

QUANTUM HALL EFFECT: TOPOLOGY AND DYNAMICS IN ARBITRARY DIMENSIONS

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Women at the intersection of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics

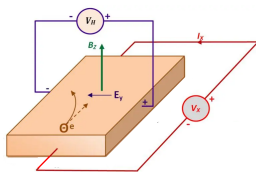
ICTS, Bangalore

Dec. 30, 2025

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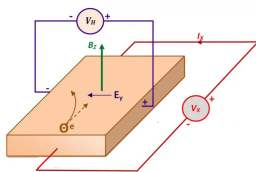
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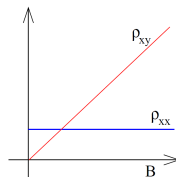
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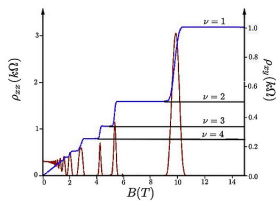


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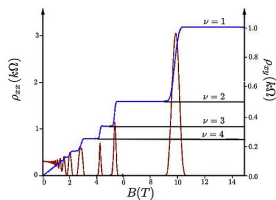


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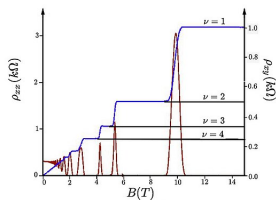
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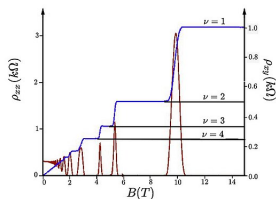
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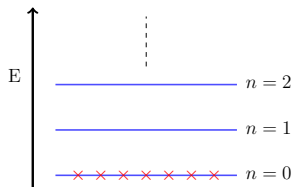
● Framework for interesting ideas

- conformal and topological field theories
- non-commutative geometries, fuzzy spaces
- bulk-edge dynamics, bosonization

Quantum mechanics of 2d charged particle moving in a strong magnetic field
(Landau problem)

$$H\Psi = E\Psi$$

$$H = \frac{(\vec{p} - e\vec{A})^2}{2m}, \quad \vec{A} = \frac{B}{2}(-y, x)$$

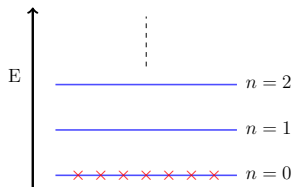


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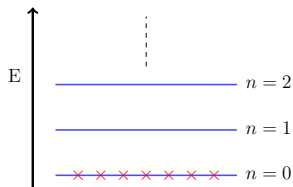
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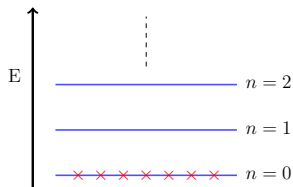
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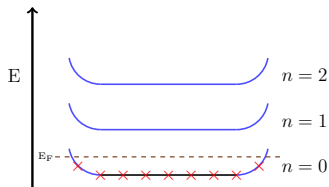
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Lowest Landau level (LLL) : $D_{\bar{z}}\Psi = (\partial_{\bar{z}} + z/2)\Psi = 0$

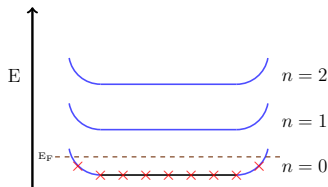
$$\psi_n \sim z^n e^{-|z|^2/2}, \quad z = x + iy$$

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Low energy dynamics is confined on the edge.

