The prediction and subsequent discovery of robust spin-polarized surface states on topological band insulators has launched a new subfield of physics over the last decade. When topology is combined with strong electron correlations, even more interesting states of matter can arise, such as quantum anomalous Hall states, fractionalization, non-Abelian exchange statistics, and many-body localization that preserves the topology of the insulating state against thermal destruction. Here I will give a general introduction to topological materials, and show the first direct proof of a strongly correlated topological insulator. Using scanning tunneling microscopy to probe the real and momentum space structure of SmB6, we quantify the opening of a Kondo insulating gap. Within that gap, we discover linearly dispersing surface states with effective masses reaching $m = (330\pm20)me$, the heaviest observed Dirac states in any material. The prodigious density of the Dirac states near zero energy magnifies both their susceptibility to novel orders, and their potential utility. Our observations present the first opportunity to explore a strongly correlated topological state of matter.
Quantum Transport in Topological Materials
XXIV International Summer School 'Nicolás Cabrera'

September 4-8, 2017
Miraflores de la Sierra

Topological materials constitute an exciting and very active research area in condensed matter physics. It studies new states of matter whose bulk properties are similar to those of ‘ordinary’ materials but that, at the same time, display edge or boundary states with very exotic properties. Since the discovery of topological insulators, roughly a decade ago, the field has rapidly expanded with the identification of other topological materials, such as topological superconductors and Weyl semimetals. This Summer School will gather leading international experts to provide an introduction to the basic concepts underlying topology in condensed matter systems, followed by a discussion of recent developments, with a focus on quantum transport and hybrid devices. The goal is to cover not only theoretical aspects, but to also address the experimental progress, including the detection and manipulation of states...
associated with these materials.

School Topics
Hybrid devices (quantum dots, nanowires, heterostructures).
Topological insulators and superconductors.
Weyl semimetals.
Topological quantum computing.

Invited Speakers
Ramón Aguado (ICMM-CSIC, Madrid)
Alberto Cortijo (ICMM-CSIC, Madrid)
Silvano De Franceschi (CEA, Grenoble)
Reinhold Egger (Heinrich Heine Univ., Düsseldorf)
Klaus Ensslin (ETH, Zürich)
Claudia Felser (Max Planck Inst. for Chemical Physics of Solids, Dresden)
Marcelo Goffman (CEA, Saclay)
Sophie Guéron (Univ. Paris Sud, Orsay)
Jelena Klinovaja (Univ. Basel)
Leo Kouwenhoven (QuTech, Delft Univ. of Technology)
Rosa López (Univ. Baleares)
Fabrizio Nichele (Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen)
Yuval Oreg (Weizmann Inst. of Science)
Pablo San-Jose (ICMM-CSIC, Madrid)
Jörg Schäfer (Univ. Würzburg)
Patrik Recher (TU Braunschweig)
Shinsei Ryu (Univ. Chicago)
Felix von Oppen (Freie Univ. Berlin)

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XXIV International Summer School Nicolás Cabrera in the newspapers – Atlasagencia
We discuss two important directions of research of synthetic topological quantum matter [1]: (i) topological phases in 3D optical lattices, more specifically Weyl semimetals in ultracold atomic gases [2], and (ii) strongly interacting Bose gases in synthetic gauge fields [3]. Interacting Bose gases in synthetic magnetic fields [1] hold great potential for discovering and exploring novel topological states of matter [4], in a similar fashion as the fractional quantum Hall effect for electrons in strong magnetic fields. Here we investigate laser assisted tunneling in a strongly interacting one-dimensional Bose gas [3] (the Tonks-Girardeau gas [5]) in optical lattices. We find that the stroboscopic dynamics of the Tonks-Girardeau gas in a continuous Wannier-Star-ladder potential, supplemented with laser assisted tunneling, effectively realizes the ground state of one-dimensional hardcore bosons in a discrete lattice [6] with nontrivial hopping phases. Next, we show that, in three-dimensional optical lattices, laser assisted tunneling can be used for realizing a Hamiltonian with Weyl points [3]. Weyl points are synthetic magnetic monopoles that exhibit a robust, three-dimensional linear dispersion, identical to the energy-momentum relation for relativistic Weyl fermions [3], which are not yet discovered in particle physics. Relation to analogous studies in optics will be mentioned [8].

References


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