Experimental signatures

- Ohmic vs. non-ohmic conductors
- Landauer formalism
- Signatures of edgestates
- State of the art

Ohmic conductors

conductance/resistance

$I/V = G \equiv R^{-1}$



Landauer formalism



A clean wire can not be Ohmic!!

Landauer formalism



A clean wire can not be Ohmic!!



Signatures of Topological edge states in transport I: Chern Insulators

Disorder-free sample with a strip geometry

• Fermi energy lies in a band:

the conductance is quantized and **insensitive to the length** of the sample, **grows with the width**

• <u>Fermi energy lies in the gap:</u>

conductance is quantized, a **behaviour insensitive to both the length and the width** of the sample

Disordered sample with an irregular shape

Fermi energy lies in a band:

Might be Ohmic. There are no protected edge states at the Fermi energy.

Fermi energy lies in the gap:

conductance is quantized, a **behaviour insensitive to both the length and the width** of the sample, **a hallmark of Chern Insulators.**



Signatures of Topological edge states in transport II: TRS Insulators

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Disorder-free sample with a strip geometry

• Fermi energy lies in a band:

the conductance is quantized and **insensitive to the length** of the sample, **grows with the width**

• <u>Fermi energy lies in the gap:</u>

conductance is quantized to multiples of $\frac{2e^2}{h}$, since edge states come in pairs

a **behaviour insensitive to both the length and the width** of the sample

Disordered sample with an irregular shape

Fermi energy lies in a band:

Might be Ohmic.

<u>Fermi energy lies in the gap and TRS is preserved:</u> conductance is quantized to $\frac{2e^2}{h}$, a **behaviour insensitive to both the length and the width** of the sample, **a hallmark of TRS Insulators.**

Quantum Hall Effect





Klitzing, K. v., Dorda, G., Pepper, M. Phys. Rev. Lett., **45**, 494 (1980) Klitzing, K. v. Seminaire Poincare **2**, 1 (2004)

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Klitzing, K. v., Dorda, G., Pepper, M. Phys. Rev. Lett., **45**, 494 (1980) Klitzing, K. v. Seminaire Poincare **2**, 1 (2004)

Quantum Hall Effect in graphene



K. S. Novoselov et al. Nature 438, 197 (2005)

Quantum Anomalous Hall Effect in 3D TI



Cui-Zu Chang et al. Science **340**, 167(2013)

Quantum Spin Hall Effect in HgTe/HgCdTe





König et al. Science **318,** 766 (2007)

Quantum Spin Hall Effect in WTe2





Wu et al., Science 359, 76 (2018)

The blue sample is an insulator with Chern number Q. We drive a current I from contact A to B. The measured Hall voltage between contacts 1 and 2 is V.

What is the Hall conductance I/V ?



a) 0, since the setup is symmetric

b)
$$e^2/h$$

- c) Qe^2/h
- d) none of the above

The blue sample is a Chern insulator. Which contact is on the same potential as contact 1?



a) 2 c) 4

b) 3 d) none of the above

An edge state on the Chern insulator is marked by an arrow. As the number N of floating contacts increases, the voltage V...



c) increases

- a) does not change
- b) decreases

d) The question is not well defined

An edge state on the Chern insulator is marked by an arrow. As the number N of floating contacts increases, the voltage V...



a) does not change c) increases

b) decreases

d) The question is not well defined

A protected edgestate on a Chern insulator is denoted by the white arrow. The function V(I), i.e., the DC voltage V measured on the floating contact as a function of the pumped DC current I, is ...

a) even

b) odd

c) neither

d) both



A protected edgestate on a Chern insulator is denoted by the white arrow. The function V(I), i.e., the DC voltage V measured on the floating contact as a function of the pumped DC current I, is ...

Α

a) even

b) odd

c) neither

d) both

The blue sample is a nontrivial Z_2 insulator. Which contact is on the same potential as contact 1?



b) 3 d) none of the above

A pair of protected edge states on a Z2 topological insulator is denoted by the white arrows. The function V(I), i.e., the DC voltage V measured on the floating contact as a function of the pumped DC current I, is ...



b) odd

c) neither

d) both



Take a nontrivial Z_2 topological insulator.

As the number N of floating contacts increases, the voltage V...



c) increases

- a) does not change
- b) decreases

d) The question is not well defined

Take a nontrivial Z_2 topological insulator.

As the number N of floating contacts increases, the voltage V...



a) does not change

c) increases

b) decreases

d) The question is not well defined



The blue sample is a Chern insulator in thermal equilibrium. Which statement is true ?

- a) The electric current density is zero everywhere in the sample since there cannot be any current in equilibrium.
- b) A nontrivial Chern insulator can be in equilibrium but then the current density is not zero.
- c) Nontrivial Chern insulators cannot be in equilibrium since edge state currents generate Joule heating.
- d) None of the above statements is true.