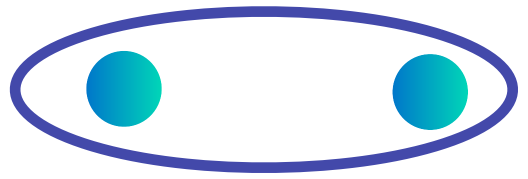
Holon metal excited states

Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)

Charge 0, spin-1/2 spinons





 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

Area $p/4$

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

Holon metal excited states

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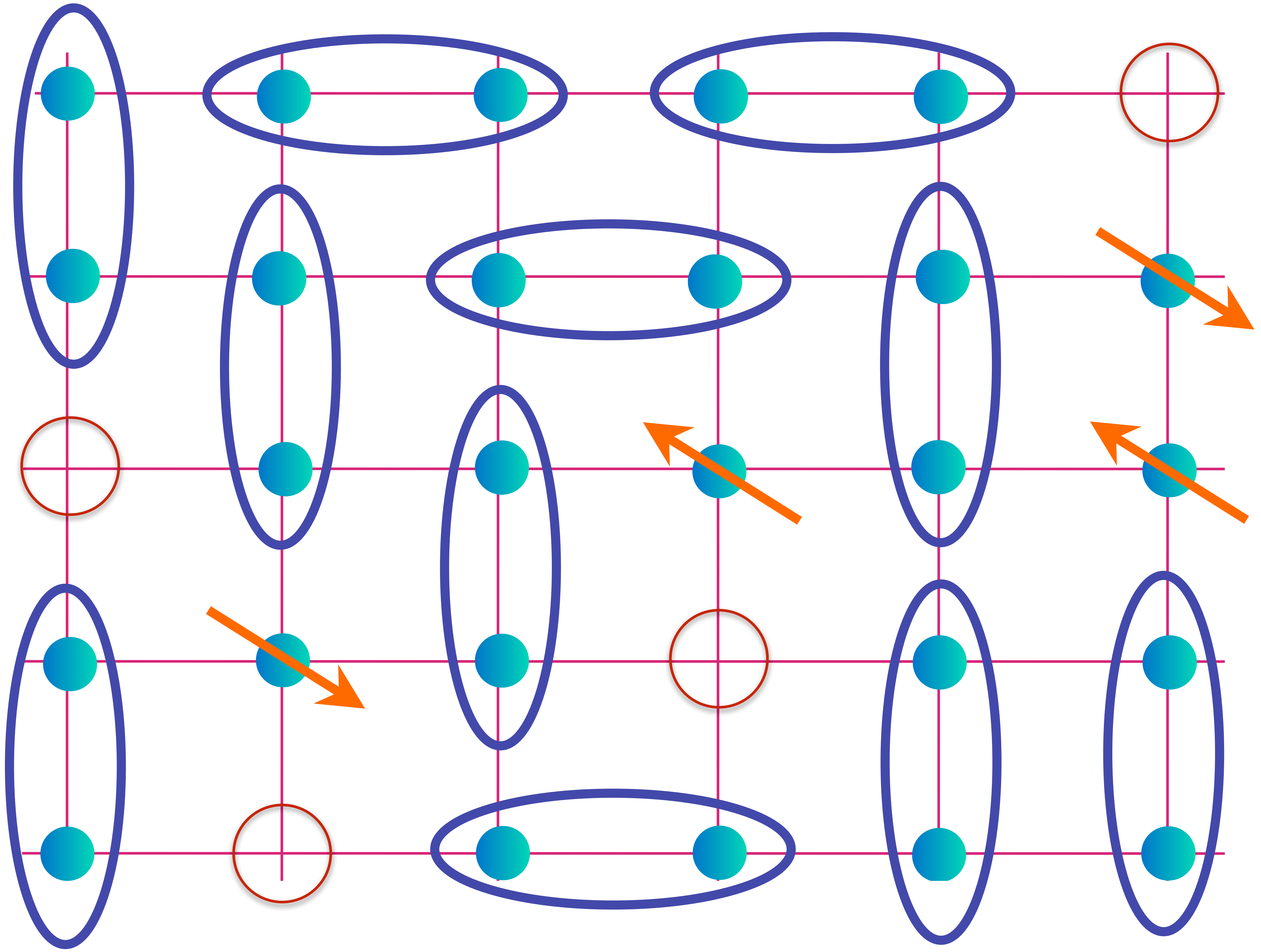
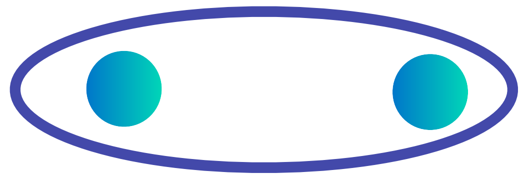
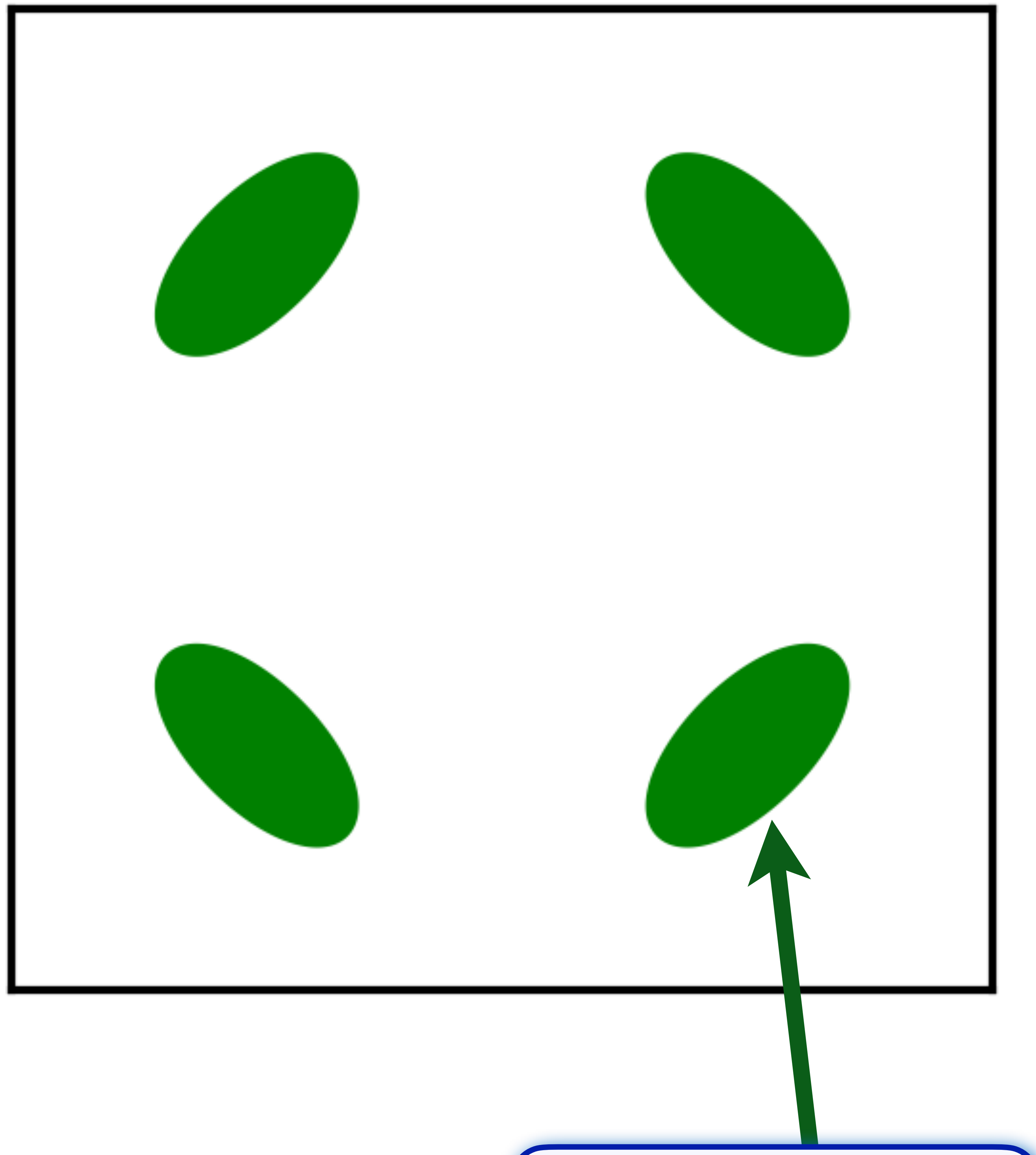


 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

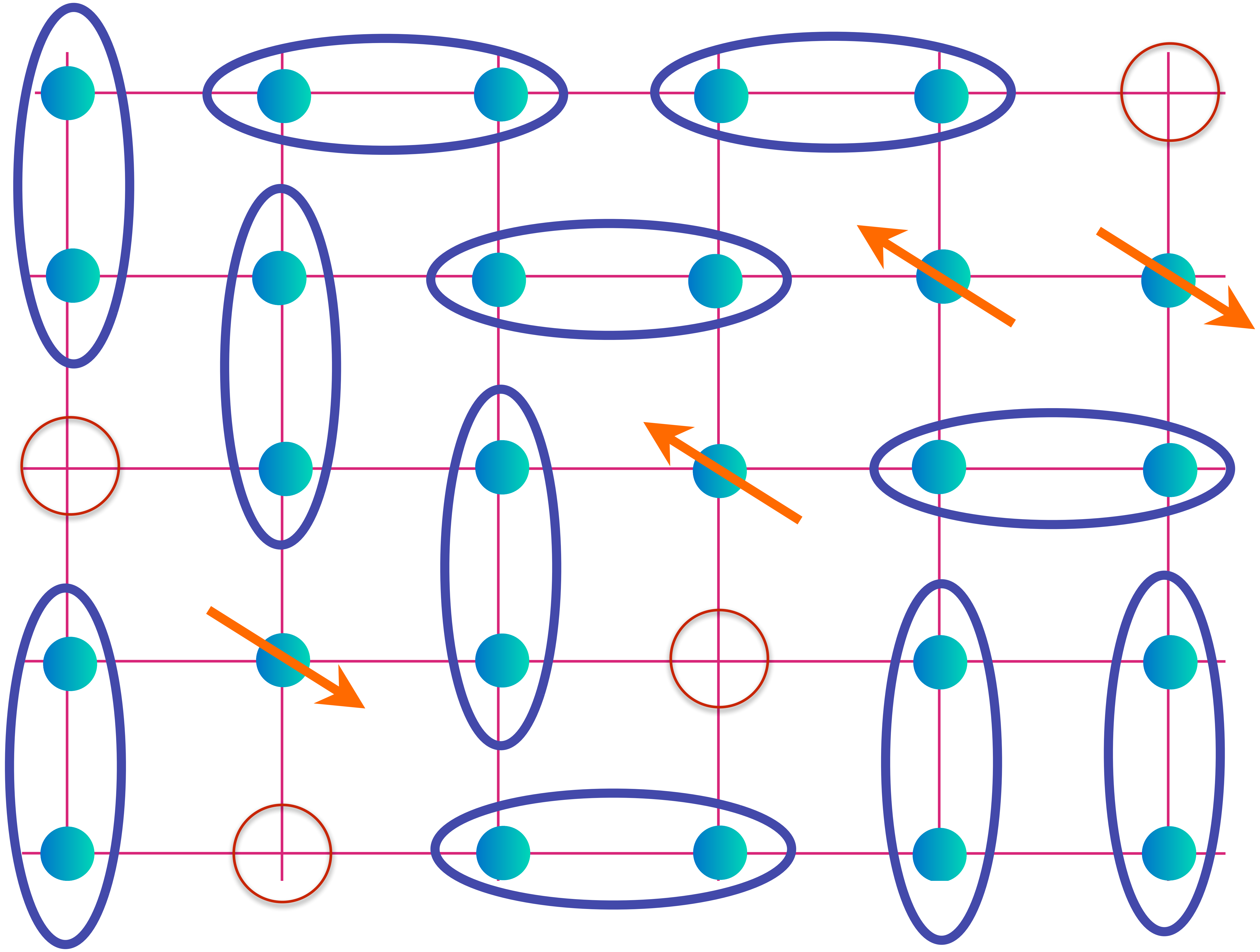


Area $p/4$

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

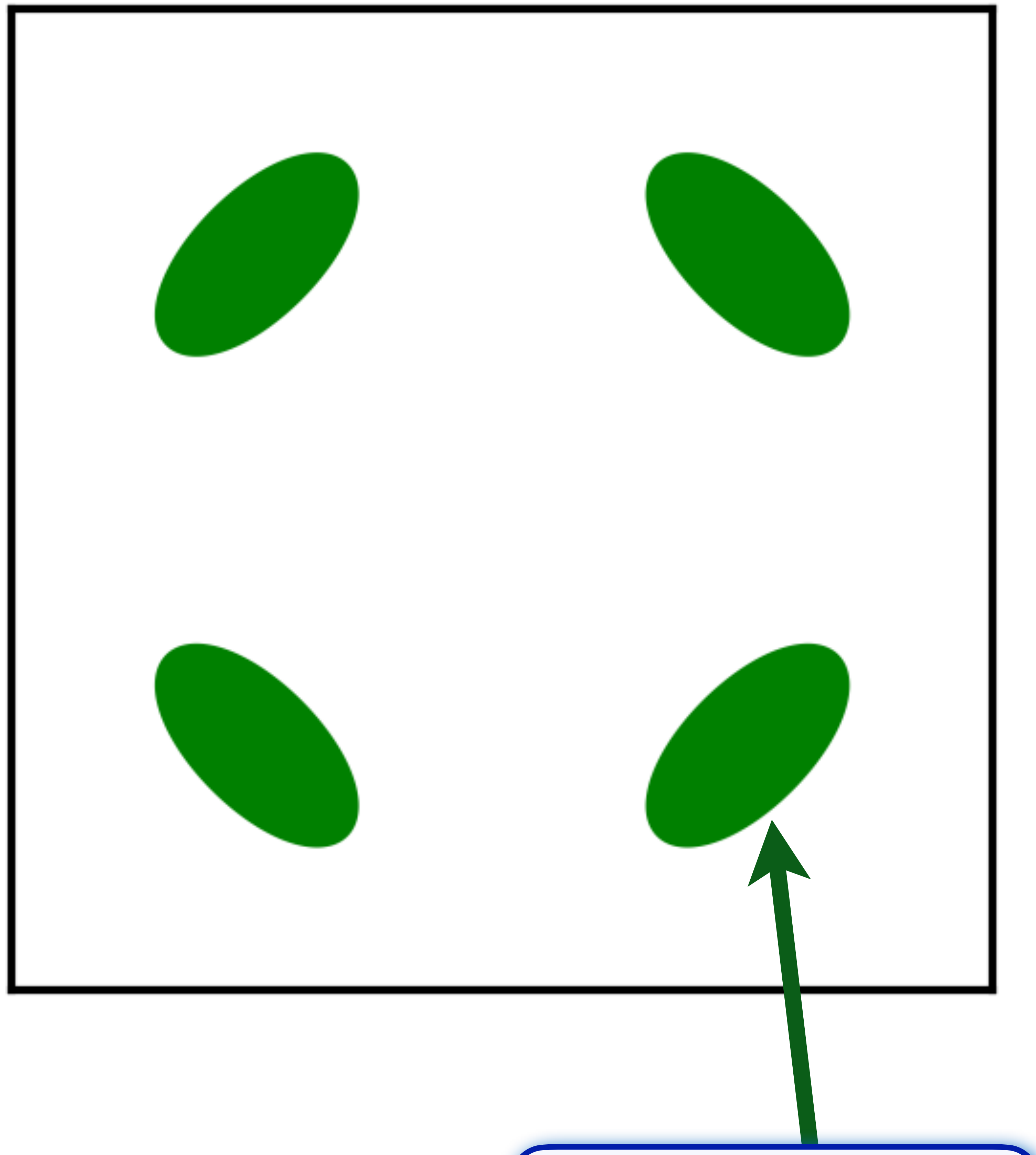
Holon metal excited states

Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)



Charge 0, spin-1/2 spinons

$$= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$$



Area $p/4$

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

Holon metal excited states

Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)

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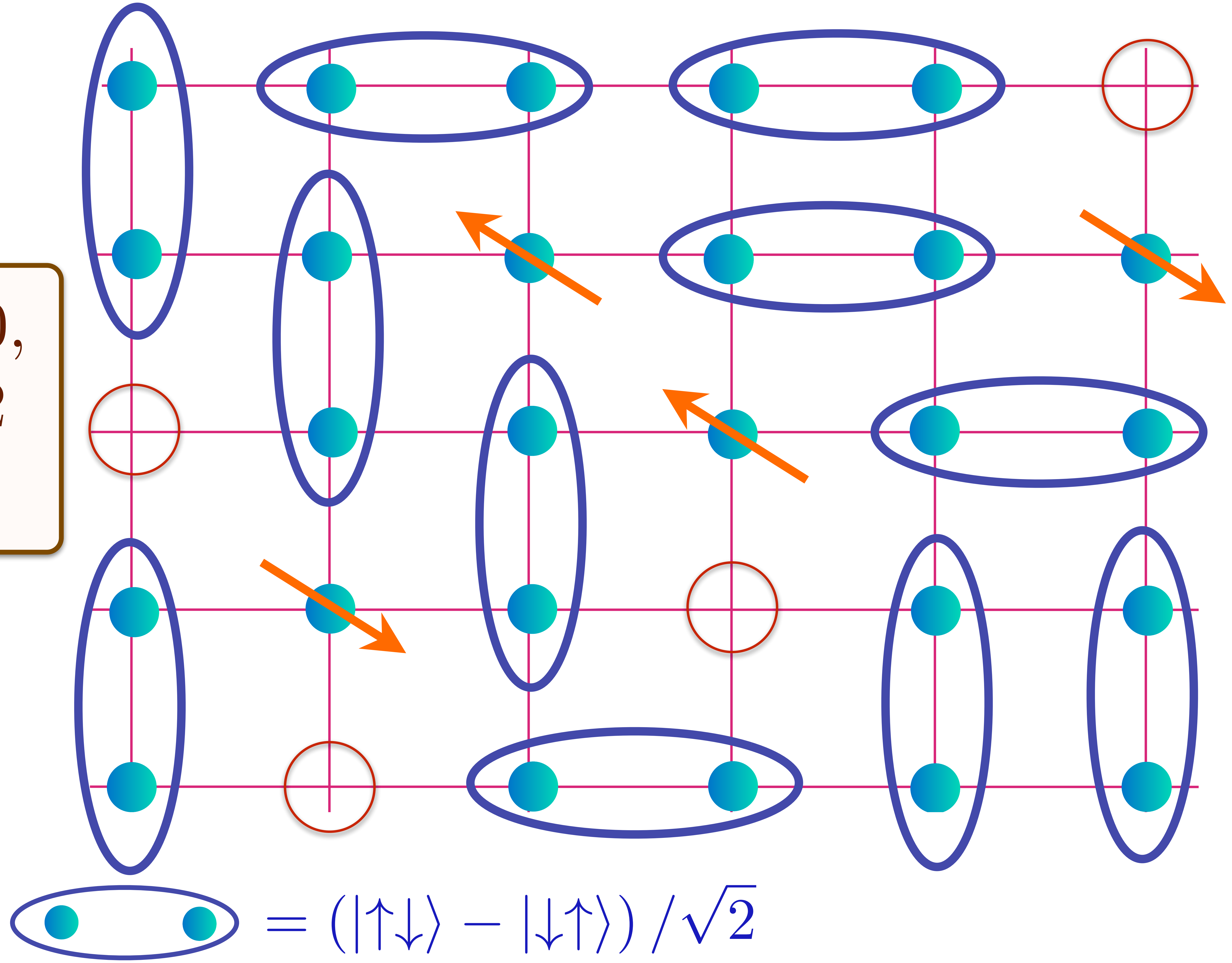

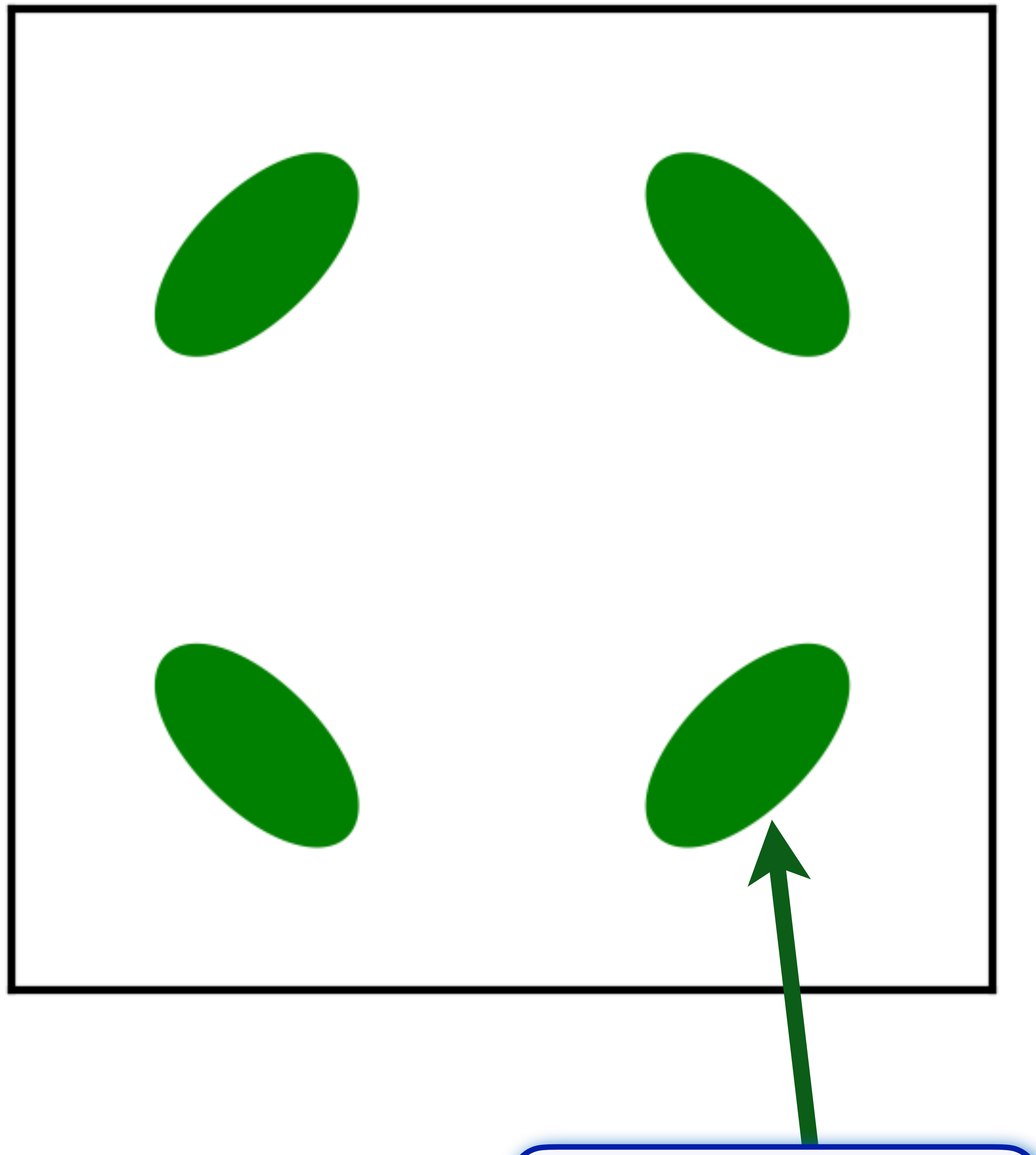

Area $p/4$

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

Holon metal excited states

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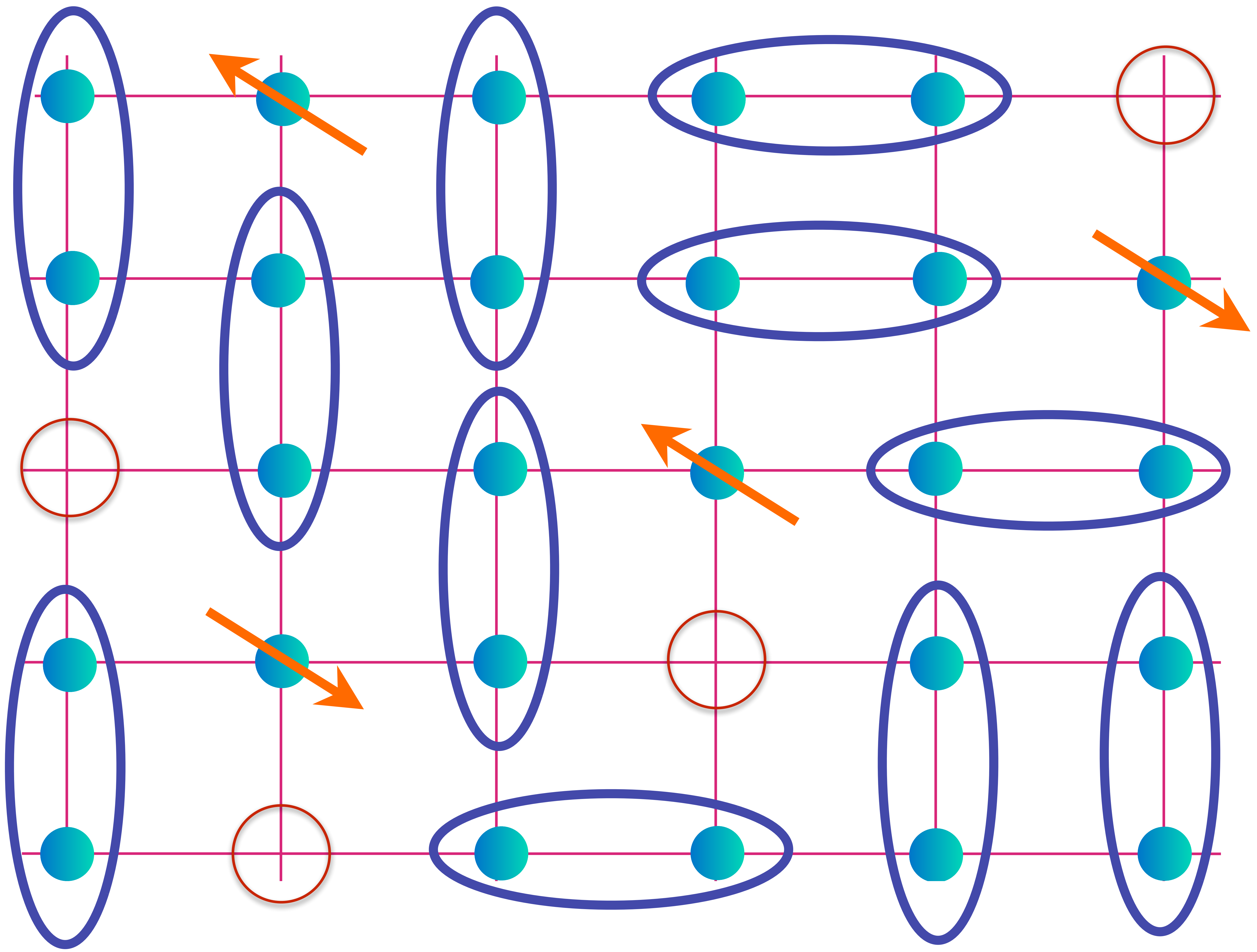
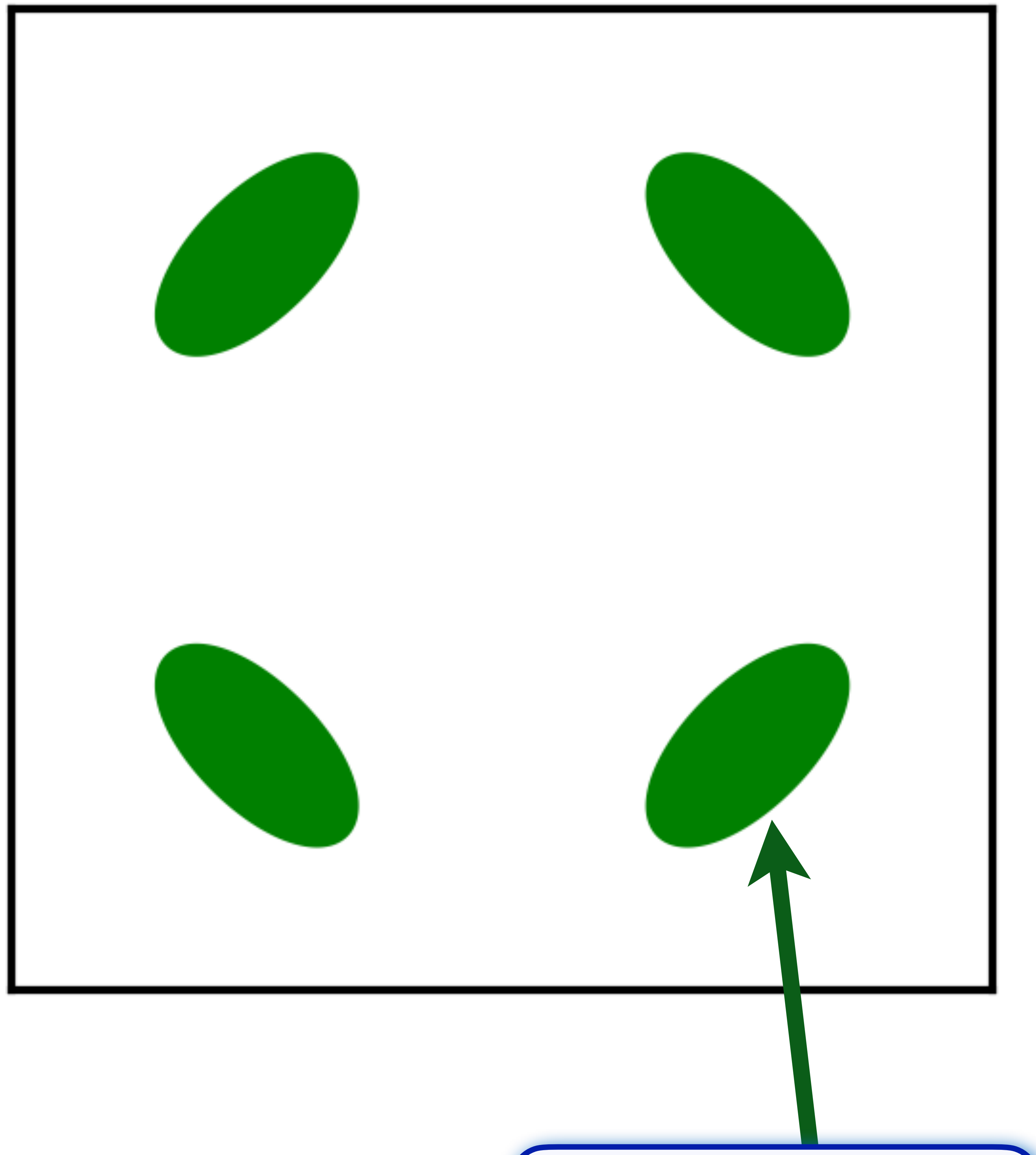
Charge 0, spin-1/2 spinons



$$= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$$



Area $p/4$

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

Holon metal excited states

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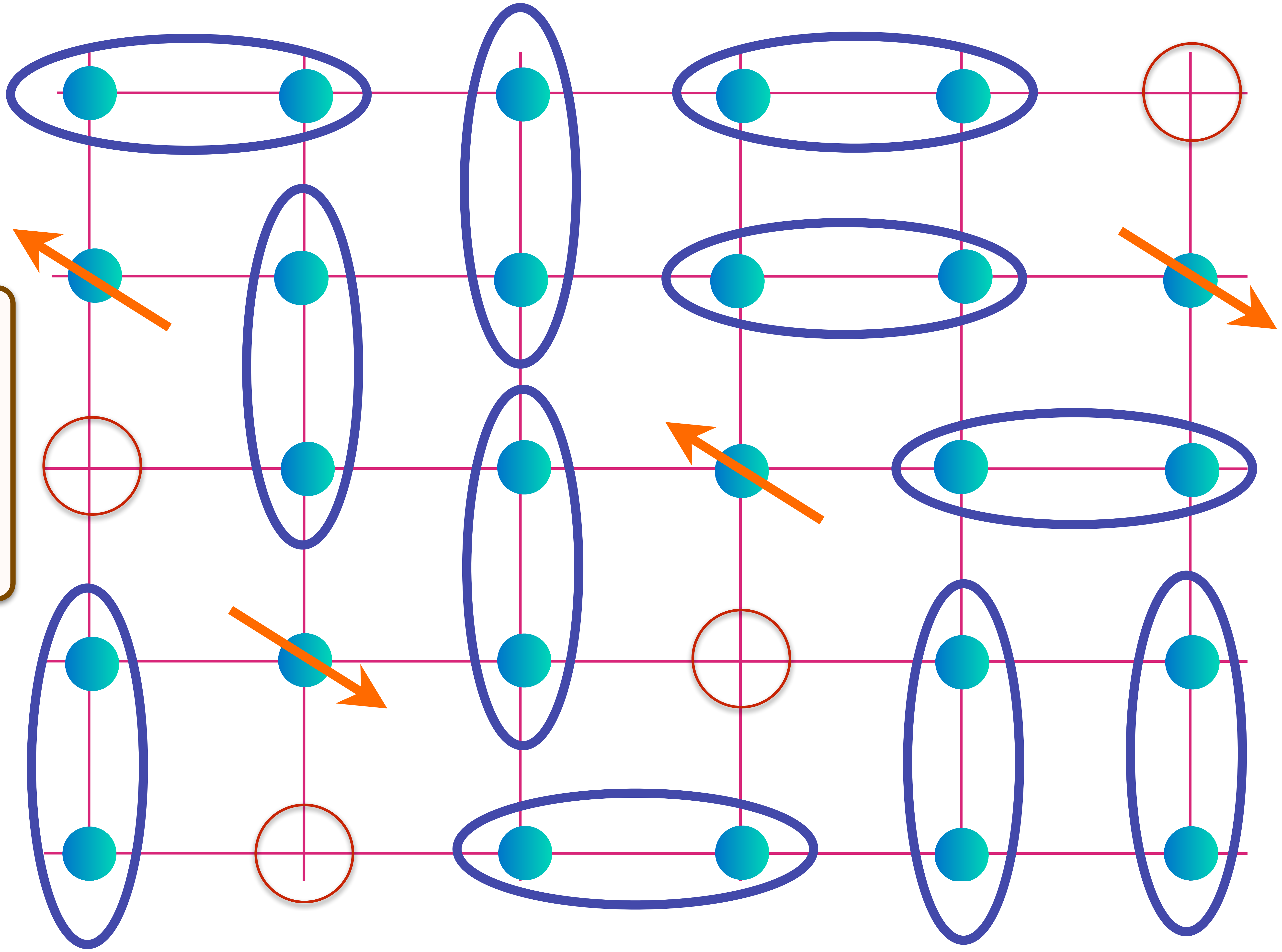
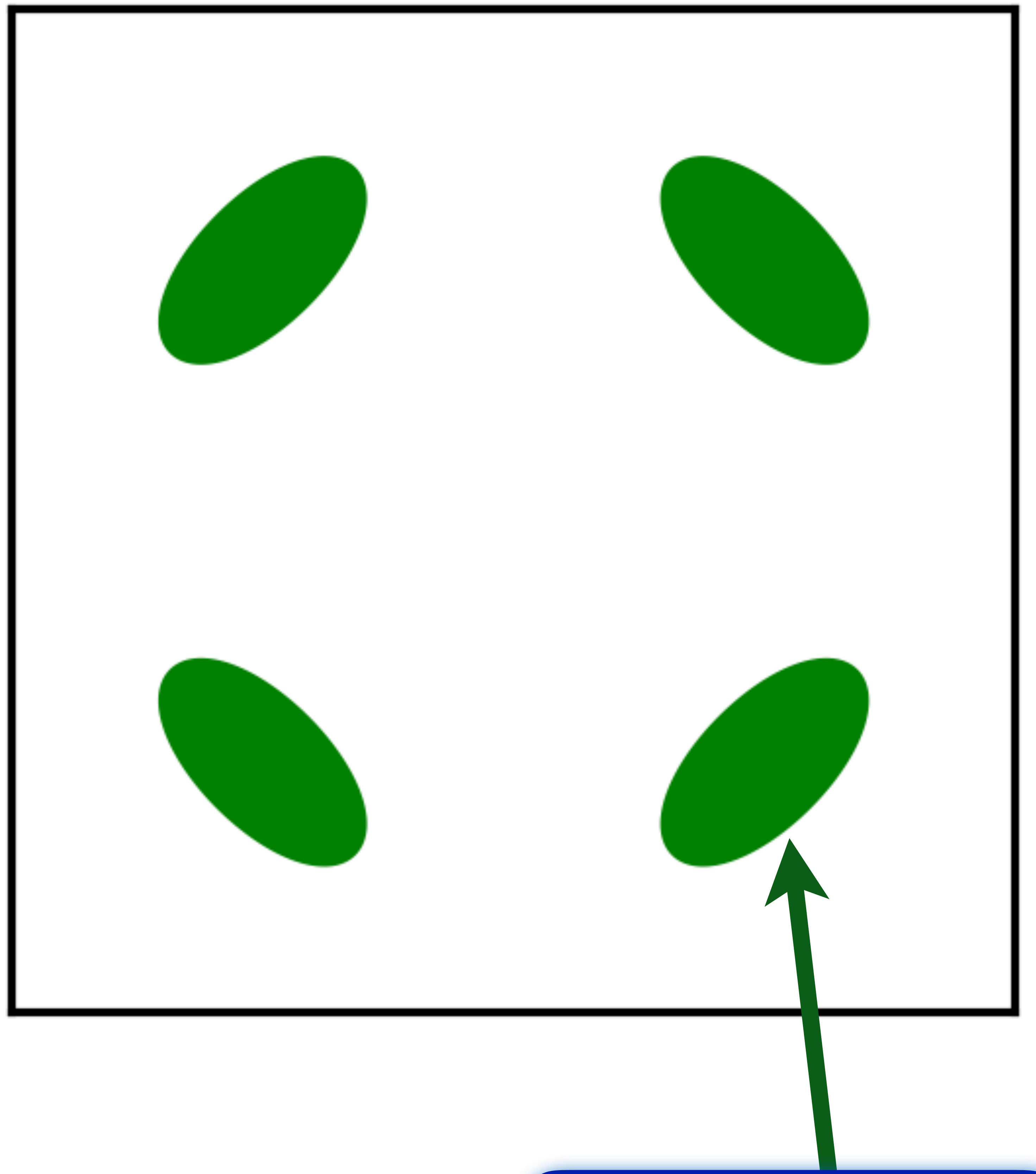
Charge 0, spin-1/2 spinons



$= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

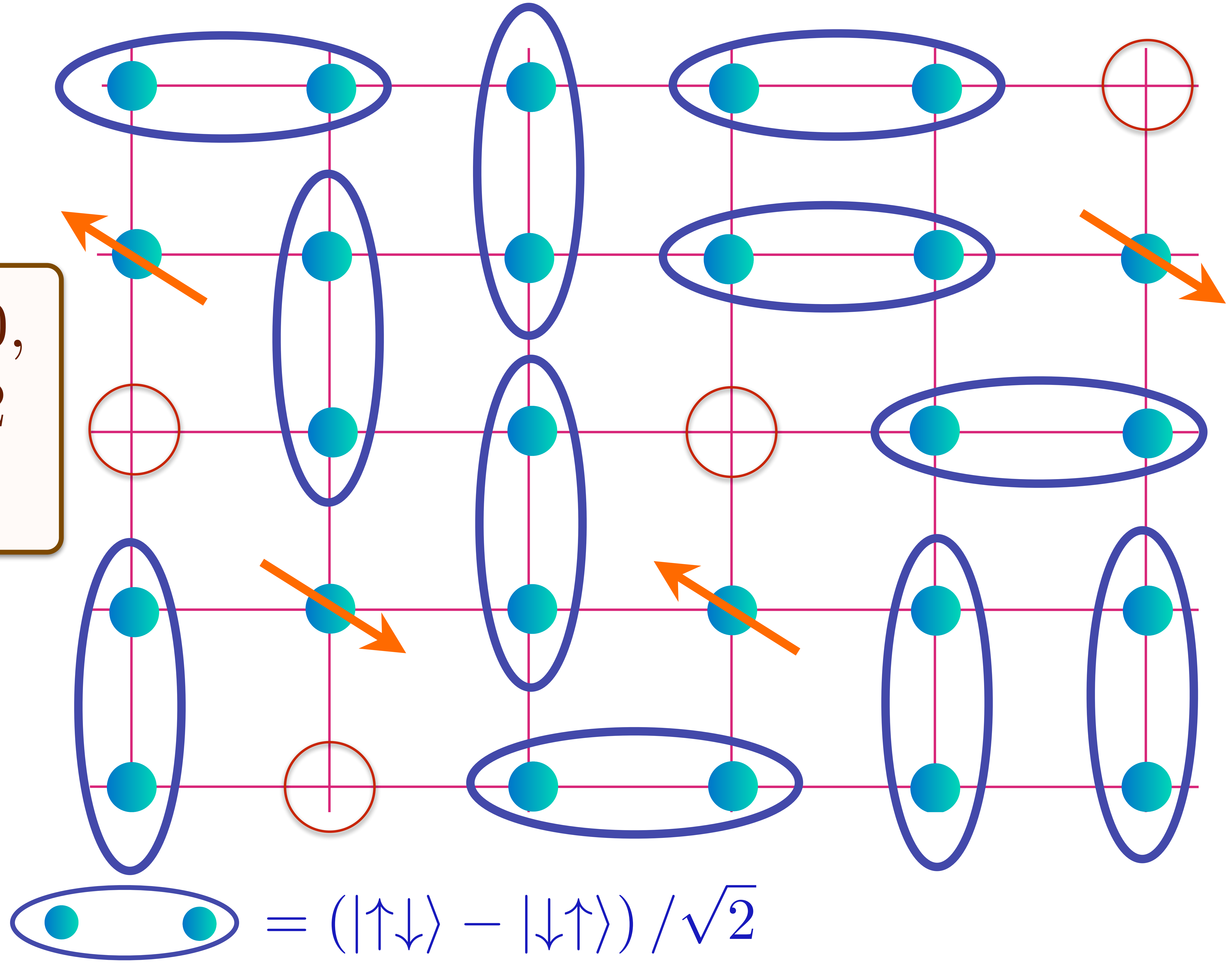


Area $p/4$

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

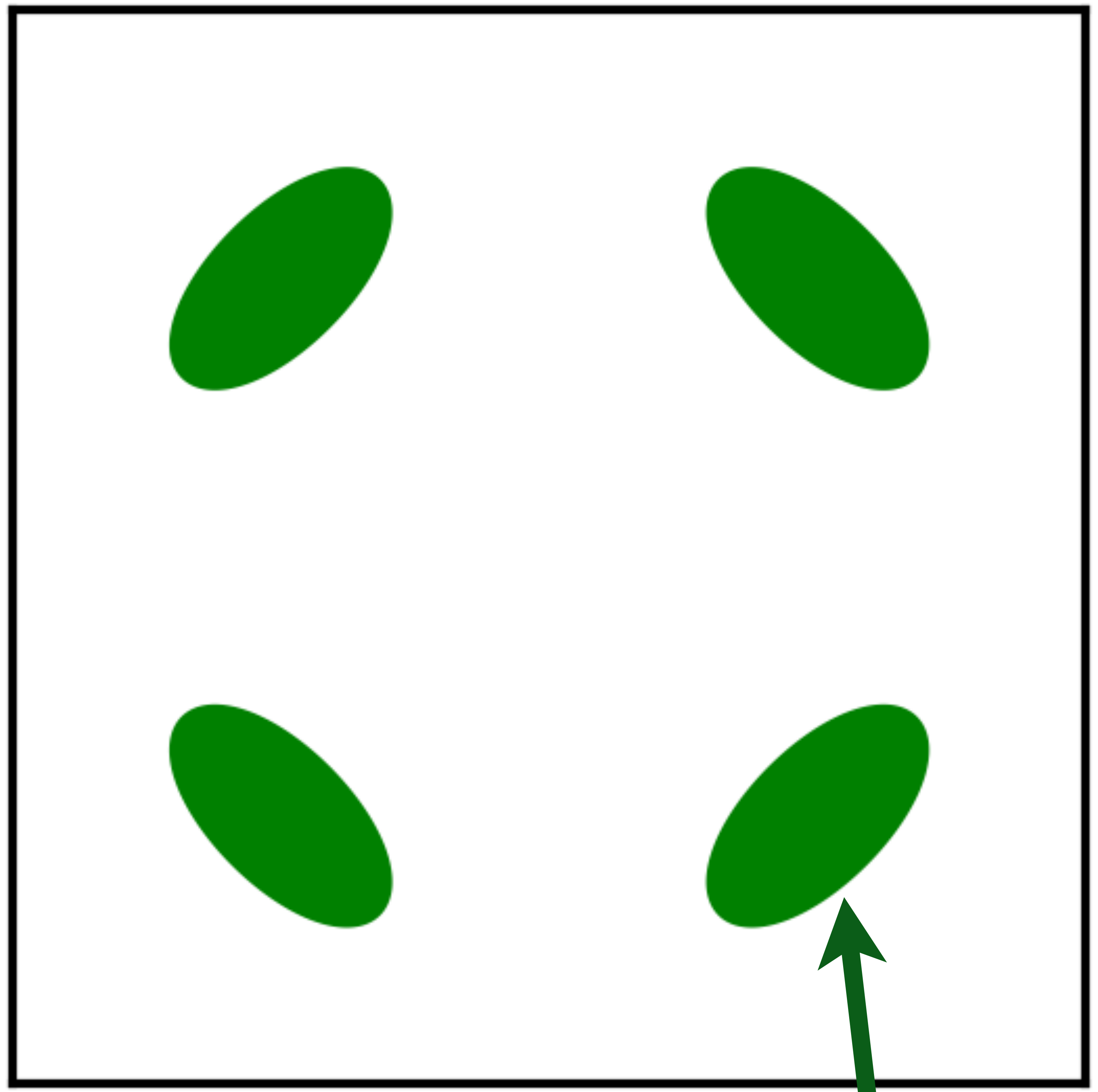
Holon metal excited states

Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)



Charge 0, spin-1/2 spinons

$= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$



Area $p/4$

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

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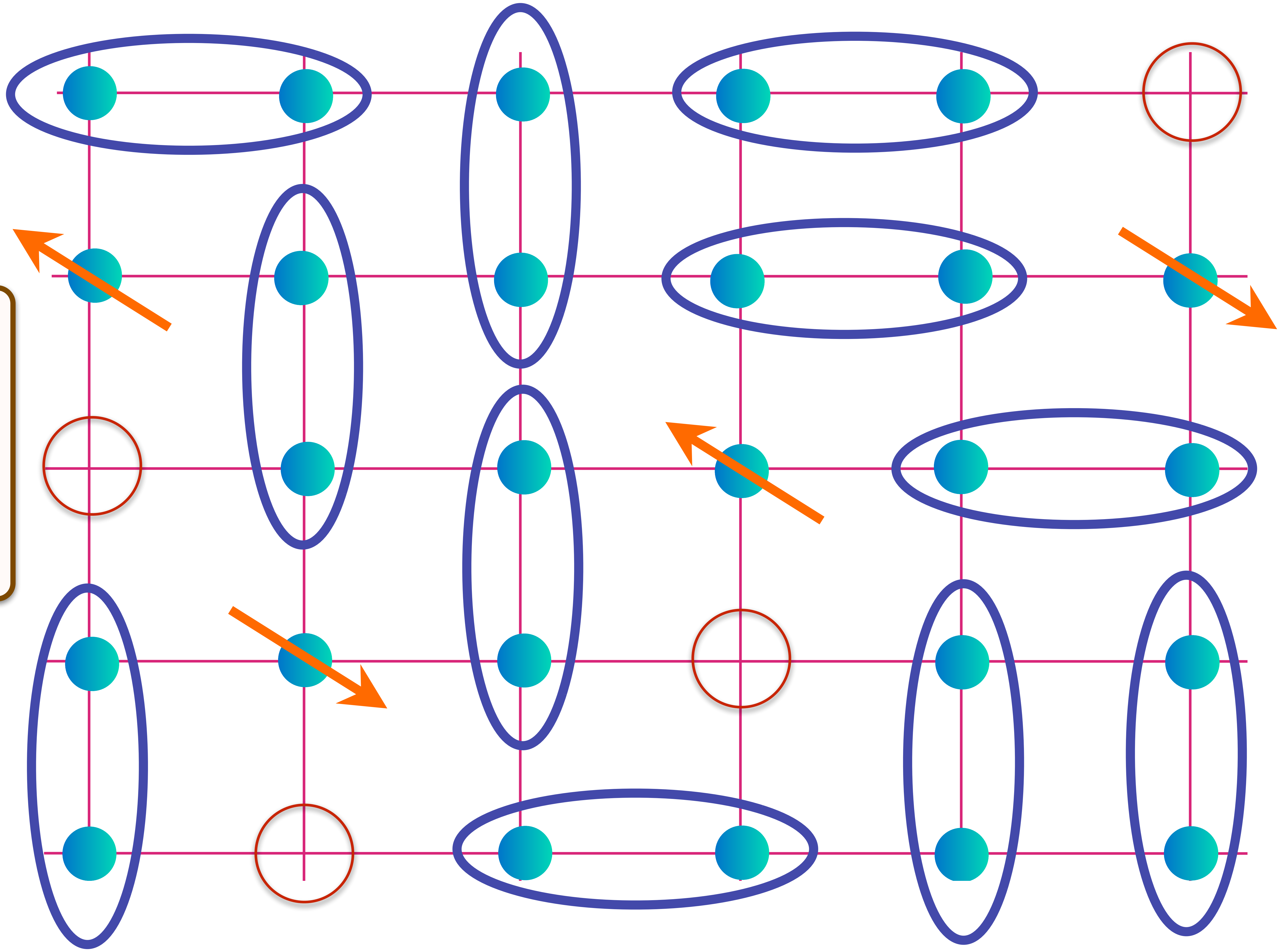
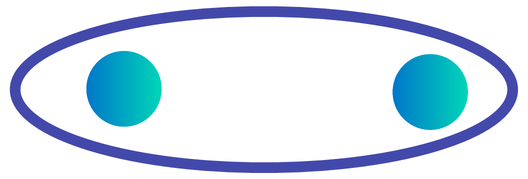
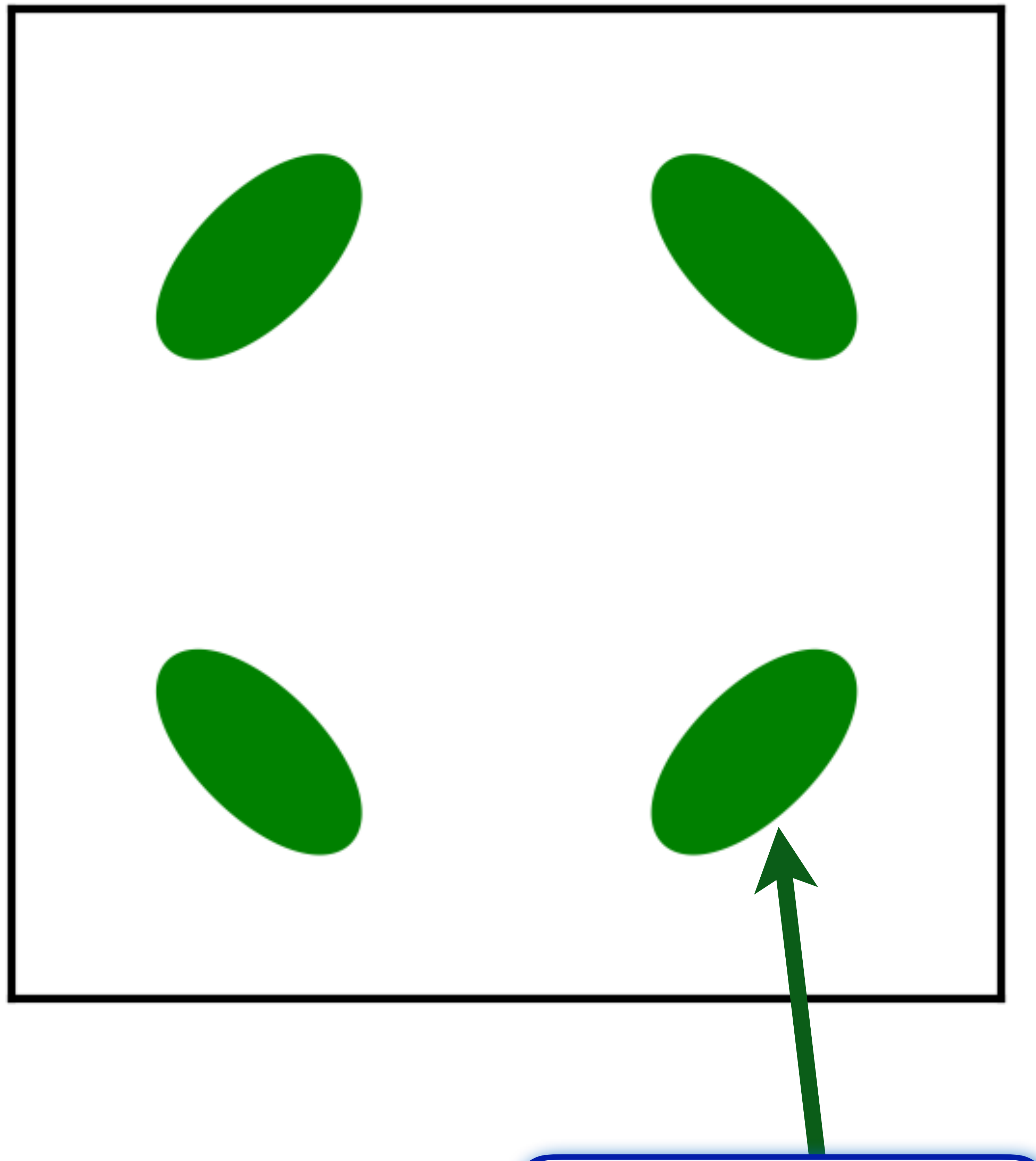
Charge 0, spin-1/2 spinons



 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

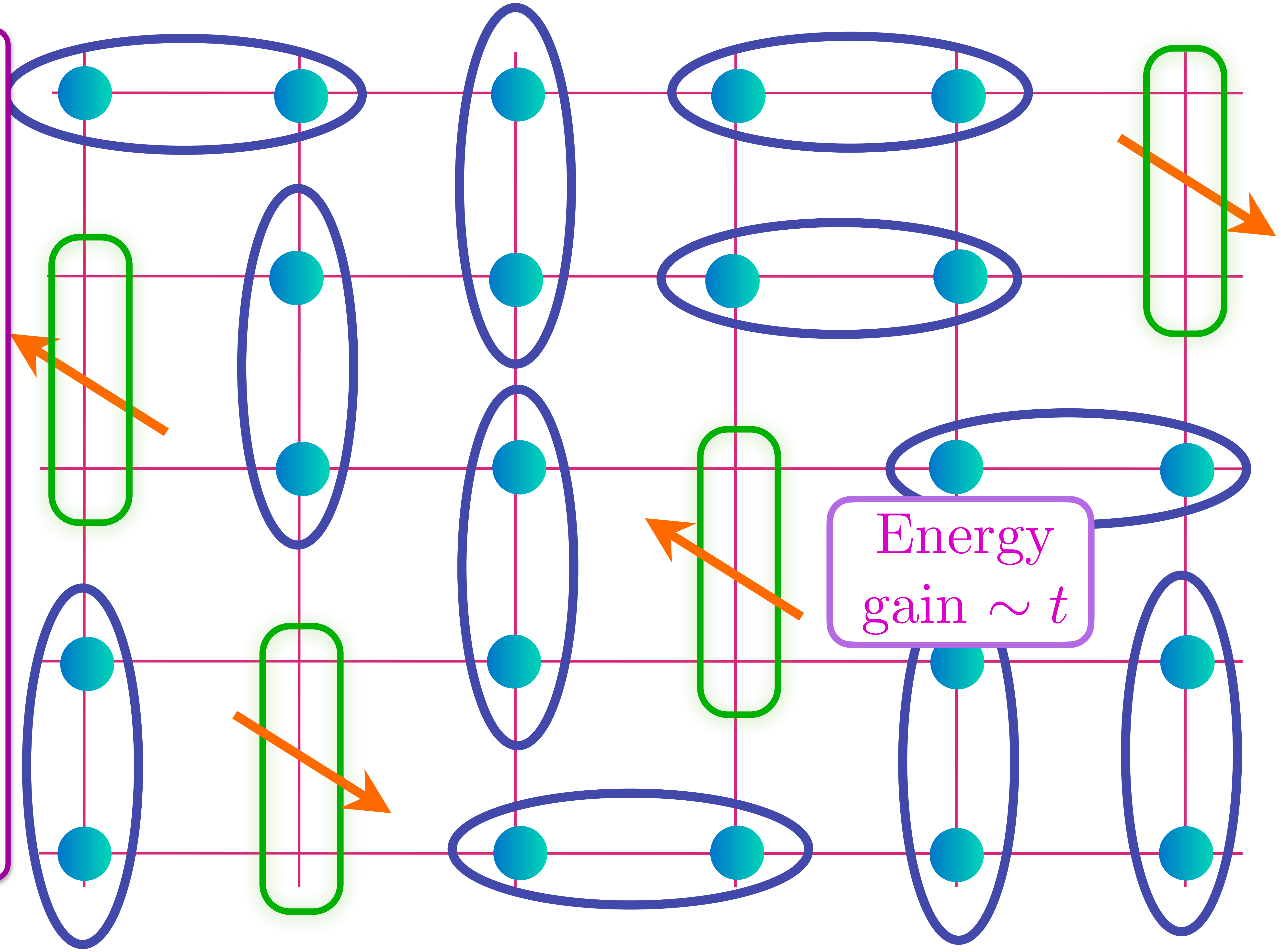


Area $p/4$

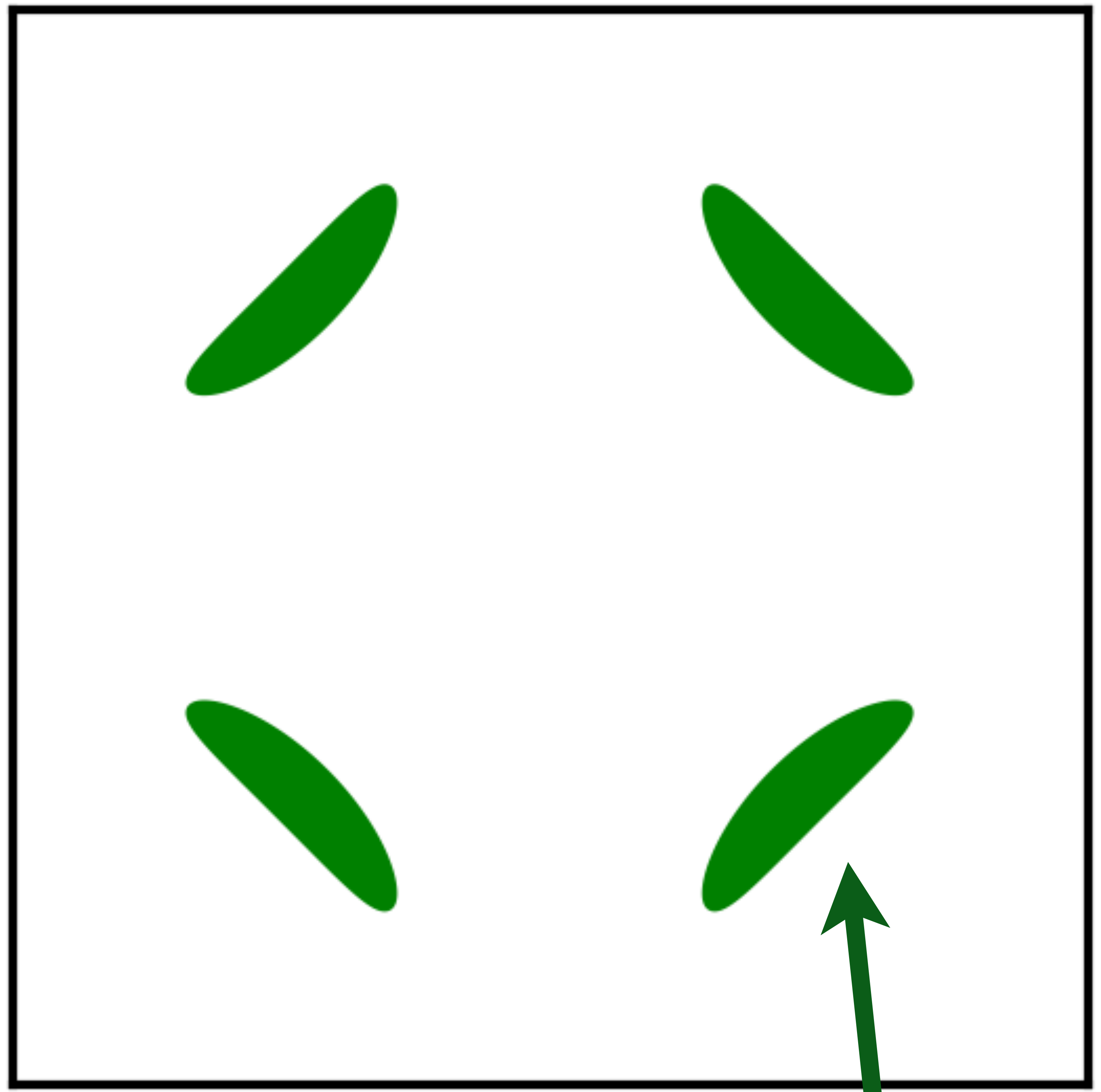
Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

FL*

Metal with density p of spin-1/2, charge $+e$ 'holes' (or 'magnetic polarons') with coherent inter-layer transport.



Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)



Area $p/8$

$$= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2} \qquad = \left(|\uparrow\circ\rangle + |\circ\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$$

T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003); R. K. Kaul, A. Kolezhuk, M. Levin, S.S., T. Senthil, PRB **75**, 235122 (2007)

M. Punk, A. Allais, and S. Sachdev, PNAS **112**, 9552 (2015)

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

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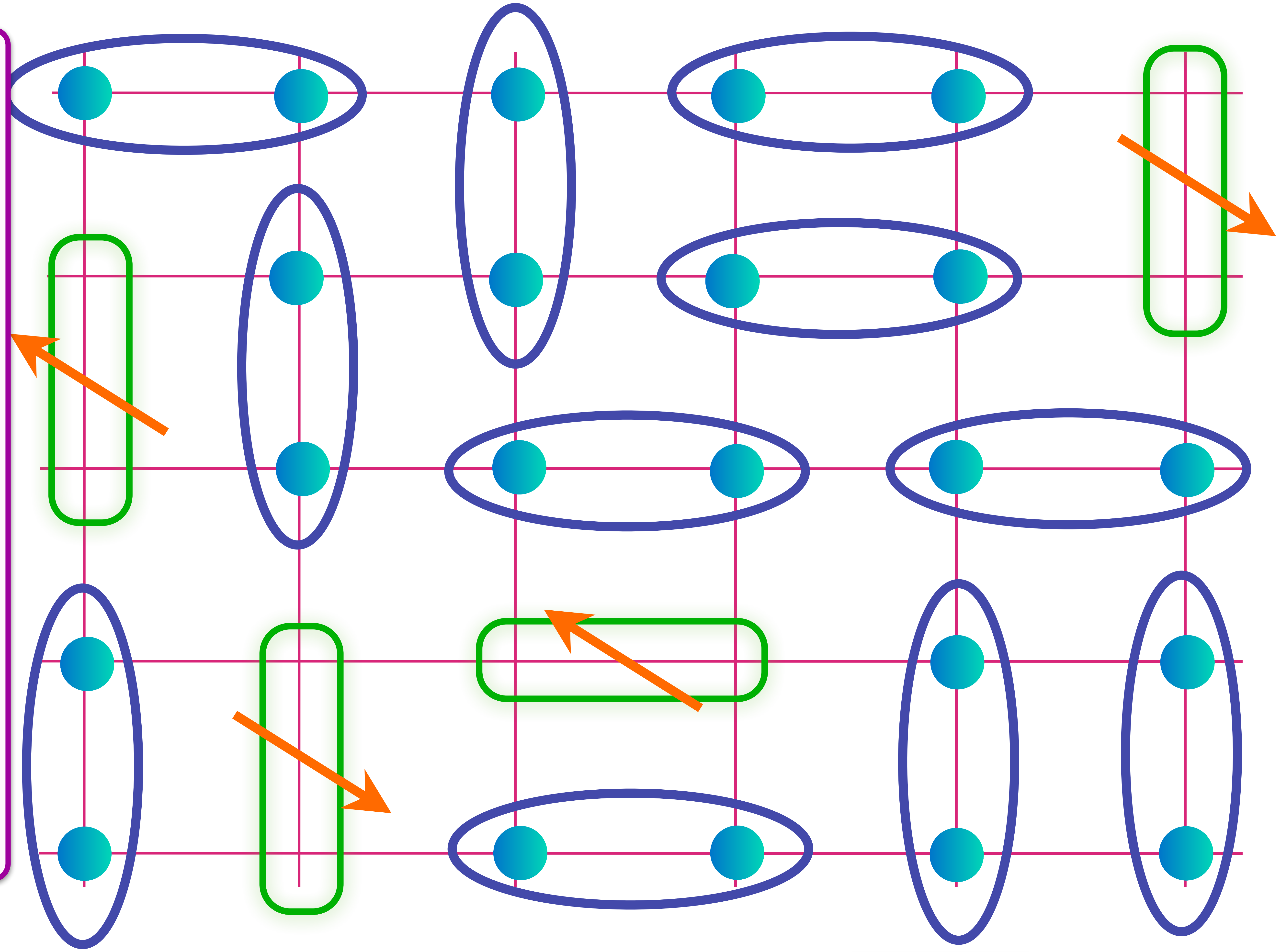
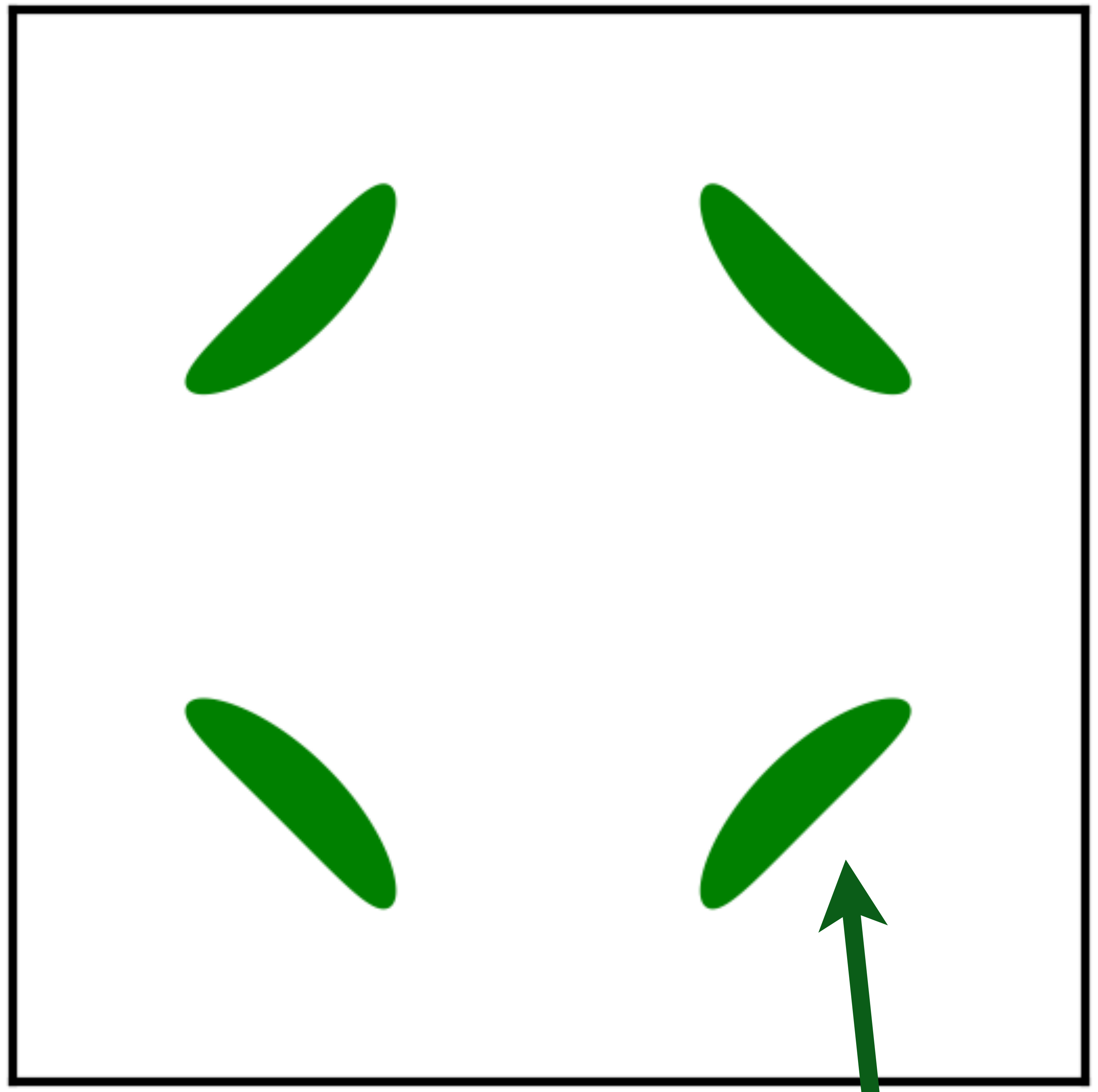
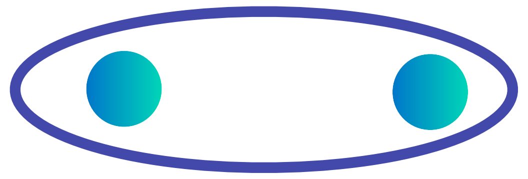
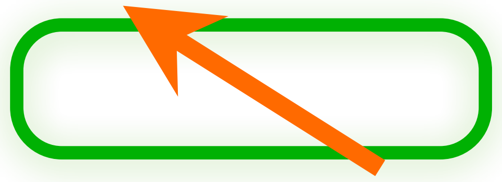


Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)



Area $p/8$

 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

 $= \left(|\uparrow\circ\rangle + |\circ\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003); R. K. Kaul, A. Kolezhuk, M. Levin, S.S., T. Senthil, PRB **75**, 235122 (2007)
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Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

FL*

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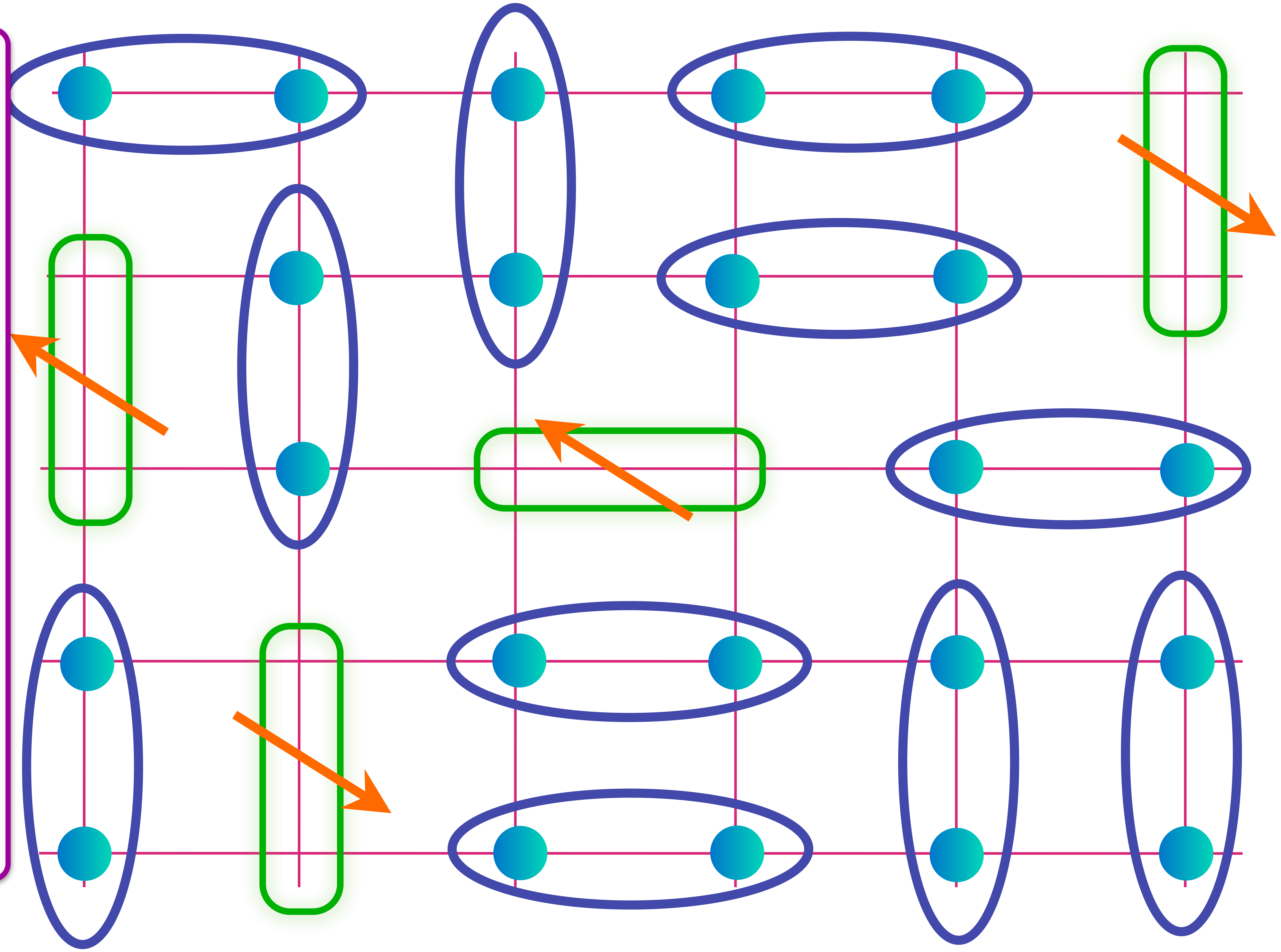
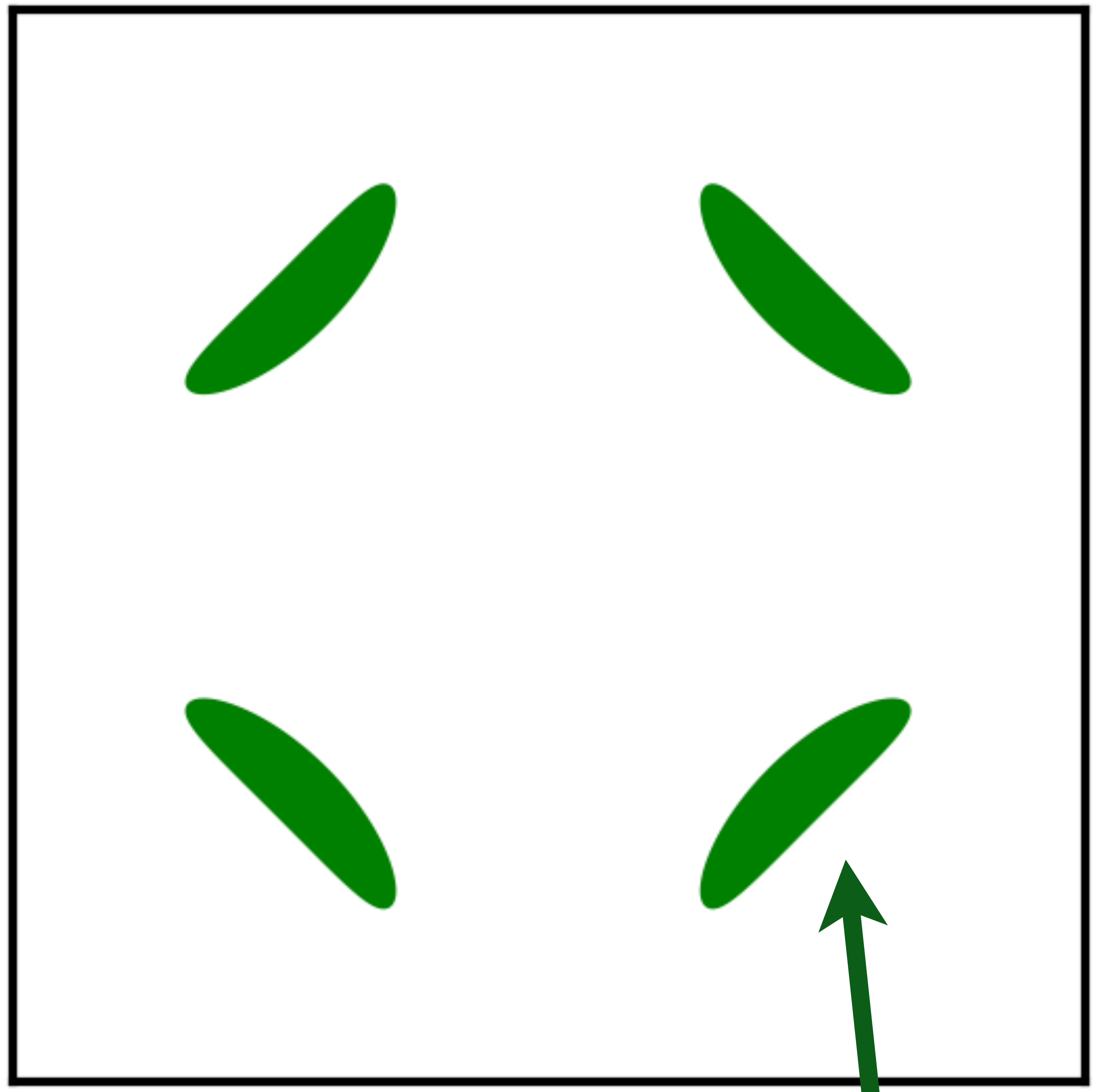
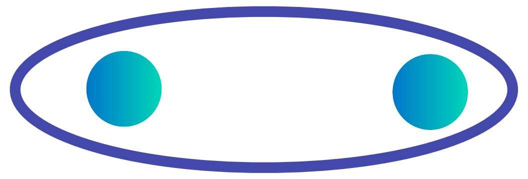
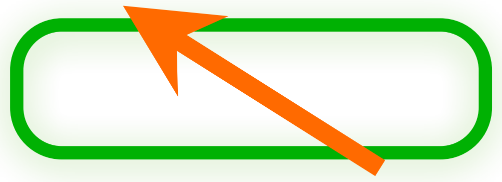
Metal with density p of spin-1/2, charge $+e$ 'holes' (or 'magnetic polarons') with coherent inter-layer transport.





Area $p/8$

 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

 $= \left(|\uparrow\circ\rangle + |\circ\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003); R. K. Kaul, A. Kolezhuk, M. Levin, S.S., T. Senthil, PRB **75**, 235122 (2007)
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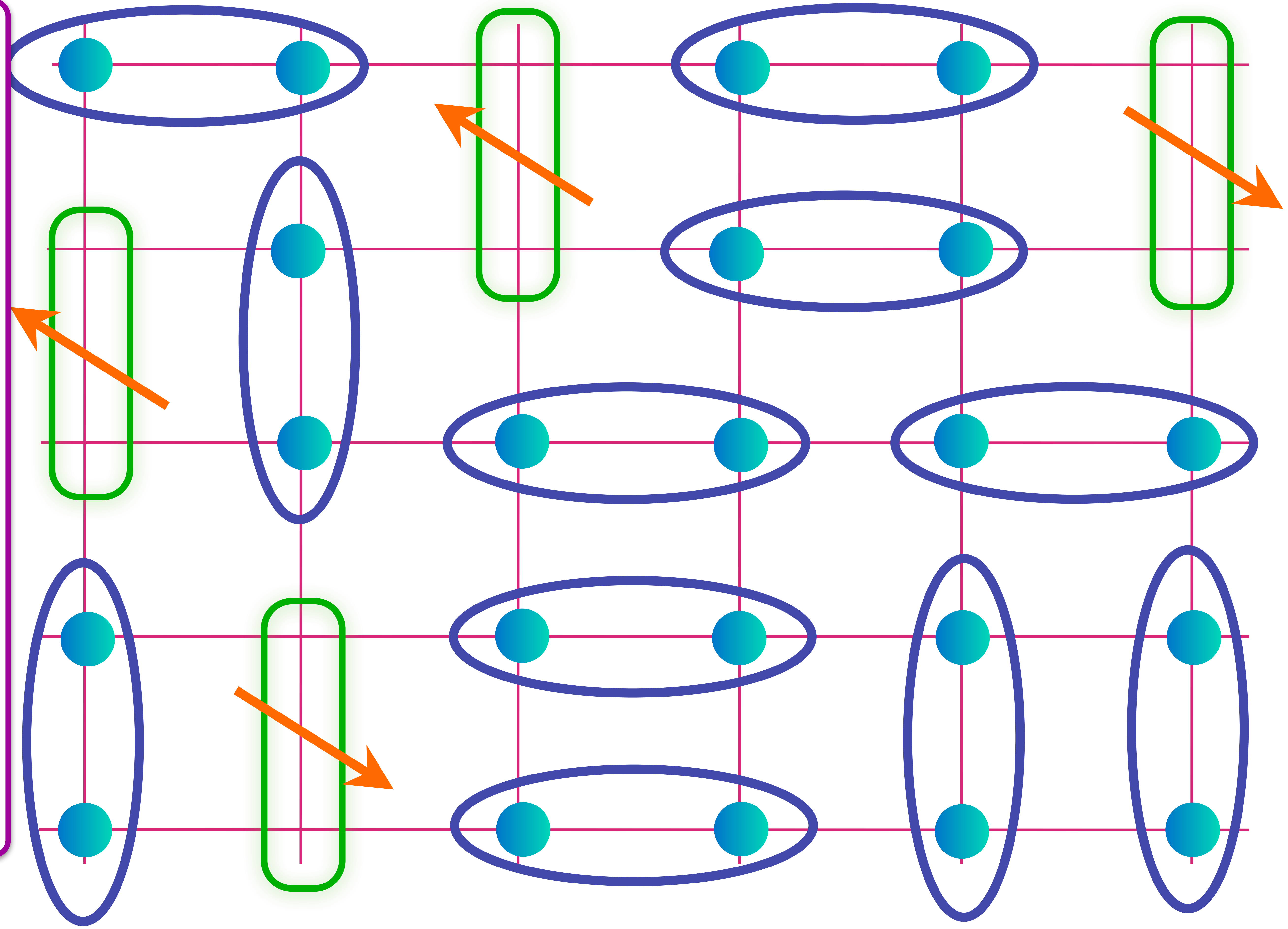
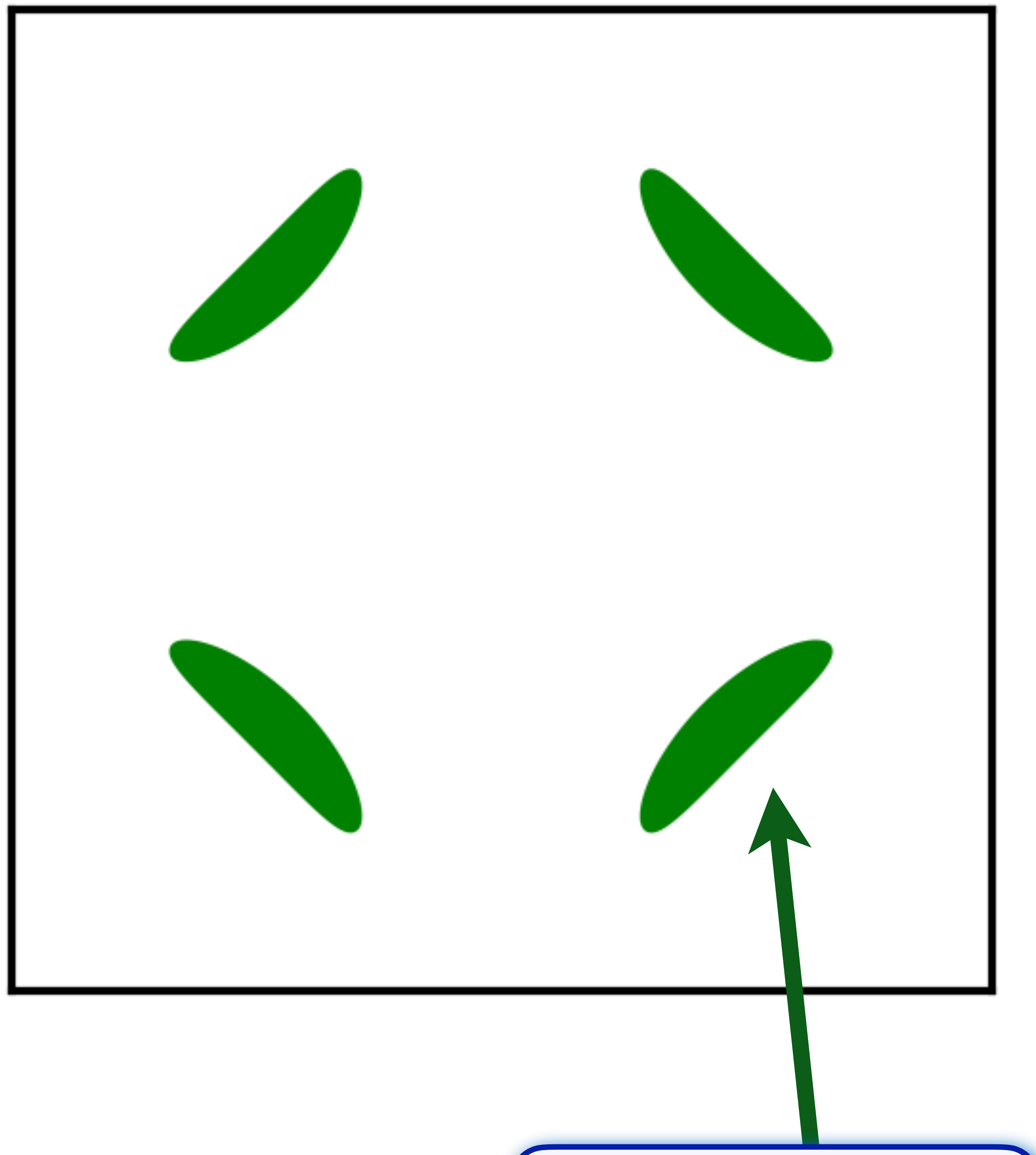
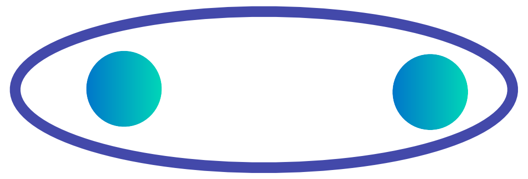
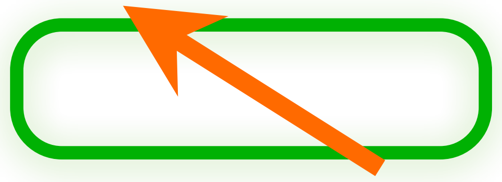




Area $p/8$

 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right) / \sqrt{2}$

 $= \left(|\uparrow \circ\rangle + |\circ \uparrow\rangle \right) / \sqrt{2}$

T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003); R. K. Kaul, A. Kolezhuk, M. Levin, S.S., T. Senthil, PRB **75**, 235122 (2007)
M. Punk, A. Allais, and S. Sachdev, PNAS **112**, 9552 (2015)

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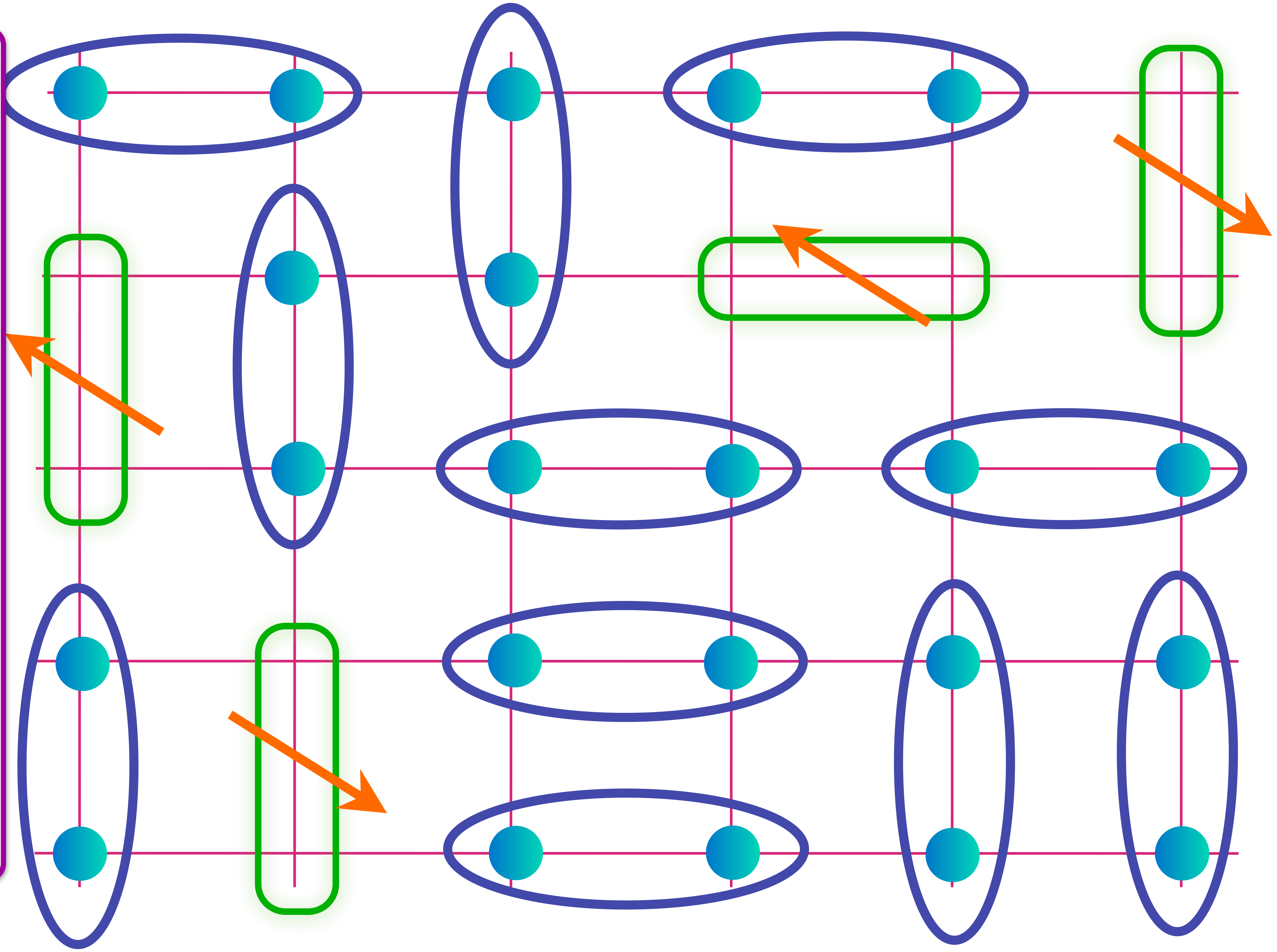
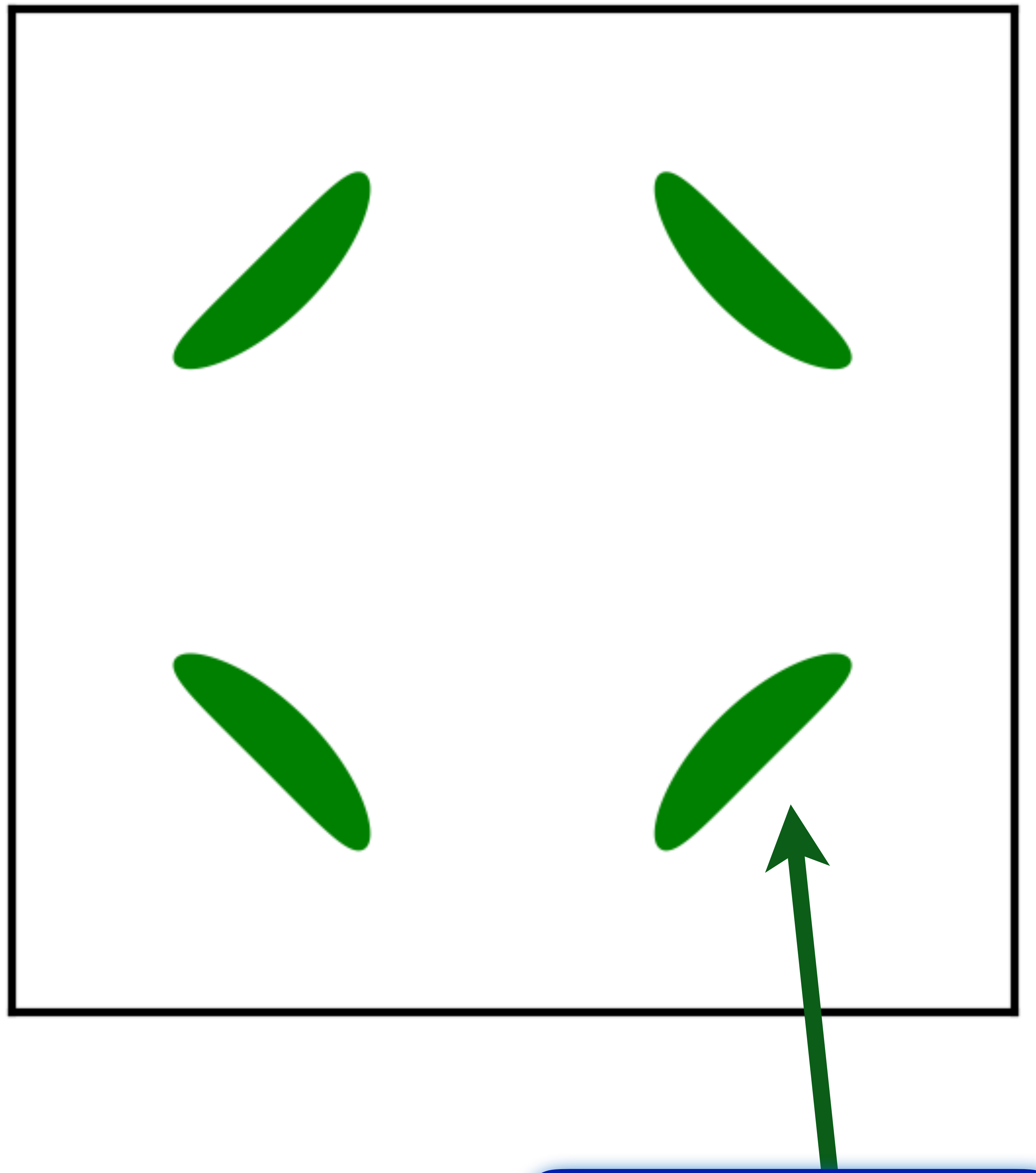
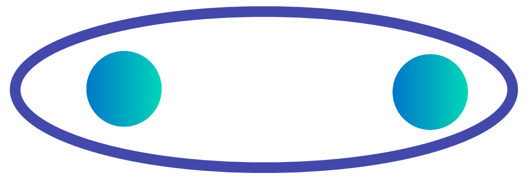
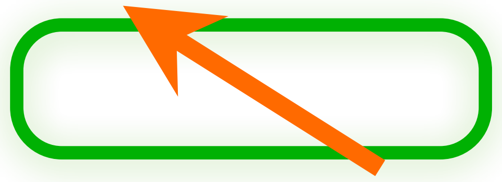


Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)



Area $p/8$

 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

 $= \left(|\uparrow \circ\rangle + |\circ \uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003); R. K. Kaul, A. Kolezhuk, M. Levin, S.S., T. Senthil, PRB **75**, 235122 (2007)
M. Punk, A. Allais, and S. Sachdev, PNAS **112**, 9552 (2015)

Doping an insulating antiferromagnet with holes of density p

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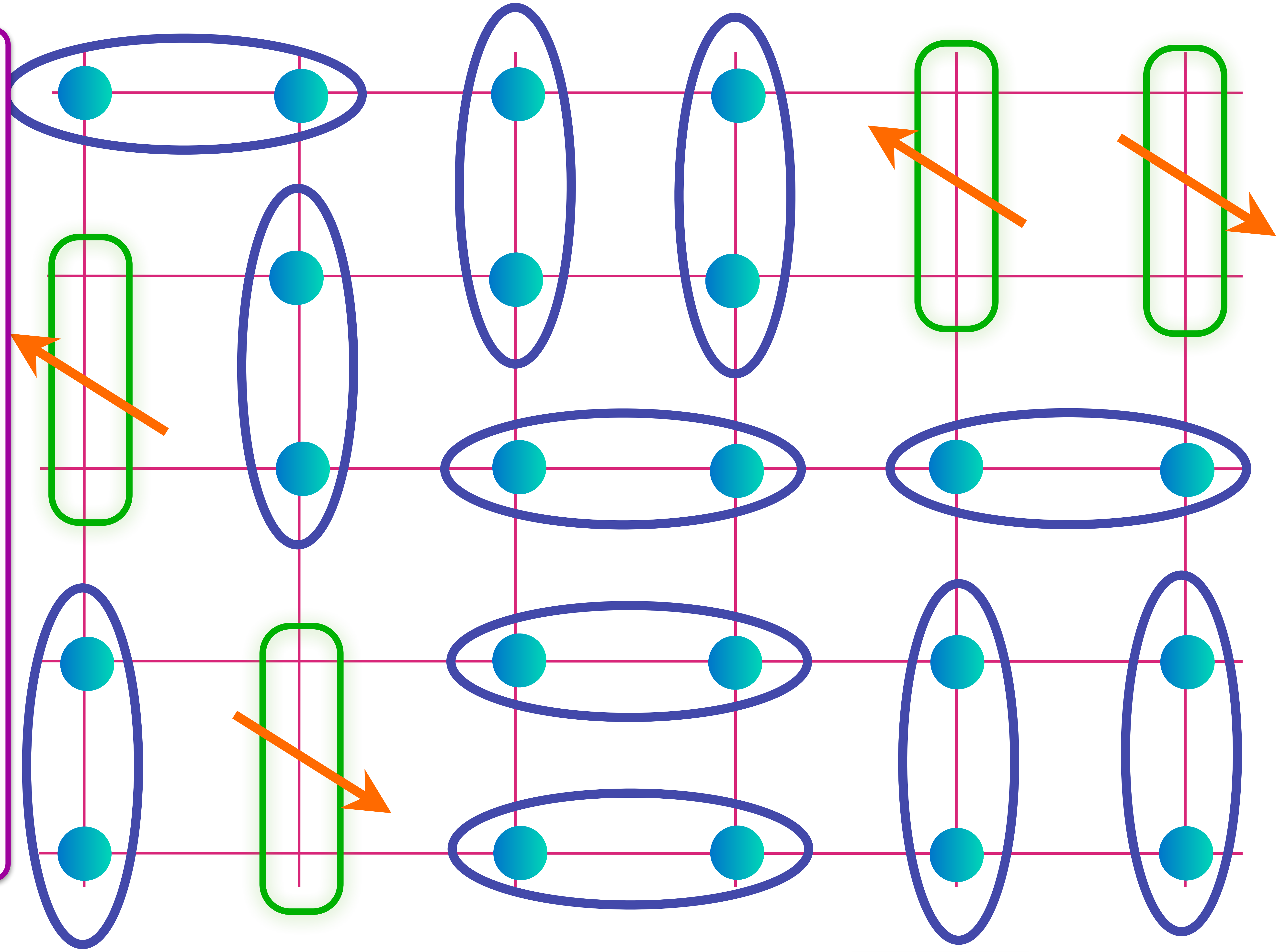
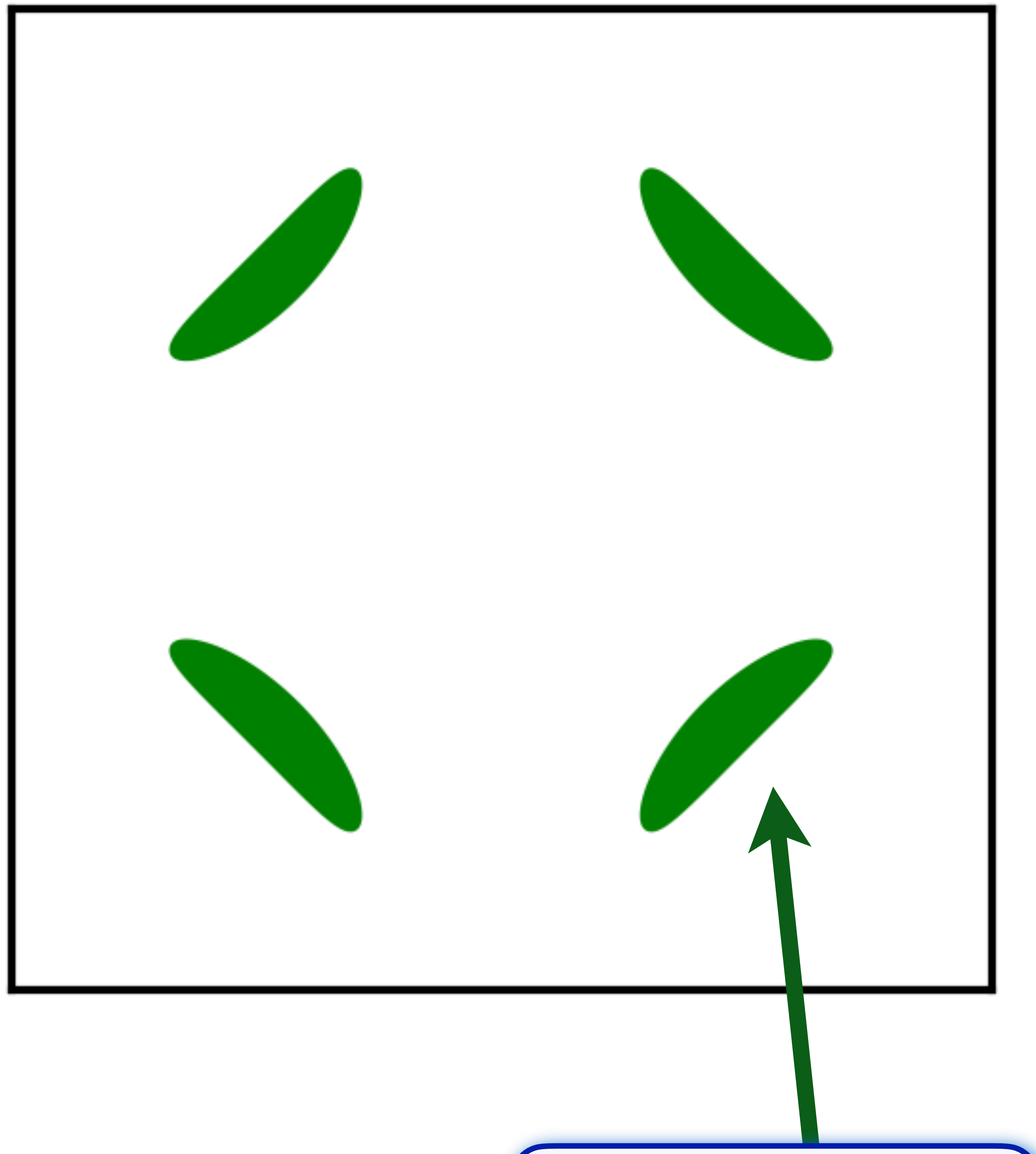
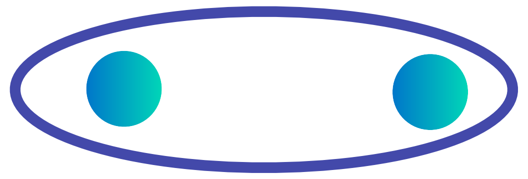
Metal with density p of spin-1/2, charge $+e$ ‘holes’ (or ‘magnetic polarons’) with coherent inter-layer transport.

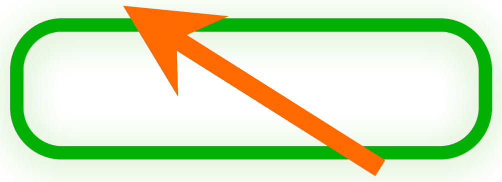


Oshikawa anomaly is satisfied by sum of spin liquid (1) and Fermi surface anomalies (p)



Area $p/8$

 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

 $= \left(|\uparrow \circ\rangle + |\circ \uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

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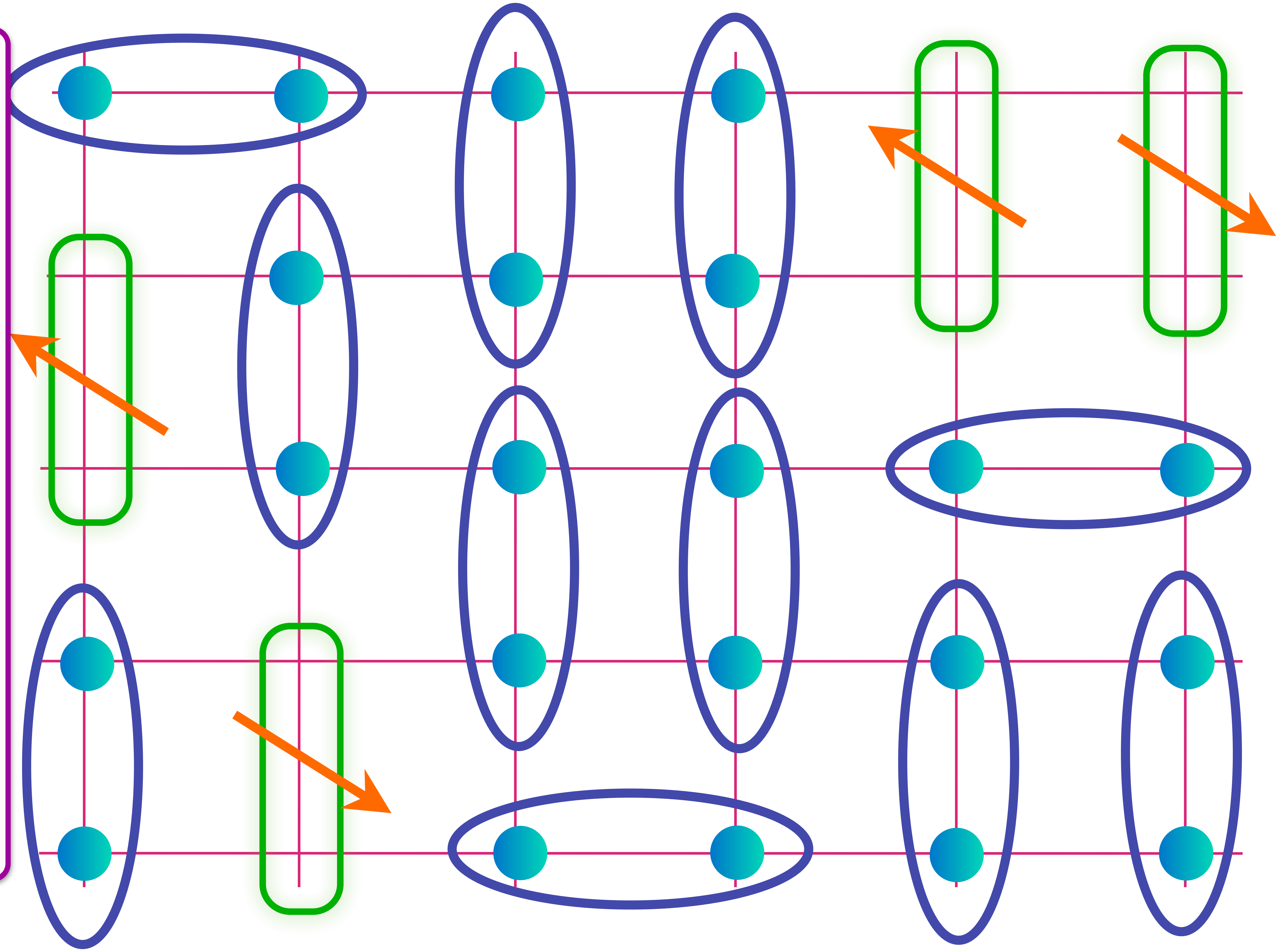

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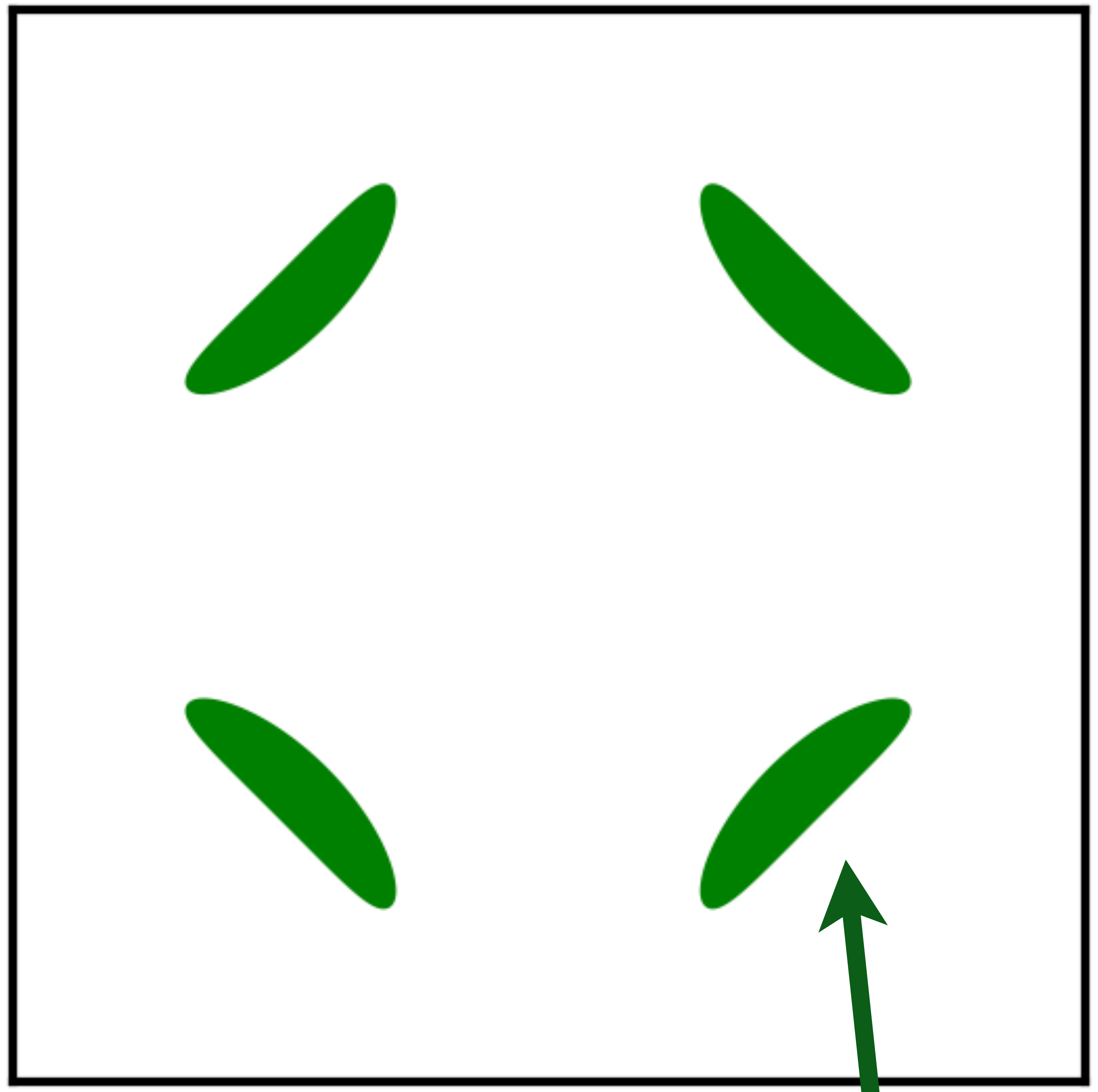

Area $p/8$

$= (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ $\quad$ $= (|\uparrow \circ\rangle + |\circ \uparrow\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$

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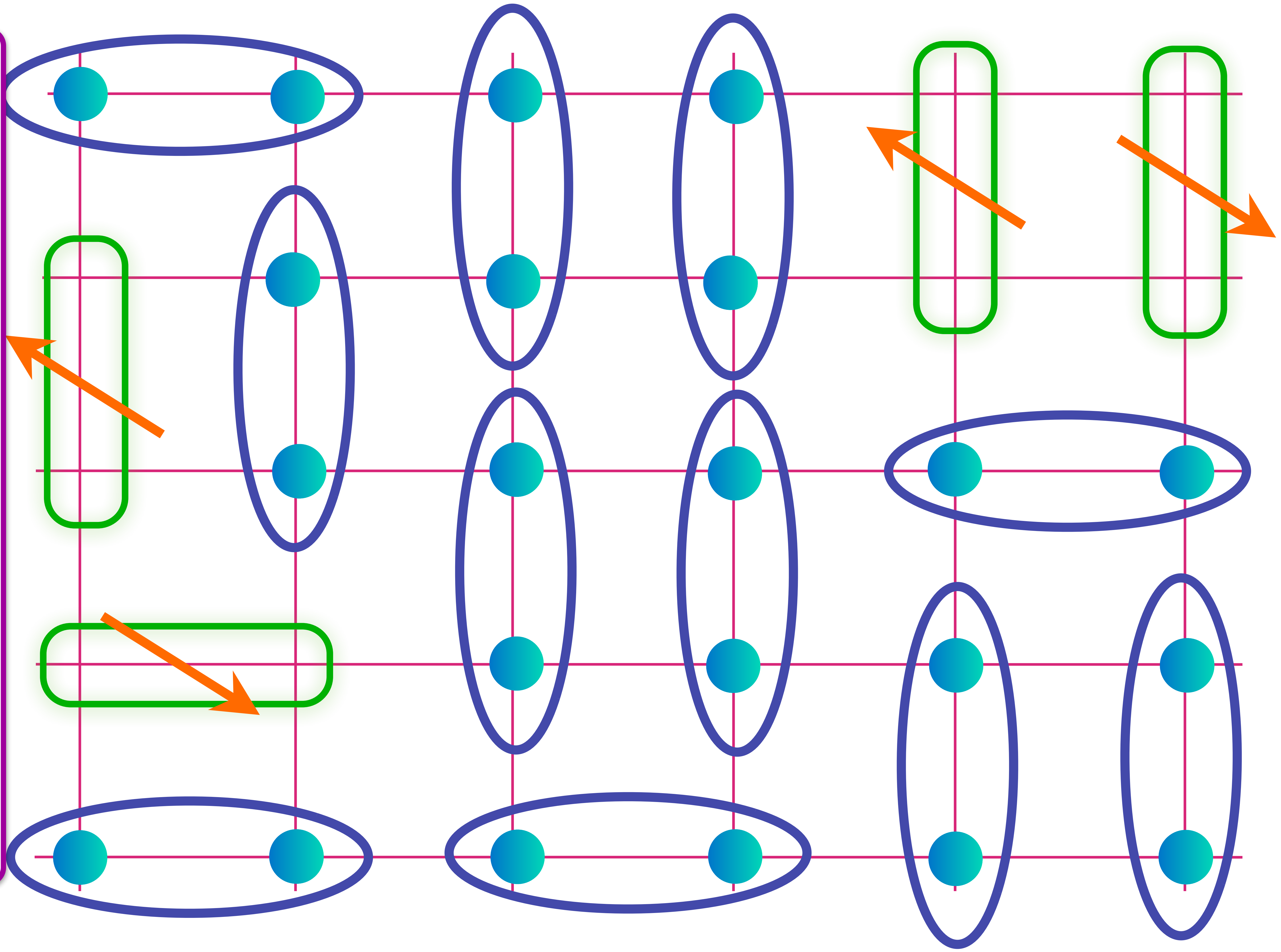

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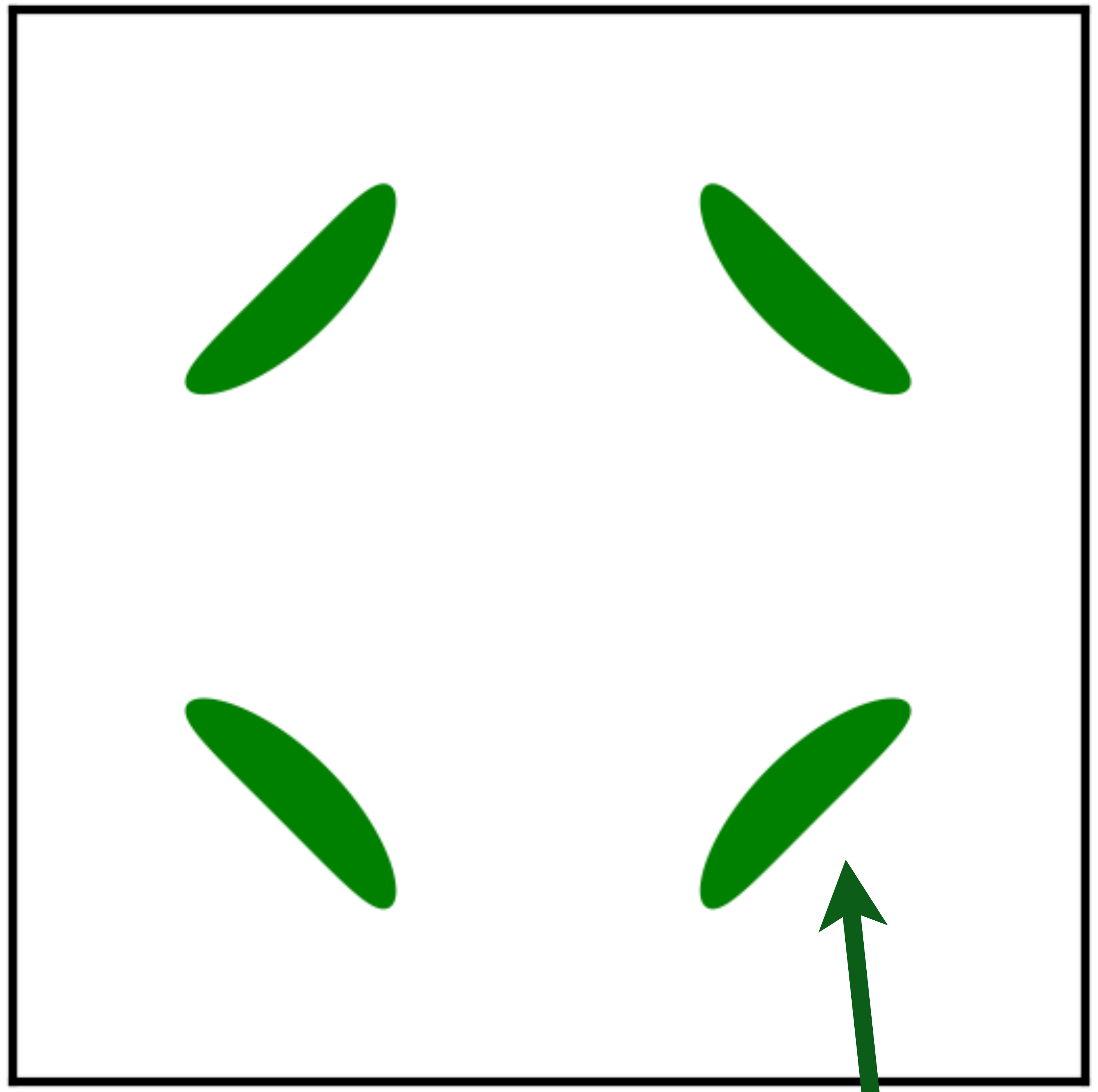

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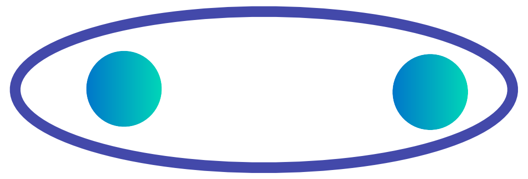
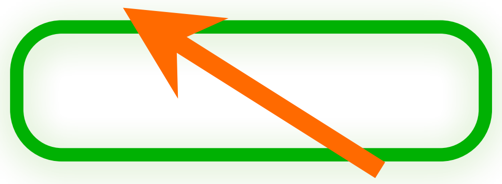
 $= \left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

 $= \left(|\uparrow\circ\rangle + |\circ\uparrow\rangle\right)/\sqrt{2}$

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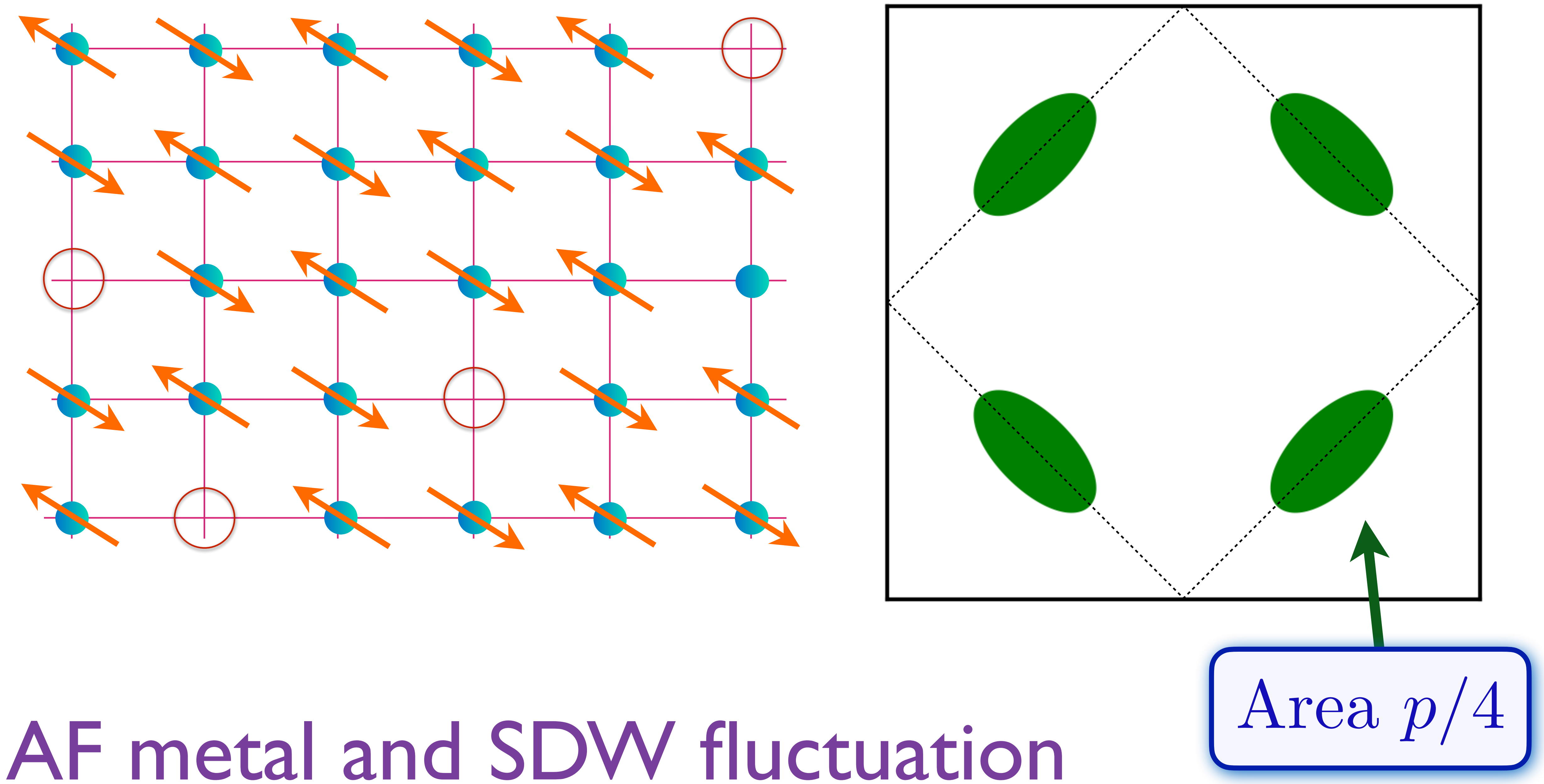
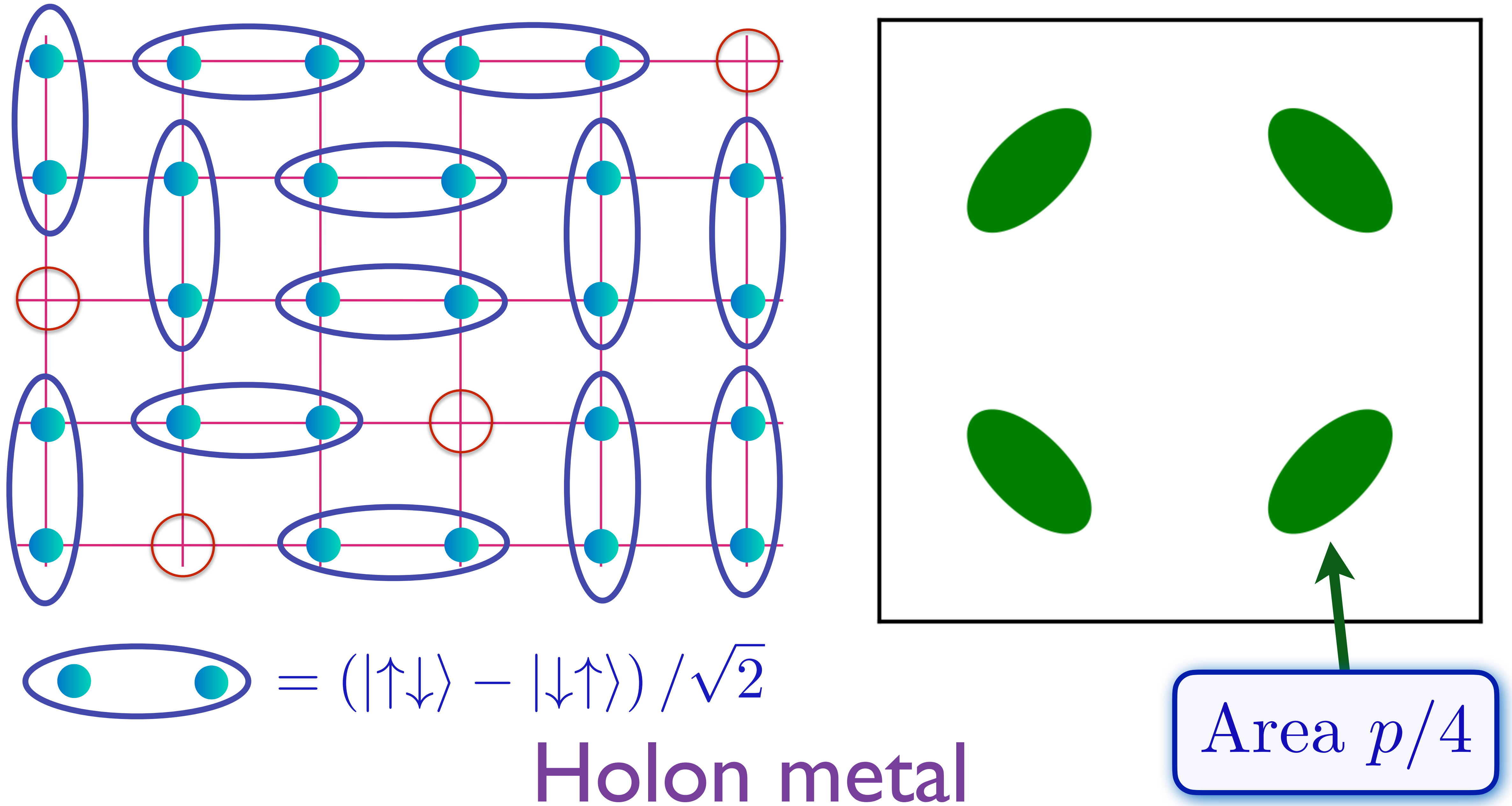


