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Lifshitz holographic superconductor in Hořava–Lifshitz gravity

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ABSTRACT

We study the holographic phase transition of superconductor dual to a Lifshitz black brane probed by an anisotropic scalar field in the probe limit in Hořava–Lifshitz gravity. With the use of numerical and analytical method, we investigate how the critical temperature of the condensation is affected by the Lifshitz exponent z , α -correction term in the action as well as the dimensions of the gravity. We also numerically explore the condensation of the dual operator and optical conductivity of the holographic system. Various interesting properties of the holographic condensation affected by the parameters of model are discussed.

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1. Introduction

The gauge/gravity duality [1–4] that relates strongly interacting gauge theories to theories of gravity in higher dimensions has attracted increasing attention in recent years. It has opened a new window to study many different strongly interacting systems due to its remarkable feature that it relates a strong coupling QFT to a weak coupling gravitational theory. For this reason this duality has received considerable interest in modeling strongly coupled physics, in particular with a view to possible applications to condensed matter physics (see [5–7] for reviews).

One of the unsolved mysteries in modern condensed matter physics is the mechanism of the high T_c superconductors. In a series studies [8,9], Gubser proposed a model where the Abelian Higgs model is coupled to gravity with a negative cosmological constant. In this model there are solutions that spontaneously break the Abelian gauge symmetry via a charged complex scalar condensate near the horizon of the black hole. This model exhibits the key properties of superconductivity: a phase transition at a critical temperature, where a spontaneous symmetry breaking of a U(1) gauge symmetry in the bulk gravitational theory corresponds to a broken global U(1) symmetry on the boundary, and the formation of a charged condensate. Based on this observation, a holographic superconductor model was proposed by considering a neutral black hole with a charged scalar and Maxwell sector that

do not back react on the geometry [10,11]. Since then this correspondence has received considerable considerations in order to understand several crucial properties of these holographic superconductors (see Ref. [12] for reviews).

On the other hand, anisotropic scaling plays a fundamental role in quantum phase transitions in condensed matter [13,14]. Indeed, many behaviors of the condensed matter systems are governed by Lifshitz-like fixed points. These fixed points are characterized by the anisotropic scaling symmetry

$$t \rightarrow \lambda^z t, \quad x^i \rightarrow \lambda x^i, \quad (1)$$

where z is called the dynamical critical exponent and it describes the degree of anisotropy between space and time. A natural generalization of the gauge/gravity duality is the holographic description of QFTs without the conformal invariance. Such attempts were initiated in [15], where, motivated by fermions at unitarity, holographic duals to Galilean conformal field theories with Schrödinger symmetry was considered. Latter similar theories with Lifshitz symmetry were proposed in [16] where it was shown that nonrelativistic QFTs that describe multicritical points in certain magnetic materials and liquid crystals may be dual to certain nonrelativistic gravitational theories in the Lifshitz space-time background,¹ that is

$$ds^2 = -r^{2z} dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{r^2} + r^2 dx_i^2, \quad (i = 1, \dots, d). \quad (2)$$

¹ Generalization to theories with hyperscaling violation is possible [17,18]. For a recent progress, please see Refs. [19–32] for an incomplete list.

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Recently Hořava suggested that anisotropic scaling even plays a significant role in quantum gravity itself. Starting with the anisotropic scaling (1), he proposed a power-counting renormalizable theory of gravity, the so-called Hořava–Lifshitz (HL) theory [33,34]. The theory is based on the perspective that Lorentz symmetry should appear as an emergent symmetry at long distances, but can be fundamentally absent at short ones [35,36]. In the UV, the system exhibits a strong anisotropic scaling between space and time with $z \geq D$,² while at the IR, high-order curvature corrections become negligible, and the Lorentz invariance (with $z = 1$) is expected to be restored.

Since the HL gravity is itself anisotropic between space and time, it is natural to expect that the HL gravity provides a minimal holographic dual for nonrelativistic Lifshitz-type field theories. Recent progress confirmed this speculation. In [37] it was shown that the Lifshitz spacetime (2) is a vacuum solution of the HL gravity in $(2 + 1)$ dimensions and that the full structure of the $z = 2$ anisotropic Weyl anomaly can be reproduced in dual field theories, while its minimal relativistic gravity counterpart yields only one of two independent central charges in the anomaly. Our recent works [38,39] found further evidence to support the above speculation. In particular, we found all the static (diagonal) solutions of the HL gravity in any dimensions and showed that they give rise to very rich space–time structures: the corresponding space–times include BTZ-like black holes, the Lifshitz space–times, or Lifshitz solitons.

