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.
When: September 4-8, 2017
Where: Residencia La Cristalera, Miraflores de la Sierra, Madrid, Spain
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School Scopes and Goals

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.
Weyl Semimetals in 3D Optical Lattices, and Synthetic Gauge Fields in Strongly Interacting 1D Bose Gases
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


Tena Dubček, Karlo Lelas, Dario Jukić, Robert Pezer, Marin Soljačić and Hrvoje Buljan,
The Harper–Hofstadter Hamiltonian and conical diffraction in photonic lattices with
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