Dipole coupling effect of holographic fermion in charged dilatonic gravity

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\textbf{A B S T R A C T}

In this Letter, we study the dipole coupling effect of holographic fermion in a charged dilatonic black hole proposed by Gubser and Rocha (2010) \cite{1}. It is found that the property of Fermi liquid is rigid under perturbation of dipole coupling, and the Fermi momentum is linearly shifted. A gap is dynamically generated as the coupling becomes large enough and the Fermi surface ceases to exist as the bulk dipole coupling further increases.

\section{1. Introduction and summary}

Holographic duality, best known in the context of AdS/CFT correspondence \cite{2–4}, states that any gravity theory in a $(d+1)$-dimensional spacetime with asymptotic anti-de Sitter geometry has a dual description of quantum field theory living at its $d$-dimensional boundary. One advantage of this duality is that several observables at the strongly coupled limit in the field theory side can be computed in the gravity side at the large radius of curvature limit, even though the knowledge of underlying microscopic degrees of freedom may still be missing. In the past, several holographic gravity models have been proposed to capture behaviors of (non-)Fermi liquid on the boundary condensed matter system \cite{1,5–7}. Among them, a charged dilatonic black hole proposed by Gubser and Rocha \cite{1} is particularly attractive for two features: at first, different from other bottom–up approaches, this background can be seen as the dimensional reduction from the near-horizon geometry of three-equal-charge black hole in $\text{AdS}_4 \times S^7$ \cite{8}. Secondly, it was claimed that in the infrared this model is dual to a Fermi liquid thanks to its linear relation between entropy and temperature. Normal modes of a probed fermion were studied in the extremal limit of charged black hole \cite{1} and linear dispersion relation was verified in \cite{9}.

On the other hand, a boundary theory dual to the AdS Reissner–Nordström black hole in the presence of a dipole interaction term is proposed \cite{10} and studied in several following works \cite{12–17}. Upon tuning the dipole coupling strength, the boundary theory is found in a phase of either Fermi liquid, non-Fermi liquid or Mott insulator. We remark that while the extremal AdS–RN background, without dipole coupling, was first claimed to be dual to a boundary theory of non-Fermi liquid at quantum critical point \cite{5}, it is not clear which role does the dipole coupling play in a boundary theory of Fermi liquid. It is the goal of this Letter to explicitly investigate the dipole coupling effect on a particular boundary theory of Fermi liquid, which is dual to the charged dilatonic black hole proposed by Gubser and Rocha.

At last, we summarize our finding as follows:

- We have found the structure of Fermi surface constructed by Gubser and Rocha is rigid regardless of the presence of dipole coupling. There is no sign about the Fermi/non-Fermi liquid transition by varying bulk dipole coupling.
- Fermi momentum can be linearly shifted by the dipole coupling strength.
- A gap appears for large dipole coupling strength, as a generic feature of dipole interaction. However, the gap might not be the Mott one, since we could not observe any clear sign of spectral weight transfer from the spectral function.
- The gap persists at finite temperature for large enough dipole coupling.

In the next two sections, we briefly describe the geometry of dilatonic black hole constructed in \cite{1}, and Dirac equation in this background. In Section 4, we show the rigidity of Fermi surface of this background under the bulk dipole coupling. In Section 5, we show the emergence of a gap at zero and finite temperature. Conclusions and discussions are addressed in the end.

\section{2. Preparing a Fermi liquid}

In this section, we review Gubser and Rocha’s construction of a charged dilatonic black hole, which is claimed dual to a boundary
theory of Fermi liquid. The three-equal-charge black holes have the following lagrangian [1]:

\[ \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \left[ R - \frac{1}{4} \, e^\alpha F^2_{\mu\nu} - \frac{3}{2} (\partial \mu \alpha)^2 + \frac{6}{L^2} \cosh \alpha \right], \tag{1} \]

and the charged black hole solution is given by

\[ ds^2 = e^{2A} (-dt^2 + dx^2) + \frac{e^{-2A}}{h} \, dr^2, \quad F = dA, \]

\[ A = \log \frac{r}{L} + \frac{3}{4} \log (1 + \frac{Q}{r}), \quad h = 1 - \frac{\nu L^2}{(Q + \rho)^3}, \]

\[ \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( 1 + \frac{Q}{r} \right), \quad A_t = \frac{\sqrt{3Q} \nu}{Q + \rho} \frac{1}{L^3}. \tag{2} \]