Incompressible quantum Hall droplets with boundary fluctuations

Edge excitations \iff area preserving diffeomorphisms



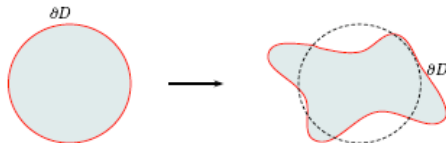
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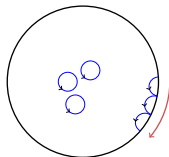
$$S_{\text{edge}} = \int_{\partial D} \left(\partial_t \phi + u \partial_\theta \phi \right) \partial_\theta \phi, \quad u \sim \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial r^2} \right|_{\text{boundary}}$$

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$$Z[A_\mu] = \int d\psi d\bar{\psi} e^{-S[\psi, \bar{\psi}, A_\mu]} = e^{-S_{\text{eff}}[A]}$$

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Anomaly cancellation between bulk and edge actions,

$$\delta S_{\text{bulk}} + \delta S_{\text{edge}} = 0$$

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$$S_{eff} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \left[[A + (s + \frac{1}{2})\omega] d[A + (s + \frac{1}{2})\omega] - \frac{1}{12}\omega d\omega \right] + \dots$$

ω = spin connection $s = 0 \rightarrow LLL$, $s = 1 \rightarrow$ 1st LL, \dots

$$T^{ij} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{g}} \frac{\delta S_{eff}}{\delta g_{ij}} = \frac{\eta_H}{2} (\epsilon^{il} \dot{g}^{lj} + \epsilon^{jl} \dot{g}^{li})$$

η_H = Hall viscosity

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QHE on \mathbb{CP}^k (KARABALI AND NAIR, 2002...)

- higher dimensionality
- possibility of having both abelian and nonabelian magnetic fields

\mathbb{CP}^k : $2k$ dim space, locally parametrized by $z_i, i = 1, \dots, k$

- Fubini-Study metric

$$ds^2 = \frac{dz \cdot d\bar{z}}{(1 + z \cdot \bar{z})} - \frac{\bar{z} \cdot dz z \cdot d\bar{z}}{(1 + z \cdot \bar{z})^2} = g_{i\bar{i}} dz^i d\bar{z}^{\bar{i}} \quad \Omega = i g_{i\bar{i}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^{\bar{i}}$$

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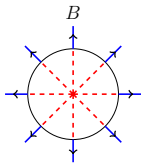
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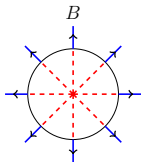
QHE on S^2 analyzed by HALDANE



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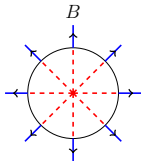
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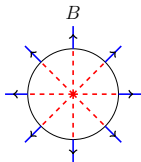
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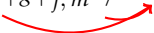
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- $\hat{R}_+, \hat{R}_- \rightarrow$ covariant derivatives $D_{\pm} = i\hat{R}_{\pm}/r$

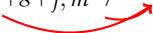
$$[\hat{R}_+, \hat{R}_-] = 2\hat{R}_3 \Rightarrow \hat{R}_3 \Psi = -\frac{n}{2} \Psi$$

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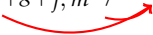
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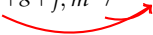
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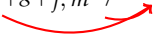
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$$\Psi_m \sim \frac{z^m}{(1 + \bar{z}z)^{n/2}} \quad m = 0, \dots, n$$

- $\mathbb{CP}^k = SU(k+1)/U(k)$. We can use $(k+1) \times (k+1)$ -matrix $g \in SU(k+1)$ as a coordinate, where

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- How Ψ transforms under gauge transformations depends on choice of background fields

- Choose “uniform” $U(1)$ or $U(k)$ background magnetic fields.

$$U(1) : \quad \bar{F} = d\bar{a} = n \Omega, \quad \Omega = \text{Kahler 2-form}$$

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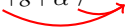
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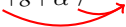
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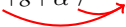
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- Lowest Landau level: $\hat{R}_{-i}\Psi = 0$ Holomorphicity condition

($|\alpha\rangle$ is lowest weight state)

For a $U(1)$ magnetic field the LLL wavefunctions can be written in terms of complex coordinates as

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k} &= \sqrt{N} \left[\frac{n!}{i_1! i_2! \dots i_k! (n-s)!} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{z_1^{i_1} z_2^{i_2} \dots z_k^{i_k}}{(1 + \bar{z} \cdot z)^{\frac{n}{2}}}, \\ s &= i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_k, \quad 0 \leq i_i \leq n, \quad 0 \leq s \leq n\end{aligned}$$

