## Local density of states in quantum Hall systems with a smooth disordered potential landscape

UNIVERSITE

Grenoble - France

**Thierry Champel** (LPMMC – CNRS/Université Joseph Fourier)



<u>SUMMARY:</u>

- The quantum Hall effect
- Vortex Green's function theory
- Applications: Local spectroscopy
- Conclusion/Perspectives

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

#### Theory part

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#### WHY STUDY 2D ELECTRON GASES UNDER MAGNETIC FIELDS NOW?



Experiments since 2000 (far from being exhaustive):

New effects: microwave induced zero-resistance states

New probes: local sensing techniques in the IQHE regime

New systems: graphene, topological insulators, 2DEG surface states

#### WHY STUDY 2D ELECTRON GASES UNDER MAGNETIC FIELDS NOW?

STM Experiment: Local DOS in the IQHE regime (InSb surface states) B=12 T

#### Quantum Hall Transition in Real Space: From Localized to Extended States

PRL 101, 256802 (2008)

K. Hashimoto,<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup> C. Sohrmann,<sup>4</sup> J. Wiebe,<sup>1</sup> T. Inaoka,<sup>5</sup> F. Meier,<sup>1,†</sup> Y. Hirayama,<sup>2,3</sup> R. A. Römer,<sup>4</sup> R. Wiesendanger,<sup>1</sup> and M. Morgenstern<sup>6,7</sup>



Any fundamental aspects (e.g. for the IQHE) well understood

**The stuff**? (quantitative **microscopic** theory to develop!)





## Goal:

Find an (approximate) analytical solution to the problem



arbitrary potential energy



## **Theoretical difficulties:**

Disorder averaging is questioned (at microscopic scale)

question of origin of irreversibility and dissipation (crucial for transport)

We are in a <u>nonperturbative regime</u> at high magnetic fields

(kinetic energy frozen + degeneracy of Landau levels)

Smooth disorder (finite correlation length)

Complexity of diagrammatrics at high magnetic fields (unsolved problem)

Raikh & Shabhazyan, PRB (1993)

We are at the border between classical and quantum mechanics

The wave function as a basic dynamical object is questioned

Need to develop a new approach/method to tackle the problem

Standard theoretical approaches (I):

Semiclassical limit

#### **CLASSICAL MOTION IN HIGH PERPENDICULAR MAGNETIC FIELD**

Two degrees of freedom with very different timescales

- fast cyclotron motion:  $\dot{ heta} = \omega_c = |e|B/(m^*c)$
- slow drift:  $\mathbf{v}_d = \frac{1}{B} \mathbf{E} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}}$

- Decoupling in the limit 
$$B \to \infty$$





Remark: motion regular and integrable in the limit  $B \to \infty$  !

Averaging over disordered potential configurations questionable here!

#### **SEMICLASSICAL MOTION : THE GUIDING CENTER PICTURE**

$$\begin{cases} x = X + \zeta = X + v_y/\omega_c \\ y = Y + \eta = Y - v_x/\omega_c \\ H = \frac{1}{2}m^*\mathbf{v}^2 + V(X + \zeta, Y + \eta) \\ \text{then quantization} \end{cases} \begin{pmatrix} change in variables: \\ (x, p_x), (y, p_y) \to (X, Y), (\zeta, \eta) \\ (\hat{x}, \hat{y}) = -i\hbar\omega_c/m^* \\ [\hat{X}, \hat{Y}] = il_B^2 \end{cases}$$

Semiclassical high field picture (V smooth):

(X and Y treated as classical variables)



Effective energy:  $E_{n,\mathbf{R}} = \hbar \omega_c (n + 1/2) + V(\mathbf{R})$ Limitations:

 $l_B^2 = \hbar c / (|e|B) \rightarrow 0$ 

- No quantization of energies (e.g. in quantum dot)
- No transverse spread + no tunneling effects (e.g. in QPC)
- Problems to formulate a consistent transport theory
- Captures only the high temperature regime

LDoS in the IQHE regime follows potential landscape



 $R_{c}$ 

[X, Y]