AF metal and SDW fluctuation



Holon metal

T. Senthil, S. S., M. Vojta, PRL **90**, 216403 (2003);
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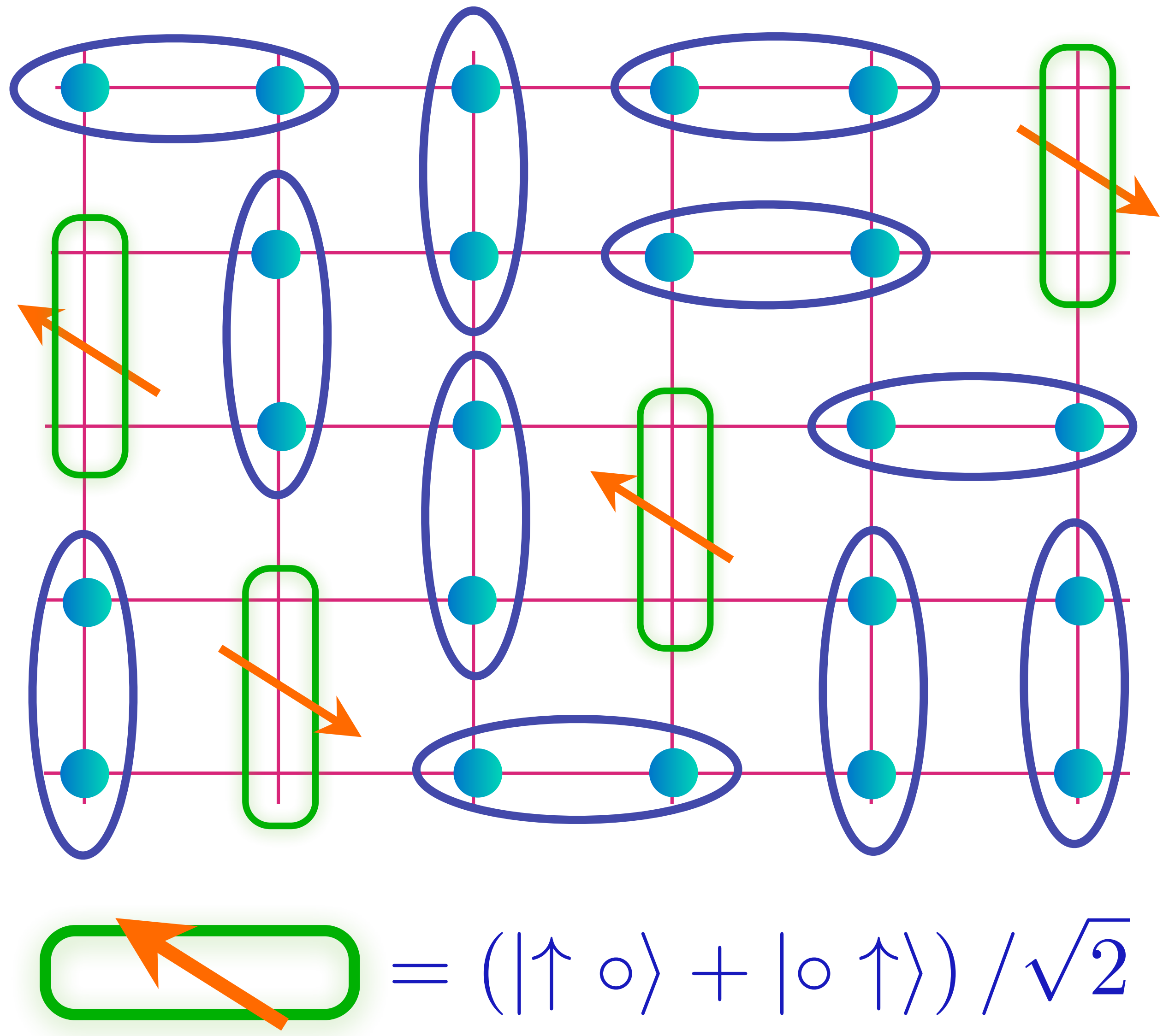
E. Mascot, A. Nikolaenko, M. Tikhanovskaya, Ya-Hui Zhang, D. K. Morr, S. S., PRB **105**, 075146 (2022)



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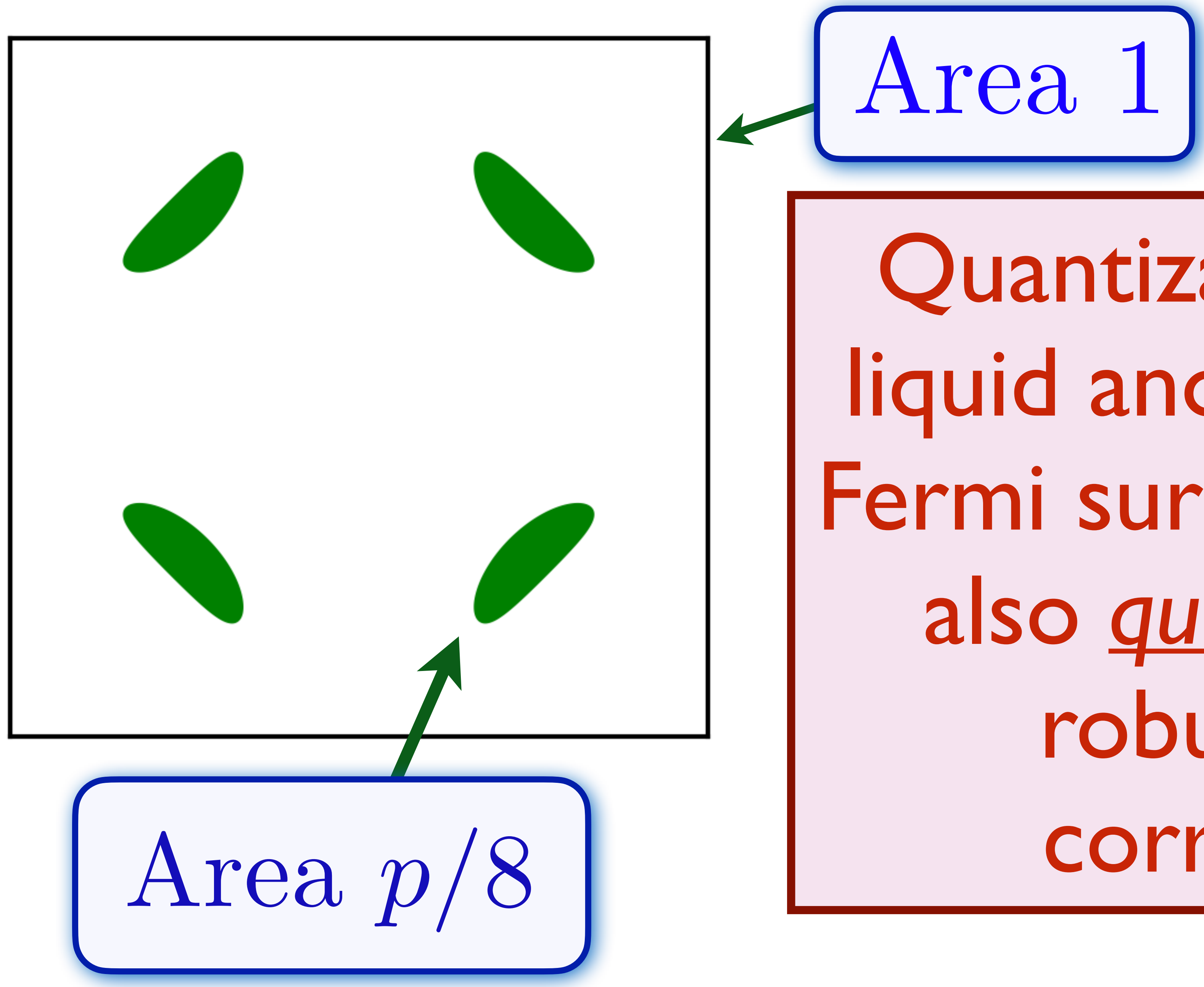
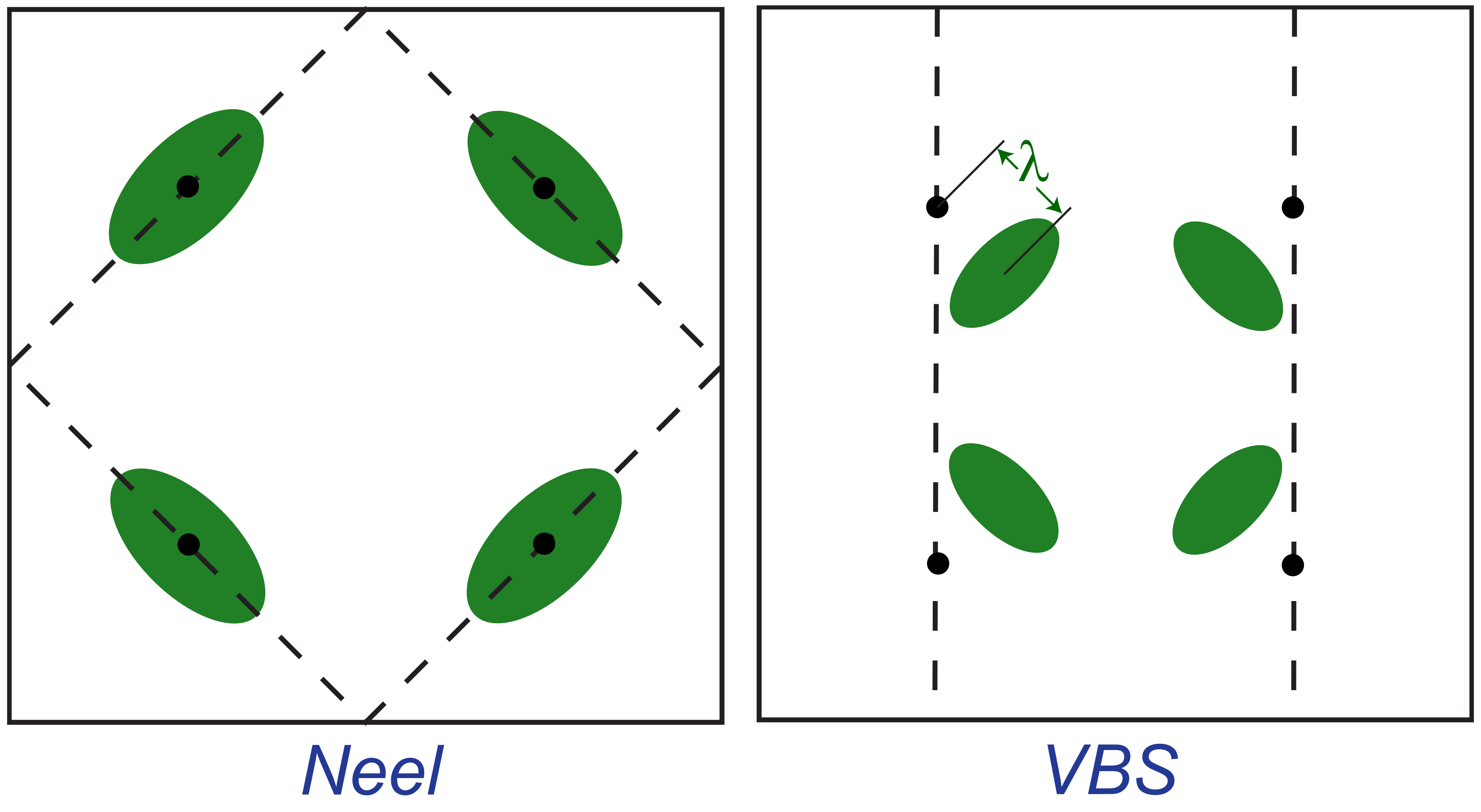


Quantization of spin liquid anomaly implies Fermi surface areas are also *quantized* and robust to all corrections.

PHYSICAL REVIEW B **75**, 235122 (2007)

Hole dynamics in an antiferromagnet across a deconfined quantum critical point

Ribhu K. Kaul,[1] Alexei Kolezhuk,[1,2] Michael Levin,[1] Subir Sachdev,[1] and T. Senthil[3,4]



The dashed line in the Néel phase indicates the boundary of the magnetic Brillouin zone. Only the Fermi surfaces within this zone contribute to the Luttinger counting, and so the area of each ellipse is $\mathcal{A}_F = (2\pi)^2\delta/4$. In the VBS phase, all four pockets are inequivalent, and so the area of each ellipse is $\mathcal{A}_F = (2\pi)^2\delta/8$.

Factor of 2 between SDW fluctuation and FL*

Observation of the Yamaji effect in the cuprate pseudogap

See also:

Fermi surface transformation at the pseudogap critical point of a cuprate superconductor

Yawen Fang, Gaël Grissonnanche, Anaëlle Legros, Simon Verret, Francis Laliberté, Clément Collignon, Amirreza Ataei, Maxime Dion, Jianshi Zhou, David Graf, M. J. Lawler, Paul Goddard, Louis Taillefer, and B. J. Ramshaw, *Nature Physics* **18**, 558 (2022)

Angle-dependent magnetoresistance (ADMR) of $La_{1.6-x}Nd_{0.4}Sr_xCuO_4$

Observation of the Yamaji effect in a cuprate superconductor

nature physics
21, 1753 (2025)
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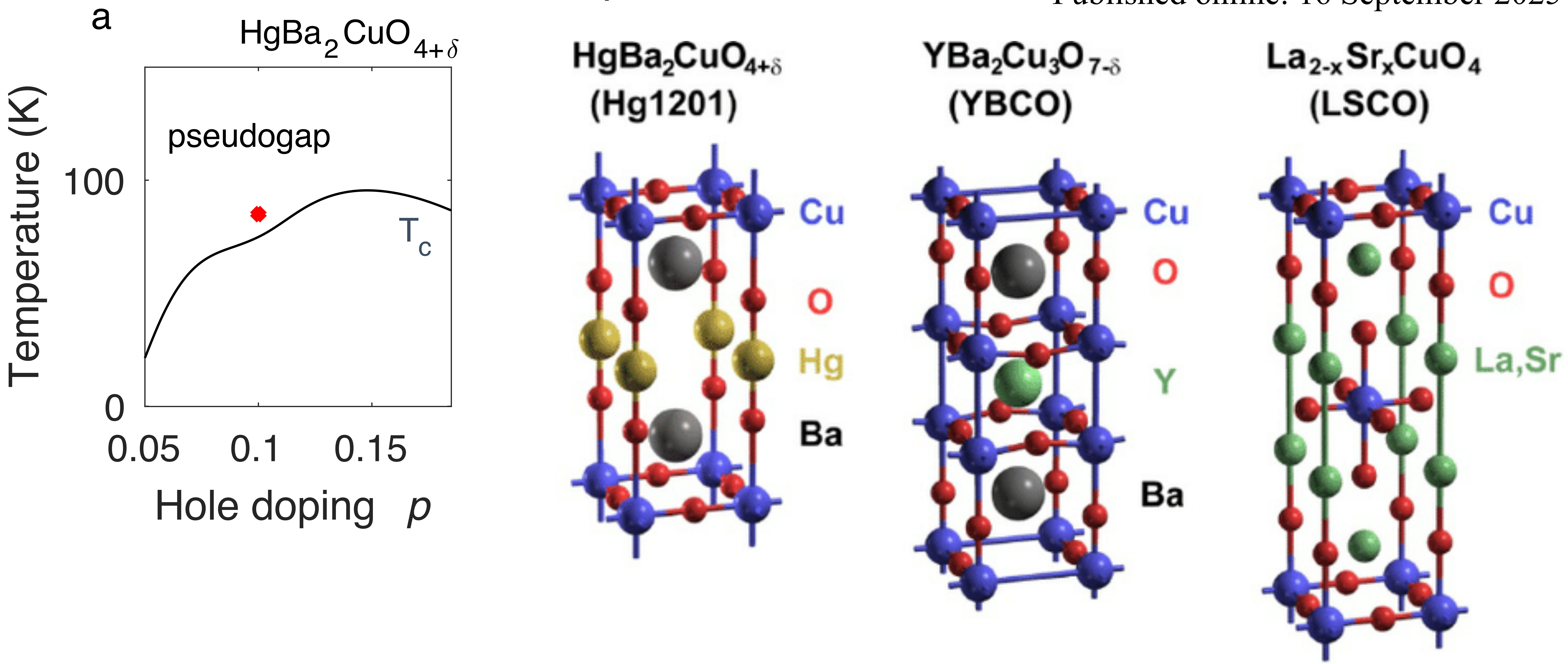
Mun K. Chan [1]✉, Katherine A. Schreiber[1], Oscar E. Ayala-Valenzuela [1], Eric D. Bauer [2], Arkady Shekhter [1] & Neil Harrison [1]



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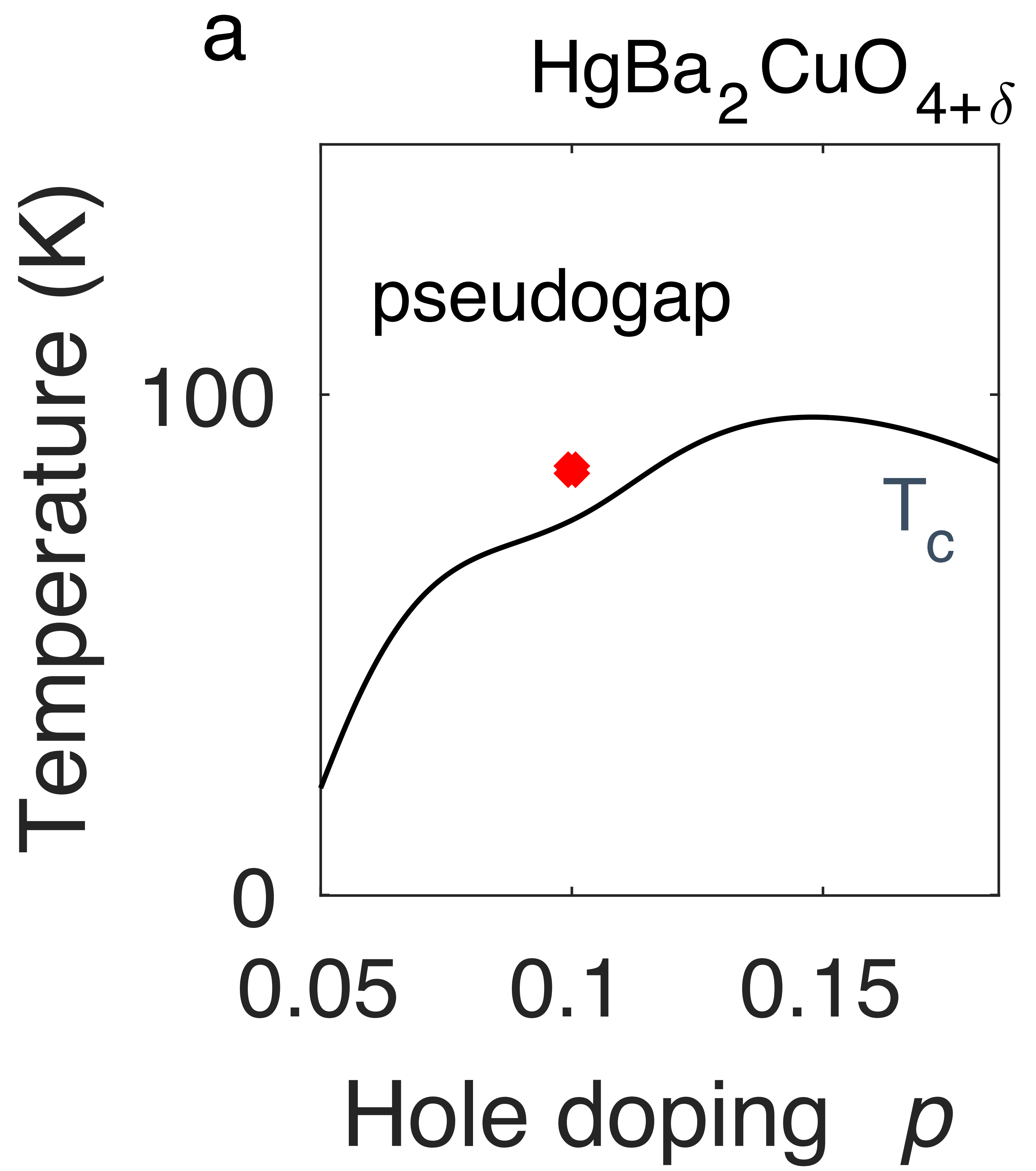

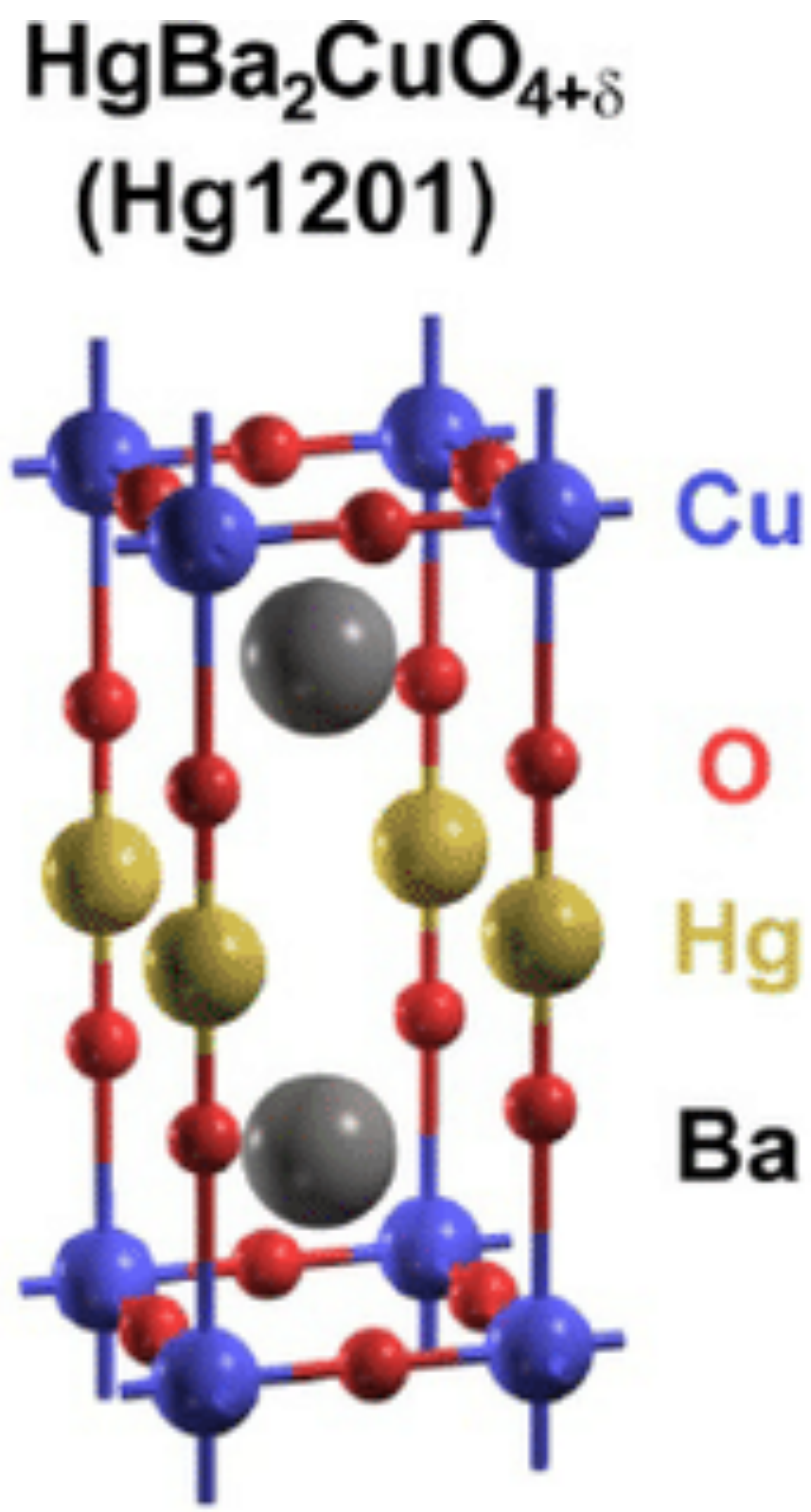

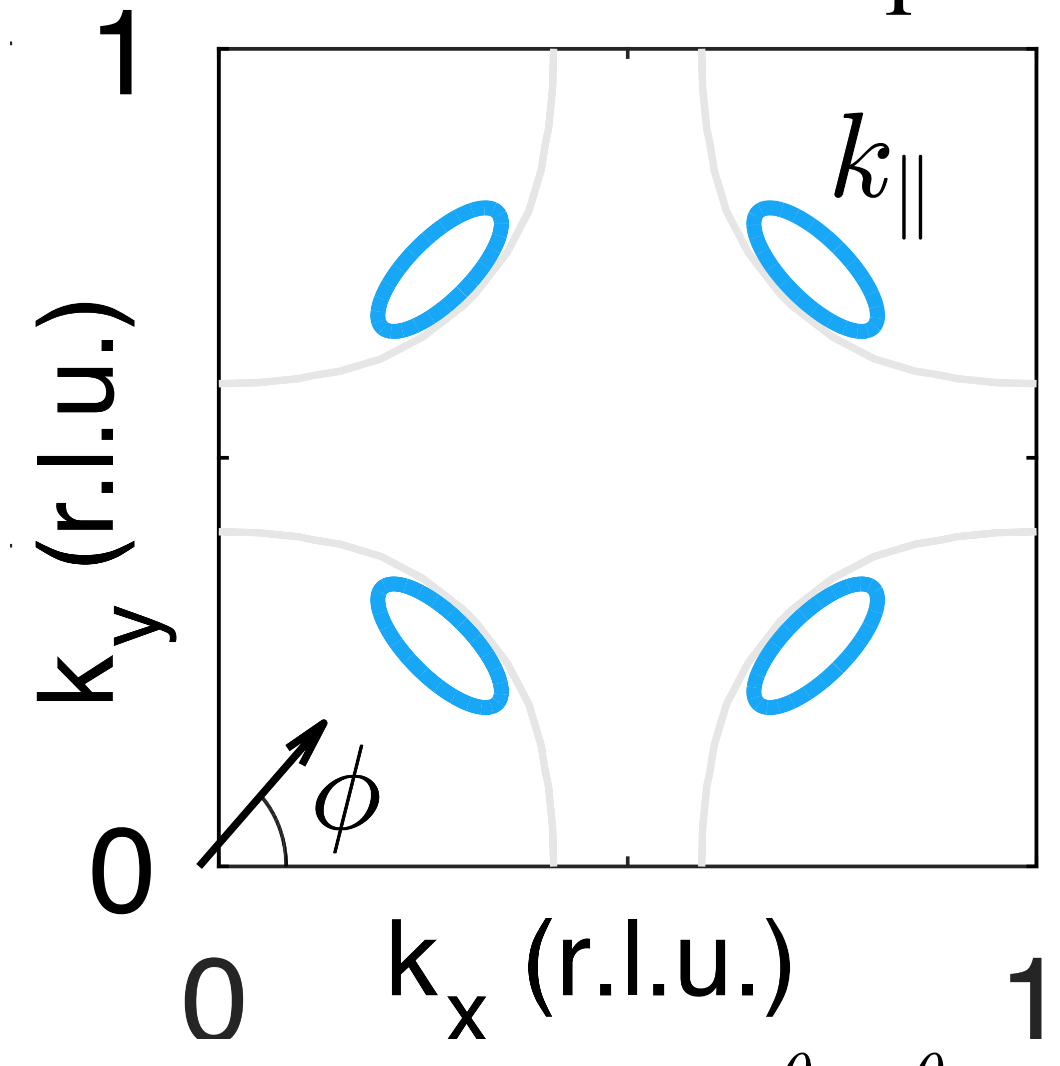

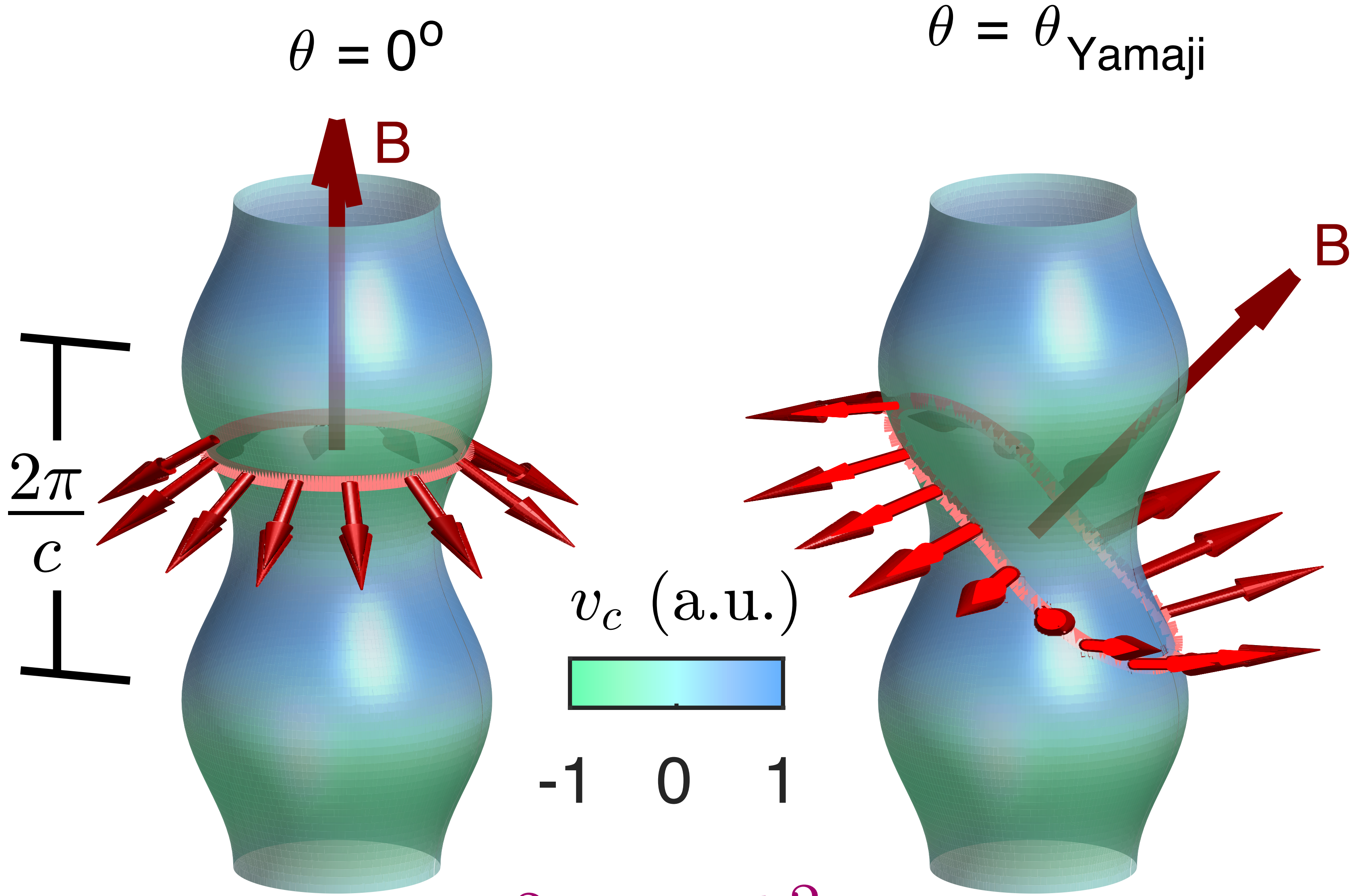

At the Yamaji angle, the orbits in the plane orthogonal to $\boldsymbol{B}$ have an area which is independent of momentum in the c direction, to first order in the hopping along the c direction.

$$\epsilon(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{k_x^2}{2m_1} + \frac{k_y^2}{2m_2} - 2t_\perp \cos(k_z c)$$

K. Yamaji JPSJ **58**, 1520 (1989)

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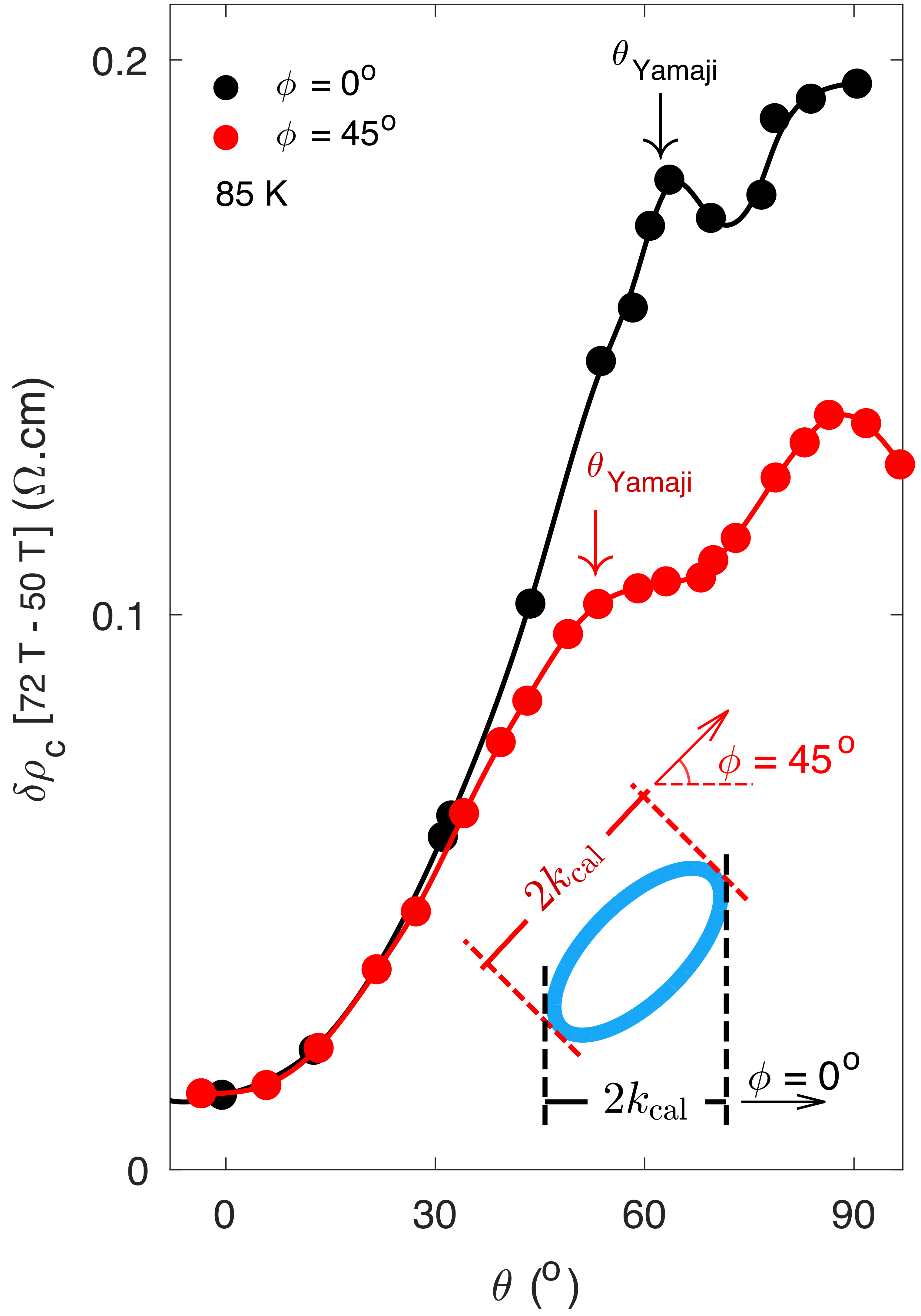

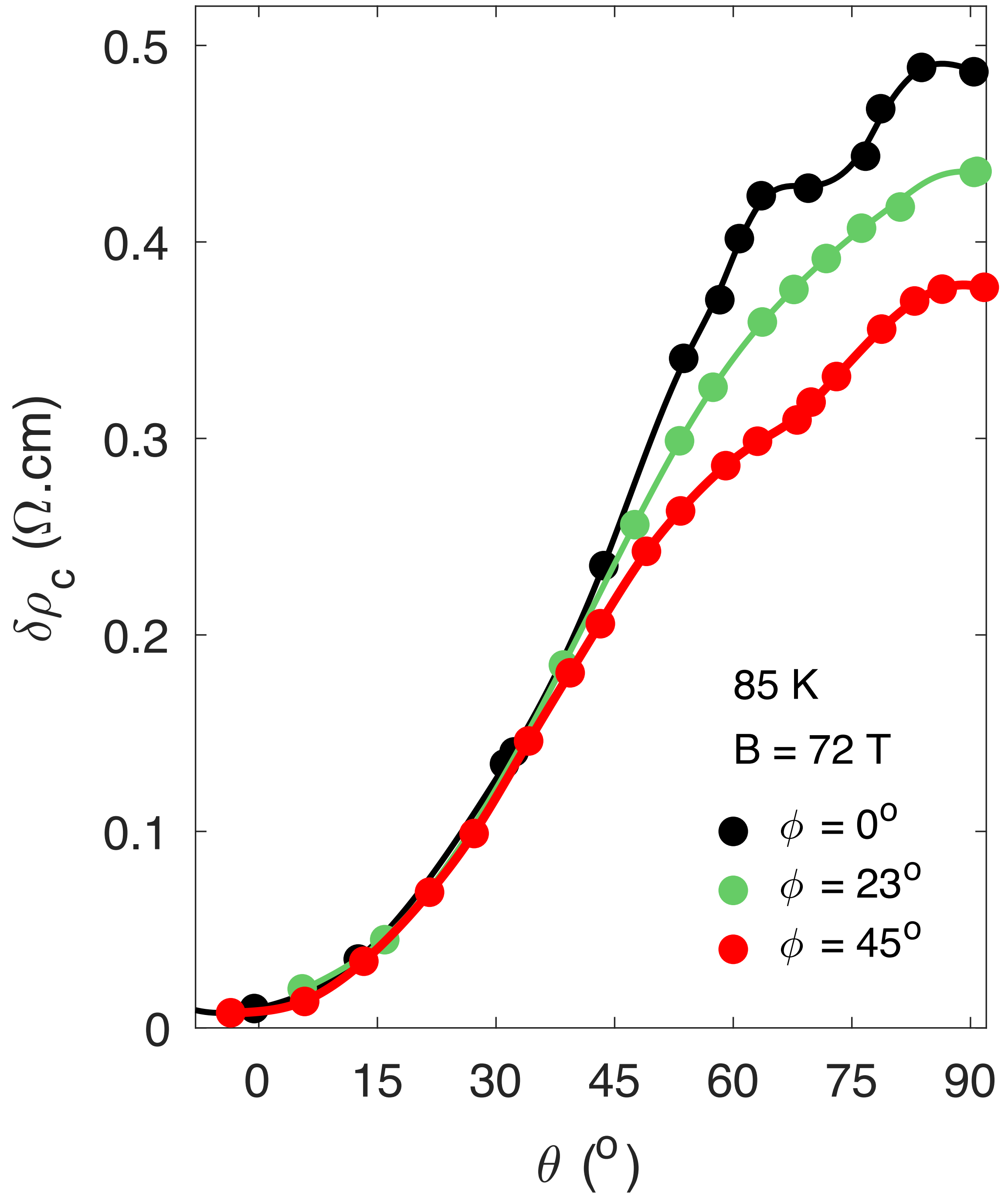

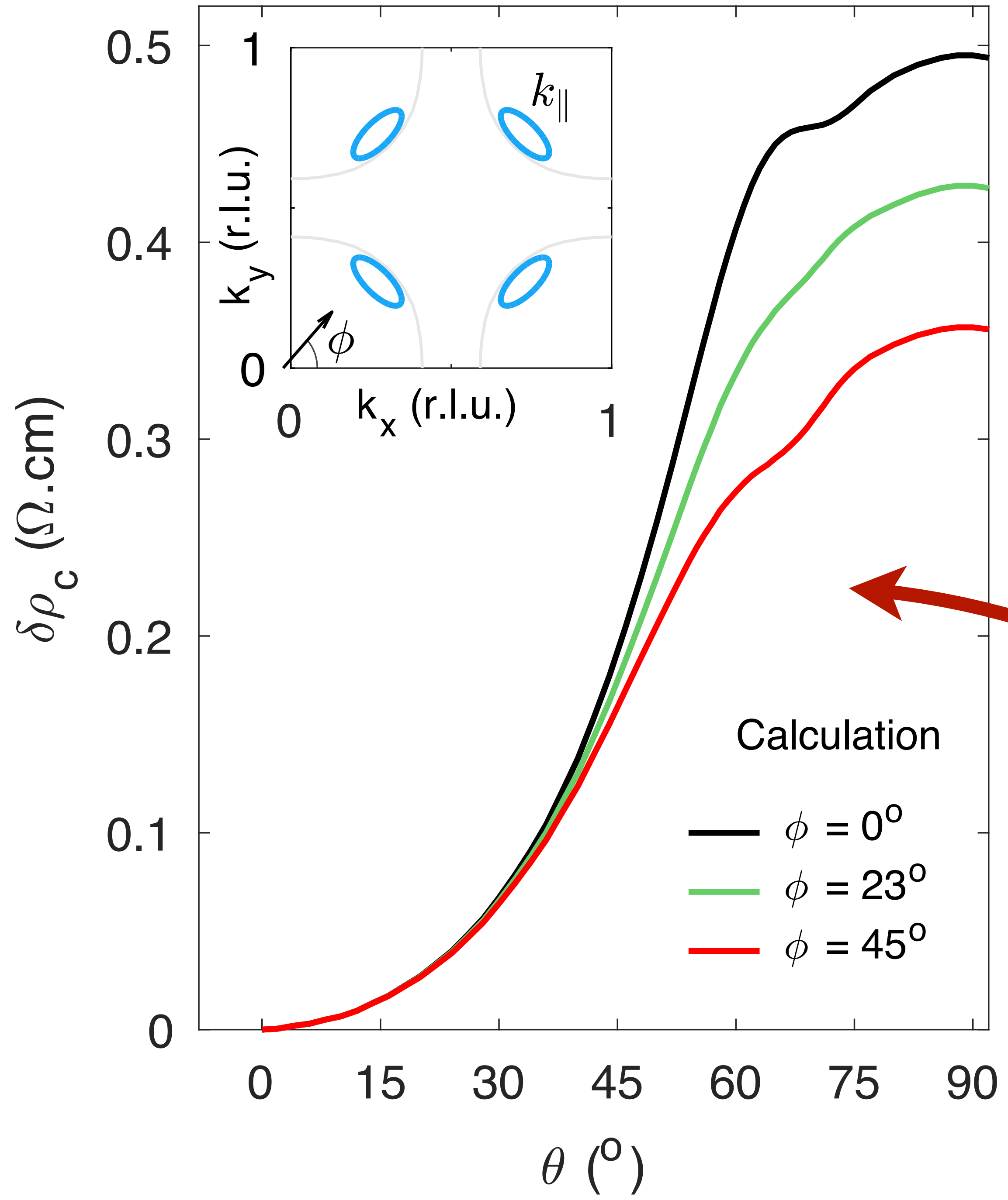

Doping
$p = 0.1$

The observation of the Yamaji peak is evidence for small Fermi-surface pockets in the normal state of the pseudogap phase.

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + e(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{v} \left(-\frac{\partial f}{\partial \epsilon} \right) = -\frac{f - f_0}{\tau}$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon(\mathbf{k}) \ ; \ f_0(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{e^{(\epsilon-\mu)/T} + 1}$$

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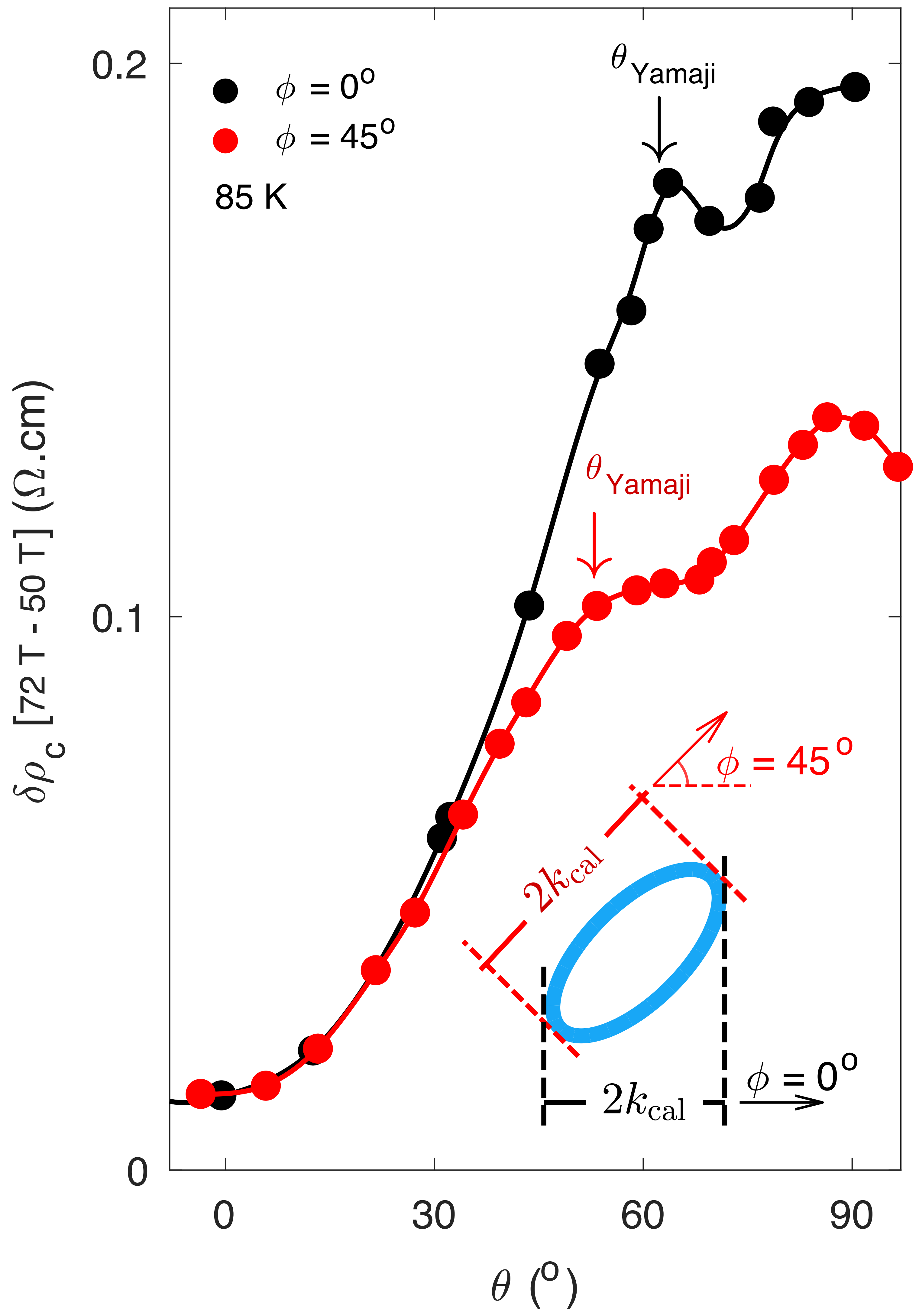

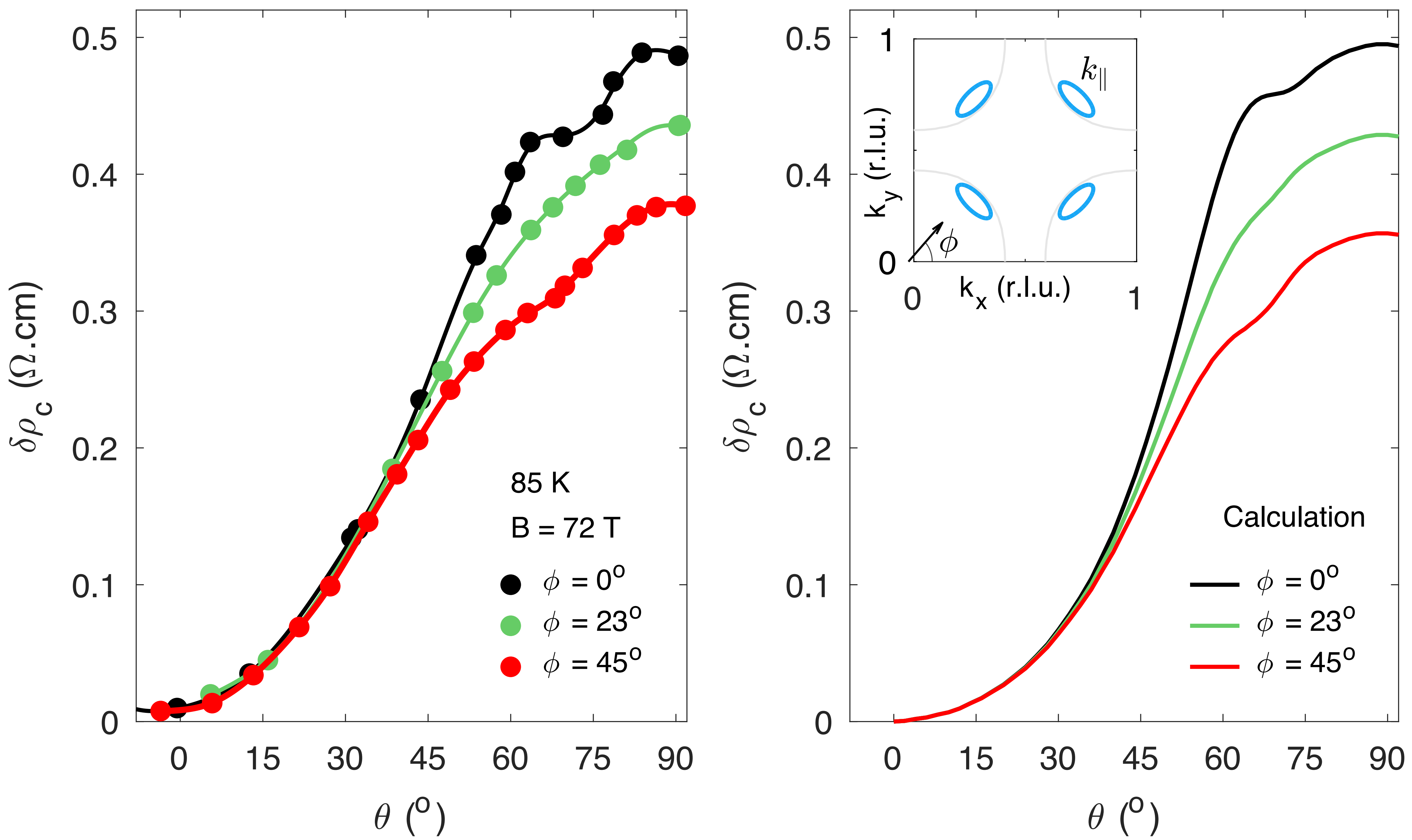

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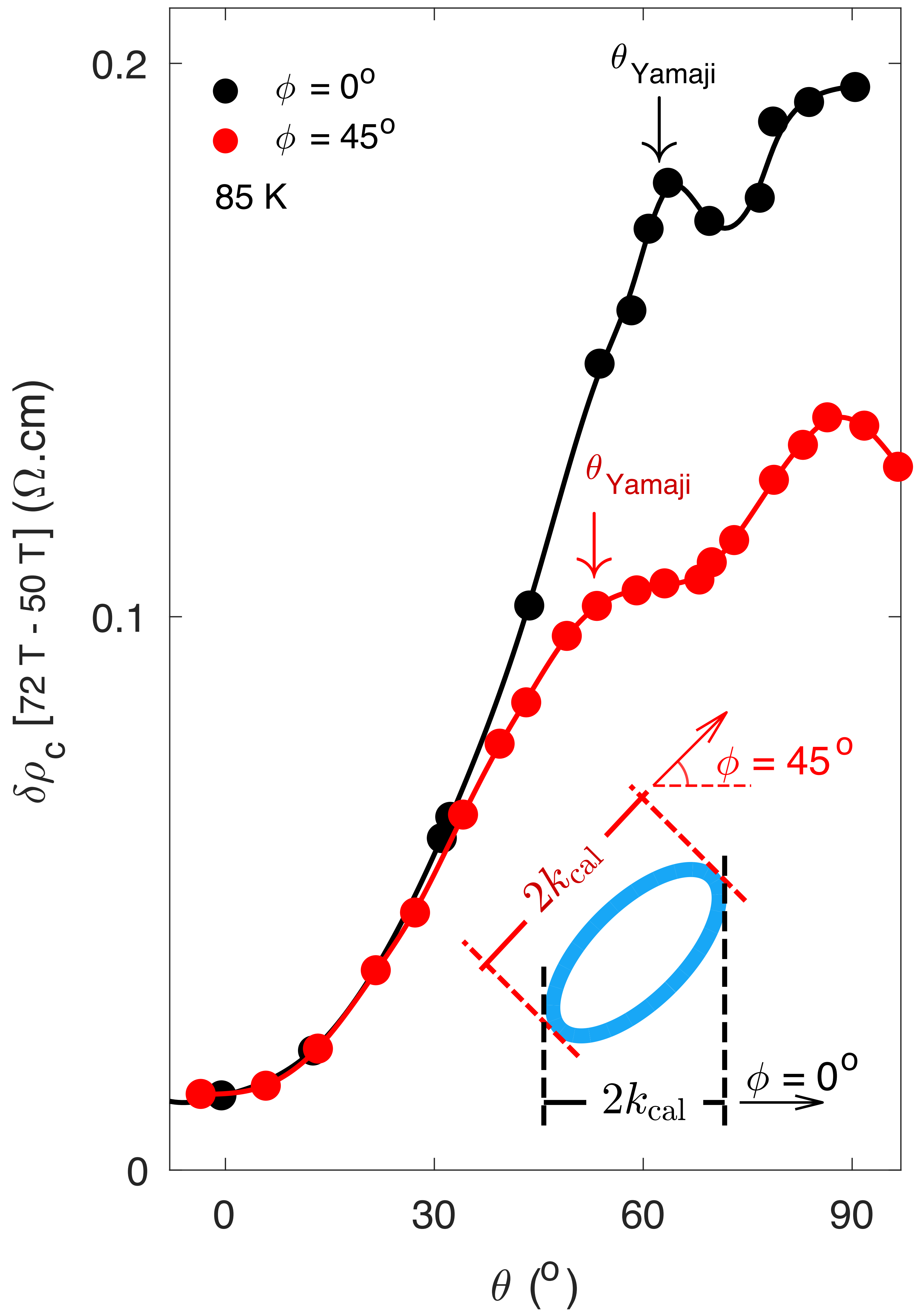

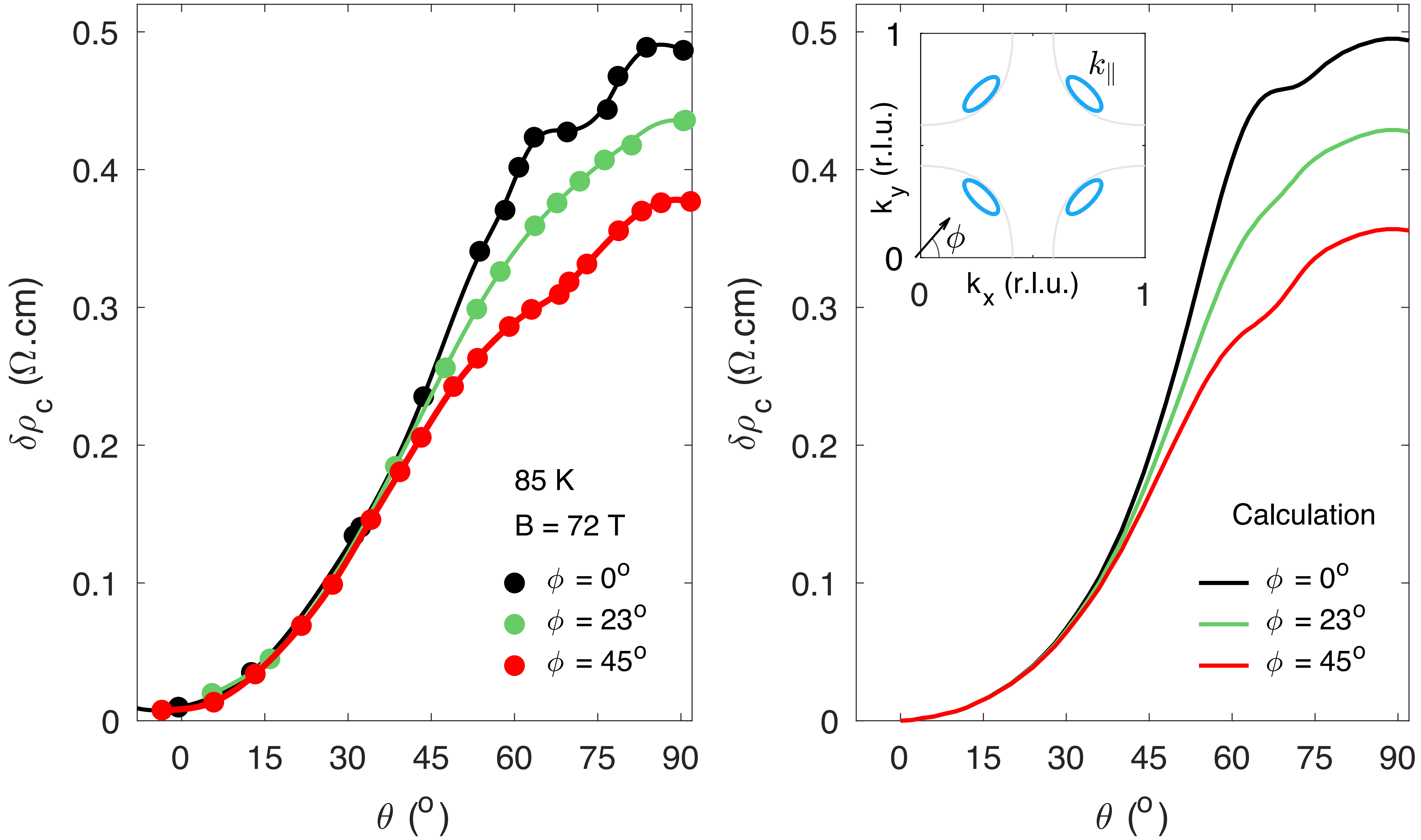

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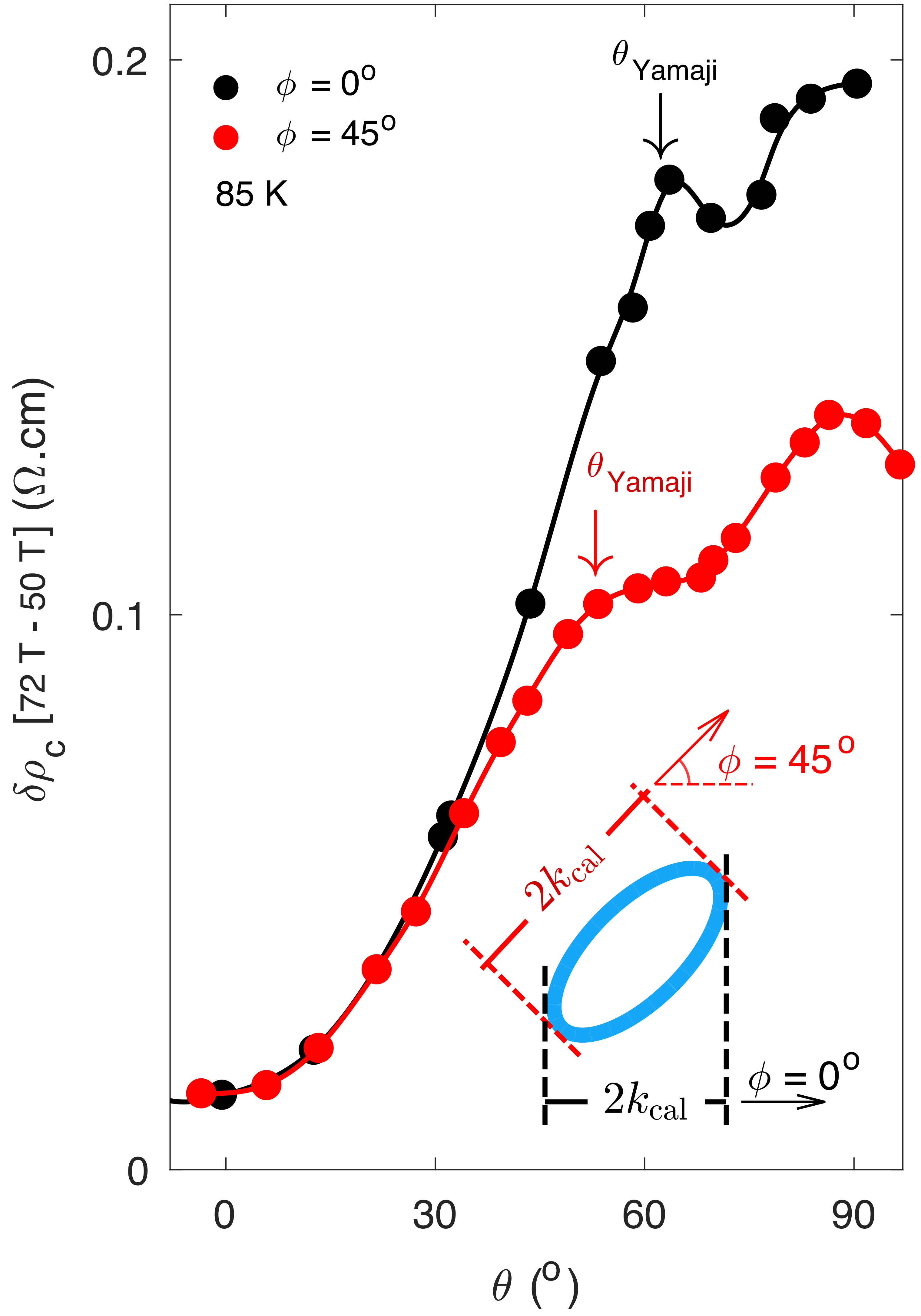