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They form an $SU(k+1)$ representation of dimension

$$N = \dim J = \frac{(n+k)!}{n! k!}$$

- QHE on a compact space $M \Rightarrow$ LLL defines an N -dim Hilbert space
In the presence of confining potential \Rightarrow incompressible QH droplet
- K states are filled, $N - K$ unoccupied

Occupancy matrix for ground state droplet : $\hat{\rho}_0$

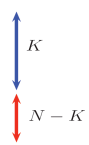
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- Under time evolution: $\hat{\rho}_0 \rightarrow \hat{\rho} = \hat{U} \hat{\rho}_0 \hat{U}^\dagger$
 $\hat{U} = N \times N$ unitary matrix ; "collective" variable describing excitations within the LLL

The action for \hat{U} is

$$S_0 = \int dt \operatorname{Tr} \left[i \hat{\rho}_0 \hat{U}^\dagger \partial_t \hat{U} - \hat{\rho}_0 \hat{U}^\dagger \hat{V} \hat{U} \right]$$

which leads to the evolution equation

$$i \frac{d\hat{\rho}}{dt} = [\hat{V}, \hat{\rho}]$$

S_0 : universal matrix action

No explicit dependence on properties of space on which QHE is defined, abelian or nonabelian nature of fermions, etc.

S_0 : action of a noncommutative field theory

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$$\underbrace{\hat{\rho}_0, \hat{U}, \hat{V}}_{(N \times N) \text{ matrices}} \implies \underbrace{\rho_0(\vec{x}), U(\vec{x}, t), V(\vec{x})}_{\text{symbols}}$$

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$(N \times N)$ matrices

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$$\bullet \quad A(\vec{x}, t) \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m,l} \Psi_m(\vec{x}) \hat{A}_{ml}(t) \Psi_l^*(\vec{x})$$

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S_0 = bosonic action describing the dynamics of LLL fermions

DAS, DHAR, MANDAL, WADIA; SAKITA :2d plane context

Large N, K limit with $N \gg K \gg 1$ (large n limit) \implies **chiral boundary action**

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$$S_0 \sim \int_{\partial D} (\partial_t \phi + u \mathcal{L} \phi) \mathcal{L} \phi$$

$(2k - 1)$ (space) dim chiral action defined on droplet boundary

$$\mathcal{L} \phi = (\Omega^{-1})^{ij} \hat{r}_j \partial_i \phi, \quad \mathcal{L} = \begin{cases} \text{derivative along boundary of droplet} \\ \rightarrow \partial_\theta \text{ in 2 dim.} \end{cases}$$

B. Nonabelian background magnetic field $U(k)$

- Wavefunction is a nontrivial representation of $SU(k) : \psi_{m,\alpha} \quad \alpha = 1, \dots, N'$
- Symbol = $(N' \times N')$ matrix valued function \longrightarrow action in terms of $G \in U(N')$

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- The effective edge action is a generalized gauged WZW action in $(2k-1, 1)$ dimensions.

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_0 &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial D} \text{tr} \left[\left(G^\dagger \dot{G} + u G^\dagger \mathcal{L} G \right) G^\dagger \mathcal{L} G \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_D \text{tr} \left[-d \left(i \bar{A} d G G^\dagger + i \bar{A} G^\dagger d G \right) + \frac{1}{3} \left(G^\dagger d G \right)^3 \right] \wedge \left(\frac{\Omega}{2\pi} \right)^{k-1} \frac{1}{(k-1)!} \\
 &\equiv S_{\text{WZW}} (A^L = A^R = \bar{A})
 \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{L} = (\Omega^{-1})^{ij} \hat{r}_j D_i = \text{covariant derivative along the boundary of droplet}$

- In the presence of gauge fluctuations one starts with a gauged matrix action.

$$\partial_t \rightarrow \hat{D}_t = \partial_t + i\hat{A}$$

$$S = \int dt \operatorname{Tr} \left[i\hat{\rho}_0 \hat{U}^\dagger \partial_t \hat{U} - \hat{\rho}_0 \hat{U}^\dagger \hat{V} \hat{U} - \underbrace{\hat{\rho}_0 \hat{U}^\dagger \hat{A} \hat{U}} \right]$$

gauge interactions

In terms of bosonic fields

$$S = N \int dt d\mu \operatorname{tr} \left[i\rho_0 * U^\dagger * \partial_t U - \rho_0 * U^\dagger * (V + \mathcal{A}) * U \right]$$

QUESTION: How is \mathcal{A} related to the gauge fields coupled to the original fermions?

