Interplay between chirality and electronelectron interactions in graphene systems

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KIAS: Dec 15, 2009

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Electronic structure of graphene multilayers
- 3. Exciton condensation in graphene double layers
- 4. Pseudospin magnetism in graphene bilayers
- 5. Conclusion

Introduction





• Why is it important?



1. Introduction

1) Graphene

- Two-dimensional honeycomb lattice of carbon atoms.
- 2D Dirac-like equation with linear dispersion near *K*/*K*'.
- New electron-electron interaction physics?
 Example: magnetism, superconductivity



1. Introduction

2) Extraordinary properties of graphene



Interplay between chirality and electron-electron interactions in graphene systems



\Rightarrow Described by a set of chiral systems

1) Electronic structure of monolayer graphene

• Effective theory around *K*



2) Electronic structure of bilayer graphene



2) Electronic structure of bilayer graphene

• Effective theory around *K*





What is the effective theory for arbitrarily stacked multilayers?

3) Chirality and Pseudospin

• Effective theory of monolayer graphene

$$\frac{\alpha}{B} = v_F \begin{pmatrix} 0 & p e^{-i\phi_p} \\ p e^{i\phi_p} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = v_F p \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n}_1(\phi_p)$$

$$\mathbf{n}_1(\phi_{\mathbf{p}}) = (\cos \phi_{\mathbf{p}}, \sin \phi_{\mathbf{p}})$$

$$\phi_{\mathbf{p}} = \tan^{-1}(p_y / p_x)$$

• Energy spectrum

$$E_1(\mathbf{p}) = \pm v_F p$$



3) Chirality and Pseudospin

• Effective theory of bilayer graphene

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{b} & \boldsymbol{\beta}_{t} \\ H_{B}^{bi} = -\frac{1}{2m} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & p^{2}e^{-i2\phi_{\mathbf{p}}} \\ p^{2}e^{i2\phi_{\mathbf{p}}} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{p^{2}}{2m} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{2}(\phi_{\mathbf{p}}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{n}_2(\boldsymbol{\phi}_{\mathbf{p}}) = (\cos 2\boldsymbol{\phi}_{\mathbf{p}}, \sin 2\boldsymbol{\phi}_{\mathbf{p}}) \qquad \boldsymbol{\phi}_{\mathbf{p}} = \tan^{-1}(p_y/p_x)$$

• Energy spectrum

$$E_2(\mathbf{p}) = \pm \frac{p^2}{2m}$$

3) Chirality and Pseudospin

• Effective theory of *J*-chiral system

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ H_J = \varepsilon_0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & p^J e^{-iJ\phi_{\mathbf{p}}} \\ p^J e^{iJ\phi_{\mathbf{p}}} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \varepsilon_0 p^J \mathbf{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n}_J(\phi_{\mathbf{p}}) \end{array}$$

• Energy spectrum

 $E_J(\mathbf{p}) = \pm \varepsilon_0 p^J$

Monolayer graphene : J=1Bilayer graphene : J=2

4) Multilayer stacking

Min and MacDonald, PRB 77, 155416 (2008)

• Example: ABC trilayer



4) Multilayer stacking

Min and MacDonald, PRB 77, 155416 (2008)

• Example: ABA trilayer



- 5) Effective theory (ABC) Min and MacDonald, PRB 77, 155416 (2008)
 - Identify zero-energy states from the stacking diagram.

r, r': zero-energy states

- \Rightarrow Ex: isolated α_1 and β_N are zero-energy states.
- Obtain the effective theory using degenerate state perturbation theory.

Ex: ABC stacked *N*-layer

$$\alpha_N \qquad \beta_N$$

$$\left\langle \Psi_{r} \left| H \right| \Psi_{r'} \right\rangle = \left\langle \Psi_{r} \left| H_{||} \right\rangle \left(-H_{\perp}^{-1} \right) \left(\hat{Q} H_{||} \right)^{n-1} \left| \Psi_{r'} \right\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Ex:} \left| \left\langle \alpha_1 \left| H \right| \beta_N \right\rangle = -t_{\perp} \left(v_F p e^{-i\phi_P} / t_{\perp} \right)^N \right|$$

 $H = H_{\perp} + H_{\parallel}$

$$\alpha_{N-1}$$
 β_{N-1}

$$\alpha_2 \qquad \beta_2$$

 $\alpha_1 \qquad \beta_1$

R

N-chiral system

zero-energy states

6) Chiral decomposition Min and MacDonald, PRB 77, 155416 (2008)

• The system is decomposed to different chiral systems.



7) New quantum Hall effects



- 7) New quantum Hall effects Min and MacDonald, PRB 77, 155416 (2008)
 - QHE in multilayer graphene



8) Optical conductivity and transmittance

Nair et al, Science **320**, 1308 (2008)



Optical conductivity is given by σ_{uni} per layer over a broad range of λ .

8) Optical conductivity and transmittance

• Monolayer graphene (J=1)

$$\sigma_{uni} = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{e^2}{h}$$

$$\sigma_{R} = J\sigma_{uni}$$

• Chiral decomposition and sum rule for arbitrarily stacked *N*-layer graphene

$$H_N^{eff} = H_{J_1} \otimes H_{J_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes H_{J_{N_D}} \qquad \sum_{i=1}^{N_D} J_i = N \implies \sigma_R \approx N \sigma_{uni}$$

At low frequencies, chiral decomposition and sum rum give $N\sigma_{uni}$.