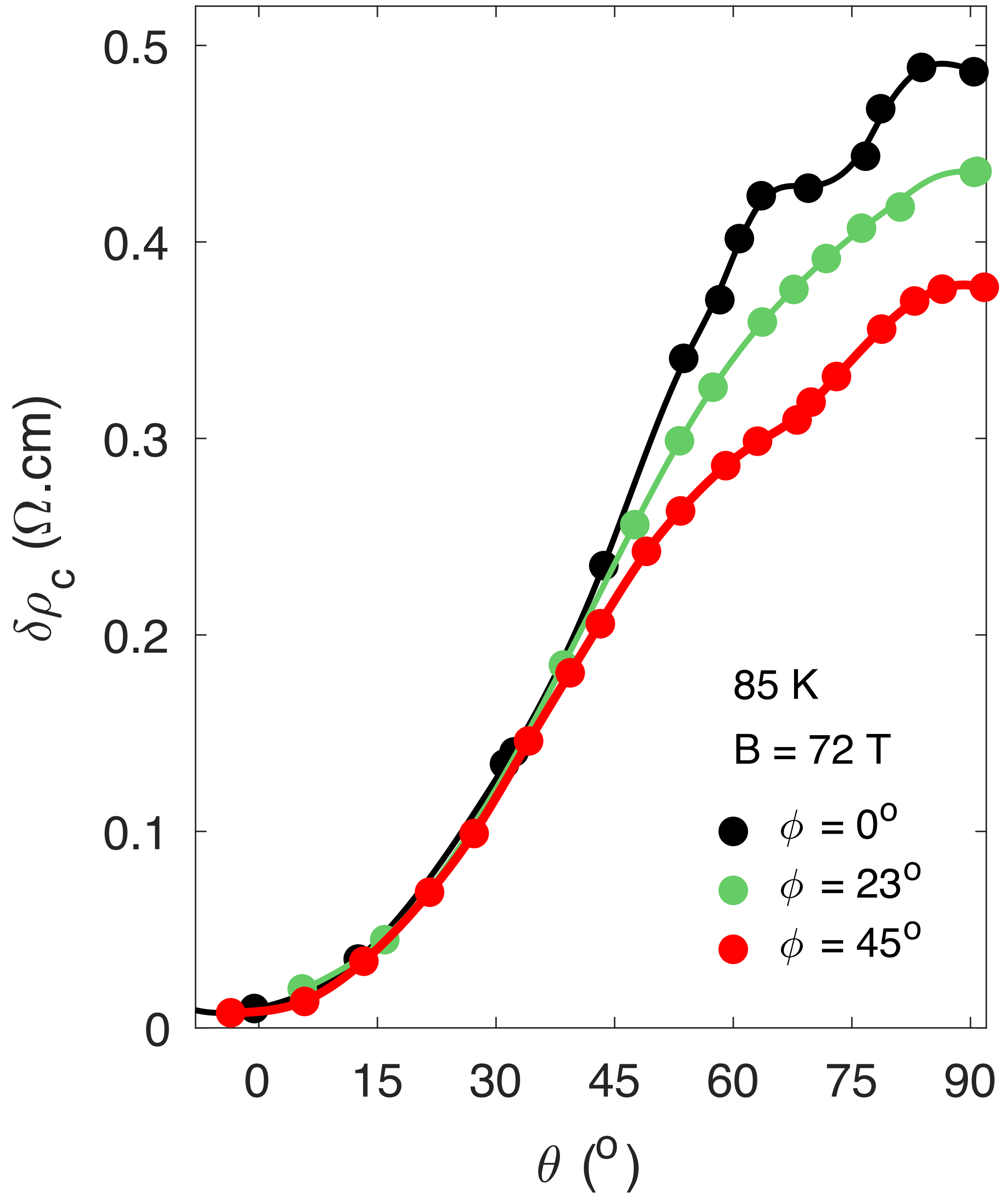

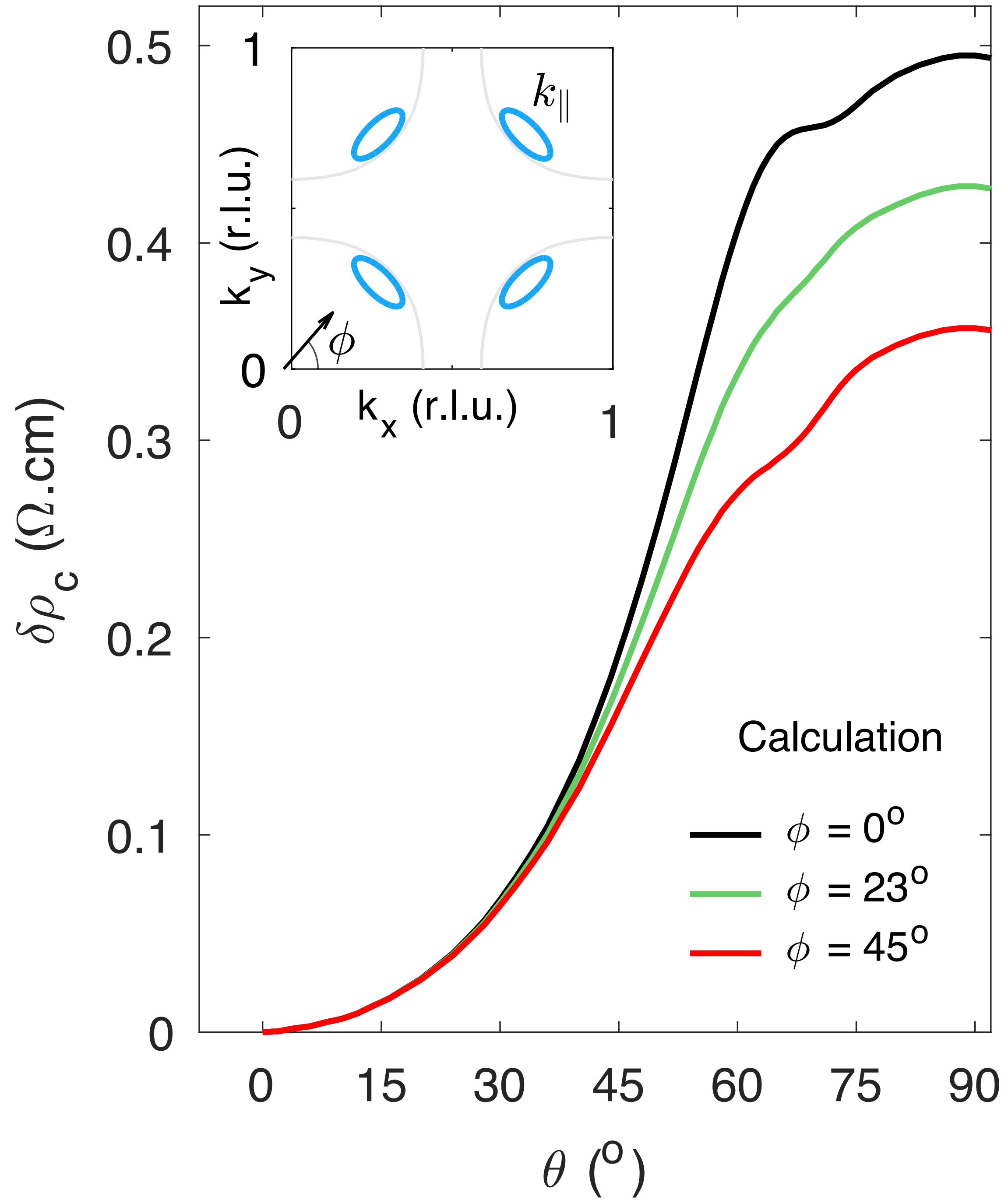

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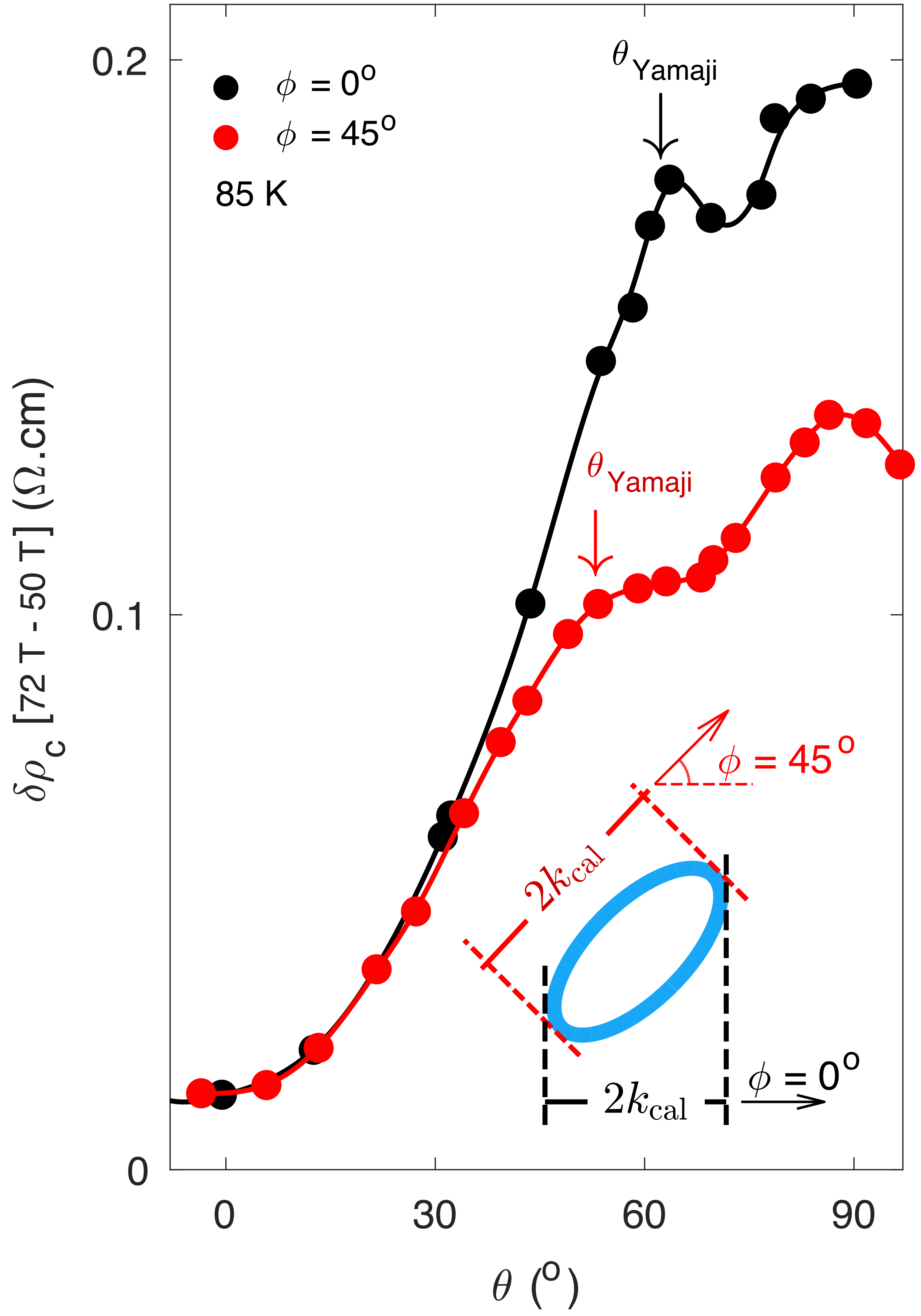

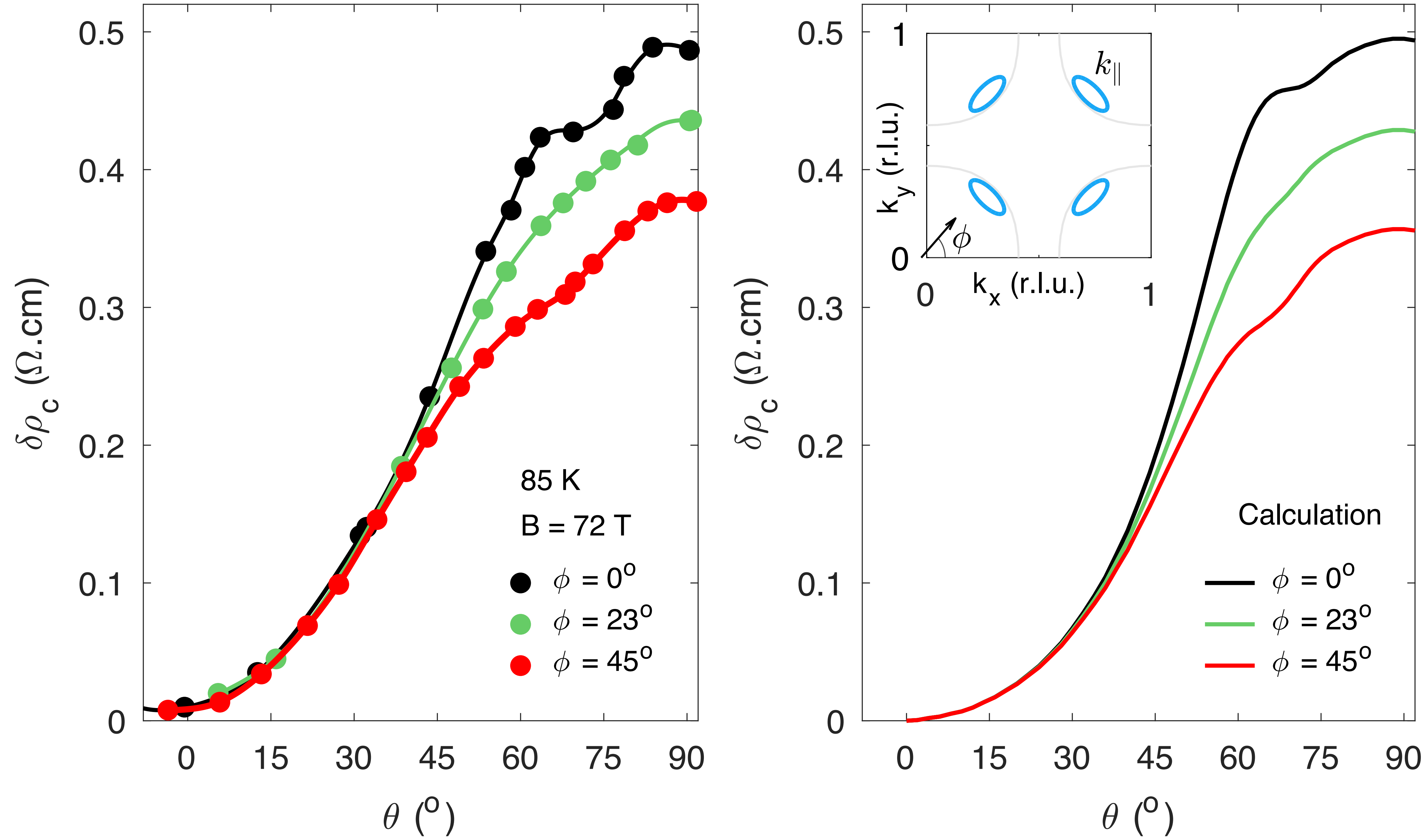

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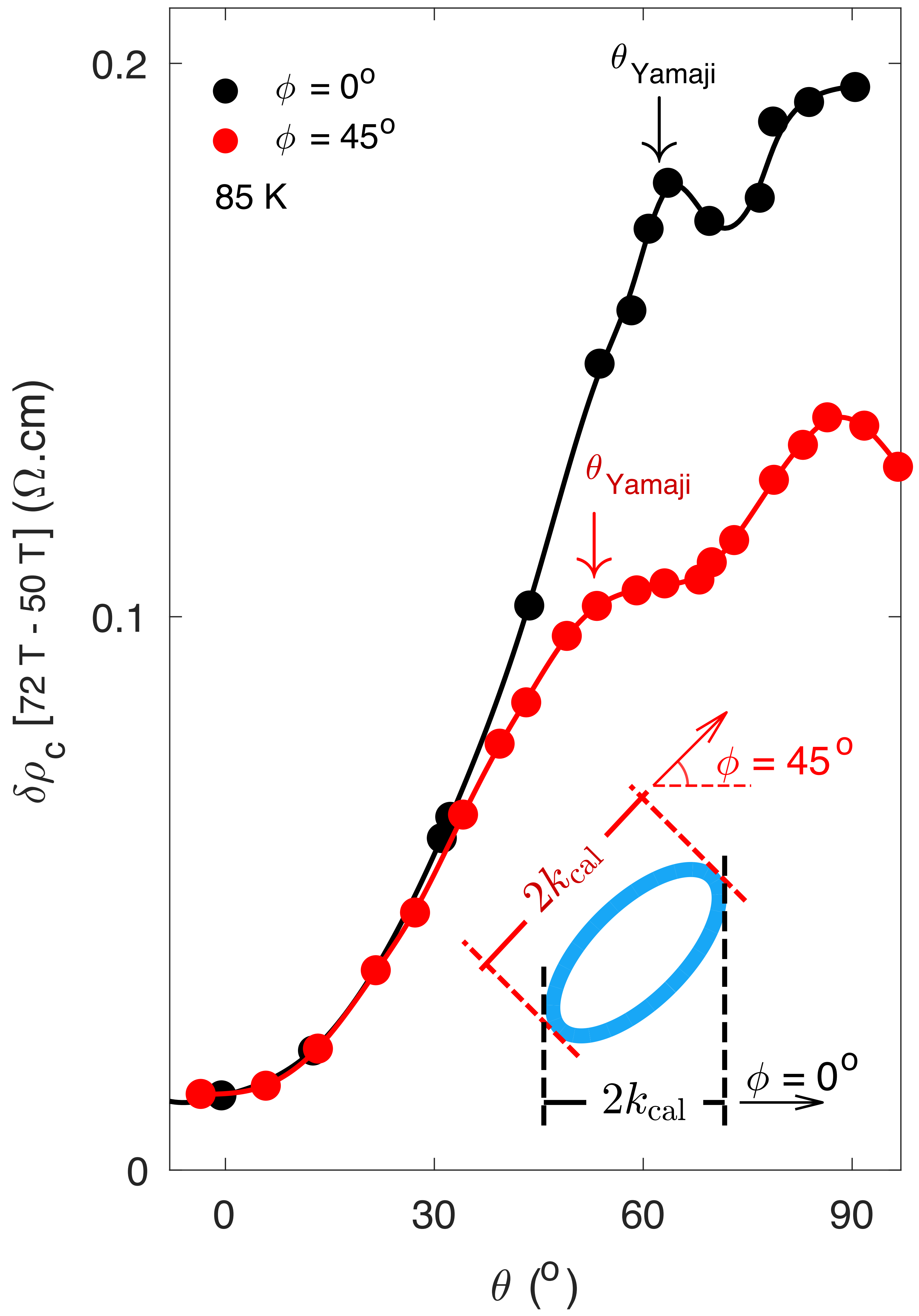

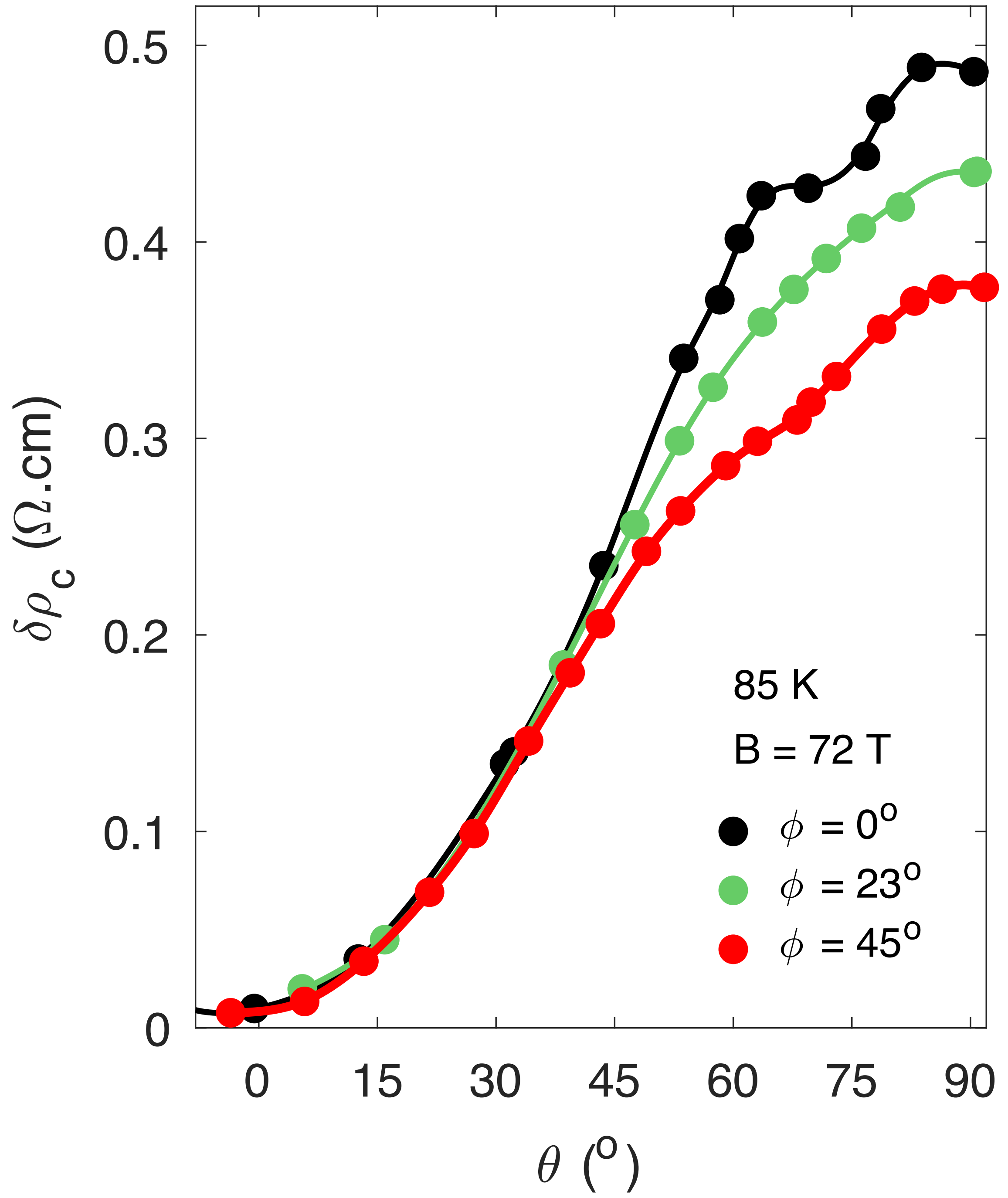

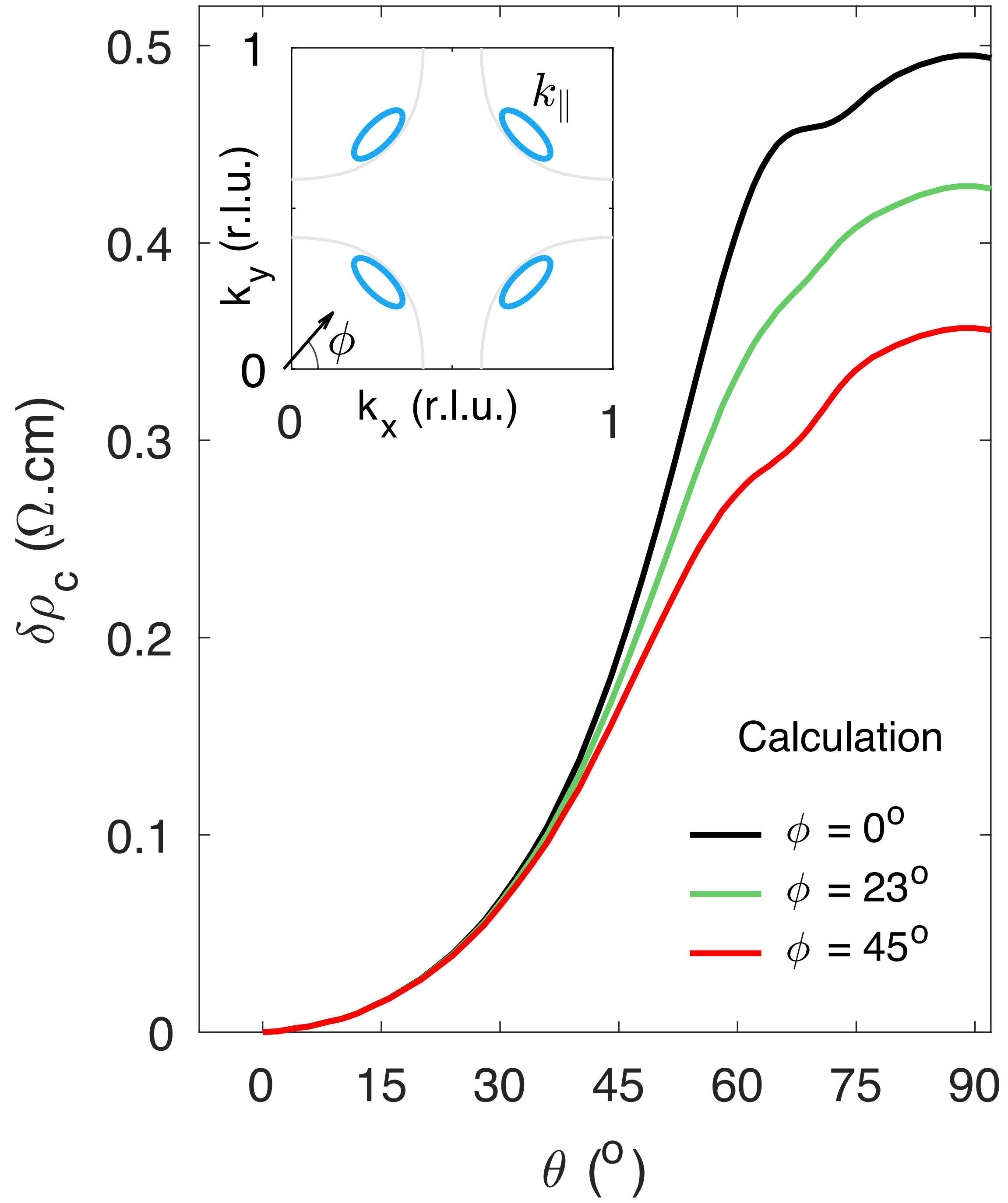

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(was expected by us!)

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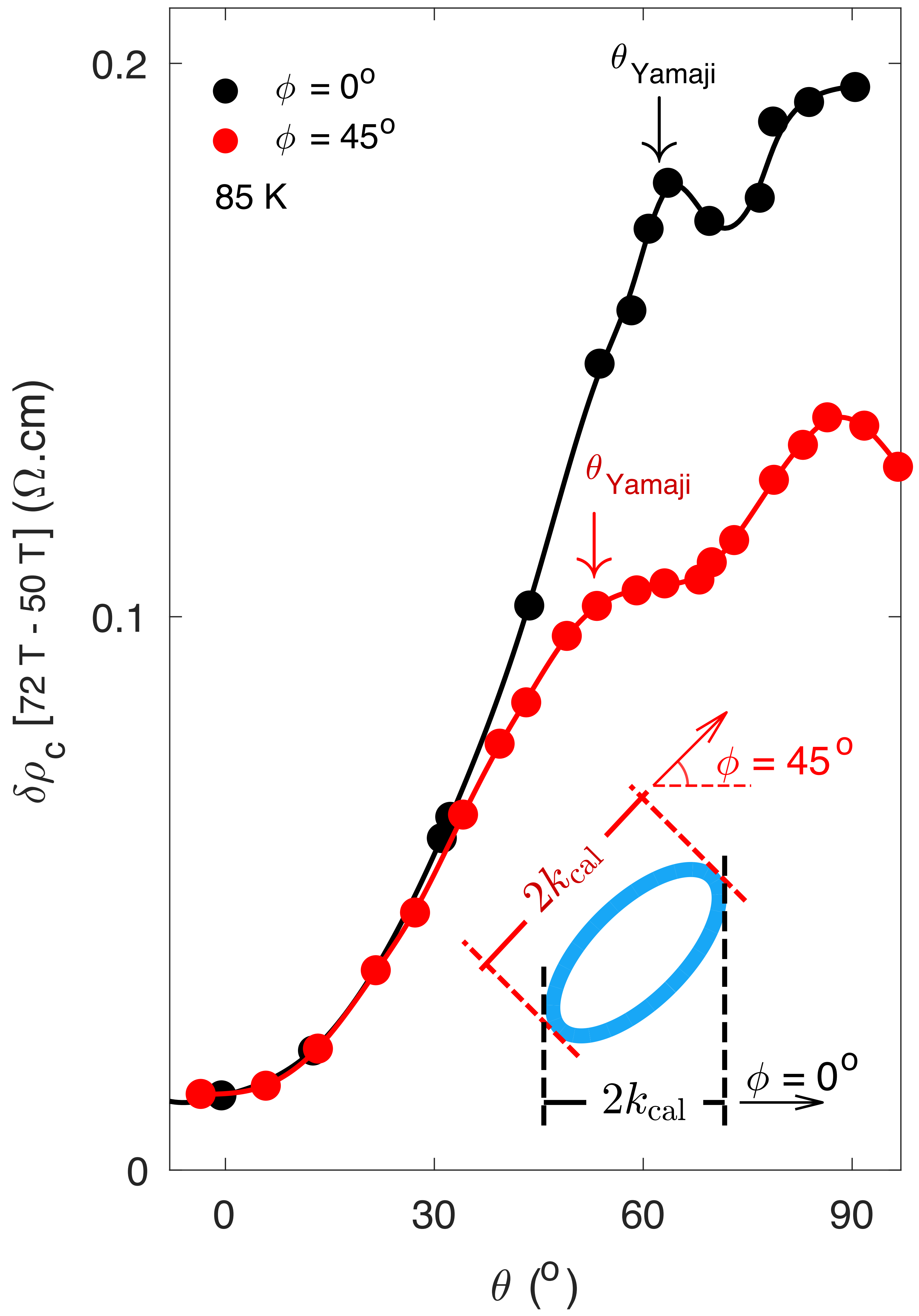

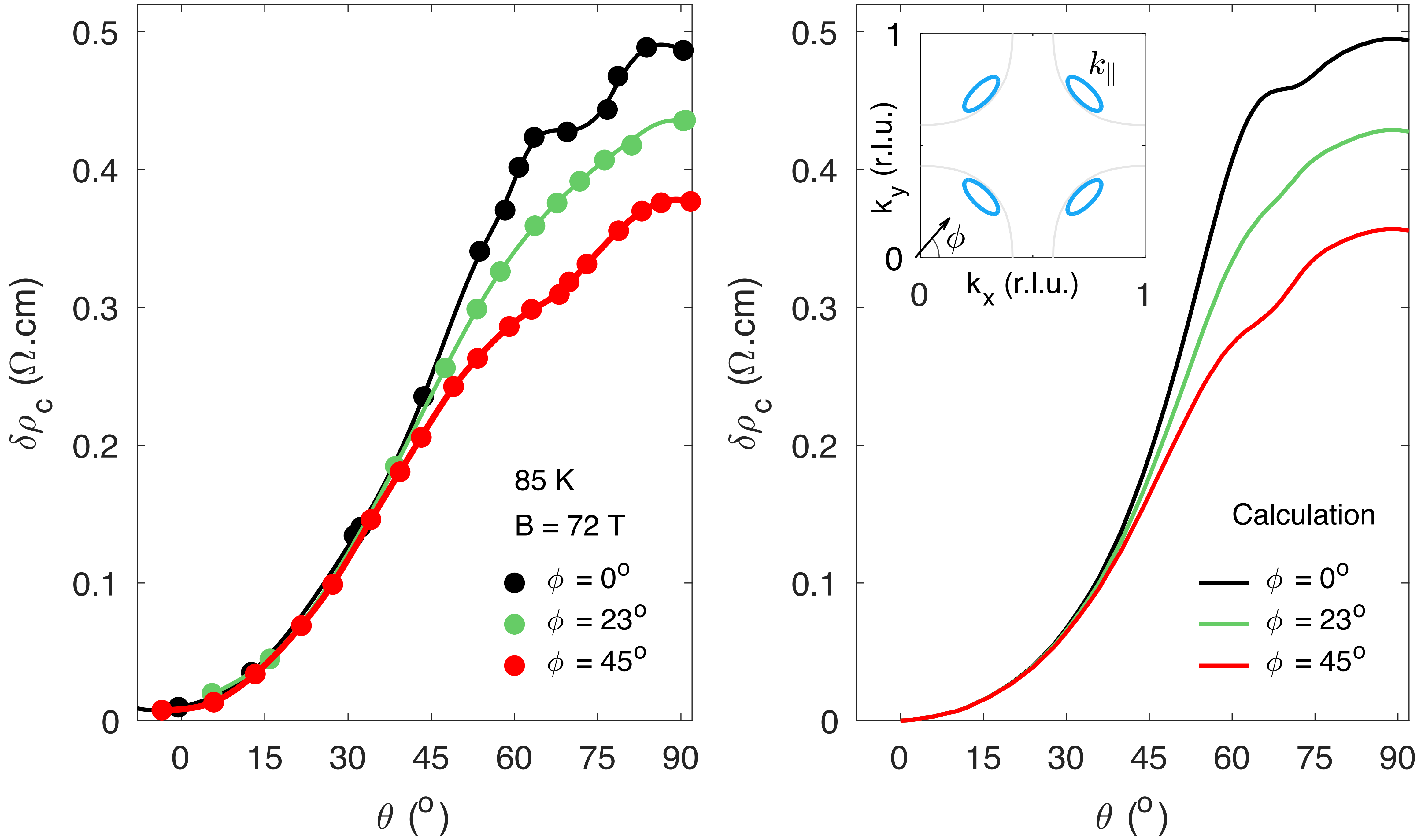

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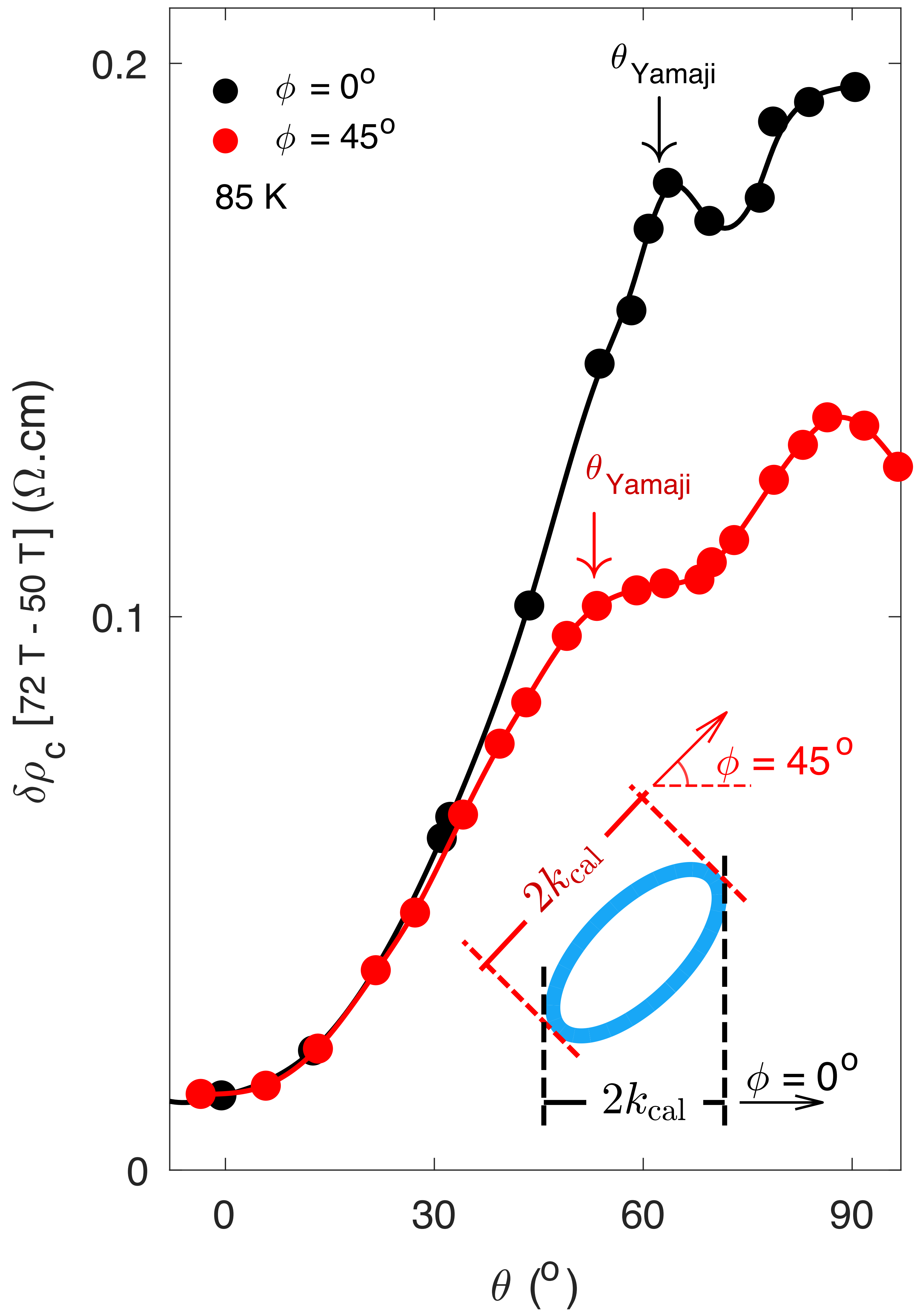

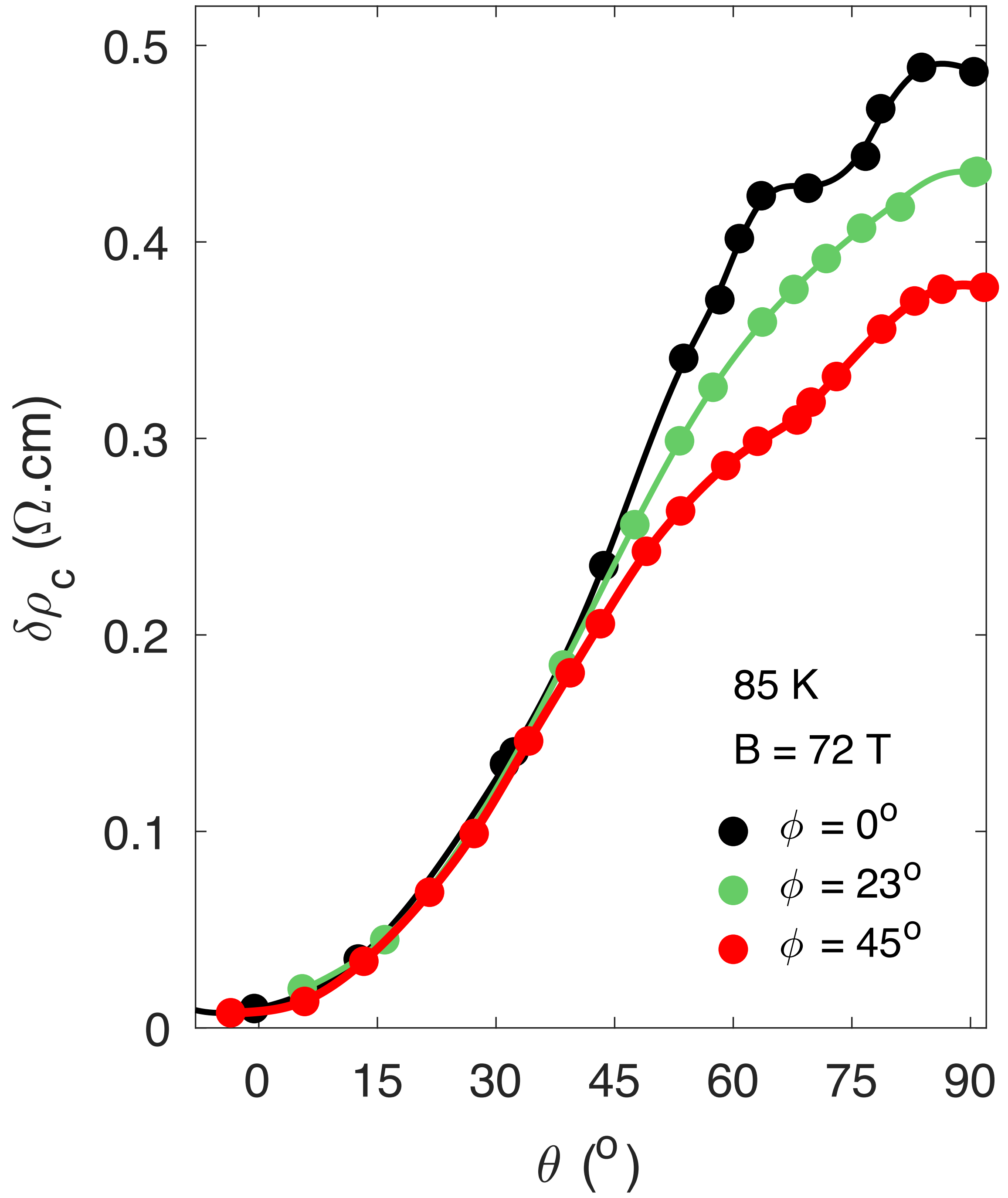

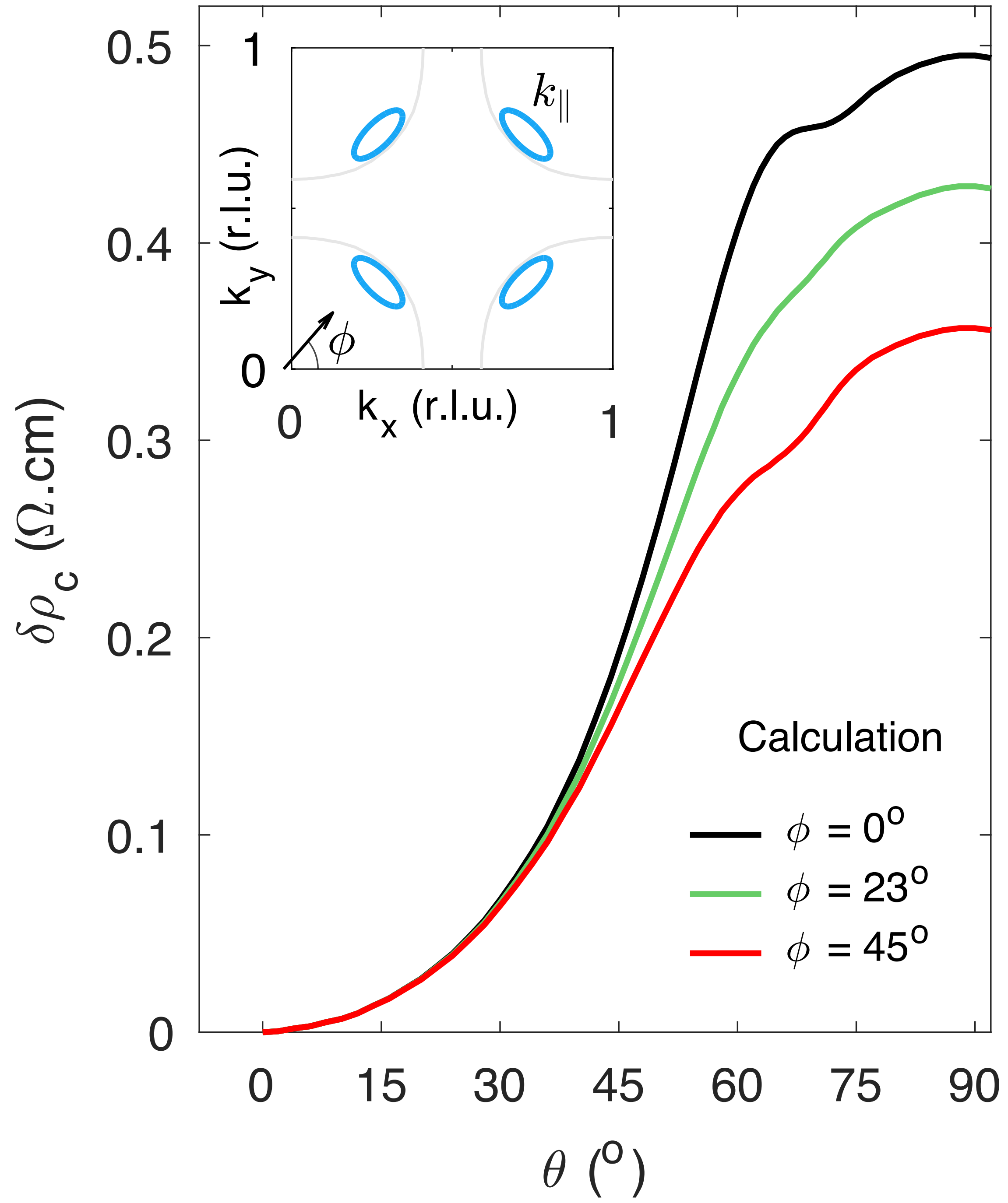

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Fluctuating AF metal fraction $= p/4 = 2.5\%$.

(p/8 also in Yang-Rice-Zjang ansatz, Peter Johnson photoemission, and Jenny Hoffman and Seamus Davis STMs; Stanescu-Kotliar)

Jing-Yu Zhao, S. Chatterjee, S. S., Ya-Hui Zhang, arXiv:2510.13943

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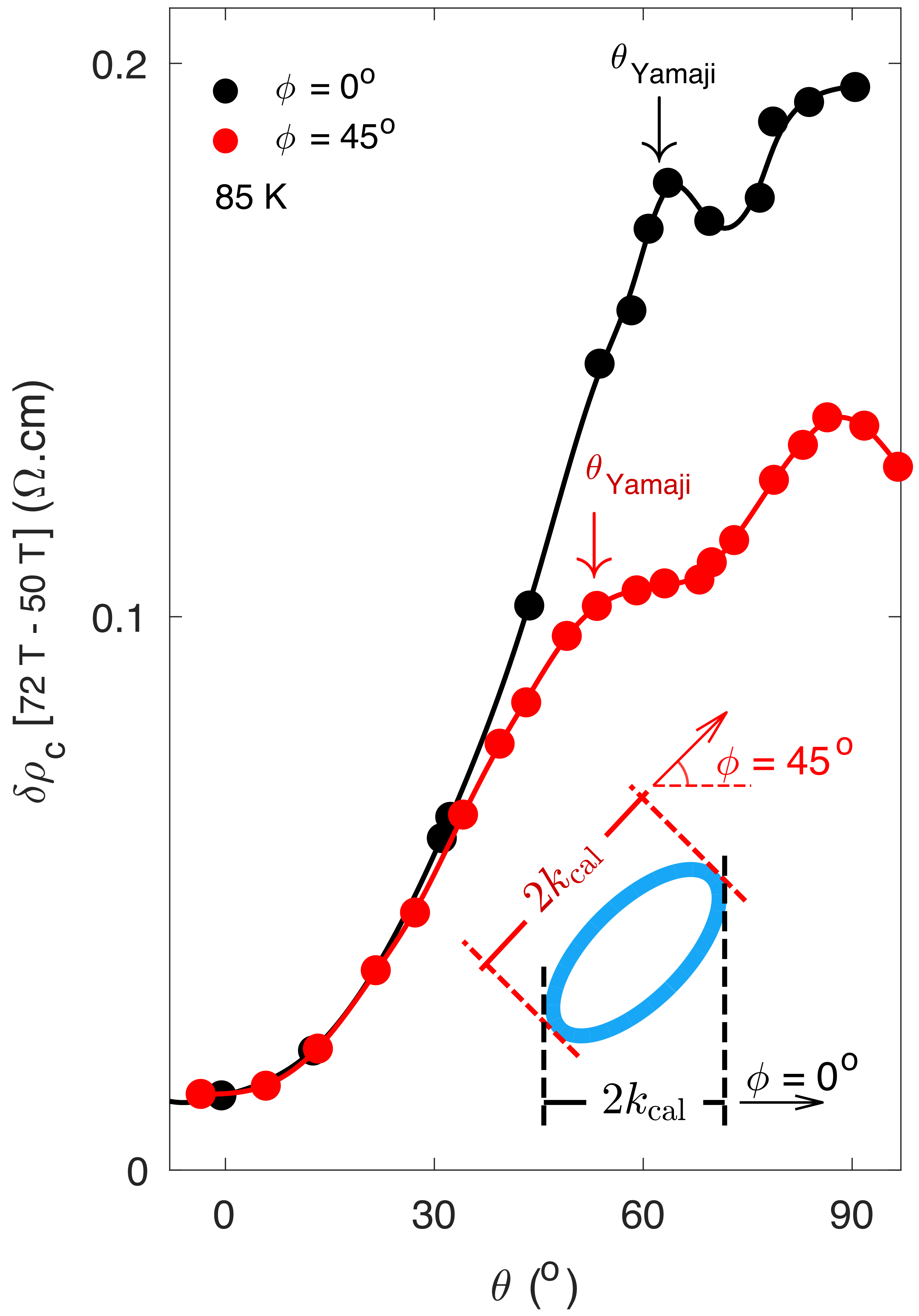

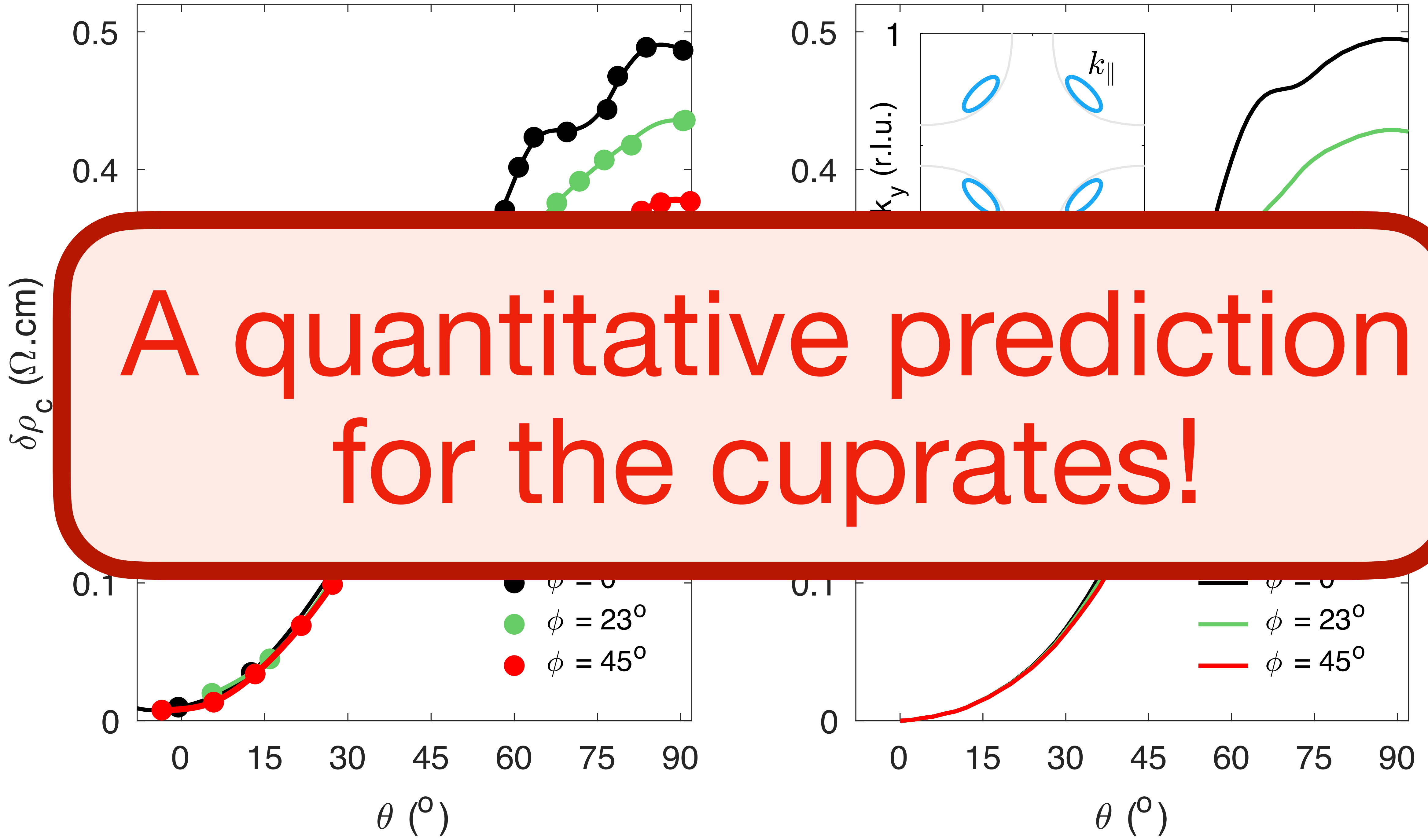

A quantitative prediction for the cuprates!

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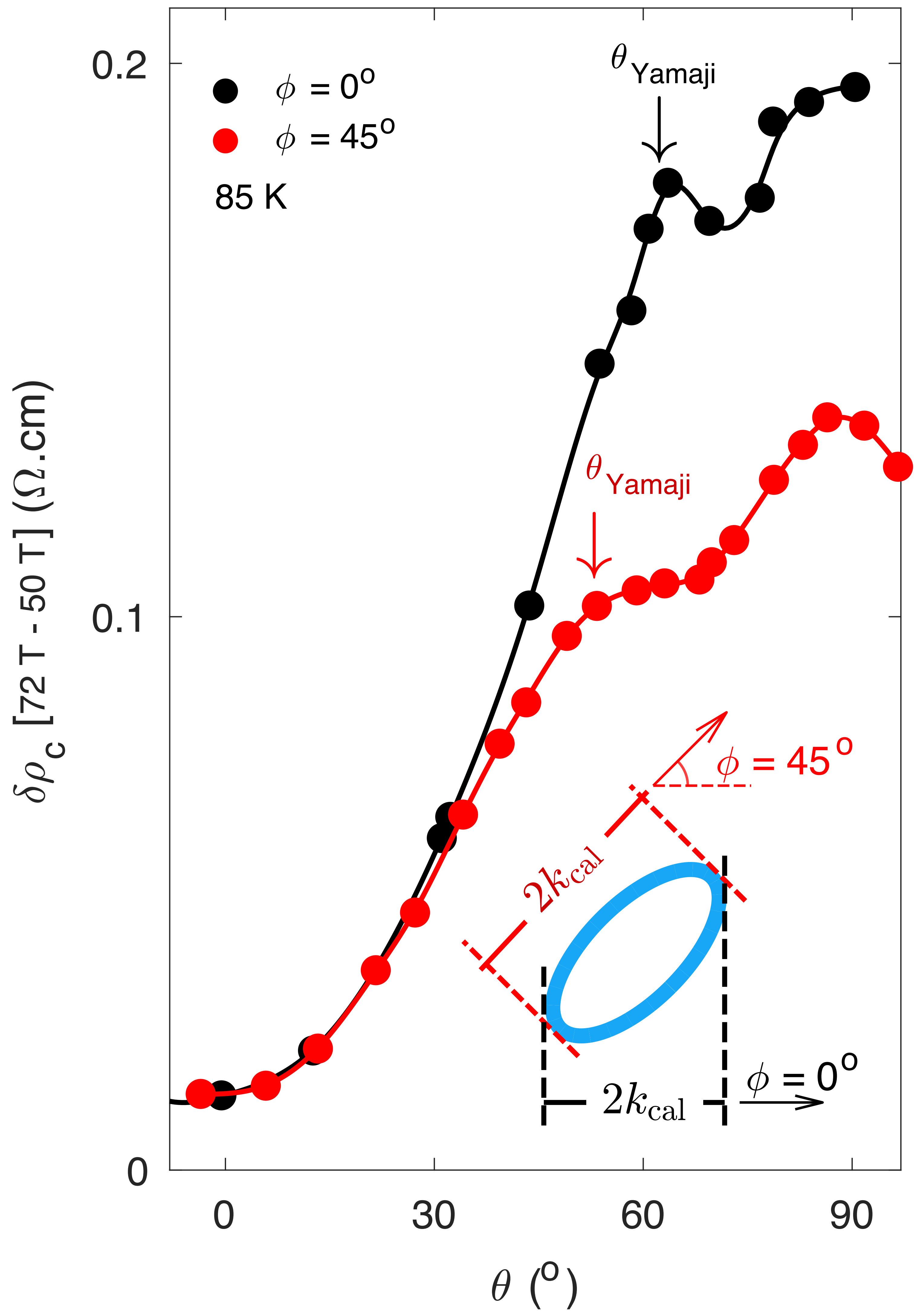
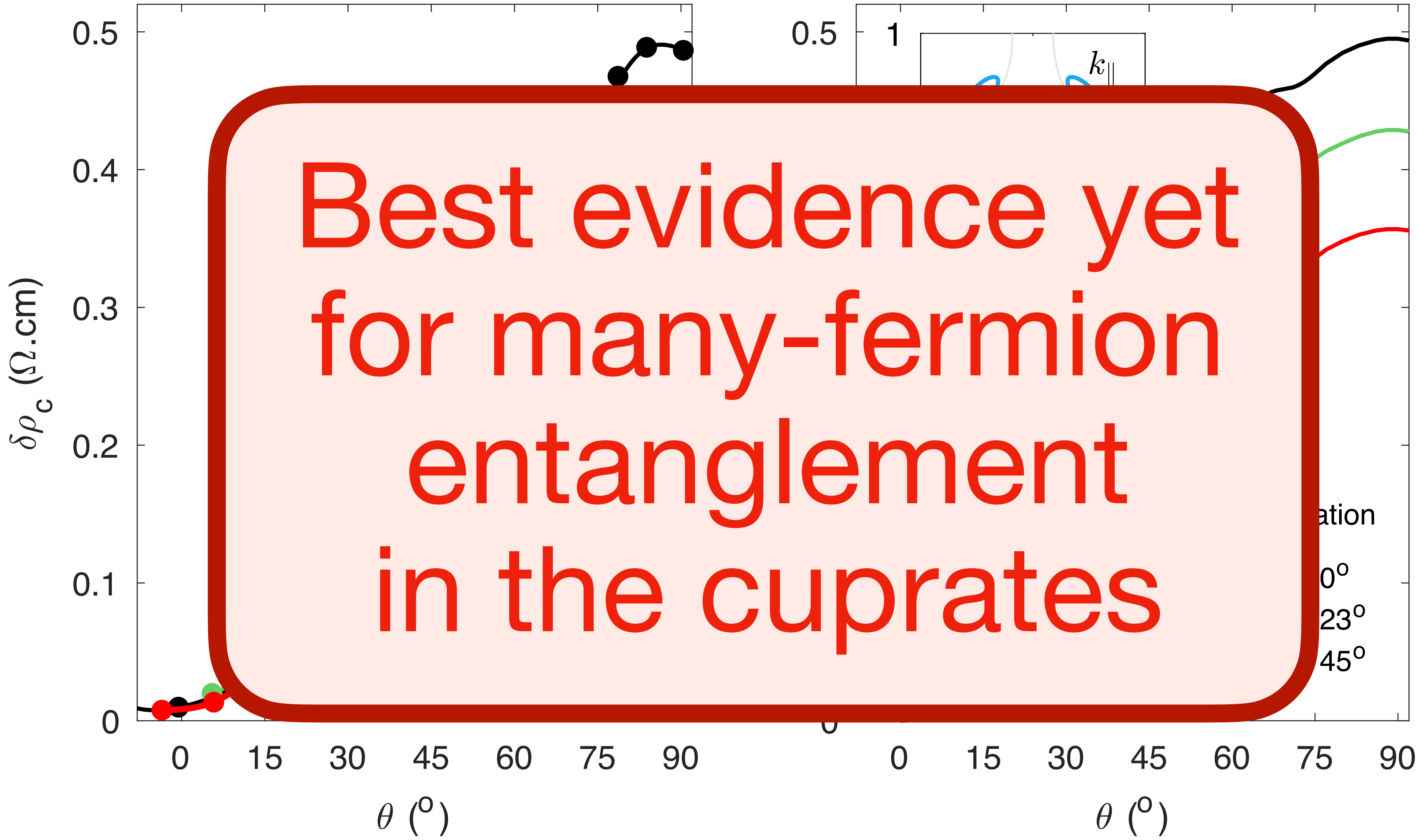




Best evidence yet for many-fermion entanglement in the cuprates

Doping
$p = 0.1$

The observation of the Yamaji peak is evidence for small Fermi-surface pockets in the normal state of the pseudogap phase. The small size of the pockets, each estimated to occupy only 1.3% of the Brillouin zone area, is not expected given the absence of long-range broken translational symmetry.

