

Localised black hole solution for the BFSS model

Oscar J.C. Dias and Jorge E. Santos,

“The low energy limit of BFSS quantum mechanics,” arXiv: 2407.15921

Oscar J.C. Dias and Jorge E. Santos,

“Localized states of BFSS super quantum mechanics,” arXiv: 2510.07379

Yuhma Asano

Journal club on Nov. 21, 2025

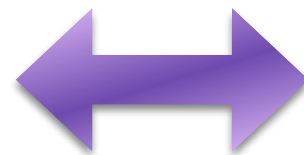
Introduction

BFSS Matrix model

The BFSS model is proposed as a **non-perturbative formulation** of M-theory on the flat background with a light-like S^1 compactification.

[Banks, Fishler, Shenker, Susskind '96; Seiberg '97; Sen '97; ...]

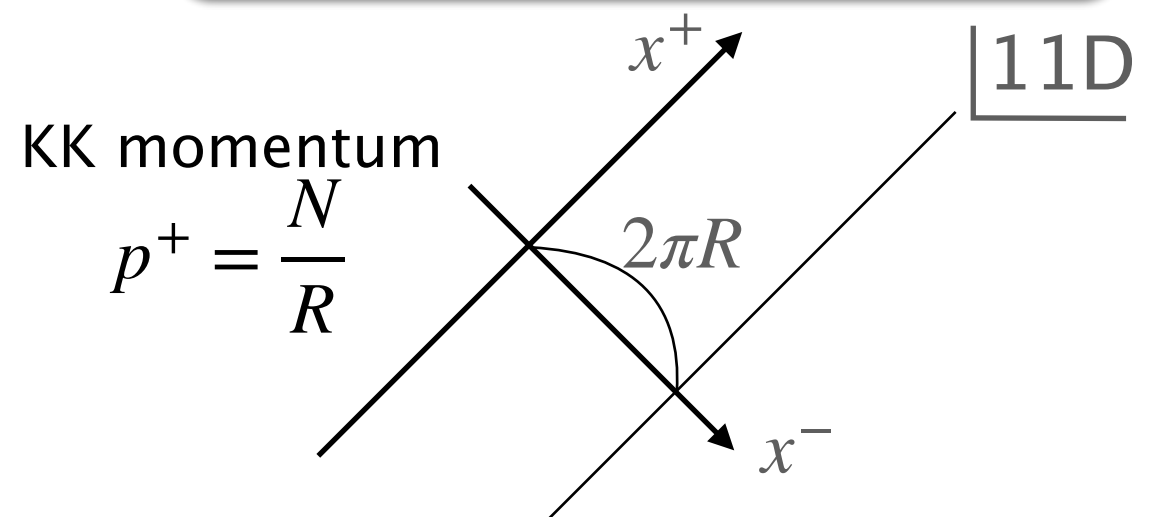
Weak coupling limit of
type IIA string theory



M-theory
w/ light-like S^1 compact.

string coupling $g_s \rightarrow 0$

D0-brane mass $\propto \frac{N}{R}$



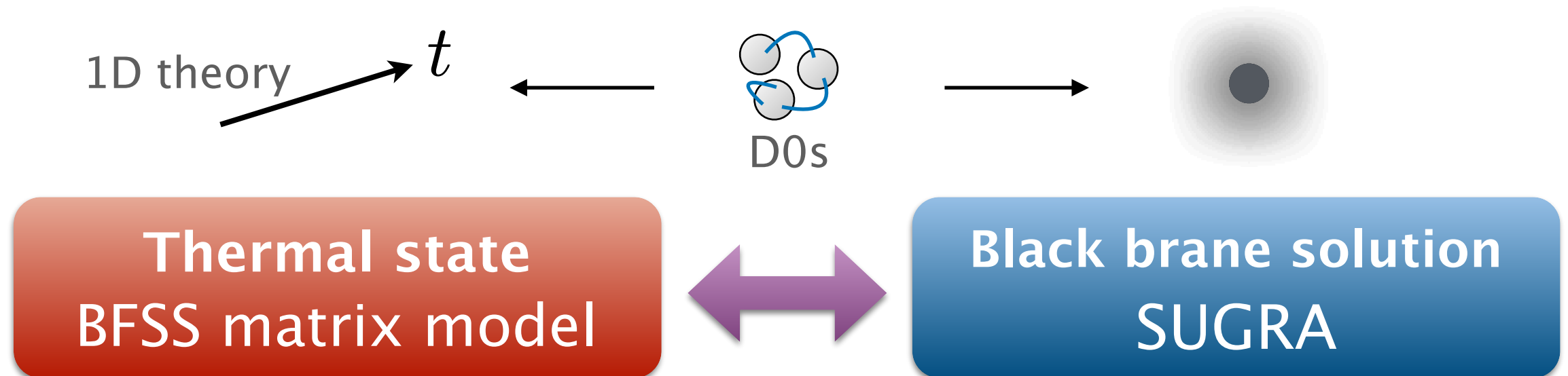
➡ The only non-trivial degrees of freedom in the limit are open strings attaching D0-branes

