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Hydrodynamics for charge density waves and their holographic dualsJay Armas^{1,2,*} and Akash Jain^{3,†}¹*Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Amsterdam, 1090 GL Amsterdam, The Netherlands*²*Dutch Institute for Emergent Phenomena, 1090 GL Amsterdam, The Netherlands*³*Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Victoria,
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We formulate a theory of dissipative hydrodynamics with spontaneously broken translations, describing charge density waves in a clean isotropic electronic crystal. We identify a novel linear transport coefficient, lattice pressure, capturing the effects of background strain and thermal expansion in a crystal. We argue that lattice pressure is a generic feature of systems with spontaneously broken translations and must be accounted for while building and interpreting holographic models. We also provide the first calculation of the coefficients of thermal and chemical expansion in a holographic electronic crystal.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.101.121901](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.101.121901)**I. INTRODUCTION**

Ever since the discovery of high-temperature superconductivity, cuprates continue to be enigmatic owing to their intricate phase diagrams exhibiting various intertwined patterns of symmetry breaking [1,2]. In particular, the phase diagram of copper oxides contains electronic liquid crystal phases that spontaneously break translations and/or rotations. These include the elastic multicomponent charge density wave (CDW) phases [3], smectic stripe phases, where the CDW pattern only appears along a single direction, or nematic spin density wave phases, where translations are intact but rotations are spontaneously broken. All these phases can potentially appear simultaneously with superconducting phases where the global U(1) symmetry is also spontaneously broken (see [1,2,5] for a comprehensive review). To note is the fact that CDW ground states are an essential feature across the phase diagram of copper oxides.

Electrons in cuprates, in particular in strange metallic phases, are strongly correlated. This renders the quasiparticle Fermi liquid crystal theory unreliable for these systems, even qualitatively, leaving us with only a handful of techniques for this plethora of phases [2]. Recently, hydrodynamics has been proposed as a theoretical framework for studying aspects of strongly correlated electron systems [4,6,7], capable of explaining pinning in the optical conductivity and predicting the magnitude of viscosity in

optimally doped Bismuth strontium calcium copper oxide [4]. Another series of efforts has been directed toward holography [8–15], where properties of strongly coupled quantum systems are being probed using classical gravity. In fact, within this setting, hydrodynamics is directly related to such holographic models via the fluid/gravity correspondence [16].

However, all previous treatments of hydrodynamics for charged lattices (see e.g., [4,17–19]) have not considered an essential transport coefficient in their constitutive relations, namely the *lattice pressure*. This coefficient first appeared in [20] in the context of uncharged viscoelastic materials, and models a uniform repulsion/attraction between lattice sites in a material with translational order. However, the thermodynamic variation of lattice pressure can be understood as carrying information about the thermal expansion of the lattice: *coefficients of thermal and chemical expansion* [21]. As also discussed in [20], lattice pressure is generically present in holographic models of viscoelasticity.

The main purpose of this letter is to provide the complete hydrodynamic theory for isotropic charged crystals, including contributions from lattice pressure. We derive the hydrodynamic predictions for linear modes and response functions. As far as we are aware, the sound and diffusion modes in the longitudinal sector for charged crystals have not been previously worked out in full generality in the literature. We also comment on the signatures of lattice pressure in holography using a simple class of holographic models. Our analysis illustrates that many previous works have used an incomplete hydrodynamic framework to interpret holographic results in CDW (e.g., [8–12]), as in viscoelasticity (e.g., [22–26])[27]. We derive an analytic formula for the coefficients of thermal and chemical expansion in these simple models.

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For clarity of presentation and to effectively focus on the impact of lattice pressure, we restrict our attention to clean CDW phases. That is, we do not consider the effects of pinning or momentum dissipation due to interactions with the ionic lattice, or the presence of topological defects such as disclinations and dislocations.