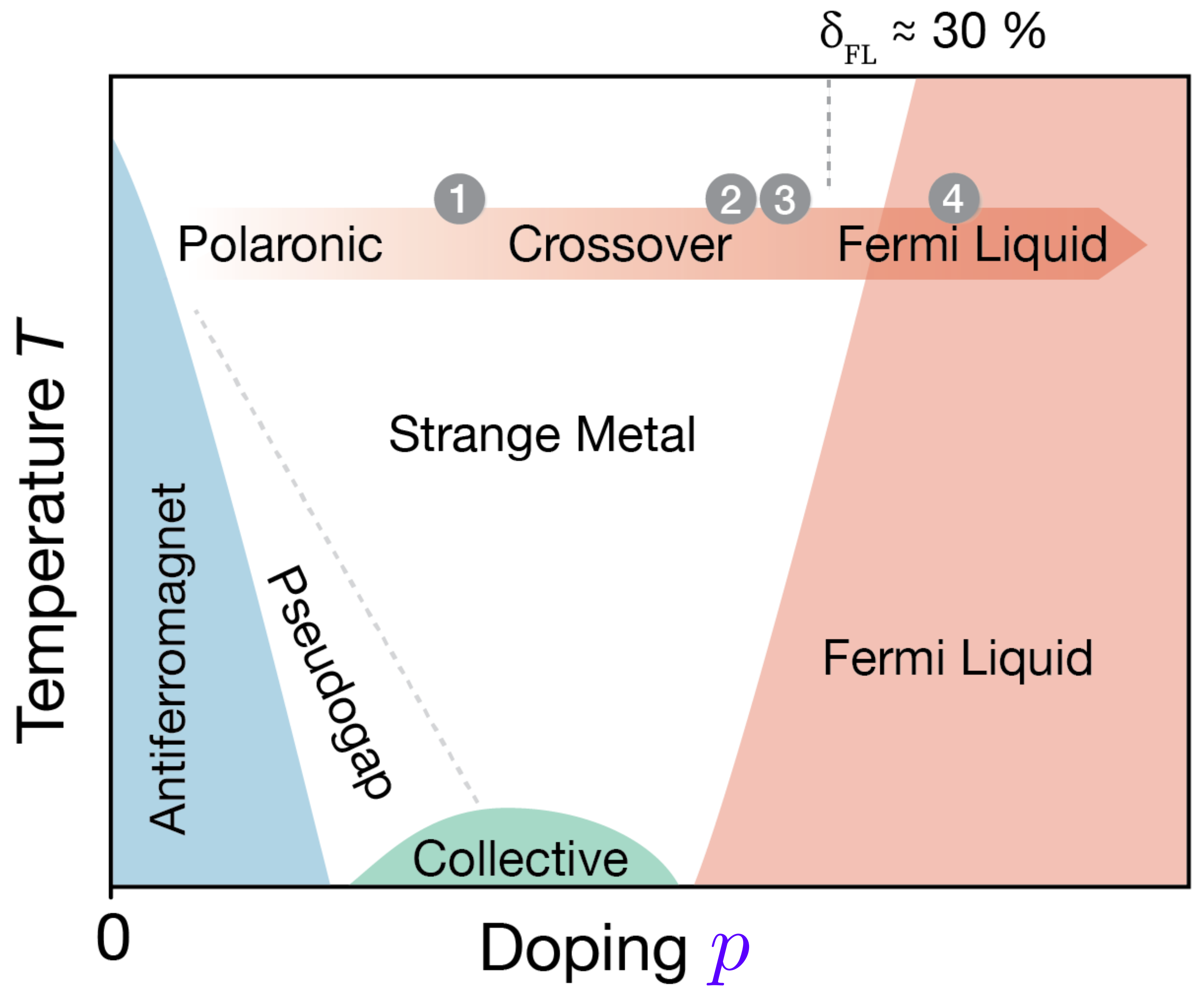
Predicted FL* pocket fraction $= p/8 = 1.25\%$!

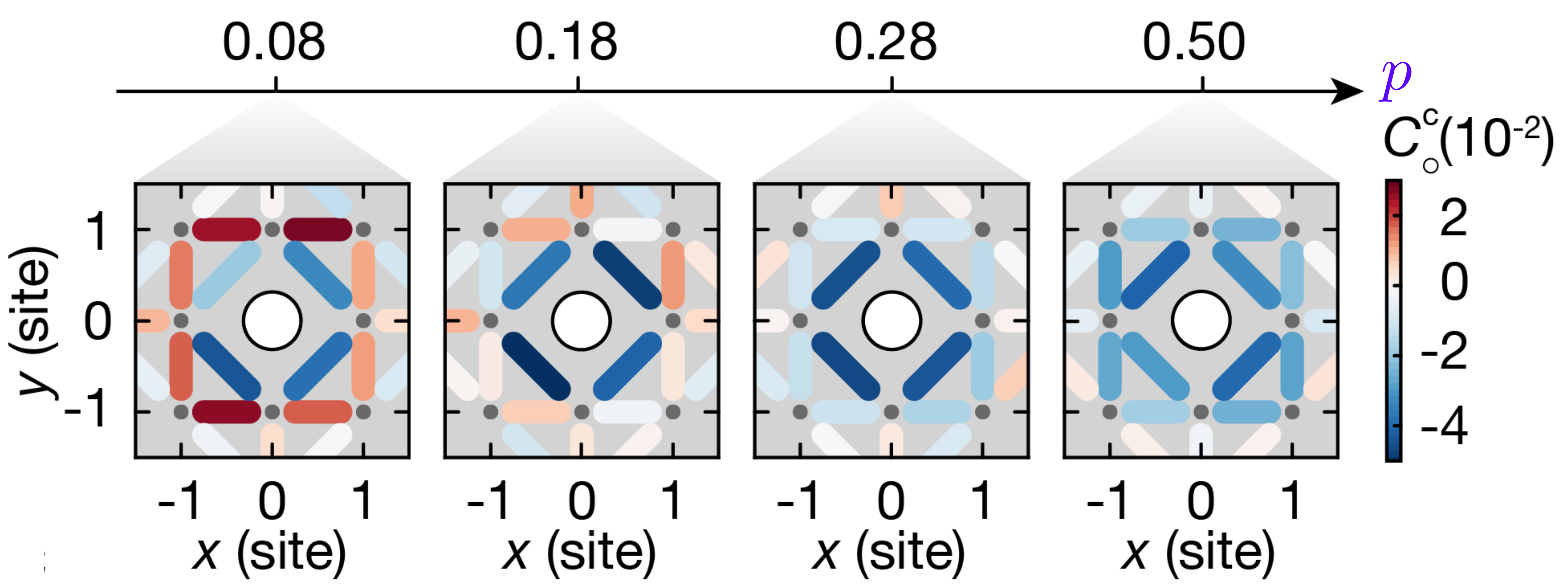
Fluctuating AF metal fraction $= p/4 = 2.5\%$.

(p/8 also in Yang-Rice-Zjang ansatz, Peter Johnson photoemission, and Jenny Hoffman and Seamus Davis STMs; Stanescu-Kotliar)

Jing-Yu Zhao, S. Chatterjee, S. S., Ya-Hui Zhang, arXiv:2510.13943

Wavefunction for FL*
and
observations on
ultracold atoms





Microscopic evolution of doped Mott insulators from polaronic metal to Fermi liquid

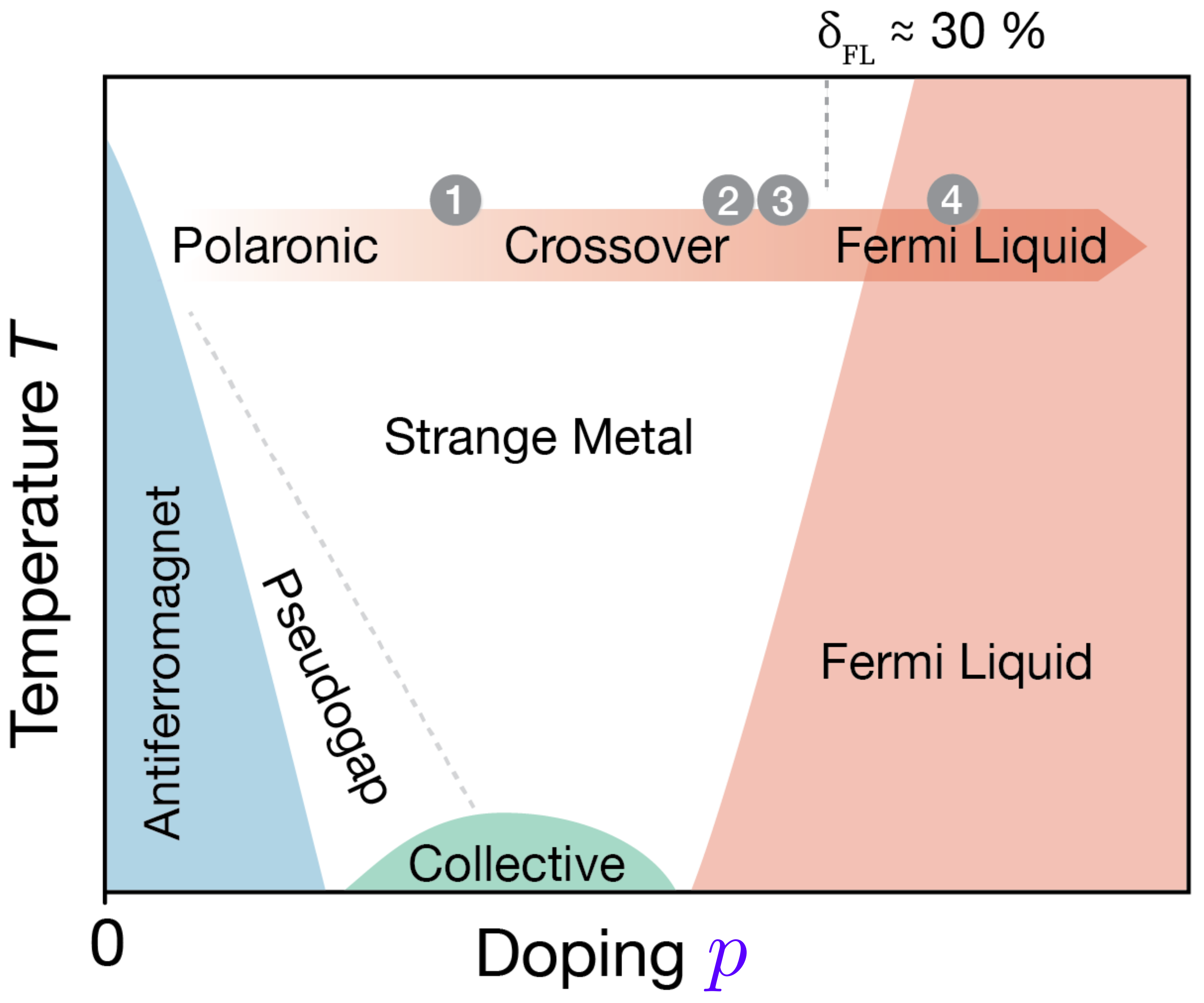
Joannis Koepsell, Dominik Bourgund, Pimonpan Sompet, Sarah Hirthe, Annabelle Bohrdt, Yao Wang, Fabian Grusdt, Eugene Demler, Guillaume Salomon, Christian Gross, Immanuel Bloch

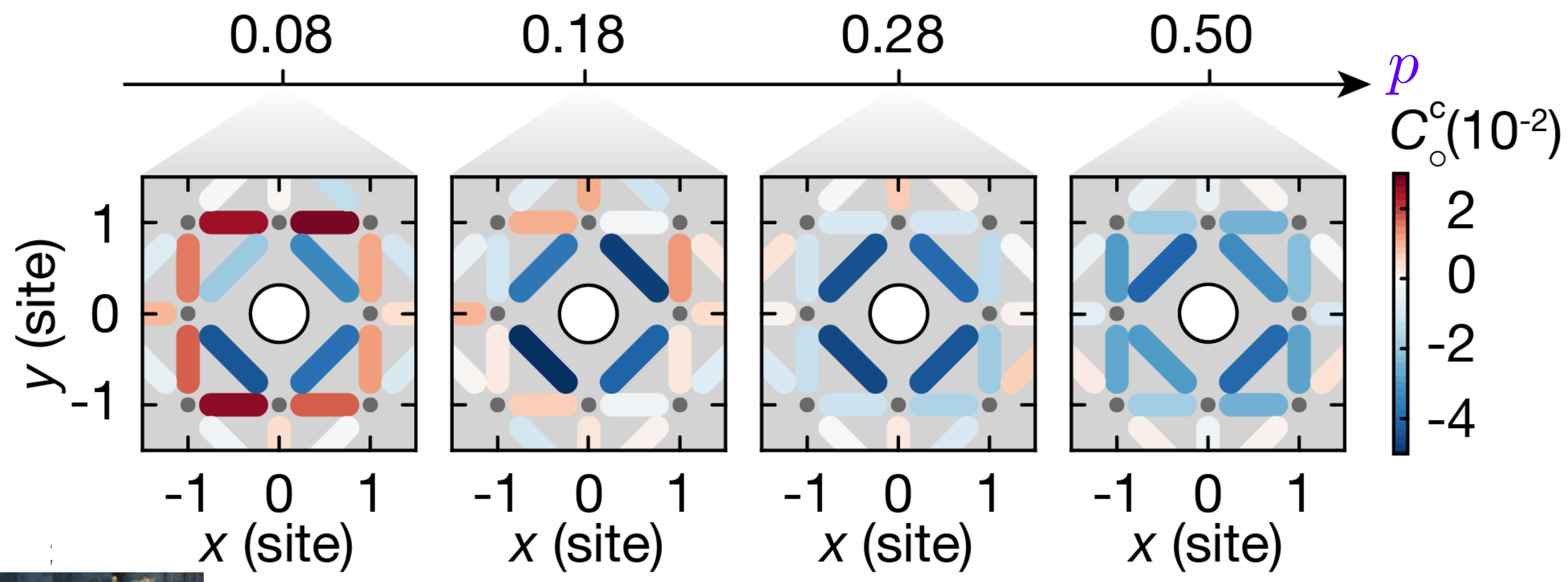
Science **374** (2021) 82

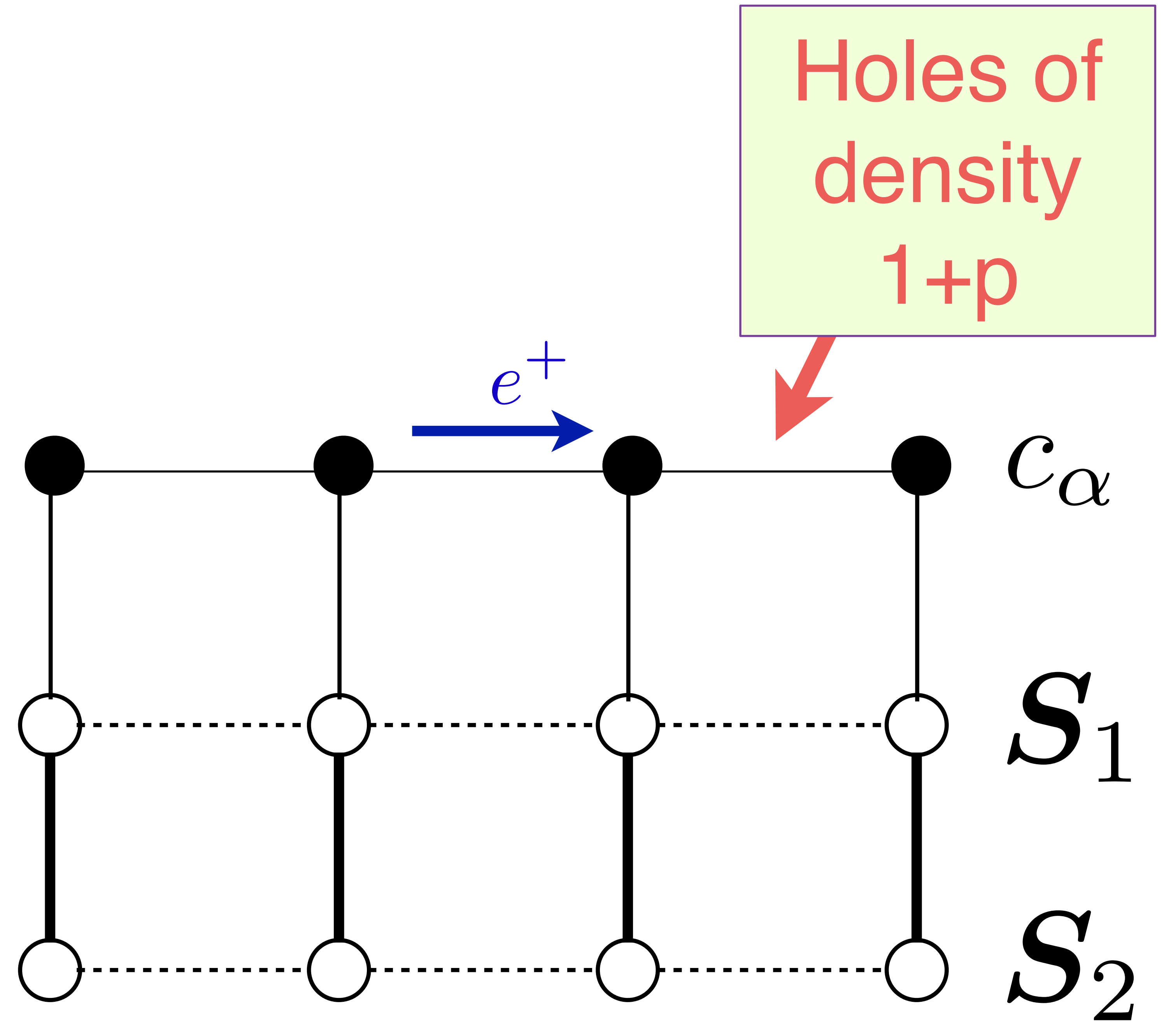
Chalopin….Bloch, PNAS **123**, e2525539123 (2026)

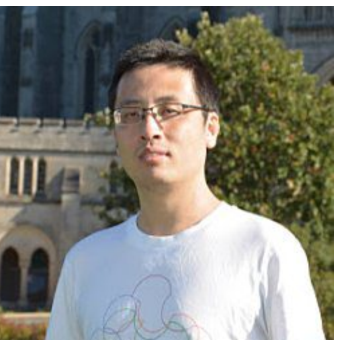
Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Garching

Ancilla Layer Model







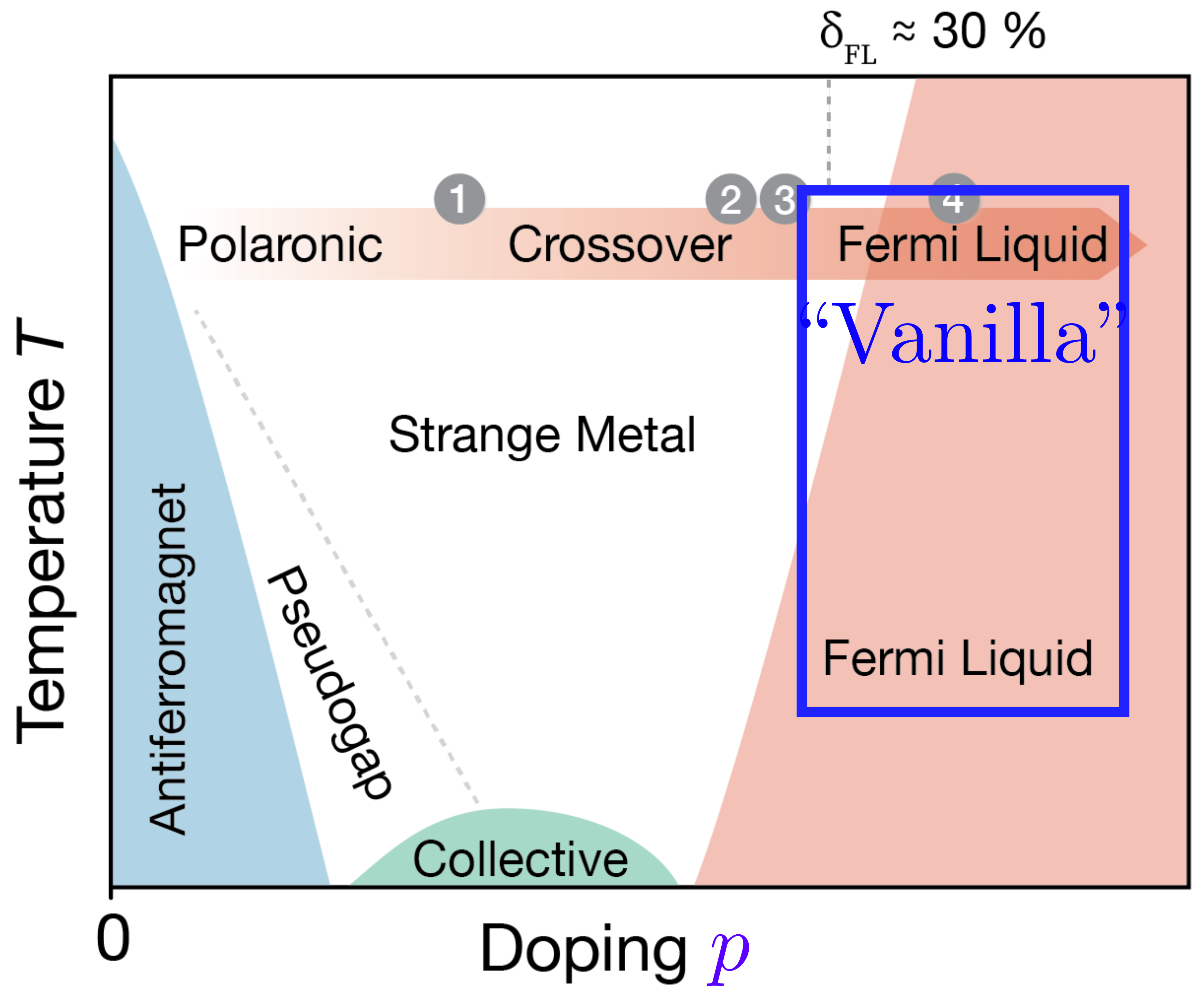


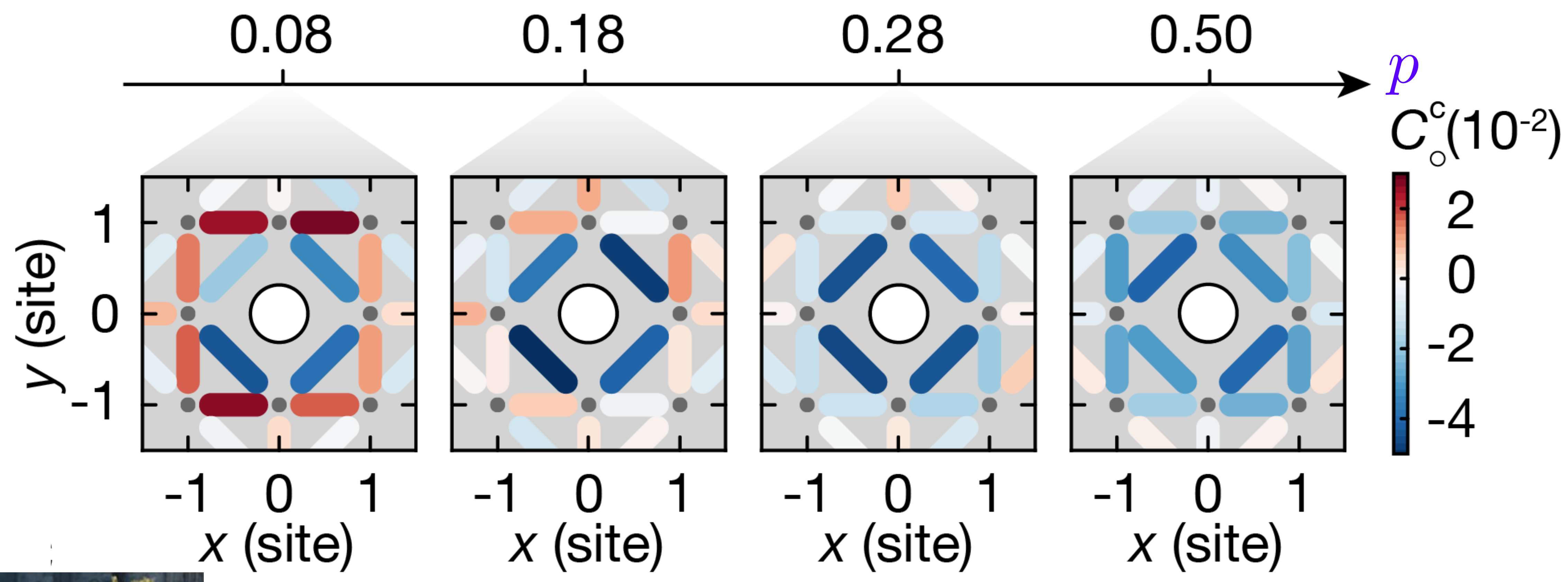
Ya-Hui Zhang

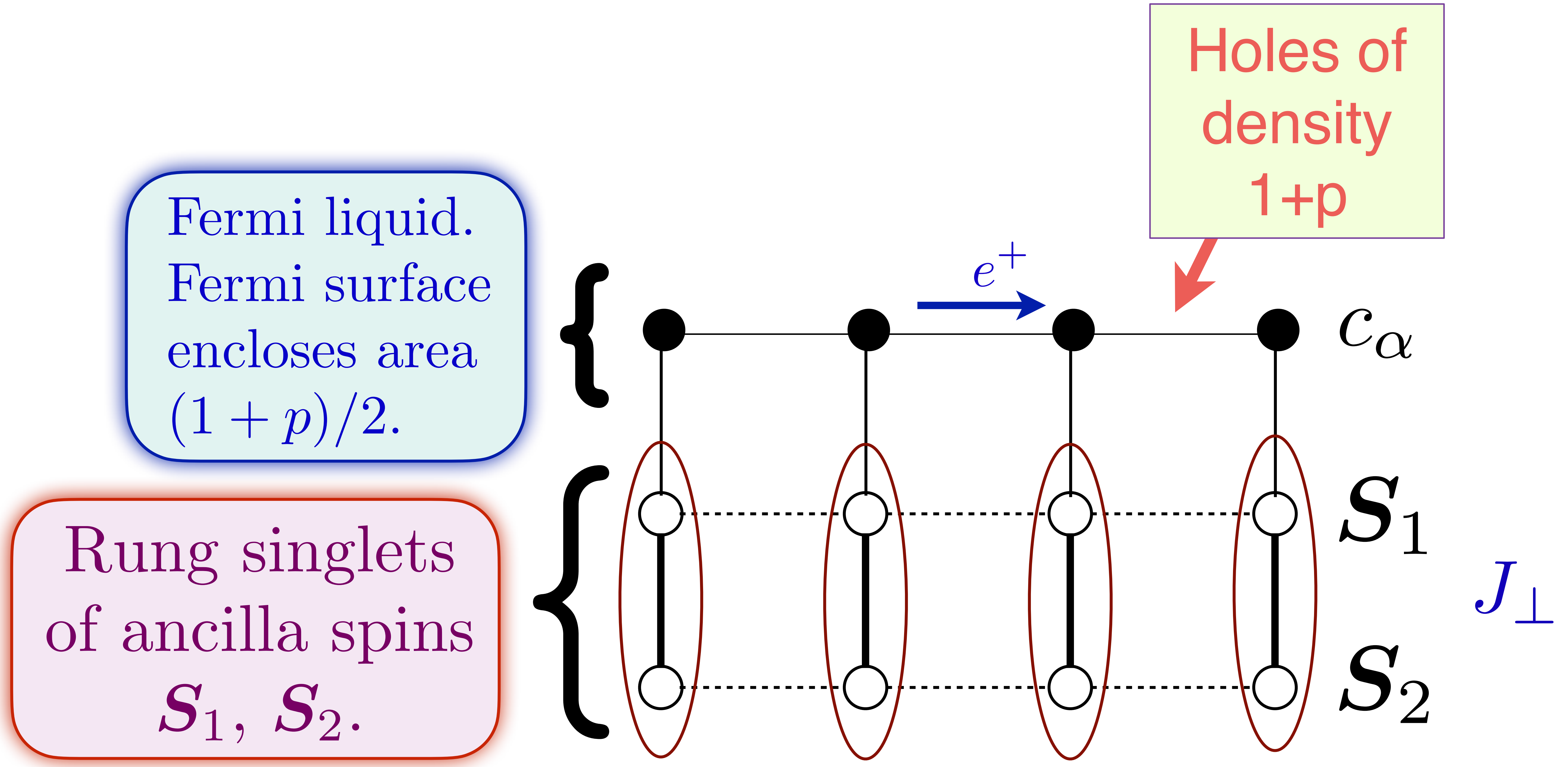
Ya-Hui Zhang and S. Sachdev, PRR **2**, 023172 (2020)

E. Mascot, A. Nikolaenko, M. Tikhanovskaya, Ya-Hui Zhang, D. K. Morr, S. Sachdev, PRB **105,** 075146 (2022)

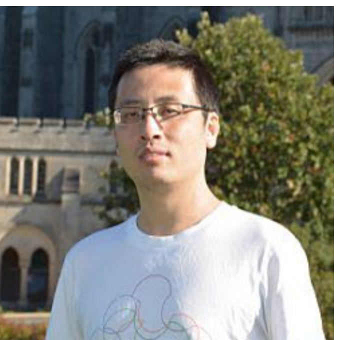
Ancilla Layer Model







Fermi liquid = FL of c_α $\oplus$ *Trivial, gapped* state of $\boldsymbol{S}_1$ and $\boldsymbol{S}_2$



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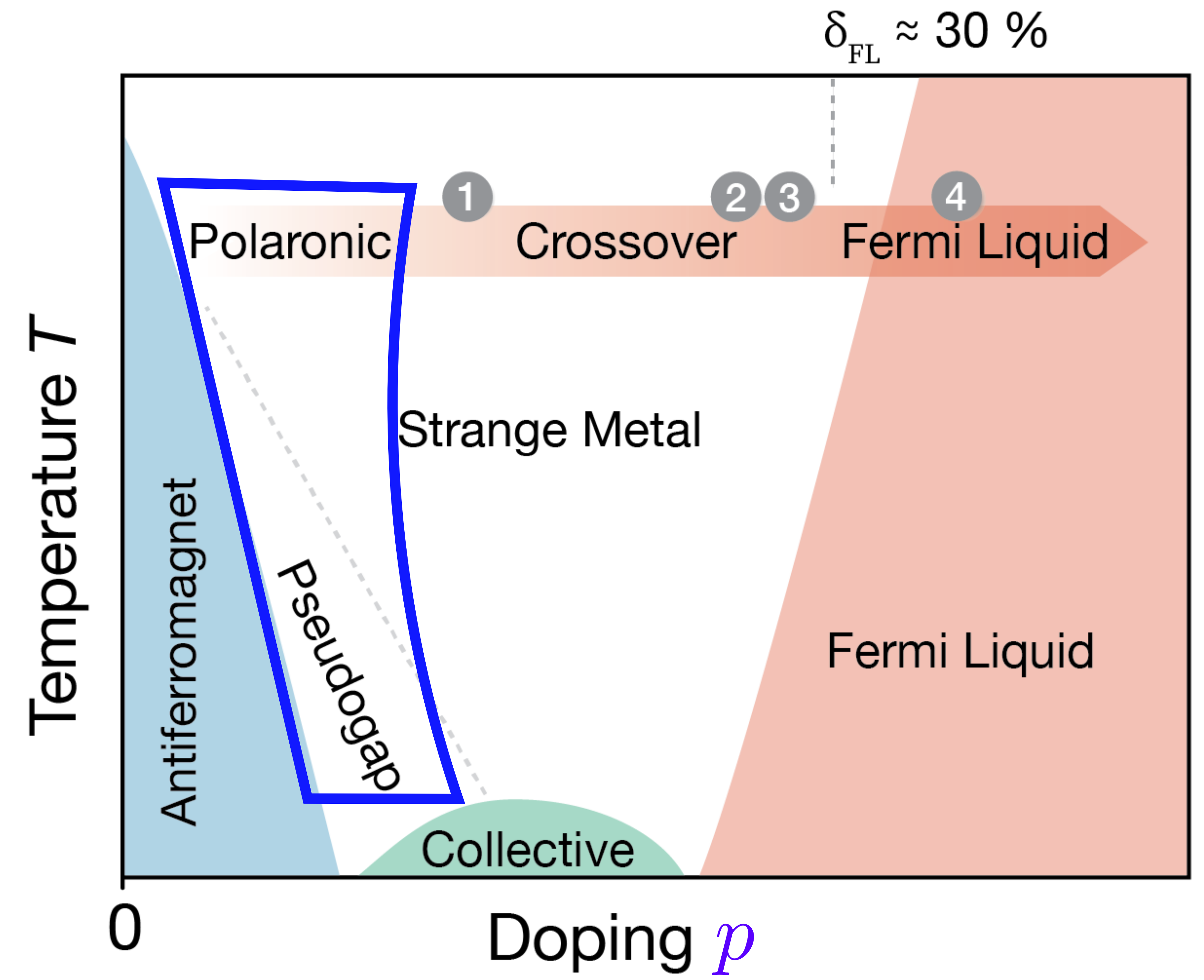
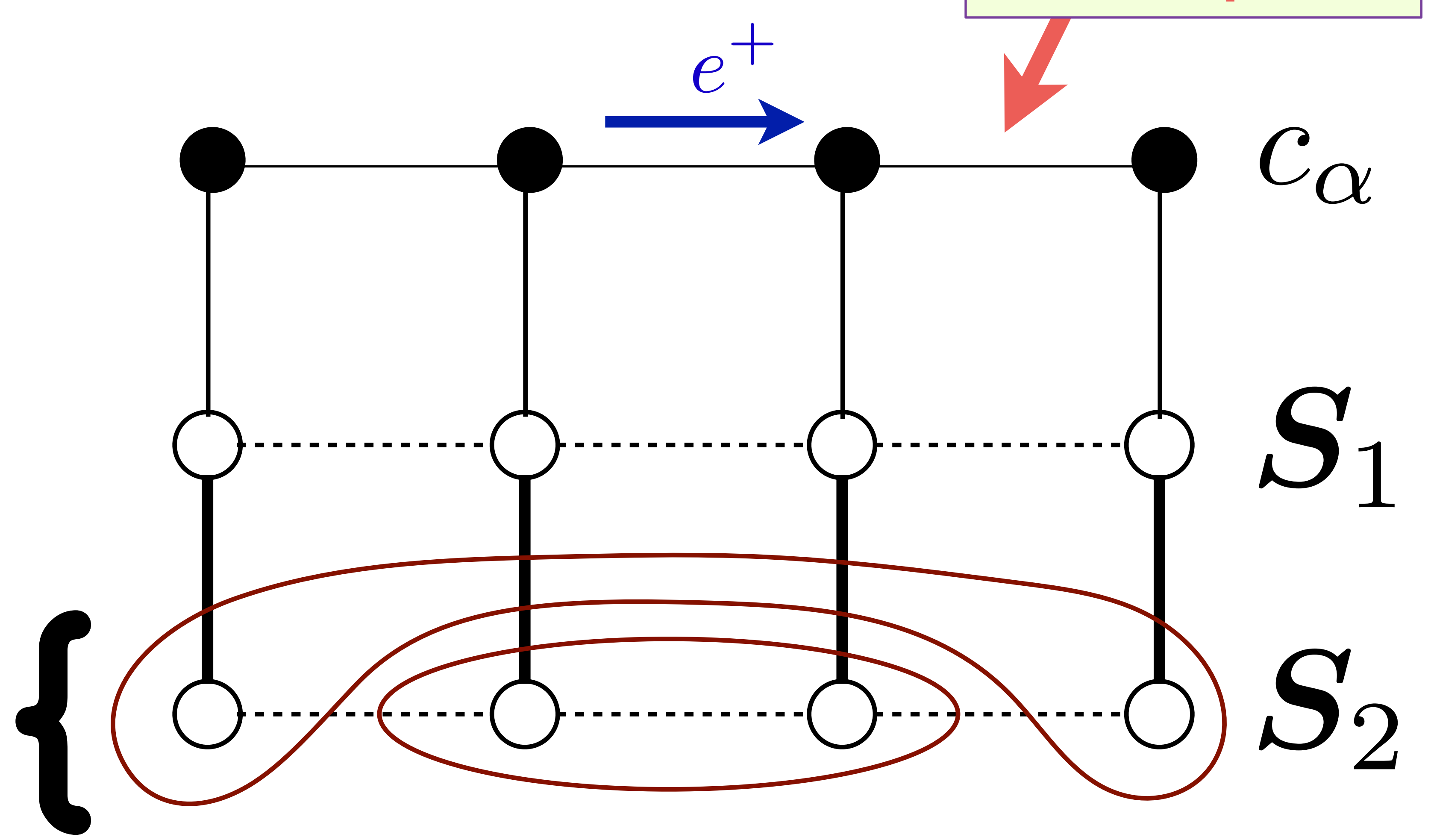
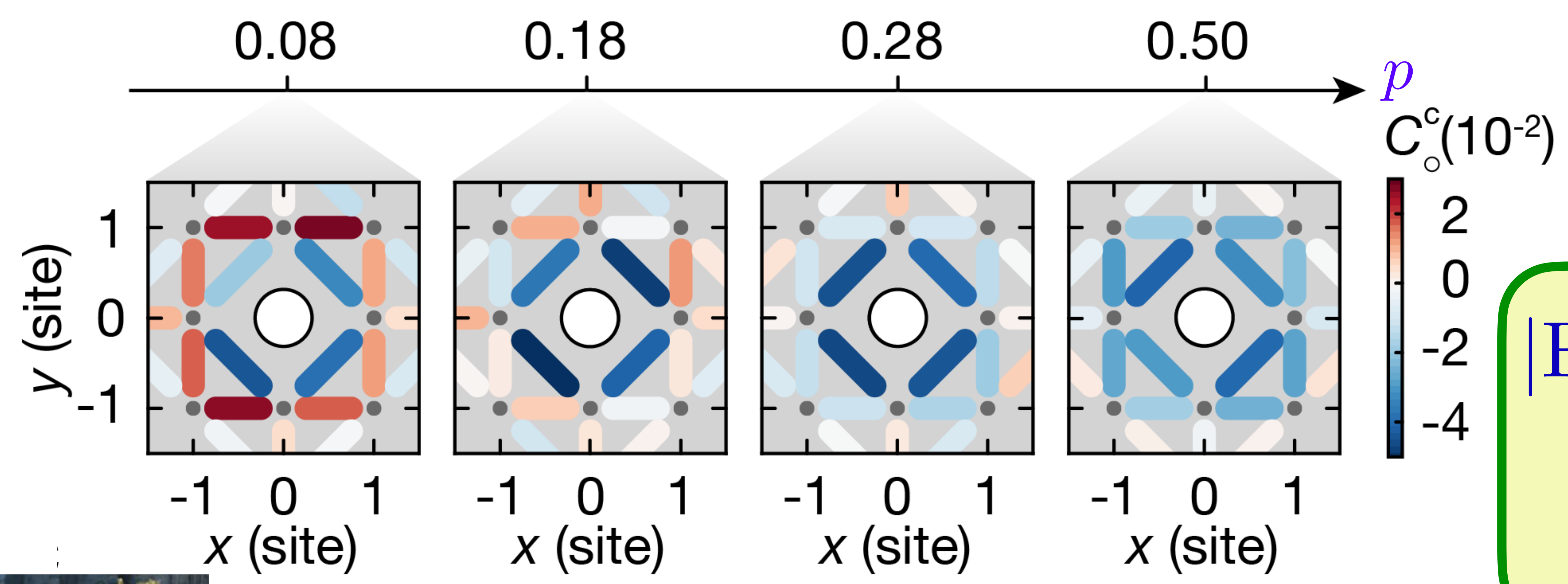


Holes of density 1+p



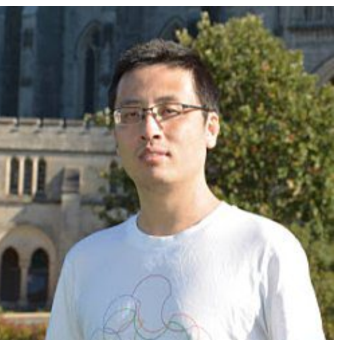
Your favorite spin liquid

$$\boldsymbol{S}_{2\boldsymbol{i}} = \frac{1}{2} f^\dagger_{\boldsymbol{i}\alpha} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{\boldsymbol{i}\beta}$$



$|\mathrm{FL}*\rangle \quad = \quad |$

$|\text{Slater determinant of } f\rangle$



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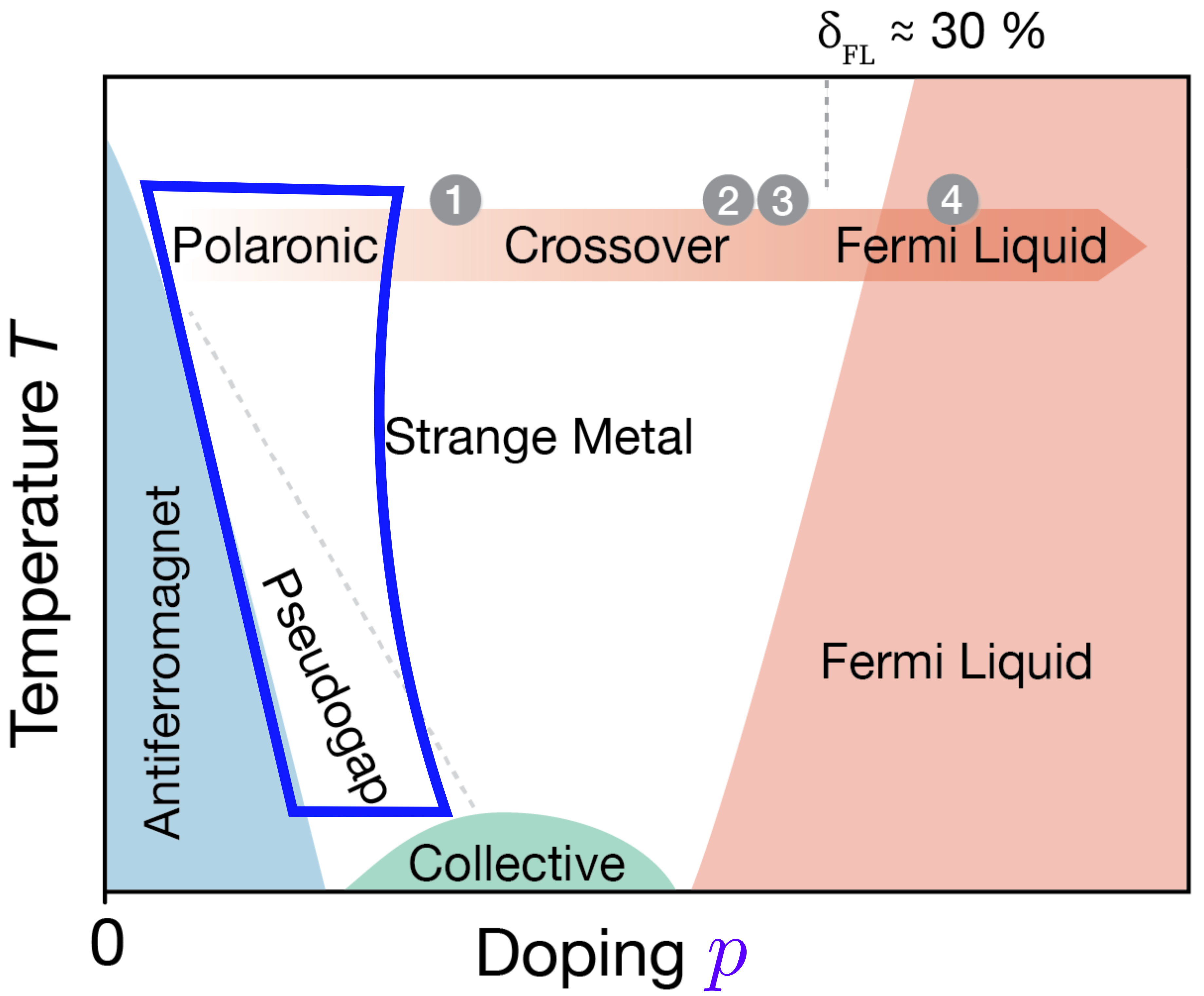
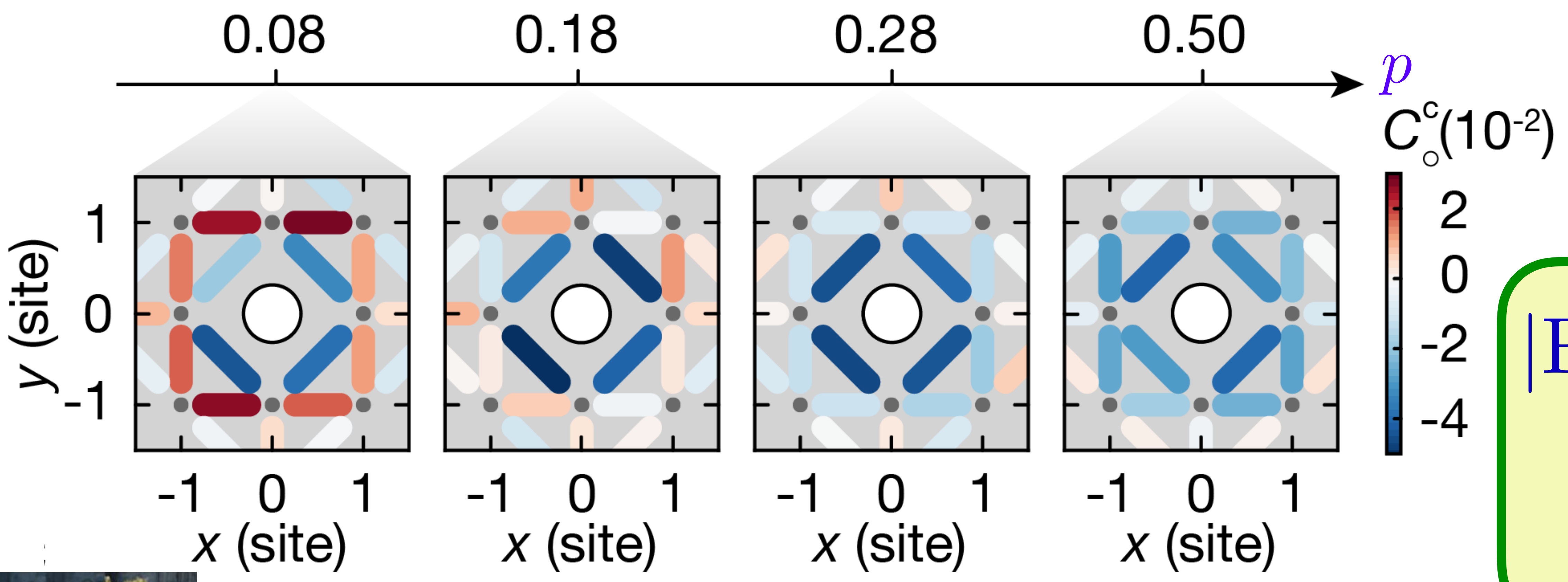
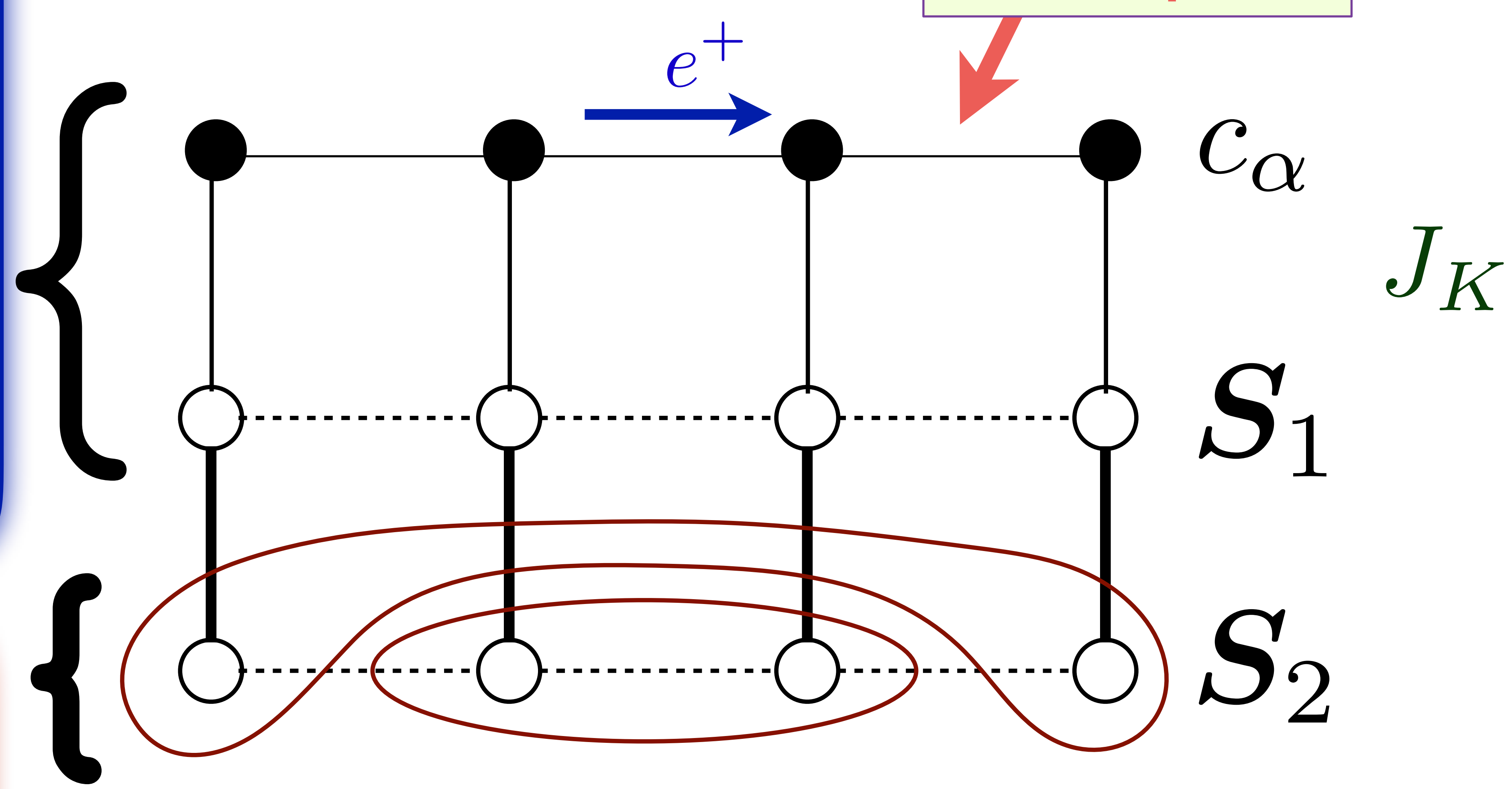




Kondo lattice heavy Fermi liquid. Hybridization $\Phi \sim f^\dagger_{1\alpha} c_\alpha$. Fermi surfaces enclose area $(1+p+1)/2 = p/2 \pmod 1$.

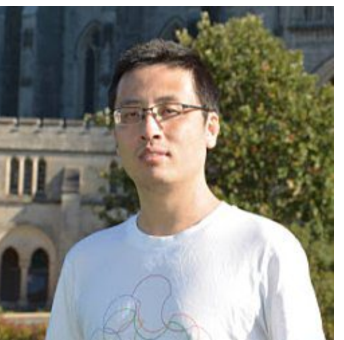
Holes of density 1+p



Your favorite spin liquid

$$\boldsymbol{S}_{1i} = \frac{1}{2} f^\dagger_{1i\alpha} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{1i\beta}, \quad \boldsymbol{S}_{2i} = \frac{1}{2} f^\dagger_{i\alpha} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{i\beta}$$

$$|\mathrm{FL}*\rangle = |\text{Slater determinant of } (c, f_1)\rangle \otimes |\text{Slater determinant of } f\rangle$$



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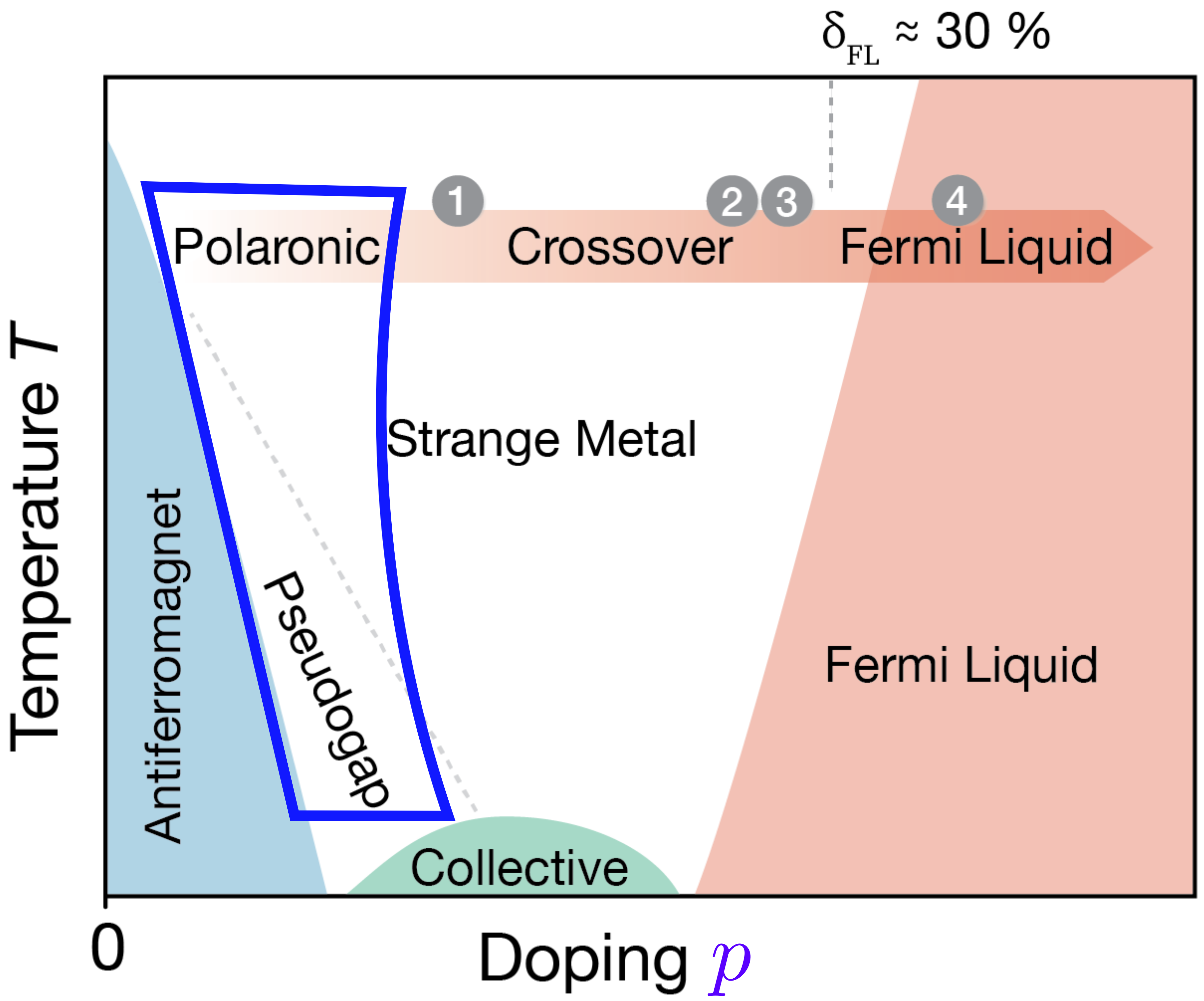
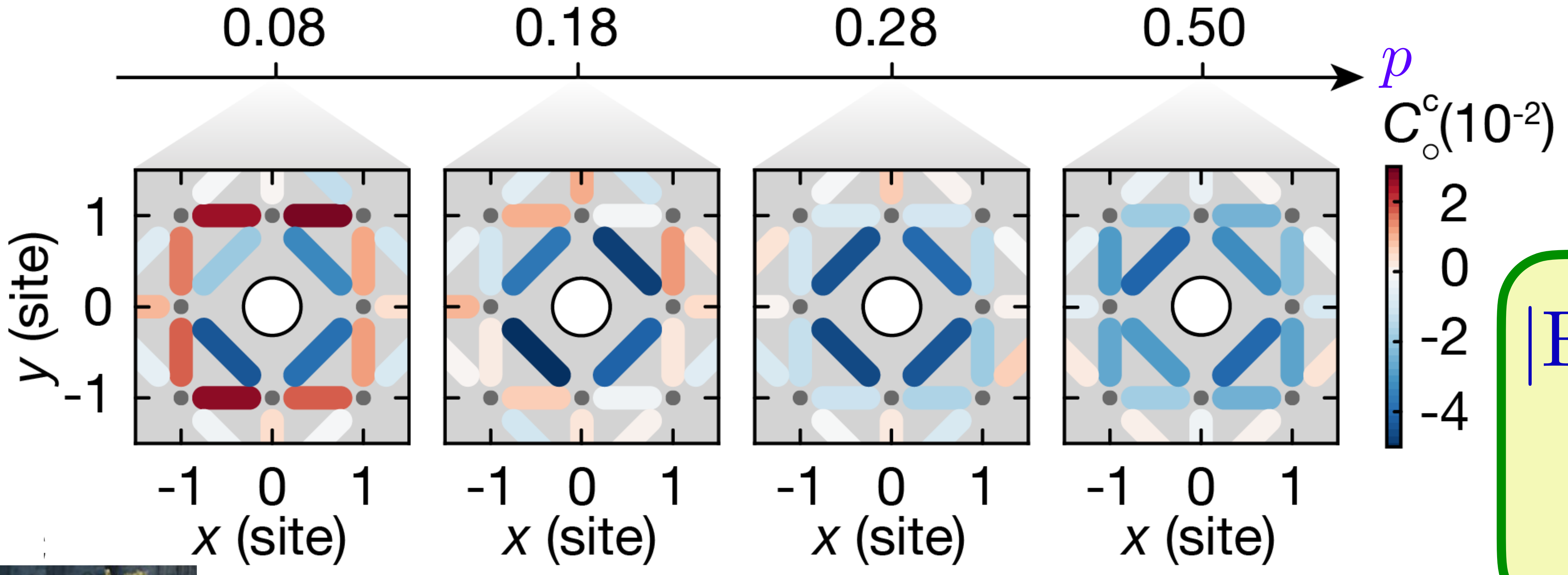
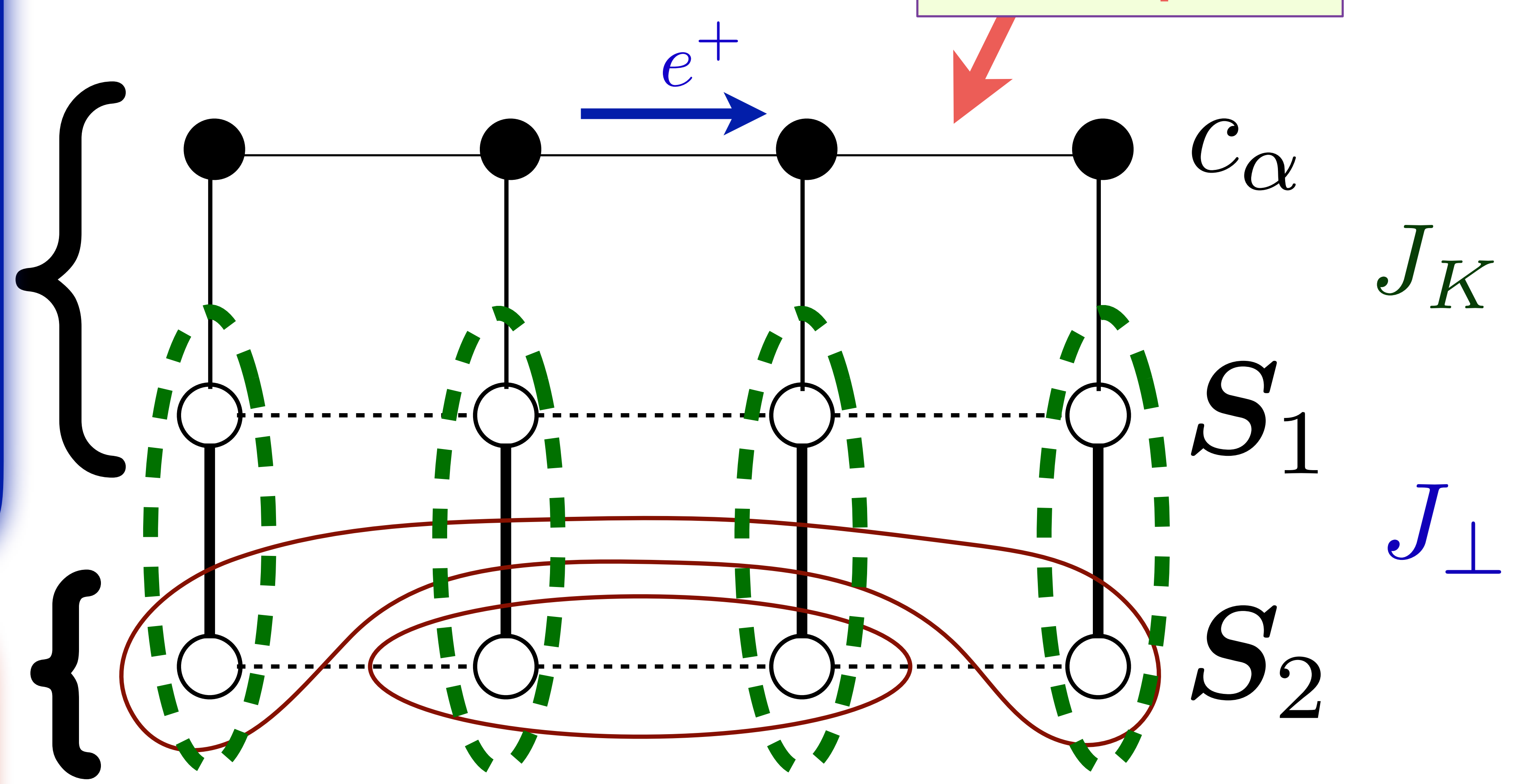




Kondo lattice heavy Fermi liquid. Hybridization $\Phi \sim f^\dagger_{1\alpha} c_\alpha$. Fermi surfaces enclose area $(1+p+1)/2$ $= p/2 \pmod 1$.