➡ The D0-brane theory describes M-theory

$$S_{\text{BFSS}} = \frac{1}{g^2} \int dt \, \text{tr} \left[\frac{1}{2} (D_t X^i)^2 + \frac{1}{4} [X^i, X^j]^2 + (\text{fermions}) \right]$$

Introduction

The BFSS is also conjectured to have **gauge/gravity duality** for D0s.



[Itzhaki, Maldacena, Sonnenschein, Yankielowicz '98]

Deconfined phase ($\langle P \rangle \neq 0$)
... colour d.o.f. N^2 are “visible”

(Type IIA) non-extremal
black 0-brane solution

$$\text{Entropy } S = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial T} \sim O(N^2) \sim S = \frac{\text{Area}}{4}$$

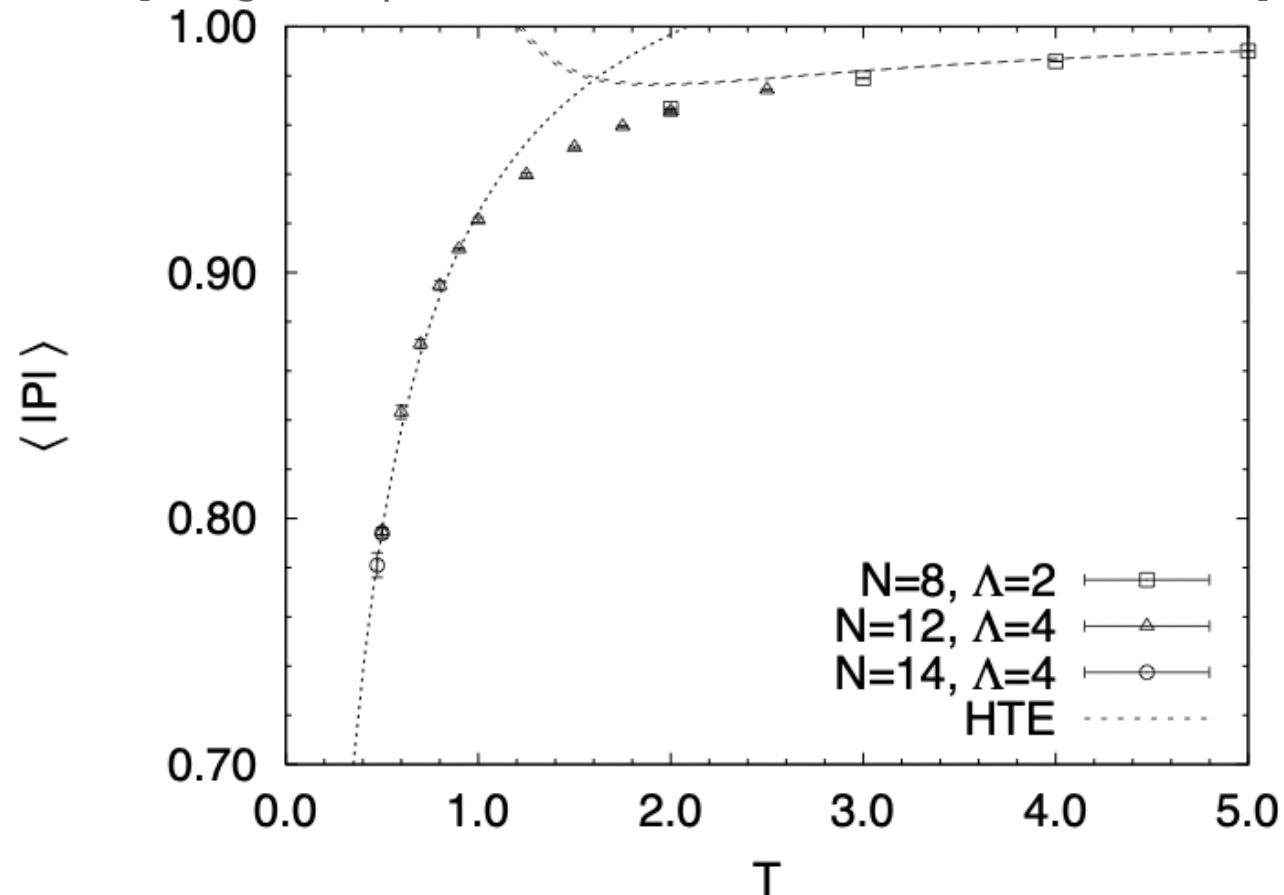
This correspondence is valid for $N^{-\frac{10}{21}} \ll \frac{T}{(g^2 N)^{1/3}} \ll 1$.