 $[\hat{X}, \hat{Y}] \to 0$ 

(x, y)

but quantum percolation features



#### **MOTIVATION FOR A HIGH MAGNETIC FIELD EXPANSION**

### At large magnetic field:

**★** Magnetic length  $l_B = 8 \text{ nm at } 10 \text{ T}$ 

 $\star$  Correlation length of the disordered potential in heterostructures:  $\xi \ge 100 ~ {
m nm}$ 

The random potential is smooth on the scale  $l_B$ 

The idea of using  $l_B/\xi$  as a small parameter is not new. The real challenge is to go beyond the strict limit  $l_B/\xi = 0$  !

### Some attempts:

- Effective Hamiltonian theory
  - limited to energy

Haldane & Yang, PRL (1997) Apenko & Lozovik, J. of Phys. C (1984)



- includes only virtual transitions = no Landau-level mixing taken into account

Standard theoretical approaches (II):

Wave functions

#### **TRANSLATION INVARIANT LANDAU STATES**



Remarks:

#### - Huge degeneracy of Landau levels

- Magnetic field enters in wave functions only via  $l_B = \sqrt{\hbar c/|e|B}$
- Landau states problematic for quantum/classical correspondence



#### **CIRCULARLY INVARIANT STATES**

Other possible eigenstates of  $H_0$ 



 $\begin{array}{ll} \underline{\text{Circular states}:} & \text{take } \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{r}/2 \\ \\ E_{l,m} = \hbar \omega_c (l + \frac{|m| + m + 1}{2}) \\ \\ \Psi_{l,m}(r,\theta) = r^{|m|} \exp\left[\frac{-r^2}{4l_B^2}\right] L_l^{|m|} \left(\frac{r^2}{2l_B^2}\right) e^{im\theta} \end{array}$ 

Rotationally invariant around the origin Localized on a scale  $l_B$  along r

- States still problematic for quantum/classical correspondence at  $l_B 
ightarrow 0$ 



#### **DIGRESSION ON THE LANDAU LEVEL INDEX**

What is the physical meaning of the Landau level index n?



Can we build the right basis of eigenstates where *n* is only related to the accumulated phase?
 YES : the vortex states basis
 Champel & Florens, PRB (2007)

#### **VORTEX (SEMI-COHERENT) EIGENSTATES**



Remarks: - States OK for quantum/classical correspondence

- States with no preferred symmetry: can adapt to arbitrary V(r)

Semi-coherent vortex states Green's function formalism

Champel, Florens & Canet, PRB (2008) Champel & Florens, PRB (2009) Champel & Florens, PRB (2010)

#### **THEORY: VORTEX GREEN'S FUNCTIONS**

Our approach: electron dynamics projected in the vortex representation <u>Vortex states:</u>  $\Psi_{m,\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{r}) = \langle \mathbf{r}|m,\mathbf{R} \rangle$   $\sum_{m=0}^{+\infty} \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{R}}{2\pi l_B^2} |m,\mathbf{R}\rangle \langle m,\mathbf{R}| = 1$ Exact result:  $G(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}',\omega) = \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{R}}{2\pi l_B^2} \sum_{m_1} \sum_{m_2} K_{m_1;m_2}(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}') \left( \tilde{g}_{m_1;m_2}(\mathbf{R},\omega) \right)$ to determine known  $= e^{-\frac{l_B^2}{4}\Delta_{\mathbf{R}}} \left[ \Psi_{m_2,\mathbf{R}}^*(\mathbf{r}') \Psi_{m_1,\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{r}) \right]$  (cyclotron motion) « Vortex Dyson's » equation:  $(\omega - E_{m_1} + i0^+)\tilde{g}_{m_1;m_2}(\mathbf{R},\omega) = \delta_{m_1,m_2} + \sum \tilde{v}_{m_1;m_3}(\mathbf{R}) \star \tilde{g}_{m_3;m_2}(\mathbf{R},\omega)$ with the star-product  $\star = \exp\left[i\frac{l_B^2}{2}\left(\overleftarrow{\partial}_X\overrightarrow{\partial}_Y - \overleftarrow{\partial}_Y\overrightarrow{\partial}_X\right)\right]$ connection to the deformation (Weyl) quantization theory