This solution is asymptotic to AdS, but the IR geometry is neither Lifshitz nor AdS. The zero temperature is obtained by taking extremal limit where \( \nu = \frac{Q^3}{3} \) with vanishing horizon \( r_0 = 0 \). The temperature and boundary chemical potential are given by [18]

\[ T = \frac{3\nu^{\frac{1}{3}}}{4\pi \xi L^3} \sqrt{\xi_0}, \quad \mu = \frac{\sqrt{3Q} \nu^{\frac{1}{3}}}{L^3}. \tag{3} \]

It was also shown that at low temperature the entropy density \( s \) is proportional to temperature,

\[ s \approx \frac{8\sqrt{3\pi} L^3}{3\kappa^2} \mu T, \tag{4} \]

where \( \kappa^2 = 8\pi G \). This implies a boundary theory of Fermi liquid dual to this gravity background. Later it was explicitly checked that near Fermi surface \( k_F \), the linear relation

\[ \omega \propto (k - k_F) \tag{5} \]

holds [9].

3. Probed fermion with dipole coupling

Now we would like to introduce the dipole coupling in the bulk. Let us consider the bulk spinor action,

\[ S_D = i \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \bar{\psi} \left( \gamma \partial - m - i \gamma F \right) \psi, \tag{6} \]

where the flat space Gamma matrices \( \Gamma^a = e_{a\mu} \gamma^\mu, \quad \gamma = \frac{1}{2} \Gamma^{\mu\nu} \times (e_{\mu})^b (e_\nu)^c F_{ab}, \quad \Gamma^{au} = \frac{1}{2} (\Gamma^\mu, \Gamma^v), \quad (e_{\mu})^b \gamma^\nu (e_\nu)^c = \text{the vielbein and covariant derivative} \) \( \mathcal{D} = \Gamma^a D_a \Gamma^{a \mu} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_{\mu} + \frac{1}{2} (\omega_{\mu\nu})_{\mu} \gamma^\nu - i q A_{\mu}) \). The bulk Dirac equation is

\[ \left( \gamma \partial - m - i \gamma F \right) \psi = 0. \tag{7} \]

Taking the ansatz \( \psi = (-gg^\nu)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-i\omega t + i\omega x^i x^i} \psi \), one can remove the spin connection in the Dirac equation. To decouple the equations of motion, we introduce projectors \( \Gamma_\pm = \frac{1}{2} (1 \pm \gamma^\nu \gamma^\nu \cdot \gamma \cdot \gamma) \) and write \( \psi_\pm = \psi_{\pm} \gamma^\nu \psi \). With a choice of Gamma matrices

\[ \Gamma^v = \left( \begin{array}{cc} -\sigma_3 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma_3 \end{array} \right), \quad \Gamma^i = \left( \begin{array}{cc} i\sigma_3 & 0 \\ 0 & i\sigma_3 \end{array} \right), \tag{8} \]

\[ \Gamma^1 = \left( \begin{array}{cc} -\sigma_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2 \end{array} \right), \quad \Gamma^2 = \left( \begin{array}{cc} 0 & -i\sigma_2 \\ i\sigma_2 & 0 \end{array} \right), \]

one obtains the bulk Dirac equation

\[ \left( e^{2A} \sqrt{\sigma^3} \partial_\nu + me^A + ipe^A A_t^3 \right) \psi_\pm + \left( -\frac{\sigma^1}{\sqrt{h}} (\omega + q A_t) \pm i\sigma^2 \right) \psi_\pm = 0. \tag{9} \]

Here we use the rotational symmetry in the spatial directions to set \( k_a = k, \) and \( k_i = 0 \) for \( i \neq a \). Set \( \varphi_{\pm} = (\gamma_3 \gamma_i \gamma_a \psi, \gamma_3 \gamma_i \gamma_a \psi) \), one can obtain the flow equation

\[ e^{2A} \sqrt{h} \partial_\nu \varphi_{\pm} + 2me^A \varphi_{\pm} + \left( -\frac{1}{\sqrt{h}} (\omega + q A_t) \pm k - pe^A A_t^3 \right) \varphi_{\pm} = 0. \tag{10} \]