Today, we consider temperatures **lower than this validity region**.

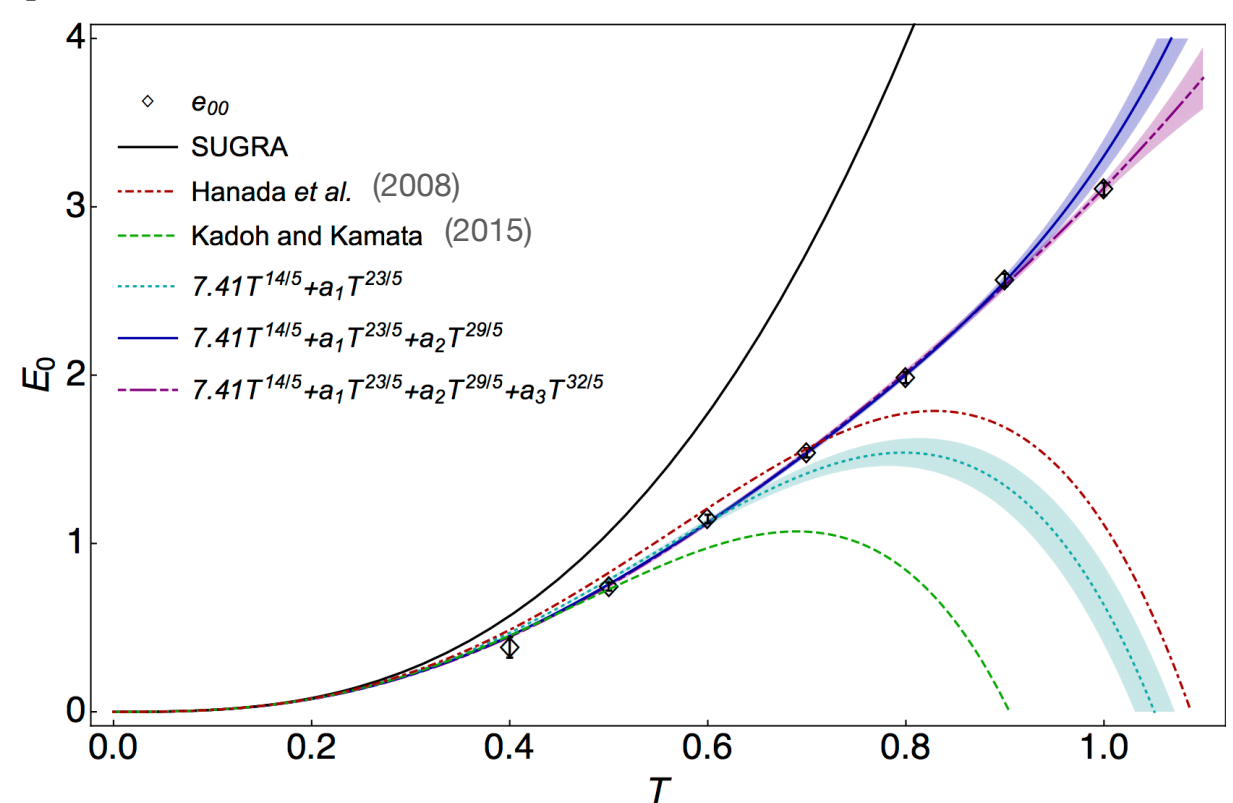
Introduction

Numerical simulations of the BFSS model:

[Anagnostopoulos, Hanada, Nishimura, Takeuchi '07]



[Berkowitz, Rinaldi, Hanada, Ishiki, Shimasaki, Vranas '16]



No confinement transition has been observed in the BFSS model, as predicted from the gravity side.

[Barbon, Kogan, Rabinovici '98; Aharony, Marsano, Minwalla, Papadodimas, Raamsdonk, Wiseman '05]

The numerical results agree with the gauge/gravity prediction.

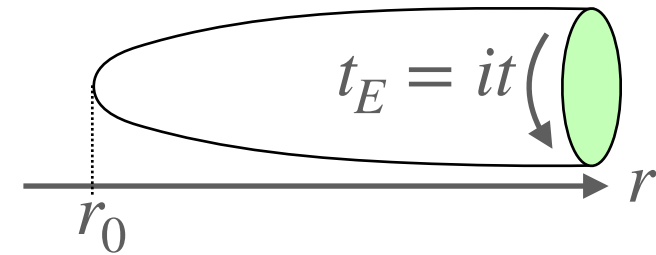
Introduction

There are **2 types** of black brane solution in **type IIA 10D SUGRA**.

