

Weyl Semimetals

F. Peña-Benitez

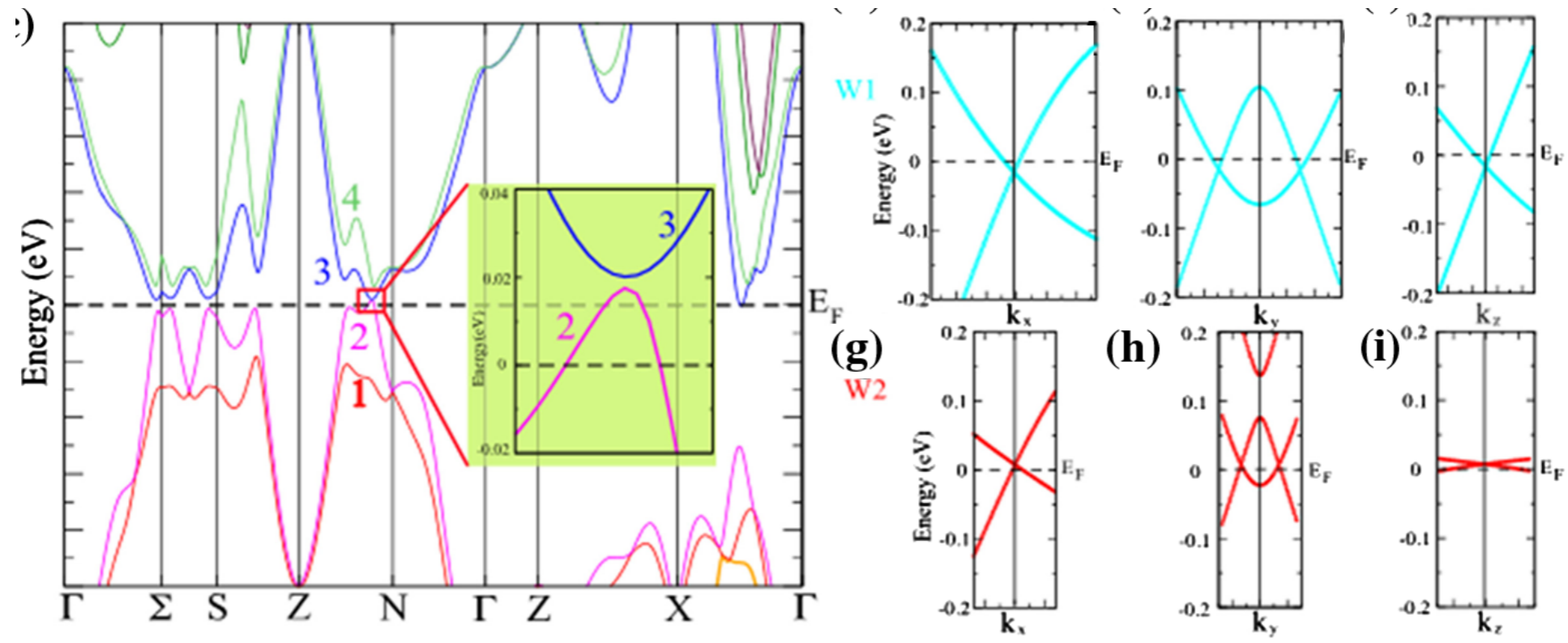
Based on work with

K. Landsteiner, E. Megias, L. Melgar, G. Grignani, S. Speziali, A. Marini, R. Dantas, B. Roy and
P. Surowka

What is a Weyl semimetals?

- Is a semiconductor with an even number of singular points in the band structure, where valence and conduction bands touch
- A Weyl semimetal exists if time reversal, Parity or both are broken
- Each singular point has associated an integer monopole charge source of Berry curvature
- The sign of the monopole charge is connected to the helicity of the excitations around this point
- The simplest and best understood case has charge unity
- In my language a Weyl semimetal only contains doubly degenerate singular points!

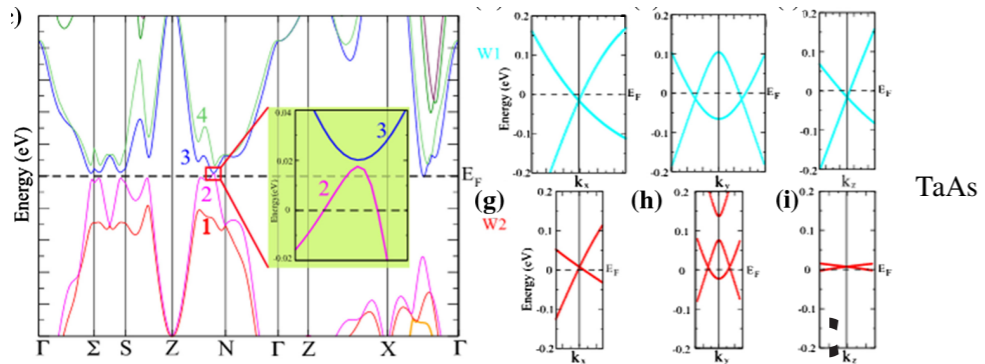
Some pictures of Weyl semimetals



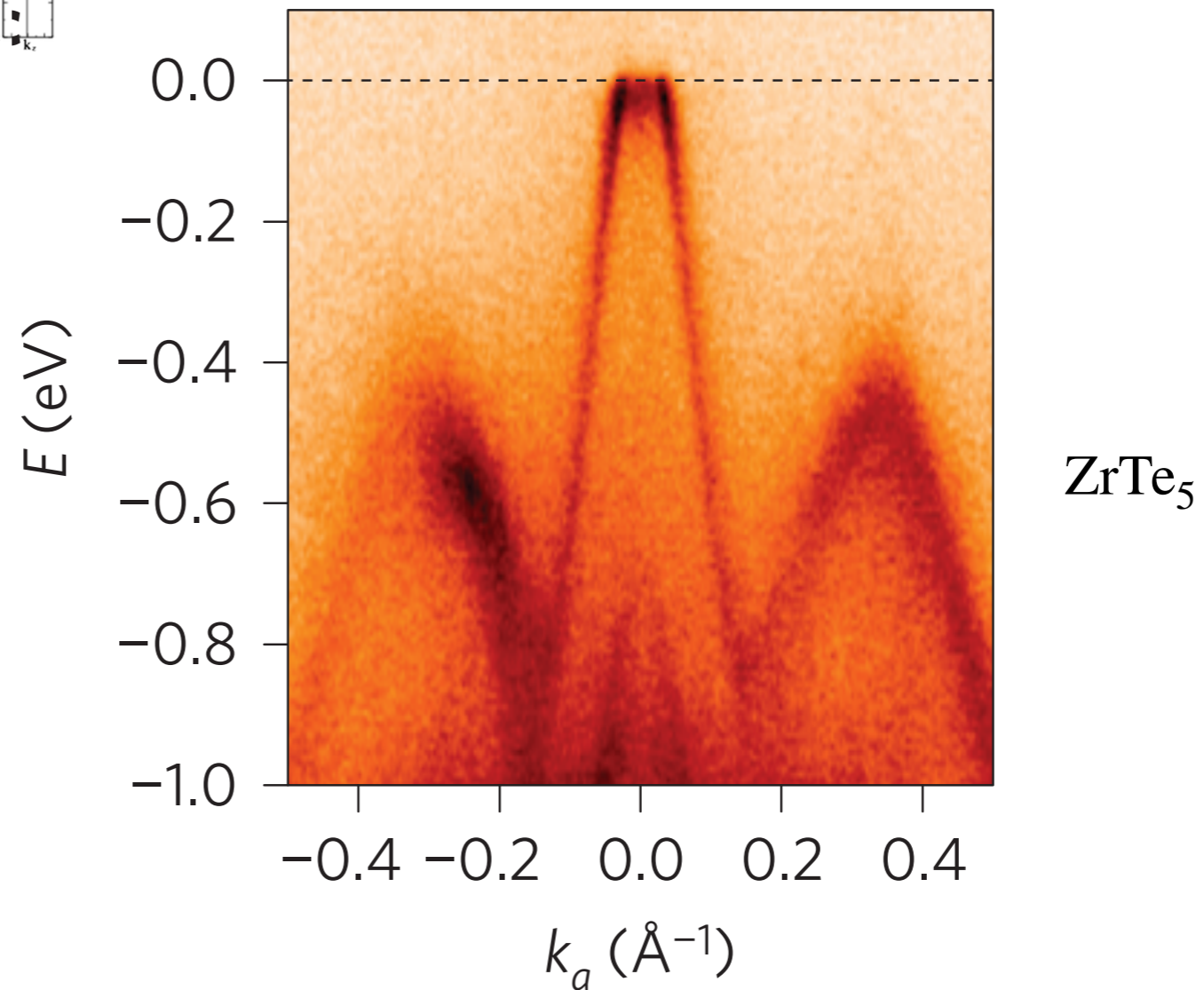
TaAs

Phys. Rev. X 5, 031023 (2015)

Some pictures of Weyl semimetals

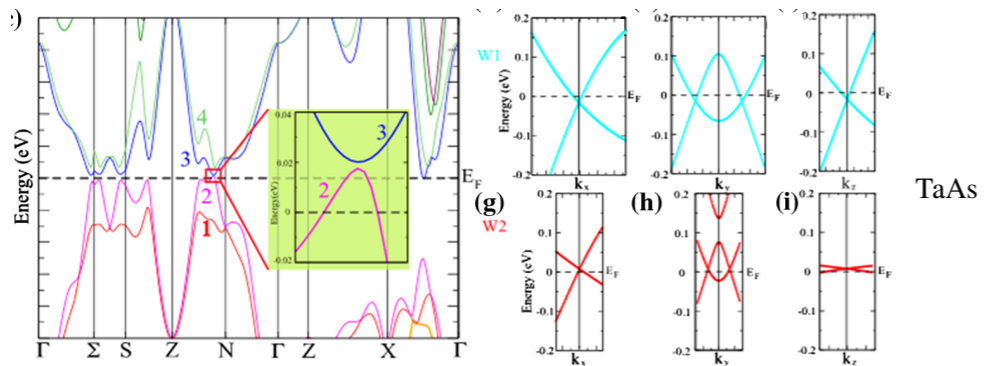


Phys. Rev. X 5, 031023 (2015)

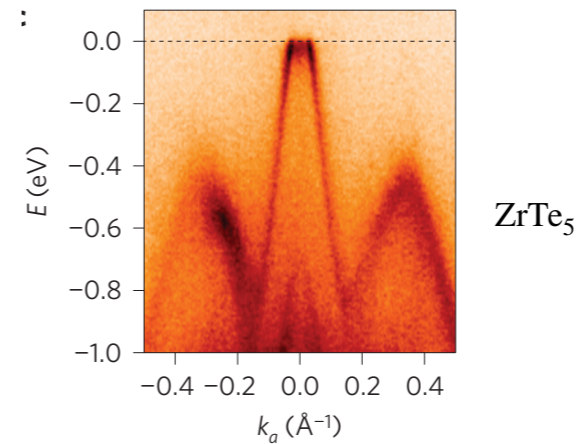


Nature Physics vol 12, pages 550–554 (2016)

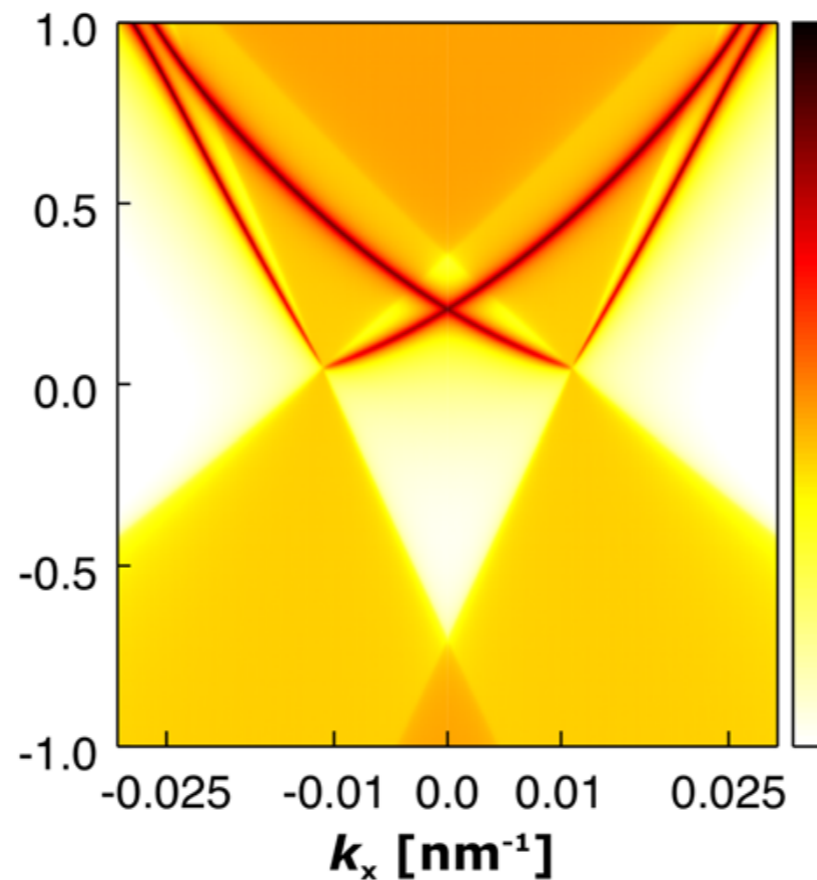
Some pictures of Weyl semimetals



Phys. Rev. X 5, 031023 (2015)



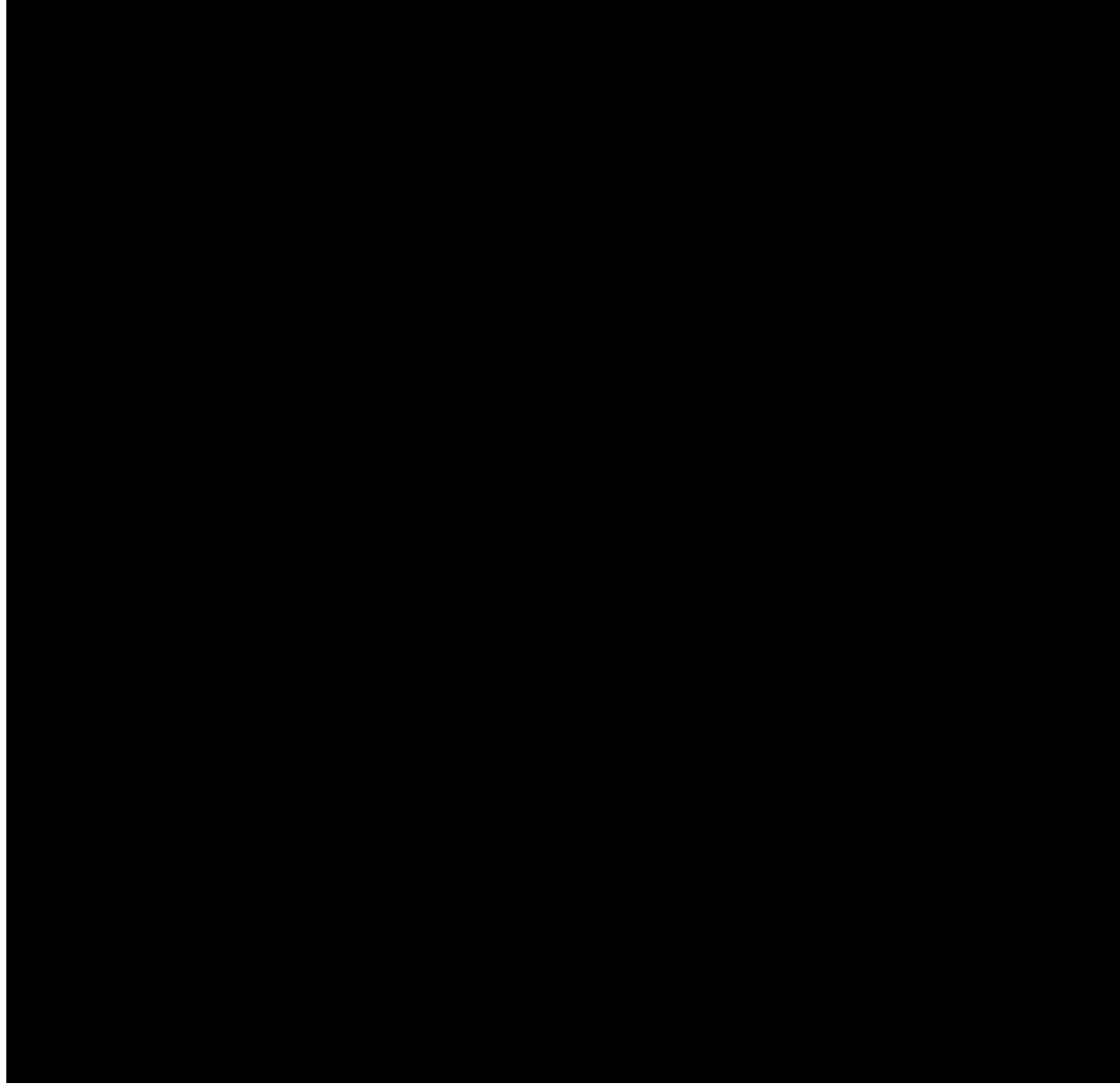
Nature Physics vol12, pages 550–554 (2016)



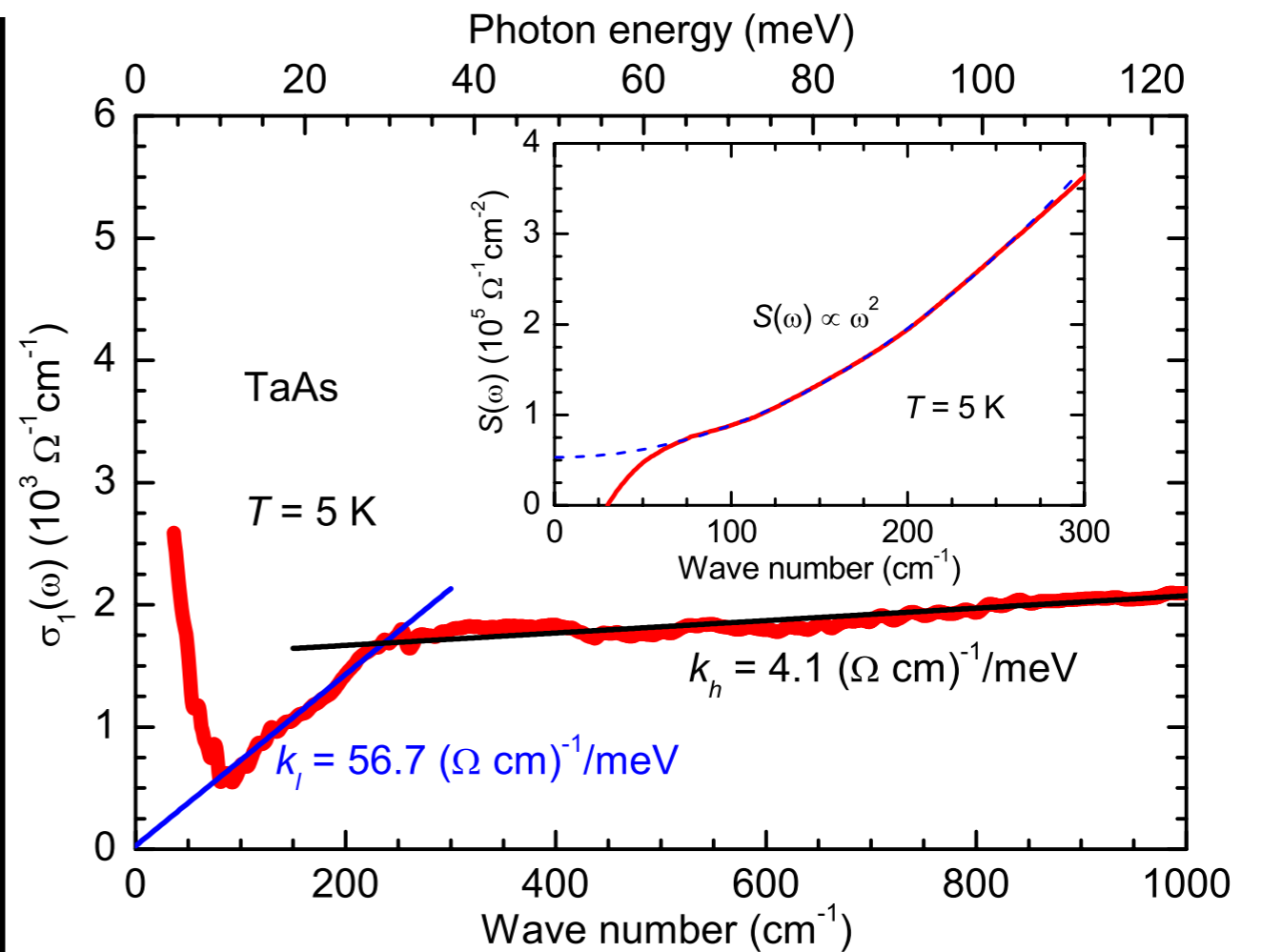
HgTe Under compressive strain

Phys. Rev. X 9, 031034 (2019)

Optical conductivity



Optical conductivity



Phys. Rev. B 93, 121110(R) (2016)

$$\sigma(\omega) = N \frac{e^2}{12h} \frac{\omega}{v_f} \dots$$

Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 046602

ANOMALIES

SOME WELL ESTABLISHED FACTS...