II. CRYSTAL FIELD THEORY AND LATTICE PRESSURE

The fundamental ingredient in an effective theory for crystals is a set of crystal fields ϕ^I . They represent the spatial distribution of lattice cores within the crystal [20] and can be understood as Goldstones of spontaneously broken translations. The indices $I, J, \dots = 1, \dots, k \leq d$ run over the number of broken translations, while $\mu, \nu, \dots = 0, \dots, d$ run over spacetime indices. Physical distances between the cores are measured by $h^{IJ} = g^{\mu\nu} e_\mu^I e_\nu^J$, where $e_\mu^I = \partial_\mu \phi^I$ and $g_{\mu\nu}$ is the background metric. The I, J, \dots indices are raised/lowered using h^{IJ} and $h_{IJ} = (h^{-1})_{IJ}$. The crystal also carries a ‘‘preferred’’ reference configuration $\mathbb{h}_{IJ} = \delta_{IJ}/\alpha^2$ where α is a constant parametrizing the ‘‘inverse size’’ of the crystal. Distortions of the crystal away from this reference configuration are measured by the nonlinear strain tensor $u_{IJ} = (h_{IJ} - \mathbb{h}_{IJ})/2$.

The free energy of a crystal in an isotropic phase, up to quadratic order in small strain expansion, takes the form $F = -\int d^d x \sqrt{-g} P$ with

$$P = P_f + P_\ell (u^I_I + u^{IJ} u_{IJ}) - \frac{1}{2} B (u^I_I)^2 - G \left(u^{IJ} u_{IJ} - \frac{1}{d} (u^I_I)^2 \right) + \mathcal{O}(u^3). \quad (1)$$

Here P_f is the thermodynamic or ‘‘fluid’’ pressure and P_ℓ is the lattice pressure, while B and G are bulk and shear modulus respectively. Classical elasticity theory usually describes thermodynamically stable states, requiring the free energy to be minimized with respect to strain and setting the linear term $P_\ell|_{\text{eq}} = 0$ in equilibrium [28]. However, in the context of various holographic models, one finds that $P_\ell|_{\text{eq}} \neq 0$. As argued in [8], such states can be relevant for strange metallic regions where quantum critical fluctuations of the order parameters do not provide any stable ordered phase. Furthermore, even in states with $P_\ell|_{\text{eq}} = 0$, thermodynamic derivatives of P_ℓ are generically nonzero and measure the coefficients of thermal and chemical expansion (see Sec. 6 of [28])

$$\alpha_T = \frac{1}{B} \frac{\partial P_\ell}{\partial T}, \quad \alpha_\mu = \frac{1}{B} \frac{\partial P_\ell}{\partial \mu}. \quad (2)$$

These derivatives are shown to leave nontrivial signatures in the hydrodynamic spectrum (see e.g., [20,29]).

III. VISCOELASTIC HYDRODYNAMICS

We are interested in low-energy fluctuations of a charged crystal around thermal equilibrium. In addition to ϕ^I , the dynamics in this regime is governed by conserved operators: stress tensor $T^{\mu\nu}$ and charge/particle current J^μ

$$\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = F^{\nu\rho} J_\rho - K_I^{\text{ext}} e^{I\nu}, \quad \nabla_\mu J^\mu = 0. \quad (3)$$

Here A_μ and K_I^{ext} are background sources coupled to J^μ and ϕ^I , while $g_{\mu\nu}$ is the source for $T^{\mu\nu}$. $F_{\mu\nu} = 2\partial_{[\mu} A_{\nu]}$. Collectively, these determine time-evolution of the hydrodynamic fields: velocity u^μ (with $u^\mu u_\mu = -1$), temperature T , and chemical potential μ . The most generic set of constitutive relations for $T^{\mu\nu}$ and J^μ for an isotropic [30] charged viscoelastic fluid at one-derivative order in Landau frame are given as

$$J^\mu = qu^\mu - P^{l\mu} \sigma_{IJ}^q P^{J\nu} \left(T \partial_\nu \frac{\mu}{T} - E_\nu \right) - P^{l\mu} \gamma_{IJ} u^\nu e_\nu^J, \\ T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P) u^\mu u^\nu + P g^{\mu\nu} - r_{IJ} e^{I\mu} e^{J\nu} - P^{l(\mu} P^{j\nu)} \eta_{IJKL} P^{K(\rho} P^{L\sigma)} \nabla_\rho u_\sigma. \quad (4)$$