- Non-extremal black 0-brane solution

$$ds^2 = -\frac{f(r)}{H^{\frac{1}{2}}(r)} dt^2 + \frac{H^{\frac{1}{2}}(r)}{f(r)} dr^2 + H^{\frac{1}{2}}(r) r^2 d\Omega_8^2$$

Effective string coupling: $e^\Phi = g_s H^{\frac{3}{4}}(r)$ $f(r) = 1 - \frac{r_0^7}{r^7}$ $H(r) = 1 + \frac{r_0^7}{r^7}$



... Event horizon: $r = r_0$ (Black hole in 10D)

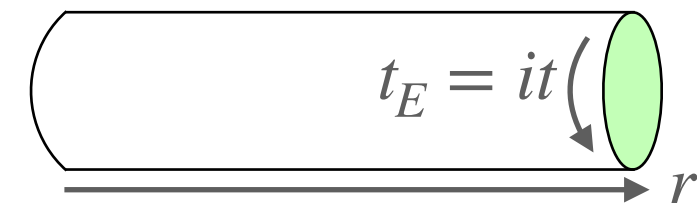
Hawking temperature: $T \propto \frac{r_0^{\frac{5}{2}}}{\sqrt{g_s N}}$ (near extremal)

Entropy $S \propto N^2 \left(\frac{T}{(g_s N)^{1/3}} \right)^{\frac{9}{5}}$ Free energy $F \propto -N^2 \left(\frac{T}{(g_s N)^{1/3}} \right)^{\frac{14}{5}}$

- Thermal 0-brane solution

It is “extremal” ($r_0 = 0$) but has a non-contractible S^1 .

Free energy $F = 0$



Non-extremal black 0-brane is always favoured.

Introduction

The validity region for the type IIA description:

Effective string coupling: $e^{\Phi} \sim \frac{1}{N} \tau^{-\frac{21}{10}} \ll 1$

Dimensionless curvature: $\alpha' R \sim \tau^{\frac{3}{5}} \ll 1$

$$\longrightarrow N^{-\frac{10}{21}} \ll \tau \ll 1$$

Dim.less temperature

$$\tau := \frac{T}{(g^2 N)^{1/3}} \sim \frac{T}{(g_s N)^{1/3}}$$

The non-extremal black 0-brane is **actually a “black string” in 11D**.

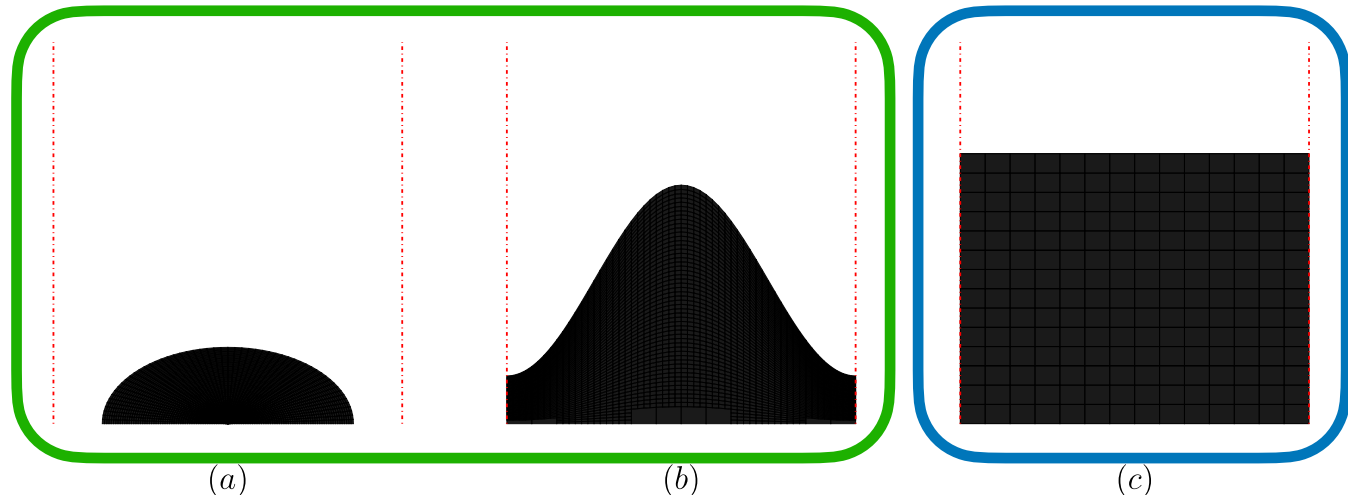
For $\tau \ll 1$ and $r \sim r_0 \sim O(1)$ (near horizon),
the dimensional “oxidisation” from type IIA 10D to 11D yields

$$ds_{11}^2 = -f(r)dt'^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2 d\Omega_8^2 + \underline{dz'}^2$$