- S is invariant under

$$\delta U = -i\lambda * U \quad (1)$$

$$\delta \mathcal{A}(\vec{x}, t) = \partial_t \lambda(\vec{x}, t) - i(\lambda * (V + \mathcal{A}) - (V + \mathcal{A}) * \lambda)$$

- Since S describes gauge interactions it has to be invariant under usual gauge transformations

$$\delta A_\mu = \partial_\mu \Lambda + i[\bar{A}_\mu + A_\mu, \Lambda], \quad \delta \bar{A}_\mu = 0 \quad (2)$$

Background

Perturbation

The strategy is to choose

$$\mathcal{A} = \text{function}(A_\mu, \bar{A}_\mu, V)$$

$$\lambda = \text{function}(\Lambda, A_\mu, \bar{A}_\mu)$$

such that the gauge transformation (2) induces $\delta \mathcal{A}$ in (1) (generalized Seiberg-Witten map)

- In the large N limit the result is $S = S_{\text{edge}} + S_{\text{bulk}}$

$$S_{\text{edge}} \sim S_{\text{WZW}}(A^L = A + \bar{A}, A^R = \bar{A}) = \text{Chirally gauged WZW action in } 2k \text{ dim}$$

$$S_{\text{bulk}} \sim S_{\text{CS}}^{2k+1}(\tilde{A}) + \dots = (2k+1) \text{ dim CS action}$$

$$\tilde{A} = (A_0 + V, \bar{a}_i + \bar{A}_i + A_i) = \text{background} + \text{fluctuations}$$

- Gauge Invariance \implies Anomaly Cancellation

$$\delta S_{\text{edge}} \neq 0, \quad \delta S_{\text{bulk}} \neq 0$$

$$\delta S_{\text{edge}} + \delta S_{\text{bulk}} = 0$$

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degeneracy = Dolbeault index = charge

\Rightarrow Dolbeault index density = charge density $\equiv J_0$

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- So we can use $\frac{\delta S_{\text{eff}}}{\delta A_0} = J_0 = \text{Dolbeault index density}$

and integrate up to get S_{eff} .

- $\mathbb{CP}^1 = SU(2)/U(1)$; s-th LL

$$S_{3d} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \left\{ \left(A + \left(s + \frac{1}{2} \right) \omega \right) d \left(A + \left(s + \frac{1}{2} \right) \omega \right) - \frac{1}{12} \omega d\omega \right\}$$

Agrees with [ABANOV, GROMOV; KLEVTSOV ET AL; BRADLYN, READ; CAN, LASKIN, WIEGMANN](#)

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$$\begin{aligned} S_{5d}^{(LLL)} = & \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int \left\{ \frac{1}{3!} \left(A + \omega^0 \right) \left(dA + d\omega^0 \right)^2 \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{1}{12} \left(A + \omega^0 \right) \left[(d\omega^0)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\tilde{R} \wedge \tilde{R}) \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$\omega^0 \sim U(1)$ part of spin connection; $\tilde{R} \sim SU(2)$ nonabelian part of the curvature.

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- We have general results for arbitrary dimensions, higher Landau levels and nonabelian magnetic fields

We can calculate the electromagnetic response functions in all dimensions, $J^\mu = \frac{\delta S_{\text{eff}}}{\delta A_\mu}$.

● (2+1) dimensions

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- (4+1) dimensions

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- (6+1) dimensions

$$J^i = \frac{\epsilon^{ijklrs}}{2^3(2\pi)^3} E_j \left[\left(F_{kl} + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr } R_{kl} \right) \left(F_{rs} + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr } R_{rs} \right) - \frac{1}{12} \text{Tr} (R_{kl} R_{rs}) \right]$$

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One can calculate the energy-momentum tensor $T^{\mu\lambda}$

$$T^{\mu\lambda} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{g}} \frac{\delta S_{eff}}{\delta g_{\mu\lambda}}$$

and from this the **viscosity tensor** η^{ijkl} defined as $T^{ij} = \eta^{ijkl} \dot{g}_{kl}$.