Here, P is the thermodynamic pressure, ϵ , q , and s are the energy, charge, and entropy densities, and r_{IJ} is the elastic stress tensor. All these quantities are functions of T , μ , and h^{IJ} . They obey the thermodynamic relations: $dP = sdT + qd\mu + \frac{1}{2} r_{IJ} dh^{IJ}$ and $\epsilon + P = sT + q\mu$. We have defined $P^{\mu\nu} = g^{\mu\nu} + u^\mu u^\nu$, $P^{l\mu} = P^{\mu\nu} e_\nu^l$, $E_\mu = F_{\mu\nu} u^\nu$. Furthermore, η_{IJKL} , σ_{IK}^q , and γ_{IK} are dissipative transport coefficient matrices. In addition, the constitutive relations have to be supplemented with configuration equations determining the time-evolution of ϕ^I , i.e.,

$$\sigma_{IJ}^\phi u^\mu \partial_\mu \phi^I + \gamma'_{JK} P^{K\mu} \left(T \partial_\mu \frac{\mu}{T} - F_{\mu\nu} u^\nu \right) + \nabla_\mu (r_{JK} e^{K\mu}) = K_J^{\text{ext}}. \quad (5)$$

Here, σ_{IK}^ϕ and γ'_{IK} are two more matrices of dissipative transport coefficients. At zeroth order in derivatives, these equations imply that the crystal fields are constant along the fluid flow. Taking $\phi^I = \alpha(x^I - \delta\phi^I)$, they turns into their more familiar form $u^I \partial_I \delta\phi^I = u^I - u^i \partial_i \delta\phi^I + \dots$.

Following our discussion in [20], it can be checked that Eqs. (4) and (5) above are the most generic set of constitutive relations and configuration equations that satisfy the local second law of thermodynamics, $\nabla_\mu S^\mu \geq 0$, with the entropy current $S^\mu = su^\mu - \frac{\mu}{T} (J^\mu - qu^\mu)$, provided that the symmetric parts of

$$\eta_{(IJ),(KL)}, \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{IK}^q & \gamma_{IK} \\ \gamma'_{IK} & \sigma_{IK}^\phi \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

are positive semidefinite matrices.

IV. LINEAR REGIME

We are typically interested in crystals close to mechanical equilibrium, where we can expand the hydrodynamic equations in small strain. The pressure P can be expanded as in Eq. (1), which determines q , s , ϵ , and r_{IJ} up to linear order in strain through thermodynamics. At one derivative order, we only keep the strain-independent terms, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{IJ}^q &= \sigma_q h_{IJ}, \sigma_{IJ}^\phi = \sigma_\phi h_{IJ}, \gamma_{IJ} = \gamma h_{IJ}, \gamma'_{IJ} = \gamma' h_{IJ}, \\ \eta_{IJKL} &= \left(\zeta - \frac{2}{d} \eta \right) h_{IJ} h_{KL} + 2\eta h_{IK} h_{JL}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

We can identify η and ζ as shear and bulk viscosities, σ_q as charge conductivity, σ_ϕ as crystal diffusivity, while γ , γ' as certain mixed conductivities. The second law constraints in Eq. (6) reduce to

$$\eta, \zeta, \sigma_q, \sigma_\phi \geq 0, \quad \sigma_q \sigma_\phi \geq \frac{1}{4} (\gamma + \gamma')^2. \quad (8)$$

Finally, we arrive at the constitutive relations in the small-strain regime

$$\begin{aligned} J^\mu &= (q_f + q_\ell u^\lambda{}_\lambda) u^\mu - \sigma_q P^{\mu\nu} \left(T \partial_\nu \frac{\mu}{T} - E_\nu \right) - \gamma P^\mu{}_\lambda u^\nu e^\lambda{}_\nu, \\ T^{\mu\nu} &= (\epsilon_f + \epsilon_\ell u^\lambda{}_\lambda) u^\mu u^\nu + (P_f + P_\ell u^\lambda{}_\lambda) P^{\mu\nu} + P_\ell h^{\mu\nu} \\ &\quad - \eta \sigma^{\mu\nu} - \zeta P^{\mu\nu} \partial_\rho u^\rho - 2G u^{\mu\nu} - \left(B - \frac{2}{d} G \right) u^\lambda{}_\lambda h^{\mu\nu}. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Here $h_{\mu\nu} = h_{IJ} e_\mu^I e_\nu^J$ and $u_{\mu\nu} = u_{IJ} e_\mu^I e_\nu^J$. Similarly the configuration equations (5) reduce to

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_\phi u^\mu e_\mu^I - h^{IJ} \nabla_\mu \left(P_\ell e_J^\mu - \left(B - \frac{2}{d} G \right) u^\lambda{}_\lambda e_J^\mu - 2G u^{\mu\nu} e_{J\nu} \right) \\ + \gamma' P^{I\mu} \left(T \partial_\mu \frac{\mu}{T} - E_\nu u^\nu \right) = h^{IJ} K_J^{\text{ext}}. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

We have defined the fluid thermodynamics $dP_f = s_f dT + q_f d\mu$, $\epsilon_f + P_f = s_f T + q_f \mu$ and similarly for the lattice pressure $dP_\ell = s_\ell dT + q_\ell d\mu$, $\epsilon_\ell + P_\ell = s_\ell T + q_\ell \mu$. Setting $u_{IJ} = 0$, note that the mechanical pressure $\langle T^{xx} \rangle = P_f + P_\ell$ gets contribution from both thermodynamic and lattice pressure.