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{r_0^7}{r^7}$$

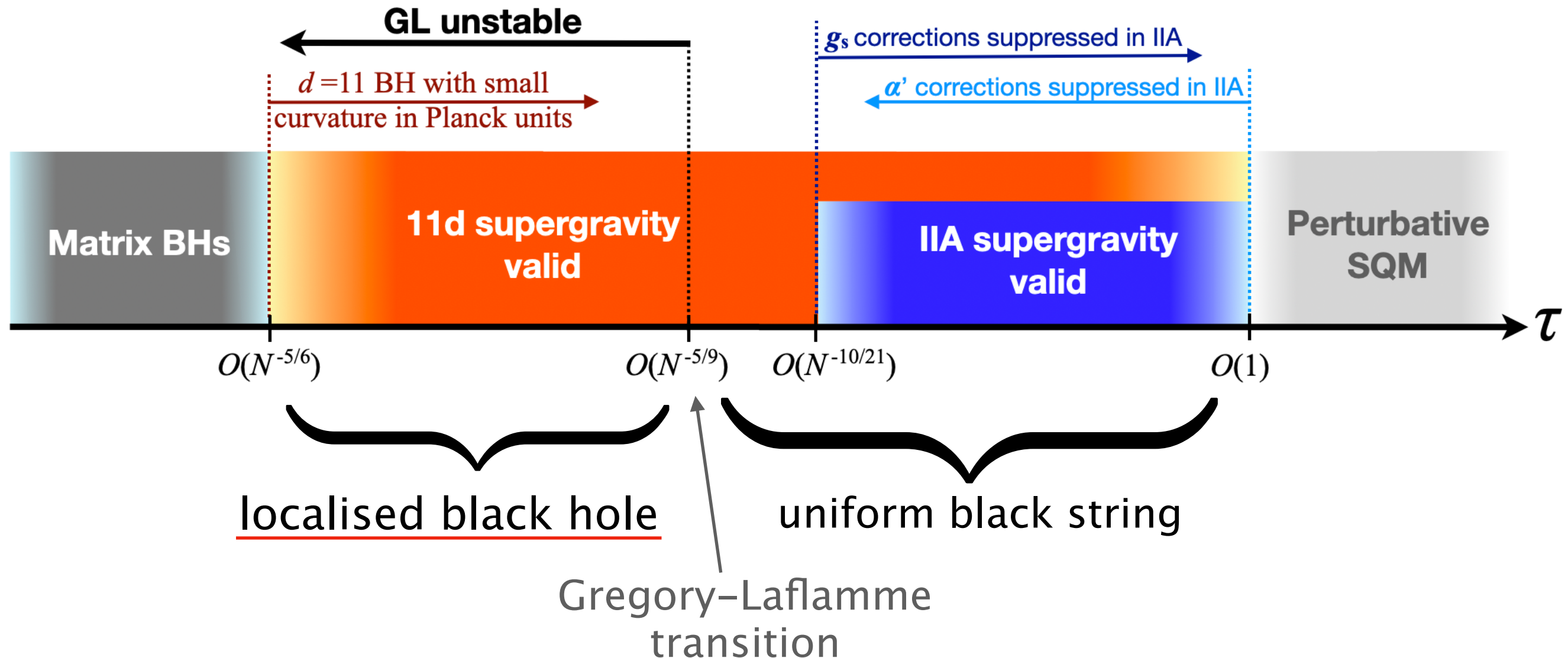
... Event horizon: $r = r_0$ (**Uniform** black string)

We search for
localised black hole &
non-uniform black string
solutions.



Introduction

Result:



There is a **phase transition** from the uniform black string sol. to the **localised black hole** sol., in which the non-uniform one is subdominant. On the other hand, the **non-uniform black string** sol. becomes dominant in the microcanonical ensemble.

Localised & non-uniform solutions

The **asymptotic behaviour** (in 11D) of the gravity solutions should be the same as that of the uniform black string solution:

$$ds_{11}^2 \rightarrow -\frac{r^7}{r_-^7} dt^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_8^2 + \frac{r_-^7}{r^7} \left(dz + \frac{r^7}{r_-^7} dt \right)^2 \quad r_0 \ll r \ll r_-$$