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- In two-dimensions

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{g} T^{ml} &= \frac{1}{2} \eta_H \left(g^{mi} \epsilon^{lk} + g^{li} \epsilon^{mk} \right) \dot{g}_{ki} \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \eta_H^{(2)} \left(g^{mi} \epsilon^{lk} + g^{li} \epsilon^{mk} \right) \nabla_i \nabla_k (g^{rn} \dot{g}_{rn}) \end{aligned}$$

where the **Hall viscosity** η_H can be read off as $(\bar{s} = s + \frac{1}{2})$

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_H &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[\bar{s} B + \left(\bar{s}^2 - \frac{1}{12} \right) \left(\frac{R}{2} - \nabla^2 \right) \right] \\ \eta_H^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{8\pi} \left(\bar{s}^2 - \frac{1}{12} \right) \end{aligned}$$

- In four-dimensions the expression for the viscosity tensor is quite involved. In the flat limit, where $\mathbb{CP}^2 \Rightarrow \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}$

$$\eta_H = \left(\frac{(s+1)B}{4\pi} \right)^2$$

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KARABALI AND NAIR, 2023

- We divide the system into two regions, D and its complementary D^C , and define the reduced density matrix

$$\rho_D = \text{Tr}_{D^C} |GS\rangle \langle GS|$$

where $|GS\rangle = \prod_m c_m^\dagger |0\rangle$.

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- The entanglement entropy is defined as

$$S = -\text{Tr} [\rho_D \log \rho_D]$$

- We choose D to be the spherically symmetric region of \mathbb{CP}^k satisfying $z \cdot \bar{z} \leq R^2$. For $\mathbb{CP}^1 \sim S^2$, D is a polar cap around the north pole with latitude angle θ . $R = \tan \theta/2$ via stereographic projection.

- The entanglement entropy can also be written as

$$S = -\text{Tr} [\rho_D \log \rho_D] = - \sum_{m=1}^N \left[\lambda_m \log \lambda_m + (1 - \lambda_m) \log(1 - \lambda_m) \right]$$

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- λ 's are eigenvalues of the two-point correlator (PESCHEL)

$$C(r, r') = \sum_{m=1}^N \Psi_m^*(z) \Psi_m(z') \quad , \quad z, z' \in D$$

$$\int_D C(r, r') \Psi_l^*(z') d\mu(z') = \lambda_l \Psi_l^*(z)$$

where

$$\lambda_l = \int_D |\Psi_l|^2 d\mu$$

- For 2d gapped systems

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L : perimeter of boundary

c : non-universal constant

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- For integer QHE on $S^2 = \mathbb{CP}^1$ RODRIGUEZ AND SIERRA, 2009

For $\nu = 1$: $c = 0.204$

Some results on Kähler manifolds CHARLES AND ESTIENNE, 2019

A. QHE on \mathbb{CP}^k with $U(1)$ magnetic field

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The LLL wavefunctions are essentially the coherent states of \mathbb{CP}^k .

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k} &= \sqrt{N} \left[\frac{n!}{i_1! i_2! \dots i_k! (n-s)!} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{z_1^{i_1} z_2^{i_2} \dots z_k^{i_k}}{(1 + \bar{z} \cdot z)^{\frac{n}{2}}}, \\ s &= i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_k, \quad 0 \leq i_i \leq n, \quad 0 \leq s \leq n\end{aligned}$$

They form an $SU(k+1)$ representation of dimension

$$N = \dim J = \frac{(n+k)!}{n! k!}$$

The volume element for \mathbb{CP}^k is

$$d\mu = \frac{k!}{\pi^k} \frac{d^2 z_1 \dots d^2 z_k}{(1 + \bar{z} \cdot z)^{k+1}}, \quad \int d\mu = 1$$

- The eigenvalues $\lambda = \int_D \Psi^* \Psi$ are given by

$$\lambda_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k} \equiv \lambda_s = \frac{(n+k)!}{(n-s)!(s+k-1)!} \int_0^{t_0} dt t^{s+k-1} (1-t)^{n-s}$$

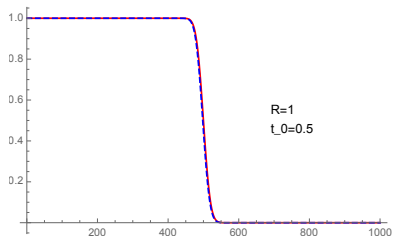
where $t_0 = R^2/(1+R^2)$.