This equation is solved by imposing an in-falling condition at the horizon, such that

\[ \varphi_{\pm} = i \quad \text{as } r \to r_h (\omega \neq 0). \tag{11} \]

We remark that the in-falling condition is not modified by the dipole coupling thanks to its subleading contribution near the horizon. The boundary retarded Green function can be extracted by

\[ G_R = \left( \begin{array}{cc} G_+ & 0 \\ 0 & G_- \end{array} \right) \tag{12} \]

where

\[ G_{\pm} = \lim_{r \to \infty} \sqrt{r} \varphi_{\pm}. \tag{13} \]

Note the Dirac equation (9) implies the relation \( G_{11}(\omega, k) = G_{22}(\omega, -k) \). So in the following sections, we will only show the 3D plots and density plots for \( \text{Im} G_{22} \) and also set \( q = 2, L = 1, Q = 1 \) and \( m = 0 \) for convenience.

4. Rigidity of Fermi surface

It is shown that a simple holographic realization of finite density fermionic system exhibits single particle spectral function with sharp Fermi surface of a form distinct from the Landau–Fermi liquid [5,6]. Furthermore, it is observed that in this finite density background (RN–AdS) [12], one can find Fermi or non-Fermi liquid behavior by tuning the bulk dipole coupling strength \( p \), and then the sharp Fermi surface ceases to exist for large \( p \). Motivated by this, it is interesting to investigate if this feature is robust or not in general backgrounds. So we would like to consider the bulk dipole coupling effect in the charged dilatonic black hole in [1]. Similar to RN–AdS case, we actually find a sharp quasiparticle peak around \( \omega = 0 \) which indicates a Fermi surface (see Fig. 1).
and the dipole coupling does not change the structure of Fermi surface but just shift the location of Fermi momentum. However, the height of peak dramatically decreases for large $p$ and is too small to be identified as a Fermi surface. For instance, the peak of $\text{Im } G_{11}$ drops under 100 for $p = 4$ but of order of unity for $p = 10$. Although it is hard to numerically determine a critical $p$ where the Fermi surface completely vanishes, the gradually disappearance of Fermi surface at the metal-insulator transition agrees with the ARPES measurement in some strongly-correlated oxides such as La$_{1-x}$Sr$_x$MnO$_3$ [11]. We do not observe any sign of non-Fermi liquid numerically by tuning the dipole coupling strength $p$. In Fig. 2, we show the dispersion relation near the Fermi surface for various $p$. The linear relation between $k - k_F$ and $\omega$ has a universal form:

$$\omega \simeq v_g (k - k_F) + \text{const.},$$

which implies the Fermi surface constructed in [1] is rigid and the property of Fermi liquid remains regardless of the bulk dipole coupling. The group velocity $v_g = \partial \omega / \partial k$ can also be read off as $v_g \simeq 0.79c$ for $p \leq 1$ and slows down for larger $p$, say $v_g \simeq 0.5c$ for $p = 5$. According to the numerical result, for massless Dirac fermion and zero frequency, we can see the pole of Green function is shifted linearly up to some value of $p$, before the whole system enters the insulator phase where the pole disappears. In Fig. 3, the shift of Fermi momentum is plotted against various dipole coupling strength $p$. The numerical result shows the best fit for relation:

$$k - k_0 \propto 0.66103p^{1.00161},$$

where $k_0 = 2.19213747$ is the numerically-found Fermi momentum at $p = 0$. We also find there exists some negative $p$ at which the Fermi momentum goes through zero, signifying that the excitations change over from “particle-like” to “hole-like”, as similar to RN–AdS case. In the following, we show that analytical arguments, by examining the retarded Green function for massless Dirac field at both near horizon and asymptotic limit, may shed some light to understand above-mentioned numerical results.