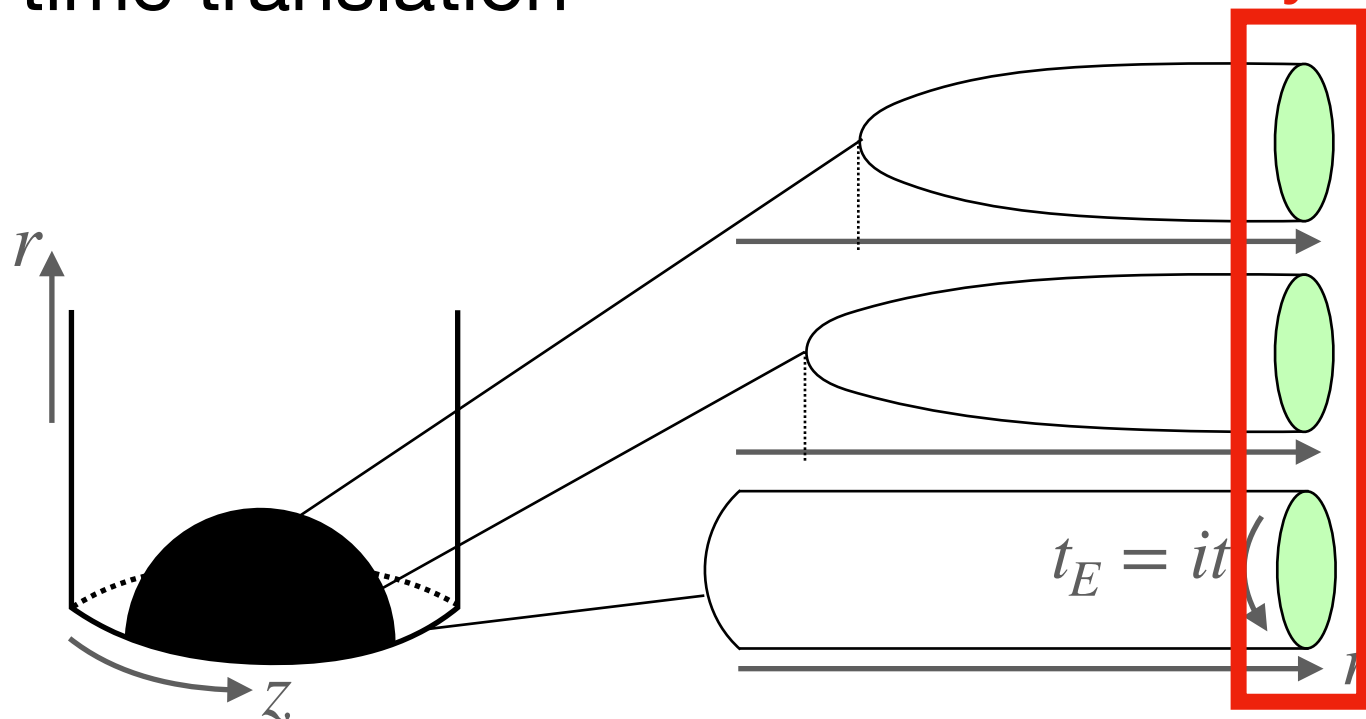
$$= 2dt dz + \frac{r_-^7}{r^7} dz^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_8^2 \quad \cdots \text{pp-wave background}$$

It ensures

- the same number of D0-branes, N
- the same compactification radius R ($z \sim z + 2\pi R$)
- the same generator of time translation

same asymptotics

Localised black hole:

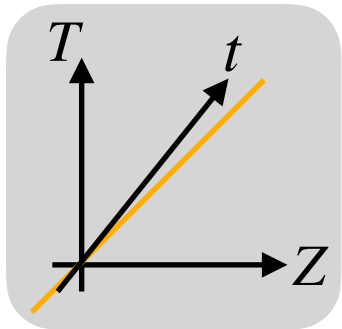


Localised & non-uniform solutions (technicalities)

The authors numerically constructed the localised black hole solution and the non-uniform black string solution which are asymptotically $\mathbb{R}^{1,9} \times S^1$, which can be mapped to those asymptotically pp-wave.

“Carrollian” transformation:

[Carrollian limit: the speed of light $c \rightarrow 0$]



$$T = \frac{R^{7/2}}{r_-^{7/2}} \gamma t - \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{r_-^{7/2}}{R^{7/2}} z, \quad Z = \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{r_-^{7/2}}{R^{7/2}} \frac{z}{R} \quad (\gamma = \sqrt{a+c})$$

$$ds_{11}^2 \rightarrow - \left(1 - a \frac{R^7}{r^7} + \dots \right) dT^2 + \frac{dr^2}{B(r)} + r^2 d\Omega_8^2 + \left(1 + c \frac{R^7}{r^7} + \dots \right) R^2 dZ^2 \dots \mathbb{R}^{1,9} \times S^1$$

$$\sim 2dt dz + \frac{r_-^7}{r^7} dz^2 + \frac{dr^2}{B(r)} + r^2 d\Omega_8^2 \dots \text{pp-wave}$$