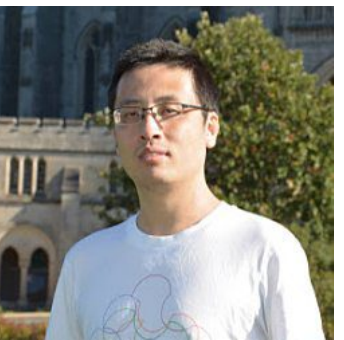
Your favorite spin liquid

Holes of density 1+p



$$\boldsymbol{S}_{1i} = \frac{1}{2} f^\dagger_{1i\alpha} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{1i\beta}, \quad \boldsymbol{S}_{2i} = \frac{1}{2} f^\dagger_{i\alpha} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{i\beta}$$

$$|\mathrm{FL}*\rangle_{\mathrm{Hubbard}} = [\text{Projection onto rung singlets of } \boldsymbol{S}_1, \boldsymbol{S}_2] \bowtie |\text{Slater determinant of } (c, f_1)\rangle \otimes |\text{Slater determinant of } f\rangle$$



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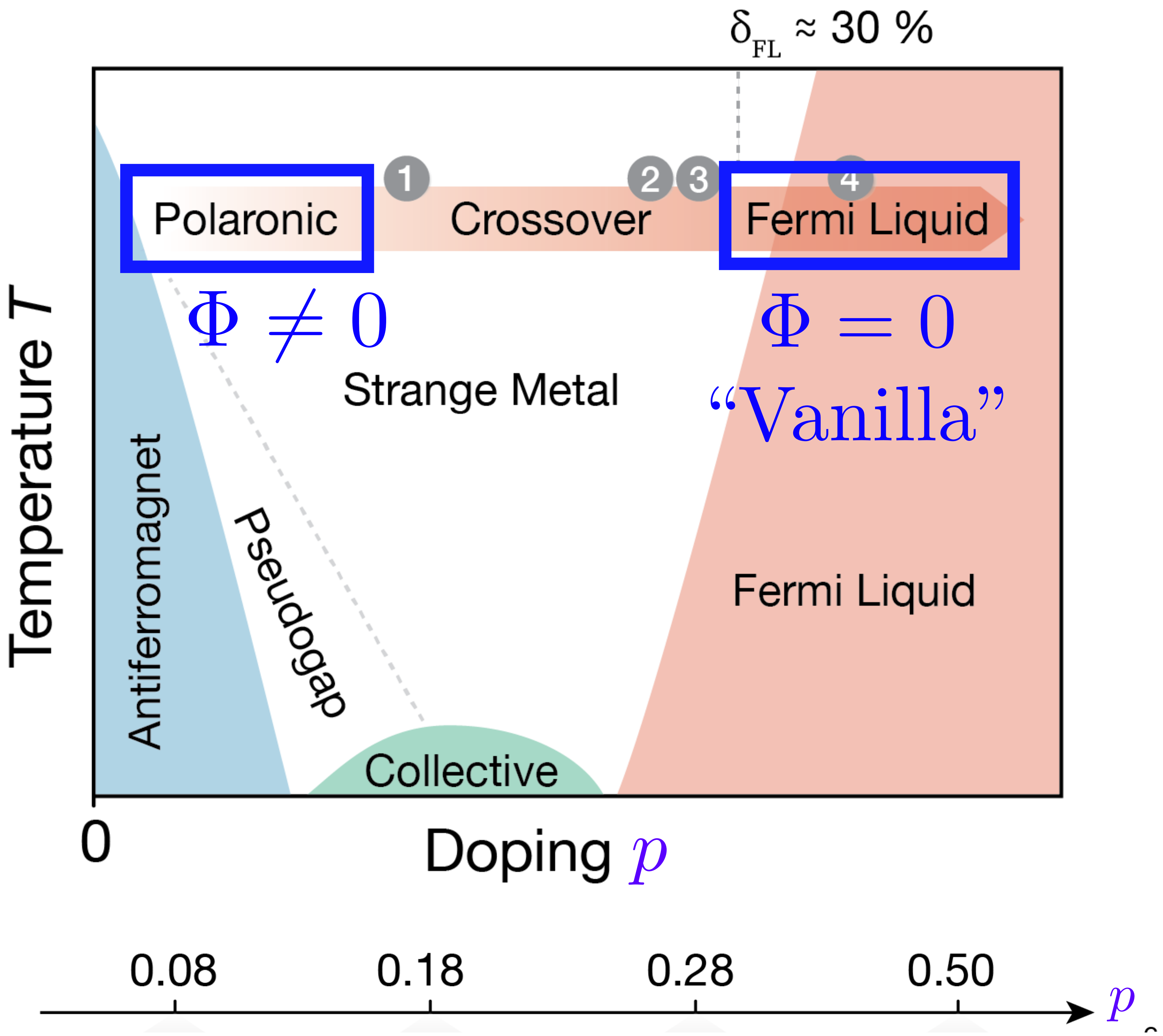
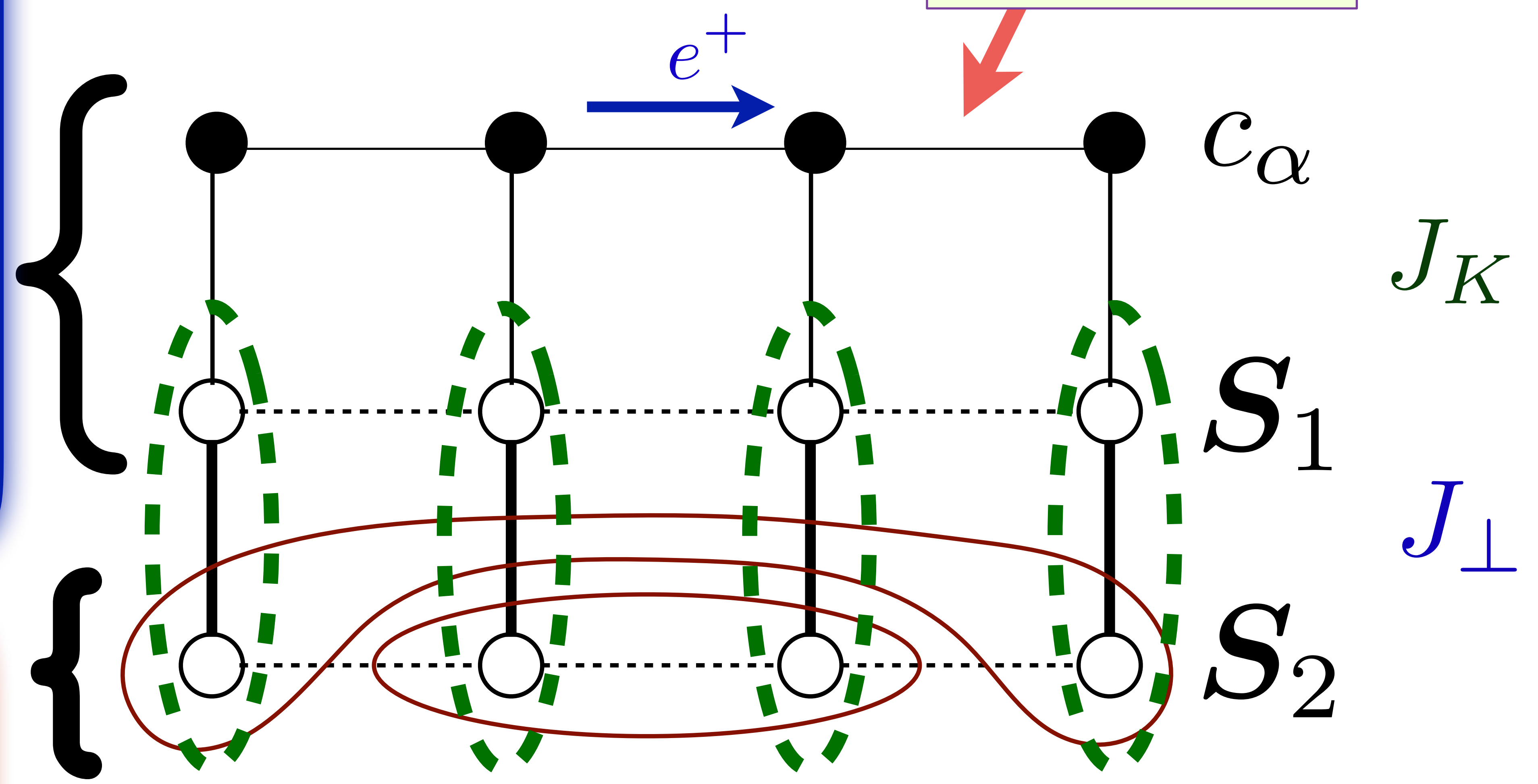
Ancilla Layer Model



Kondo lattice heavy Fermi liquid. Hybridization $\Phi \sim f_{1\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\alpha}$. Fermi surfaces enclose area $(1+p+1)/2$ $= p/2$ (mod 1).

Holes of density 1+p

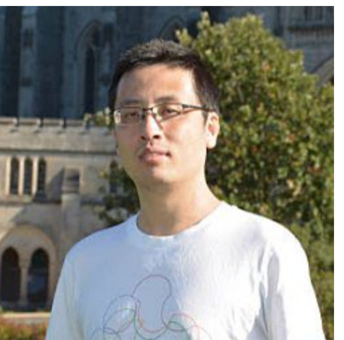


Your favorite spin liquid

$$\boldsymbol{S}_{1i} = \frac{1}{2} f_{1i\alpha}^{\dagger} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{1i\beta}, \quad \boldsymbol{S}_{2i} = \frac{1}{2} f_{i\alpha}^{\dagger} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} f_{i\beta}$$

$\Phi \Rightarrow$ Higgs order parameter for FL*-FL transition!

$$|\mathrm{FL}*\rangle_{\mathrm{Hubbard}} = [\text{Projection onto rung singlets of } \boldsymbol{S}_1, \boldsymbol{S}_2] \bowtie |\text{Slater determinant of } (c, f_1)\rangle \otimes |\text{Slater determinant of } f\rangle$$



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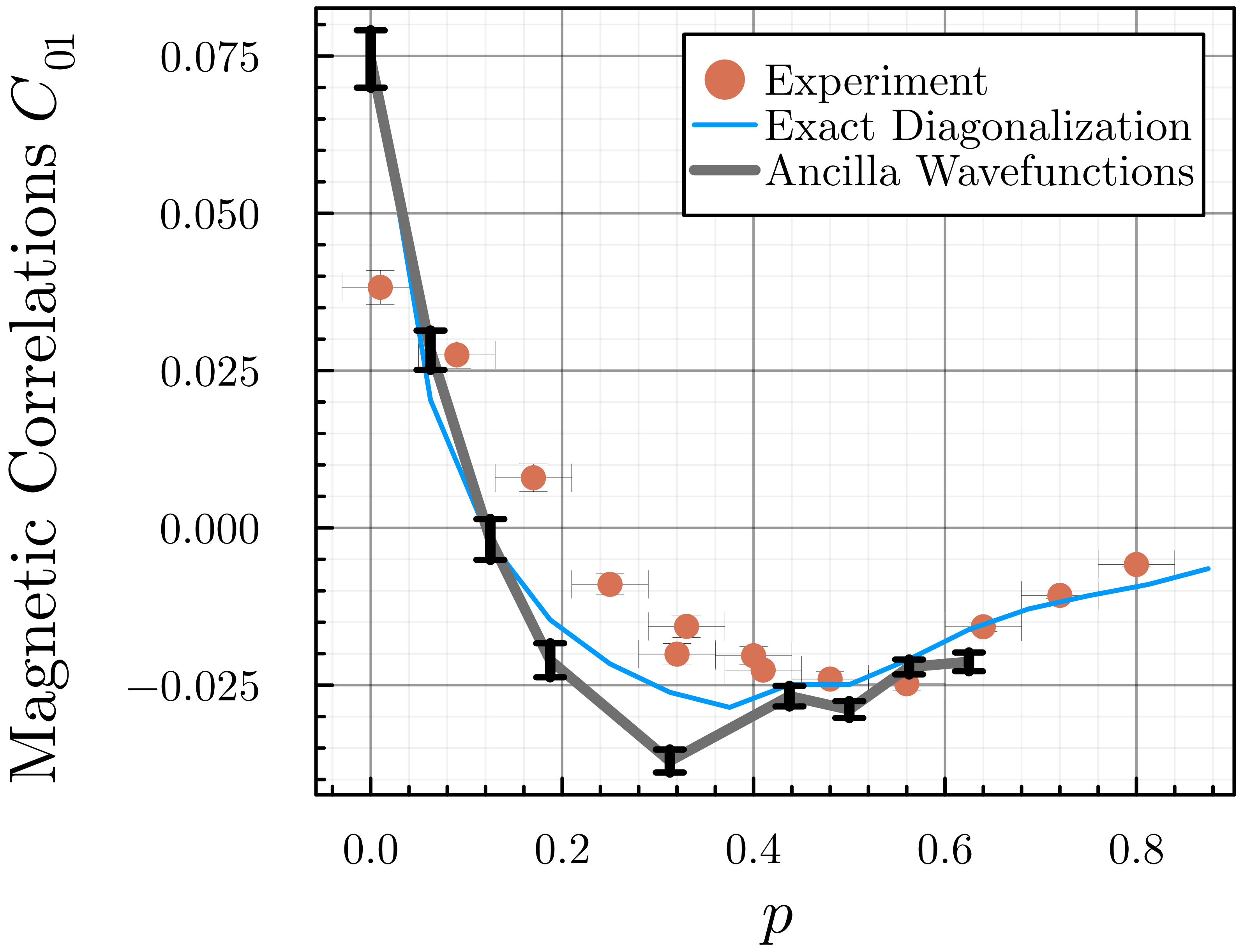
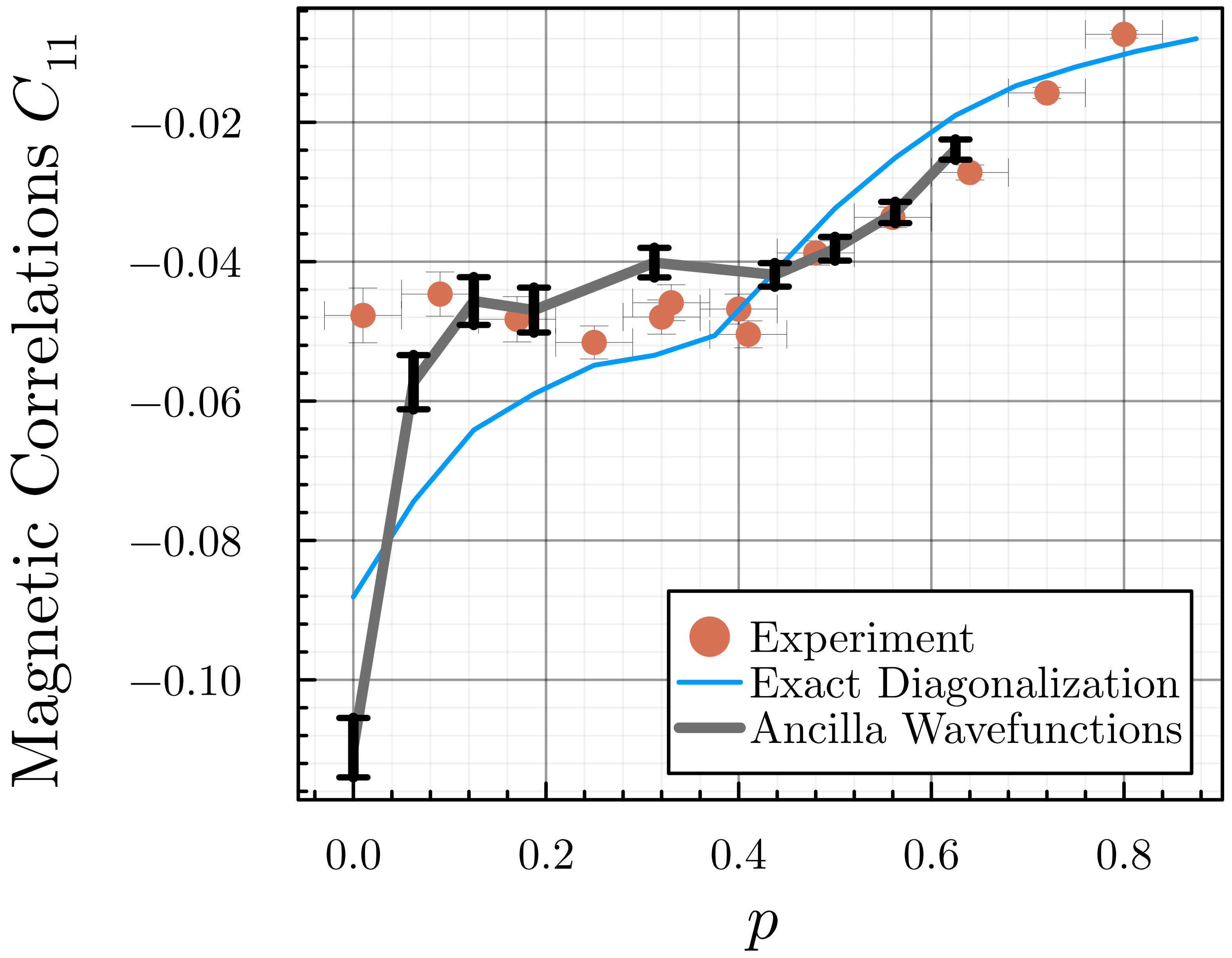
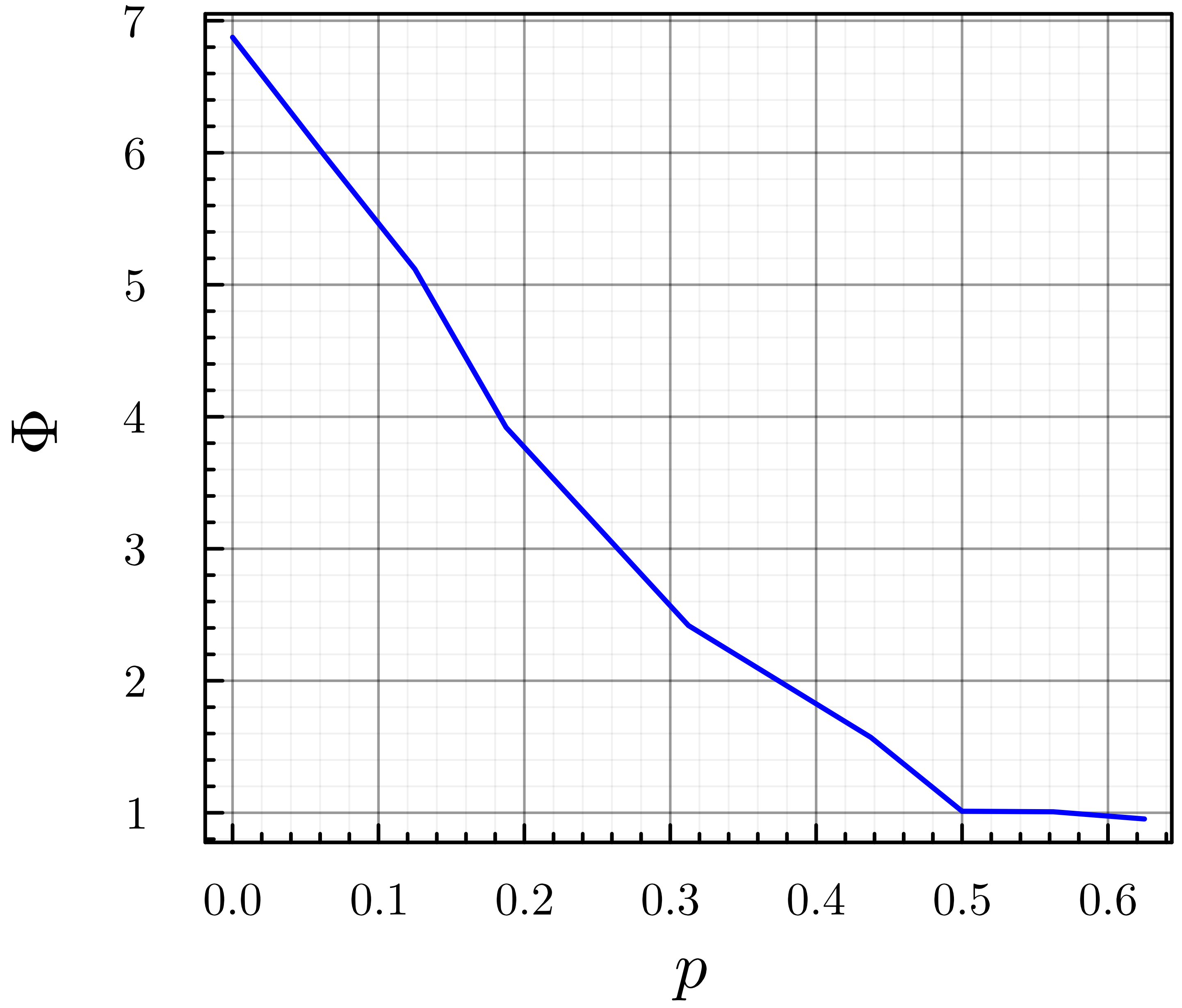
Ya-Hui Zhang and S. Sachdev, PRR **2**, 023172 (2020)
E. Mascot, A. Nikolaenko, M. Tikhanovskaya, Ya-Hui Zhang, D. K. Morr, S. Sachdev, PRB **105**, 075146 (2022)

Ancilla wavefunction for FL* of Hubbard model










Hybridization (Higgs boson) $\Phi \sim f_{1\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\alpha}$.

FL*: $\Phi \neq 0$; FL: $\Phi = 0$

Φ: variational parameter with Hubbard Hamiltonian

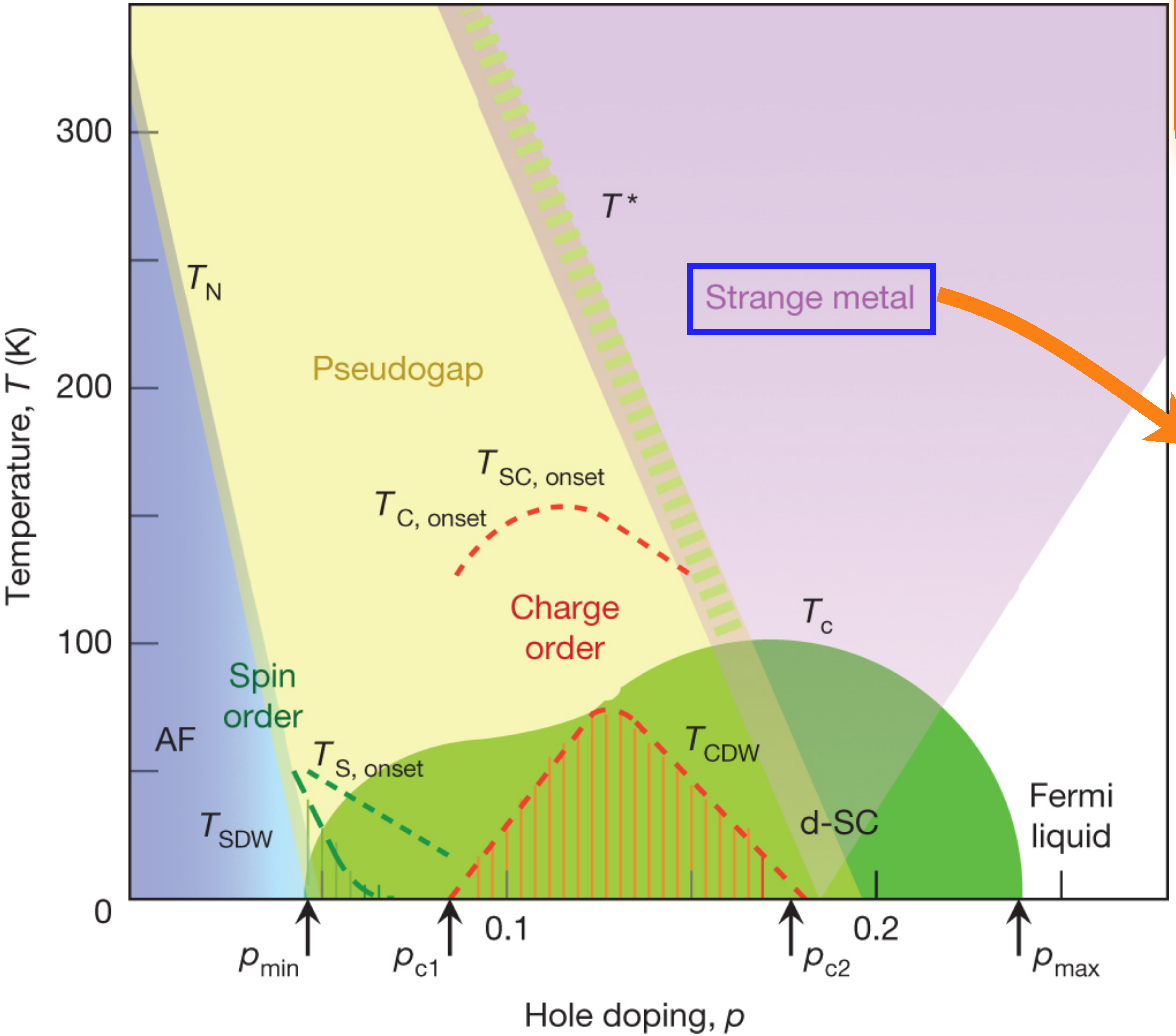
$$|\mathrm{FL}*\rangle_{\mathrm{Hubbard}} = [\text{Projection onto rung singlets of } \boldsymbol{S}_1, \boldsymbol{S}_2] \bowtie |\text{Slater determinant of } (c, f_1)\rangle \otimes |\text{Slater determinant of } f\rangle$$

L. Shackleton and Shiwei Zhang, arXiv:2408.02190

Tobias Müller, Yasir Iqbal, S.S., Ronny Thomale, PNAS **122**, e2504261122 (2025)

From FL* to FL
via
the strange metal
using the 2D-YSYK model

Keimer, Kivelson, Norman, Uchida, and Zaanen, *Nature* **518**, 179 (2015)



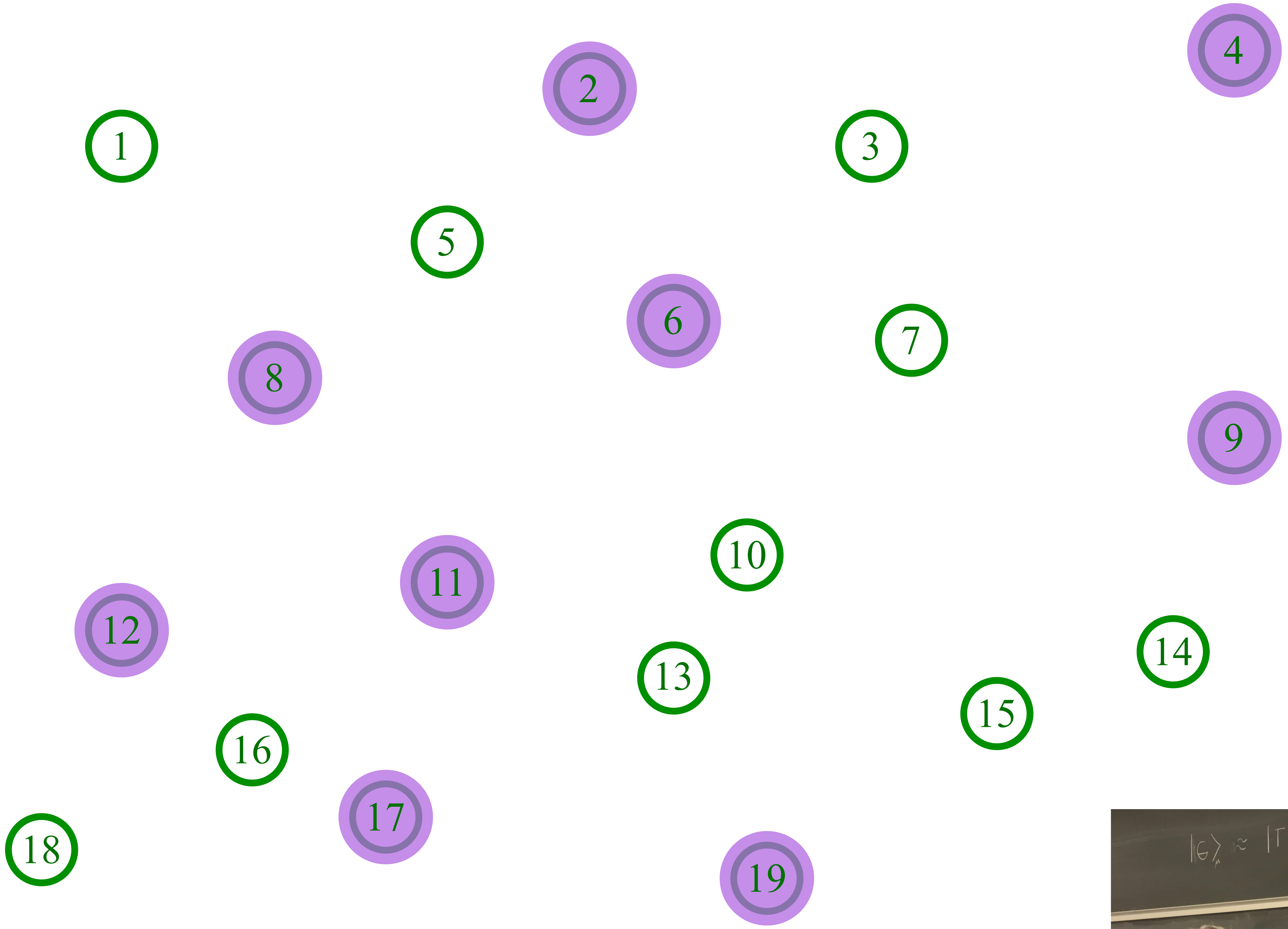
Quantum entanglement of mobile fermions

Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) liquid

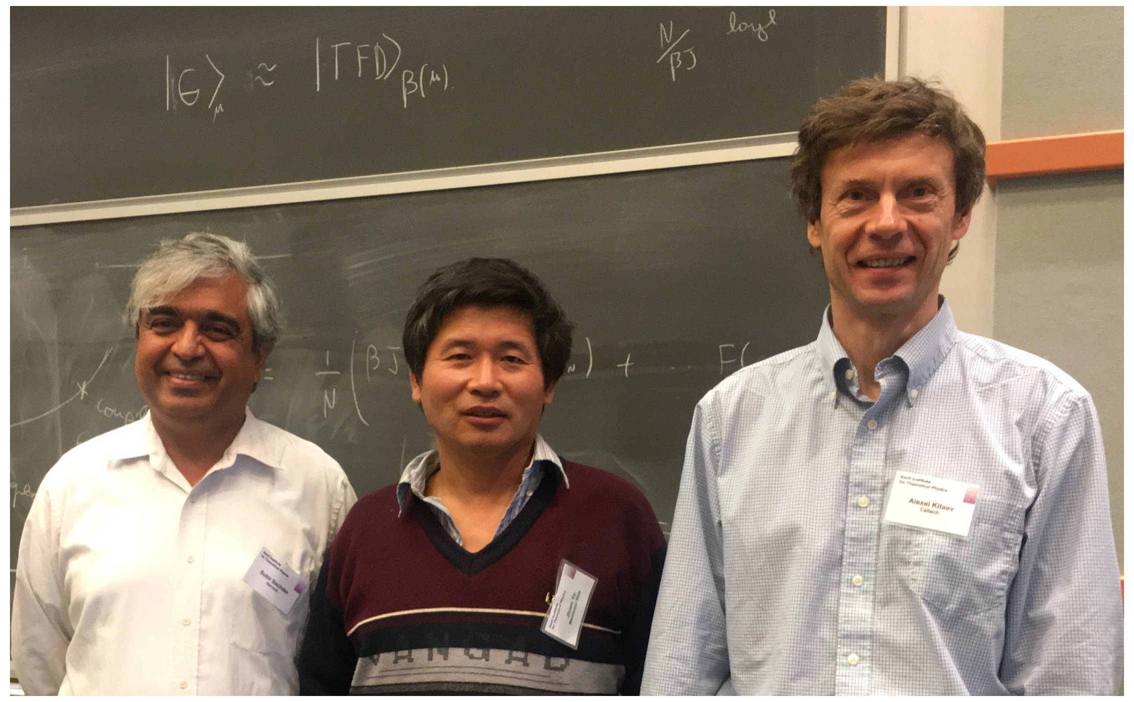
- Compressible state with no quasiparticles.
- 2D-YSYK: universal theory of strange metals applied to FL*-FL transition

The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)



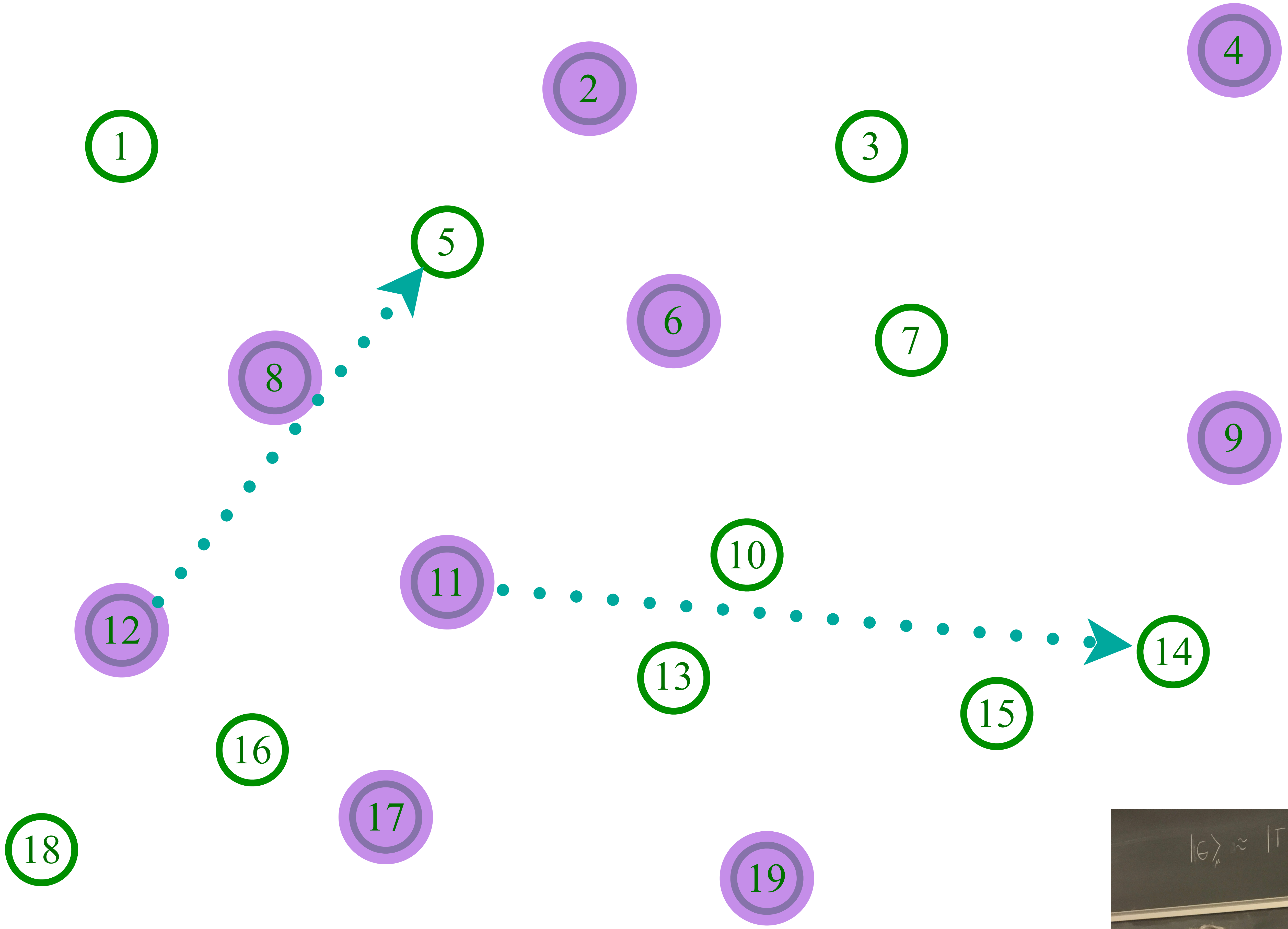
Place electrons randomly on some sites



The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)

$$U_{11,12;5,14}$$



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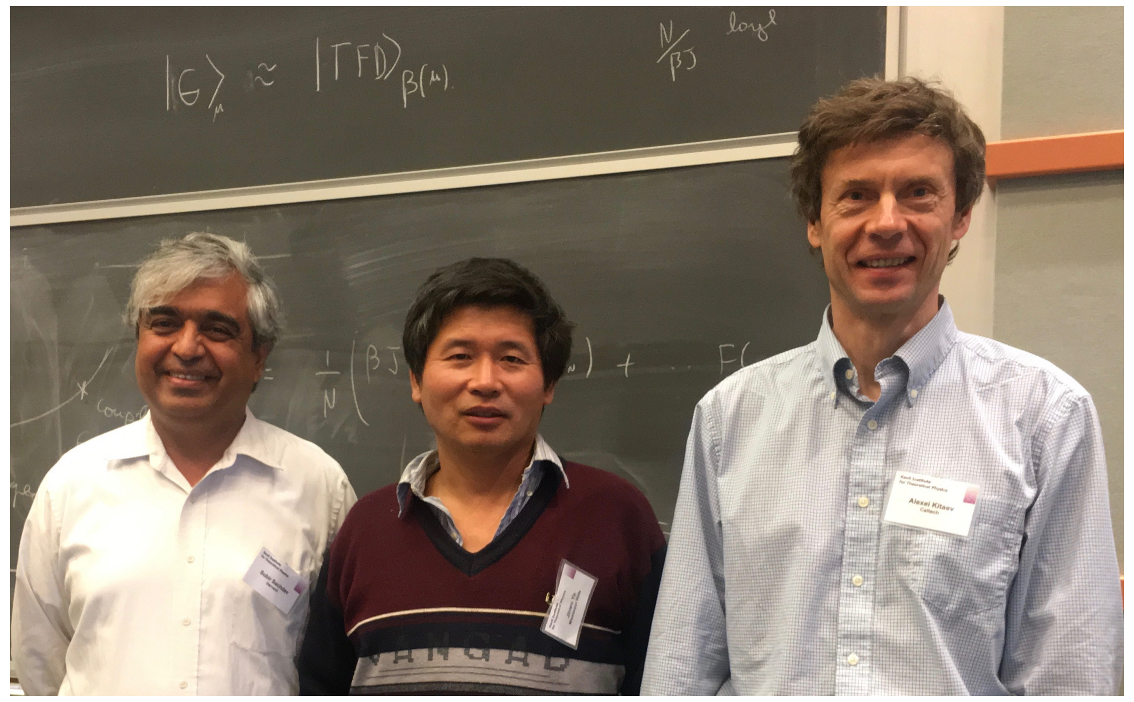

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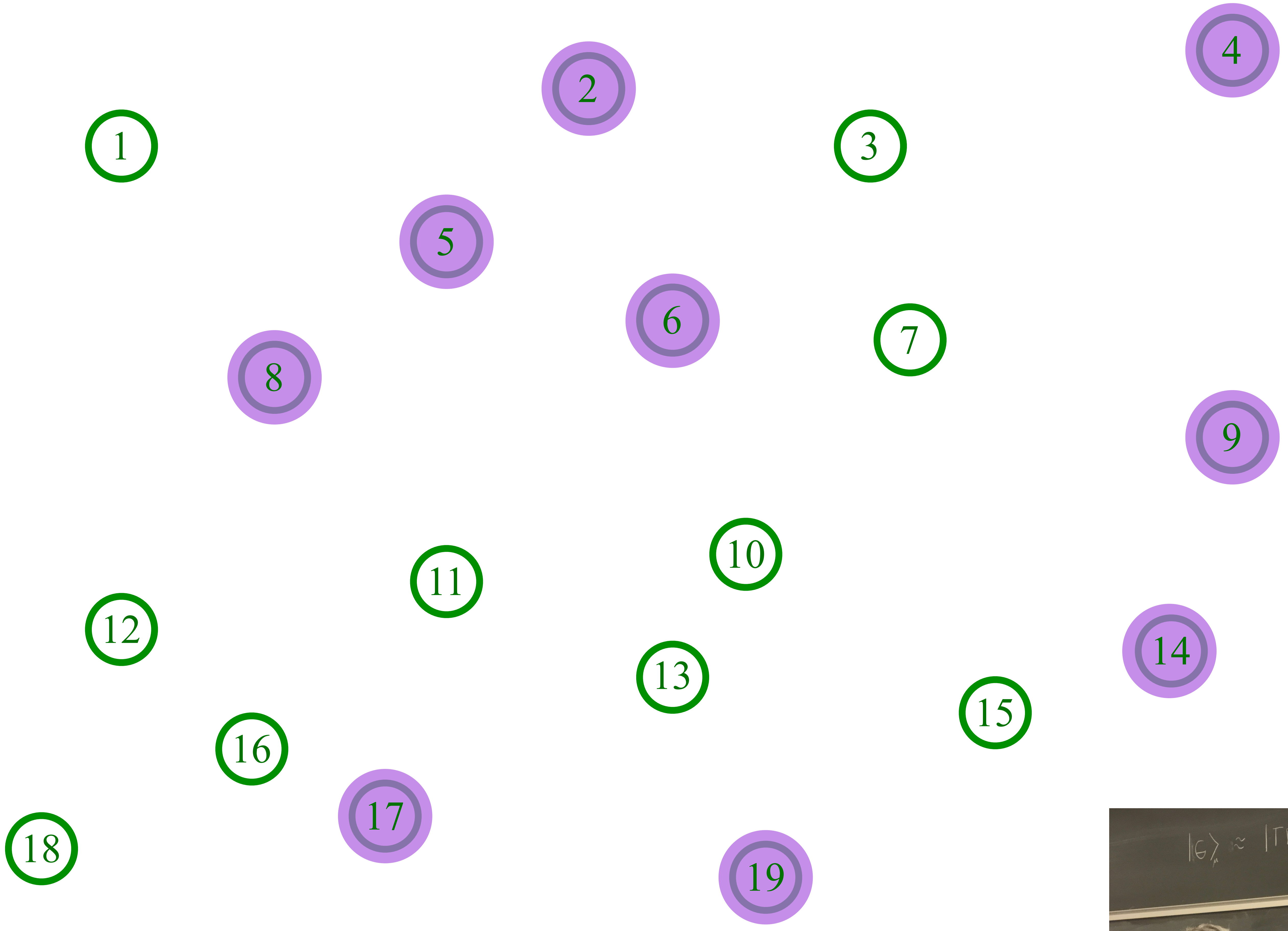
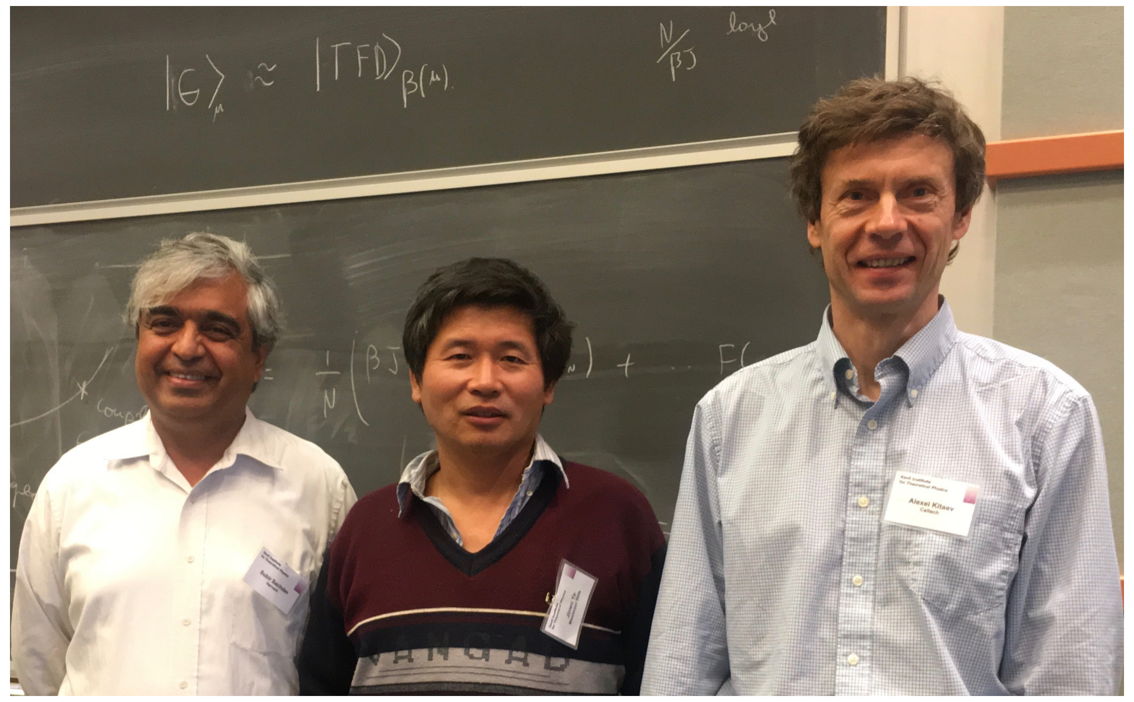
Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)

$$U_{11,12;5,14}$$



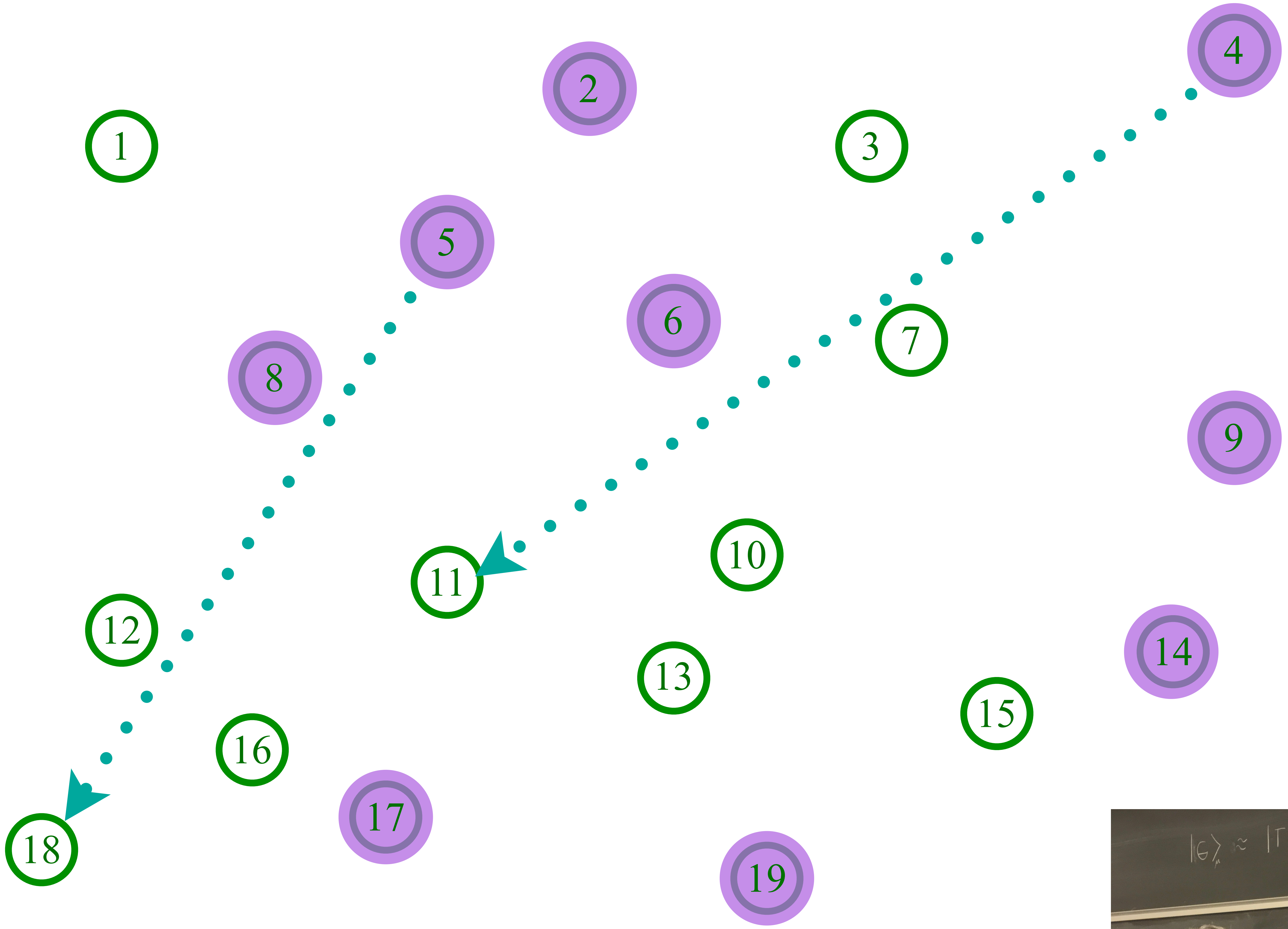
Entangle electrons pairwise randomly



The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)

$$U_{4,5;11,18}$$



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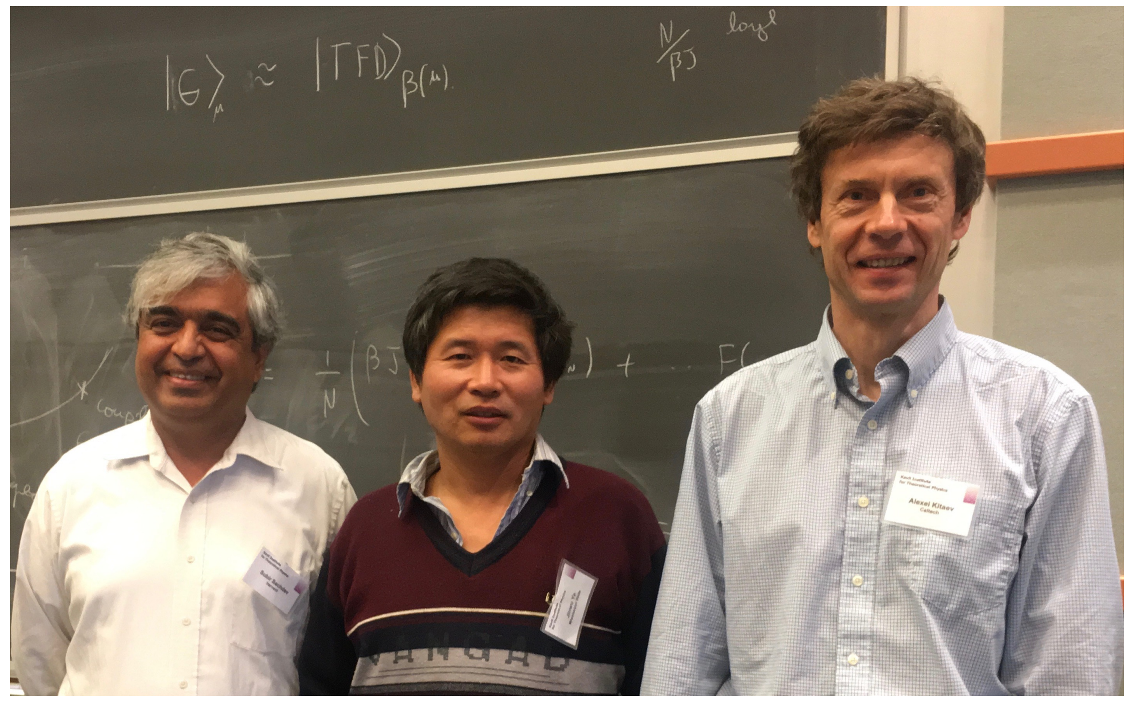
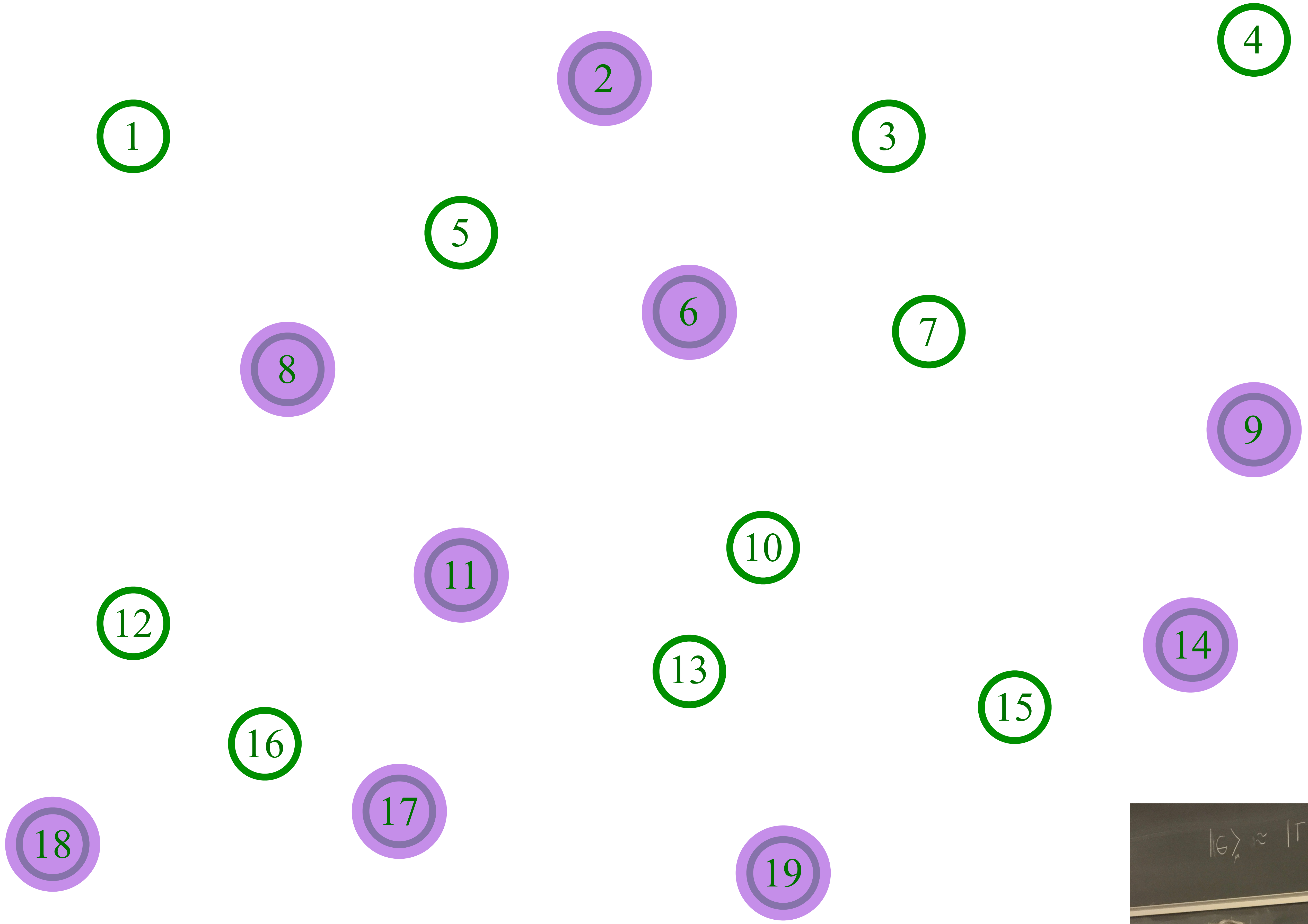


The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)

$$U_{4,5;11,18}$$



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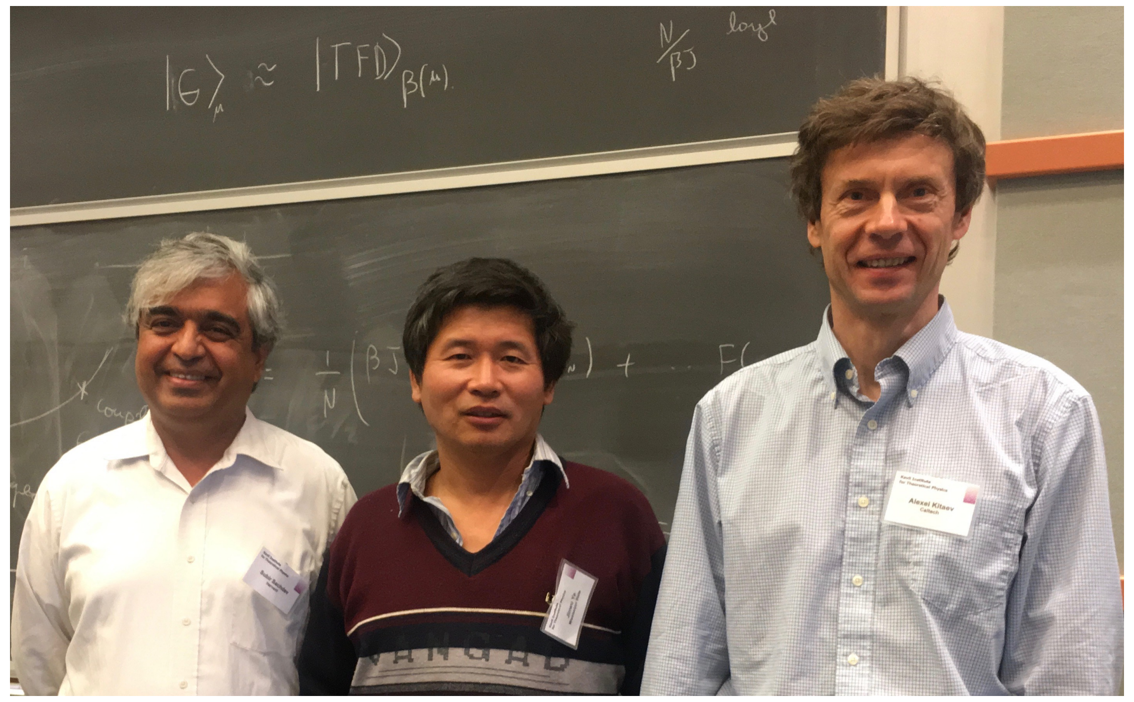
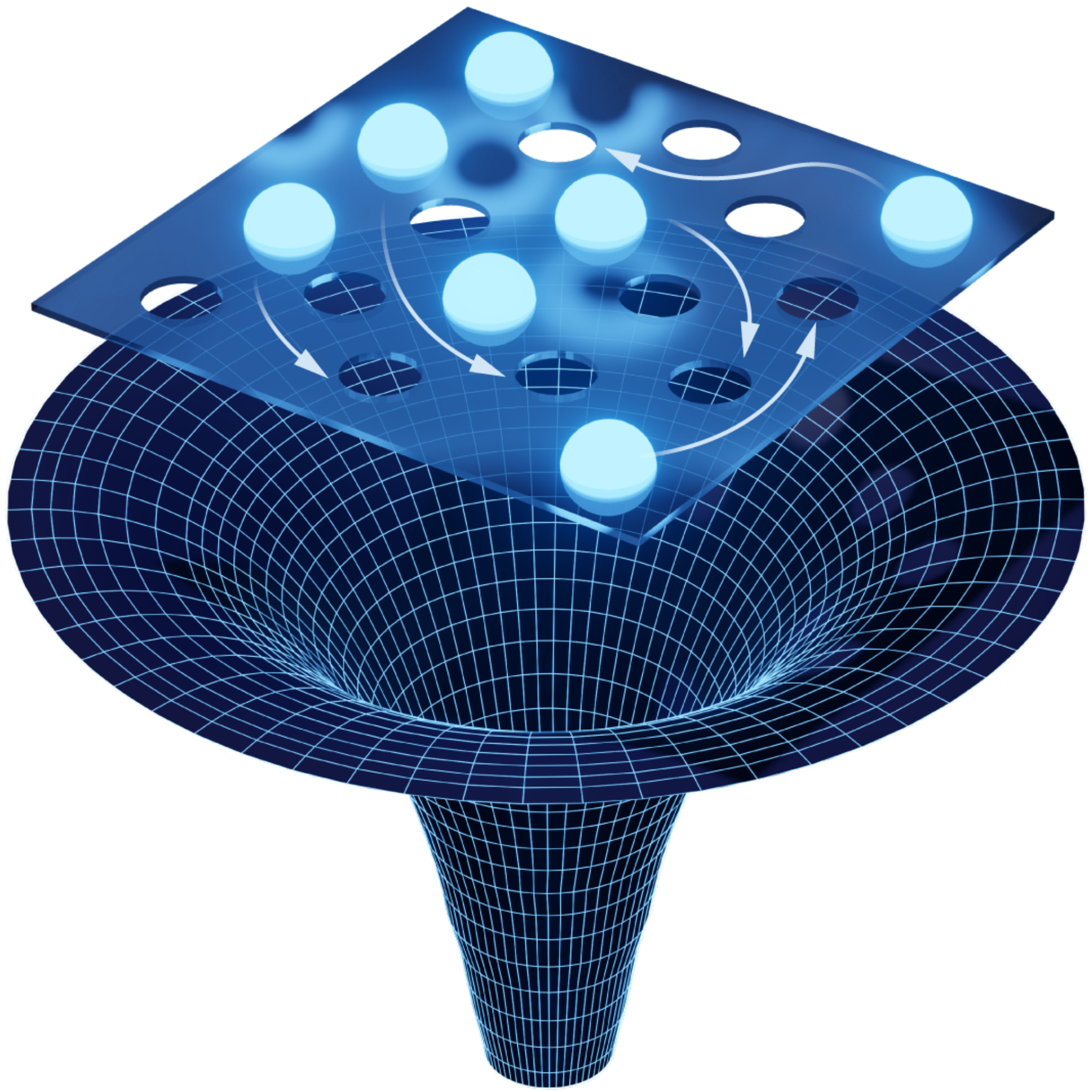


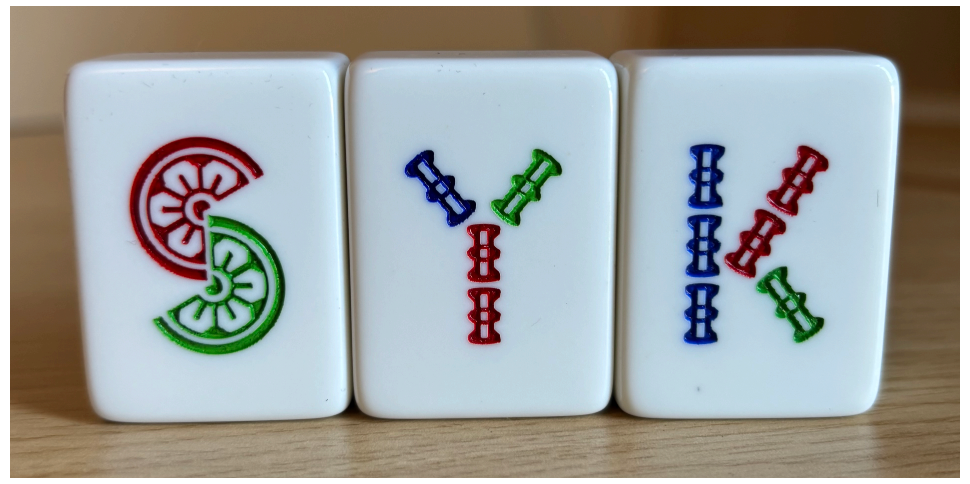
The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)

Solvable models of multi-particle quantum entanglement with mobile fermions.