ANOMALIES

SOME WELL ESTABLISHED FACTS...

- In a field theory global symmetries can be violated at the quantum level
- Theories with massless fermions have axial and vector global symmetries
- Is not possible to preserve in the QFT both symmetries
- In 3+1d there are two types of axial anomalies

Argument 2:

$$iW_{eff}[A, A_5] = \log \int \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \mathcal{D}\psi e^{iS[\bar{\psi}, \psi]} \exp \left[i \int d^4x \left(A_\mu J^\mu + A_\nu^5 J_5^\mu \right) \right]$$

$$\mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \mathcal{D}\psi \rightarrow \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi}' \mathcal{D}\psi' \exp \left[ic_A \int d^4x \lambda(x) \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\alpha} \left(F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\alpha} + \frac{1}{3} F_{\mu\nu}^5 F_{\rho\alpha}^5 \right) \right]$$

$$\delta W_{eff} = \int d^4x \left(\lambda^5(x) \partial_\mu J_5^\mu + \lambda(x) \partial_\mu J^\mu \right) = c_A \int d^4x \lambda^5(x) \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\alpha} \left(F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\alpha} + \frac{1}{3} F_{\mu\nu}^5 F_{\rho\alpha}^5 \right)$$

$$\partial_\mu J^\mu = 0$$

$$\partial_\mu J_5^\mu = c_A \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\alpha} \left(F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\alpha} + \frac{1}{3} F_{\mu\nu}^5 F_{\rho\alpha}^5 \right) = 8c_A \left(\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} + \frac{1}{3} \vec{E}_5 \cdot \vec{B}_5 \right)$$

$$c_A = \frac{1 - (-1)}{32\pi^2 \hbar^2 c}$$

That automatically implies that the following three point function

$$\frac{\delta^3 W_{eff}}{\delta A_\mu(x) \delta A_\nu(y) \delta A_\rho(z)} = \langle J_5^\mu(x) J^\nu(y) J^\rho(z) \rangle \text{ satisfies}$$

$$\langle \partial_\mu J_5^\mu(x) J^\nu(y) J^\rho(z) \rangle = c_A \epsilon^{\nu\rho\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \delta(x-y) \partial_\beta \delta(x-z)$$

The famous triangle diagram, which is one loop exact!

s_b

s_a

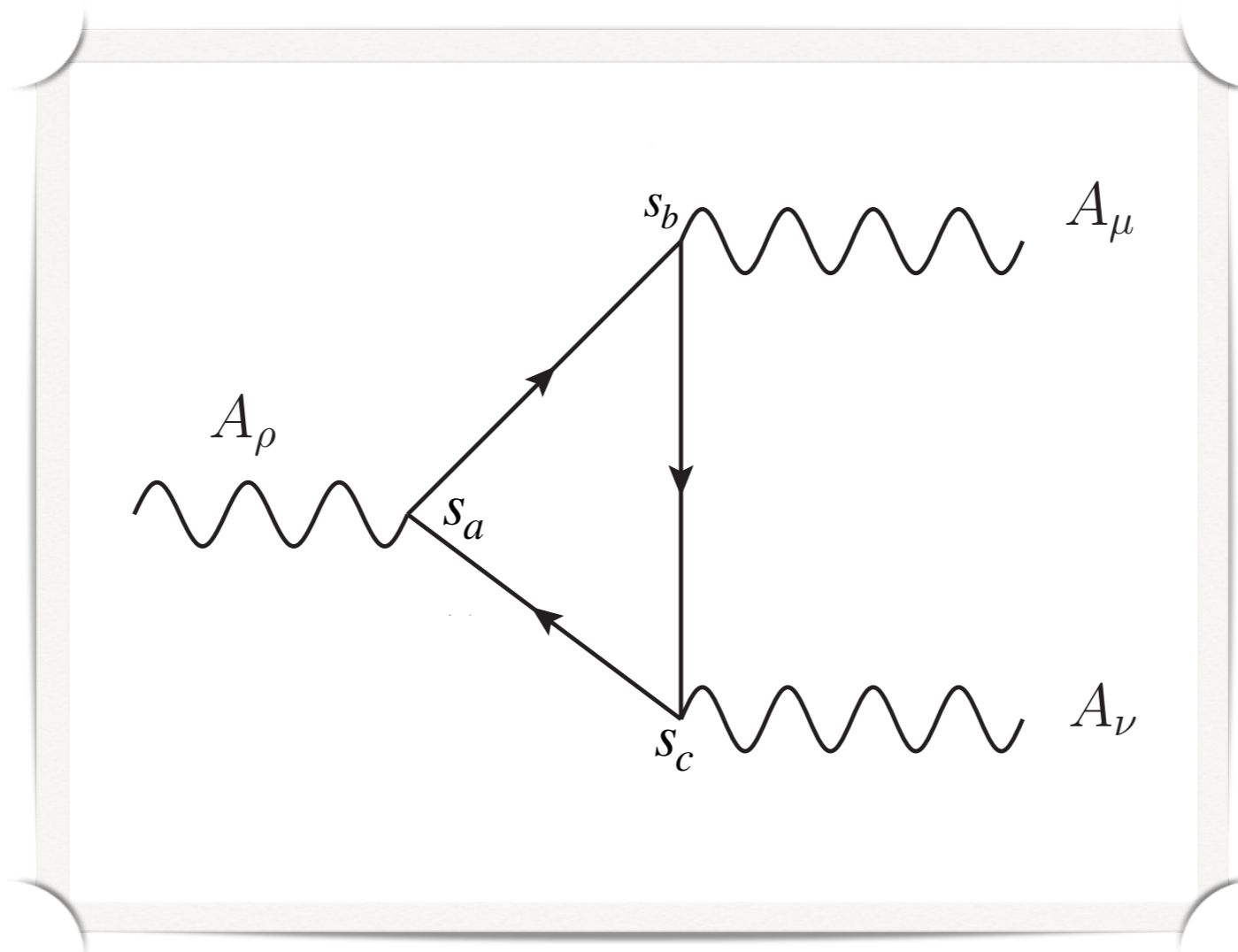
s_c

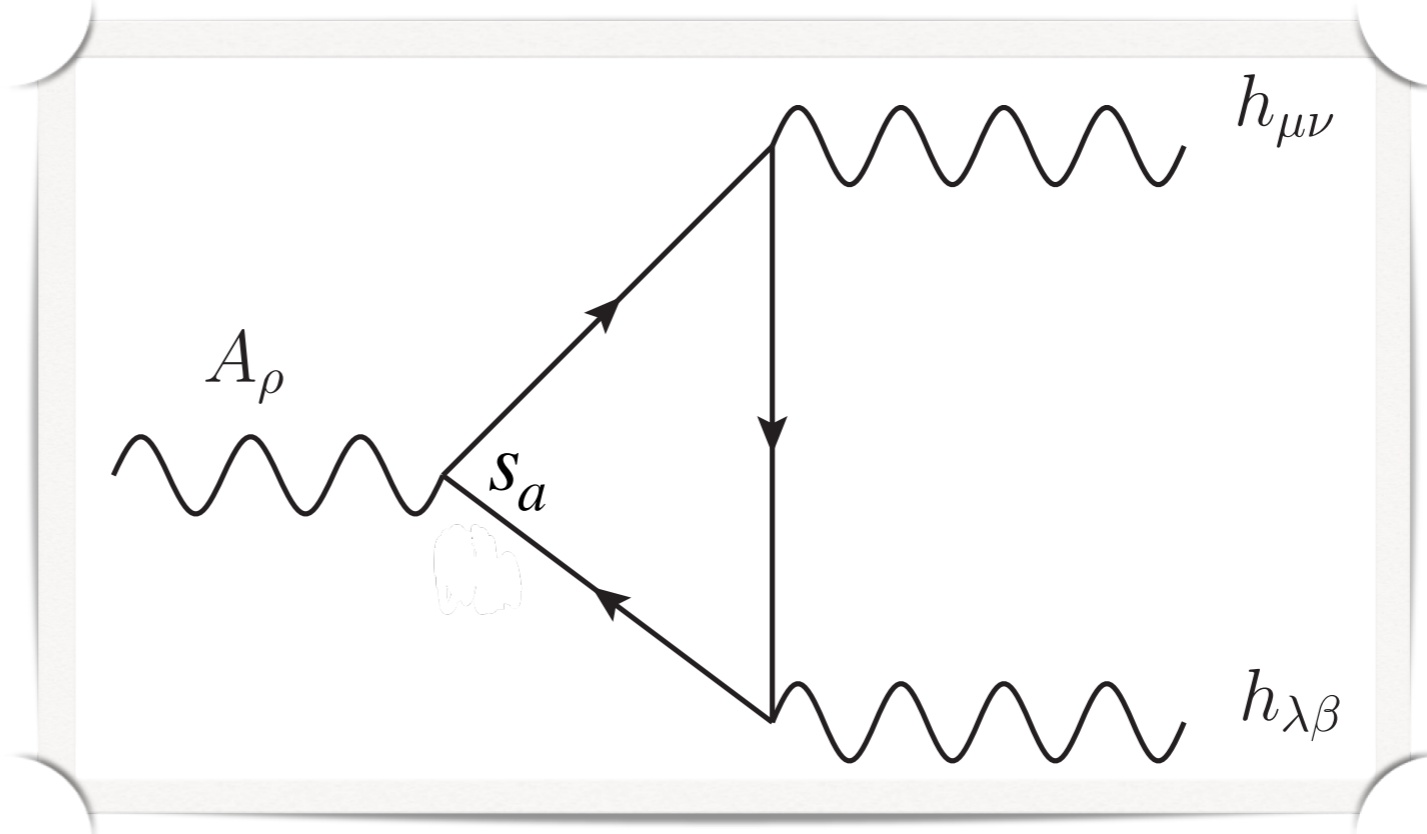
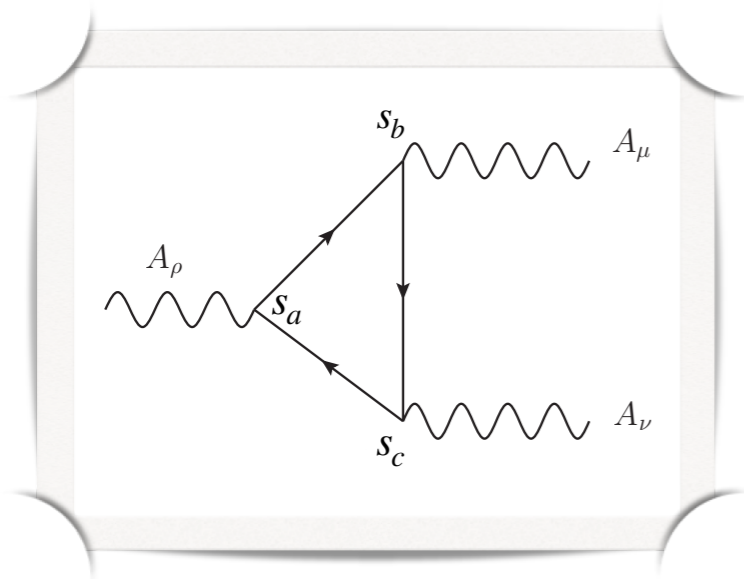
That automatically implies that the following three point function

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The famous triangle diagram, which is one loop exact!



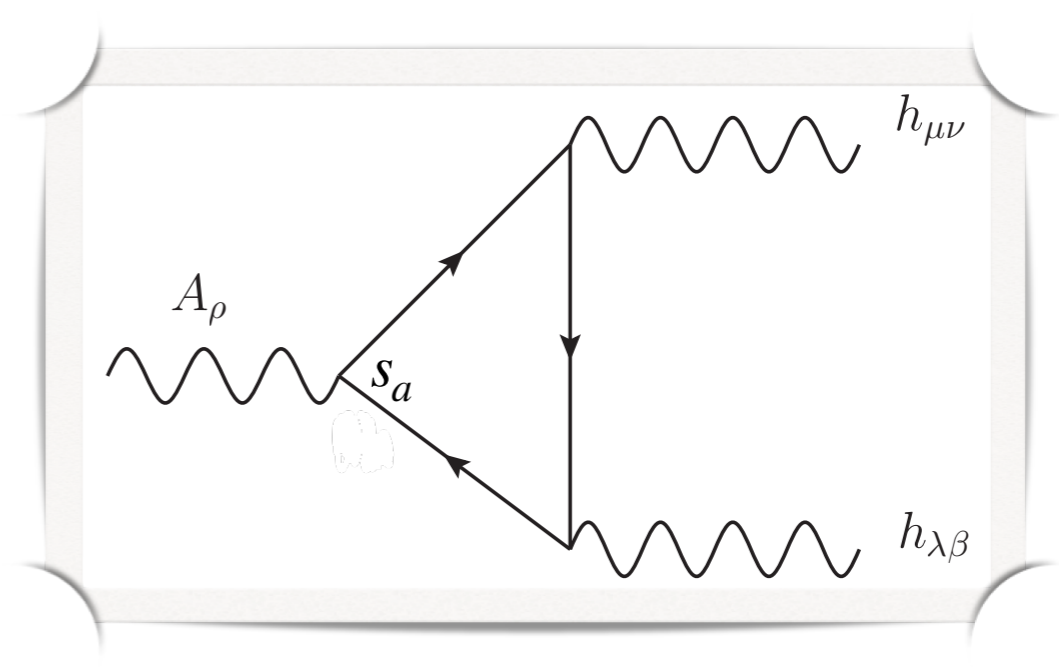
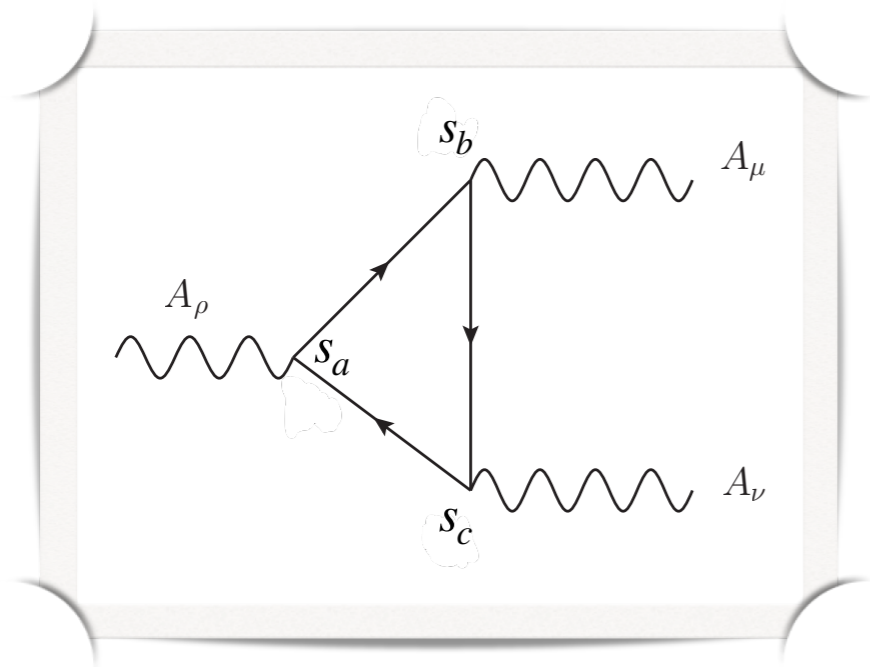


However there is another diagram which is not vanishing!

Finally the full anomaly (non)-conservation law is

$$\nabla_\mu J_5^\mu = \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\alpha} \left(c_A F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\alpha} + \frac{1}{3} c_A F_{\mu\nu}^5 F_{\rho\alpha}^5 + c_g R^\alpha_{\beta\mu\nu} R^\beta_{\alpha\rho} \right)$$

$$c_A = \frac{1^3 - (-1)^3}{32\pi^2 \hbar^2 c} \quad , \quad c_g = \frac{1 - (-1)}{768\pi^2 \hbar^2 c}$$



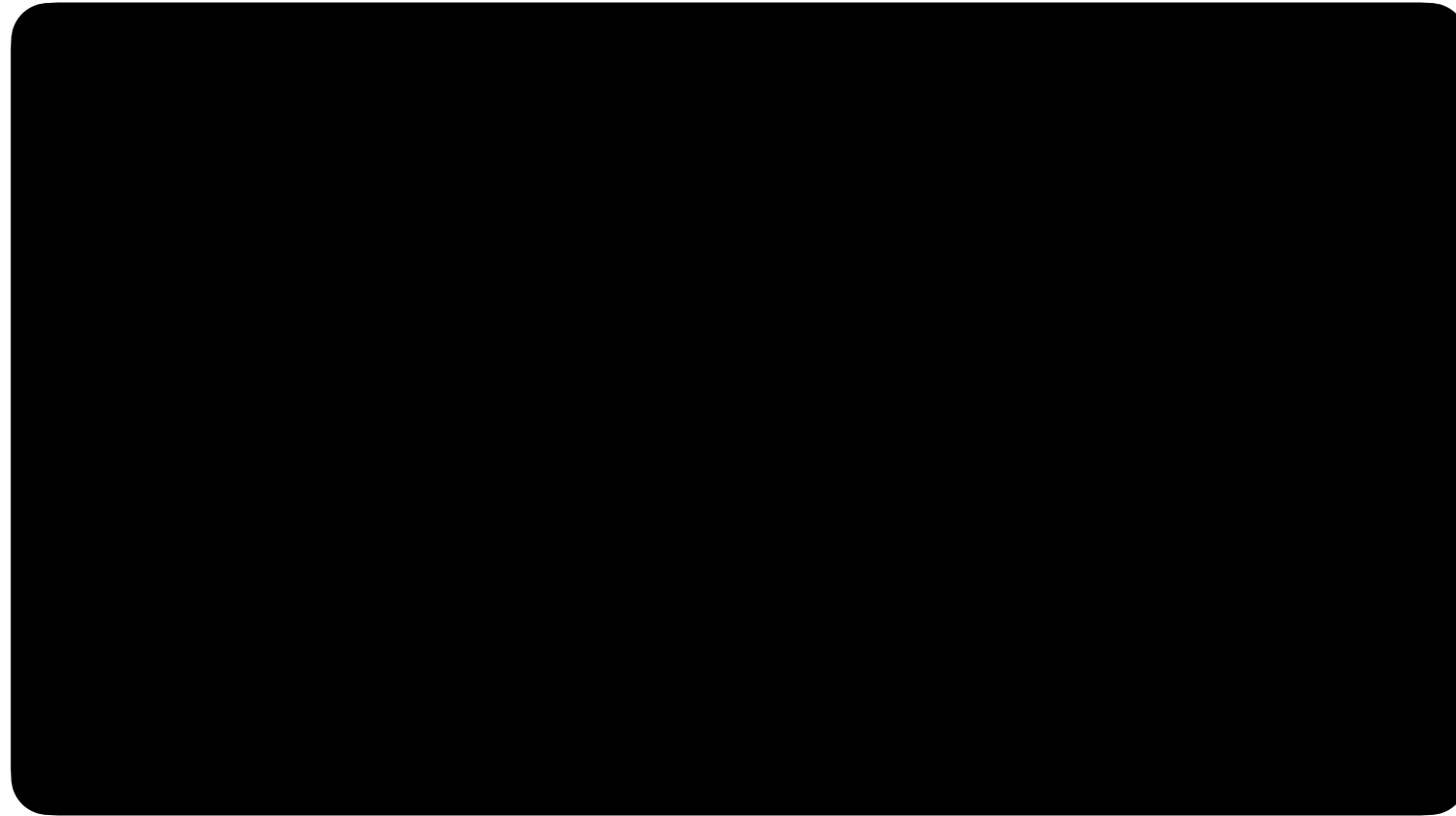
In general the anomaly takes the form

$$(\mathcal{D}_\mu \tilde{J}^\mu)_a = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{tr} \left[s_a \partial_\mu \left(A_\nu \partial_\rho A_\sigma + \frac{1}{2} A_\nu A_\rho A_\sigma \right) \right] + \frac{b_a}{768\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\lambda} R^\alpha{}_{\beta\mu\nu} R^\beta{}_{\alpha\rho\lambda}$$

$$d_{abc} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} [\{s_a, s_b\} s_c]$$

$$b_a = \text{Tr} [s_a]$$

Anomalies and Transport



$$J_a^\mu = \sigma_{ab}^B B_b^\mu + \sigma_a^V \omega^\mu + K_a^\mu + P_a^\mu$$

$$\sigma_{ab}^B = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} d_{abc} \mu^c$$

$$\sigma_a^V = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} d_{abc} \mu^b \mu^c + \frac{T^2}{24} b_a$$

