SUPERSYMMETRIC THEORIES AND GRAPHENE

Condensed matter physics from geometry

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Outline





1 Introduction

- Graphene and high energy physics
- Mass gaps in graphene-like materials



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2 Geometrical top-down approach

- Holography
- AVZ model
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3 Conclusions

Obtained results and future developments







 natural description of its electronic properties in terms of Dirac pseudoparticles;



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- possibility to study quasi-relativistic particle behaviour at sub-light speed regime;
- curved space configurations: possibility of new direct observation of quantum behaviour in the curved background of a solid state system.





















Pristine graphene: single-state per site honeycomb lattice, far apart ions

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- electrons can tunnel to their first neighbor atoms;
- robust massless formulation, protected, to a certain extent, by combination of parity and time-reversal symmetry.









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$$\label{eq:H} \begin{split} H \ = \ H_1 + H_2 \ = \ H_1 \ + \ t_2 \ \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle_2} e^{i \ \phi \ \alpha_{i\,j}} \ c^{\dagger}_i \ c_j \ + \ \varepsilon_i \ M \ \sum_i c^{\dagger}_i \ c_i \ , \qquad \varepsilon_i = \pm 1 \ ; \end{split}$$



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- second-neighbor hopping terms with unimodular phase factor, the phase sign depending on the 'chirality' of the electron path;
- parity breaking terms that spoil sublattices equivalence;
- fermion masses in the two inequivalent valleys:

$$m_{\kappa} = M - 3\sqrt{3} t_2 \sin \phi$$
 , $m_{\kappa'} = M + 3\sqrt{3} t_2 \sin \phi$.





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- Shot: write down a D = 4 (super)gravity model whose D = 3 boundary features an effective theory for a spin-1/2 fermion defined on a curved geometry;
- Check if the generated D = 3 spin-1/2 fermion can be identified with Dirac electronic charge carriers in graphene.









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- consider the boundary limit, defining the correct form for the boundary vielbein, spinors and connections;
- the resulting D = 3 world volume describes a generalized AVZ model featuring a local NYW symmetry.



AVZ model

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- ☑ fermion masses depend on the geometrical parameters (torsion) of the considered spacetime.



Unconventional model :



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expressed in terms of the vielbein and spin 1/2 fields $\chi\,.$



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- the construction leads to the description of a propagating charged fermion satisfying a Dirac equation;
- the model can describe graphene electronic charge carriers in the vicinity of Dirac points, in a lattice with non-vanishing curvature and torsion.





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 $\circledast~$ the +~ and -~ sectors of the theory can be naturally interpreted as related to the graphene Dirac points K, K' ;



 \circledast the torsion can be explicitly written as

$$T^i_{\pm} = \mathcal{D}_{_{\!\Omega}} e^i = \beta \; e^i + {m au}_{\pm} \; \epsilon^{ijk} e_j \, \wedge \, e_k$$
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If we describe the single electron wave function of graphene in terms of a two-component Dirac spinor, $\psi=\sqrt{\frac{2}{\ell}}~U^{-1}\chi$, one finds:

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- Identification between Haldane parameters and geometrical quantities suggests a relation between the ratio f/ℓ and the Berry phase parameters.
- The embedding of the effective description in an N-extended four-dimensional supergravity sets the stage of a holographic analysis which will be pursued in a future work.



Thank you for listening!