In this paper, we shall propose a holographic model for superconductors in Lifshitz background in HL gravity. The holographic superconductor in the HL gravity has been explored in [40]. However, the holographic superconductor in Lifshitz black hole in the HL gravity has not been considered before. Since the model exhibits anisotropic scaling not only in black hole background, but also in the gravity theory itself, one may expect that there should have some different behaviors in this model. Indeed, our results show that comparing to the Schwarzschild case [40], Lifshitz exponent will hinder the condensation of the second operator to occur, namely, it corresponds to lower critical temperature. While the rule is irregular for the first operator, because the condensation of the first operator tends to divergence as one lower the temperature, which is not the typicality in real superconductor. Related to the second operator, the energy gap, described by the vanishing real part of conductivity, is also harder to open in the field theory dual to the Lifshitz black hole. Meanwhile, we will also show that the additional α -coupling term makes the scalar hair easier to form, which is the same as that found in Schwarzschild case.

The organization of this paper is as follows: in section 2, we construct our model and give a brief introduction of the background geometry. In section 3, we give a detailed calculations on the condensations and the critical temperature. In order to check our numerical results, we also perform analytic calculations. In section 4, the optical conductivity is calculated numerically. Some interesting results obtained there. In the last section, we present our main conclusions.

2. Holographic setup and equations of motion

In order to show the non-relativistic property in Hořava–Lifshitz gravity, it is more convenient to employ the Arnowitt–Deser–Misner metric formalism

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + g_{ij}(dx^i - N^i dt)(dx^j - N^j dt), \quad (3)$$

where N , N^i and g_{ij} are the lapse function, the shift vector and the metric of the spacelike hypersurface, respectively. The non-relativistic matters including complex scalar and electromagnetic fields in Hořava–Lifshitz (HL) gravity was firstly proposed in [41, 42]. Later, with the aim to study the holographic superconductor dual to this gravity, the Lagrangian of matters with the lowest order is generalized in [40] as

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \int dt dx^{d+1} N \sqrt{g} \left(\frac{1}{4} \mathcal{L}_1 + 2 \mathcal{L}_2 \right), \quad (4) \\ \mathcal{L}_1 &= \frac{2}{N^2} g^{ij} (F_{0i} - F_{ki} N^k) (F_{0j} - F_{lj} N^l) - F_{ij} F^{ij} \\ &\quad - \beta_0 - \beta_1 a_i B^i - \beta_2 B_i B^i, \\ \mathcal{L}_2 &= \frac{1}{2N^2} |\partial_t \psi - iq A_0 \psi - N^i (\partial_i \psi - iq A_i \psi)|^2 \\ &\quad - \left(\frac{1}{2} - \alpha \right) |\partial_t \psi - iq A_i \psi|^2 - \frac{1}{2} V(|\psi|), \end{aligned}$$

where a_i and β_i are coupling constants of the scalar and gauge fields. When $a_i = \beta_i = 0$, the above action with the metric (3) will reproduce the minimal coupling action in the pioneer work [10] with the potential $V(|\psi|) = m^2 |\psi|^2$. In this paper we would like to limit to this case.

It was addressed in [43] that Schwarzschild spacetime is one of the solutions in Hořava–Lifshitz gravity. Recently, the authors of [44] proposed that the HL gravity also admits asymptotically Lifshitz solution

$$ds^2 = -r^{2z} \xi(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{r^2 \xi(r)} + r^2 dx_i^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \xi(r) = 1 - \left(\frac{r_0}{r} \right)^{d+z}. \quad (5)$$

It should be noted that the dynamic exponent z should not be confused with the one inherent in this theory. The temperature of this black brane is given by $T_h = \frac{d+z}{4\pi} r_0^z$.

In Einstein gravity, the Lifshitz dynamic exponent plays an interesting role in the condensation of holographic superconductor [45–47]. Thus, it is interesting to see the effect in Hořava–Lifshitz gravity and generalize the holographic superconductor study dual to Schwarzschild black brane [40] into the Lifshitz brane (5).

Similarly, we take the ansatz of matters as $A_\mu = (\phi(r), 0, 0, 0)$ and $\psi = \psi(r)$. In the probe limit, we directly variate the action and obtain the equations of motion for the matter fields as

$$0 = \phi'' + \frac{d+1-z}{r} \phi' - \frac{2\psi^2}{r^2 \xi(r)} \phi, \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \psi'' + \left(\frac{z+d+1}{r} + \frac{\xi'(r)}{\xi(r)} \right) \psi' \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{2}{r^2 \xi(r)} + \frac{\phi^2}{r^{2z+2} \xi^2(r) (1-2\alpha)} \right) \psi, \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

where we have substituted the metric (5) and set the mass parameter as $m^2 = -2 + 4\alpha$.

Consequently, we can study the boundary behavior of the matter fields. Near the horizon, $r \rightarrow r_0$, the scalar field satisfies the relation $\psi(r_0) = -\frac{d+z}{2} \psi'(r_0)$, while the U(1) gauge field can be set to be $\phi(r_0) = 0$ due to the regularity near horizon.