Returning to Weyl semimetals

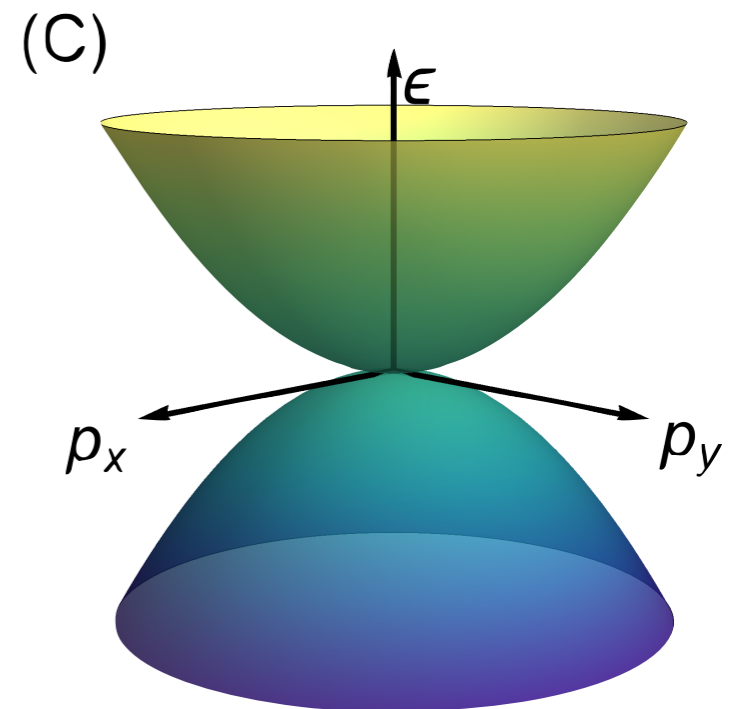
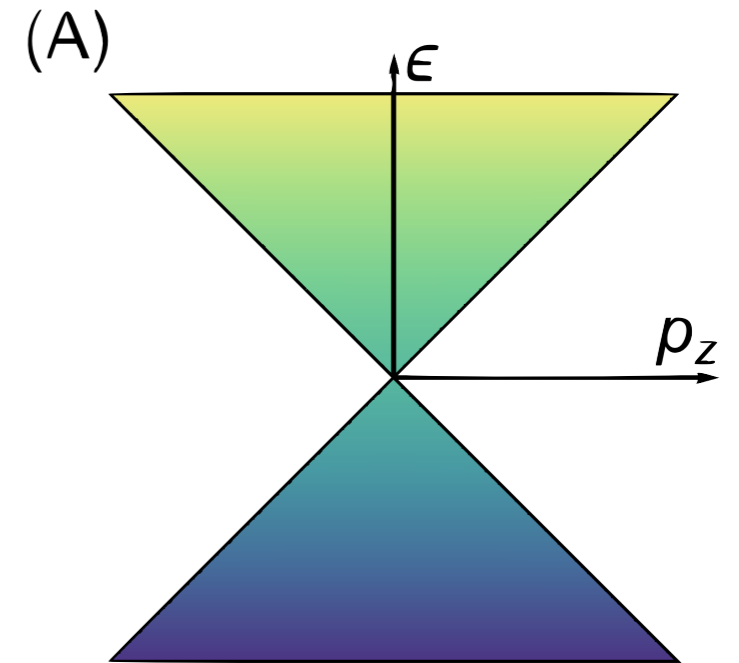
A single particle Hamiltonian

$$H_n(\mathbf{p}) = \alpha_n p_{\perp}^n [\cos(n\phi_p) \sigma_x + \sin(n\phi_p) \sigma_y] + v p_z \sigma_z$$

A single particle Hamiltonian

$$H_n(\mathbf{p}) = \alpha_n p_{\perp}^n [\cos(n\phi_p) \sigma_x + \sin(n\phi_p) \sigma_y] + v p_z \sigma_z$$

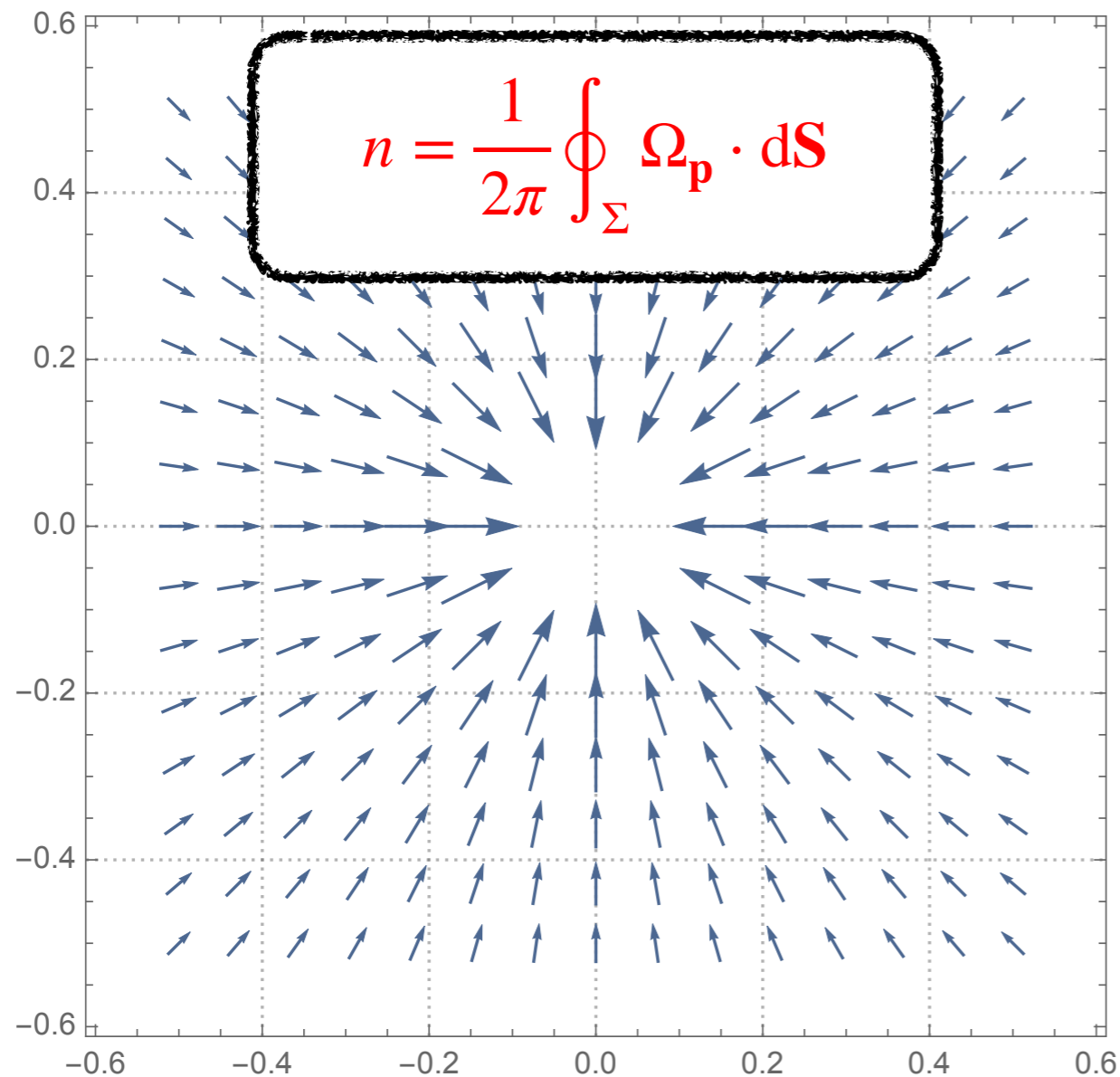
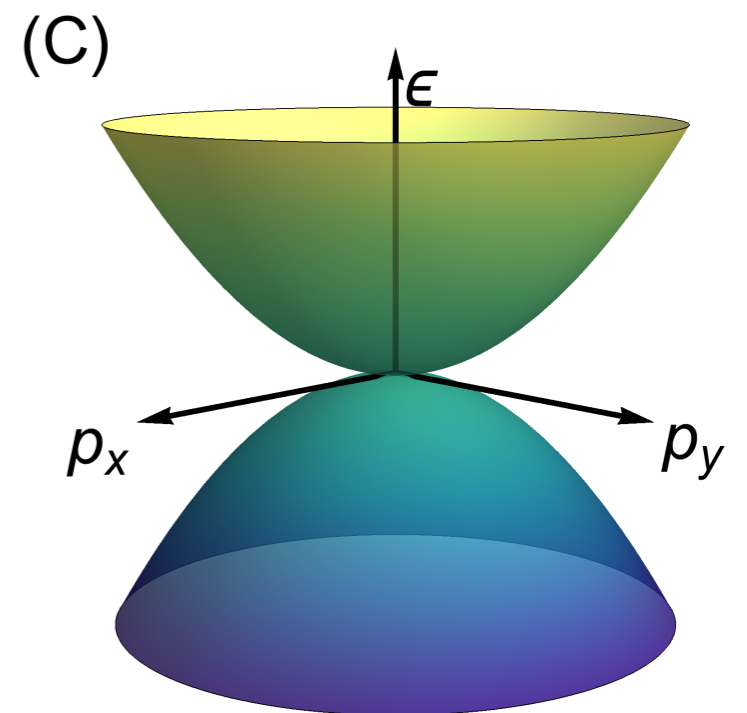
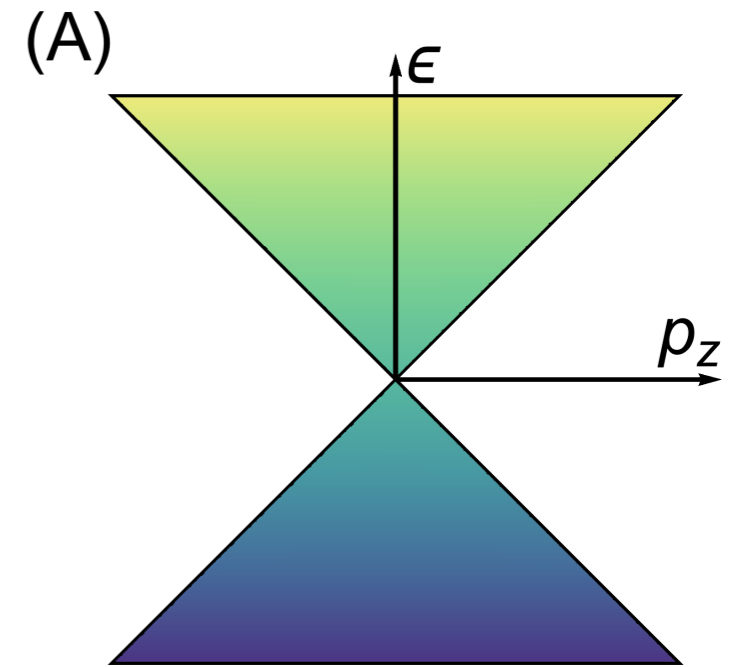
$$\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} = \sqrt{\alpha_n^2 p_{\perp}^{2n} + v^2 p_z^2}$$



A single particle Hamiltonian

The Berry curvature $\Omega_{\mathbf{p}} = d\langle\psi|d\psi\rangle$

$$\Omega_{\mathbf{p}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{nv\alpha_n^2 (p_x^2 + p_y^2)^{n-1}}{[\alpha_n^2 (p_x^2 + p_y^2)^n + v^2 p_z^2]^{3/2}} (p_x, p_y, np_z)$$



A QFT model I

Minimal T breaking Weyl semimetal

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\Psi} (i\partial - eA - \gamma_5 \gamma_z b + M) \Psi .$$

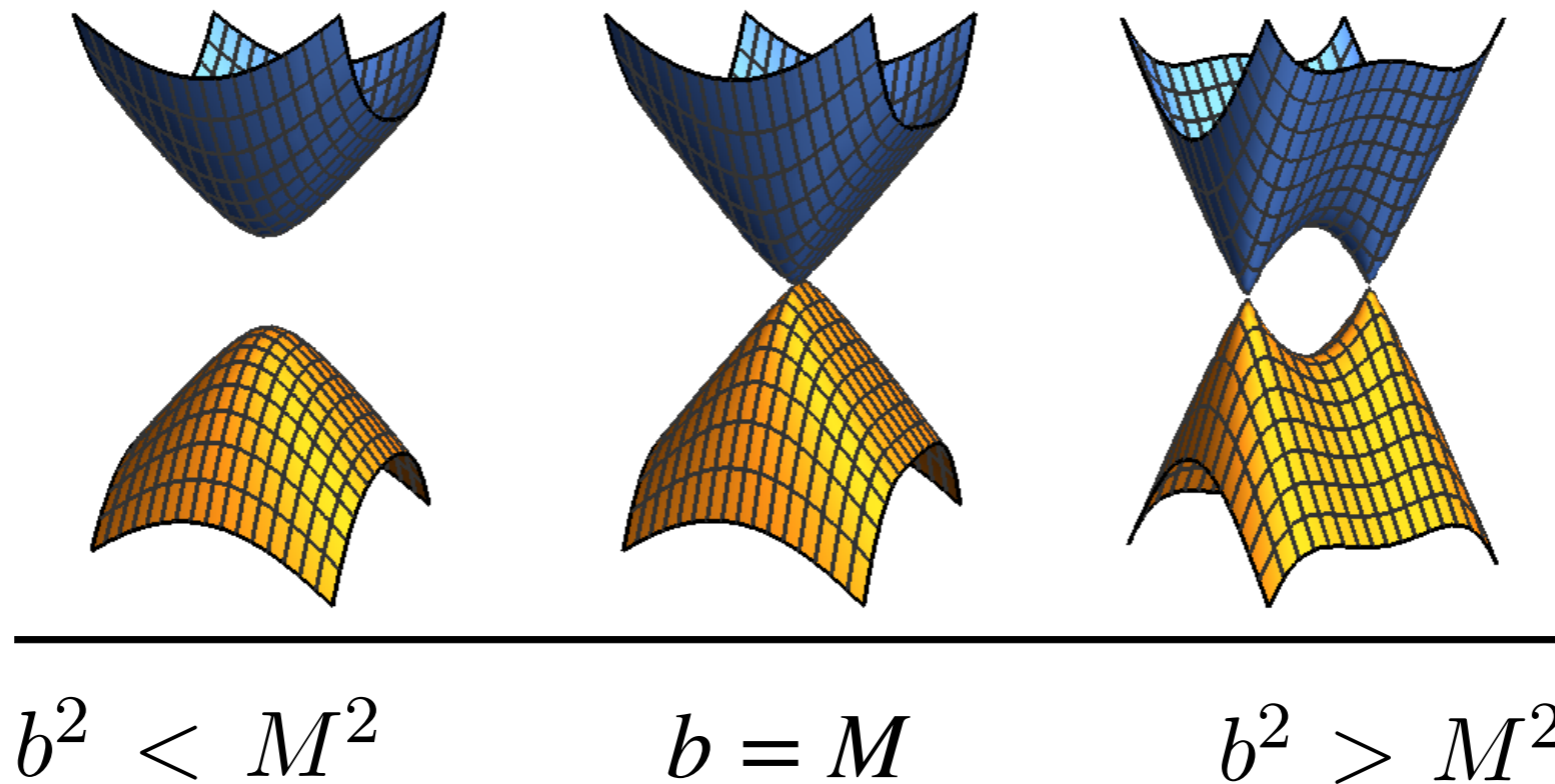
A QFT model I

Minimal T breaking Weyl semimetal

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\Psi} (i\partial\!\!\!/ - eA - \gamma_5\gamma_z b + M) \Psi .$$

Dispersion relation

Energy
↑
Momenta
→



$$M_{\text{eff}} = \sqrt{M^2 - b^2}$$

$$b_{\text{eff}} = \sqrt{b^2 - M^2}$$

Anomalous currents for a pair of Weyl cones

$$U(1)_L \times U(1)_R$$

For $M = 0$

$$\rho_e = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \vec{b} \cdot \vec{B}$$

$$\vec{j}_e = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \mu \vec{B}_5 + \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \mu \mu_5 \vec{\omega} + \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \vec{E} \times \vec{b}$$

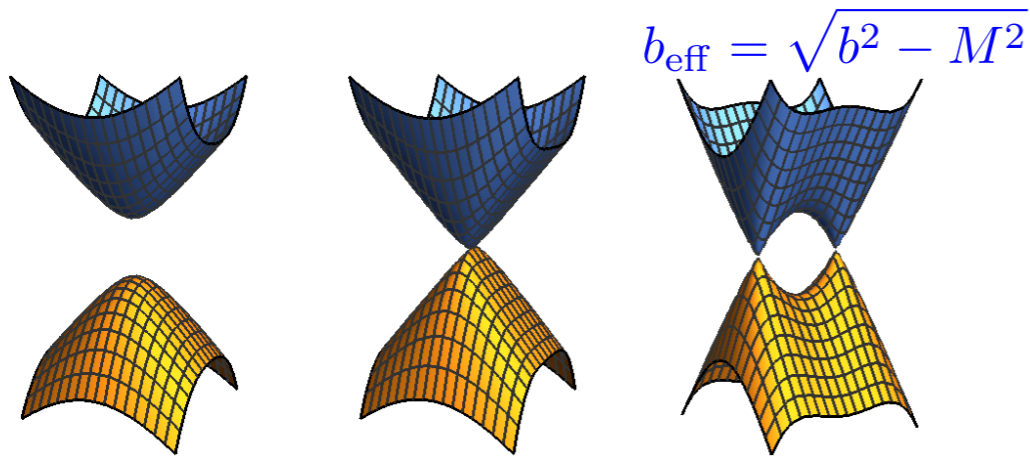
$$\rho_5 = \frac{1}{6\pi^2} \vec{b} \cdot \vec{B}_5$$

$$\vec{j}_5 = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \mu \vec{B} + \frac{1}{3\pi^2} \mu_5 \vec{B}_5 + \left(\frac{\mu^2 + \mu_5^2}{4\pi^2} + \frac{T^2}{12} \right) \vec{\omega} + \frac{1}{6\pi^2} \vec{E}_5 \times \vec{b}$$

And the chiral magnetic effect in the electric current cancel!