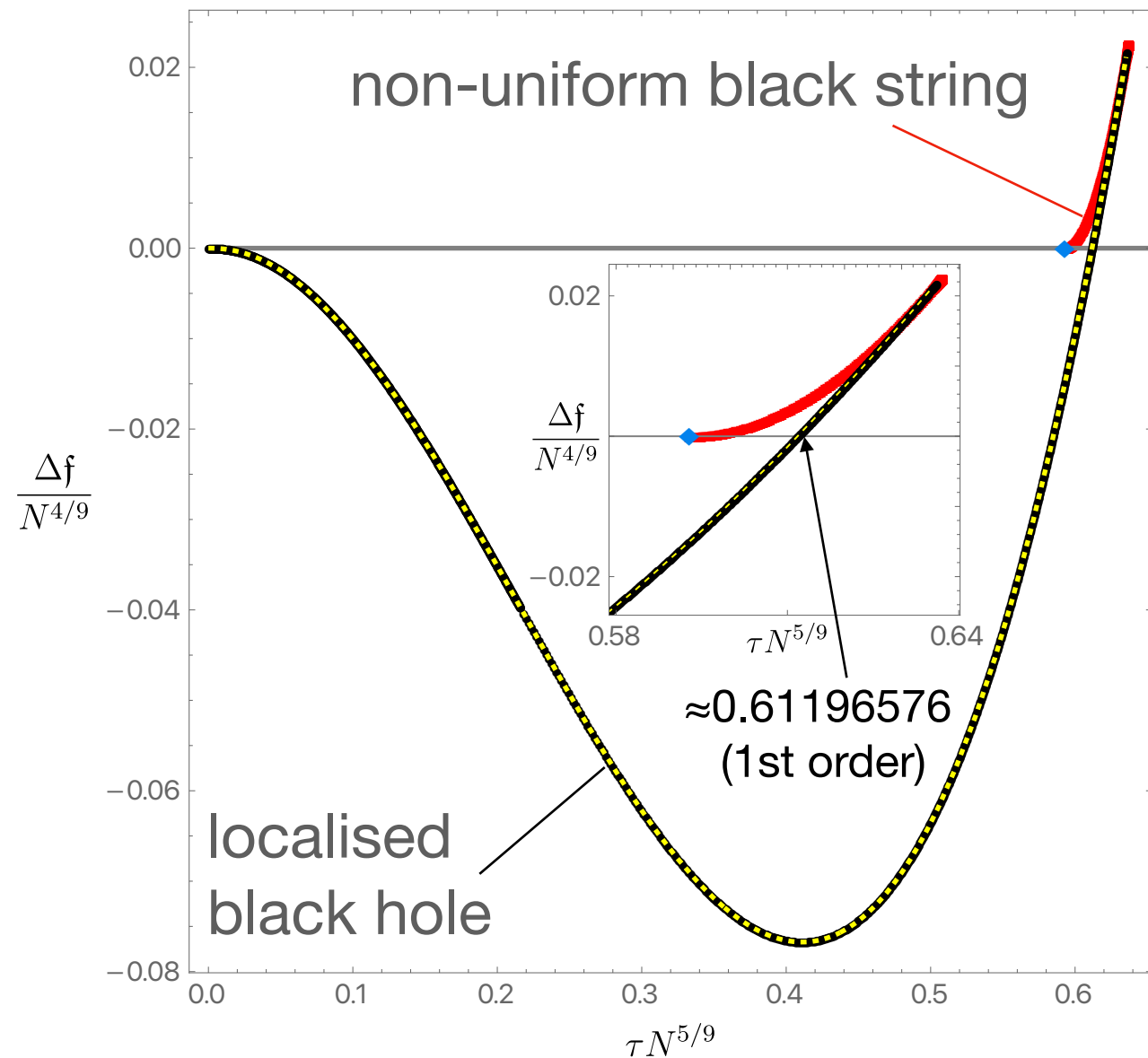
This transforms thermodynamic quantities as well: e.g. $S^{(pp)} = \frac{2\pi N S^{(0)}}{E^{(0)} - T^{(0)}}$

They also obtained a perturbative result for the localised BH:

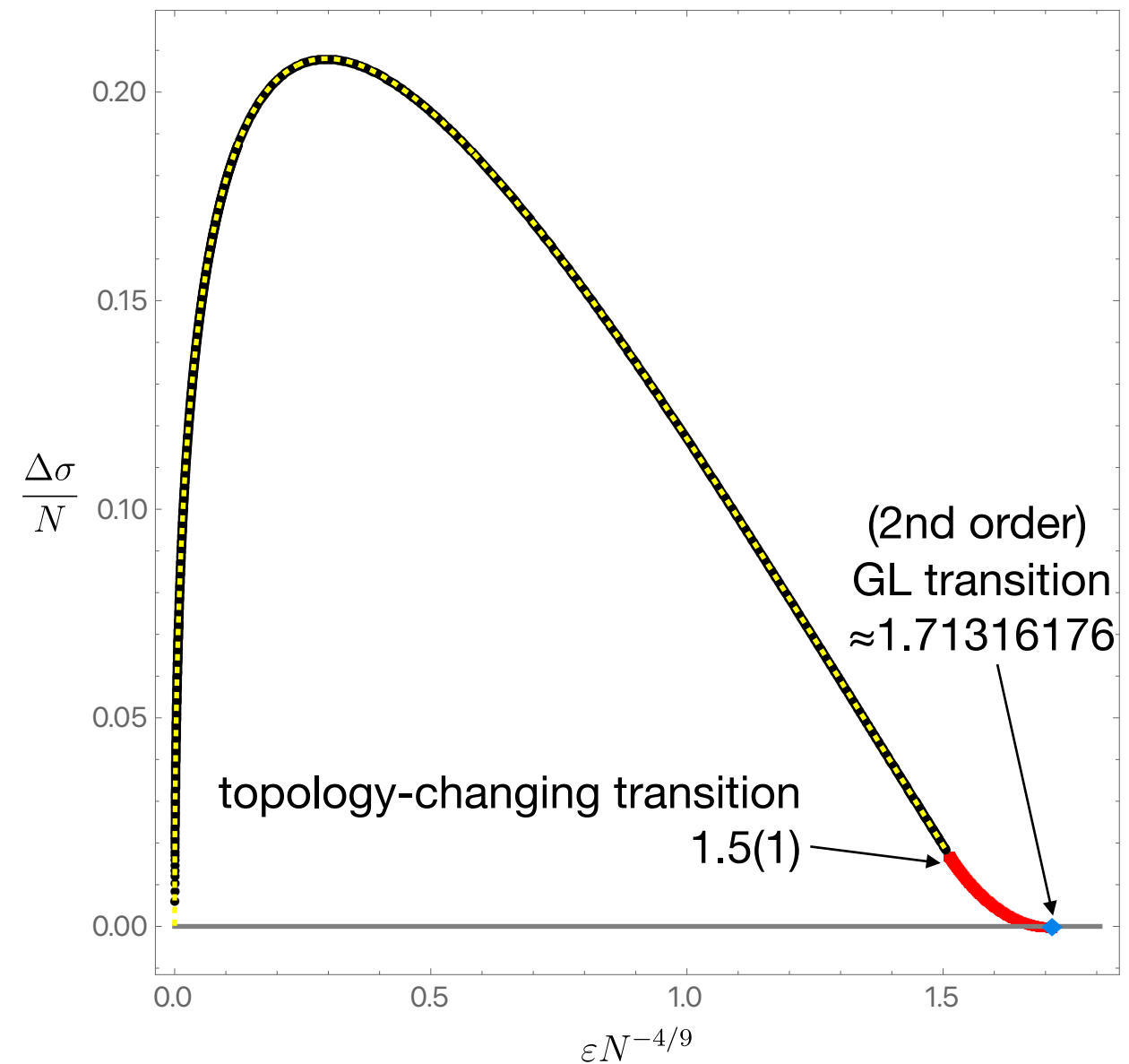
$$F^{(pp)} \propto - N^{\frac{4}{9}} (N^{\frac{5}{9}} \tau)^{\frac{16}{7}} \left[1 + \frac{\pi^{72/7}}{264600 \cdot 6^{2/7}} (N^{\frac{5}{9}} \tau)^{\frac{72}{7}} + O(\tau^{\frac{144}{7}}) \right]$$

Localised & non-uniform solutions

Free energy $F^{(pp)}$



Entropy $S^{(pp)}$



These are thermodynamic quantities of the novel solutions minus those of the uniform black string sol.

We observe **phase transitions** from the uniform black string.

Summary

- In the canonical ensemble, we observe a **1st order phase transition** at $\tau \approx 0.6119N^{-\frac{5}{9}}$ from the uniform black string to the localised black hole.
- In the microcanonical ensemble, we observe a **2nd order phase transition** at energy $\varepsilon \approx 1.713N^{\frac{4}{9}}$ from the uniform black string to the non-uniform black string, unlike other gauge/gravity dualities.
- Therefore we expect a 1st order transition in BFSS simulations (e.g. of energy) at $\tau \approx 0.6119N^{-\frac{5}{9}}$. But what is a good order parameter? We need to understand this transition on the BFSS side.
- ✧ There may exist another solution that is more dominant.
- ✧ This uniform/localised transition is observed in the bosonic BFSS model (high- T limit of the 2D SYM on $S^1 \times S^1$). In this case, the transition corresponds to the confined/deconfined transition, where the eigenvalue distribution of the holonomy (Polyakov loop) is uniform/localised.