8) Optical conductivity and transmittance

• Bilayer: Low and high frequency limit



At high frequencies, N=2 decoupled stack gives $N\sigma_{uni}$. At low frequencies, N=2 chiral system gives $N\sigma_{uni}$.

8) Optical conductivity and transmittance

Min and MacDonald, PRL **103**, 067402 (2009)

• 10 layer graphene stacks



Optical conductivity measurements provide a useful way to identify the number of layers and stacking sequences.

Summary of Part 2

• Arbitrarily stacked multilayer graphene is described by a set of chiral systems at low energies.

$$H_N^{e\!f\!f} = H_{J_1} \otimes H_{J_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes H_{J_{N_D}}$$

• Chirality sum is always the number of layers.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N_D} \boldsymbol{J}_i = \boldsymbol{N}$$

What is the effects of electron-electron interactions?



1) System

• Two single-layer graphene sheets separated by SiO_2 dielectric barrier in the no tunneling limit.



 \Rightarrow High-temperature exciton condensation

2) Pair condensation

• Cooper pairs

$$\left\langle \hat{\psi}_{\uparrow}^{+}(\mathbf{r})\hat{\psi}_{\downarrow}^{+}(\mathbf{r})\right\rangle \neq 0$$



$$\left\langle \hat{\psi}_{b}^{+}(\mathbf{r})\hat{\psi}_{t}(\mathbf{r})\right\rangle \neq 0$$





 \Rightarrow Exciton condensation is spontaneous interlayer coherence.

3) Why graphene?

• Gapless semiconductor

• Perfect particle-hole symmetry

• Atomically thin 2D system



4) Numerical calculation

 k, σ

 k, σ

Direct

• A self-consistent mean-field theory neglecting remote bands

 k', σ'

 k', σ'



5) Energy band structure

Min et al. PRB 78, 121401(R) (2008)

• Cooper instability



6) Kosterlitz-Thouless (KT) transition

• In 2D, superfluidity is destroyed by phase fluctuations.

$$k_B T_{KT} = \frac{\pi}{2} \rho_s (k_B T_{KT})$$

7) Exciton superfluidity



8) Phase diagram

• $T_c \uparrow \text{ as } E_{ext} \uparrow$

- Optimal layer separation
- $E_{ext} \sim 0.7 \text{ V/nm}, d \sim 1 \text{ nm}$ $\Rightarrow T_c \sim 300 \text{ K}$



Min et al. PRB **78**, 121401(R) (2008)

• Comparison with BCS superconductivity Cooper pair : limited by $\omega_D \implies T_c \sim 10 \text{ K}$ Bilayer exciton : limited by $v_F/d \implies T_c \sim 300 \text{ K}$



Eisenstein and MacDonald, Nature 432, 691 (2004) Su and MacDonald, Nat. Phys. 4, 799 (2008)

Summary of Part 3

• Bilayer exciton condensation is spontaneous interlayer coherence.

• Bilayer exciton condensation can occur in decoupled graphene double layers at high temperatures.





What happens in coupled graphene bilayers?



- 1) Pseudospin \Rightarrow Two-valued quantum degrees of freedom
 - Bilayer graphene (*J*=2 chiral system)

- Ferromagnetism means spontaneous spin polarization.
- Is there spontaneous charge polarization in the presence of electron-electron interactions?

 \Rightarrow Pseudospin magnetism

2) Numerical calculation

• A self-consistent mean-field theory

$$H_{MF} = -\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{k}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$$

B(k) : effective magnetic fieldσ : pseudospin



3) Example: Bilayer graphene (J=2) Min et al. PRB 77, 041407(R) (2008)



 \Rightarrow Spontaneous charge transfer between two layers



• Pseudospin magnetism is stable for stronger interaction strength, for smaller doping, for larger chirality.

5) Chiral decomposition revisited

• Chiral decomposition in the electronic structure

$$H_{N}^{eff} = H_{J_{1}} \otimes H_{J_{2}} \otimes \cdots \otimes H_{J_{N_{D}}}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N_D} J_i = N$$

 \Rightarrow ABC stacked multilayers are excellent candidates.



Summary of Part 3

- Psuedospin is any two-valued quantum degrees of freedom.
- A chiral system is described by pseudospin language.



Conclusion



 \Rightarrow New electronic device scheme?

5. Conclusion

1) Search for new ordered states in graphene systems

Dirac-like chiral wavefunction + Electron-electron interaction

 \Rightarrow New ordered states in graphene systems

Exciton condensation in decoupled graphene double layers Pseudospin magnetism in coupled graphene bilayers

5. Conclusion

- 2) Collective field effect transistor (FET) vision
 - Giant magnetoresistance (GMR)



 \Rightarrow Collective behavior of many electrons

5. Conclusion

3) New electronic device scheme

Example: Pseudospin magnetism

- Collective behavior of many electrons
- Can be switched with gate voltages using much less power.
- Can exhibit a pseudospin version of GMR and spin-transfer torque.

Pseudospintronics!



Gate voltage

References and collaborators

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