V. CONFORMALITY

Let us briefly comment on the conformal limit of our theory, due to its relevance in holography. Requiring that the

stress tensor scales appropriately leads to the conformality constraints at the nonlinear level: $\epsilon = dP - r_{IJ} h^{IJ}$ and $h^{IJ} \eta_{IJKL} = \eta_{IJKL} h^{KL} = 0$. In the linear regime, they imply

$$\epsilon_f = d(P_f + P_\ell), \quad \epsilon_\ell = d(P_\ell - B), \quad \zeta = 0. \quad (11)$$

Notice that having P_ℓ or ϵ_ℓ nonzero in the theory (unlike [4]), allows for a nonzero B in a conformal crystal. Furthermore, using the expansion coefficients from Eq. (2), we can derive the identity

$$T\alpha_T + \mu\alpha_\mu = (d+1) \frac{P_\ell}{B} - d. \quad (12)$$

In particular, in a state with no lattice pressure or chemical potential, $\alpha_T < 0$. This is not surprising, as the size of a conformal crystal scales inversely with temperature at constant μ/T .

VI. LINEAR HYDRODYNAMICS AND MODES

Consider a charged crystal on flat spacetime, $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu}$, with trivial external sources, $A_\mu = \mu_0 \delta_\mu^I$, $K_I^{\text{ext}} = 0$. An equilibrium configuration on this background is given by $T = T_0$, $\mu = \mu_0$, $u^\mu = \delta_t^\mu$, $\phi^I = \alpha x^I$. We can expand Eqs. (3) and (5) linearly in fields around this configuration to obtain the constitutive relations of linear hydrodynamics. We recover the previously known results of [4,31] with the identification $\xi = 1/\sigma_\phi$, $\gamma_1 = -\gamma/\sigma_\phi$, and $\sigma_0 = \sigma_q + \gamma^2/\sigma_\phi$, only if we choose $\gamma' = -\gamma$ and set lattice pressure P_ℓ and both its derivatives s_ℓ , q_ℓ to zero [32].

Solving the linear equations in momentum space, we can find the complete set of linear modes admitted by the theory. We find two pairs of sound modes, one each in transverse and longitudinal sectors, and two diffusive modes in the longitudinal sector

$$\omega = \pm v_{\perp,\parallel} k - \frac{i}{2} \Gamma_{\perp,\parallel} k^2 + \dots, \quad \omega = -i D_{\parallel}^{q,\phi} k^2 + \dots. \quad (13)$$

In the transverse sector, one finds that the modes take a simple form known previously (e.g., [4])

$$v_\perp^2 = \frac{G}{\chi_{\pi\pi}}, \quad \Gamma_\perp = \frac{w_f^2 G}{\chi_{\pi\pi}^2 \sigma} + \frac{\eta}{\chi_{\pi\pi}}, \quad (14)$$

where $\chi_{\pi\pi} = \epsilon_f + P_f + P_\ell$ is the momentum susceptibility and $w_f = \epsilon_f + P_f$ is the enthalpy density. The transverse speed v_\perp is controlled by the shear modulus G ; in the $G = 0$ case this mode reduces to the well-known shear diffusion mode in hydrodynamics. Modes in the longitudinal sector are considerably more involved. With applications to holography in mind, we present the results for conformal viscoelastic fluids here for simplicity. The general non-conformal results are given in the Supplemental Material [33]. The longitudinal sound mode simplifies in this limit to

$$v_{\parallel}^2 = \frac{1}{d} + \frac{2\frac{d-1}{d}G}{\chi_{\pi\pi}}, \quad \Gamma_{\parallel} = \frac{w_f^2(2\frac{d-1}{d}G)^2}{\sigma_{\phi}^2\chi_{\pi\pi}^3 v_{\parallel}^2} + \frac{2\frac{d-1}{d}\eta}{\chi_{\pi\pi}}. \quad (15)$$