4.1. Near horizon analysis

Taking the near horizon limit, where $r \to 0$ for extremal case, one obtains the following asymptotic equation from (10) and (13):

$$\sqrt{3} Q \frac{L}{L^2} \partial_r G_{\pm} = \left[ \sqrt{\frac{Q}{3}} \omega r^{-3/2} \pm k_r + p \frac{\sqrt{3} Q^{3/4}}{L^2} r^{-3/4} \right] G_{\pm}$$

$$+ \left[ \sqrt{\frac{Q}{3}} \omega r^{-3/2} \mp k_r - p \frac{\sqrt{3} Q^{3/4}}{L^2} r^{-3/4} \right] G_{\mp}.$$

Here we intended to keep all subleading terms in order to see that the term with dipole coupling $p$ is least dominated at $r \to 0$ limit. This implies that dipole coupling $p$ plays insignificant role in the IR physics, and hardly affects the linear dispersion relation of Fermi liquid.

4.2. Asymptotic analysis

Taking the asymptotic limit, where $r \to \infty$, one obtains the following equation instead:
κ \rightarrow 0.\) 

In particular, 

\[
\omega = \sqrt{3} q Q + \left( \frac{3 p Q^2}{L^2} \mp k \right),
\]

and the spectral density starts to appear in the other band, namely the phenomena of spectral weight transfer happens. As \(p\) is higher, the peak ceases to exist indicating the Fermi surface has disappeared. So the resulting phase is an insulator phase.

5.2. Finite temperature

As shown in [12], the sharp Fermi surface is smoothed at finite temperature. Also the Mott gap generated by the bulk dipole coupling will vanish above some critical temperature. The critical value of the ratio \(T/\mu\) is small (\(\approx 3.92 \times 10^{-2}\)) for RN–AdS black hole. However, we find that the critical value of ratio \(T/\mu\) in the dilatonic black hole studied in [1] is higher than the one in RN–AdS. From Fig. 6, the dynamically generated gap still exists at the finite temperature for large enough dipole coupling. The width of gap also increases as the dipole coupling increases. On the other hand, the critical value of \(T/\mu\) is higher for larger \(p\).

6. Discussion

In this Letter, we have investigated a particular holographic model of Fermi liquid, proposed by Gubser and Rocha [1]. Similar to the non-Fermi liquid model, we find the bulk dipole coupling changes the location of Fermi momentum and the Fermi surface structure is robust under this deformation. Interestingly, it was also found that the dipole coupling linearly shifted the locations of the Fermi momentum, and we did not find any signature of non-Fermi liquid. With increasing coupling strength, the mobility of quasiparticle is decreasing and a dynamically generated gap is observed. As the coupling strength is getting higher, the Fermi surface ceases to exist, and the system ends in an insulator phase.

\[\text{Follow the convention in [10], we also call the band in the positive frequency as upper band and the band in the negative frequency as lower band.}\]
In the holographic models of non-Fermi liquid, the near horizon of extremal RN–AdS black hole is AdS$_2$, indicating the IR physics is well captured by an emergent $(1 + 1)$-dimensional CFT. Besides, it is argued that the IR scaling dimension of probe fermion plays an important role in the Fermi surface structure. One can apply some semi-analytical method to obtain the analytical properties of retarded Green’s function in low energy limit. However, there seems a big difference from those models that the class of quantum critical point (QCP) we consider here connects Fermi liquid phase to insulator phase and does not have an explicit CFT description. So the semi-analytical arguments used in the non-Fermi liquid case might not apply to this case. It would be interesting to have an analytical understanding of the low energy behavior of excitations around Fermi surface by performing the matching calculations.

It would be also interesting to investigate other holographic models of QCP which associate with (non-)Fermi liquid and possibly classify various types of QCP. For example, it is shown that in the charged dilatonic black hole with Liouville potential, one can find both Fermi and non-Fermi liquid behavior when we tune the nonminimal coupling strength and dilaton potential [19]. Another type of QCP is associated to Lifshitz-like theory. We hope to explore the effect of dipole coupling in those backgrounds and report the results in the future [20].

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References


We remark that while this background described by Gubser and Rocha[1] does not have an AdS near-horizon geometry, its lifted eleven dimensional three-equal-charge solution at extremal limit does have an AdS$_3$ near-horizon factor, which is claimed to be dual to a non-chiral CFT and responsible for the linear specific heat.  

3 A few works studying probe fermion in Lifshitz spacetime appear recently [21–23].