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Strings vs. Condensed Matter: An Overview

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Many experiments in condensed matter physics deal with “quantum critical” systems that are difficult to describe due to the absence of well-defined quasiparticles and the presence of strongly interacting excitations. The AdS/CFT duality provides new holographic methods to study these systems, by for instance mapping their transport properties to properties of black holes. We give a pedagogic overview of this approach to condensed matter physics, illustrating the main concepts by means of examples such as holographic superconductors and systems of cold atoms.

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