This is the usual sound mode present in hydrodynamics, but gets modified on a lattice. Longitudinal diffusion modes, on the other hand, are given by the solutions of the quadratic

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(D_{\parallel} - \frac{w_f^2 2\frac{d-1}{d}G + B - P_{\ell}}{\sigma_{\phi} d\chi_{\pi\pi} v_{\parallel}^2 (w_f + w_{\ell})} \right) \left(\frac{\Xi D_{\parallel}}{d(w_f + w_{\ell})} - \frac{\sigma_q}{T^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{D_{\parallel}}{\sigma_{\phi}} \left(\frac{s_f q_{\ell} - q_f s_{\ell}}{w_f + w_{\ell}} + \frac{\gamma}{T} \right) \left(\frac{s_f q_{\ell} - q_f s_{\ell}}{w_f + w_{\ell}} - \frac{\gamma'}{T} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where $\Xi = \frac{\partial s_f}{\partial T} \frac{\partial q_f}{\partial \mu} - \frac{\partial s_f}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial q_f}{\partial T}$ and $w_{\ell} = \epsilon_{\ell} + P_{\ell}$. The two modes are controlled by the coefficients σ_q, σ_{ϕ} : in the $\sigma_{\phi} \rightarrow \infty$ limit we recover the usual charge diffusion mode D_{\parallel}^q , but modified on a lattice, while in the $\sigma_q \rightarrow 0$ limit we obtain the uncharged crystal diffusion mode D_{\parallel}^{ϕ} characteristic of a lattice [34] (see [18]).

We note that, in the conformal case, P_{ℓ} appears explicitly only in the diffusion modes (modulo the implicit dependence in $\chi_{\pi\pi} = \langle T^{tt} \rangle + \langle T^{xx} \rangle$). Therefore, if we were to ignore P_{ℓ} , for instance as in [4], hydrodynamics would lead to incorrect predictions for diffusion modes (see [29] for a particular example in holographic massive gravity). For nonconformal theories, however, P_{ℓ} infects all the modes in the longitudinal sector explicitly.

VII. RESPONSE FUNCTIONS AND ONSAGER'S RELATIONS

We can compute retarded two-point functions in our model by solving the hydrodynamic equations (9) and (10) in presence of infinitesimal plain wave sources [36]. Working at zero wave vector, we find in the full non-conformal case

$$\begin{aligned} G_{T^{xx}T^{xx}}^R &= \chi_{\pi\pi} v_{\parallel}^2 - i\omega \left(\zeta + 2\frac{d-1}{d}\eta \right) + \langle T^{xx} \rangle, \\ G_{T^{xy}T^{xy}}^R &= G - i\omega\eta + \langle T^{xx} \rangle, \\ G_{J^x J^x}^R &= \frac{q_f^2}{\chi_{\pi\pi}} - i\omega\tilde{\sigma}_q, \\ G_{\phi^x \phi^x}^R &= \frac{1}{\omega^2 \chi_{\pi\pi}} + \frac{\tilde{\sigma}_{\phi}}{i\omega}, \\ G_{J^x \phi^x}^R &= -\frac{q_f}{i\omega \chi_{\pi\pi}} + \tilde{\gamma}, \\ G_{\phi^x J^x}^R &= \frac{q_f}{i\omega \chi_{\pi\pi}} + \tilde{\gamma}', \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where we have defined the dissipative response coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\sigma}_q &= \sigma_q + \frac{1}{\sigma_{\phi}} \left(\frac{q_f P_{\ell}}{\chi_{\pi\pi}} - \gamma \right) \left(\frac{q_f P_{\ell}}{\chi_{\pi\pi}} + \gamma' \right), \\ \tilde{\sigma}_{\phi} &= \frac{w_f^2}{\sigma_{\phi} \chi_{\pi\pi}^2}, \quad \tilde{\gamma} = \frac{w_f}{\sigma_{\phi}} \left(\frac{\gamma}{\chi_{\pi\pi}} - \frac{q_f P_{\ell}}{\chi_{\pi\pi}^2} \right), \\ \tilde{\gamma}' &= \frac{w_f}{\sigma_{\phi}} \left(\frac{\gamma'}{\chi_{\pi\pi}} + \frac{q_f P_{\ell}}{\chi_{\pi\pi}^2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

All the remaining response functions are either zero or related to these by isotropy. For $P_{\ell} = 0$ and $\gamma = -\gamma'$, these results reduce to the expressions reported in [31], up to contact terms.