#### **THEORY: VORTEX GREEN'S FUNCTIONS**

 $(\omega_c \to \infty \text{ while keeping } l_B \text{ finite})$  LL mixing negligible High magnetic field regime: Effective potential  $\left(\omega - E_m + i0^+)\tilde{g}_m(\mathbf{R}) = 1 + \tilde{v}_m(\mathbf{R}) \star \tilde{g}_m(\mathbf{R}) \quad \star = \exp\left[i\frac{l_B^2}{2}\left(\overleftarrow{\partial}_X \overrightarrow{\partial}_Y - \overleftarrow{\partial}_Y \overrightarrow{\partial}_X\right)\right]$ Trivial for 1D potentials:  $\tilde{g}_m(\mathbf{R}) = [\omega - E_m - \tilde{v}_m(\mathbf{R}) + i0^+]^{-1}$ Trugman, PRB (1983) Raikh & Shahbazayan, PRB (1995) **Some non trivial questions:** - How to get quantized energies for a closed system? - How to get tunneling effects in QPC? everything is encoded  $V(\mathbf{R}) = V(\mathbf{R}_0) + [\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_0] \cdot \nabla V(\mathbf{R}_0) + \frac{1}{2} \left[ (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_0) \cdot \nabla \right]^2 V(\mathbf{R}_0)$ in quadratic (curvature) terms! Dyson's equation up to second-order derivatives of V:  $1 = \left| \omega - E_m - V(\mathbf{R}) - \frac{2m+1}{4} l_B^2 \Delta_{\mathbf{R}} V + i0^+ \right| \tilde{g}_m(\mathbf{R})$ This ugly equation can be exactly solved!  $+\frac{l_B^4}{8} \left[\partial_Y^2 V \partial_X^2 + \partial_X^2 V \partial_Y^2 - 2 \partial_X \partial_Y V \partial_X \partial_Y\right] \tilde{g}_m(\mathbf{R})$ Champel & Florens, PRB (2009)

#### **EXACT SOLUTION FOR ANY QUADRATIC POTENTIAL**

Solution (m=0):  $\tilde{g}_{m}(\mathbf{R}) = -i \int_{0}^{+\infty} dt \, \frac{e^{i\frac{\eta(\mathbf{R})}{\gamma}[t - \tan(\sqrt{\gamma}t)/\sqrt{\gamma}]}}{\cos(\sqrt{\gamma}t)} e^{it[\omega - V(\mathbf{R}) - l_{B}^{2}\Delta V(\mathbf{R})/4 + i0^{+}]}$ where  $\gamma = \frac{l_{B}^{4}}{4} \left[ \partial_{XX}V \partial_{YY}V - (\partial_{XY}V)^{2} \right] \quad \text{Related to the Gaussian curvature of V}$   $\eta(\mathbf{R}) = \frac{l_{B}^{4}}{8} \left[ \partial_{XX}V(\partial_{Y}V)^{2} + \partial_{YY}V(\partial_{X}V)^{2} - 2\partial_{XY}V\partial_{X}V\partial_{Y}V \right]$ 



<u>Applications of vortex</u> formalism (I):

Local density of states

Champel & Florens, PRB Rapid Com (2009) Champel & Florens, PRB (2009) Champel & Florens, PRB (2010) Hashimoto, Champel, Florens, *et al.*, PRL (2012)

#### LOCAL DENSITY OF STATES

Vortex view of LDoS at high field:  $ilde{g}_{m,m} = ilde{g}_m \, \delta_{m,m}$ 



$$\mathbf{n} = \int d^2 \mathbf{r} F_m (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{r}) V(\mathbf{r}) \stackrel{\clubsuit}{\approx} V(\mathbf{R})$$