Near the boundary, i.e., $r \rightarrow \infty$, the behavior of ϕ is

$$\phi = \mu - \frac{\rho}{r^{d-z}} + \dots \quad \text{for } d \neq z, \quad (8)$$

$$\phi = \mu - \rho \log r + \dots \quad \text{for } d = z.$$

² One should be careful that z here should not be confused with that one in the metric (2).

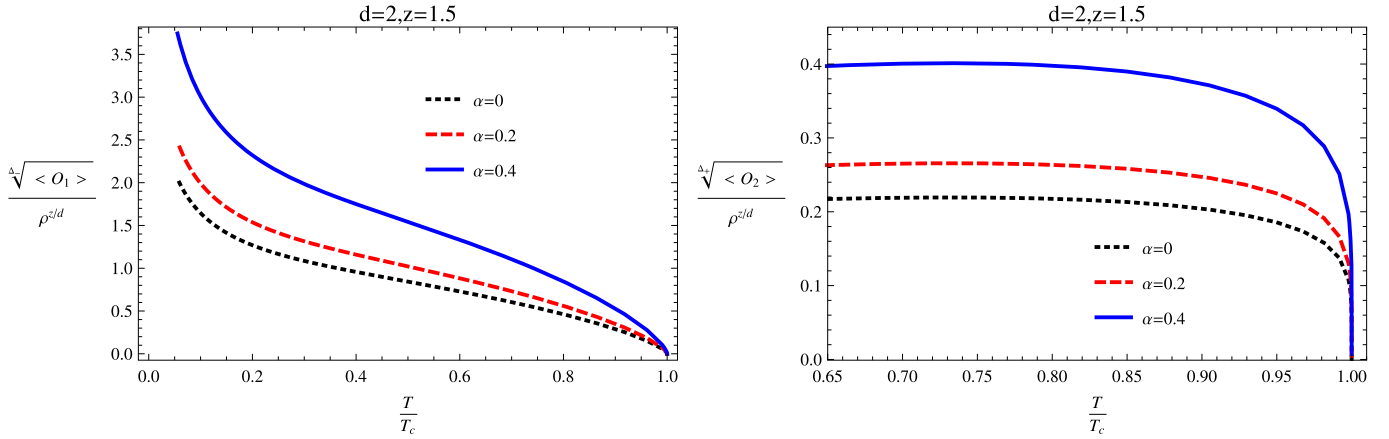


Fig. 1. Condensation with $d = 2$, $z = 1.5$ for different α : dotted line for $\alpha = 0$, dashed line for $\alpha = 0.2$ and solid line for $\alpha = 0.4$.

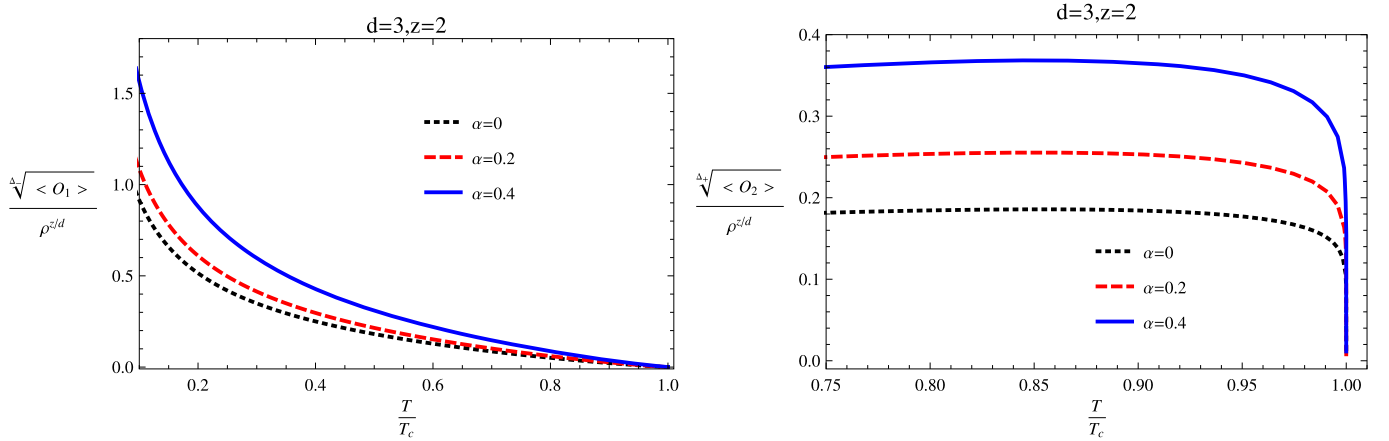


Fig. 2. Condensation with $d = 3$, $z = 2$ for different α : dotted line for $\alpha = 0$, dashed line for $\alpha = 0.2$ and solid line for $\alpha = 0.4$.

Table 1

Critical temperature $T_c/\rho^{z/d}$ for $\langle O_1 \rangle$ and $\langle O_2 \rangle$ respectively with different α for fixed $d = 2$ and $z = 1.5$. 'N' means that the result is numerical while 'A' denotes that it is analytical.