If the system enjoys $\Theta = T$ (time-reversal) or $\Theta = PT$ (spacetime parity) invariance, Onsager's relations require $G_{J^x \phi^x}^R = -\Theta G_{\phi^x J^x}^R$, setting $\gamma = -\gamma'$. This is the case assumed in [31]. In the case of $\Theta = CPT$ invariance, however, $G_{J^x \phi^x}^R = \Theta G_{\phi^x J^x}^R$ and we instead have $\gamma'|_{\mu \rightarrow -\mu} = \gamma$ (note that q_f flips sign under CPT).

VIII. HOLOGRAPHY

As an application of our hydrodynamic theory, we propose a simple holographic model for clean CDW phases following the discussion in [20,37,38]. We also compute the coefficients of thermal and chemical expansion in this smodel. Specializing to four bulk dimensions, the model is described by Einstein-Maxwell gravity in the bulk coupled to two scalars

$$S_{\text{bulk}} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-G} \left(R + 6 - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{F}^2 - 2V(X) \right). \quad (18)$$

Here G_{ab} is the bulk metric with a, b, \dots being the bulk indices, and $\mathcal{F}_{ab} = 2\partial_{[a}\mathcal{A}_{b]}$ is the field strength associated with the gauge field \mathcal{A}_a . Here $V(X) = X + \dots$ is an arbitrary potential in $X = \delta_{IJ} \frac{1}{2} G^{ab} \partial_a \Phi^I \partial_b \Phi^J$ for a set of scalar fields Φ^I . To describe a thermal state at the boundary, we consider charged black brane solutions of the action (18) of the form

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= \frac{1}{r^2 f(r)} dr^2 + r^2 (-f(r) dt^2 + \delta_{IJ} dx^I dx^J), \\ \mathcal{A}_{\mu} &= \mu \left(1 - \frac{r_0}{r} \right) \delta_{\mu}^t, \quad \Phi^I = \alpha x^I, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

where r_0 is the horizon radius, $r \rightarrow \infty$ is the conformal boundary, μ the chemical potential, and α an arbitrary constant. The blackening factor is given by

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{r_0^3}{r^3} - \frac{r_0 \mu^2 (r - r_0)}{4r^4} - \frac{\alpha^2}{r^3} \int_{r_0}^r dr' \frac{V(X(r'))}{X(r')}, \quad (20)$$

where $X(r) = \alpha^2 / r^2$. The profile of the scalars breaks the translational invariance in the boundary theory. This model, with $V(X) = X$, has been considered in the context of

momentum dissipation in [39] with explicitly broken translations. However, contrary to [39], we introduce alternative boundary conditions for Φ^I so as to describe spontaneously broken translations at the boundary. We will also allow for an arbitrary renormalization scale parameter \mathcal{M} in the boundary conditions breaking the conformal symmetry of the model. The holographic renormalization procedure along with the choice of boundary counterterms is detailed in the Supplemental Material [33].

Identifying the onshell action as free-energy for the boundary theory, we can read out the thermodynamic pressure in equilibrium

$$P_f = \frac{r_0^3}{2} \left(1 + \frac{\mu^2}{4r_0^2} + 2U_0 - V_0 \right) - \alpha^2 \mathcal{M}. \quad (21)$$

Here $U(X) = \frac{-1}{2} X^{3/2} \int dX X^{-5/2} V(X)$ and $X_0 = X(r_0)$, along with $V_0 = V(X_0)$, $V'_0 = V'(X_0)$, and $U_0 = U(X_0)$. We can also extract the stress tensor, charge current, and scalar expectation values using the boundary behaviour of the solution and read out

$$\begin{aligned} f &= r_0^3 \left(1 + \frac{\mu^2}{4r_0^2} - U_0 \right) + \alpha^2 \mathcal{M}, \\ q_f &= \frac{\mu r_0}{2}, \quad s_f = 2\pi r_0^2, \\ P_\ell &= \frac{r_0^3}{2} (V_0 - 3U_0) + \alpha^2 \mathcal{M}, \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

along with $\phi^I = \alpha x^I$. With temperature defined as $T = r_0^2 f'(r_0)/(4\pi)$, one can check that the expected thermodynamic relations given below Eq. (10) are satisfied. We can easily obtain the bulk modulus by deforming our solution from $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \delta\alpha$, leading to a uniform strain $u_{IJ} = -\alpha \delta_{IJ} \delta\alpha$, and using Eq. (1). We find

$$B = \frac{3r_0^3}{4} (V_0 - 3U_0) + \frac{\frac{1}{2} X_0 V'_0 r_0^3 (3 - V_0 + \frac{\mu^2}{4r_0^2})}{3 - V_0 + 2X_0 V'_0 + \frac{\mu^2}{4r_0^2}} + \alpha^2 \mathcal{M}. \quad (23)$$