#### **HIERARCHY OF LOCAL ENERGY SCALES IN VORTEX REPRESENTATION**



#### **APPLICATION: LDOS IN GRAPHENE**



# What about spatial dependence of LDOS?





4 successive LLs are observed (spin resolved)

The drift trajectories are blurred in the high LLs

... but no obvious signature of the nodal structure associated to cyclotron motion



> Structures appear at scale  $1/l_B \approx 0.1 \, \mathrm{nm}^{-1}$ 

LLn shows n kinks in the momentum-dependence

Good comparison experiment/simulations

#### **REVEALING THE NODAL STRUCTURE OF CYCLOTRON MOTION**



Hashimoto, Champel, Florens et al., PRL (2012)

Other Applications of vortex formalism (II):

Averaged density of states and LDOS correlations

Champel & Florens, PRB (2010) Champel, Florens & Raikh, PRB (2011) Ulrich, Florens & Champel, in preparation (2012)



#### LDOS CORRELATIONS (I)



### **Two-point LDoS correlator:**

Perform the following sample averaging of LDOS-LDOS signal

 $\chi(r,\omega_1,\omega_2) = \langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_1,\omega_1)\rho(\mathbf{r}_2,\omega_2) \rangle - \langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_1,\omega_1) \rangle \langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_2,\omega_2) \rangle$ 

Geometrical interpretation: overlap of quantum rings



Robust way to reveal some nodes in real space?

Procedure for computation

$$\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_{1},\omega_{1})\rho(\mathbf{r}_{2},\omega_{2})\rangle = \int \frac{d^{2}\mathbf{R}_{1}}{2\pi l_{B}^{2}} \int \frac{d^{2}\mathbf{R}_{2}}{2\pi l_{B}^{2}} \sum_{m_{1}=0}^{+\infty} \sum_{m_{2}=0}^{+\infty} F_{m_{1}}(\mathbf{R}_{1}-\mathbf{r}_{1})F_{m_{2}}(\mathbf{R}_{2}-\mathbf{r}_{2}) \\ \times \int \frac{dt_{1}}{2\pi} \int \frac{dt_{2}}{2\pi} e^{i(\omega_{1}-E_{m_{1}})t_{1}+i(\omega_{2}-E_{m_{2}})t_{2}} \left\langle e^{-i\left[\tilde{v}_{m_{1}}(\mathbf{R}_{1})t_{1}+\tilde{v}_{m_{2}}(\mathbf{R}_{2})t_{2}\right]} \right\rangle$$

this can be done analytically!

Spatial dependence confirms previous expectations



#### LDOS CORRELATIONS (III)

**Energy dependence:** DOS versus LDOS correlations at equal position



Prospects: compare analytic theory with experiments and numerics

#### **PERSPECTIVES: PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION FOR THE LDOS**

**Probablity distribution for the LDOS:** 

On-going work with J. Ulrich and S. Florens

$$P(\rho) = \int \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{i\lambda\rho} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-i\lambda)^n}{n!} \langle [\rho(\omega, \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{0})]^n \rangle$$

Higher moments of the LDOS correlations can be computed analytically at  $\xi \gg l_B$ 

Preliminary results:

Assumptions: LL0 + additional external broadening (temperature T)



$$p = 
ho / \langle 
ho 
angle \qquad T^* = (l_B / \xi) v$$

• Wide-stretched distribution at  $T \ll T^*$ 

 Sharply peaked distribution at high T (LDOS gets more and more uniform accross the sample)

## CONCLUSION

The rigorous formulation of a quantum guiding center theory was established in terms of semi-coherent state Green's functions

The overcompleteness of the vortex representation makes possible the unification of closed and open systems (bulk and edge states on the same footing)!

Local equilibrium observables such as the LDOS can be calculated accurately from systematic gradient expansion using semi-coherent state Green's functions

STM experiments show percolating states in 2DEG at high magnetic fields, and revealed the robust nodal structure of Landau levels

Theory works well for capturing disordered averaged quantities (averaged DOS, LDOS correlations, probability distribution, …)