α	$\langle O_1 \rangle$		$\langle O_2 \rangle$	
0	0.2247(N)	0.2247(A)	0.0365(N)	0.0359(A)
0.2	0.2721(N)	0.2722(A)	0.0442(N)	0.0435(A)
0.4	0.4109(N)	0.4109(A)	0.0667(N)	0.0657(A)

Table 2

Critical temperature $T_c/\rho^{z/d}$ for $\langle O_1 \rangle$ and $\langle O_2 \rangle$ respectively with different α for fixed $d = 3$ and $z = 2$. 'N' means that the result is numerical while 'A' denotes that it is analytical.

α	$\langle O_1 \rangle$		$\langle O_2 \rangle$	
0	1.6432(N)	1.6415(A)	0.0384(N)	0.0556(A)
0.2	1.9482(N)	1.9463(A)	0.0668(N)	0.0660(A)
0.4	2.8098(N)	2.8070(A)	0.0963(N)	0.0951(A)

According to the gauge/gravity dictionary, μ and ρ in the above equations are dual to the chemical potential and charge density in the dual field theory. The boundary behavior of ψ is

$$\psi = \frac{\psi_1}{r^{\Delta_-}} + \frac{\psi_2}{r^{\Delta_+}} \quad (9)$$

with $\Delta_{\pm} = \frac{d+z}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(d+z)^2 - 8}$. Then the condensate of the scalar operator O in the boundary field theory, which is dual to the scalar field, is given by $\langle O_i \rangle = \sqrt{2}\psi_i$. Both of them may play the role of source and the other denotes the expectation value of vacuum with dimension Δ_+ or Δ_- . Thus, the features of the boundary field theory can be read off by studying the asymptotic behavior of matter fields.

3. Critical temperature and condensation

In this section, we shall solve the equations (6) and (7) to extract the properties of the phase transition. We will focus on the critical temperature T_c where the scalar hair comes up and the

condensation $\langle O_i \rangle$, i.e., the strength of the dual scalar operator. Specially, we mainly study the effects of α correction, Lifshitz dynamical exponent, and the dimensions of the gravity on T_c and $\langle O_i \rangle$.

3.1. Numerical results

Firstly, we use shooting method to numerically solve the equations of motion from the horizon to boundary. As the temperature decreases below a critical value T_c , the scalar can survive, meaning a phase transition from the normal black hole to a hairy black hole. The strength of condensation becomes large as we continue lowering the temperature. The numerical results are summarized as follows. The critical temperatures for the operators affected by α in asymptotical Lifshitz geometry are shown in Table 1 and Table 2. We see that in both dimensions $d = 2$ and $d = 3$, larger α corresponds to higher critical temperature, namely, it makes the condensation easier to occur. The strength of condensation related to the parameters in the tables can be found in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. The positive α term correction brings in stronger condensa-

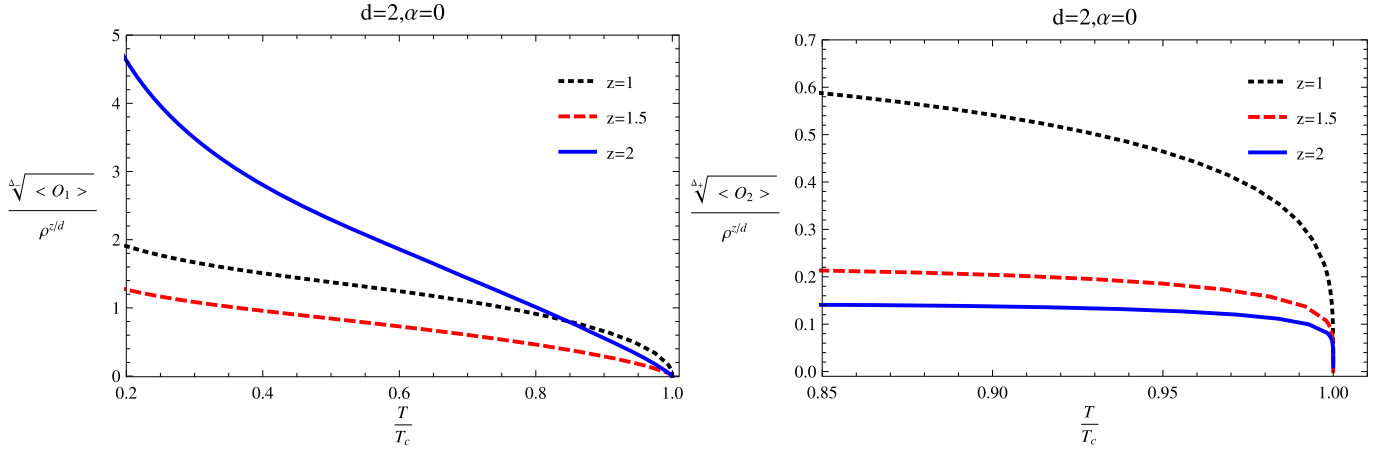


Fig. 3. Condensation with $d = 2$ and $\alpha = 0$: dotted line ($z = 1$), dashed line ($z = 1.5$), solid line ($z = 2$).