Yields a metal whose excitations are not particle-like i.e. no bosons, fermions, anyons….



Current is carried by an "entangled quantum soup"

Yukawa-Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev model

$$\mathcal{H} = -\mu \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i + \sum_\ell \frac{1}{2}\left(\pi_\ell^2 + \omega_0^2 \Phi_\ell^2\right) + \frac{1}{N}\sum_{ij\ell} g_{ij\ell} c_i^\dagger c_j \Phi_\ell$$

with $g_{ij\ell}$ independent random numbers with zero mean.

W. Fu, D. Gaiotto, J. Maldacena, and S. Sachdev, PRD **95**, 026009 (2017)
J. Murugan, D. Stanford, and E. Witten, JHEP 08, 146 (2017)
A. A. Patel and S. Sachdev, PRB **98**, 125134 (2018)
E. Marcus and S. Vandoren, JHEP 01, 166 (2018)
Yuxuan Wang, PRL **124**, 017002 (2020)
I. Esterlis and J. Schmalian, PRB **100**, 115132 (2019)
Yuxuan Wang and A. V. Chubukov, PRR **2**, 033084 (2020)
E. E. Aldape, T. Cookmeyer, A. A. Patel, and E. Altman, PRB **105**, 235111 (2022)
Jaewon Kim, E. Altman, and Xiangyu Cao, PRB **103**, 081113 (2021)
W. Wang, A. Davis, G. Pan, Yuxuan Wang, and Zi Yang Meng, PRB **103**, 195108 (2021)
I. Esterlis, H. Guo, A. A. Patel, and S. Sachdev, PRB **103**, 235129 (2021).

Yukawa-Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev model

$$\mathcal{H} = -\mu \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i + \sum_\ell \frac{1}{2}\left(\pi_\ell^2 + \omega_0^2 \Phi_\ell^2\right) + \frac{1}{N}\sum_{ij\ell} g_{ij\ell} c_i^\dagger c_j \Phi_\ell$$

with $g_{ij\ell}$ independent random numbers with zero mean. The large N equations for the Green's functions and self energies of the fermions (G, Σ) and bosons (D, Π) are

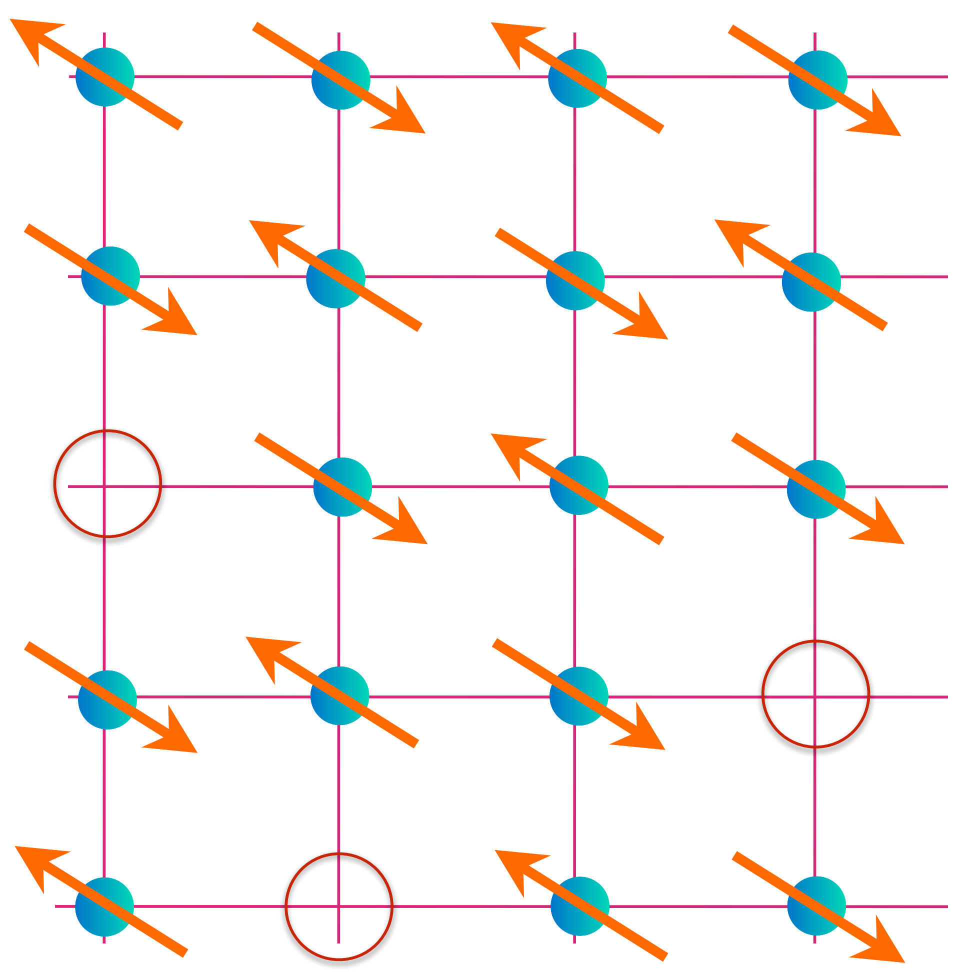
$$\boxed{\begin{array}{ccc} G(i\omega_n) = \dfrac{1}{i\omega_n + \mu - \Sigma(i\omega_n)} & , & D(i\omega_n) = \dfrac{1}{\omega_n^2 + \omega_0^2 - \Pi(i\omega_n)} \\ \Sigma(\tau) = g^2 G(\tau) D(\tau) & , & \Pi(\tau) = -g^2 G(\tau) G(-\tau) \end{array}}$$

At $T > 0$, solutions are fully characterized by a universal frequency-dependent relaxation time,

$$\frac{\hbar}{\tau(\omega)} = k_B T \, \Phi_\tau\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{k_B T}\right)$$

where Φ_τ is a known universal function.

AF Metal

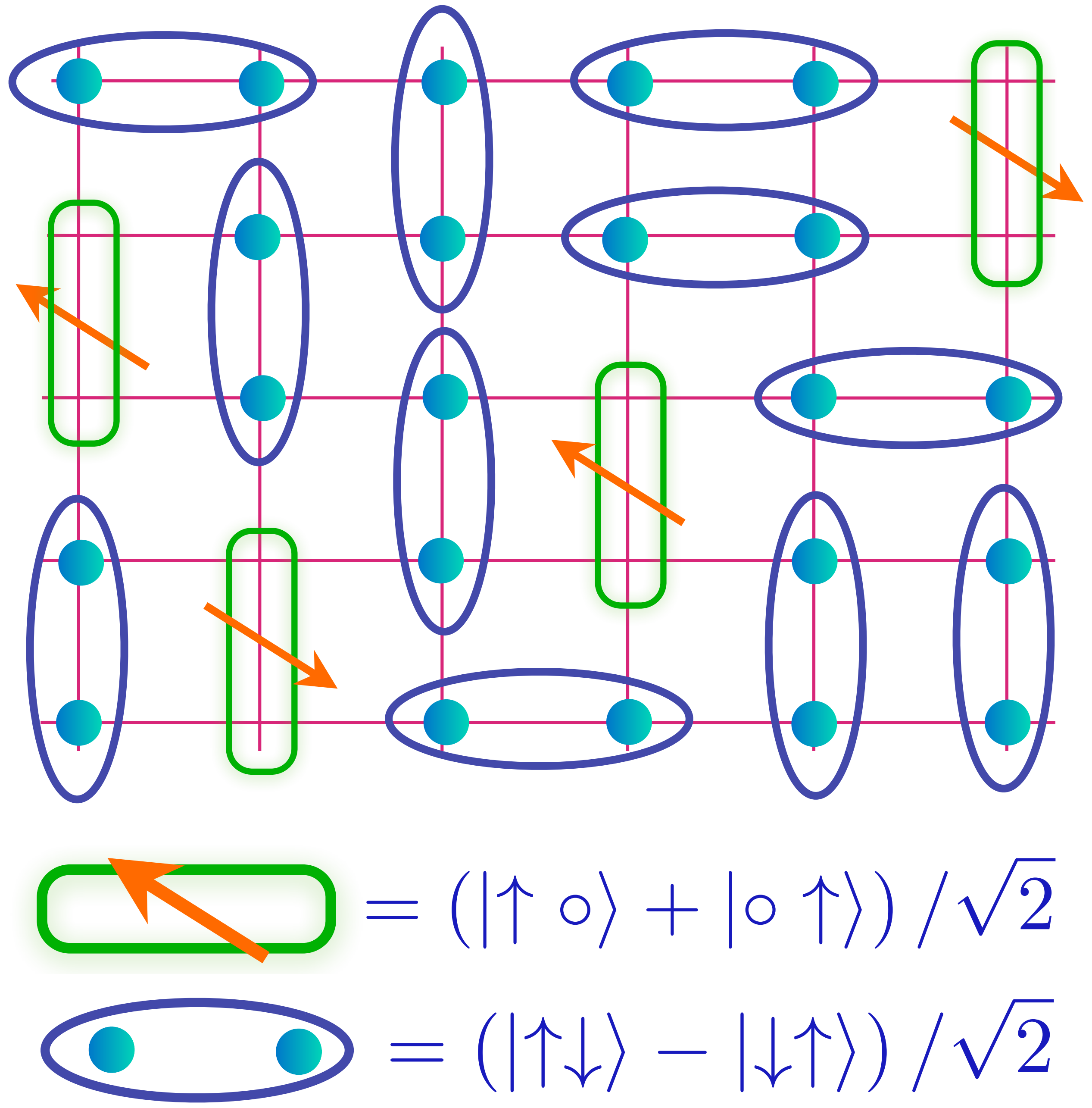


Carrier density

p

$\boxed{\langle (-1)^{\boldsymbol{r}} \boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{r}} \rangle \neq 0}$

FL*

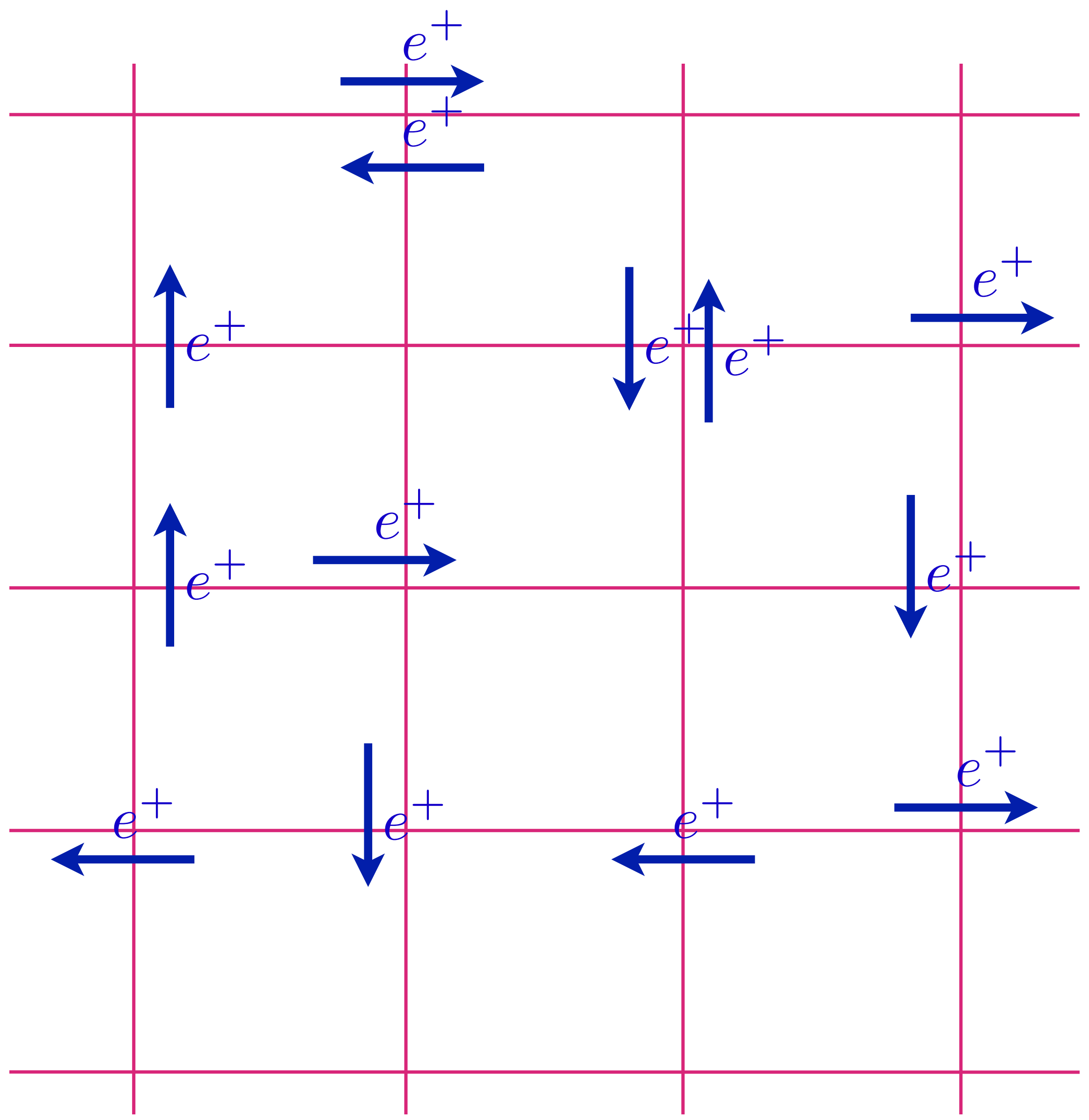


Carrier density

p

$\boxed{\langle (-1)^{\boldsymbol{r}} \boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{r}} \rangle = 0}$

FL



Carrier density

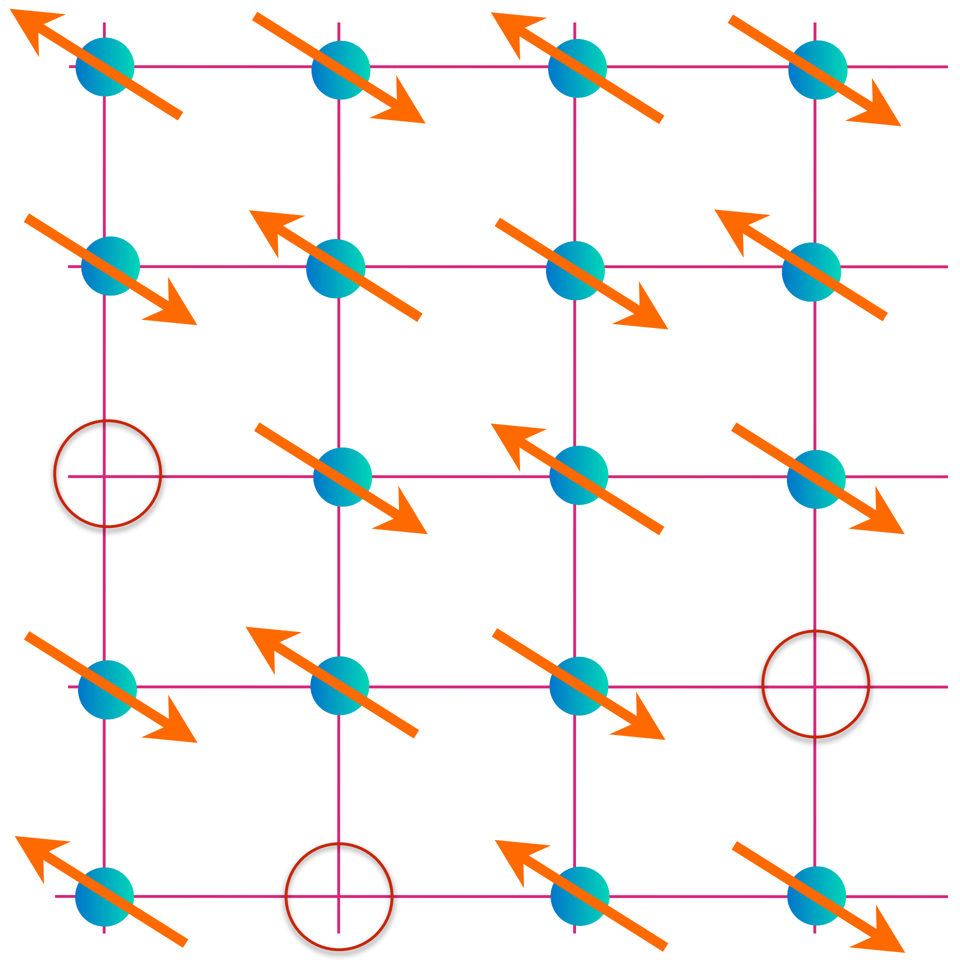
$1 + p$

Quantum phase transition between two metals (FL* and FL) at $p = p_c$, with <u>no symmetry breaking.</u>

$p_{\rm sdw}$ $\qquad$ p_c $\qquad$ p

S. Sachdev, M.A. Metlitski and M. Punk, Journal of Physics Condensed Matter **24**, 294205 (2012)

AF Metal

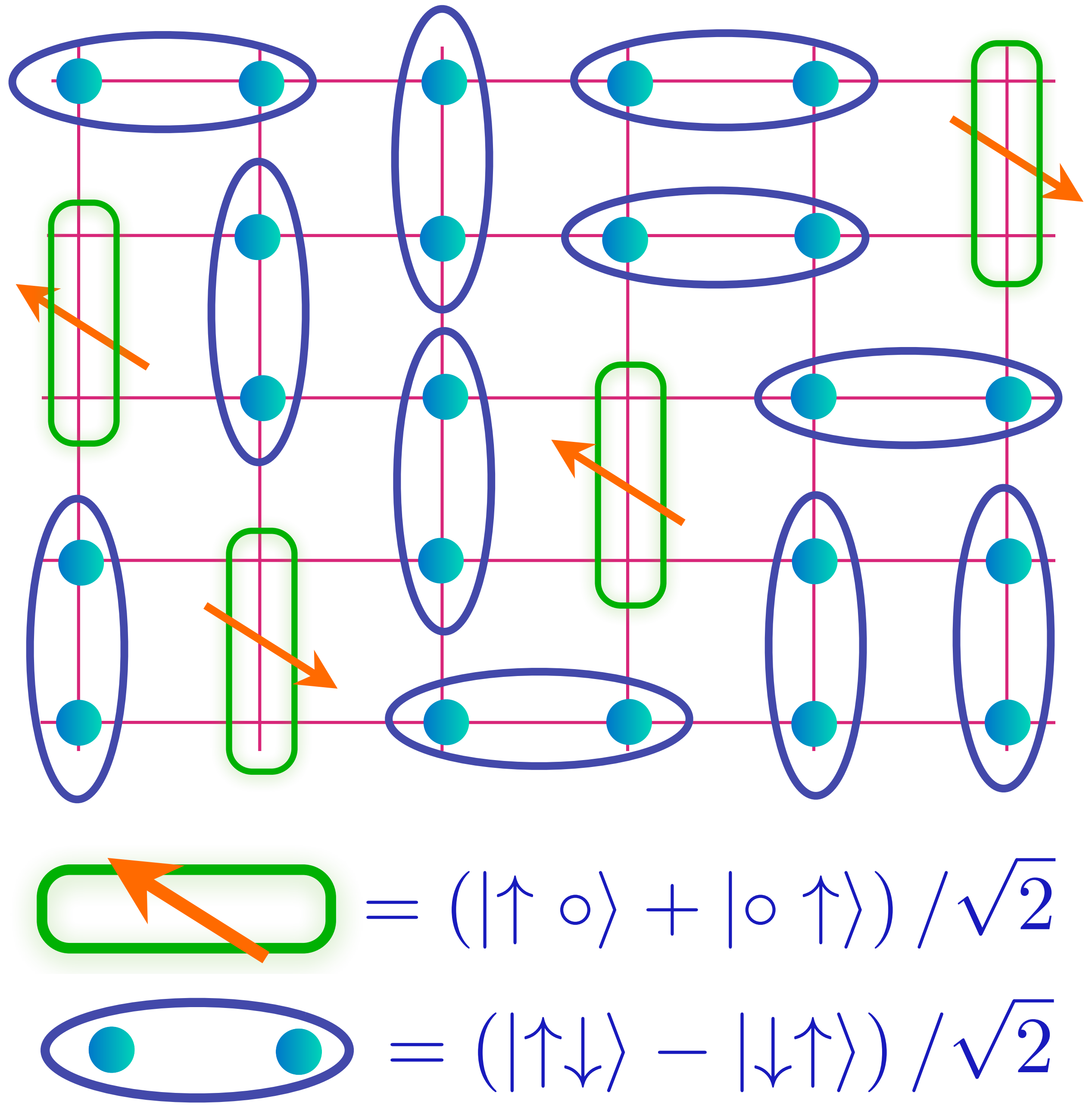


Carrier density

p

$\boxed{\langle (-1)^{\boldsymbol{r}} \boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{r}} \rangle \neq 0}$

FL*

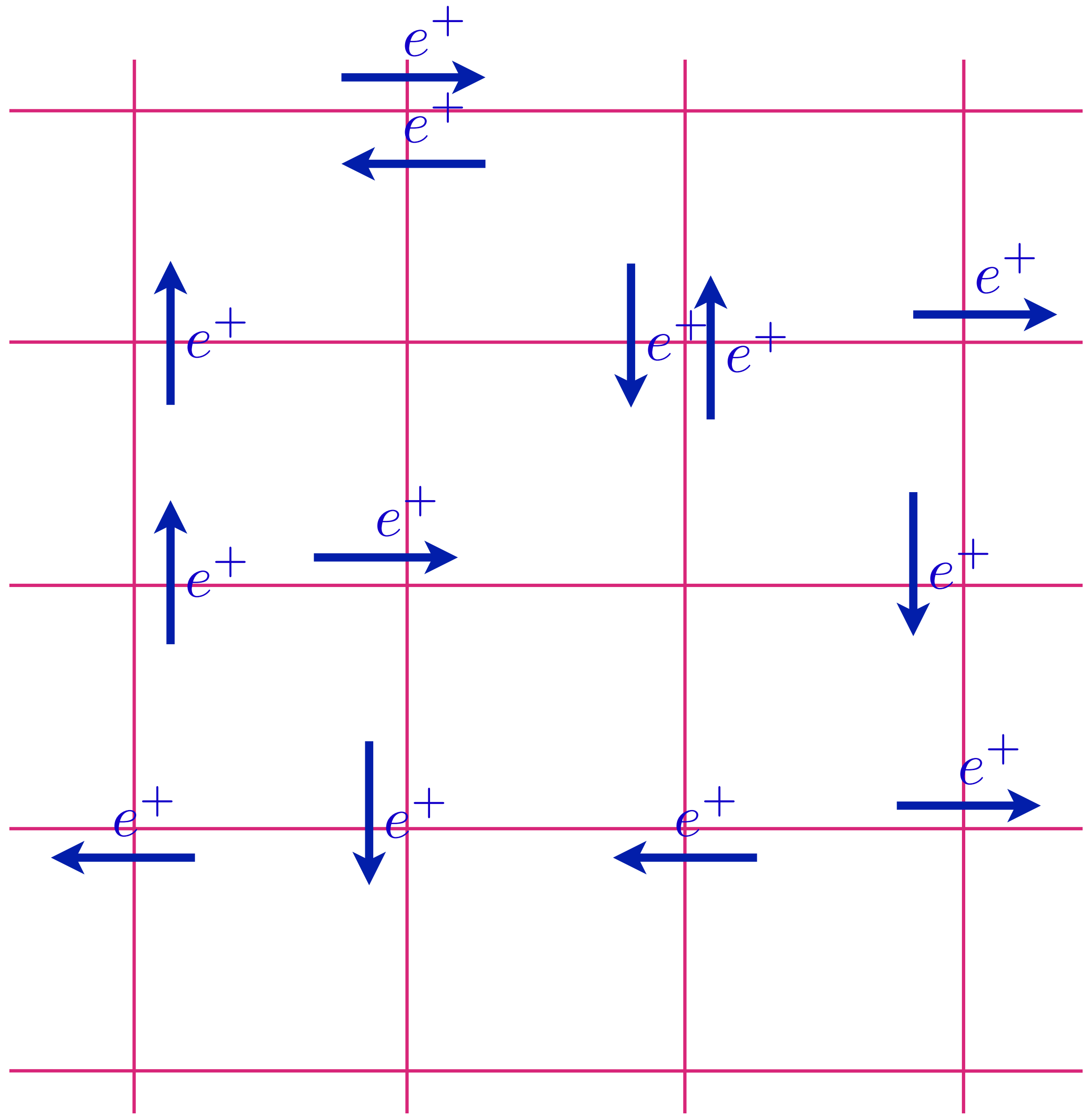


Carrier density

p

$\boxed{\langle (-1)^{\boldsymbol{r}} \boldsymbol{S}_{\boldsymbol{r}} \rangle = 0}$ $\boxed{\langle \Phi \rangle \neq 0}$

FL



Carrier density

$1 + p$

$\boxed{\langle \Phi \rangle = 0}$

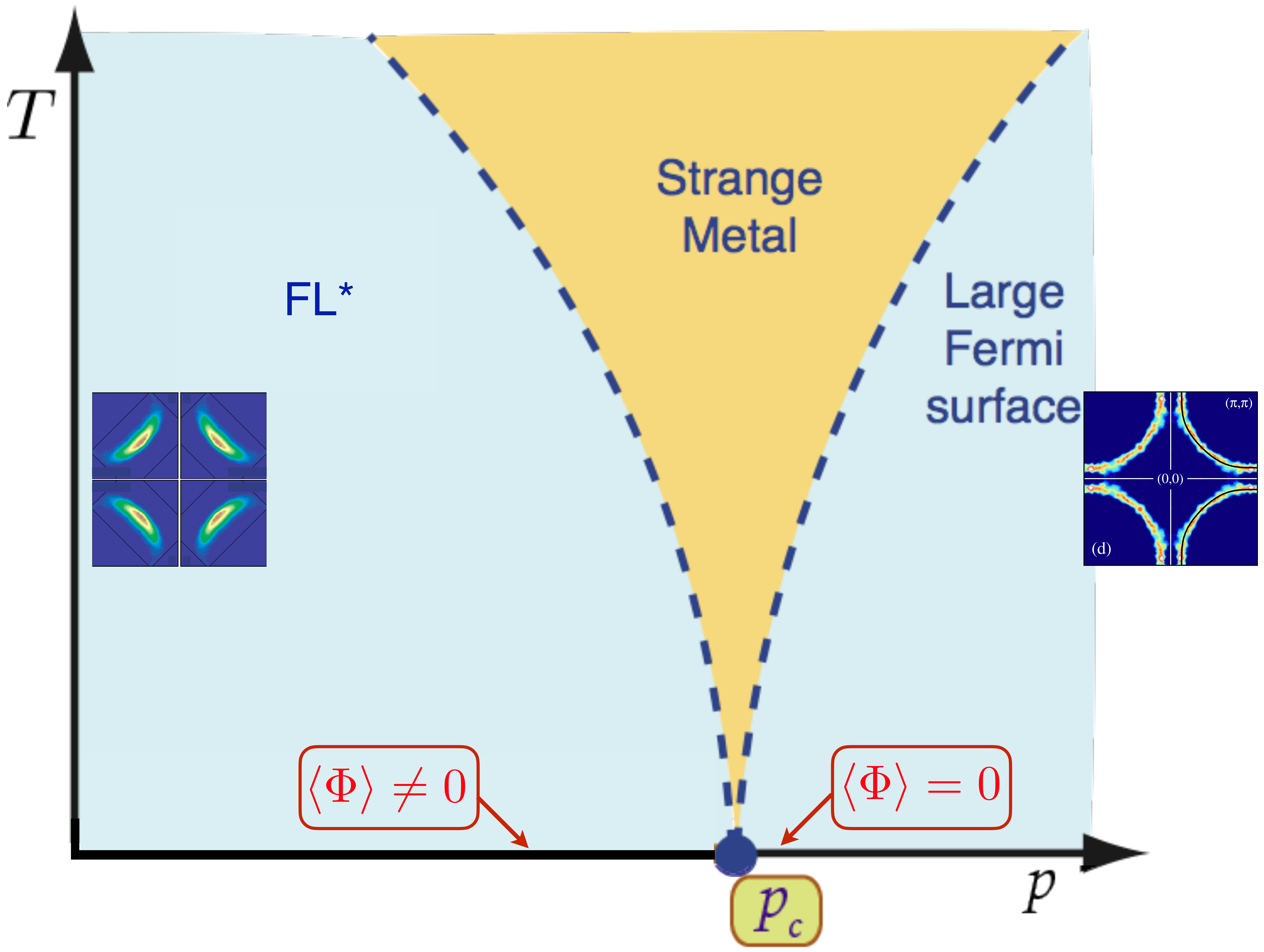
$p_{\rm sdw}$ p_c p

Quantum phase transition between two metals (FL* and FL) at $p = p_c$, with no symmetry breaking.

Described by the condensation of a *Higgs* field Φ.

S. Sachdev, M.A. Metlitski and M. Punk, Journal of Physics Condensed Matter **24**, 294205 (2012)

Ya-Hui Zhang and S. S., PRR **2**, 023172 (2020)

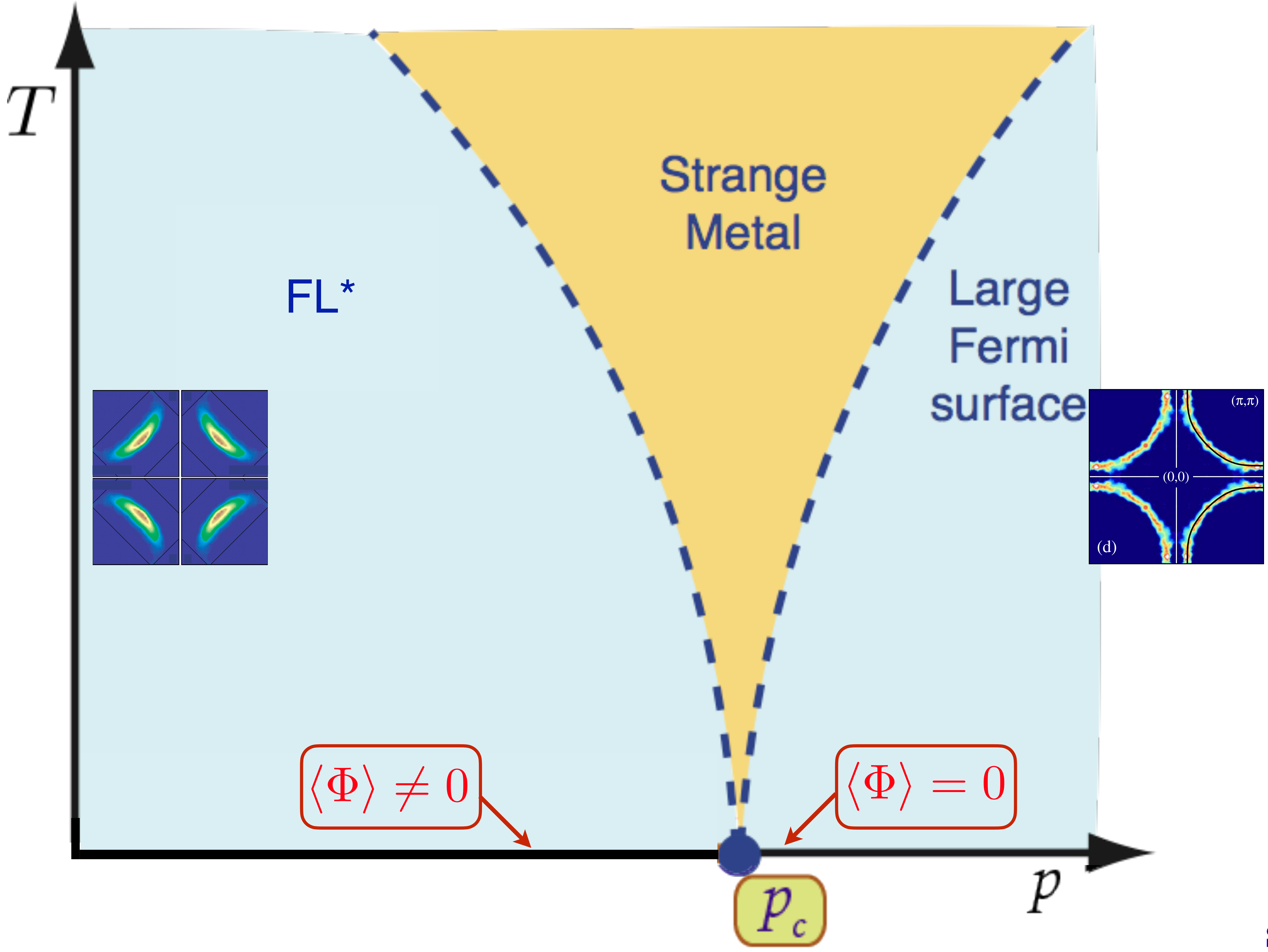


Quantum phase transition between two metals (FL* and FL) at $p = p_c$, with no symmetry breaking.

Described by the condensation of a *Higgs* field Φ.

Strange metal is obtained from the $T > 0$ quantum criticality of the FL-FL* transition, *provided* there is momentum relaxation.

Ya-Hui Zhang and S. S., PRR **2**, 023172 (2020)



Quantum phase transition between two metals (FL* and FL) at $p = p_c$, with no symmetry breaking.

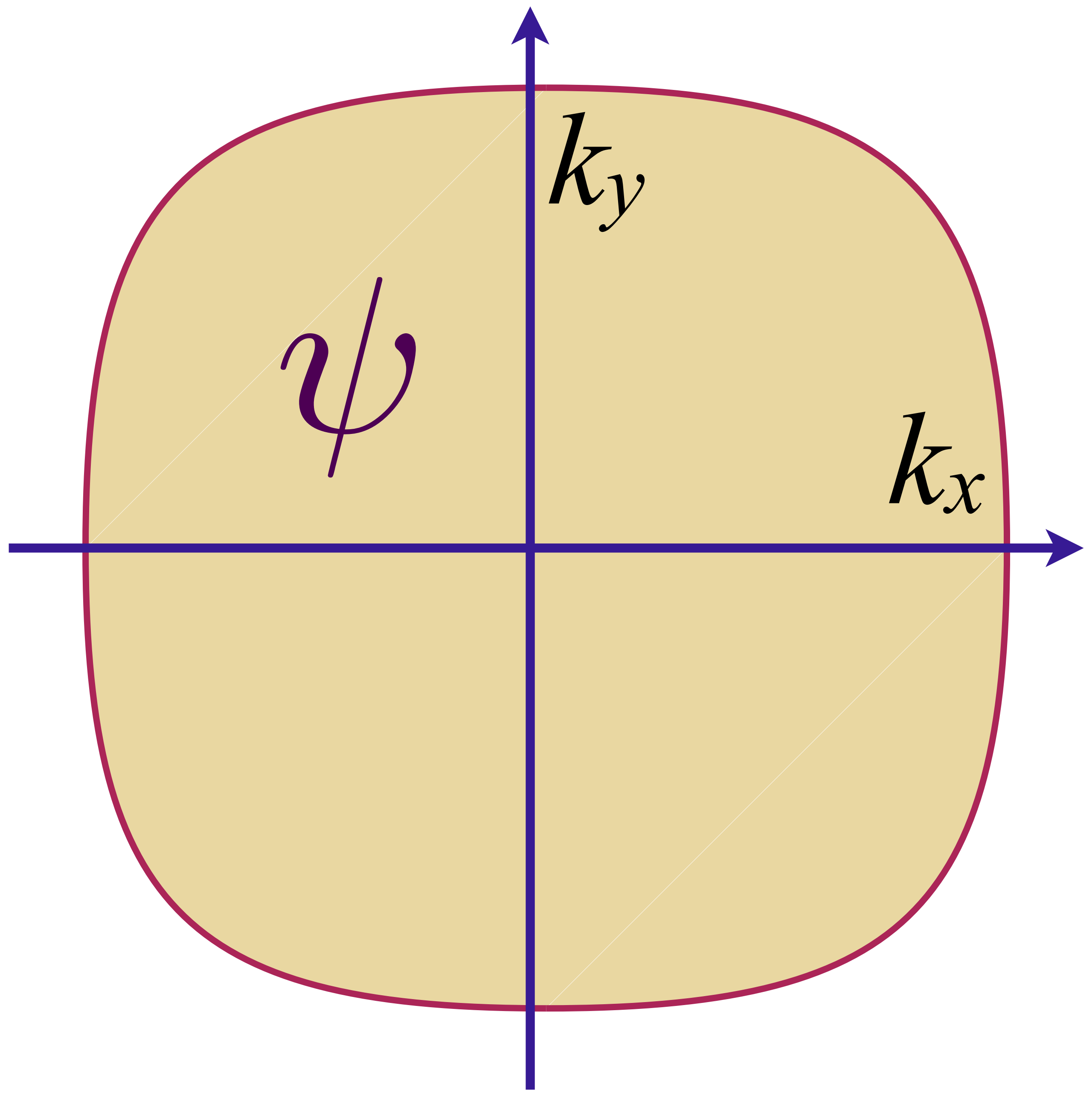
Described by the condensation of a *Higgs* field Φ.

Strange metal is obtained from the $T > 0$ quantum criticality of the FL-FL* transition, *provided* there is momentum relaxation.
At low T this requires spatial disorder.
Most relevant is Harris disorder: spatial variation in the value of p_c.

Ya-Hui Zhang and S. S., PRR **2**, 023172 (2020)

2D-YSYK model: Fermi surface + Higgs boson with interaction disorder

$$\mathcal{L} = c^\dagger_{\boldsymbol{k}\alpha}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\tau} + \varepsilon(\boldsymbol{k})\right)c_{\boldsymbol{k}\alpha} + f^\dagger_{1\boldsymbol{k}\alpha}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\tau} + \widetilde{\varepsilon}(\boldsymbol{k})\right)f_{1\boldsymbol{k}\alpha}$$



$$+ [\nabla\Phi(\boldsymbol{r})]^2 + s\,[\Phi(\boldsymbol{r})]^2 + u\,[\Phi(\boldsymbol{r})]^4$$

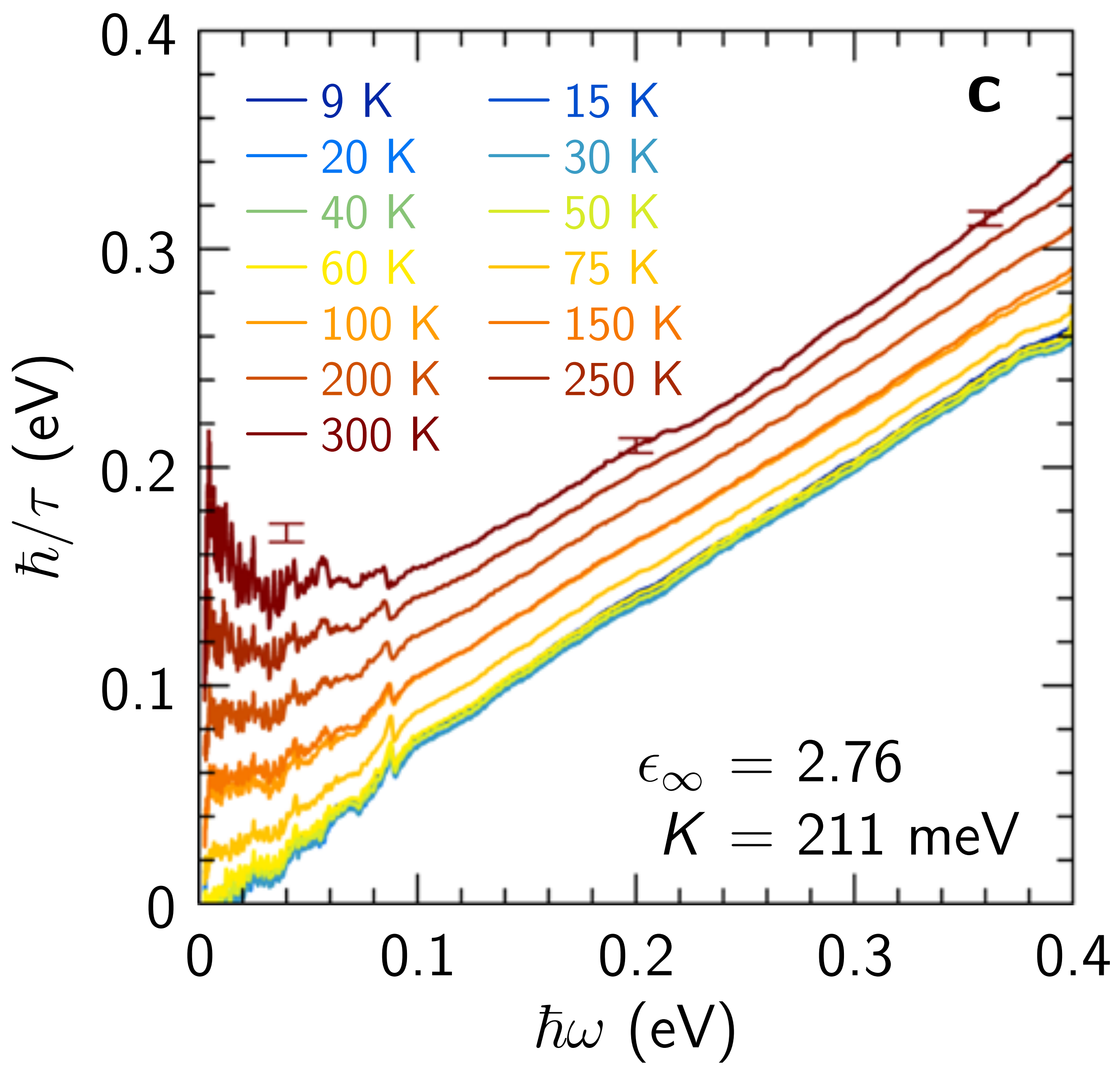
$$+ [g + g'(\boldsymbol{r})]\, c^\dagger_\alpha(\boldsymbol{r}) f_{1\alpha}(\boldsymbol{r})\,\Phi(\boldsymbol{r}) + \text{H.c.}$$

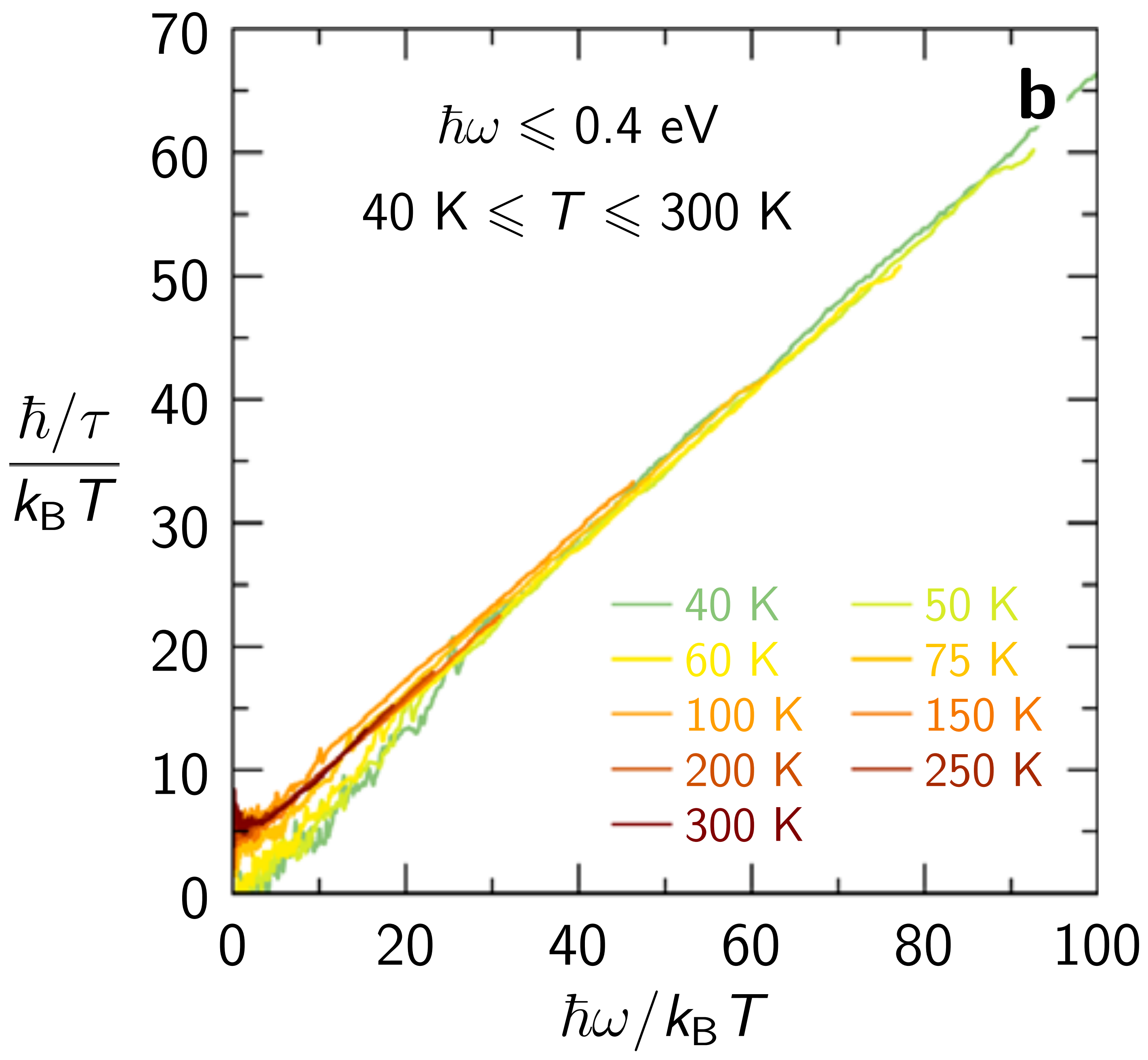
$$+ v(\boldsymbol{r}) c^\dagger_\alpha(\boldsymbol{r}) c_\alpha(\boldsymbol{r})$$

Φ^2 "mass" disorder $s \to s + \delta s(\boldsymbol{r})$ is strongly relevant; rescale Φ to move disorder to the Yukawa coupling.

Spatially random Yukawa coupling $g'(\boldsymbol{r})$ with $\overline{g'(\boldsymbol{r})} = 0$, $\overline{g'(\boldsymbol{r})g'(\boldsymbol{r}')} = g'^2\delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}')$

Spatially random potential $v(\boldsymbol{r})$ with $\overline{v(\boldsymbol{r})} = 0$, $\overline{v(\boldsymbol{r})v(\boldsymbol{r}')} = v^2\delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}')$

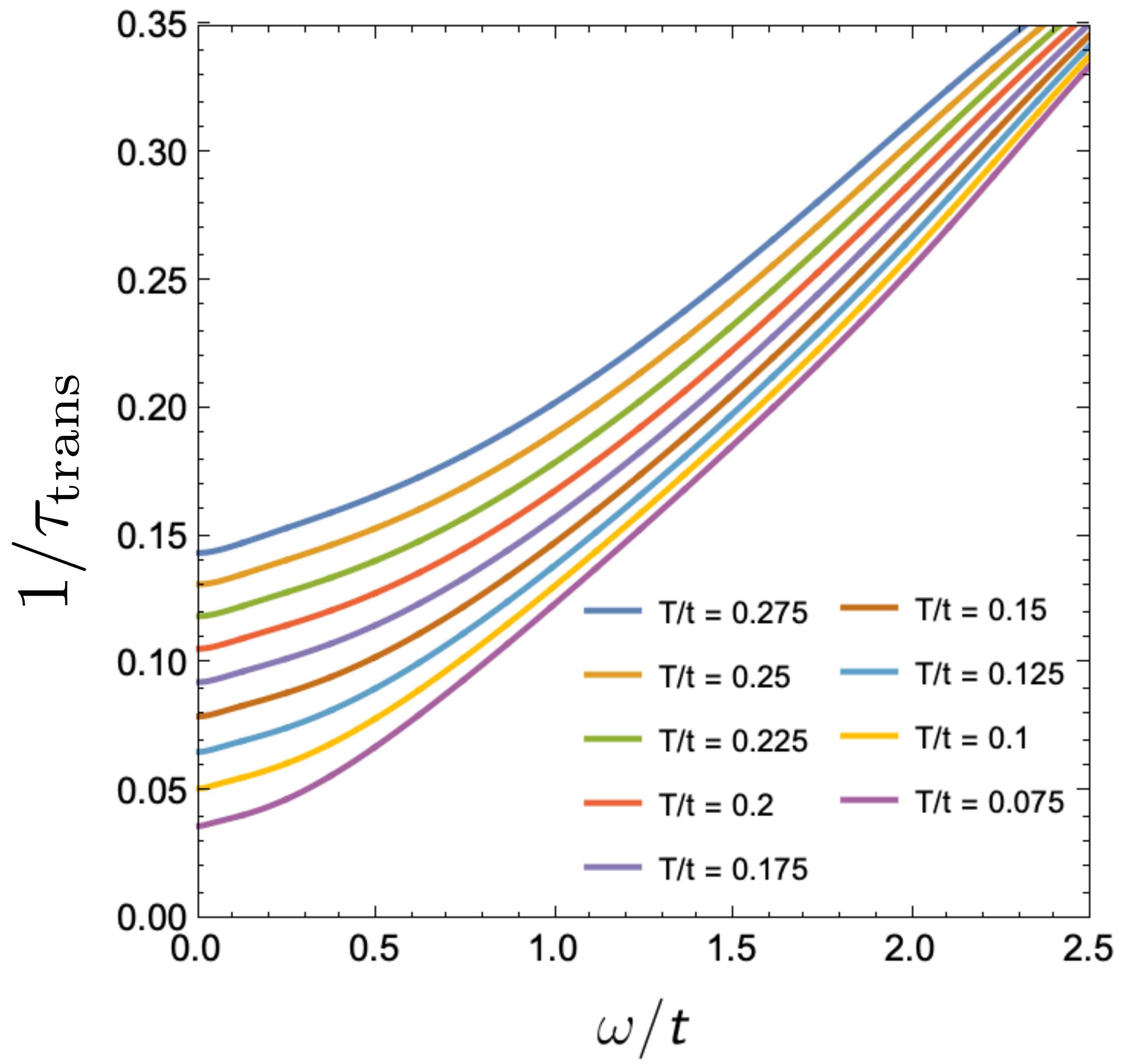


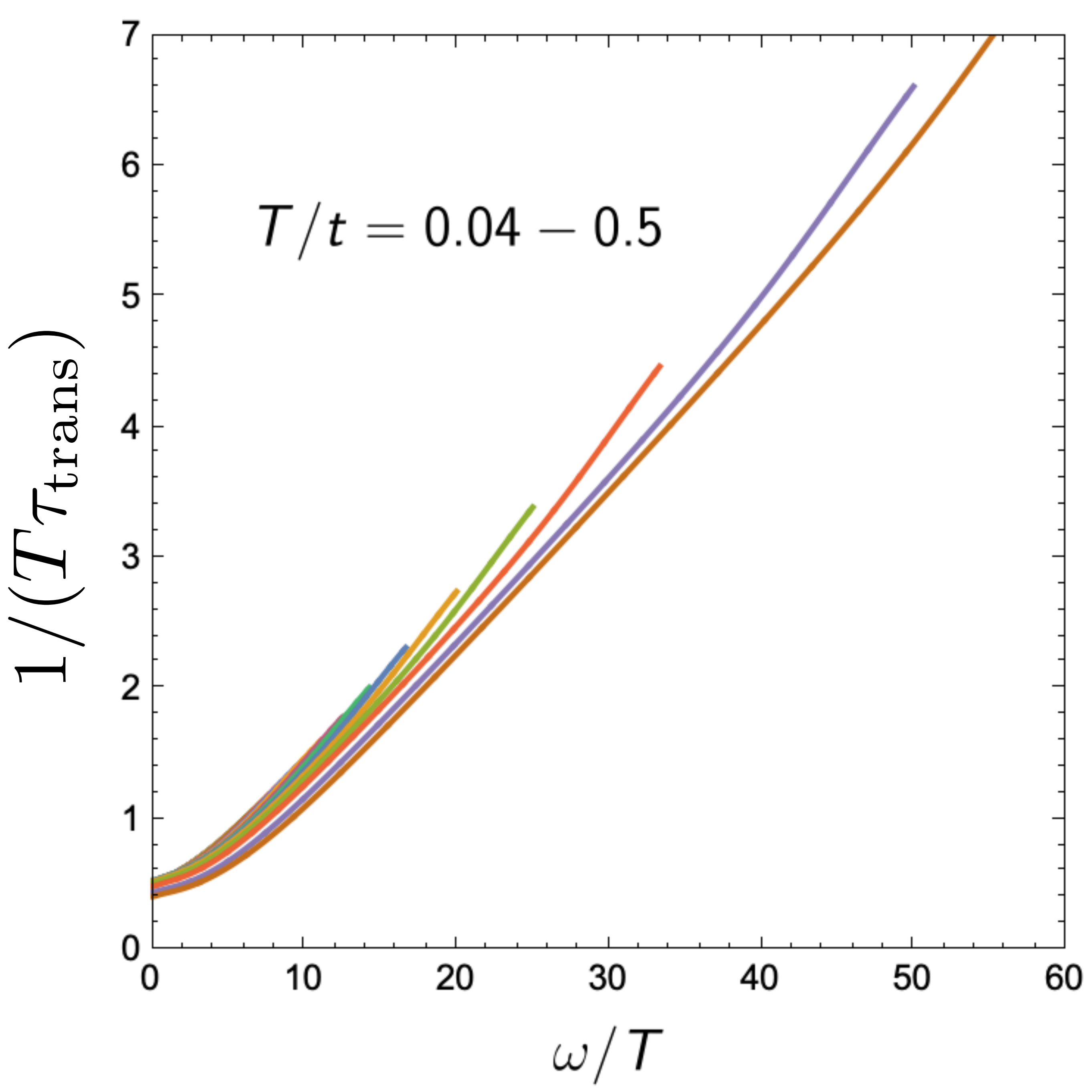


$$\sigma(\omega) = i\frac{e^2K/(\hbar d_c)}{\hbar\omega\dfrac{m^*(\omega)}{m} + i\dfrac{\hbar}{\tau(\omega)}}$$

From optical conductivity data of Michon et al. (2023)

$$\frac{\hbar}{\tau(\omega)} = k_B T\,\Phi_\tau\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{k_B T}\right)$$



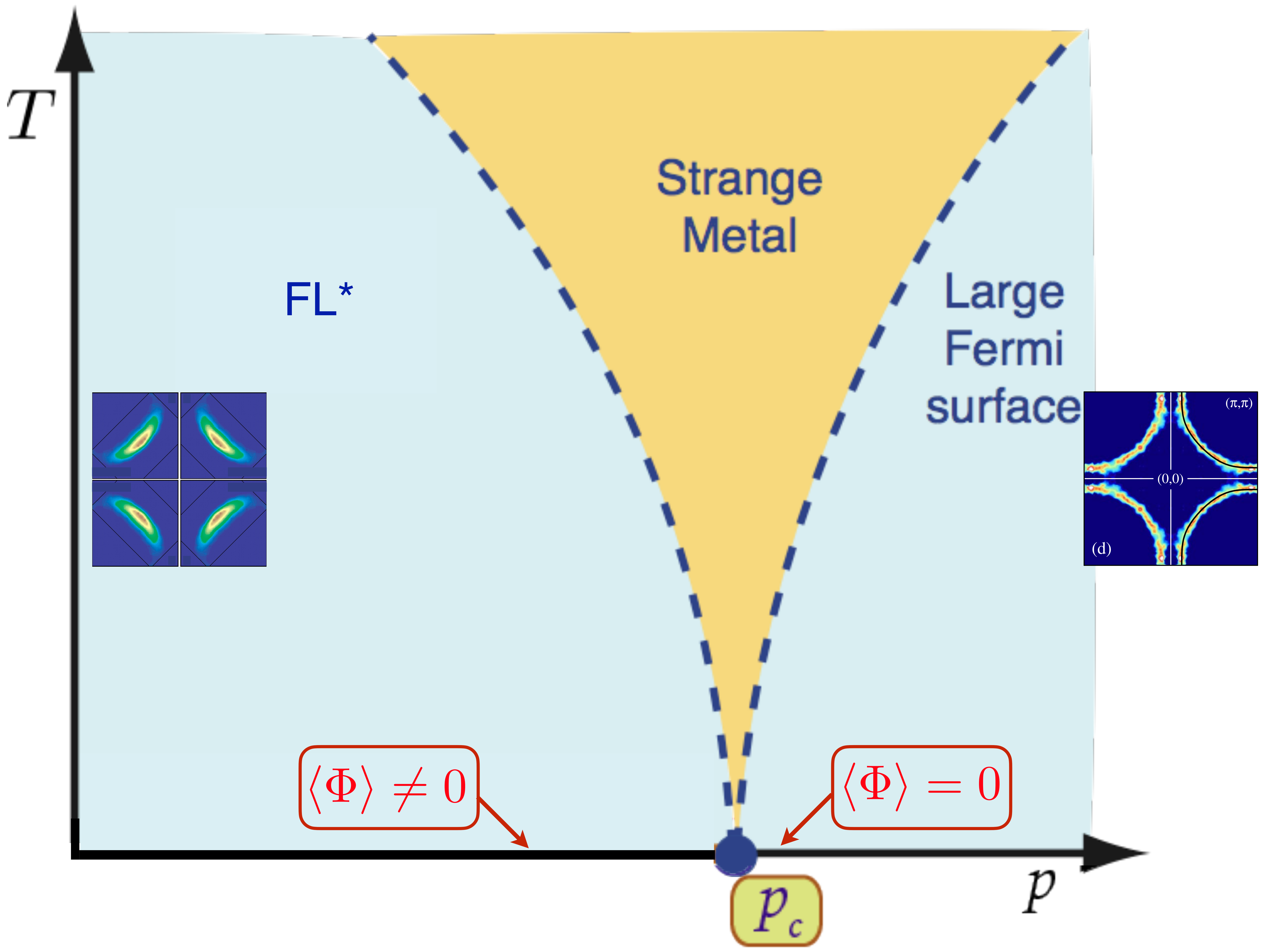


2d-YSYK theory

Aavishkar A. Patel, Haoyu Guo, Ilya Esterlis, S. S., *Science* **381**, 790 (2023)

Chenyuan Li, Aavishkar A. Patel, Haoyu Guo, Davide Valentinis, Jorg Schmalian, S.S., Ilya Esterlis, PRL **133**, 186502 (2024)

From FL* and FL to the d-wave superconductor

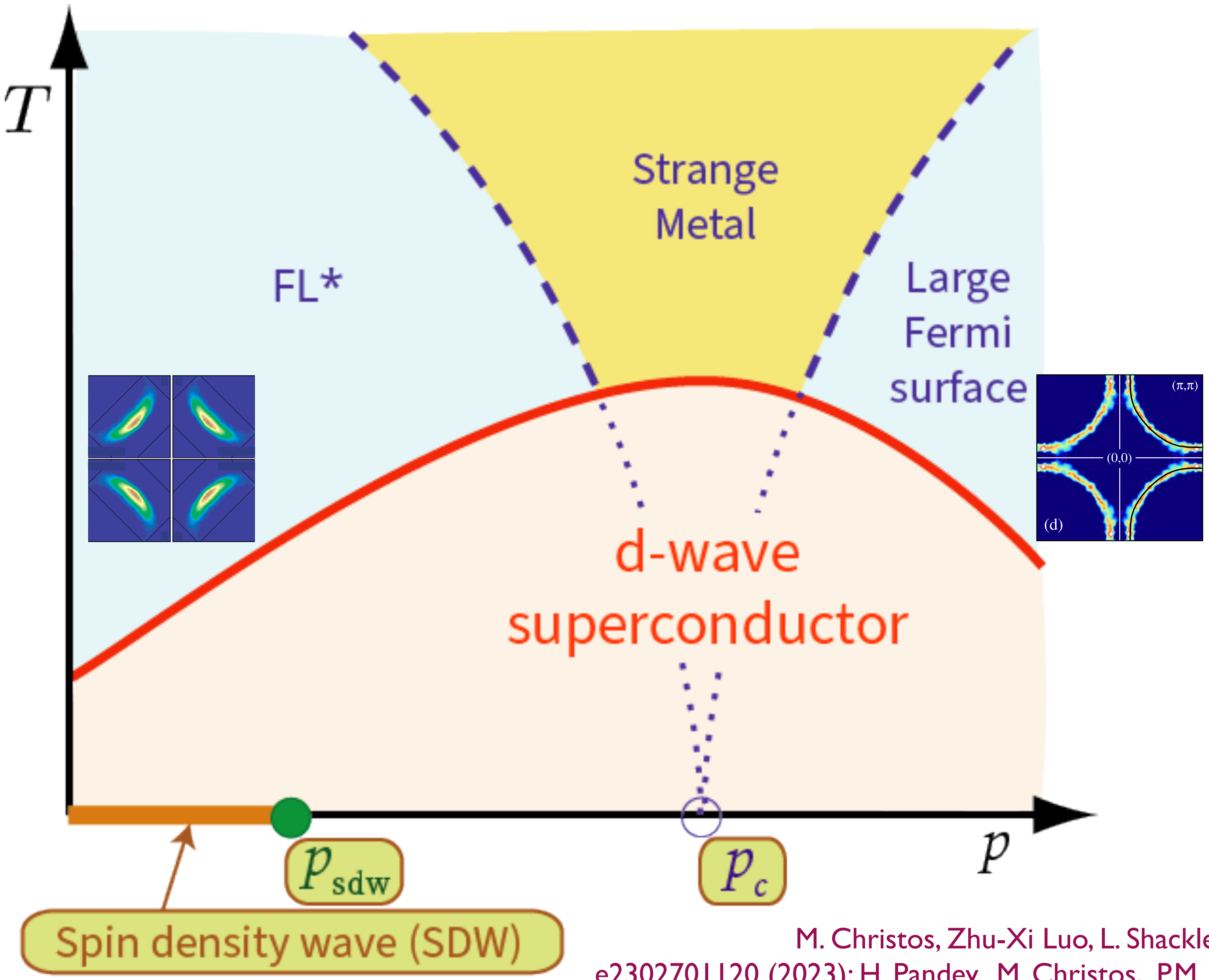


Quantum phase transition between two metals (FL* and FL) at $p = p_c$, with no symmetry breaking.