Anomalous currents for a pair of Weyl cones

$$U(1)_L \times U(1)_R$$



$$\rho_e = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \vec{b} \cdot \vec{B}$$

$$\vec{j}_e = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \mu \vec{B}_5 + \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \mu \mu_5 \vec{\omega} + \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \vec{E} \times \vec{b}$$

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A QFT model II ($n > 1$)

Let's start with the Hamiltonian

$$H_{L,R} = \pm \vec{k} \cdot \vec{\tau} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2}$$

And find the perturbations which are invariant under C_4

$$R_z = e^{-i\alpha\tau_z} \otimes e^{-i\alpha s_z}$$

$$\tau_z \otimes s_z$$

Two Weyl points with the same chirality

$$\tau_x \otimes s_x + \tau_y \otimes s_y$$

Two gapped bands and two gapless

$$\tau_x \otimes s_y - \tau_y \otimes s_x$$

$$\epsilon = \pm \sqrt{2\Delta^2 - 2\Delta \sqrt{\Delta^2 + k_{\perp}^2} + k_{\perp}^2 + k_{\parallel}^2} \longrightarrow \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} = \sqrt{\alpha_n^2 p_{\perp}^{2n} + v^2 p_z^2}$$

Previous Hamiltonian can be written in terms of a covariant Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_L = i\psi_L^\dagger \tau^\mu [\partial_\mu - i\Delta (\delta_\mu^1 s_1 + \delta_\mu^2 s_2)] \psi_L \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_L = i\psi_L^\dagger \tau^\mu [\partial_\mu - iA_\mu^a s_a] \psi_L$$

$$A_\mu^a = \Delta (\delta_\mu^x \delta_a^1 + \delta_\mu^y \delta_a^2)$$

$$\mathbf{R}^{3,1} \times SO(3,1) \times U(1) \times SU(2)$$

$$\mathbf{R}^{3,1} \times SO(1,1) \times U(1) \times \tilde{U}(1)_3$$

We explicitly break the symmetry

The lattice $C_{4,6}$ is included here

Allow me for a while simplify the picture removing the gauge field
and remain classical

$$\mathcal{L} = i\psi^\dagger \tau^\mu \partial_\mu \psi$$

This system has the following symmetry

$\mathbf{R}^{3,1}$	\times	$SO(3,1)$	\times	$U(1)$	\times	$SU(2)$
\updownarrow		\updownarrow		\updownarrow		\updownarrow
$T^{\mu\nu}$		$L^{\mu\nu\rho}$		J^μ		J_a^μ

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \qquad \partial_\mu J^\mu = 0$$

Noether theorem implies

$$\partial_\mu L^{\mu\nu\rho} = 0 \qquad \partial_\mu J_a^\mu = 0$$

Now we play the same game for the theory

$$U(1)_L \times U(1)_R \times SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$$

$$\mathcal{L} = i\psi_L^\dagger \tau^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_L + i\psi_R^\dagger \bar{\tau}^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_R$$

The abelian currents are

$$\rho_e = \frac{n}{2\pi^2} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

$$\mathbf{j}_e = \frac{n}{2\pi^2} \mu \mathbf{B}_5 + \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mu_3 \mathbf{B}_{3_5} + \frac{n}{2\pi^2} \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{b}$$

$$\rho_5 = \frac{n}{6\pi^2} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B}_5$$

$$\mathbf{j}_5 = \frac{n}{2\pi^2} \mu \mathbf{B} + \frac{n}{3\pi^2} \mu_5 \mathbf{B}_5 + \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mu_3 \mathbf{B}_3 + \frac{c(n)}{3\pi^2} \mu_{3_5} \mathbf{B}_{3_5} + \frac{c(n)}{6\pi^2} \mathbf{E}_5 \times \mathbf{b}$$

Now we play the same game for the theory

$$U(1)_L \times U(1)_R \times SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$$

$$\mathcal{L} = i\psi_L^\dagger \tau^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_L + i\psi_R^\dagger \bar{\tau}^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_R$$

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The non-abelian currents are

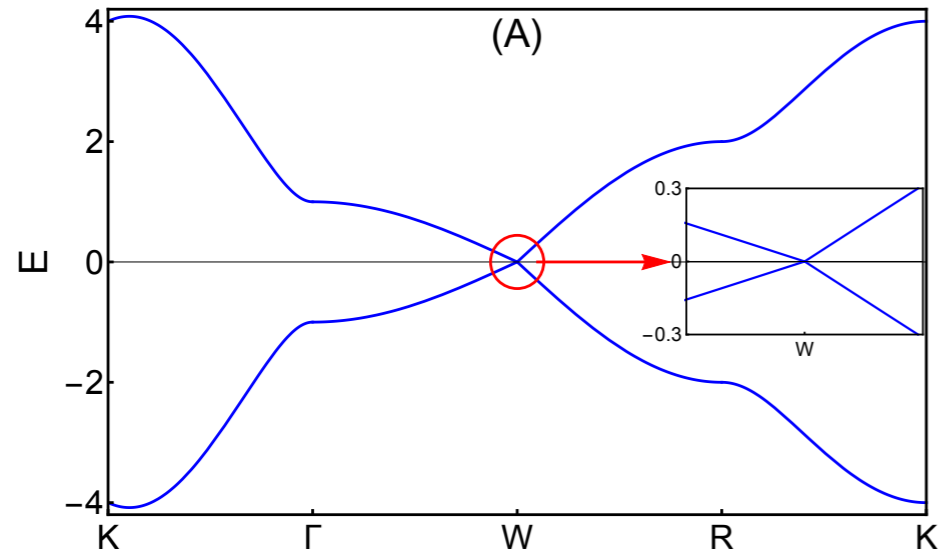
$$\rho_3 = \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B}_3$$

$$\mathbf{j}_3 = \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mu \mathbf{B}_{3_5} + \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mu_3 \mathbf{B}_5 + \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mathbf{E}_3 \times \mathbf{b}$$

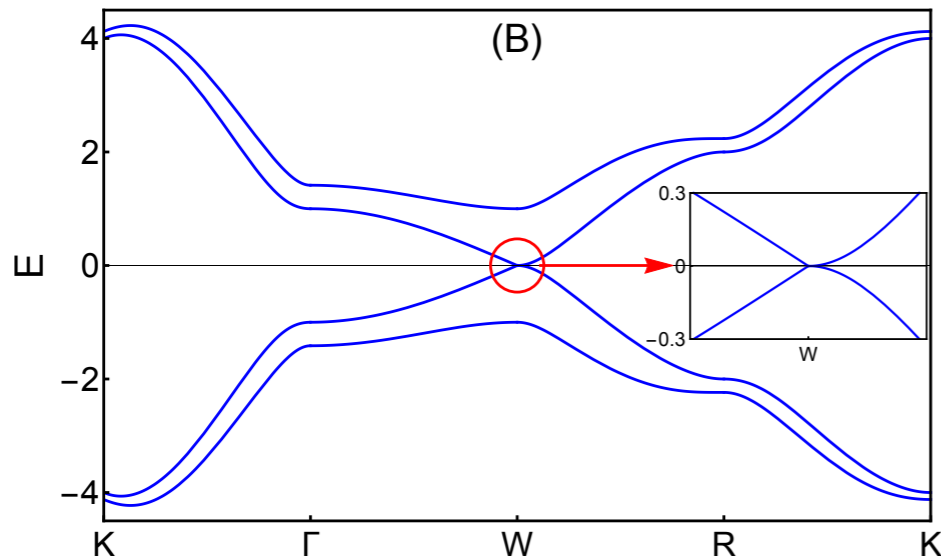
$$\rho_{3_5} = \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B}_3 + \frac{c(n)}{6\pi^2} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B}_{3_5}$$

$$\mathbf{j}_{3_5} = \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mu_3 \mathbf{B} + \frac{c(n)}{3\pi^2} \mu_{3_5} \mathbf{B}_5 + \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \mu \mathbf{B}_3 + \frac{c(n)}{3\pi^2} \mu_5 \mathbf{B}_{3_5} + \frac{c(n)}{6\pi^2} \mathbf{E}_{3_5} \times \mathbf{b}$$

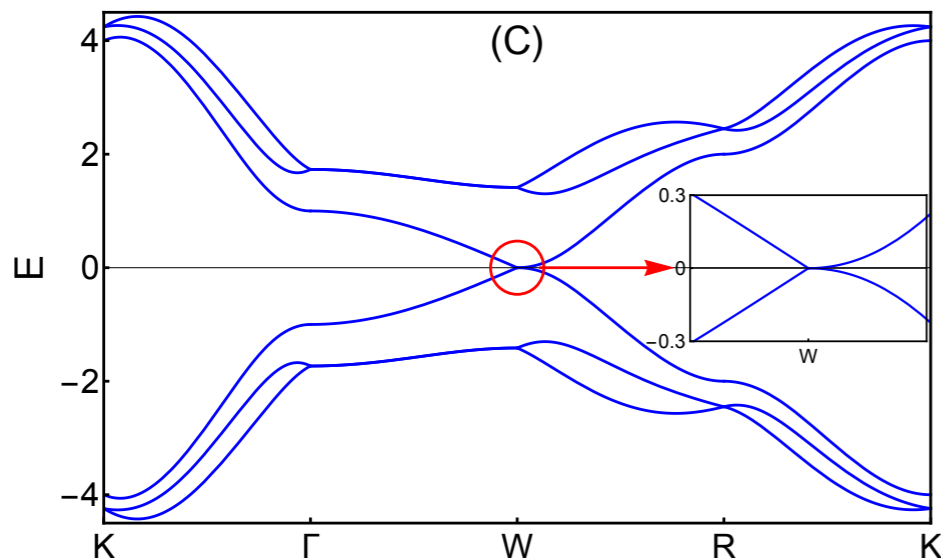
Testing the QFT with a tight binding model

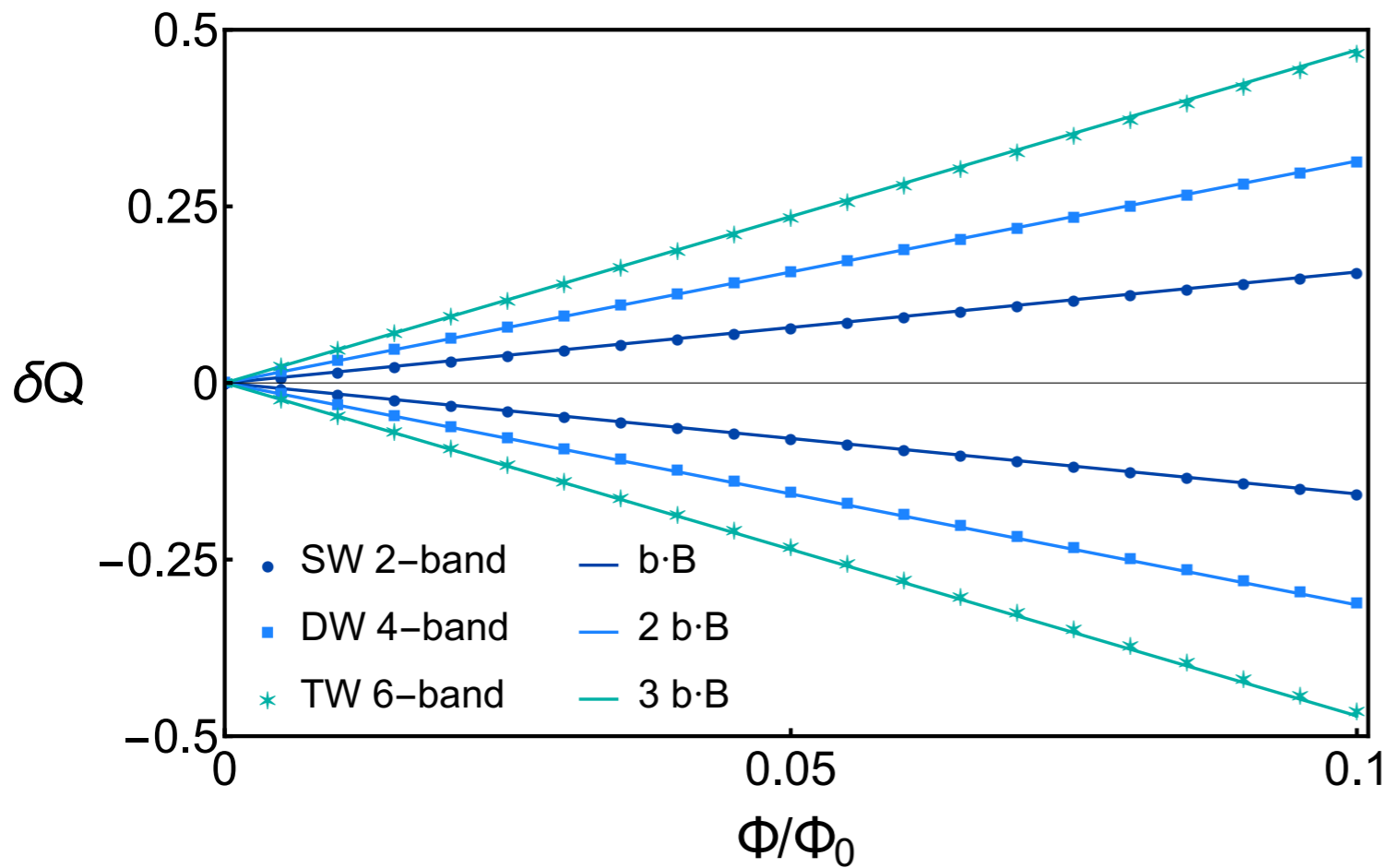


$$H_{SW} = t [\sin k_x \sigma_1 + \sin k_y \sigma_2 + (\cos k_z - m_z) \sigma_3] + t_0 [2 - \cos k_x - \cos k_y],$$

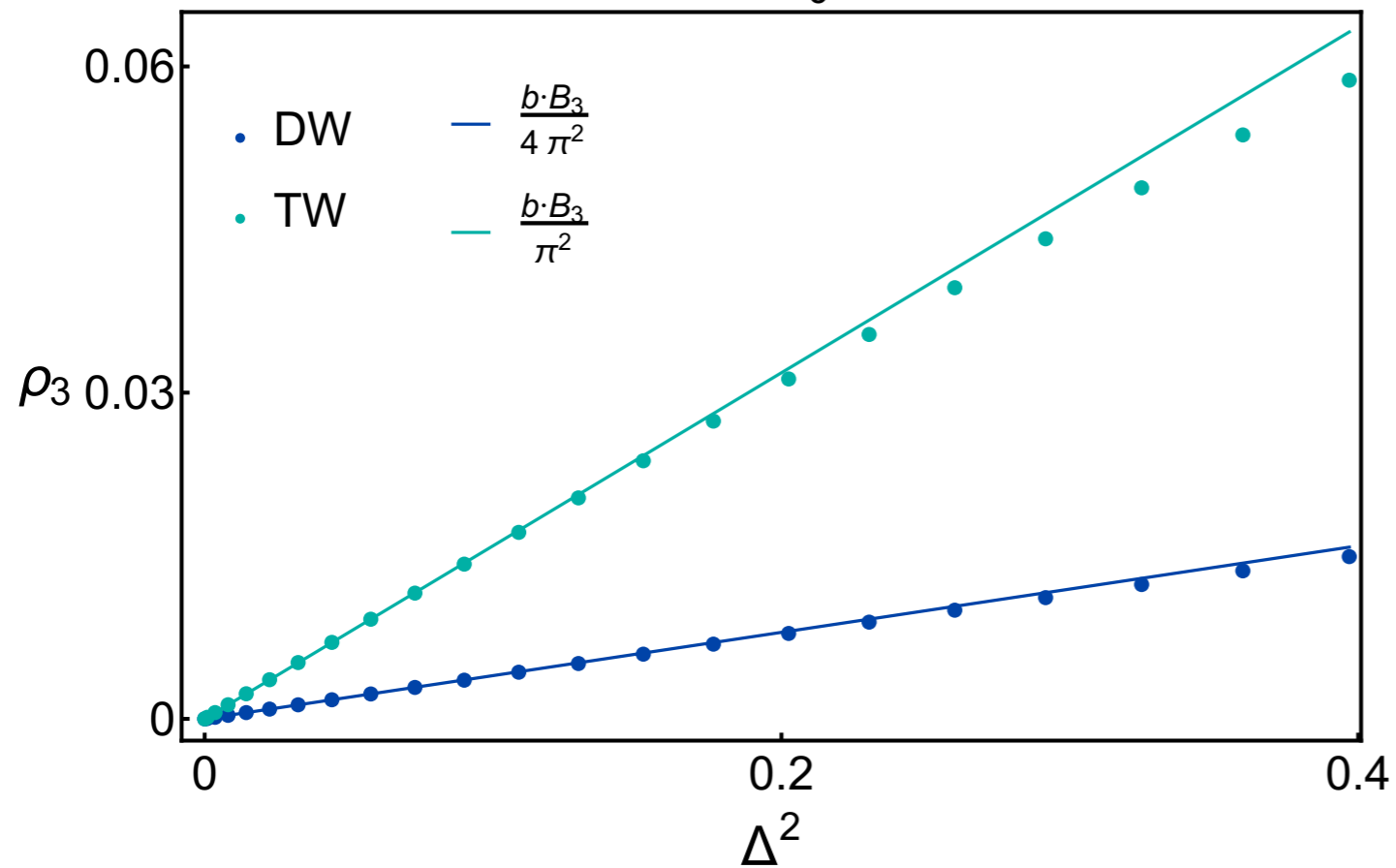


$$H_{MW} = H_{SW} \otimes \mathbb{I}_n + \Delta (\sigma_1 \otimes s_1 + \sigma_2 \otimes s_2)$$





$$\rho_e = \frac{n}{2\pi^2} \vec{b} \cdot \vec{B}$$

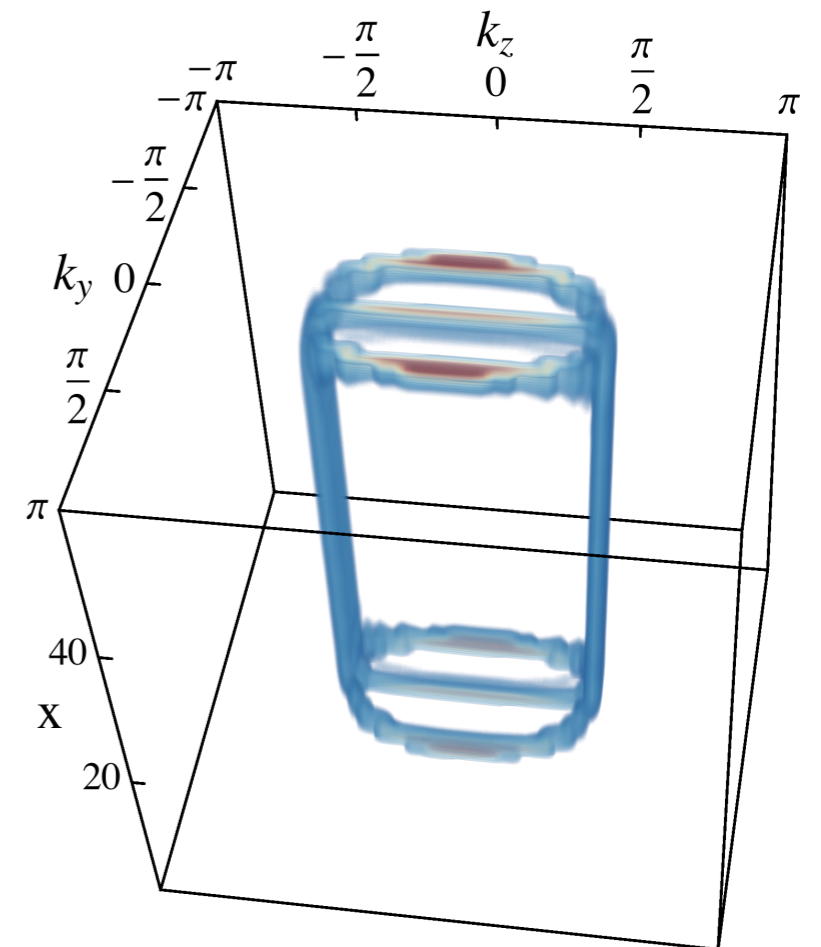
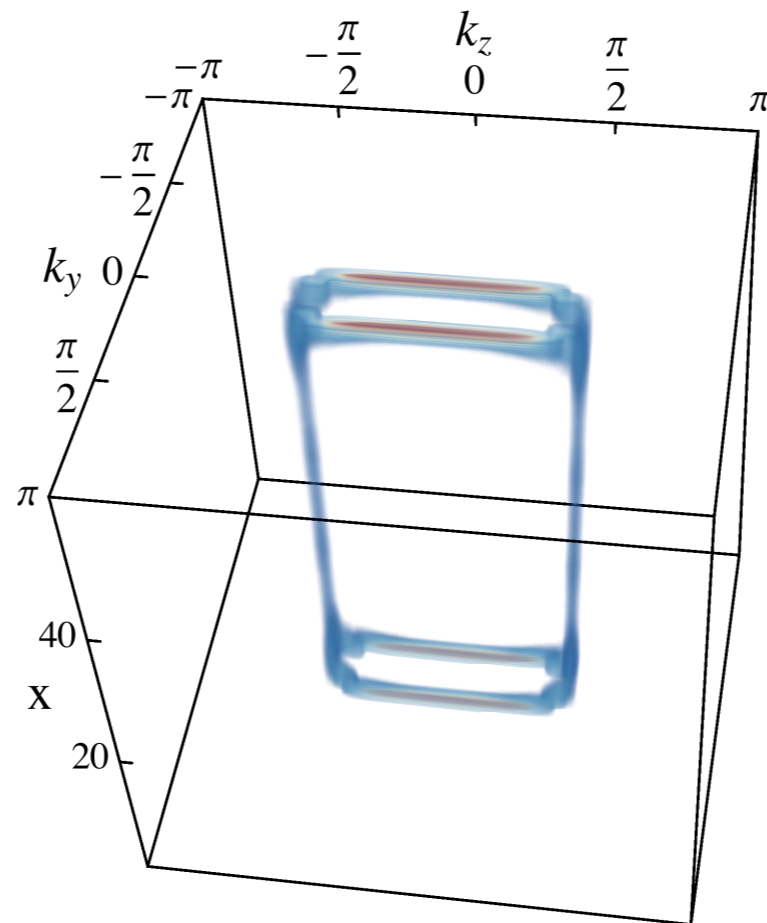
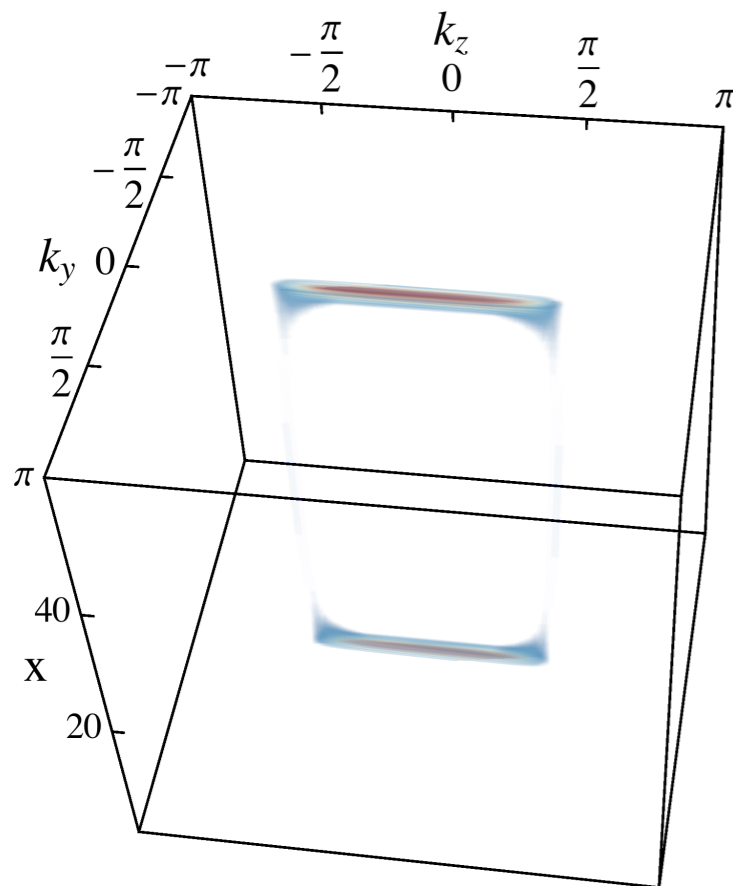


$$\rho_3 = \frac{c(n)}{2\pi^2} \vec{b} \cdot \vec{B}_3$$

Fermi arcs for simple, double and triple Weyl semimetals

As expected each case shows as many Fermi arcs as the value of the monopole charge

$$H_{MW} = H_{SW} \otimes \mathbb{I}_n + \Delta (\sigma_1 \otimes s_1 + \sigma_2 \otimes s_2)$$