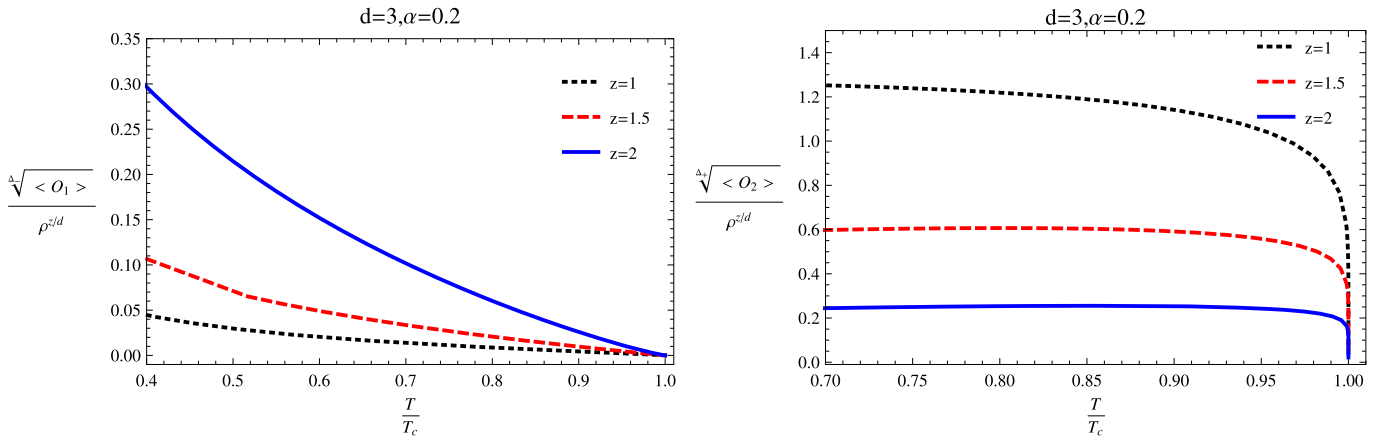


Fig. 4. In this figure we can find three lines with $d = 3$, $\alpha = 0.2$: dotted line ($z = 1$), dashed line ($z = 1.5$), solid line ($z = 2$).

Table 3

Critical temperature $T_c/\rho^{z/d}$ for $\langle O_1 \rangle$ and $\langle O_2 \rangle$ respectively with $d = 2$ and $\alpha = 0$ for different z . 'N' means that the result is numerical while 'A' denotes that it is analytical.

z	$\langle O_1 \rangle$		$\langle O_2 \rangle$	
1	0.2255(N)	0.2249(A)	0.1184(N)	0.1170(A)
1.5	0.2246(N)	0.2247(A)	0.0365(N)	0.0359(A)
2	0.6645(N)	0.6645(A)	0.0289(N)	0.0284(A)

Table 4

Critical temperature $T_c/\rho^{z/d}$ for $\langle O_1 \rangle$ and $\langle O_2 \rangle$ respectively with $d = 3$ and $\alpha = 0.2$ for different z . 'N' means that the result is numerical while 'A' denotes that it is analytical.

z	$\langle O_1 \rangle$		$\langle O_2 \rangle$	
1	1.5693(N)	1.5690(A)	0.2012(N)	0.1987(A)
1.5	2.1579(N)	2.1563(A)	0.1315(N)	0.1299(A)
2	1.9482(N)	1.9463(A)	0.0668(N)	0.0660(A)

tion. These phenomenons are consistent with that observed in AdS background in Hořava–Lifshitz gravity [40].

We move on to study the effects of the Lifshitz dynamical exponent z on the phase transition. The critical temperatures with different z for fixed dimension and α are listed in Table 3 and Table 4. In both cases, the critical temperature for $\langle O_2 \rangle$ becomes lower as z increases, meaning that larger z makes the condensation difficult to form. Accordingly, the condensation $\langle O_2 \rangle$ for larger z is weaker as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. The related results are consistent with the effect of Lifshitz case observed in [46]. Namely,

for the second operator, the condensation is always harder to occur in the field theory dual to Lifshitz black hole than that dual to Schwarzschild black hole in HL gravity. However, for the operator $\langle O_1 \rangle$, the effect of z on the critical temperature and the condensation are irregular. The reason is not clear, but it may attribute to that the first operator does not have a good dual because the condensation is tending to be divergent when the temperature is lowered, as it discussed in [11].