One can check that these expressions satisfy the conformal identities (11) in the absence of \mathcal{M} , confirming that \mathcal{M} characterizes RG flow away from the conformal fixed point. Expressions for G and the dissipative transport coefficients have to be obtained numerically.

Finally, we can use the expressions for B and P_ℓ to read out the expansion coefficients in Eq. (2). In particular, in a conformal model with $\mathcal{M} = 0$ around a state with zero lattice pressure $P_\ell|_{\text{eq}} = 0$, we simply find

$$\alpha_T = \frac{-4s_f}{2s_f T + q_f \mu}, \quad \alpha_\mu = \frac{-2q_f}{2s_f T + q_f \mu}, \quad (24)$$

irrespective of the model dependent potential $V(X)$. They follow the conformal identity (12). We find both the

expansion coefficients to be negative for our holographic conformal crystal. This behavior is altered for $\mathcal{M} \neq 0$. However, negative thermal expansion is not unusual in solid materials [40].

A lattice configuration is thermodynamically stable if it minimizes the free energy: $(\delta P_f / \delta \alpha)_{T, \mu} = -2/\alpha P_\ell|_{\text{eq}} = 0$ for some $\alpha \neq 0$. Equivalently, $\langle T^{xx} \rangle$ must be equated to P_f [41]. Notice that $P_\ell \neq 0$ in a generic equilibrium configuration in (22). This is also the case for similar holographic models with spontaneously broken translations [22–25]. In fact, simple monomial models with $V(X) = X^N$ and $\mathcal{M} = 0$, do not admit any thermodynamically stable configurations. Fortunately, one can consider polynomial models, such as $V(X) = X + \lambda X^2$ or the “higher-derivative model” of [9], that do admit thermodynamically stable configurations, in our case $\alpha^2 = r_0(r_0 - \mathcal{M})/(2\lambda)$. Though the lattice pressure P_ℓ is zero in such configurations, its thermodynamic derivatives $s_\ell, q_\ell, \epsilon_\ell$ are still generically nonzero and have to be taken into account in the hydrodynamic spectrum. This was verified for the uncharged case in [29]. Previous holographic models for CDW have not been taking the lattice pressure into account, leading to the misinterpretation of some of their results.

IX. OUTLOOK

We have provided a complete formulation of hydrodynamics for clean isotropic CDW phases, taking into account the new transport coefficient P_ℓ . We find that P_ℓ nontrivially modifies the longitudinal sector of linear fluctuations. Besides being crucial for correctly interpreting the holographic results, including those of [8–12], lattice pressure is also highly relevant for real condensed matter systems. It can describe parts of the phase diagram for which there are no thermodynamically stable ordered phases and also accounts for the effects of thermal expansion of the crystal. We have obtained an analytic expression for the coefficients of thermal and chemical expansion is a class of simple holographic models using lattice pressure.

It will be interesting to further include the effects of explicit translation symmetry breaking (momentum dissipation and pinning) as well as incorporate spontaneous breaking of U(1) global symmetry. This would provide a more robust theory for realistic scenarios. In this context, it would be relevant to revisit some of the results and predictions of [4,6,7,42] with our understanding of lattice pressure, potentially including weak/strong background magnetic fields. In particular, it is an open question whether the existing data can constrain the magnitude of P_ℓ or its gradients for specific materials. It would also be interesting to work out an analogous formulation for smectic and nematic charged liquid crystal phases.

In the context of holography, we focused on equilibrium thermal states dual to planar black hole geometries.

However, this work provides the necessary linear transport theory for interpreting near-equilibrium states. By computing the quasinormal modes and using the Kubo formulas reported here, one can extract all first order transport coefficients and check whether the modes reported here reproduce holographic results. We leave some of these explorations for future work.

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