Magneto-Transport

$$\dot{\rho} + \nabla \cdot \vec{J}_\rho = a_\chi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \quad \vec{J}_\rho = a_\chi \mu \vec{B}$$

$$\dot{\epsilon} + \nabla \cdot \vec{J}_\epsilon = \vec{J}_\rho \cdot \vec{E} \quad \vec{J}_\epsilon = \left(\frac{a_\chi}{2} \mu^2 + a_g T^2 \right) \vec{B}$$

assuming a steady state via a relaxation time approximation

$$(\dot{\rho}, \dot{\epsilon}) \rightarrow M \cdot (\delta\mu, \delta T)$$

$$\vec{J} = G \vec{E} + G_T \nabla T$$

$$G = d_e + c_1 a_\chi^2 B^2$$

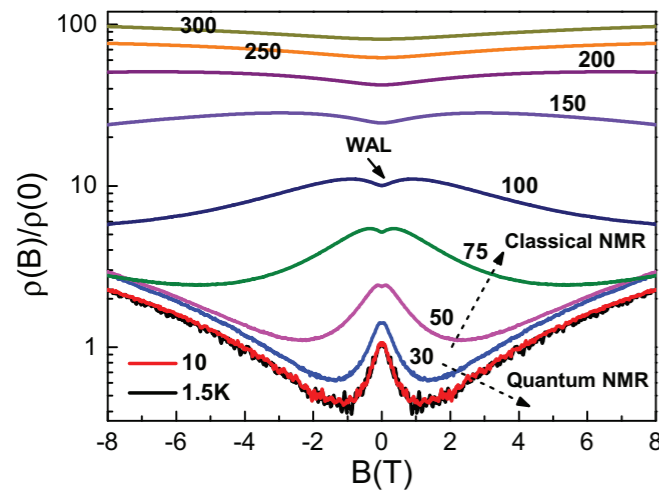
$$G_T = d_{th} + c_2 a_\chi a_g B^2$$

Kinetic theory single Weyl: [Son, Spivak]

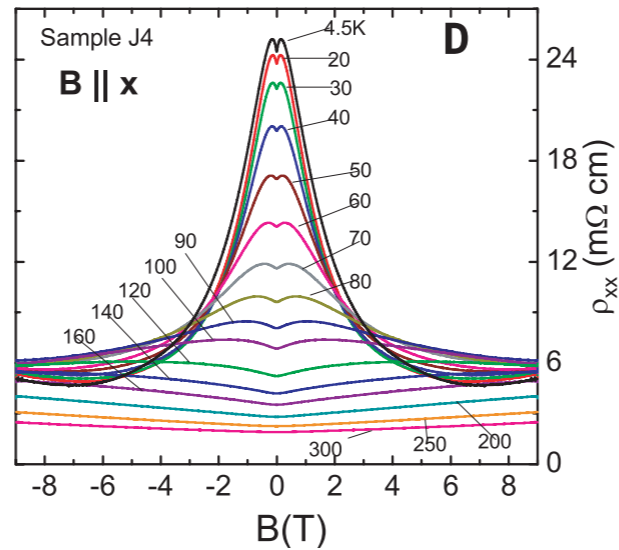
Kinetic theory single multi-Weyl: [Dantas, P-B, Roy, Surowka]

Hydro: [Lucas, Davison, Sachdev]

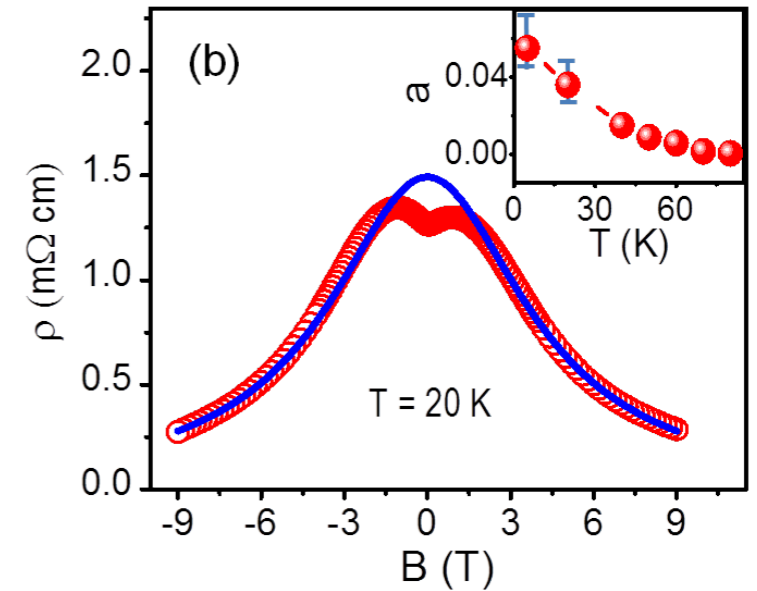
Some experimental signals



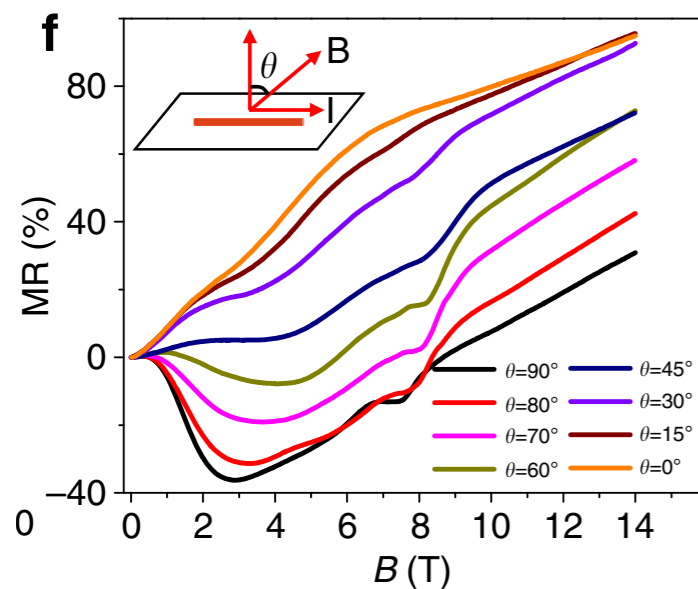
Phys. Rev. B 93, 121112(R) (2016)



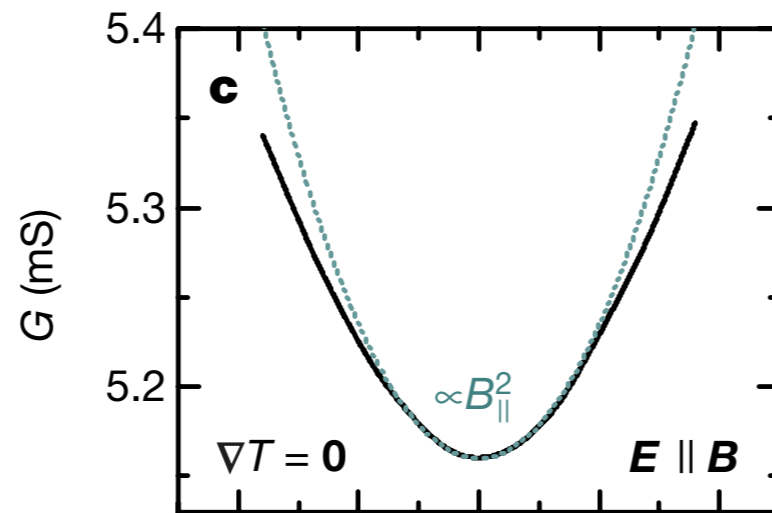
Science 23, 350 Issue 6259 413-416 (2015)



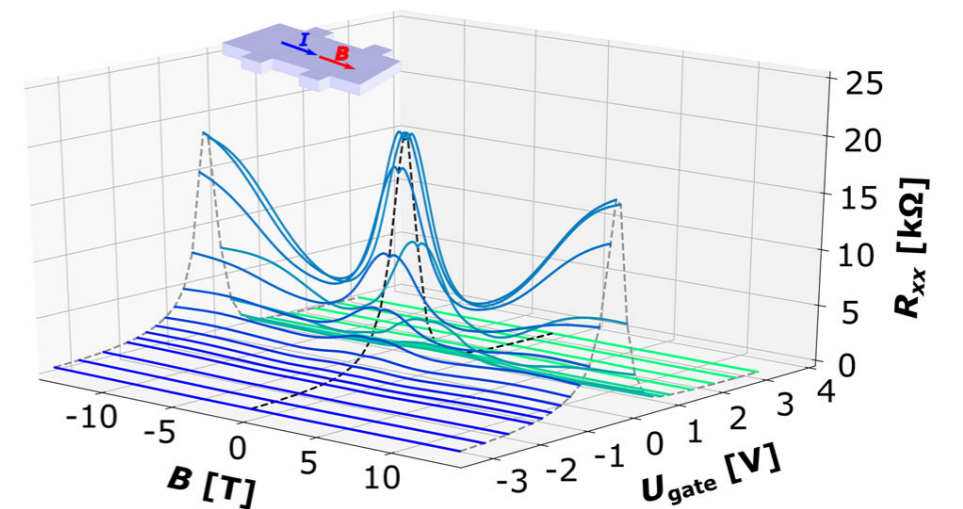
Nature Physics volume 12, pages 550–554 (2016)



Nature Comm. vol. 6, 10137 (2015)

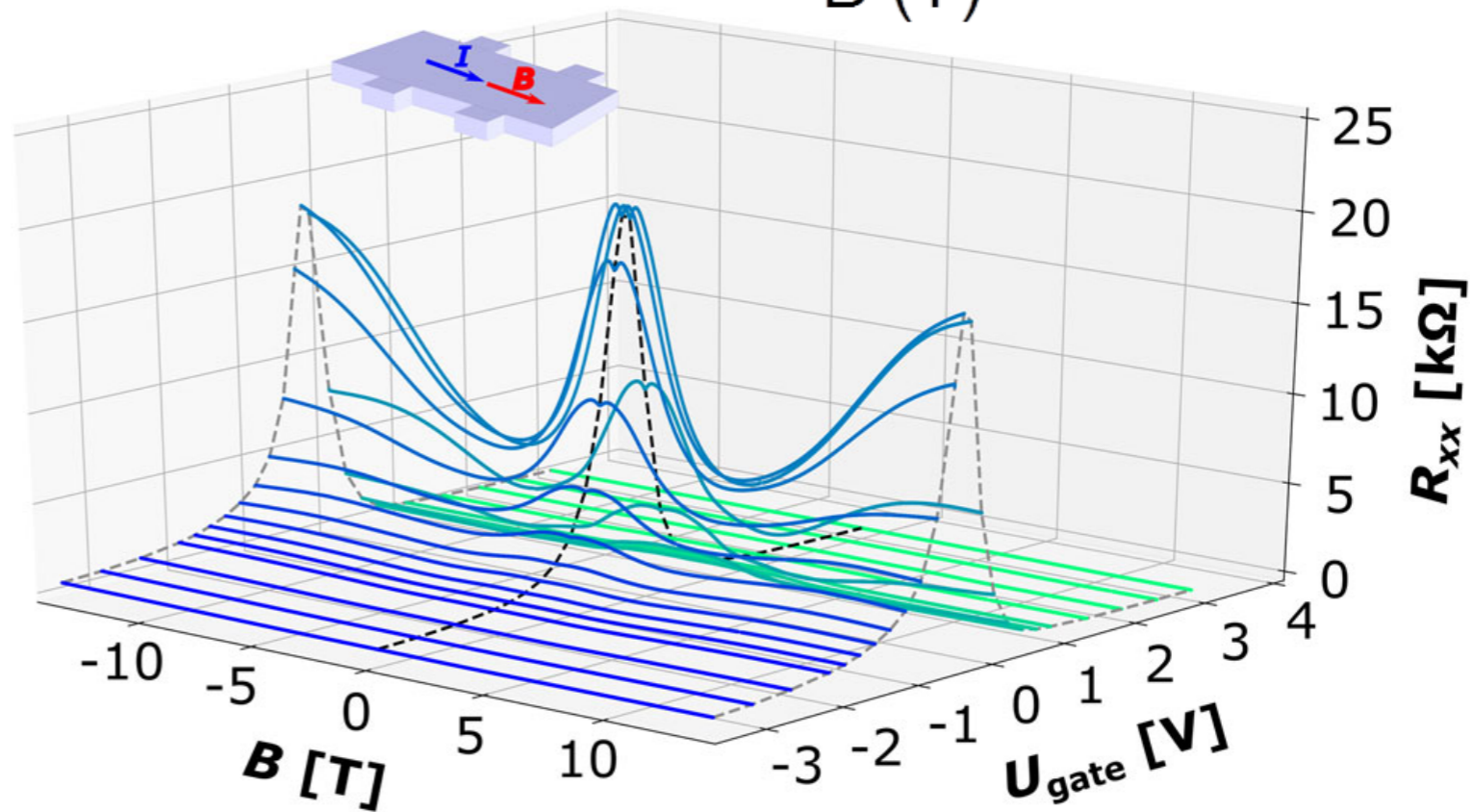
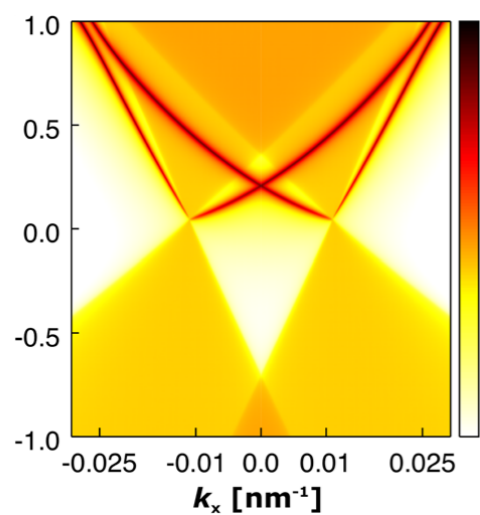
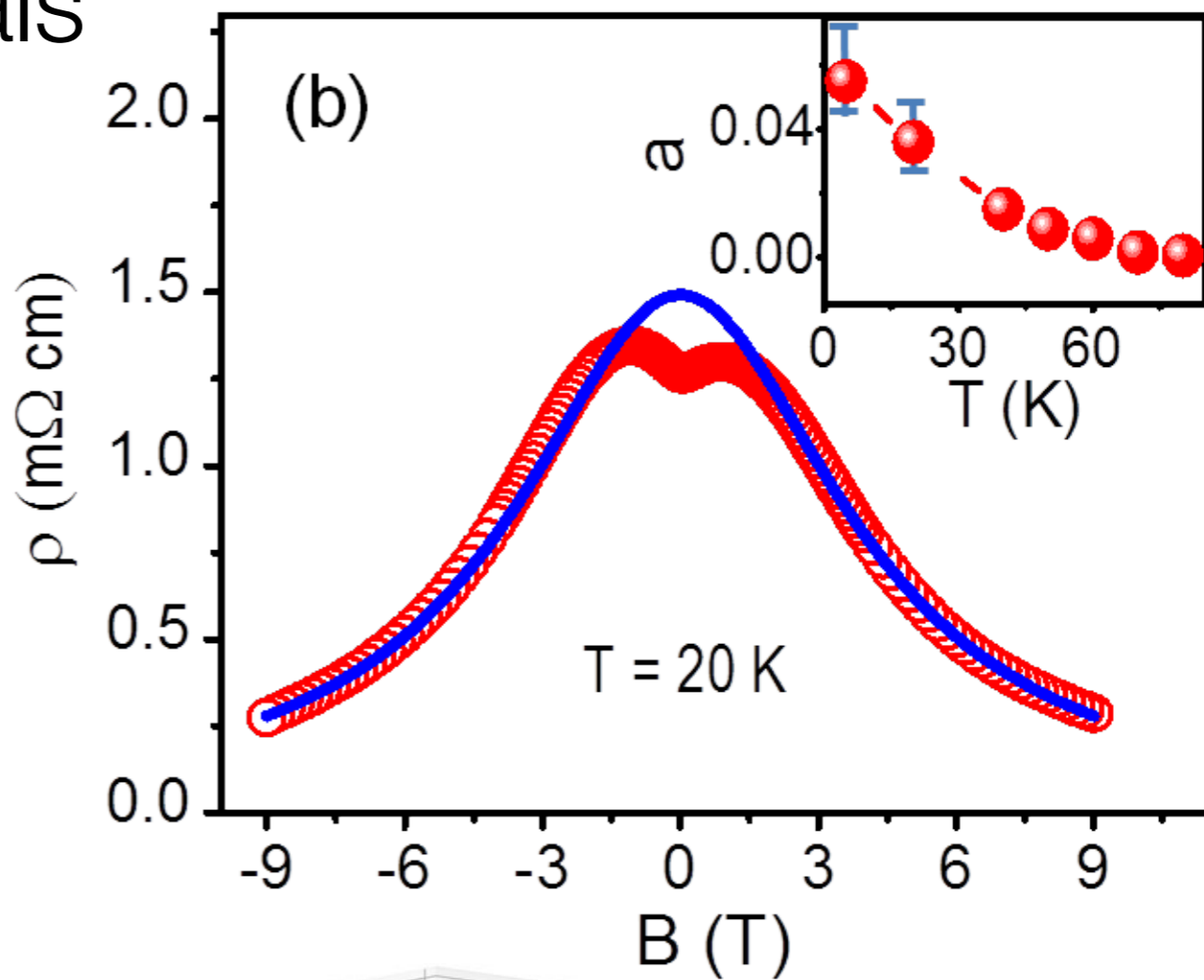
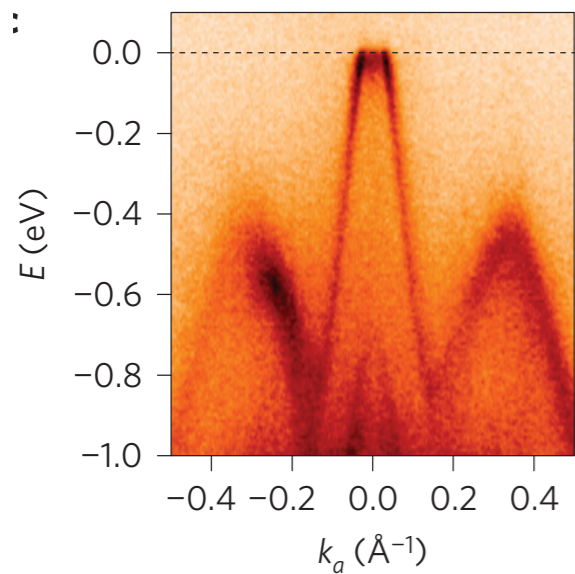


Nature volume 547, 324–327 (2017)