3.2. Analytical results

In this subsection we would like to further confirm our numerical critical temperature with the use of Sturm–Liouville method which was first proposed to calculate T_c in holographic in [48]. It is worthy noting that this proposal works well in many cases [49–52].

For simpleness, we now redefine the coordinate $y = r_0/r$, then the above field equations (6) and (7) become

$$\psi''(y) + \frac{z+d-1+y^{d+z}}{y(-1+y^{d+z})} \psi'(y) + \left(\frac{2}{y^2(1-y^{d+z})} + \frac{y^{2z}\phi^2}{y^2 r_0^{2z}(-1+y^{d+z})^2(1-2\alpha)} \right) \psi(y) = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$\phi''(y) + \frac{1+z-d}{y} \phi'(y) + \frac{2\psi^2}{y^2(-1+y^{d+z})} \phi(y) = 0, \quad (11)$$

where $0 < y \leq 1$, and $y = 1$ is the location of the horizon while $y = 0$ denotes the boundary.

Near the boundary ($y \rightarrow 0$), we have the asymptotic behaviors for the fields as

$$\psi \approx \psi^{(\pm)} y^{\Delta_{\pm}} \tag{12}$$

while

$$\phi \approx \mu - \rho y^{d-z} \text{ for } d - z > 0 \text{ and } \phi \approx \mu + \rho \log y \text{ for } d - z = 0. \tag{13}$$

Note that at the horizon $y = 1$, we have the behavior $\psi(1) = -\frac{d+z}{2}\psi(1)'$ and $\phi(1) = 0$ as we analyzed in Section 2.

At the critical temperature T_c , $\psi = 0$, then the Maxwell equation becomes

$$\psi''(y) + \frac{1+z-d}{y}\psi'(y) = 0, \tag{14}$$

whose solution is

$$\phi(y) = \lambda r_0^z (1 - y^{d-z}) \text{ for } d - z > 0, \tag{15}$$

$$\phi(y) = \lambda r_0^d \log y \text{ for } d - z = 0 \tag{16}$$

where λ is defined as $\lambda = \rho/r_0^d$.

Sequently, as the system approach the critical point, i.e., $T \rightarrow T_c$, the field equation for the scalar field ψ becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \psi'' + \left(\frac{1-d-z}{y} - \frac{(d+z)y^{d+z-1}}{(1-y^{d+z})} \right) \psi' \\ + \left(\frac{y^{2z-2}\lambda^2(1-y^{d-z})^2}{(1-2\alpha)(1-y^{d+z})^2} + \frac{2}{y^2(1-y^{d+z})} \right) \psi = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

for $d - z > 0$, while, for $d - z = 0$, it becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \psi'' + \left(\frac{1-d-z}{y} - \frac{(d+z)y^{d+z-1}}{(1-y^{d+z})} \right) \psi' \\ + \left(\frac{y^{2z-2}\lambda^2(\log y)^2}{(1-2\alpha)(1-y^{d+z})^2} + \frac{2}{y^2(1-y^{d+z})} \right) \psi = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

At the boundary, we define

$$\psi(y) = \frac{\langle O \rangle}{\sqrt{2}r_0^{\Delta}} y^{\Delta} F(y), \tag{19}$$

where $F(y)$ is normalized to $F(0) = 1$ and the boundary condition $F'(0) = 0$. Hereafter, for $d - z > 0$, the equation of motion for the scalar is

$$\begin{aligned} F'' + \left(\frac{1+2\Delta-d-z}{y} + \frac{(d+z)y^{d+z-1}}{-1+y^{d+z}} \right) F' + \left(\frac{\Delta^2 y^{d+z-2}}{-1+y^{d+z}} \right) F \\ = -\frac{y^{2z-2}\lambda^2(1-y^{d-z})^2}{(1-2\alpha)(-1+y^{d+z})^2} F, \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

and for $d - z = 0$, it is

$$\begin{aligned} F'' + \left(\frac{1+2\Delta-d-z}{y} + \frac{(d+z)y^{d+z-1}}{-1+y^{d+z}} \right) F' + \left(\frac{\Delta^2 y^{d+z-2}}{-1+y^{d+z}} \right) F \\ = -\frac{y^{2z-2}\lambda^2(\log y)^2}{(1-2\alpha)(-1+y^{d+z})^2} F. \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

The above two equations for the function F can be converted into

$$(T(y)F')' - [P(y) - \lambda^2 Q(y)]F = 0, \tag{22}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} T(y) &= y^{2\Delta+1-d-z}(1-y^{d+z}), \\ P(y) &= \Delta^2 y^{2\Delta-1} \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

$$Q(y) = y^{2\Delta-1-d+z} \frac{(1-y^{d-z})^2}{(1-y^{d+z})(1-2\alpha)} \text{ for } d - z > 0, \tag{24}$$

$$\text{or } Q(y) = y^{2\Delta-1-d+z} \frac{(\log y)^2}{(1-y^{d+z})(1-2\alpha)} \text{ for } d - z = 0. \tag{25}$$