- The entanglement entropy is

$$S = \sum_{s=0}^n \overbrace{\frac{(s+k-1)!}{s!(k-1)!}}^{\text{degeneracy}} H_s$$

$$H_s = [-\lambda_s \log \lambda_s - (1-\lambda_s) \log(1-\lambda_s)]$$

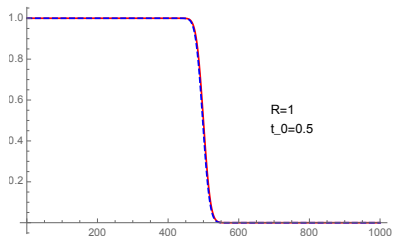
- For large n , this is amenable to an analytical semiclassical calculation for all $k \ll n$.



Graph of λ_s vs s

Transition ($\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$) at $s^* \sim n t_0$

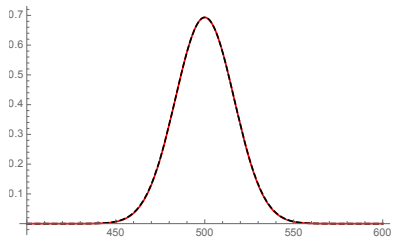
$k = 1, k = 5$



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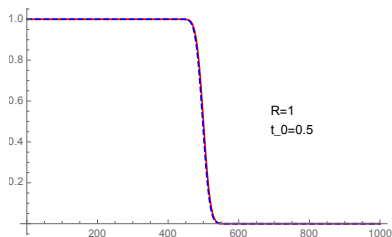
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Graph of H_s vs s

— exact

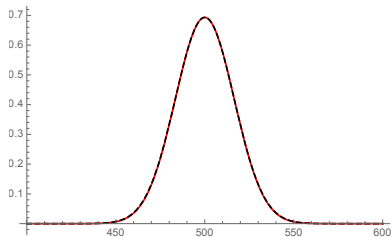
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Graph of H_s vs s

— exact

- - - Gaussian approximation

Only wavefunctions localized around the boundary of the entangling surface contribute to entropy.

From semiclassical analysis

$$S \sim n^{k-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\pi (\log 2)^{3/2}}{2 k!} \underbrace{2k \frac{R^{2k-1}}{(1+R^2)^k}}_{\text{geometric area}} \sim c_k \text{ Area}$$

In agreement with $k = 1$ result by RODRIGUEZ AND SIERRA

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- Formula for entropy becomes universal if expressed in terms of a "phase space" area instead of a geometric area.

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- $V_{\text{phase space}} \rightarrow \frac{n^k}{k!} \int \Omega^k = \frac{n^k}{k!} \int d\mu$

$$A_{\text{phase space}} = \frac{n^{k-\frac{1}{2}}}{k!} A_{\text{geom}} = \frac{n^{k-\frac{1}{2}}}{k!} 2k \frac{R^{2k-1}}{(1+R^2)^k}$$

$$S \sim \frac{\pi}{2} (\log 2)^{3/2} A_{\text{phase space}}$$

B. QHE on \mathbb{CP}^k with $U(1) \times SU(k)$ magnetic field

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- The corresponding phase-space volume in this case is $V_{\text{phase space}} = \dim \tilde{J} \frac{n^k}{k!} \int d\mu$

$$S \sim \frac{\pi}{2} (\log 2)^{3/2} A_{\text{phase space}}$$

for any dimension and Abelian or non-Abelian background. (KARABALI, 2020)

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- Extend these ideas to fractional Hall effect (AGARWAL, KARABALI, NAIR, 2025)

THANK YOU!