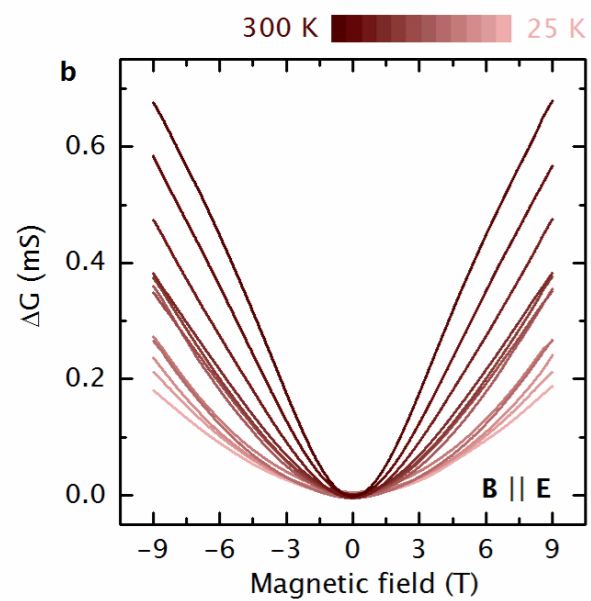
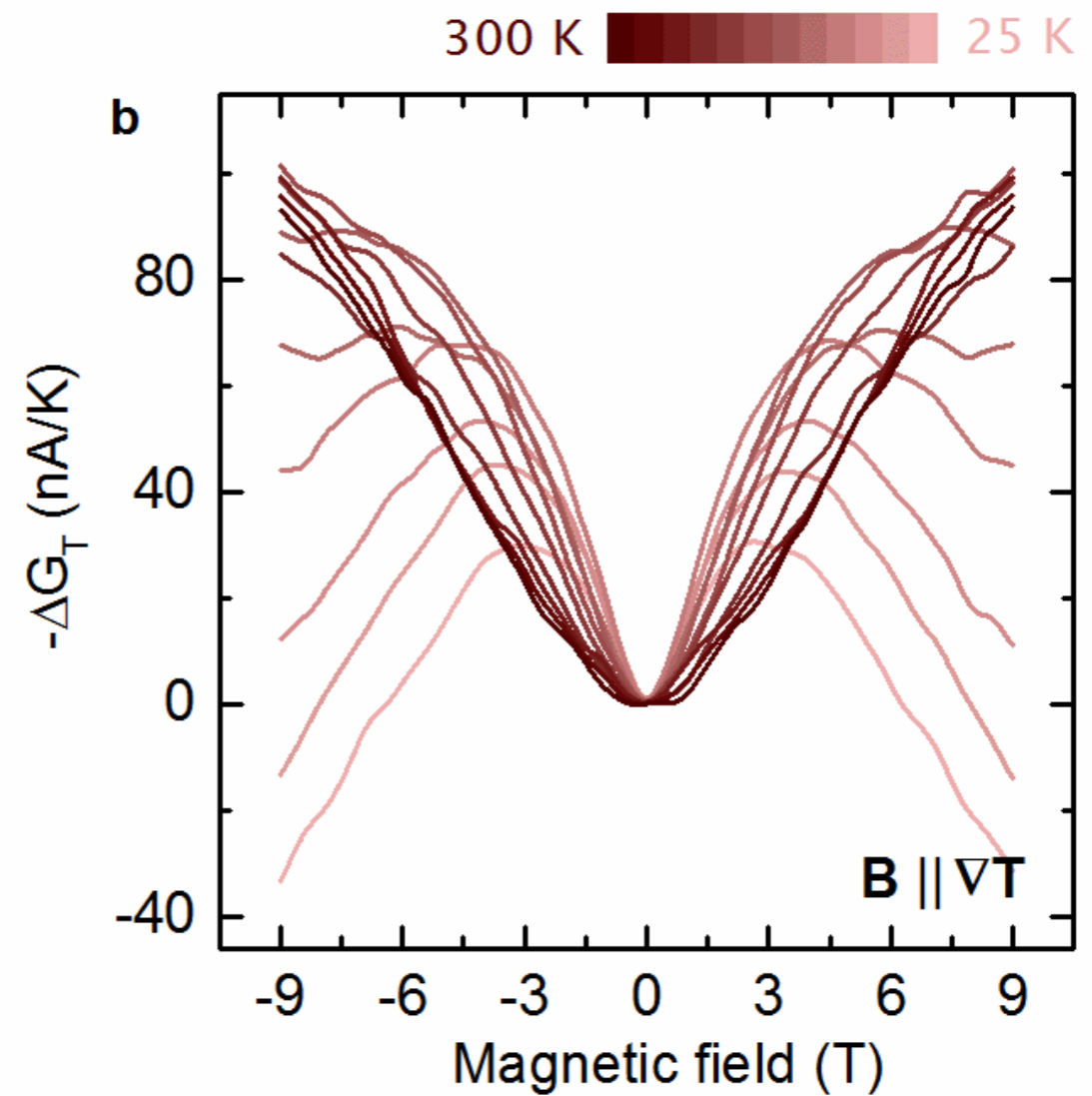
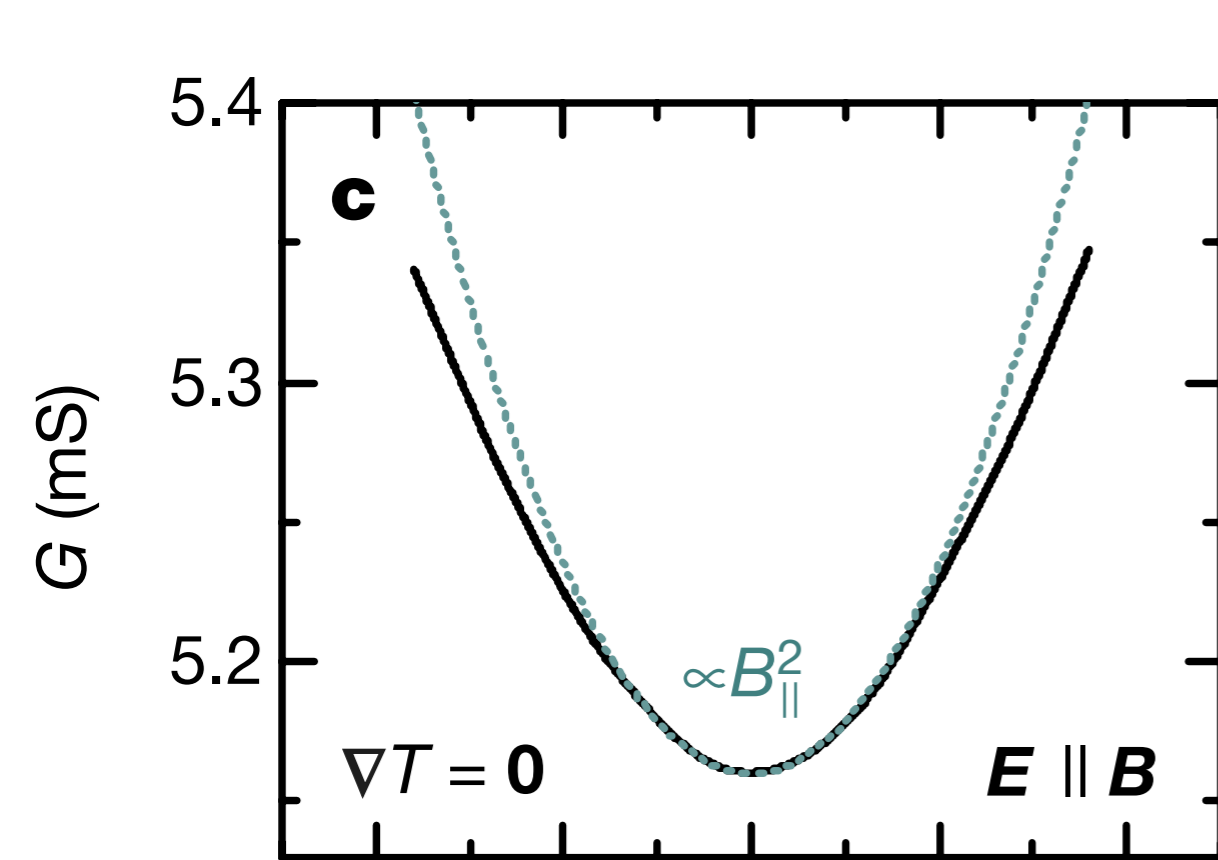


Phys. Rev. X 9, 031034 (2019)

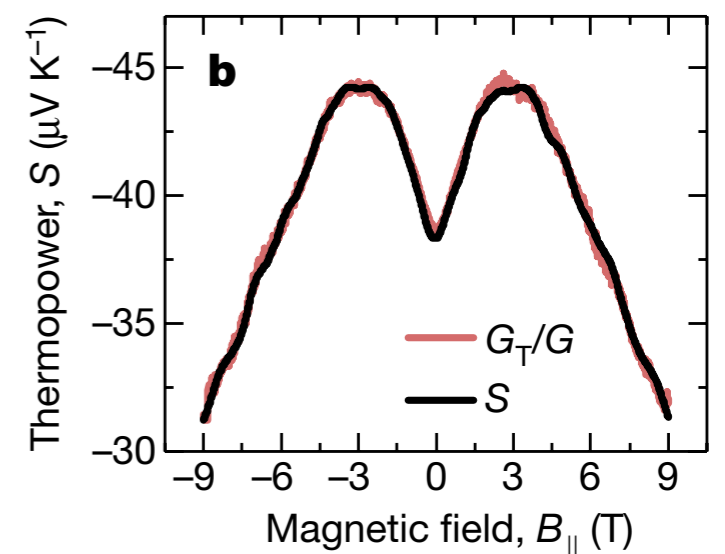
Some experimental signals



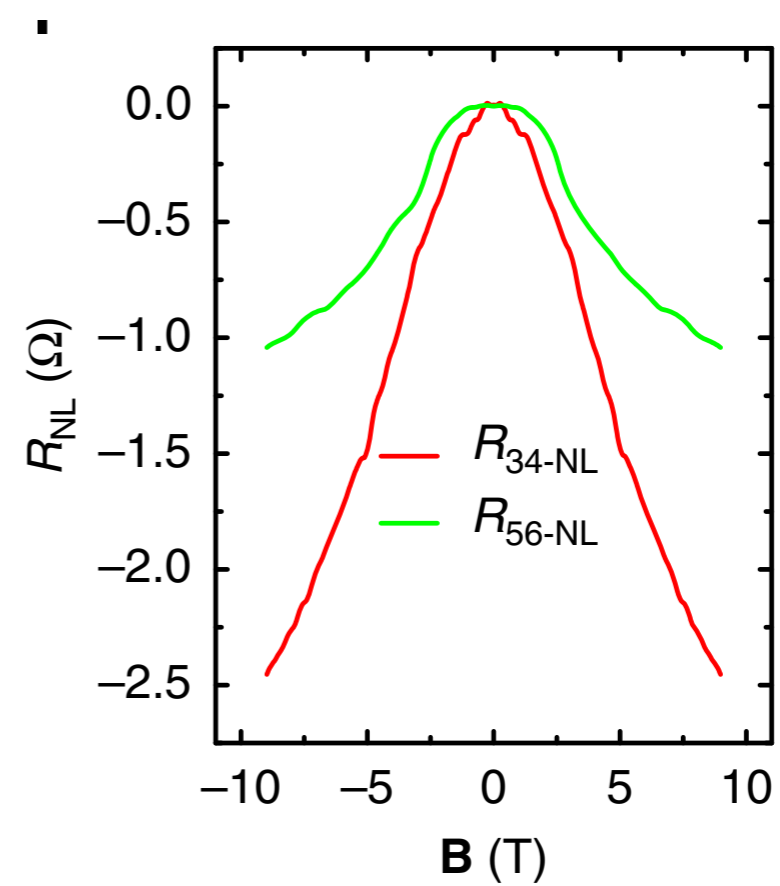
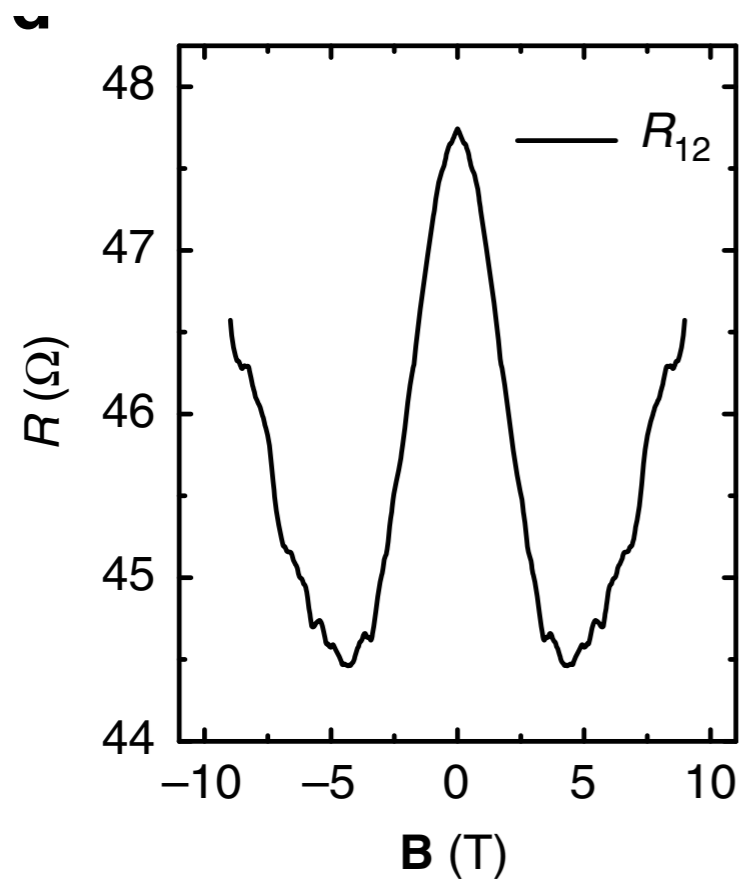
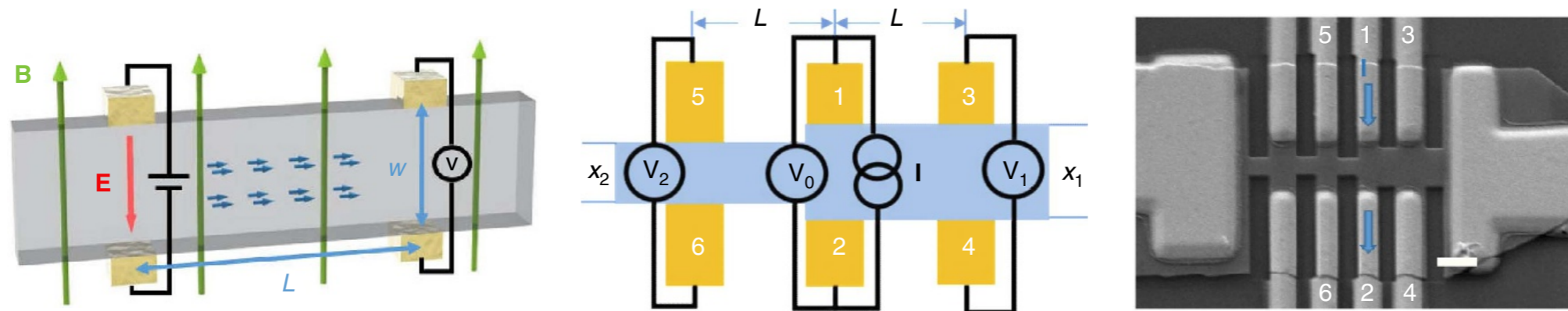
Some experimental signals



Nature volume 547, 324–327 (2017)



More experimental evidence!



strong coupling

Ingredients:

- Gauge field dual to the vector current
- Gauge field dual to the axial current
- Axial anomaly
- background axial field
- mass deformation

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\Psi} (i\cancel{\partial} - eA - \gamma_5 \gamma_z b + M) \Psi .$$

$$\partial_\mu J_5^\mu = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\lambda} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\lambda} + 2M \bar{\Psi} \gamma_5 \Psi$$

the model

$$S = \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \left(R + \frac{12}{L^2} \right) - \frac{1}{4} F^2 - \frac{1}{4} F_5^2 + \frac{\alpha}{3} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} A_\mu \left(F_{\nu\rho}^5 F_{\sigma\tau}^5 + 3F_{\nu\rho} F_{\sigma\tau} \right) + (D_\mu \Phi)^* (D^\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi) \right] \quad (2.1)$$

$$V = -\frac{12}{L^2} + m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \phi^4$$

If the Scalar runs to a constant value

$$ds^2 = B_0 r^2 (-dt^2 + dr^2 + dx^2 + dy^2) + C_0 r^{2\beta} dz^2$$

$$A_z = r^c \quad , \quad \phi = \phi_{IR}$$

Anomalous Hall conductivity

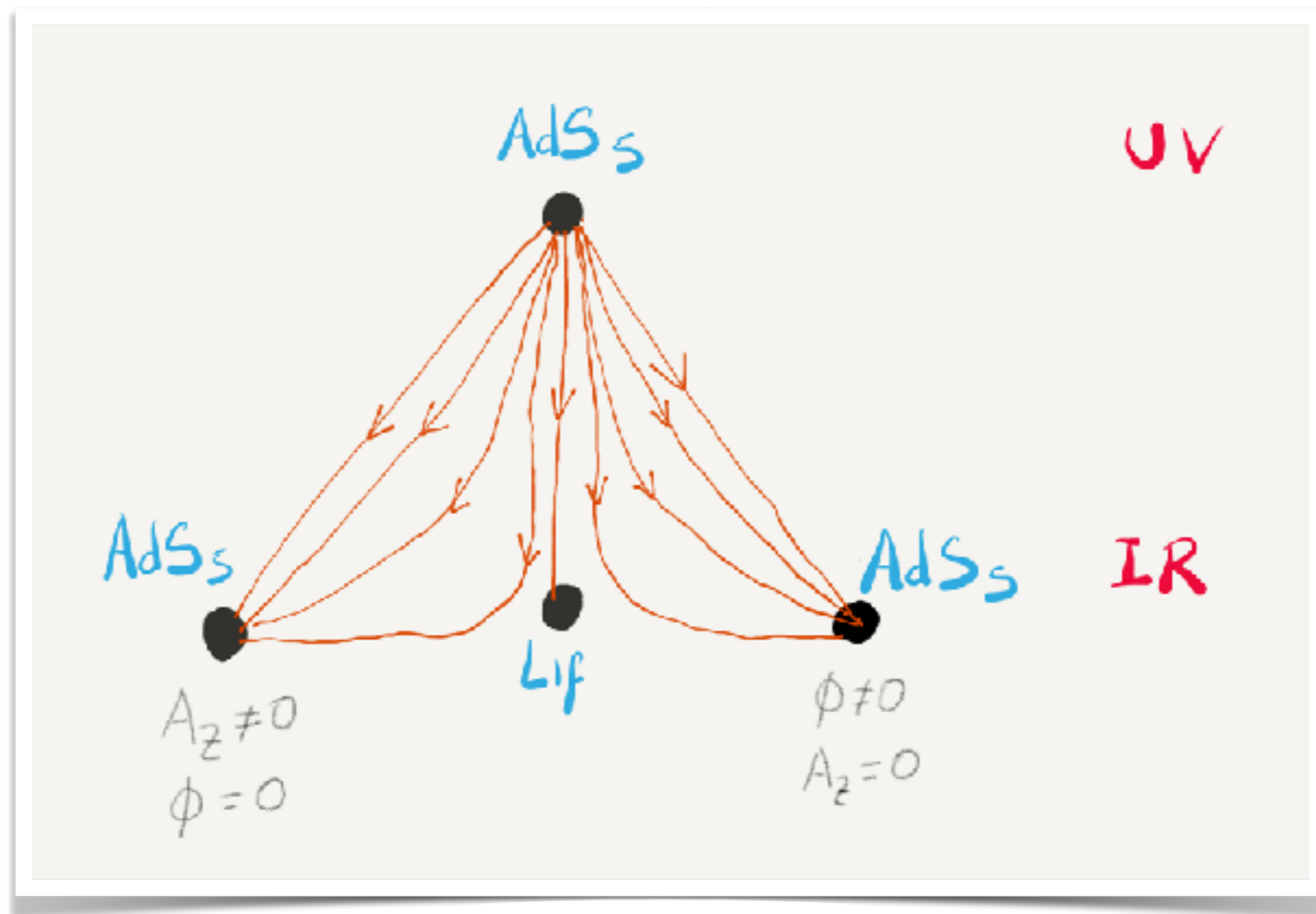
$$\sigma_{xy} = 8\alpha A_z^5(r_0)$$

general models

case of scalar running to a constant value

$$ds^2 = B_0 r^2 (-dt^2 + dr^2 + dx^2 + dy^2) + C_0 r^{2\beta} dz^2$$

$$A_z = r^c, \quad \phi = \phi_{IR}$$



optical conductivity (small frequency)