With the use of Sturm–Liouville theory, the eigenvalue of λ can be found as the minimum value of

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{\int_0^1 dy [T(y)F'^2(y) + P(y)F^2(y)]}{\int_0^1 Q(y)F^2(y)dy}. \tag{26}$$

In order to get the explicit integral result of the above formula, we choose

$$F(y) = 1 - \beta y^2. \tag{27}$$

Then, substituting (27) into (26), we can integrate out λ^2 . Choosing proper β , we can minimize the expression and get λ_{min} , thus, the critical temperature is

$$T_c = \frac{d+z}{4\pi} r_0^z = \frac{d+z}{4\pi \lambda_{min}^{z/d}} \rho^{z/d}. \tag{28}$$

For example, when $d = 2, \alpha = 0$ and $z = 1$, we have the integration (26) for the first operator $\langle O_1 \rangle$

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{6 - 6\beta + 10\beta^2}{2\sqrt{3}\pi - 6\ln 3 + 4(\sqrt{3}\pi + 3\ln 3 - 9)\beta + (12\ln 3 - 13)\beta^2}. \tag{29}$$

$\beta \approx 0.239$ minimizes the above equation, then (28) gives us the critical temperature $T_c \approx 0.225\sqrt{\rho}$ which is exact the value in AdS case. The analytical critical temperatures for the two operators in all discussed cases with different α and z are also summarized in the corresponding tables. After comparing the results in all the tables, it is obvious that the analytical results and the numerical values match very well.

4. Optical conductivity

To calculate the optical conductivity, we should consider the perturbed Maxwell field $A_i = \delta_i^x e^{-i\omega t} A_x(r)$, then $A_x(r)$ satisfies the following equation

$$\begin{aligned} A_x'' + \left(\frac{z+d-1}{r} + \frac{\xi'(r)}{\xi(r)} \right) A_x' \\ + \left(\frac{\omega^2}{r^{2z+2}\xi^2(r)} - \frac{2(1-2\alpha)\psi^2}{r^2\xi(r)} \right) A_x = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

Near the horizon, we impose the ingoing condition $A_x \propto \xi(r)^{\frac{-i\omega}{d+z}}$. Near the boundary, the general solution to the fluctuation is

$$A_x = A_x^{(0)} + A_x^{(1)} y^{d+z-2} + \dots \tag{31}$$

Note that in some cases, such as $d = z$ or $d = 3$ and $z = 1$, etc., there is a logarithmic term proportional to $\ln(Cr)$ with C a constant. For more details, please refer to the references [46,53]. Subsequently, with the suitable renormalization, the optical conductivity of the dual holographic superconductor, can be calculated as [10,53]

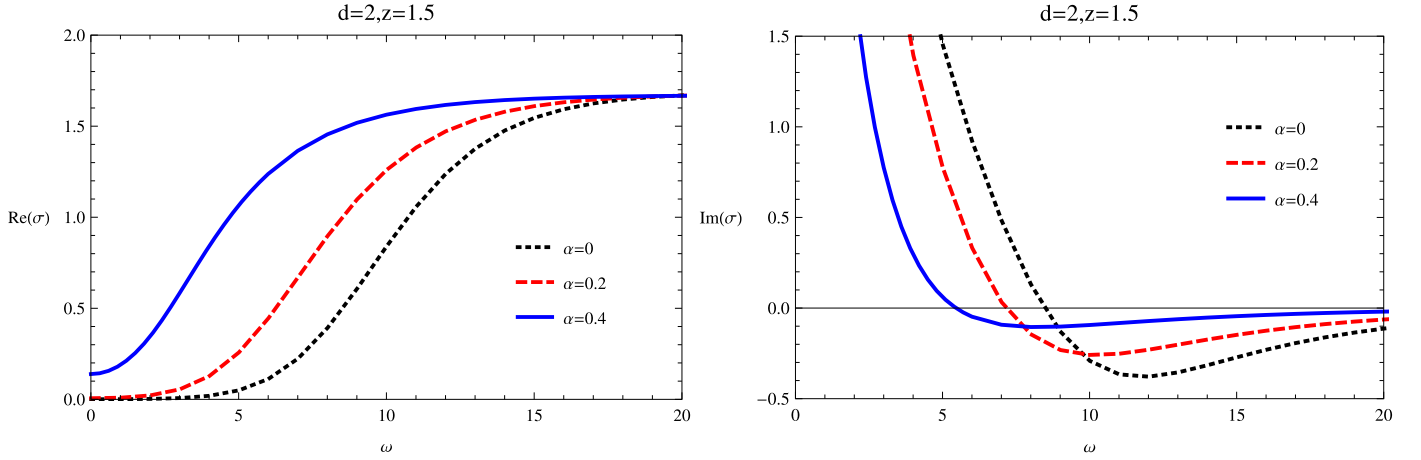


Fig. 5. The conductivity at $T/T_c = 0.25$ with $d = 2$ and $z = 1.5$ for $\alpha = 0, 0.2$ and 0.4 .