Described by the condensation of a *Higgs* field Φ.

Ya-Hui Zhang and S. S., PRR **2**, 023172 (2020)

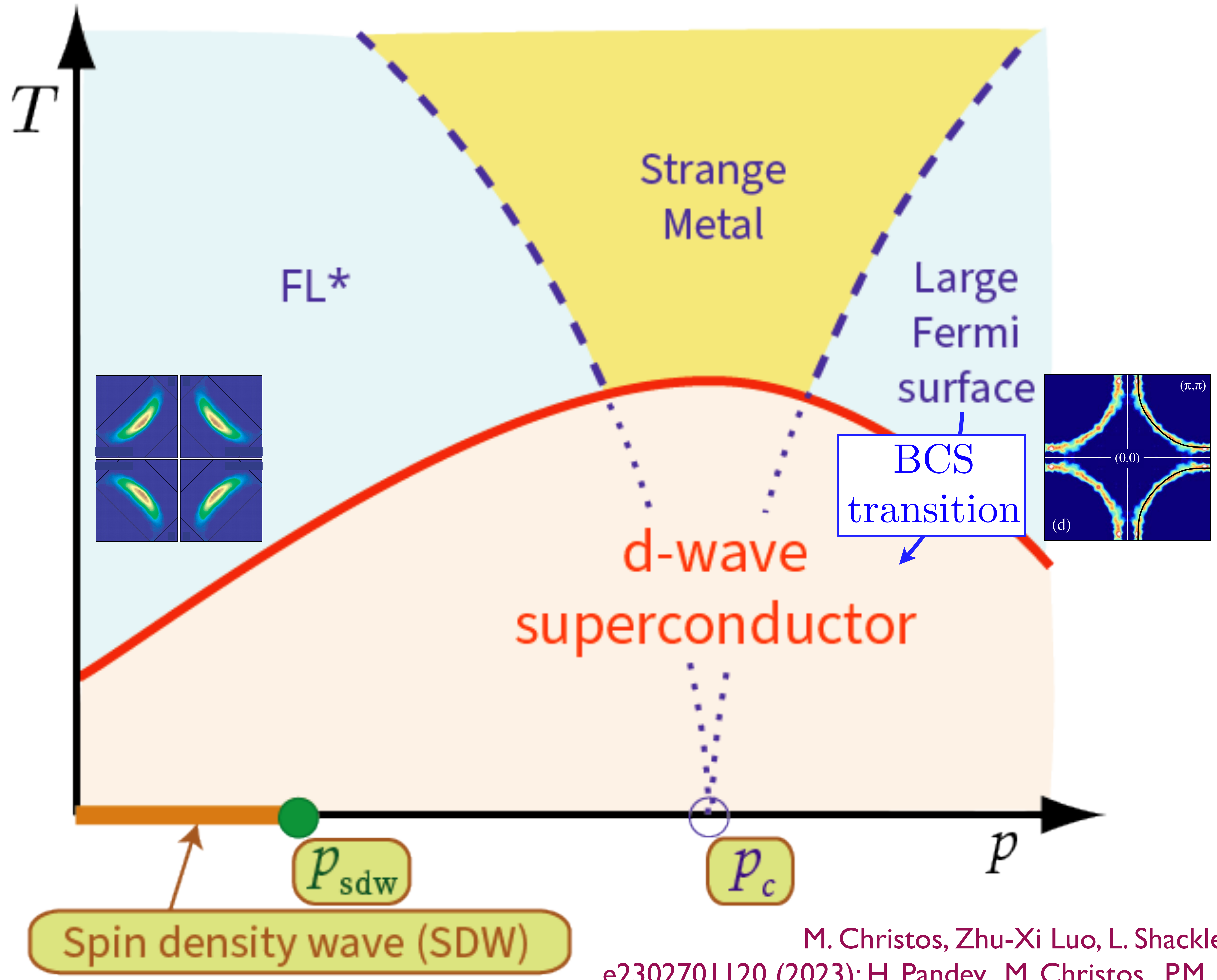
S. S., Physica Status Solidi B Basic Research **247**, 537 (2010)



Both metals lead to the same d-wave superconductor at lower temperatures, and so there is no transition at $p = p_c$ within the superconducting state.

M. Christos, Zhu-Xi Luo, L. Shackleton, Ya-Hui Zhang, M. S. Scheurer, and S. S., PNAS **120**, e2302701120 (2023); H. Pandey, M. Christos, P.M. Bonetti, R. Shanker, S. Sharma, S.S., arXiv:2507.05336

S. S., Physica Status Solidi B Basic Research **247**, 537 (2010)



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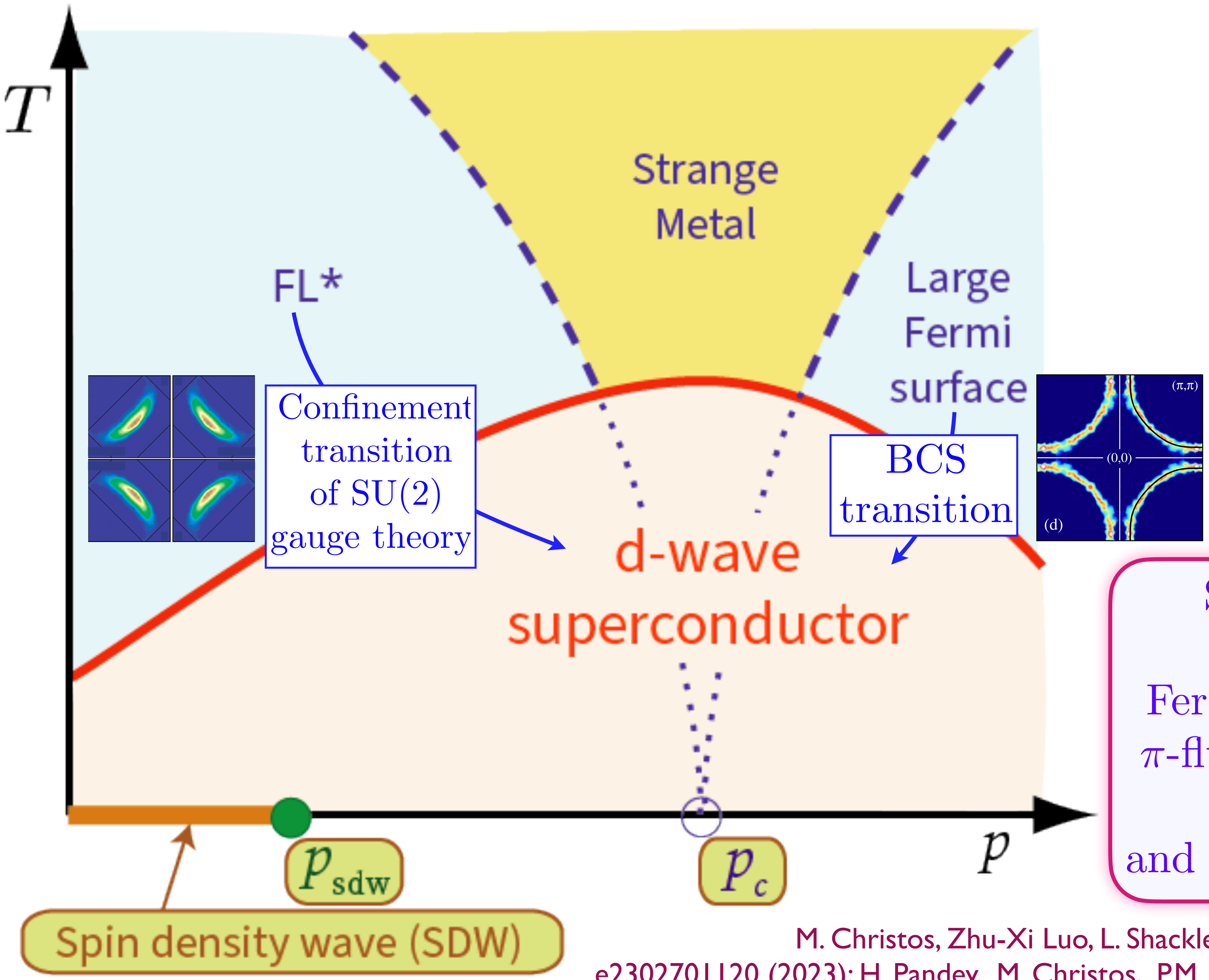
S. S., Physica Status Solidi B Basic Research **247**, 537 (2010)

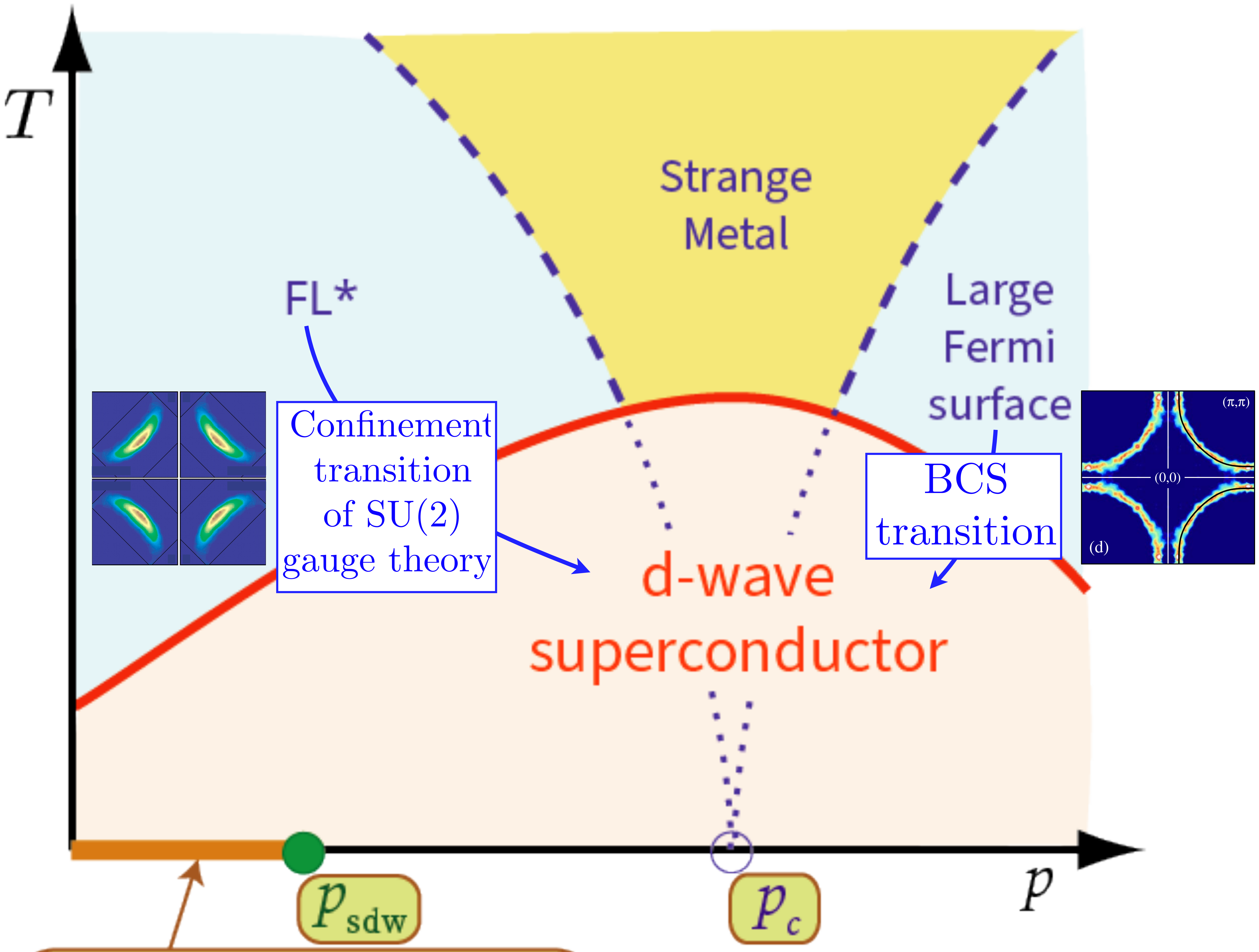


Both metals lead to the same d-wave superconductor at lower temperatures, and so there is no transition at $p = p_c$ within the superconducting state.

SU(2) gauge theory similar to Weinberg-Salam theory:
Fermionic spinons (*cf.* neutrinos) of π-flux state (Affleck-Marston, 1988),
electrons,
and SU(2) fundamental Higgs field B.

M. Christos, Zhu-Xi Luo, L. Shackleton, Ya-Hui Zhang, M. S. Scheurer, and S. S., PNAS **120**, e2302701120 (2023); H. Pandey, M. Christos, P.M. Bonetti, R. Shanker, S. Sharma, S.S., arXiv:2507.05336

S. S., Physica Status Solidi B Basic Research **247**, 537 (2010)



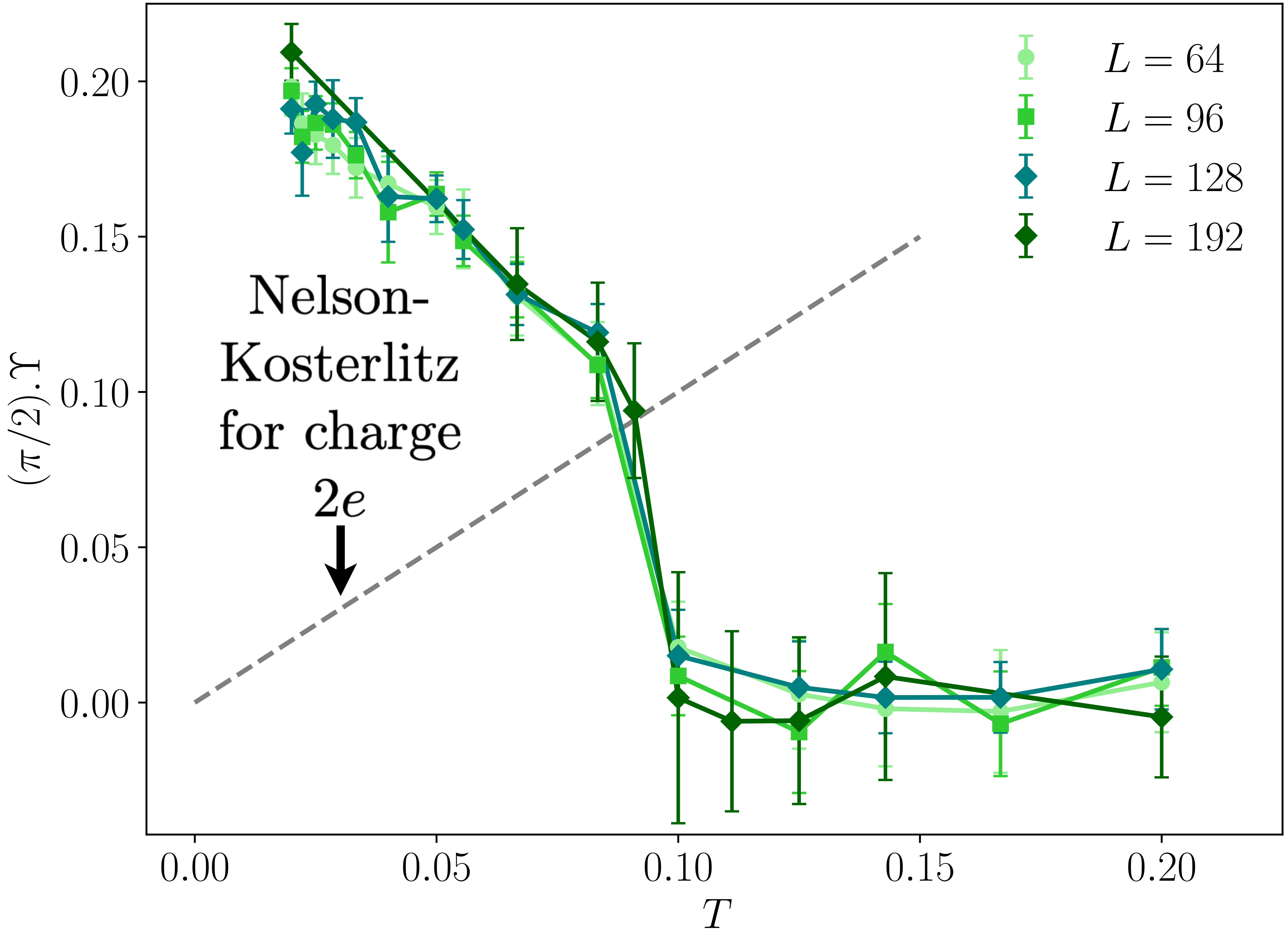
Both metals lead to the same d-wave superconductor at lower temperatures, and so there is no transition at $p = p_c$ within the superconducting state.

But electron spectra in the normal state, and vortex core structures in the superconducting state are distinct!

M. Christos, Zhu-Xi Luo, L. Shackleton, Ya-Hui Zhang, M. S. Scheurer, and S. S., PNAS **120**, e2302701120 (2023); H. Pandey, M. Christos, P.M. Bonetti, R. Shanker, S. Sharma, S.S., arXiv:2507.05336

- Classical thermal ensemble of charge e Higgs boson B and SU(2) gauge field U.

$\Upsilon =$ Helicity Modulus



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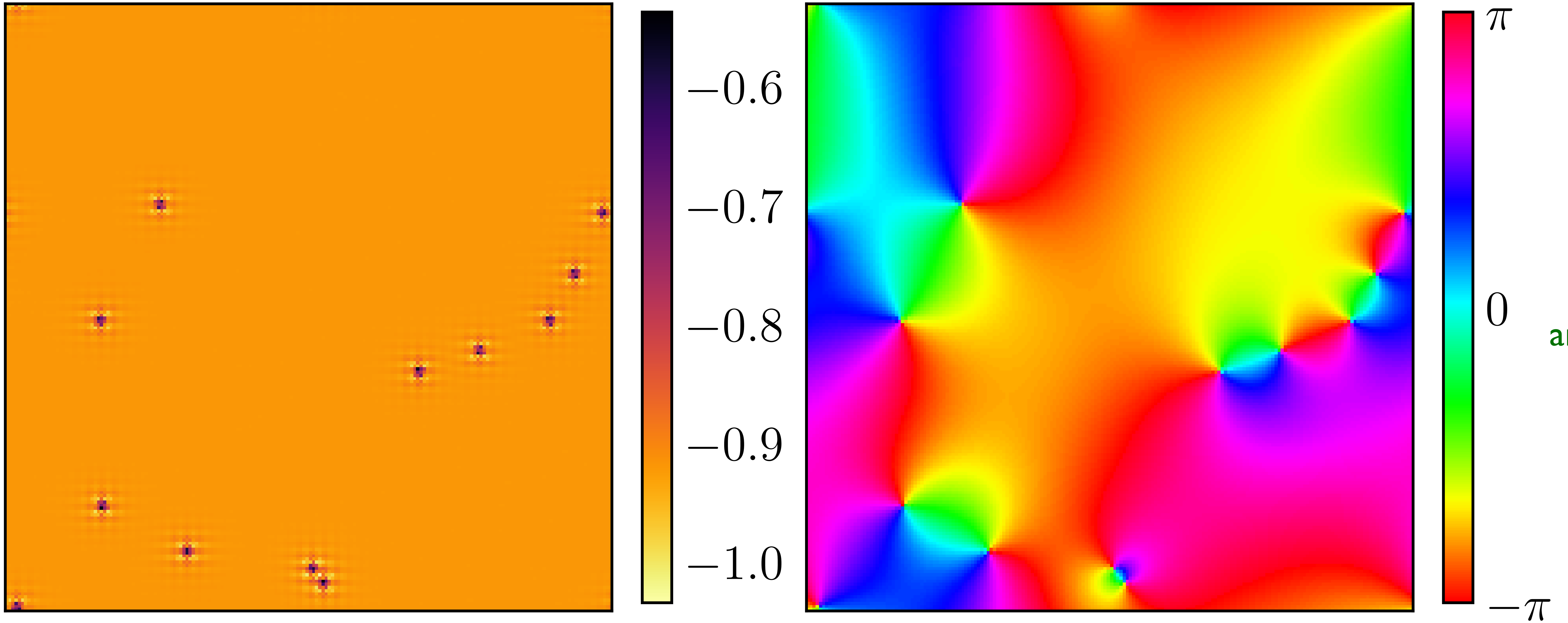


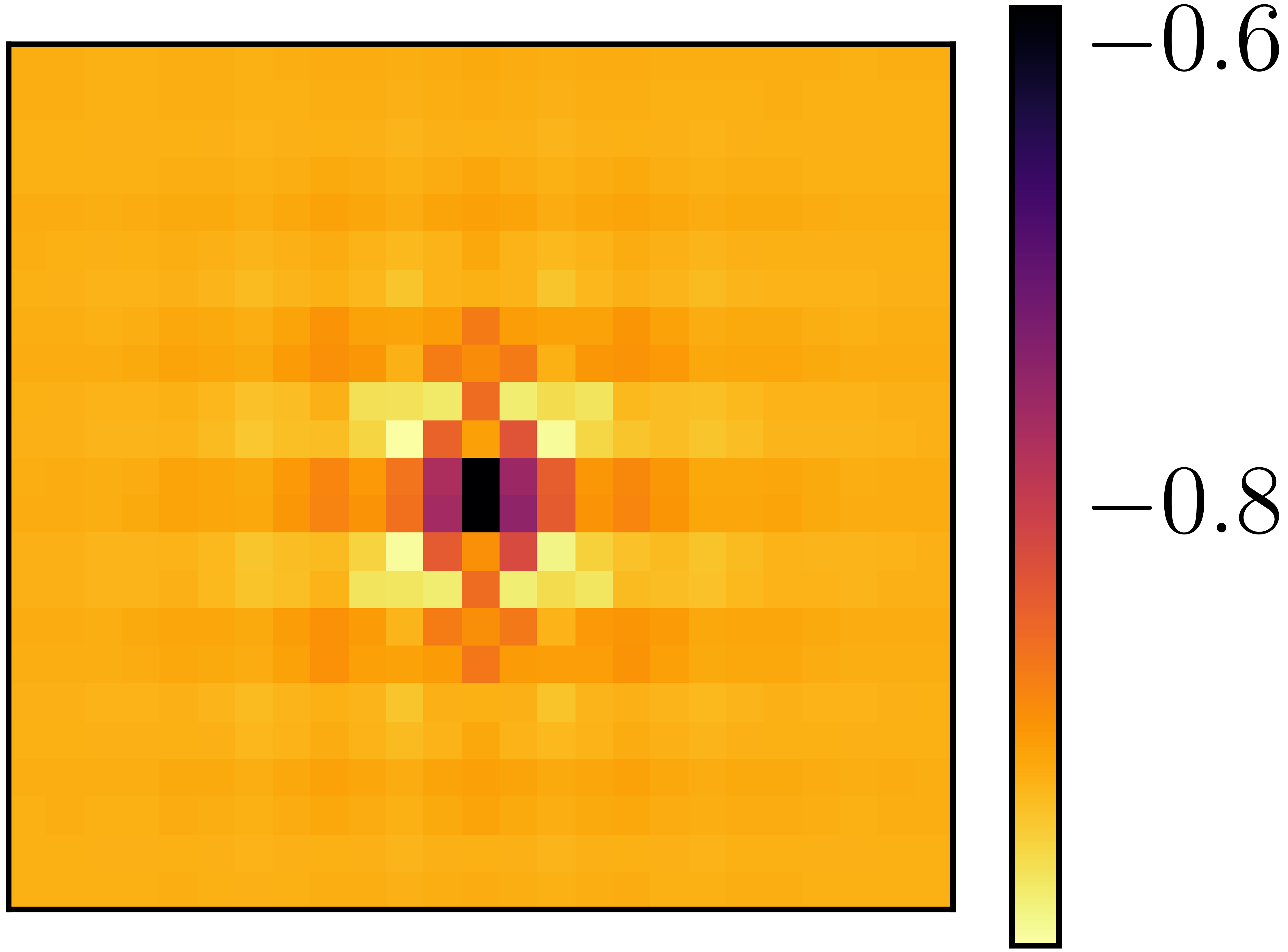
Bond density

Phase of pairing amplitude

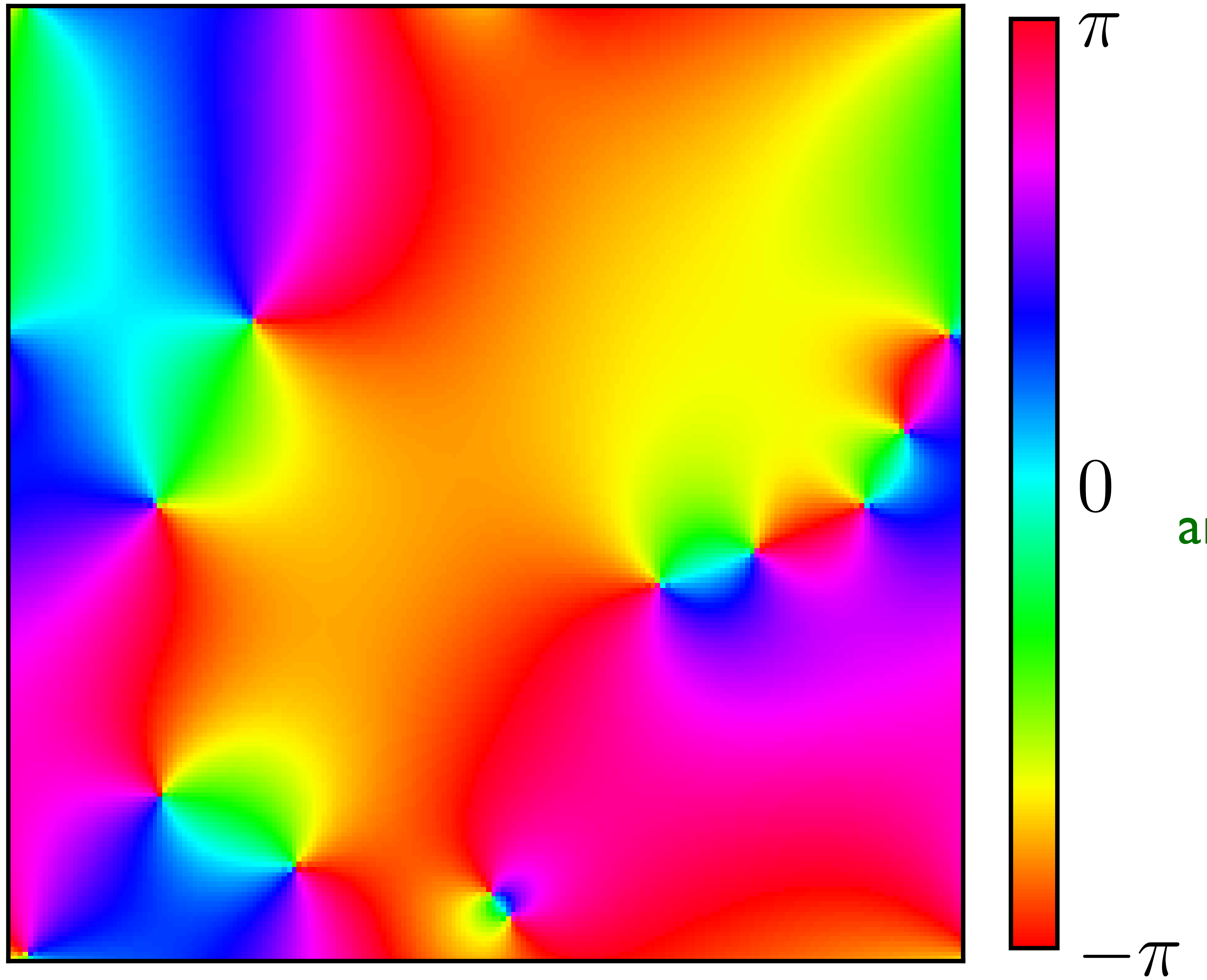
H. Pandey, M. Christos, P.M. Bonetti, R. Shanker, A. Nikolaenko, S. Sharma, S.S., arXiv:2507.05336

See also Jia-Xin Zhang and S. S., PRB **110**, 235120 (2024)

- Classical thermal ensemble of charge e Higgs boson B and SU(2) gauge field U.



Bond density



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H. Pandey, M. Christos, P.M. Bonetti, R. Shanker, A. Nikolaenko, S. Sharma, S.S., arXiv:2507.05336

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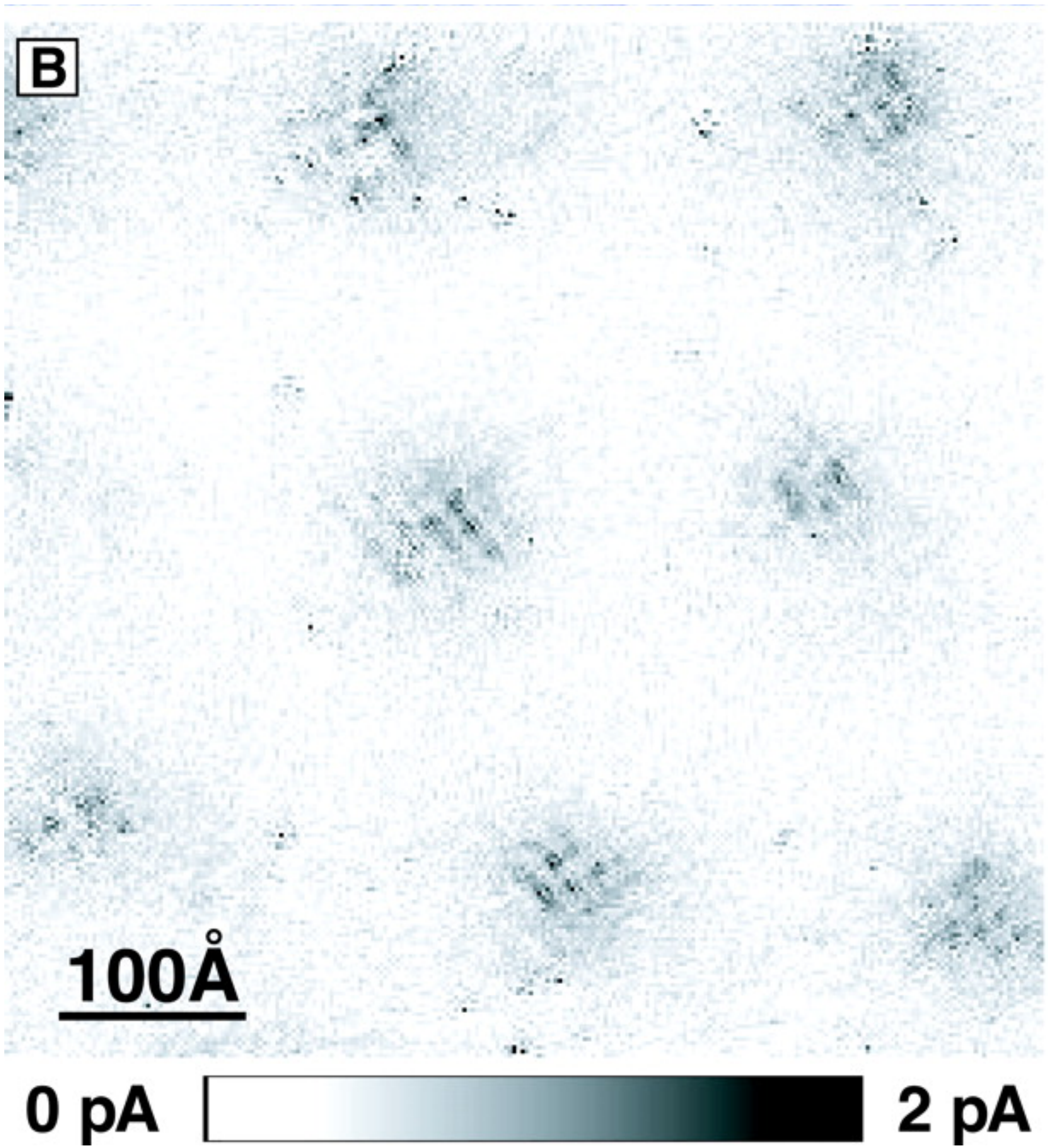
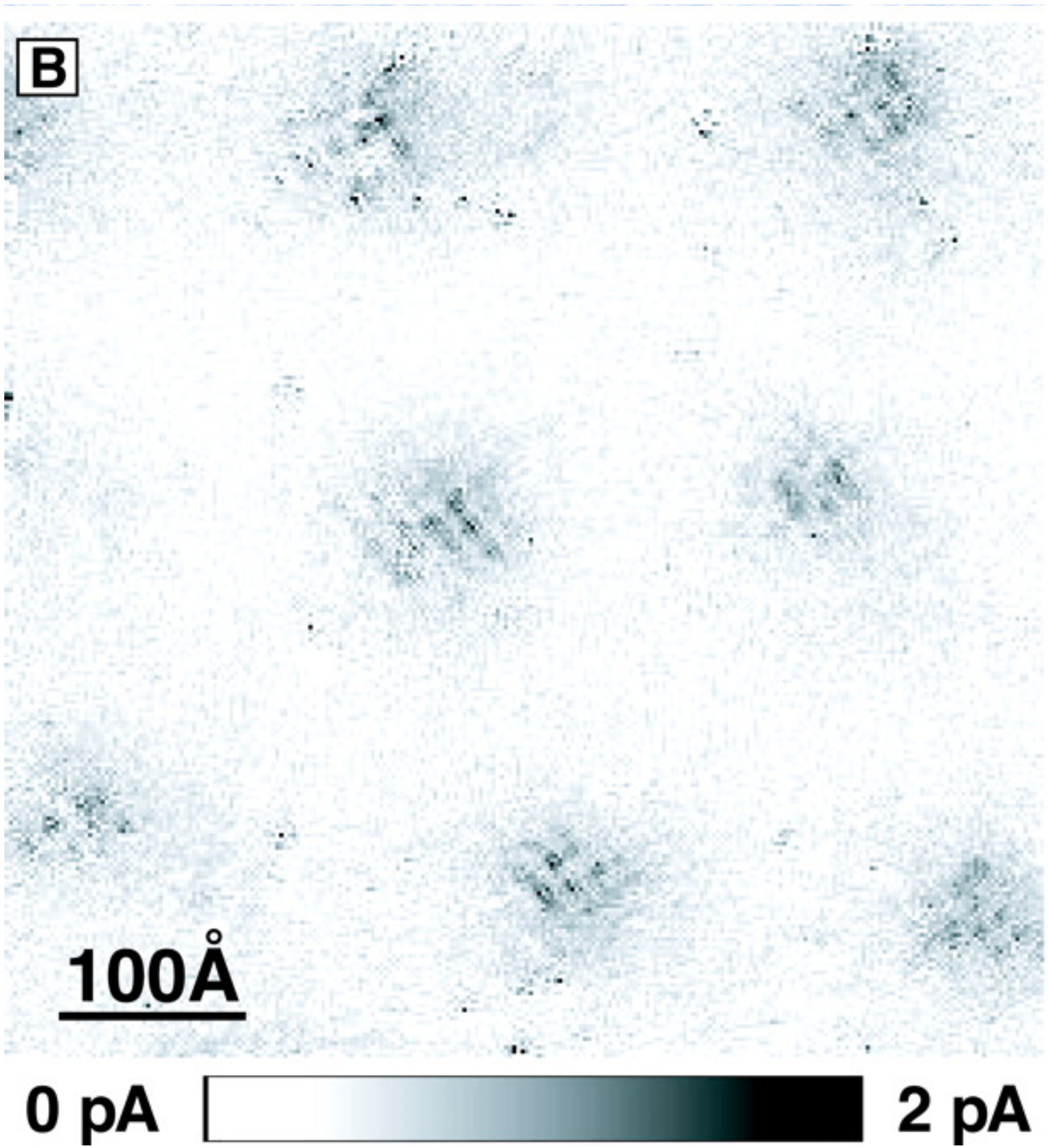


A Four Unit Cell Periodic Pattern of Quasi-Particle States Surrounding Vortex Cores in $Bi_2Sr_2CaCu_2O_{8+\delta}$

J. E. Hoffman, E. W. Hudson, K. M. Lang,
V. Madhavan, H. Eisaki, S. Uchida, J.C. Davis

Science **295**, 466 (2002)



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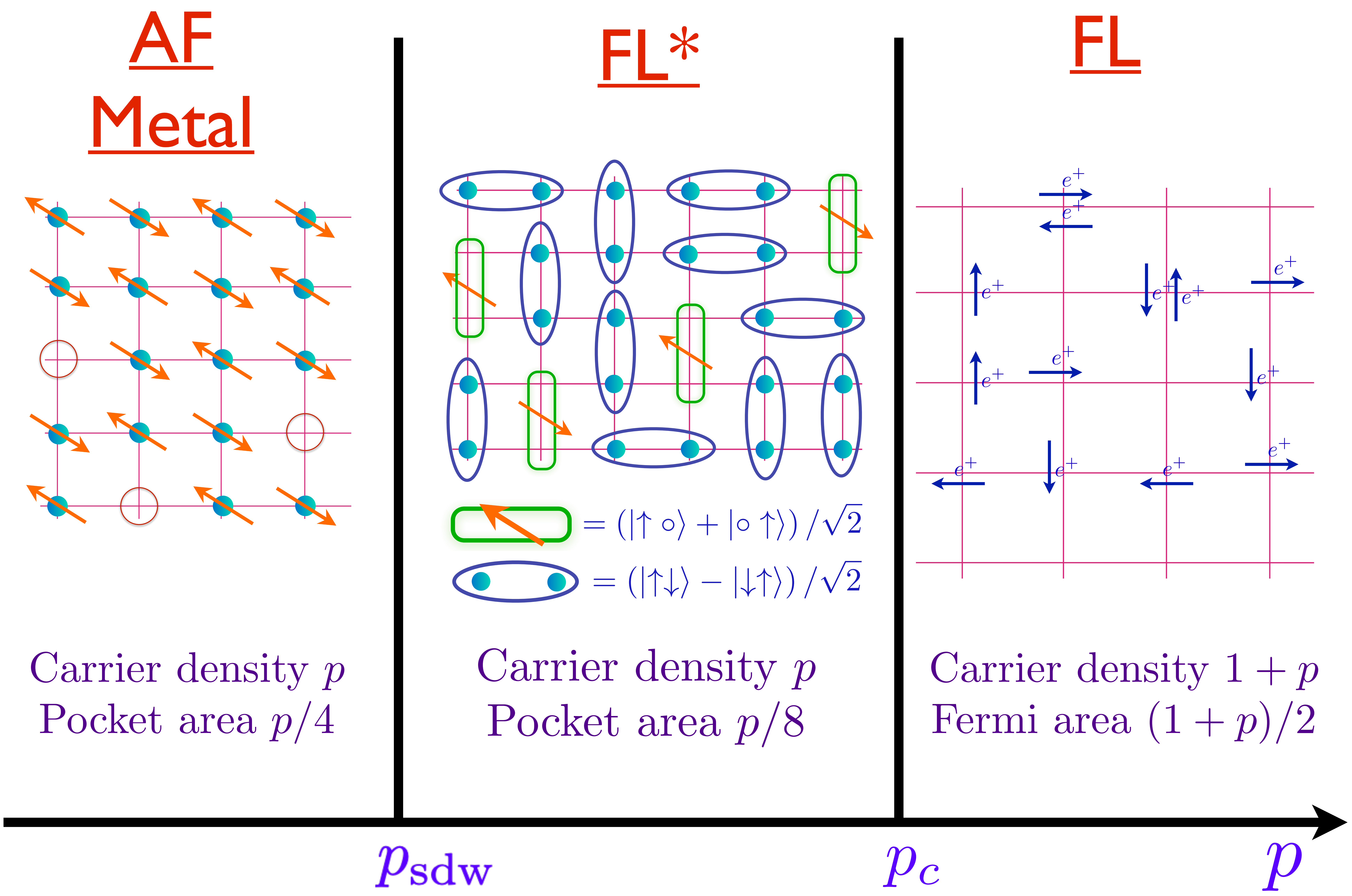
Science **295**, 466 (2002)

The underlying FL*-FL
transition in the normal state,
is visible in the distinct
vortex core structures of the
superconducting state
at small p and large p

At large p, STM shows the
Wang-MacDonald peak
of BCS theory.
T. Gazdić, I. Maggio-Aprile, G. Gu
and C. Renner, PRX **11**, 031040 (2021)

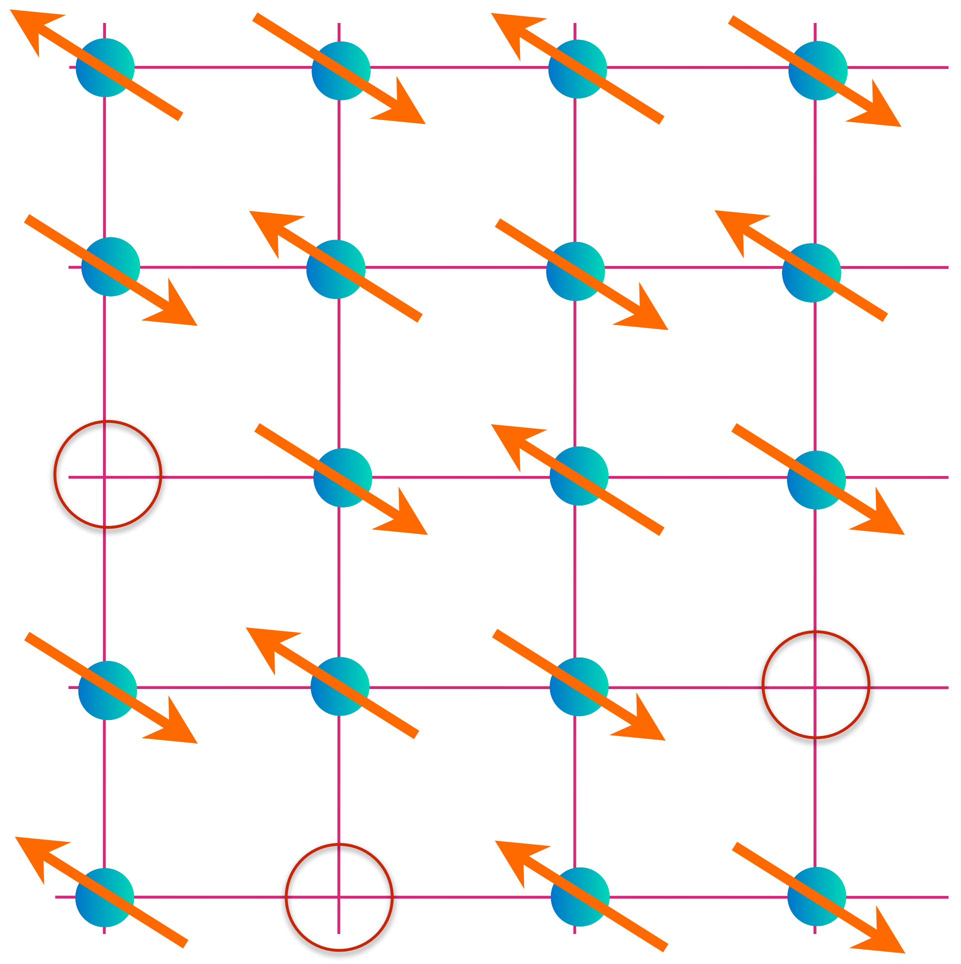


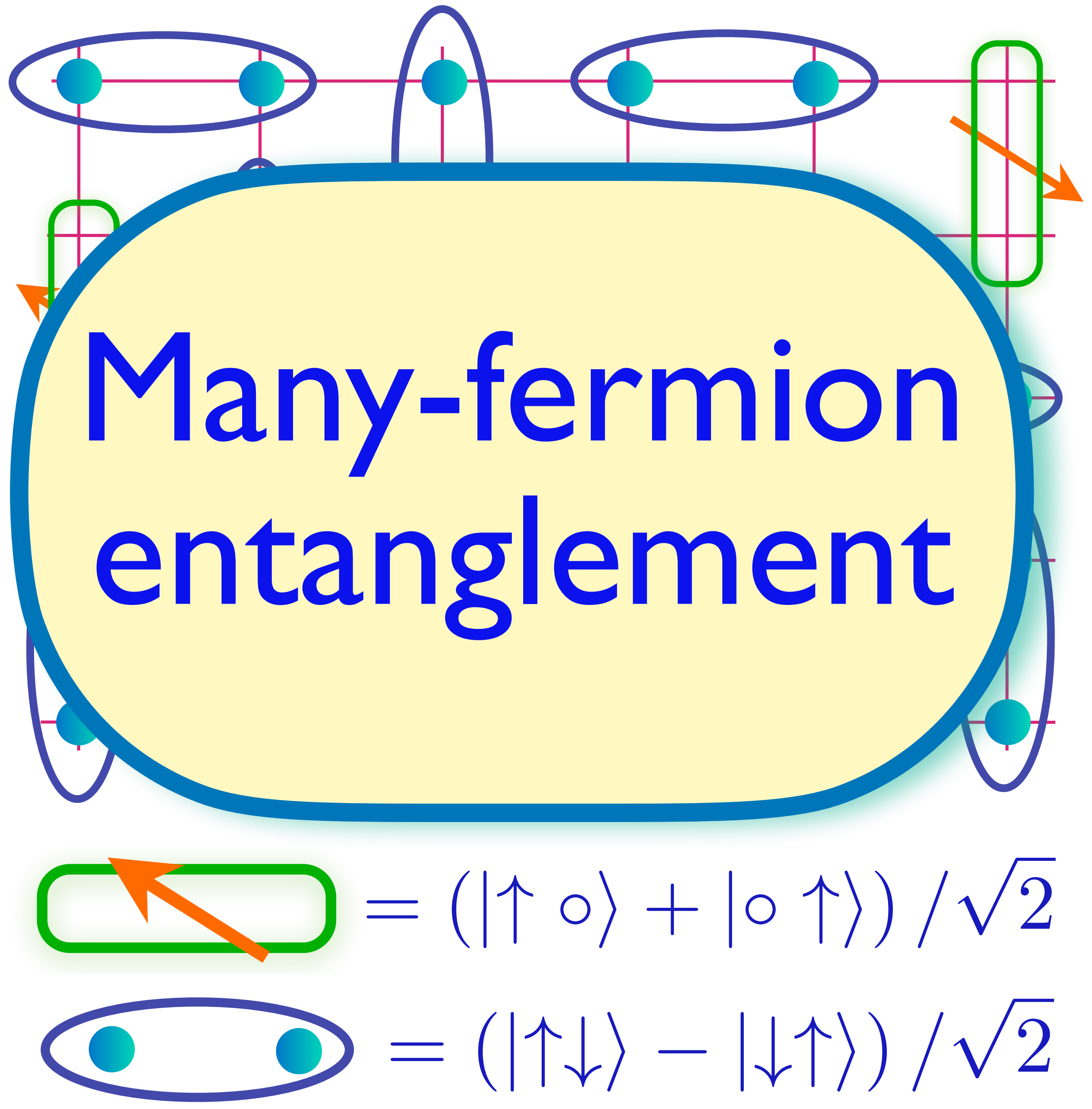
S. Sachdev, M.A. Metlitski and M. Punk, Journal of Physics Condensed Matter **24**, 294205 (2012)

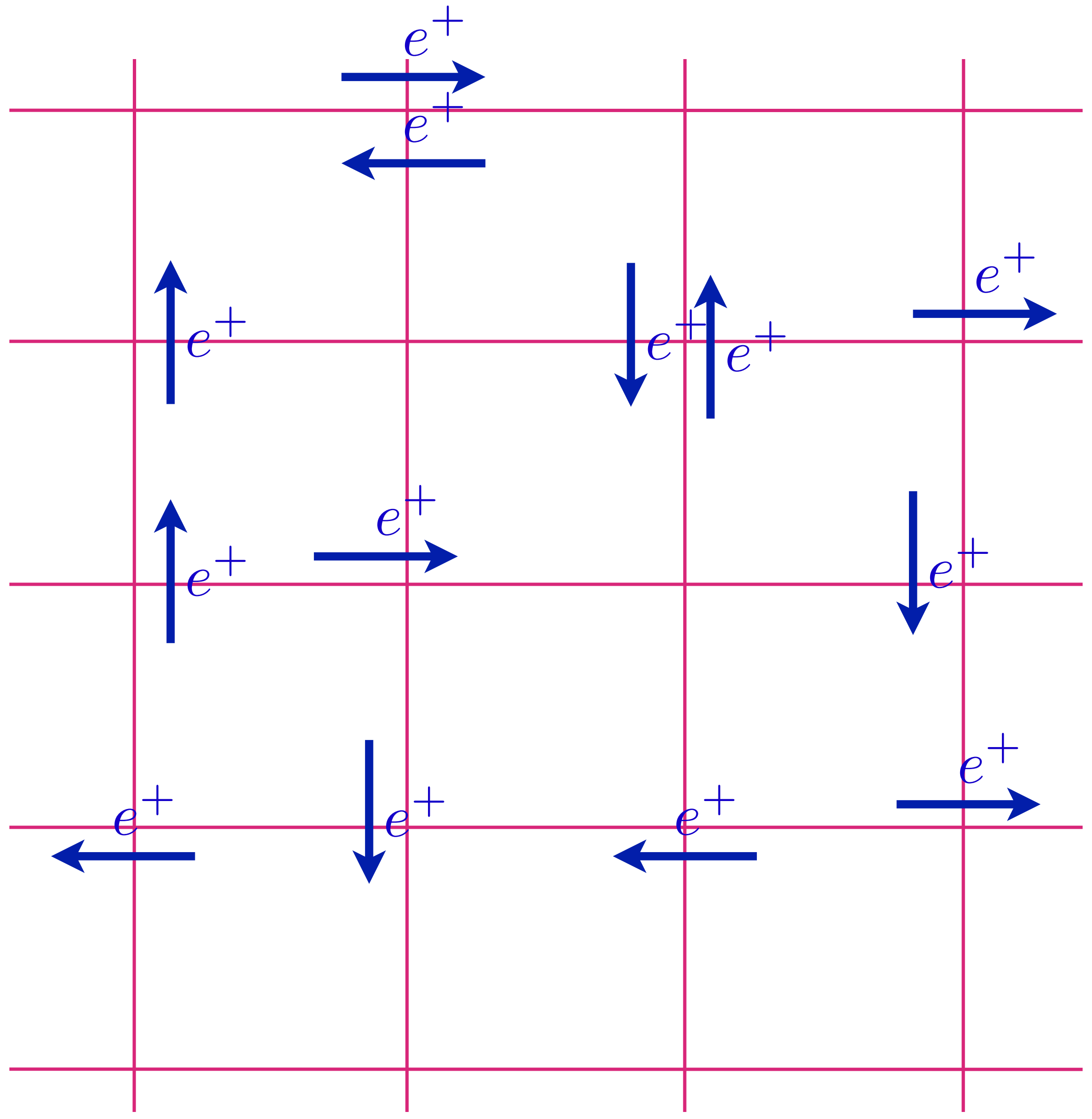
AF Metal

FL*

FL







Carrier density p
Pocket area $p/4$

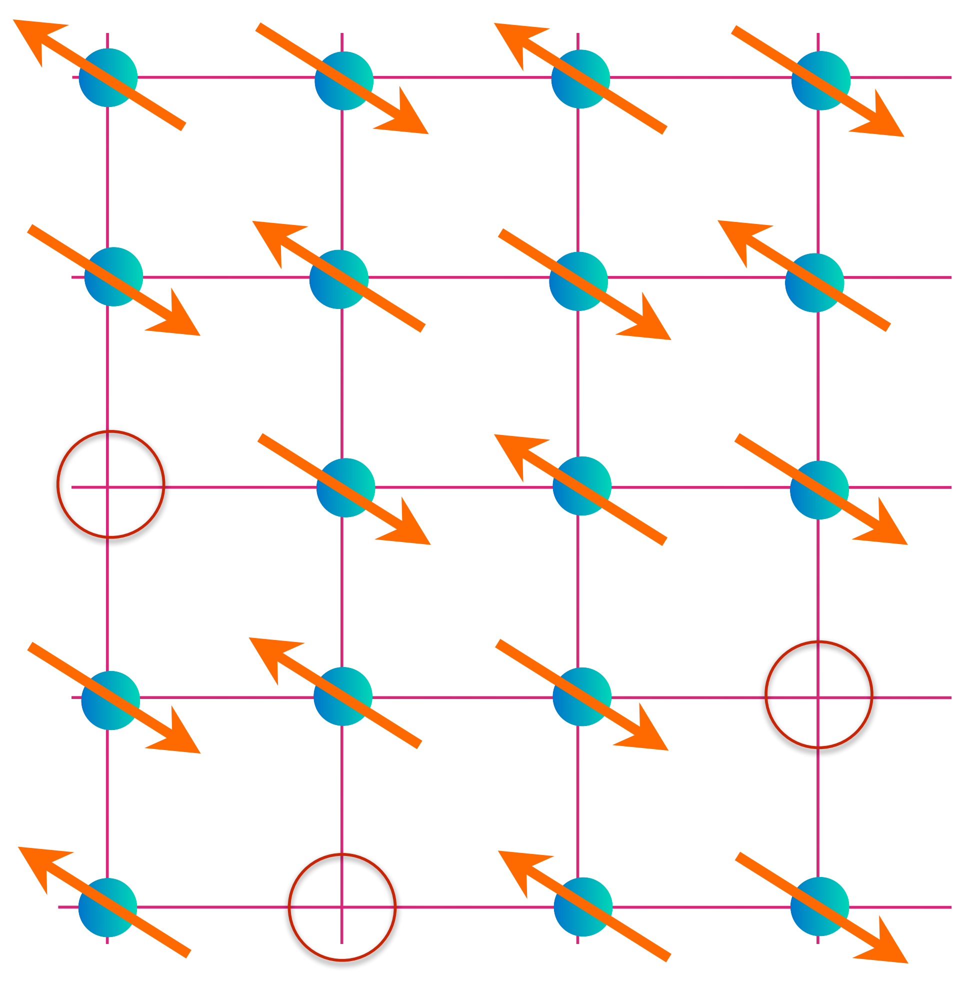
Carrier density p
Pocket area $p/8$

Carrier density $1 + p$
Fermi area $(1 + p)/2$

$p_{\rm sdw}$ $\quad$ p_c $\quad$ p

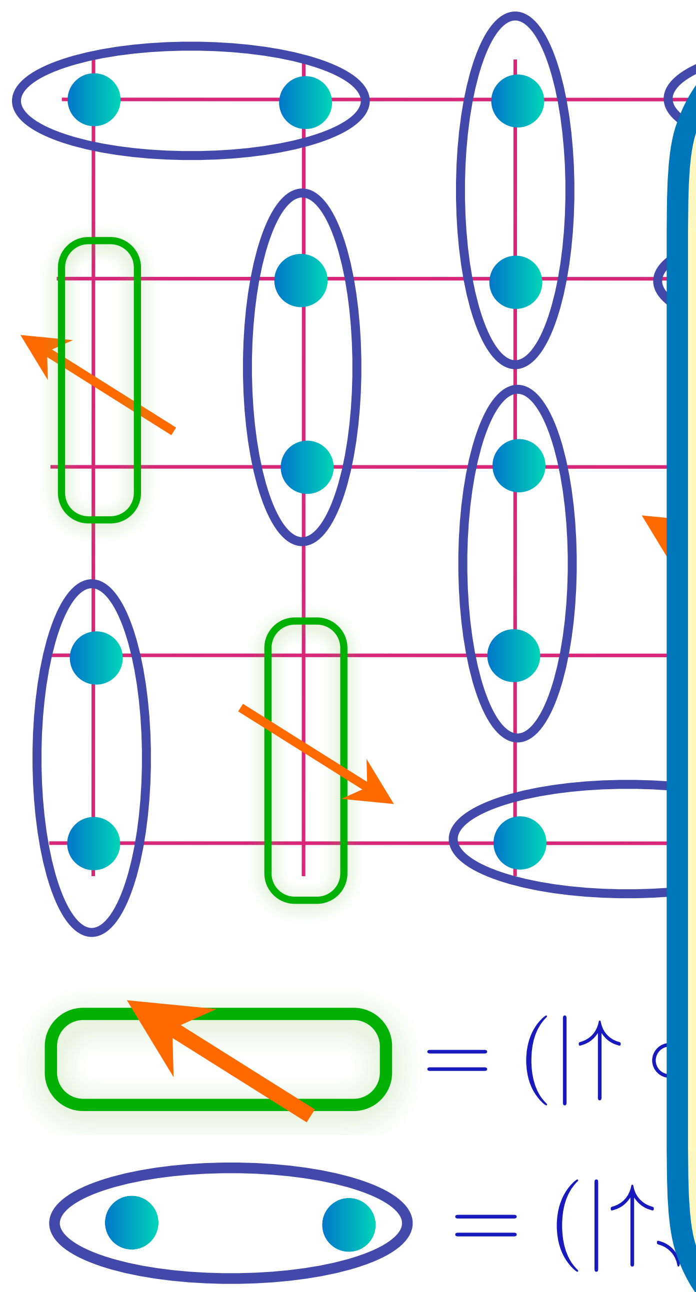
S. Sachdev, M.A. Metlitski and M. Punk, Journal of Physics Condensed Matter **24**, 294205 (2012)

AF Metal



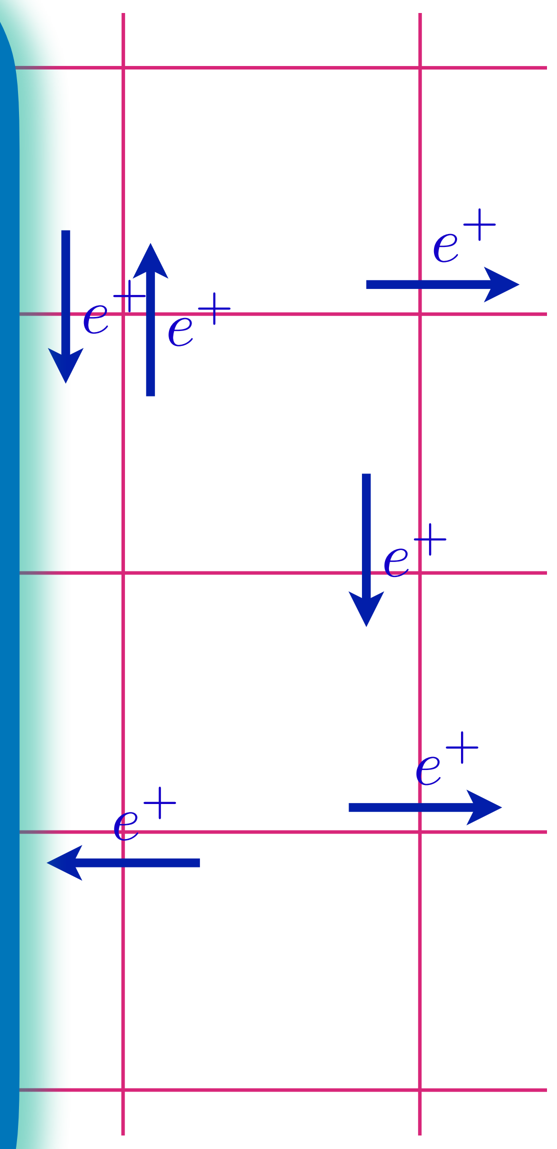
Carrier density p
Pocket area $p/4$

FL*



Carrier density p
Pocket area $p/8$

FL



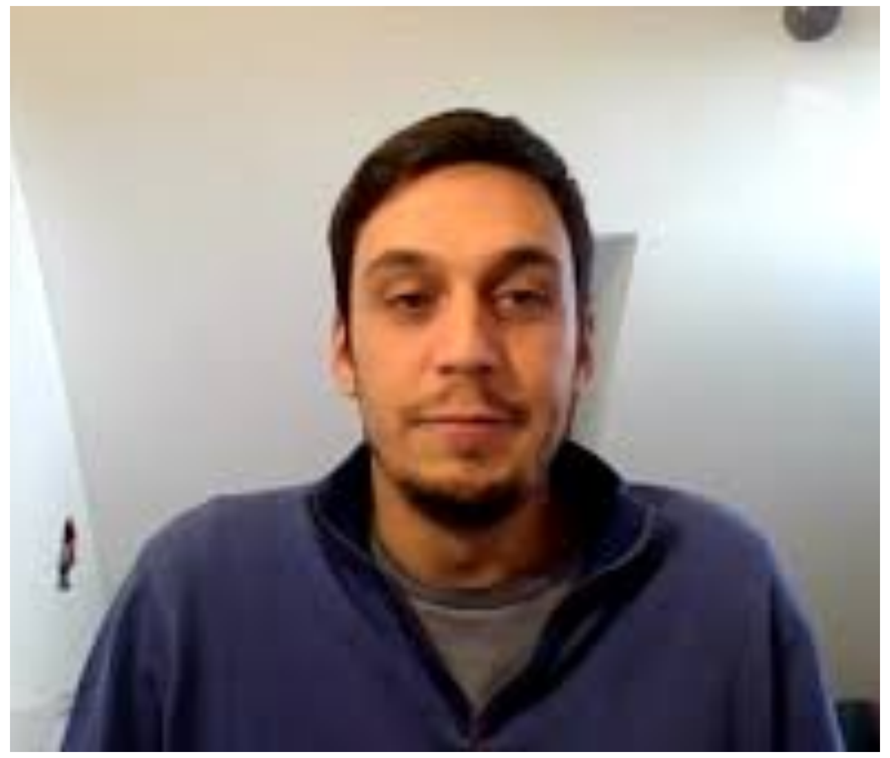
Carrier density $1+p$
Fermi area $(1+p)/2$

Many-fermion
entanglement
of $T > 0$
strange metal:
2D-YSYK theory of
FL*-FL transition
without
<u>symmetry breaking</u>

p_{sdw} $\quad p_c \quad$ p

S. Sachdev, M.A. Metlitski and M. Punk, Journal of Physics Condensed Matter **24**, 294205 (2012)

Maine Christos
Caltech



Pietro Bonetti
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Harshit Pandey

Ravi Shanker

Sayantan Sharma

- *Lectures on insulating and conducting quantum spin liquids*, S. Sachdev, arXiv:2512.23962
- *Fractionalized Fermi liquids and the cuprate phase diagram*, P. M. Bonetti, M. Christos, A. Nikolaenko, A.A. Patel, and S. Sachdev, arXiv:2508.20164
- *Thermal SU(2) lattice gauge theory of the cuprate pseudogap: reconciling Fermi arcs and hole pockets*, H. Pandey, M. Christos, P. M. Bonetti, R. Shanker, A. Nikolaenko, S. Sharma, and S. Sachdev, arXiv:2507.05336