longitudinal conductivity

$$\Re(\sigma) \propto \omega^{2-\beta}$$

transvers conductivity

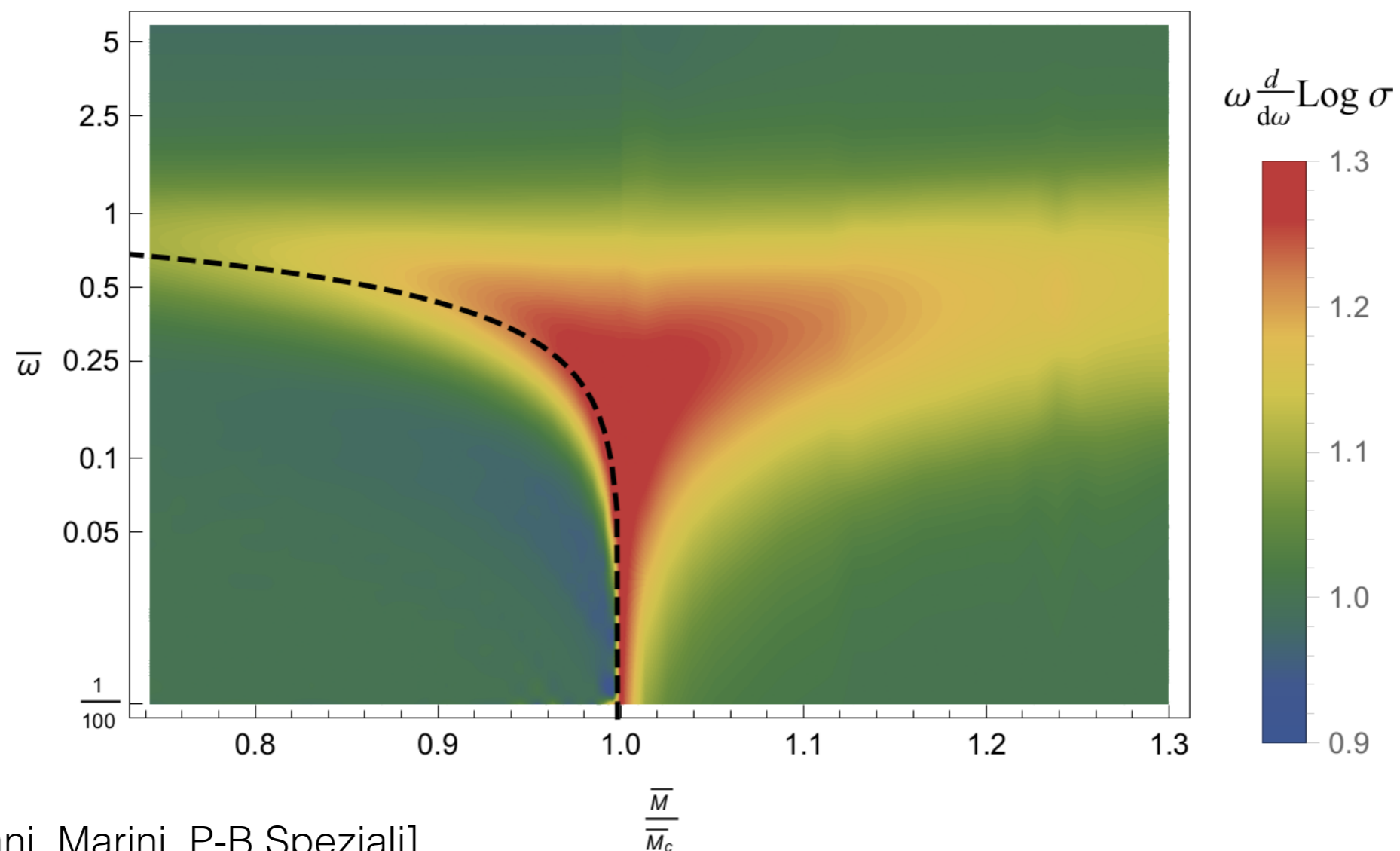
$$\Re(\sigma_{\pm}) \propto \omega^{\beta}$$

consistency requires

$$0 < \beta \leq 1$$

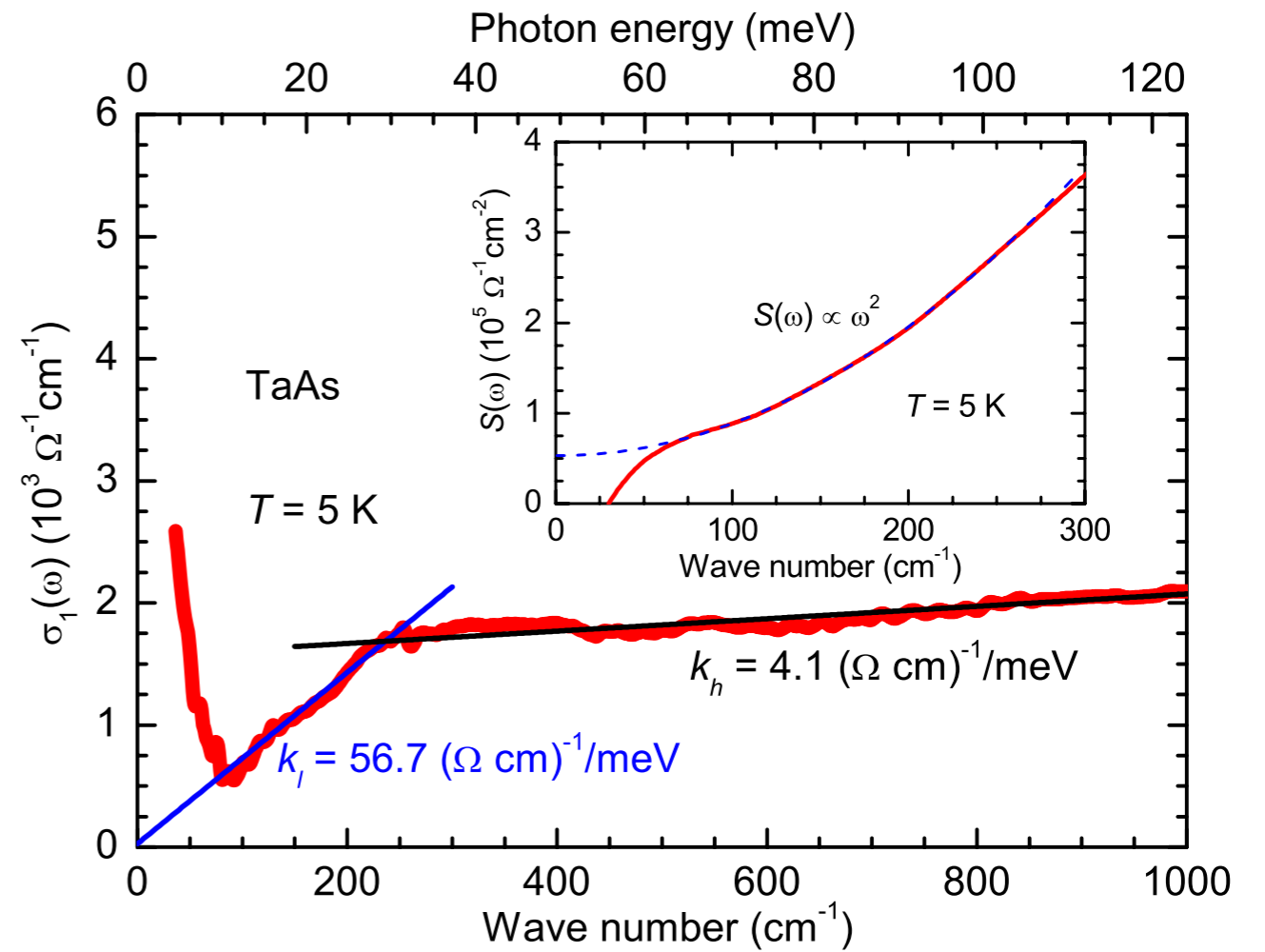
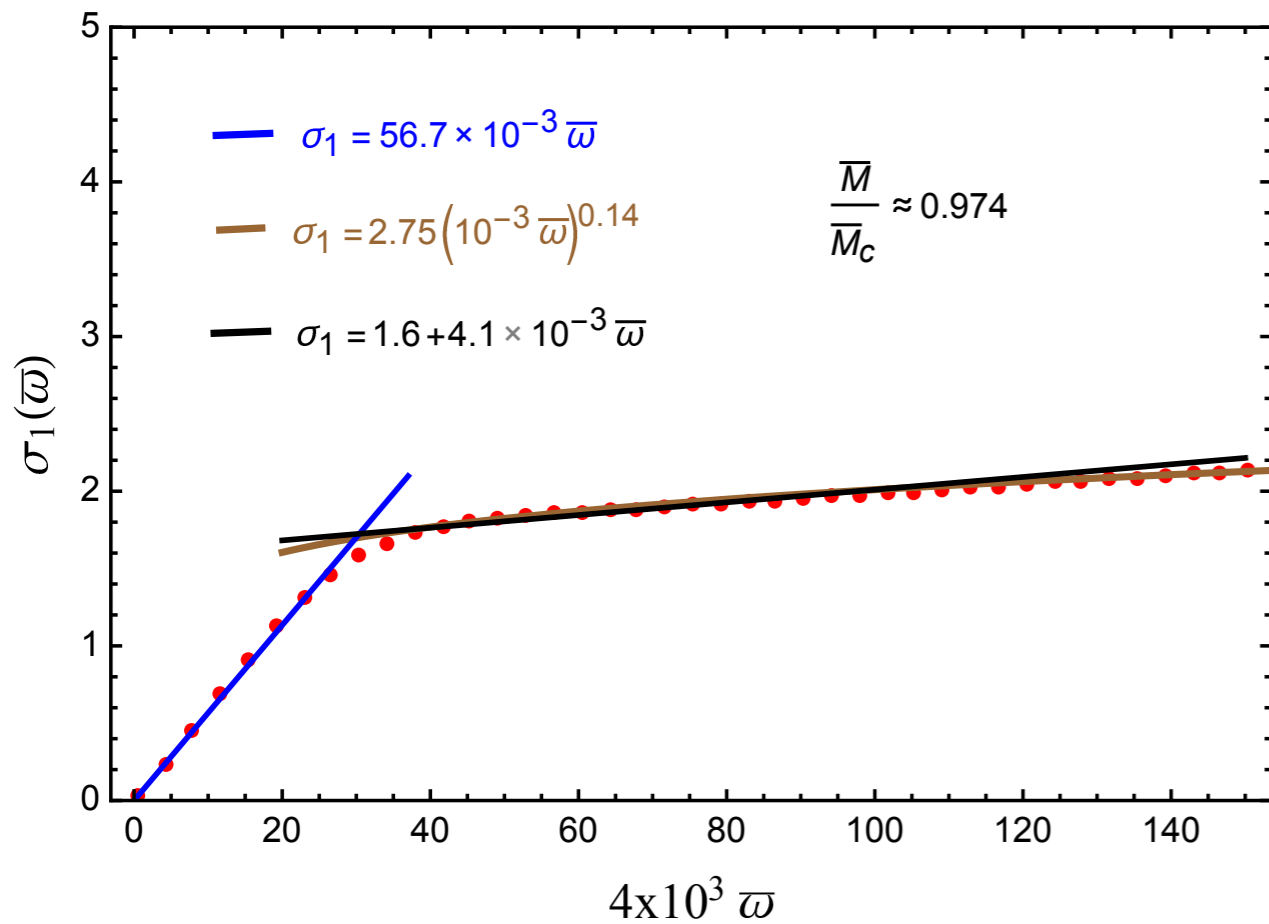
Quantum phase diagram

Taking advantage of the scaling symmetry around the fix points we construct the phase diagram studying the conductivity as a function of the frequency and mass parameter



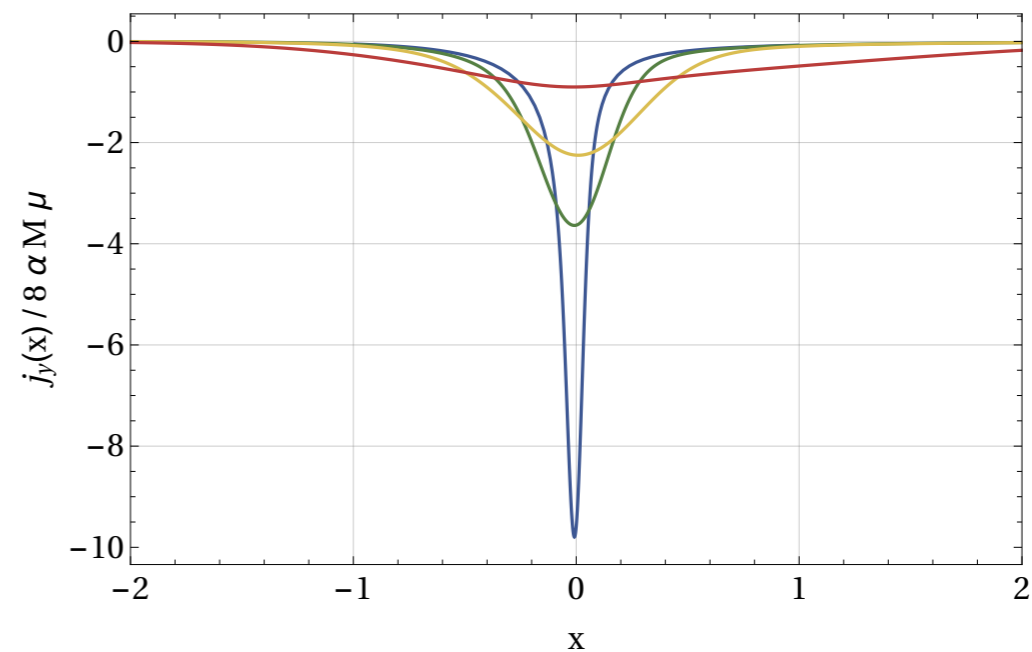
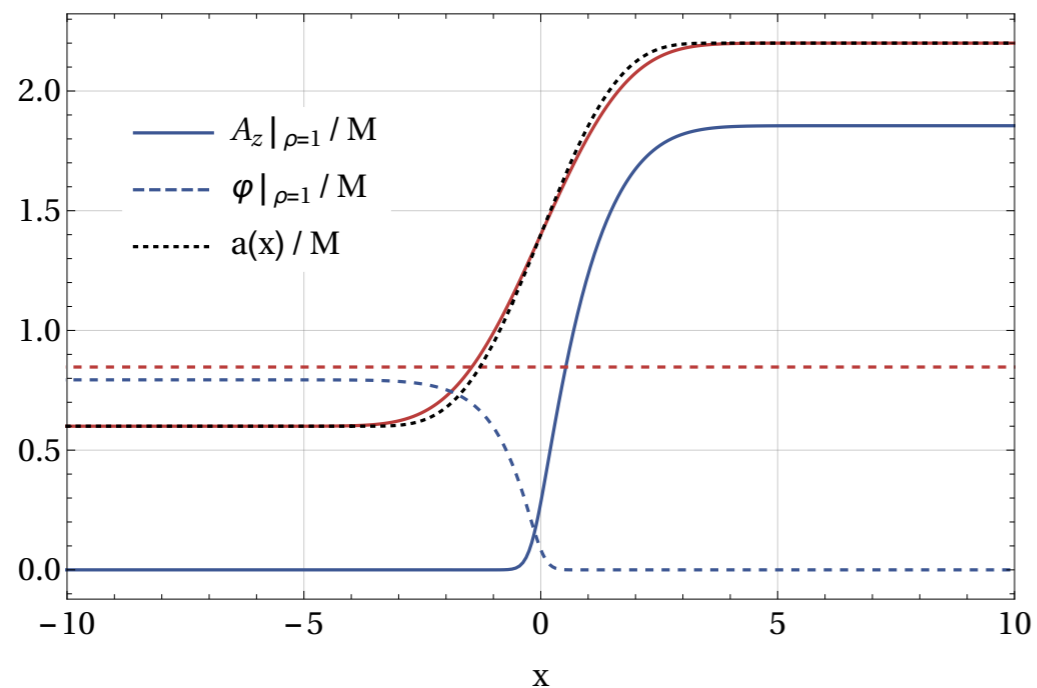
[Grignani, Marini, P-B,Speziali]

Comparing the model and the experiment



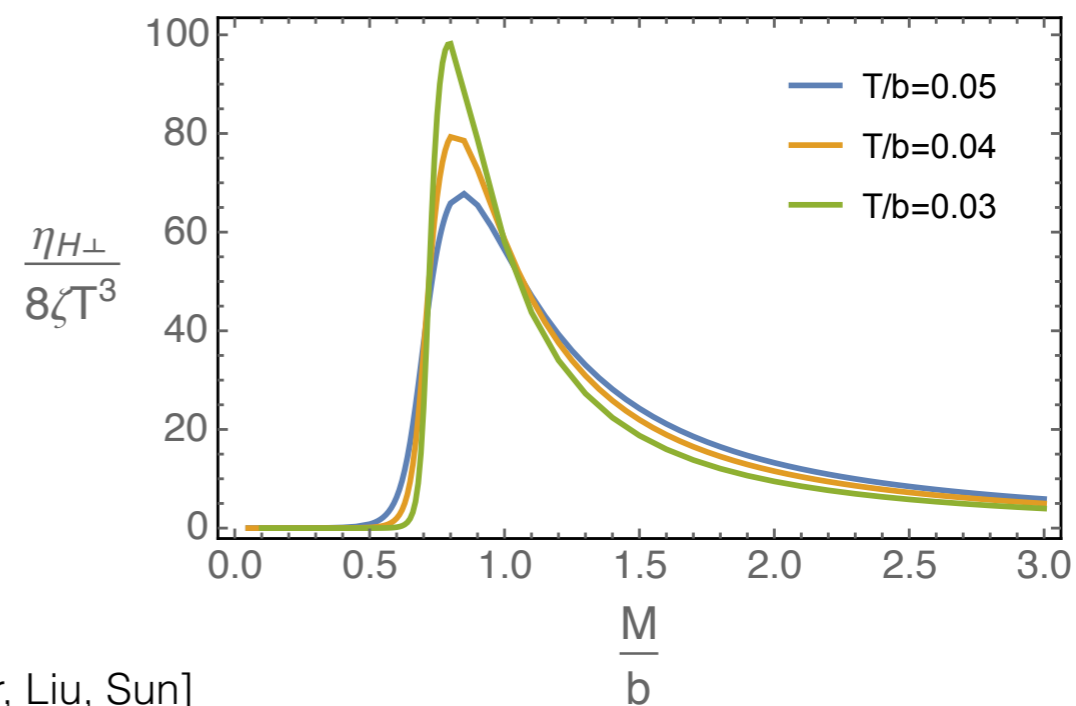
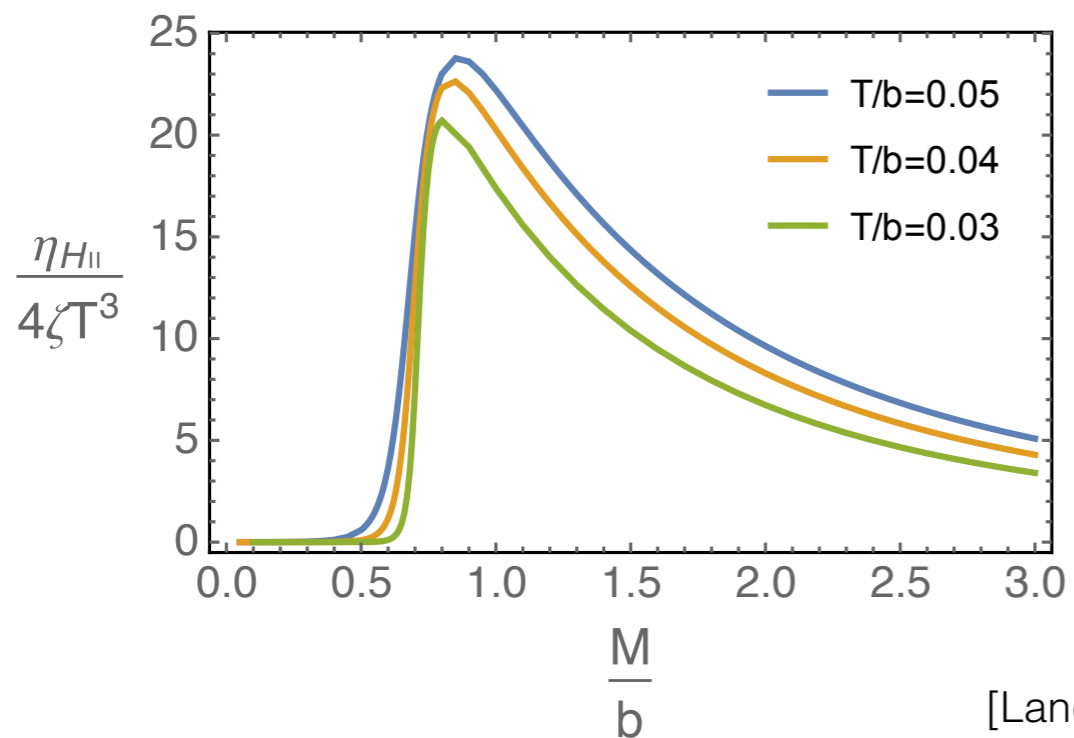
$$\beta \approx 0.14$$