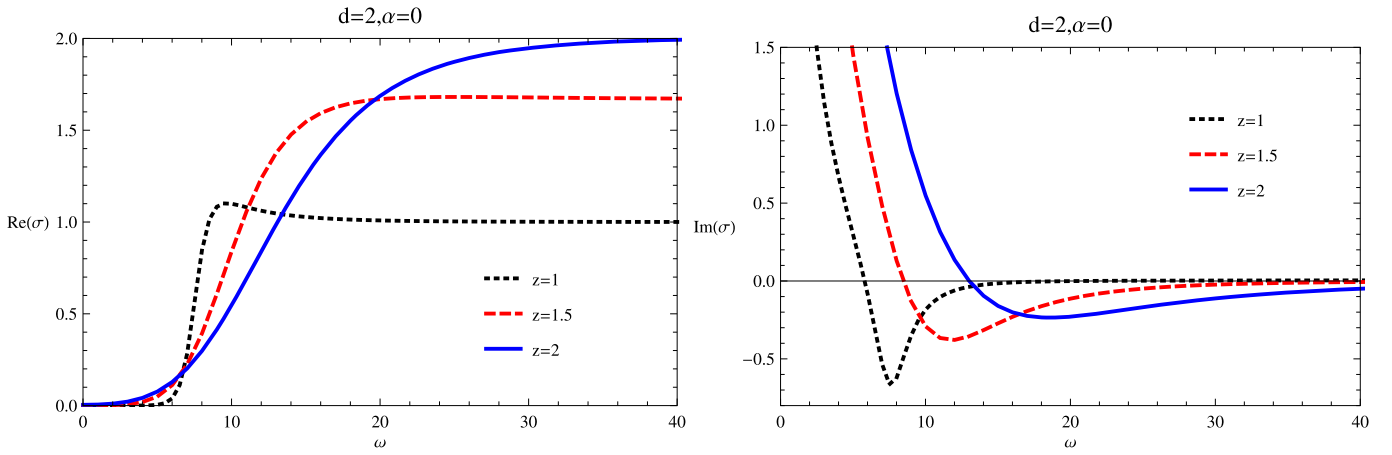


Fig. 6. The conductivity at $T/T_c = 0.25$ with $d = 2$ and $\alpha = 0$ for $z = 1, 1.5$ and 2 .

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{d + 3z - 4}{i\omega} \frac{A_x^{(1)}}{A_x^{(0)}} \quad \text{or}$$

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{d + 3z - 4}{i\omega} \frac{A_x^{(1)}}{A_x^{(0)}} + \frac{i\omega}{d + 3z - 4}. \quad (32)$$

In Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, we show the real part and imaginary part of optical conductivity for $T/T_c \approx 0.25$ in $d = 2$ geometry.³ More concretely, Fig. 5 shows that with fixed $z = 1.5$, larger α makes the gap in the real part of $Re(\sigma)$ narrower, which is consistent with the result for $z = 1$ as found in [40]. However, since the spacetime is Lifshitz instead of AdS, the large frequency is not scaled to be unit as it always occurs in Lifshitz case. With fixed $\alpha = 0$, as the dynamical exponent z increases, the low frequency behavior of the real part of σ is enhanced, namely, more shift from zero, while the high frequency behavior is also improved, which agrees well with the observations in [54].

5. Conclusion and discussion

We have investigated the holographic superconductor dual to a Lifshitz black hole in Hořava–Lifshitz gravity. For generality, an α correction term was introduced into the action of the matter field. We mainly focused on studying the effect of the α coupling and the Lifshitz exponent on the condensation and the optical conduc-

tivity of the dual superconductor. Our main results can be summarized as follows. Firstly, in Lifshitz case, the α coupling increases the critical temperature so as to promote the hairy scalar to form for both operators, and it decreases the energy gap described by the real part of the conductivity at lower temperature. These observations are consistent with that found in Schwarzschild case in HL gravity. Then, comparing to the dual AdS case, Lifshitz exponent always suppresses the second operator to condensate, while the rule is irregular for the first operator because it is not the typical superconductor due to the divergence at zero temperature limit. Related to the second operator, the energy gap is smaller in the field theory dual to Lifshitz black hole because the asymptotical behavior is modified.

In this work, we ignored the backreaction of matter fields into the gravity and study in the probe limit. It is interesting to take the backreaction into account and check the properties obtained in the present paper. Without loss of generality, generalization of this work to the fermionic case is possible. It is expected that fermionic sector may exhibit much more fruitful structures in this context, especially the phase transition disclosed in [55]. Moreover, it is also interesting to study the formation of the crystalline geometries [56] in the present context, to see which configuration of the lattice tends to form.

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³ Results for $d = 3$ are similar.

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