Holographic Fermi Arcs



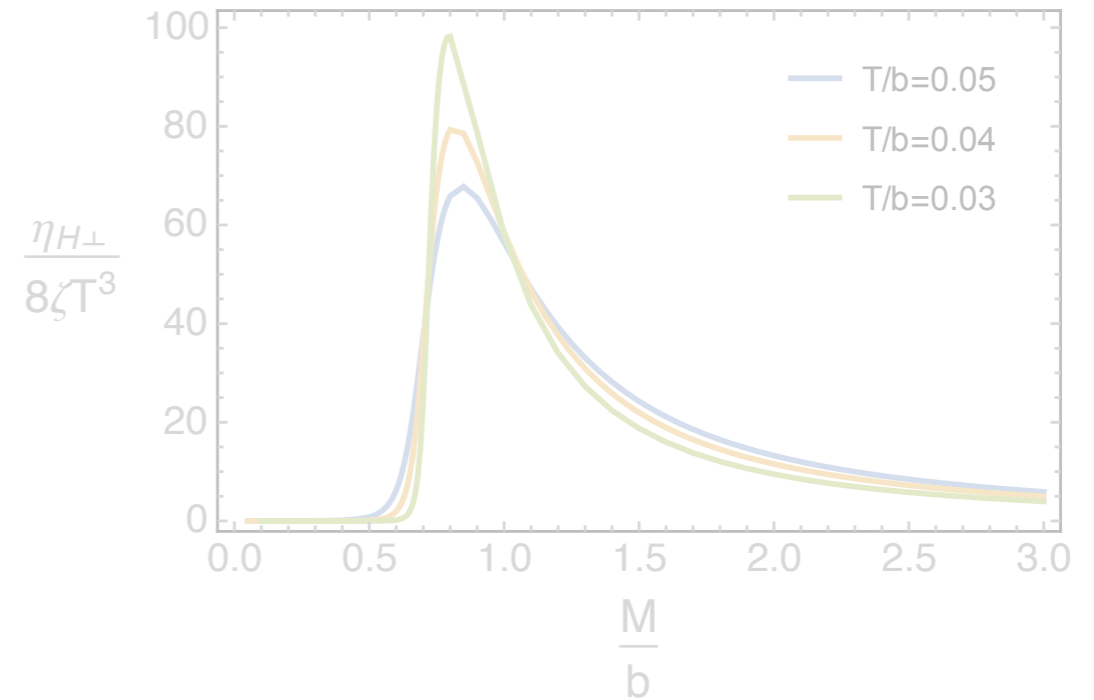
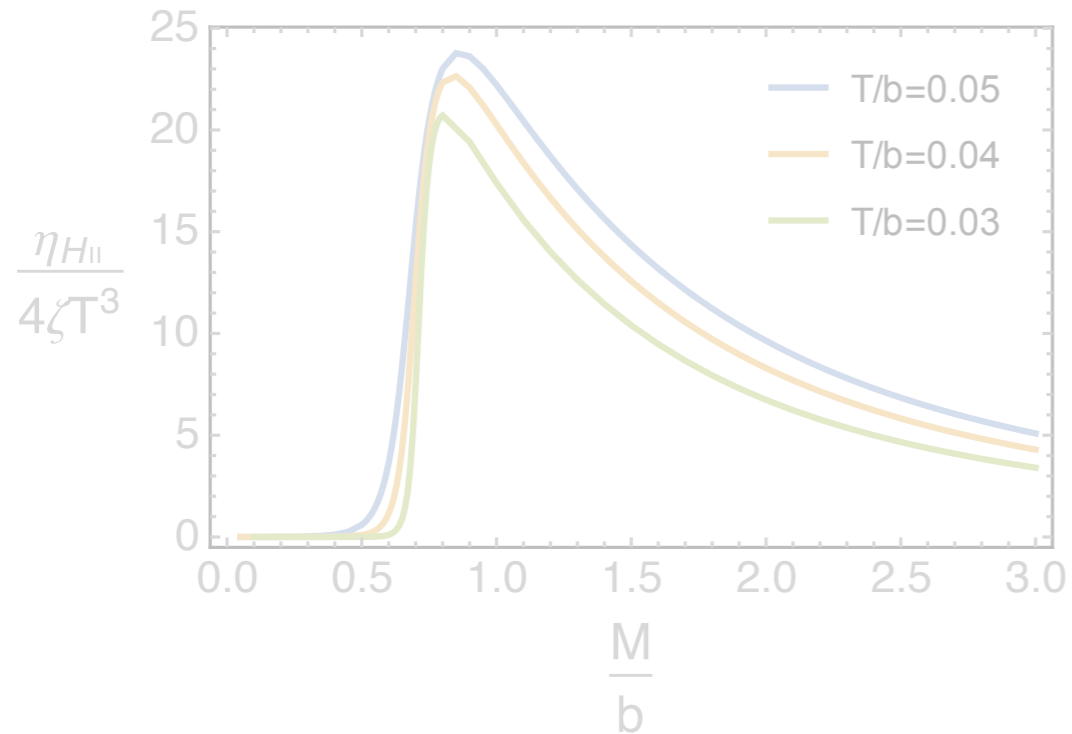
[Ammon, Jimenez-Alba, Heinrich, Moeckel]

Holographic Hall viscosity



[Landsteiner, Liu, Sun]

Hall viscosity

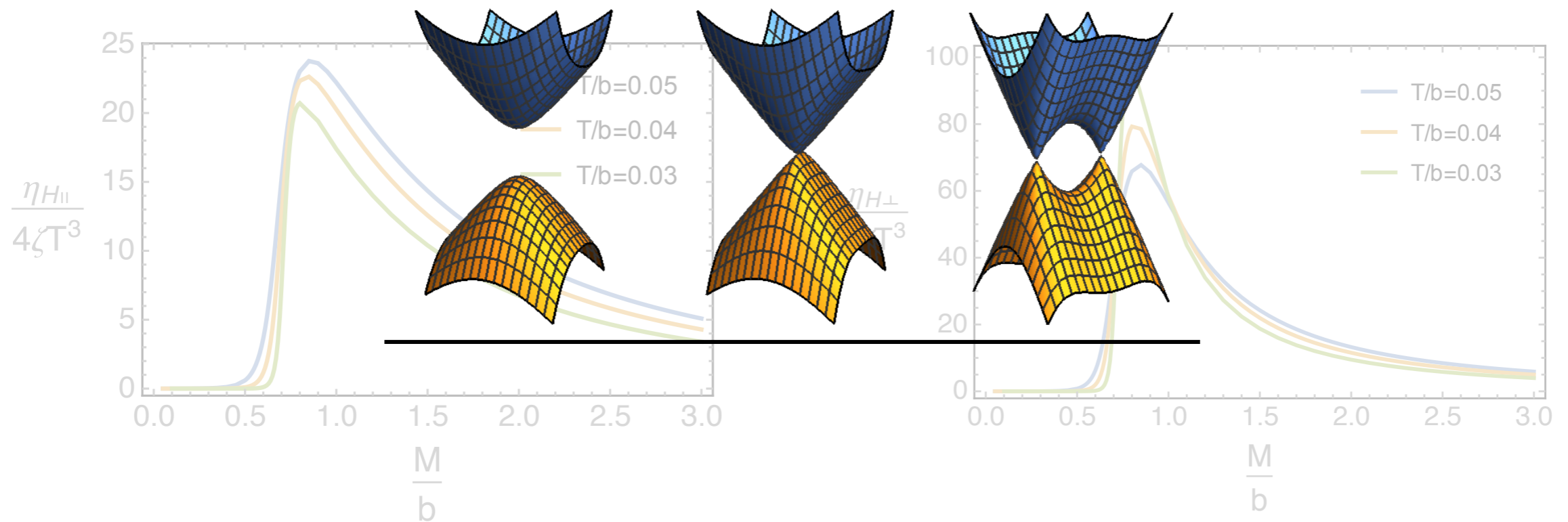


$$\eta = \frac{s}{4\pi^2} \frac{\beta}{3\beta + 1} T^{3\beta} \Gamma(3\beta) \eta_D(3\beta) \underset{\beta \rightarrow 0}{=} \frac{s}{24\pi^2}$$

[Copetti, Landsteiner]

Afterwards Coppetti argued that in such a limit translations become an anomalous symmetry
[JHEP vol. 2020, 190 (2020)]

Hall viscosity



$$\eta = \frac{s}{4\pi^2} \frac{\beta}{3\beta + 1} T^{3\beta} \Gamma(3\beta) \eta_D(3\beta) \underset{\beta \rightarrow 0}{=} \frac{s}{24\pi^2}$$

[Copetti, Landsteiner]

Afterwards Coppetti argued that in such a limit translations become an anomalous symmetry
[JHEP vol. 2020, 190 (2020)]

The higher monopole charge case

$$S = - \int \text{Tr} \left[\frac{1}{2n} F \wedge *F + \frac{1}{2c(n)} G \wedge *G + \lambda \left(\mathcal{A} \wedge (d\mathcal{A})^2 + \frac{3}{2} \mathcal{A}^3 \wedge d\mathcal{A} + \frac{3}{5} \mathcal{A}^5 \right) \right]$$

$$A = A^{(0)} s_0 \quad , \quad \mathbb{A} = \mathbb{A}^{(a)} s_a \quad , \quad \mathcal{A} = A + \mathbb{A} \quad \quad F = dA \quad , \quad G = d\mathbb{A} - i\mathbb{A}^2$$

$$\mathcal{A} = (\mathcal{A}_t(r) s_0 + \mathcal{A}_t^3(r) s_z) dt + Q(r) (s_x dx + s_y dy) + (\mathcal{A}_z(r) s_0 + \mathcal{A}_z^3(r) s_z) dz + x B s_0 dy$$

For the non holographers

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{CFT} + \mu Q + \mu_3 Q^3 + \Delta (\delta_x^\mu J_\mu^1 + \delta_y^\mu J_\mu^2)$$

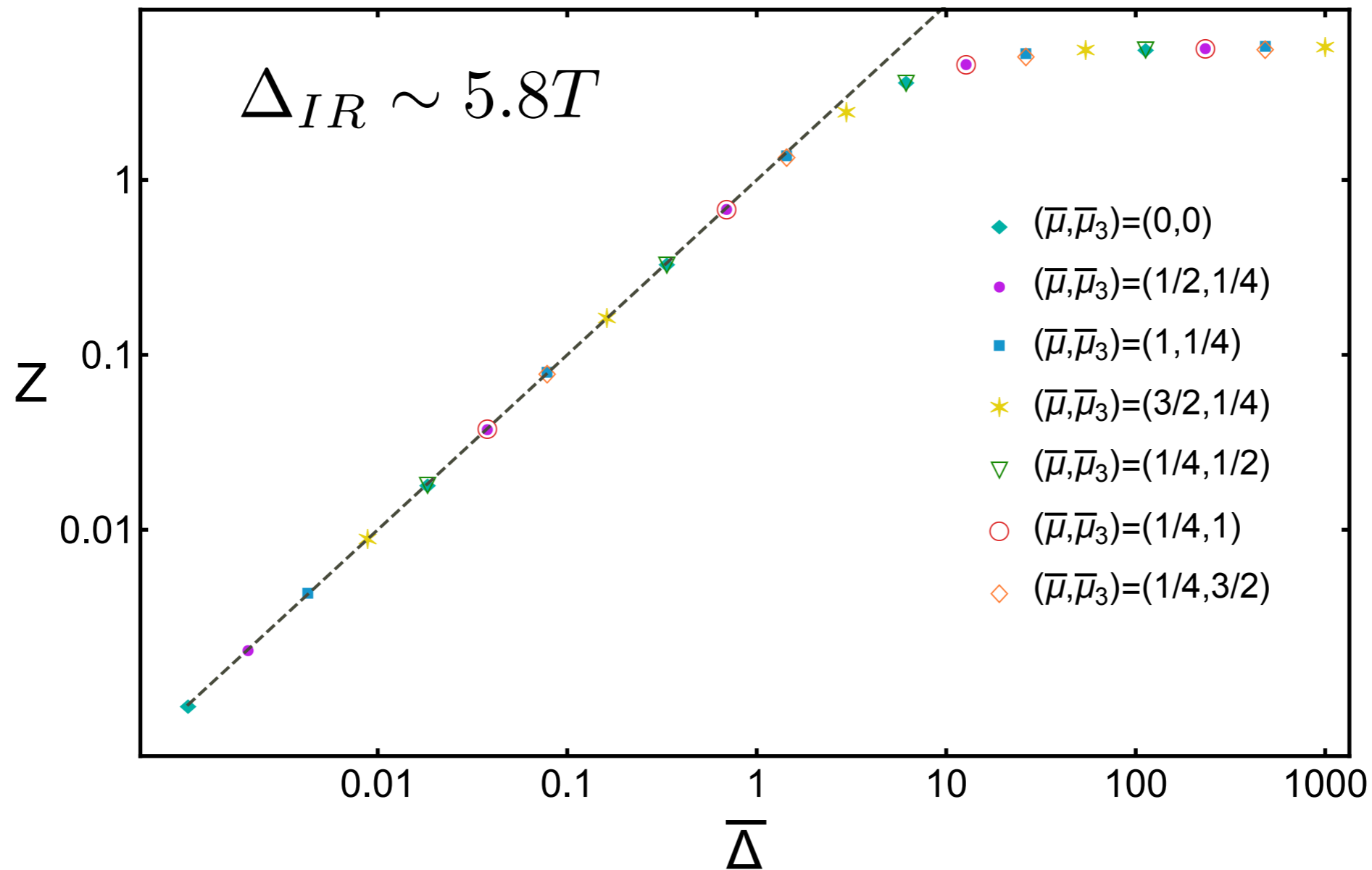
The equations of motion
automatically imply

$$J^z = \frac{n}{4\pi^2} \mu B + \frac{c(n)}{4\pi^2} \mu_3 \Delta^2$$

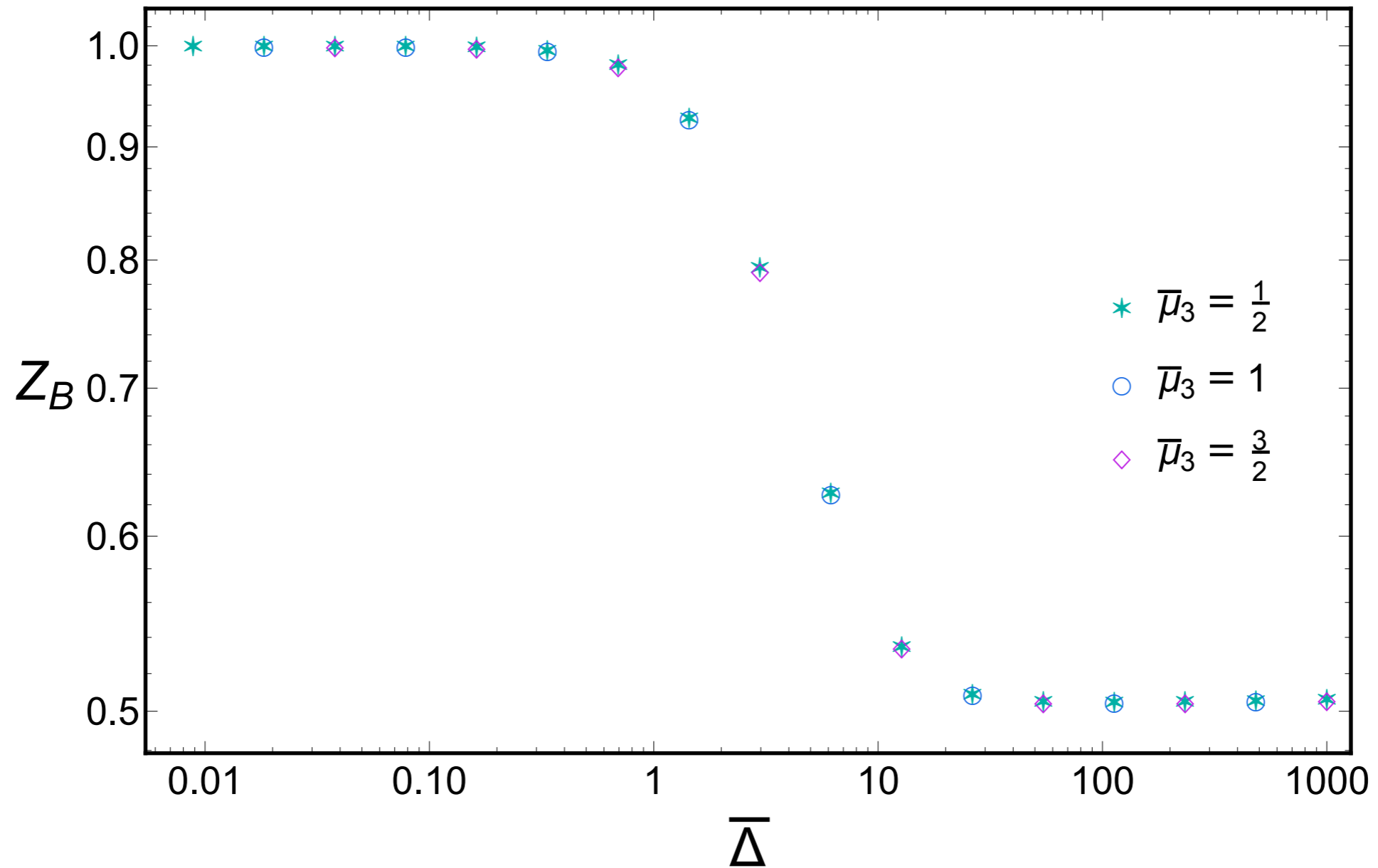
The non abelian sector has to be solved numerically

The non-abelian symmetry
is explicitly broken, therefore Δ will renormalise

$$\Delta_{IR} = Z(\Delta/T)T$$

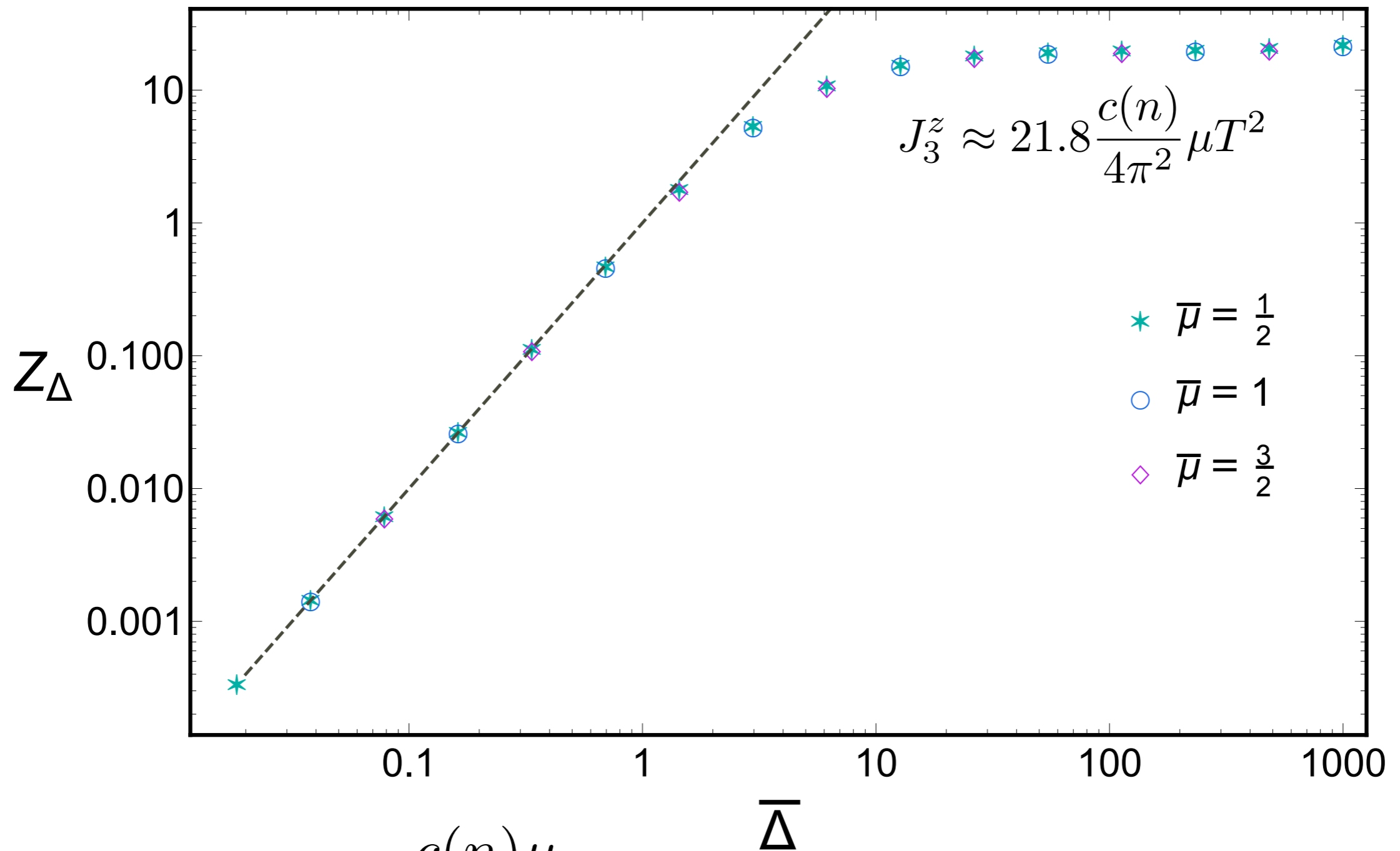


Same thing happens with the current



$$\vec{J}_3 = Z_B (\Delta/T) \frac{n\mu_3}{4\pi^2} \vec{B}$$

Same thing happens with the current



$$J_3^z = Z_{\Delta} (\Delta/T) \frac{c(n)\mu}{4\pi^2} T^2$$

To summarise I hope I convinced you that Weyl semimetals are cool because...

- They are a minimal copy of our Universe.
 - They can be used to test several high energy ideas and phenomena of different acmes otherwise
 - They host Abelian and “non-Abelian” anomalies
 - They are nearly scale invariant
- In multi-Weyl systems the non-Abelian current is related to a spin current, issue that needs to be understood.
- They are a source of interesting strongly coupled dynamics
- Conformal anomalies manifest also in transport (**Not discussed in this talk**).
 - See: *Generation of a Nernst Current from the Conformal Anomaly in Dirac and Weyl Semimetals*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 206601 (2018)
- Allow me to conclude with a provocative question. **Could it be possible that with live inside a crystal?**